

2009 Surface Water Quality Summary Regional Watershed Monitoring Program

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Watershed Monitoring and Reporting Section Ecology Division





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Table of Contents

1. Int	roduction1
2. Me	thods1
3. Re	sults & Discussion4
3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4	Precipitation
3.4 3.5	General Chemistry Parameters 13
	mmary 16
	ferences
List of	Figures
Figure 1. Figure 2.	2009 surface water quality monitoring sites
Figure 3.	Annual precipitation at Lester B. Pearson International Airport (1999-2009)
Figure 4.	Monthly precipitation at Lester B. Pearson International Airport (2009)
Figure 6.	Arsenic concentrations (μ g/L) at 36 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 5 μ g/L) 7
Figure 7. Figure 8.	Iron concentrations (μ g/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 300 μ g/L) 7 Copper concentrations (μ g/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 5 μ g/L) 8
Figure 9.	
•	Total aluminum concentrations (µg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction
Figure 11	. Mercury concentrations (μ g/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 0.2 μ g/L)
Figure 12	. Nickel concentrations (μ g/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 25 μ g/L) 10
Figure 13	Escherichia coli concentrations (CFU/100mL) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 100 CFU/100 mL)
Figure 14	. Total ammonia concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction 11
	. Total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 0.03 mg/L)
	. Nitrite concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (CWQG: 0.06 mg/L)12
_	. Nitrate concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (EC: 2.93 mg/L) 13
	. Total kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN) concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction13
Figure 19	. Chloride concentrations (mg/L) at 36 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (BC MOE: 150 mg/L)



A.

•	Specific conductivity concentrations (μ S/cm) at 36 sites within TRCA jurisdiction 14 Total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations (mg/L) at 36 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (CWQG: 30 mg/L)
Figure 22.	pH concentrations at 36 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 6.5-8.5 pH) 15
List of T	ables
	2009 RWMP surface water quality sites and associated laboratories
Append	ices

Water quality stream conditions from field notes



1. Introduction

Since 2002, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has monitored monthly stream water quality at selected locations within the watersheds of the greater Toronto region. These activities have been undertaken as part of TRCA's Regional Watershed Monitoring Program (RWMP) in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and the City of Toronto. The data collected is shared with partner municipalities and other agencies, and is used for planning, implementation and reporting activities including the development of watershed plans and report cards as well as watershed characterization reports in support of source water protection planning.

This report presents the 2009 laboratory results from the RWMP surface water quality sampling program and provides a general overview and description of the range of water quality conditions across the TRCA jurisdiction. This report and associated data can assist in identifying areas of concern, elevated levels of contaminants, and can be used to affirm both poor and good water quality in different land use areas. Results should be interpreted with caution however, since sampling events were not targeted to capture specific stream flow conditions (e.g. wet weather events). In this respect, samples may represent both baseflow and stormflow conditions.

2. Methods

In 2009, surface water quality samples were collected at 38 sites (Figure 1) throughout the TRCA's jurisdiction. Sample collection and laboratory analysis was carried out through several partnerships. These partnerships are outlined below and in Table 1.

- 11 sites were sampled by TRCA under the MOE's Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN).
- 25 sites were sampled by TRCA in partnership with the City of Toronto which provided in-kind laboratory analysis (Jan-May). Samples collected from June through December were submitted to the York-Durham Laboratory for analysis. This included 2 new sites established in 2009 (PT001WM and FB003WM).
- 2 sites (one near the mouth of the Humber River, and one near the mouth of the Don River) were sampled bi-weekly by MOE from January through March, and monthly by TRCA from June through December.

Sample collection was undertaken monthly using in-stream "grab" techniques following the MOE PWQMN protocol (MOE 2003). Samples also included in-situ water chemistry measurements (e.g. water temperature, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen) collected using a hand-held YSI meter (Model 600QS). Sampling occurred year-round (usually the third week of each month) and was independent of precipitation. Samples were submitted to the MOE Rexdale laboratory, the City of Toronto Dee Avenue Laboratory, York-Durham Regional Environmental Laboratory and a private laboratory for analysis. Samples for months not covered by



the PWQMN partnership (e.g. December to March) were submitted to the City of Toronto Lab from January through March and to the York-Durham Regional Environmental Laboratory in December in order to augment water quality data from these sites and to maintain a year-round dataset.

Stream conditions were noted at the time of sampling in order to characterize the sample with respect to flow response to recent or occurring precipitation. These field notes (Appendix A) along with 2009 precipitation records from Pearson International Airport (Figures 3 and 4) are included in this report to provide context to assist with interpretation of results.

Parameters assessed are listed in Table 2 and include the standard suite of nutrients, metals and conventional water quality parameters used by the PWQMN. Microbiological samples were collected by TRCA at 36 sites in 2009 and submitted to either a private lab (Maxxam Analytics Inc) or the York-Durham Regional Environmental Laboratory. MOE staff collected samples bi-weekly at 2 sites (83019, 85014) in the month of March which were submitted to the MOE Rexdale Laboratory for analysis. In June, TRCA agreed to take responsibility for the ongoing sample collection at these two stations and continued submission of metals, nutrients, general chemistry, conventional and microbiological samples to the MOE laboratory.

Laboratory results are compared to the Provincial Water Quality Objectives (PWQO) when available. The PWQO are a set of numerical and narrative ambient surface water quality criteria that represent a desirable level of water quality that will protect all forms of aquatic life and all aspects of the aquatic life cycles during indefinite exposure to the water as well as protecting recreational water usage based on public health considerations and aesthetics (OMOEE 1994). When PWQO were not available, other objectives such as Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME 2007) and Recommended Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life under the Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators Initiative (EC 2005) were used. All laboratory results that were reported as zero, negative values or undetectable were omitted from this summary report in order to minimize any influences on the data.

Surface water quality data is stored in "Water", a relational Microsoft Access database that is part of the TRCA's corporate database *EnviroBase*. The Water database includes laboratory results and metadata such as laboratory analysis methods and sampling equipment.

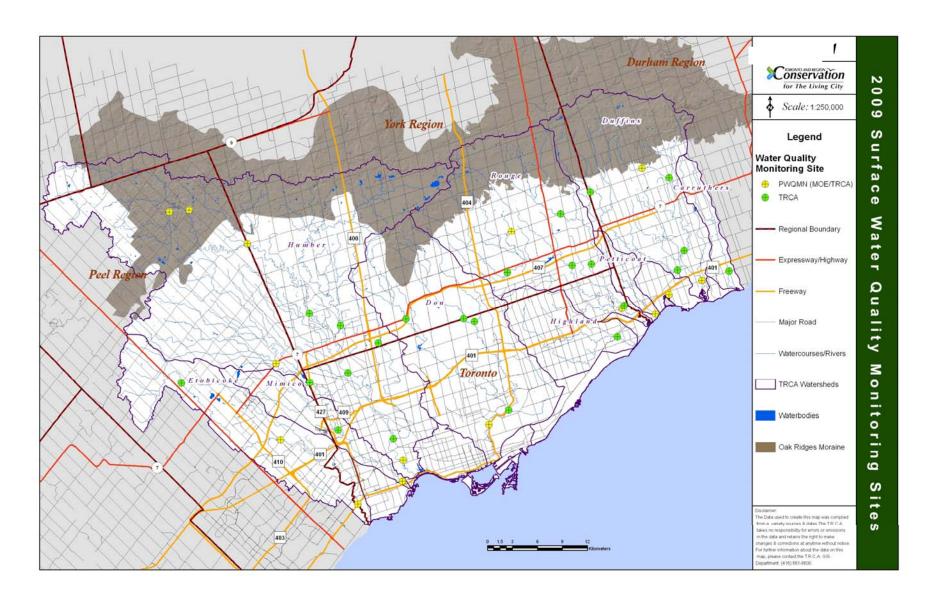


Figure 1. 2009 surface water quality monitoring sites



Table 1. 2009 RWMP surface water quality sites and associated laboratories

Table I. 2								Т	
Watershed	U	ТМ	General Chemistry, N		Metals and Nutrients		Bac	teria	Program
watersned	Northing	Easting	Jan- Mar	Apr-May	June-Nov	Dec	Jan-May	Jun-Dec	Partner
Etobicoke	4843488	595028	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Etobicoke	4836746	606933	С	М	М	Υ	Р	Υ	MOE/PWQMN
Etobicoke	4829016	616234	С	М	M	М	Р	Υ	MOE/PWQMN
Mimico	4837916	613849	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Mimico	4831713	621585	С	М	M	М	Р	Υ	MOE/PWQMN
Humber	4864112	593560	С	М	M	Υ	Р	Υ	MOE/PWQMN
Humber	4864329	595961	С	М	М	Υ	Р	Υ	MOE/PWQMN
Humber	4860243	602980	С	М	М	Υ	Р	Υ	MOE/PWQMN
Humber	4851861	610386	С	C	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Humber	4850423	614148	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Humber	4844744	615027	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Humber	4845870	606385	С	М	М	Υ	Р	Υ	MOE/PWQMN
Humber	4843562	610459	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Humber	4848311	618678	С	C	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Humber	4836845		С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Humber	4834265	621663	М	М	М	М	М	М	MOE/PWQMN
Don	4851207	622014	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Don	4851256	628954	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Don	4850889	630236	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Don	4840251	634378	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Don	4838576		М	М	М	М	М	М	MOE/PWQMN
Highland	4849056	647429	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Rouge	4861770	634680	С	М	М	Υ	Р	Υ	MOE/PWQMN
Rouge	4863887	640589	С	C	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Rouge	4856823	634214	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Rouge	4857669	641985	С	O	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Rouge	4857816	644300	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Rouge	4852830	648243	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Rouge	4852511	648007	С	М	М	М	Р	Υ	MOE/PWQMN
Duffins	4869299	650372	С	М	М	Υ	Р	Υ	MOE/PWQMN
Petticoat	4851804	652005	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Pine Creek	4854151	653659	n/a	n/a	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Duffins	4868158	653641	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Duffins	4866462	644191	С	С	Y	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
		654656	С	С	Y	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Duffins	4859419	655458	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
Duffins	4855880						Р	Υ	MOE/PWQMN
Carruthers	4856972	660850	С	С	Υ	Υ	Р	Υ	City of Toronto
	Watershed Etobicoke Etobicoke Etobicoke Mimico Mimico Humber Don Don Don Don Don Pon Don Don	Watershed U Northing Etobicoke 4843488 Etobicoke 4836746 Etobicoke 4829016 Mimico 4837916 Mimico 4831713 Humber 4864112 Humber 4864329 Humber 4860243 Humber 4851861 Humber 4850423 Humber 4845870 Humber 4845870 Humber 4843562 Humber 4836845 Humber 4834265 Don 4851207 Don 4851256 Don 4850889 Don 4850889 Don 4830889 Don 4830889 Don 4838576 Highland 4849056 Rouge 4863887 Rouge 4857816 Rouge 4857816 Rouge 4852511 Duffins 4869299 Petticoat 4851804	Watershed UTM Northing Easting Etobicoke 4843488 595028 Etobicoke 4836746 606933 Etobicoke 4829016 616234 Mimico 4837916 613849 Mimico 4831713 621585 Humber 4864112 593560 Humber 4864329 595961 Humber 4860243 602980 Humber 4851861 610386 Humber 4850423 614148 Humber 4845870 606385 Humber 4845870 606385 Humber 4845870 606385 Humber 4848311 618678 Humber 4836845 620488 Humber 4836845 620488 Humber 4836845 621663 Don 4851207 622014 Don 4850889 630236 Don 4850889 630236 Don 4850889	Watershed UTM General Colspan="2">General Colspan="2">Colspan="2">General Colspan="2">Northing Easting Jan-Mar Etobicoke 4843488 595028 C Etobicoke 4836746 606933 C Etobicoke 4829016 616234 C Mimico 4837916 613849 C Mimico 4831713 621585 C Humber 4864112 593560 C Humber 4864329 595961 C Humber 4860243 602980 C Humber 4851861 610386 C Humber 4850423 614148 C Humber 4845870 606385 C Humber 4848311 618678 C Humber 4848311 618678 C Humber 4834265 621663 M Don 4851207 622014 C Don 4850889 630236 C	Watershed UTM General Chemistry, Interest of Section Apr-May Etobicoke 4843488 595028 C C Etobicoke 4836746 606933 C M Etobicoke 4829016 616234 C M Mimico 4837916 613849 C C Mimico 4831713 621585 C M Humber 4864112 593560 C M Humber 4864329 595961 C M Humber 48648329 595961 C M Humber 4861861 610386 C C Humber 4851861 610386 C C Humber 4845870 606385 C M Humber 4845870 606385 C M Humber 4843562 610459 C C Humber 48348645 620488 C C Humber 48348265	UTM General Chemistry, Metals and Northing Etobicoke 4843488 595028 C C Y Etobicoke 4836746 606933 C M M Etobicoke 4829016 616234 C M M Mimico 4837916 613849 C C Y Mimico 4831713 621585 C M M Humber 4864112 593560 C M M Humber 4864329 595961 C M M Humber 4860243 602980 C M M Humber 4851861 610386 C C Y Humber 4851861 610386 C C Y Humber 4844744 615027 C C Y Humber 4843562 610459 C C Y Humber 4834865 620488 C C	Watershed UTM General Chemistry, Metals and Nutrients Northing Easting Jan-Mar Apr-May June-Nov Dec Etobicoke 4843488 595028 C C Y Y Etobicoke 4836746 606933 C M M Y Etobicoke 4829016 616234 C M M M Mimico 4837916 613849 C C Y Y Mimico 4837113 621585 C M M M Humber 4864112 593560 C M M Y Humber 4864229 595961 C M M Y Humber 4860243 602980 C M M Y Humber 4851861 610386 C C Y Y Humber 4845670 606385 C M M Y Humber 48436845	Watershed UTM General Chemistry, Metals and Nutrients Bac Lobicoke 4843488 595028 C C Y Y P Etobicoke 4836746 606933 C M M Y P Etobicoke 4836746 606933 C M M Y P Mimico 4837916 613849 C C Y Y P Mimico 4837113 621585 C M M M P Humber 4864112 593560 C M M Y P Humber 4864329 595961 C M M Y P Humber 4863223 6914148 C C Y Y P Humber 4854861 610386 C M M Y P Humber 4844744 615027 C C Y Y P <td< td=""><td>Watershed UTM General Chemistry, Metals and Nutrients Bacteria Etobicoke 4843488 595028 C C Y Y P Y Etobicoke 4836746 6069033 C M M Y P Y Etobicoke 4829016 616234 C M M Y P Y Mimico 4837916 613849 C C Y Y P Y Mimico 4831713 621585 C M M M P Y Humber 4864122 595961 C M M Y P Y Humber 4851861 610386 C C Y Y P Y Humber 4851861 610386 C C Y Y P Y Humber 48457621 6008385 C M M Y P Y Humber<</td></td<>	Watershed UTM General Chemistry, Metals and Nutrients Bacteria Etobicoke 4843488 595028 C C Y Y P Y Etobicoke 4836746 6069033 C M M Y P Y Etobicoke 4829016 616234 C M M Y P Y Mimico 4837916 613849 C C Y Y P Y Mimico 4831713 621585 C M M M P Y Humber 4864122 595961 C M M Y P Y Humber 4851861 610386 C C Y Y P Y Humber 4851861 610386 C C Y Y P Y Humber 48457621 6008385 C M M Y P Y Humber<

^{*} Samples collected bi-weekly by MOE in March; **Began sampling monthly by TRCA in July 2009 M:MOE Laboratory; C: City of Toronto Laboratory; Y: York-Durham; P: Private Laboratory



	Table 2. Stan	dard suite of wa	ater quality par	ameters analyzed ¹			
	Water	Biochemical	*Total	Total Dissolved	Dissolved		
Comerci	Temperature	Oxygen	Suspended	Solids	Oxygen		
General		Demand	Solids				
Chemistry	Conductivity	Hardness	Magnesium	Magnesium pH			
	Alkalinity	Sodium	Calcium	*Chloride	Turbidity		
Nutrionto	Nitrogen, Total	*Total	Phosphate	Ammonia	*Nitrate/Nitrite		
Nutrients	Kjeldahl	Phosphorus					
Microbiological	Escherichia coli	Background					
Microbiological		Colonies					
	Aluminum	Barium	Beryllium	Cadmium	Chromium		
Metals	Cobalt	*Copper	Iron	*Lead	Manganese		
	Molybdenum	Nickel	Strontium	Vanadium	*Zinc		

Note:

3. Results & Discussion

Sampling results are presented in box plots (e.g. Figure 2) which summarize the distribution of results for each parameter over the course of the year. Box plots display the range of data that falls within 1.5 times the upper and lower quartiles and excludes extreme values. The use of box plots allows the reader to view the range of results with the majority (50%) of results being located within the box section.

The ends of the boxes represent the 25th and 75th quartiles. The difference between the quartiles is the interquartile range. The line across the middle of the box identifies the median sample value. The "Whiskers" represent the calculated value of plus or minus 1.5 times the interquartile range.

Sample stations are arranged in each graph from upstream to downstream (left to right) and watersheds are arranged from west to east along the x-axis of each graph.

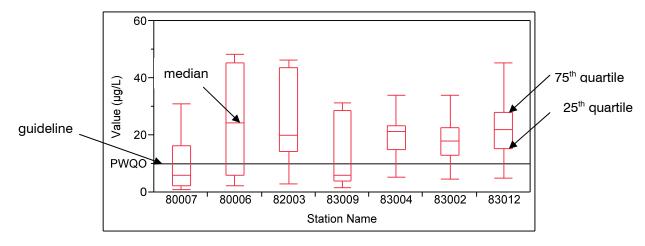


Figure 2. Box plot graphic example

¹Additional parameters may be analyzed on a site/project specific basis

^{*}PWQMN recommended indicator parameters



Due to the low annual sample size (n=12) for each site, only a limited number of high results (e.g. wet weather flow) are required to skew the median results upwards. All laboratory results equalling a value of 0 were omitted from this summary report. The MOE (MOE 2003) recommends a minimum sample size of 30, as this sample size will help reduce the influence of unusual conditions such as spills, extreme runoff events and drought.

3.1 Precipitation

The total amount of precipitation recorded in 2009 at the Lester B. Pearson International Airport measured 904 mm, classifying it as the second wettest year when compared to the previous 10 years (Figure 3). Seasonal precipitation values for 2009 are displayed in Figure 4. Precipitation quantity peaked in April and August of 2009 and may have contributed to the levels of pollutants found at some sites.

Sampling occurred year round and was independent of precipitation, however less than one fifth (17%) of the samples collected in 2009 were taken during and/or immediately after precipitation events (Appendix A).

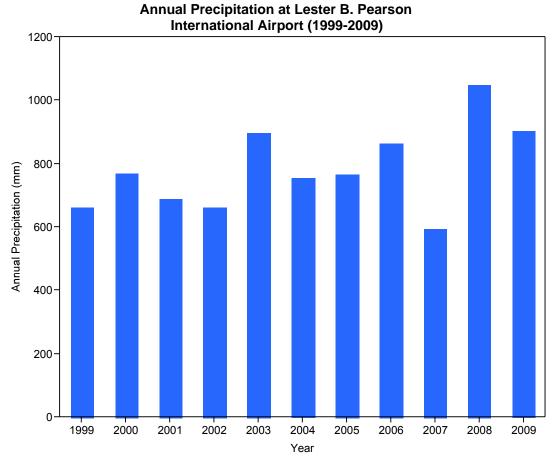


Figure 3. Annual precipitation at Lester B. Pearson International Airport (1999-2009)



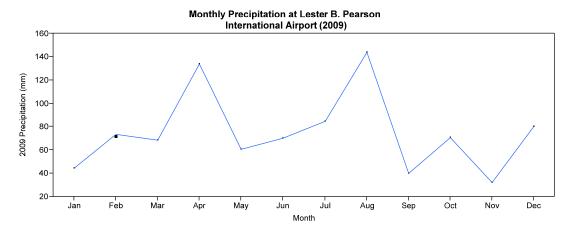


Figure 4. Monthly precipitation at Lester B. Pearson International Airport (2009)

3.2 Metals

Metals occur naturally in the environment, but human activities such as industrial processes and urban runoff can dramatically alter their distribution and increase their occurrence. When metals are released into the environment in higher than natural concentrations, they can be toxic, cause disruptions to aquatic ecosystems and decrease a waterbody's suitability for supporting aquatic life and domestic uses.

Lead

Median levels of lead were below the PWQO for all 38 sites as shown in Figure 5. January results from the samples submitted to the City of Toronto laboratory were omitted from this report due to the tendency to report higher than expected lead values during this time period when compared to other similarly accredited laboratories (TRCA 2008b). For example, the January City of Toronto laboratory lead results displayed a range of 35-40 μ g/L for two-thirds of the data and 20-30 μ g/L for the remaining third, which is extreme and highly unlikely across all stations submitted to this laboratory. The MOE laboratory lead values were also omitted due to the MOE reporting detection limit being 11 μ g/L, which is well above the PWQO of 5 μ g/L. The MOE lead dataset is not comparable due to higher variability at low concentrations. As a result, the lead dataset is greatly reduced and therefore results should be interpreted with caution.

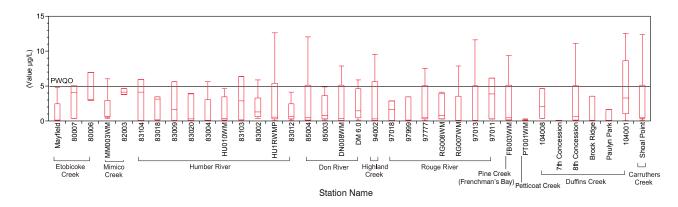


Figure 5. Lead concentrations (μ g/L) at 36 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 5 μ g/L)



Arsenic

Arsenic data presented in this report is based on a limited dataset since all stations are not analyzed regularly for this parameter. Arsenic levels in 2009 (Figure 6) were well below the PWQO of 5 μ g/L. Only samples submitted to the City of Toronto and York-Durham Environmental laboratories were analyzed for arsenic since this parameter is not analyzed by MOE under the PWQMN (See Table 1). This includes station 83019 and 85014 from which samples are analyzed exclusively by MOE.

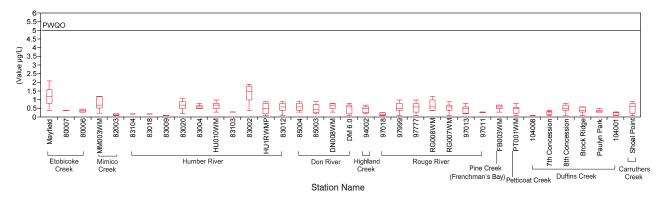


Figure 6. Arsenic concentrations ($\mu g/L$) at 36 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 5 $\mu g/L$)

Iron

Median iron values that exceeded or approached the PWQO of 300 μ g/L were localized mainly in urbanized areas in the mid-lower Humber River, the Don River, Frechman's Bay and Carruthers Creek site (Figure 7). Iron concentrations appeared to be highest at station 83002. This site is located downstream of the Claireville Reservoir and Wild Water Kingdom. These results may be a result of high sediment loads.

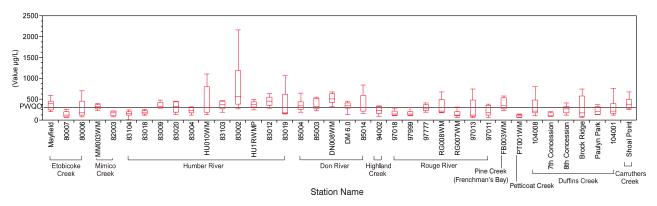


Figure 7. Iron concentrations (μ g/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 300 μ g/L)



Copper

Copper (Figure 8) displayed elevated median levels at sites located closest to the mouths of Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek and the Don River and at one station of the Humber River. Concentrations in Etobicoke Creek and the Humber River were lowest at the most northern (upstream) stations (Mayfield and 83104) and generally showed increases in copper further south (downstream) in the watersheds. Duffins Creek exhibited copper levels well below the PWQO for all six sites.

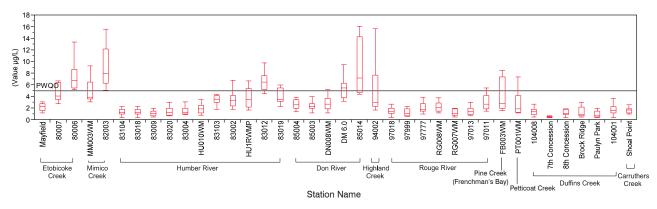


Figure 8. Copper concentrations (μ g/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 5 μ g/L)

Zinc

Median zinc concentrations (Figure 9) exceeded the PWQO at only one station (83012). In addition, several locations in Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek, the Humber River and the Don River displayed sample values that greatly exceeded the PWQO, which may be a potential concern in the future.

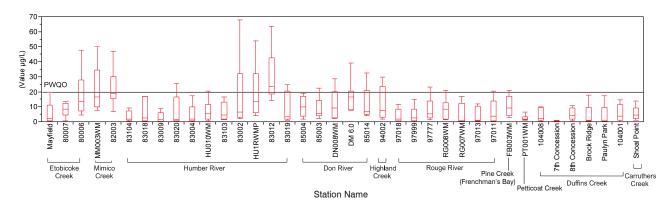


Figure 9. Zinc concentrations (μ g/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 20 μ g/L)



Aluminum

Currently, there is no PWQO, CWQG or EC guideline which defines the amount of allowable total aluminum for the protection of aquatic life. Higher levels did appear in sites located in urban areas within all the watersheds however, the Humber and Don River had the highest number of sites with elevated levels (Figure 10).

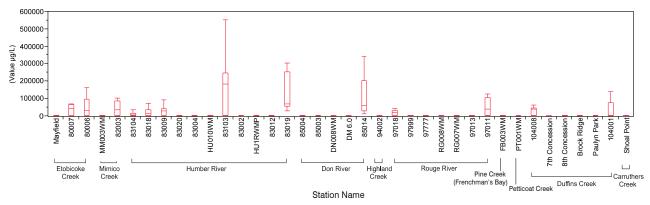


Figure 10. Total aluminum concentrations (μ g/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction

Mercury

Mercury (Figure 11) median and range values were well below the PWQO for all 8 sites sampled. Outlet stations were the only sites sampled for mercury in 2009. Samples taken at stations 85014 and 83019 were analyzed for mercury 9 times by the MOE laboratory. The remaining stations had mercury analyzed once in March 2009 by the City of Toronto laboratory. Mercury analysis was previously scheduled every three months; however, it ceased following the transition to the York-Durham laboratory due cost and low overall mercury values observed in recent years.

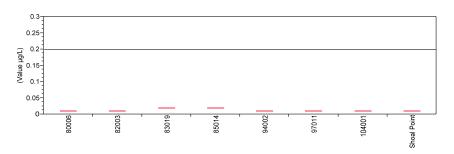


Figure 11. Mercury concentrations ($\mu g/L$) at 8 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 0.2 $\mu g/L$)



Nickel

Nickel (Figure 12) results were all below the PWQO OF 25 μ g/L. The stations which had samples analyzed by the City of Toronto laboratory displayed higher ranges than the two stations analyzed strictly by the MOE lab (83019 and 85014). These higher ranges may be a result of the City of Toronto laboratory's tendency to report higher than expected nickel levels when compared to other laboratories (TRCA 2008b).

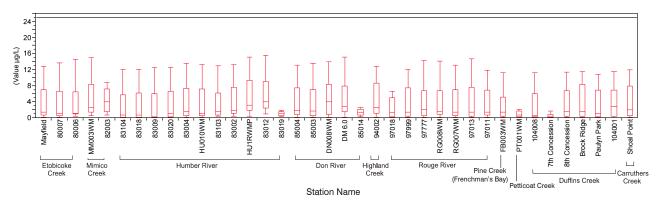


Figure 12. Nickel concentrations (μ g/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 25 μ g/L)

3.3 Bacteria

Escherichia coli (E. coli) median levels met or exceeded the PWQO of 100 colony forming units (CFU)/100 mL at 21 of 38 stations in 2009 (Figure 13). The median values for 10 stations were above 500 CFU/100 mL and 6 of those were above 1000 CFU/100 mL. Areas of concern include Etobicoke Creek, lower Mimico Creek, lower Humber River, the Don River, Highland Creek, and a mid-section of the Rouge River. The 3 stations with the most extreme median values are located in Pine Creek, the lower portion of the Humber River and the Don River. FB003WM in Pine Creek displayed the highest median value and range of E. coli with a median value in excess of 4000 CFU/100mL.

In contrast, Duffins Creek displayed relatively low levels of *E. coli* overall. Only one station (8th Concession) had a median value over the PWQO with a value of 150 CFU/100 mL. Also, four of five upper Humber River stations north of Highway 7 exhibited lower median values and ranges of *E. coli* when compared to the PWQO and other stations within the Humber River watershed.



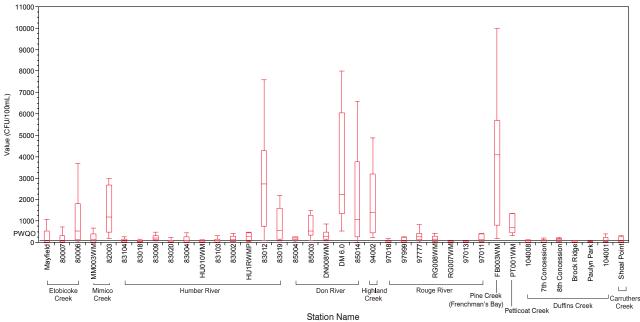


Figure 13. Escherichia coli concentrations (CFU/100mL) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 100 CFU/100 mL)

3.4 Nutrients

Nutrient levels are presented in Figures 14-18. Portions of the Humber and Don River display elevated nutrient levels. Ammonia values, both range and median, for station 83012 in the Humber exceeded 400 mg/L. Stations DM 6.0 and 85014 had median values above 100 mg/L. This can be attributed to combined sewer systems and 85014 being located 1.5 km downstream of the North Toronto Wastewater Treatment Plant which discharges effluent into the lower Don River.

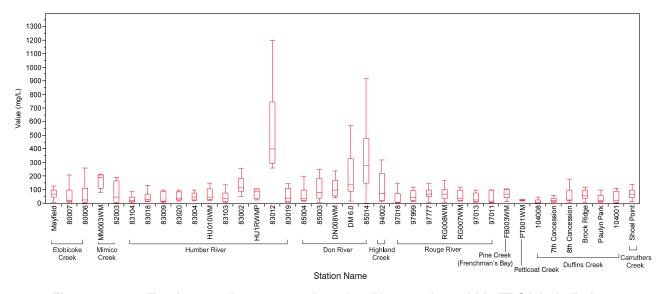


Figure 14. Total ammonia concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction



Phosphorus levels exceeded the PWQO of 0.03 mg/L at 17 stations in 2009. The majority of stations are located in Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek, Don River and Carruthers Creek. Five of eleven stations located in the Humber River also exceeded the PWQO. Stations 85014 and 83002 displayed the highest elevated levels of phosphorus.

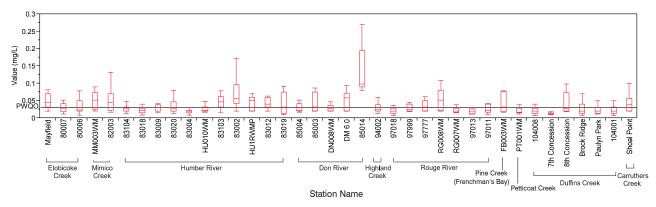


Figure 15. Total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 0.03 mg/L)

In contrast, none of the median values for the 38 sites exceeded the CWQG for nitrite, nitrate and TKN. Despite median values remaining below the CWQG, nitrite ranges appeared elevated at stations 83012, DM 6.0, 85014, 82003 and FB003WM and nitrate ranges surpassed the Environment Canada guideline for stations 83103, 83002, 97018, 97999 and 97013. Two of these stations (83103 and 83002) are located in the Humber River and the remaining stations (97018, 97999 and 97013) are located in the Rouge River watershed.

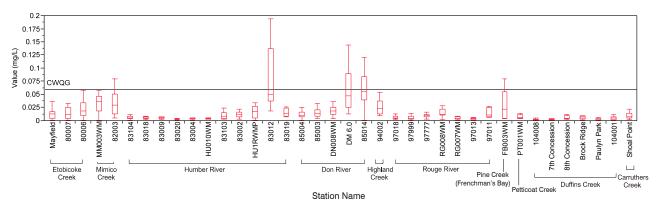


Figure 16. Nitrite concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (CWQG: 0.06 mg/L)



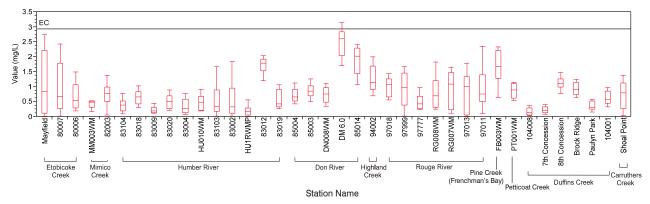


Figure 17. Nitrate concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (EC: 2.93 mg/L)

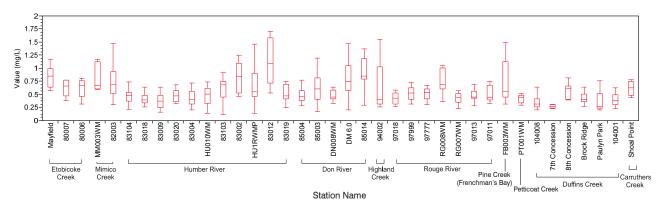


Figure 18. Total kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN) concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction

3.5 General Chemistry Parameters

Chloride and Specific Conductivity

Chloride (Figure 19) and specific conductivity (Figure 20) displayed similar patterns of increased ranges at 20 stations that surpassed the proposed CCME long-term chloride guideline of 128 mg/L. Included in these 20 stations were MM003WM, 82003 and HU1RWMP which exceeded the proposed CCME short-term chloride guideline of 508 mg/L. They are located in Mimico Creek and the Humber River.

The high levels, both range and median, of chloride at all 20 stations was likely a result of the surrounding land-use. All stations are located in developed urban areas with varying land uses (i.e. industrial, commercial, residential etc). Road salting is directly linked to urbanization and increased chloride and specific conductivity levels. In contrast, Brock Ridge, Paulyn Park and 104001 located on Duffins Creek close to the watershed outlet in a developed area did not display elevated chloride or specific conductivity levels. Similarly, stations located in natural/rural areas do not display elevated levels of Chloride or specific conductivity.



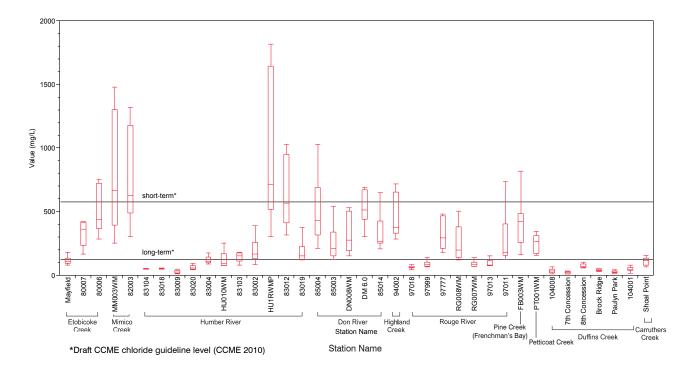


Figure 19. Chloride concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (Draft CCME chloride guideline level: 128 mg/L and 577 mg/L; CCME 2010)

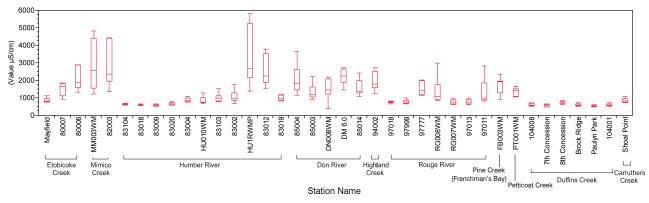


Figure 20. Specific conductivity (µS/cm) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction

Total Suspended Solids

Median values for total suspended solids remained below the CWQG of 30 mg/L for all stations (Figure 21). The range of values however exceeded the objective at 9 of the 38 sites. Furthermore, the Humber River exhibited a gradual increase in median and range values as station proximity to the lake and urbanization increased.



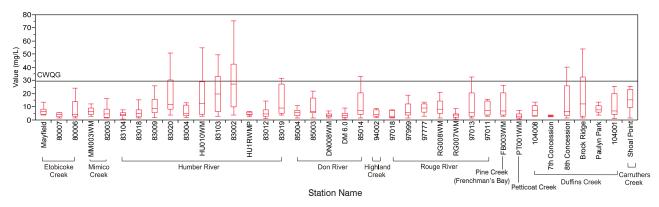


Figure 21. Total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations (mg/L) at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (CWQG: 30 mg/L)

рΗ

Median pH values were within PWQO of 6.5 to 8.5 for all stations (Figure 22). The majority of median values were within 8 to 8.5 and only 2 stations had upper values that exceeded the PWQO.

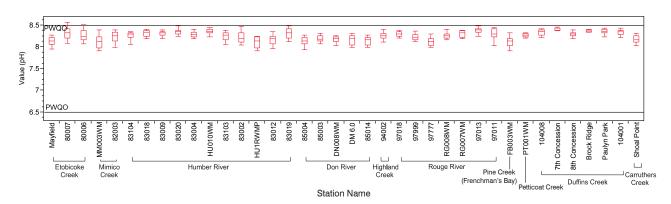


Figure 22. pH values at 38 sites within TRCA jurisdiction (PWQO: 6.5-8.5 pH)



4. Summary

The results represented in this report represent ambient water quality conditions found in 2009. Non-point source pollution (e.g. stormwater runoff) continues to influence water quality within the Greater Toronto Area. As water flows through each watershed towards Lake Ontario, water quality becomes degraded as it passes through agricultural and urban areas. Stations located in developed areas of Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek, the Humber River and the Don River all revealed elevated levels of several contaminants. Point sources of pollution also contribute to the degradation of Toronto's water quality. In particular, the lower Don River and Humber River displayed the greatest levels of degradation within the TRCA jurisdiction.

The data collect through the monthly grab samples represent an ambient condition of water quality since samples are collected irrespective of precipitation and flows. It is expected that levels of many parameters presented in this report would be higher when mobilized by storm events.



5. References

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- Ontario Ministry Environment and Energy (OMOEE). 1994. *Policies Guidelines and Provincial Water Quality Objectives of the Ministry of Environment and Energy*. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto, June 1994.
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Appendix A – Water quality stream conditions from field notes

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Wet (# samples)	Dry (# samples)
83009	Frozen	Clear	Clear	Turbid	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	1	11
83018	Frozen	Frozen	Clear	Turbid,	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
				High									1	11
83104	Frozen	Frozen	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	0	12
Mayfield	Frozen	Clear	Clear	Turbid,	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Slightly		
				High								high	2	10
80007	Frozen	Partially	Clear	Slightly	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
		frozen		Turbid,										
				High									1	11
83103	Frozen	Frozen	Clear	Turbid,	Clear	Slightly	Low,	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
				High		turbid	Algae						2	10
							bloom							
83002	Frozen	Partially	Clear	Turbid,	Clear	Turbid	Low	Clear	Clear	Turbid	Clear	Clear		
		frozen		High									3	9
MM003WM	Frozen	Clear	Clear	Slightly	Clear	Clear	Extremely	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Slightly		
				turbid			low					turbid	2	10
HU010WM	Frozen	Clear	Turbid	Turbid,	Clear	Turbid	Clear	Slightly	Clear	Clear	Clear	Slightly		
				High				turbid				high,		
												Turbid	5	7
83020	Partially	Clear	Turbid	Turbid,	Clear	Turbid	Slightly	Clear	Clear	Slightly	Clear	Clear		
	frozen			High			brown			turbid			5	7
83004	Frozen	Clear	Turbid	Turbid,	Clear	Turbid	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
				High									3	9
HU1RWMP	Partially	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Low	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
	frozen												0	12



Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Wet (# samples)	Dry (# samples)
85004	Partially frozen	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	0	12
85003	Frozen	Odd smell	Clear	Slightly turbid	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	1	11
DN008WM	Frozen	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	1	
97777	Partially	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	0	12
97777	frozen	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	0	12
RG008WM	Frozen	Clear	Clear	Slightly	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Slightly		
				turbid								turbid	2	10
RG007WM	Partially	Partially	Slightly	High,	Clear	Clear	Extremely low	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Slightly		
	frozen	frozen	turbid	Clear,			1011					Turbid,		
				Yellow colour								Frozen	2	10
97018	Partially	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
	frozen												0	12
97999	Frozen	Frozen	Slightly	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Partly		
			turbid									frozen	1	11
8th	Partially	Partially	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Partly		
Concession	frozen	frozen										frozen	0	12
104008	Partially	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
	frozen												0	12
7th	Frozen	Partially	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
Concession		frozen											0	12
Paulyn Park	Frozen	Clear	Turbid	Slight	Clear	Clear	Clear	Slightly	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
				green				turbid					2	10
Brock Ridge	Frozon	Portioll:	Turbid	colour Turbid	Clear	Clear	Extremely	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
brock Hlage	Frozen	Partially frozen	Turbia	Turbia	Clear	Clear	Extremely	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	2	10
		1102611					IOW						2	10



Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Wet (# samples)	Dry (# samples)
104001/ Annadale	Frozen	Clear	Turbid	Turbid	Clear	Clear	Extremely low	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Turbid	2	10
Shoal Point	Frozen	Clear	Slightly	Slightly	Clear	Clear	Clear	High,	High	Clear	Clear	High,		10
Silvai Politi	FIOZEII	Clear	turbid	turbid	Clear	Clear	Clear	Turbid	nigii	Clear	Clear	Turbid		
													4	8
80006	Frozen	Clear	Clear	Slightly	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Slightly high,		
				turbid								Turbid	2	10
82003	Frozen	Clear	Clear	High	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear,	Clear	Clear	High,		
									Brown			Turbid	1	11
83012	Frozen	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	High,		
												Turbid	1	11
DM 6.0	Partially	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Water	Clear	Slightly		
	frozen									stained		turbid		
										black			1	11
97011	Frozen	Turbid	Slightly	Green	Very	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
			turbid	colour	turbid								3	9
97013	Frozen	Turbid	Slightly	Clear	Turbid	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear		
			turbid										3	9
94002	Open	Clear	Slightly	Clear	High,	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Slightly	Clear	Clear		
			turbid		Turbid					turbid			3	9
FB003WM**	N/A	N/A	N/A	Clear	Slightly	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Water	Clear	High,		
					turbid					stained		Slightly		
										black		turbid	2	7
PT001WM**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Clear	Clear	Clear	Water	Clear	High,		
										stained		Clear		
										black			0	6



Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Wet (# samples)	Dry (# samples)	
85014*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Water	Clear	Turbid			
										stained					
										black			1	6	
83019*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Partly frozen,			
												High,	High,		_
												Turbid	1	6	
Note: *Stre	Note: *Stream conditions not available for Jan-May (samples collected by MOE staff). **Sample locations established later in the year.														
	437 samples taken in 2009.												59	378	