Data Management – Perspectives from The Oak Ridges Moraine Hydrogeology Program

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Since 2001, a core component of the Oak Ridges Moraine Hydrogeology Program (YPDT-CAMC) has been the focus on assembling a comprehensive groundwater database. Over the years, program staff has put forward that data management and accessibility, as well as overall groundwater “knowledge management”: i) together are perhaps the most important components that contribute to effective management of Ontario’s groundwater resources; ii) remain the most under-appreciated and under-funded aspects of groundwater resource management; iii) require a very long term vision and an abundance of passion; and iv) can be considered ‘shovel-ready’ infrastructure – this in hopes of attracting funding over the past few years. Although there have, as yet, been no significant federal/provincial database related epiphanies (or funding dollars) resulting from past initiatives, slowly but surely the program’s data infrastructure continues to grow into what must certainly be one of Canada’s most comprehensive, actively managed groundwater related databases. It continues to provide a solid framework for any groundwater related investigation occurring within the geographic area of any of the 13 agencies partnered in the program.