# Hullcar Aquifer Inter-Ministry Working Group Updates

#### Core Ministry Team Members:

#### Director Lead: Christa Zacharias-Homer Ministry of Environment Deputy Director, Regional Operations Branch

Technical Team Lead: Orlando Schmidt Ministry of Agriculture Regional Manager, Coast and Interior

#### Goals of the Inter-Ministry Working Group:

- To ensure safe drinking water for the residents of Hullcar Aquifer and Steele Springs Water District
- To build public trust and demonstrate collaboration among Ministries
- \* To determine possible sources of nitrate in the Hullcar Aquifer
- \* To foster sustainable economic development for the local agrifood sector

# Upcoming Public Information Sessions

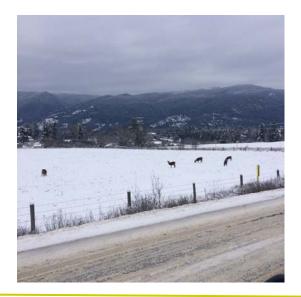
Over the last few months, a significant number of scientific studies and analysis have been conducted to better understand the source, movement and persistence of nitrates in the Hullcar Aquifer 103. These results will be presented in an interactive format in the Hullcar Valley in the new year. Dates and location will be determined soon.

Stay tuned for more information regarding Public Information Sessions in the new year.

#### Nitrate contamination in Ontario — Lessons to be learned for Hullcar?

Nitrate contamination of groundwater in agricultural communities has become a common story throughout Canada and indeed throughout areas of the United States. Communities relying on these groundwater sources have put tremendous resources into mapping out the issues and finding ways to solve them. The complexities are enormous and each situation is unique in scope, resources and tools available to tackle the issues. Below is a link to an article about one researcher from the University of Waterloo who is taking a closer look at Best Management Practices and their effectiveness in reducing nitrates in a Municipal water supply in Southern Ontario. Ingenuity, creativity and problem solving are at the heart of this article.

Agriculture and Nitrates: A research project reveals a powerful message Written by Rachel Beavins Tracy in Groundwater Canada, April 30, 2014 <a href="http://www.groundwatercanada.com/contamination/agriculture-and-nitrates-2358">http://www.groundwatercanada.com/contamination/agriculture-and-nitrates-2358</a>



## Environmental Impact Assessments Update

The Inter-Ministry working group members are currently reviewing the Grace-Mar and Jansen Environmental Impact Assessments. The Regehr Report is due imminently. Once the reviews have been completed, all reports will be posted to the Hullcar Aquifer web page.

The next installment of the Hullcar Aquifer newsletter will be released on January 16, 2017.

## Hullcar Valley Time Lapse Story

Ever wondered how the Hullcar Valley has changed over the years? The folks at Google have put together an imagery tool, piecing together vast numbers of satellite imagery over 3 decades. Click on the link below and type in Hullcar, BC (in the, "explore the world" box) and watch the valley change over the years.

http://world.time.com/timelapse/



## Upcoming dates of interest:

December Environmental Impact Assess-

ments being reviewed by Inter-

Ministry Working Group

January TBD Technical Communications

Working Group Meeting

Early 2017 Public Information Sessions

More info can be found at:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air -land-water/site-permitting-compliance/hullcar-aquifer

