



Watersheds
C A N A D A

ANNUAL REPORT
2014/2015





Executive Director's Message

I can't believe that it has been a year since we launched our new name and look at Watersheds Canada. It has been an incredibly busy year for us working to bring our Love Your Lake Program to a national level. We are very excited to announce that we will be launching Love Your Lake in Saskatchewan and Manitoba in the summer of 2016, working closely with five groups in Saskatchewan and one group in Manitoba. Our next step is to translate this program into French!

As we continue our work in 2016, we are working towards bringing all of our programs across Canada based on our successes locally. Our focus is non-regulatory community and landowner driven actions that are scalable and impactful. Keep your eyes on our website for some exciting news in the coming year!

A big welcome to our new board members, Mary Ellen Stoll and Dr. Tom Whillans. We are very fortunate to have such an amazing board of directors with so many talents. We would not be where we are without them.

I am looking forward to the coming year with many new challenges and opportunities. Thank you to all of our supporters, staff and partners for believing in Watersheds Canada and the work that we do!

Barbara King
Executive Director, Watersheds Canada

At Watersheds Canada, we envision people caring for their freshwater, resulting in clean, healthy lakes and rivers across the country. Watersheds Canada is a federally incorporated non-profit organization and registered Canadian charity.

Your Lakes Your Rivers. Your Future.

Core Staff

Barbara King
Executive Director

Karen Ballentine
Administrative Assistant

Courtney Allison
Natural Edge Coordinator

Melissa Dakers
Lake Stewardship Coordinator

Heather Murphy
Love Your Lake Coordinator

Board of Directors

Andrew Treble
Financial Business Consultant

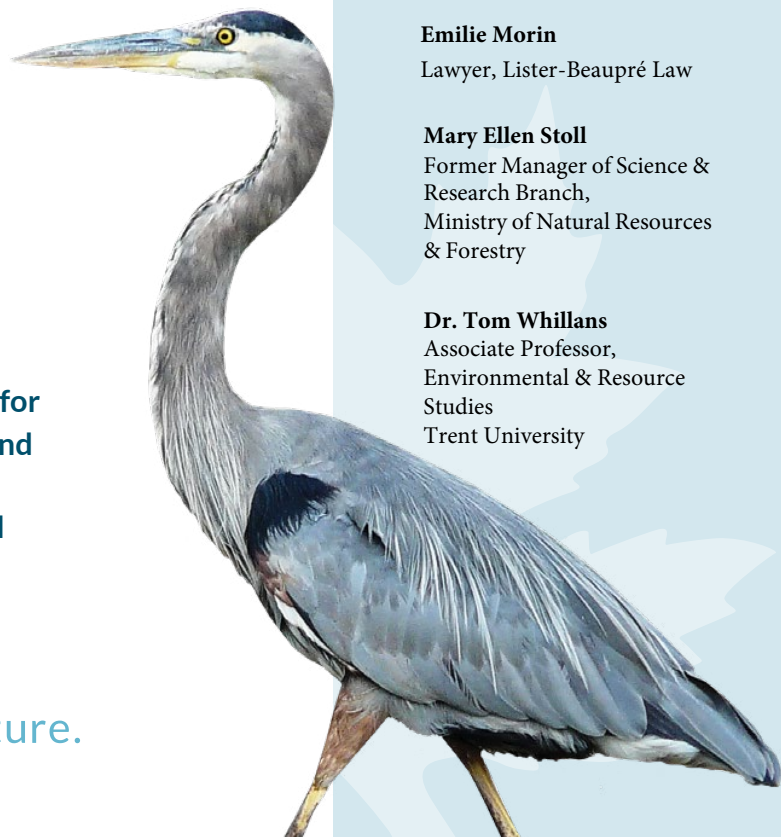
Michael Dwyer
CAO, Township of
Rideau Lakes

Jeff Ward
Former, Partnership
Specialist, Ministry of Natural
Resources & Forestry

Emilie Morin
Lawyer, Lister-Beaupré Law

Mary Ellen Stoll
Former Manager of Science &
Research Branch,
Ministry of Natural Resources
& Forestry

Dr. Tom Whillans
Associate Professor,
Environmental & Resource
Studies
Trent University



Lake Links 2015



Lake Links is an annual workshop coordinated by a steering committee of members from local organizations. The 2015 workshop marked the 14th year of bringing together over 100 people in Perth, Ontario to network and learn about lake protection issues and actions. With 20 lake associations represented, the workshop focused on strategies for protecting the fisheries in our lakes with a special focus on fish habitat restoration.

"The presentations from local experts in the conservation field were fantastic! Great workshop! I will be back next year for sure!"

White Lake Planning Project



The White Lake community has come together to create a Lake Stewardship Plan in collaboration with Watersheds Canada and French Planning Services Inc. A steering committee has been formed with representatives from various stakeholder groups including municipalities, White Lake Preservation Project, White Lake Property Owners Association, Provincial Agencies and local businesses.

With funding support from the Gottlieb Foundation, G2 Gallery and private donations, work is underway to complete the State of the Lake Report, which provides a snapshot of the state of the lake's environment, land uses and development levels.

White & Christie Lake Fish Habitat Projects

In partnership with the Lanark County Stewardship Council and supporters, White Lake fish habitat was improved with three walleye spawning beds, 19 fish habitat structures and 10 shoreline property naturalizations. Christie Lake received 19 fish habitat structures and 3 shoreline property naturalizations.

Supporters included: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, TD Friends of the Environment, Laventure Construction, M. Sullivan & Son Ltd., Cedar Cove Resort, Fish & Game Clubs of Arnprior and Lanark & District, White Lake Preservation Project, Christie Lake Association, Camp Opemikon, 14th Gloucester Venturer Scout Company, Perth Home Hardware and many volunteers.

NEW! Check out our website for our step by step protocol on Walleye Spawning Bed Enhancements and In-Water Brush Piles, which includes "how to" videos and detailed protocols that outline everything you will need to know, from planning and developing the project through to carrying it out successfully. This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.





Love Your Lake

Healthy Shorelines for Healthy Lakes. Love Your Lake is a shoreline assessment and stewardship program that provides landowners with resources to help improve the health of their shoreline and their lake. This program is developed by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation who work with regional partners and lake associations to deliver it locally.

Lakes participating in the Love Your Lake program are assessed on a property-by-property basis using a standard assessment protocol. Lake Associations also receive a customized report that includes a detailed analysis of the health of the entire shoreline. This report encourages and guides community stewardship efforts to benefit the lake.

In 2015, we partnered with four regional organizations across Ontario, including Muskoka Watershed Council, City of Greater Sudbury, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve and the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association.

Learn more about Love Your Lake at www.loveyourlake.ca!

Since 2013, we have assessed over **15,000 properties on 53 lakes!**

| Region | Regional Organization | Lakes Assessed 2015 |
|-----------------|--|---------------------|
| Georgian Bay | Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve | 3 |
| Sudbury | City of Greater Sudbury | 2 |
| Muskoka | Muskoka Watershed Council | 1 |
| Eastern Ontario | Watersheds Canada | 5 |
| Haliburton | Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association | 9 |

Total Properties Surveyed 5,689



The Natural Edge

The Natural Edge is a shoreline naturalization program for waterfront property owners to help them restore their shorelines by planting native trees, shrubs, groundcovers, wildflowers and grasses along the water's edge. We provide landowners with:

- A free site visit to discuss shoreline concerns, provide recommendations and assess planting conditions;
- A personalized planting plan, including photos of selected planting areas and ideal plant species;
- The ordering, delivering, planting and mulching of plants;
- A free Stewardship Manual to help property owners care for their newly planted vegetation; and,
- Ongoing support in subsequent years.

The Natural Edge was developed and piloted in eastern Ontario in partnership with Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and many lake associations.

In 2015, over 11,335 square metres of shoreline was naturalized on 57 properties, with over 5,500 native trees and shrubs on 15 lakes and 1 river.

With the success of this program in our local region, we are partnering with other organizations to expand the Natural Edge. We are providing training and resources to other groups interested in offering shoreline naturalizations.

Since 2013, we have naturalized 123 properties with over 12,000 native plants on 42 lakes and rivers!

"It is reassuring to know that the lovely native plants are working to preserve the health of the lake that we treasure."

- Mary Lynne Holton, Canonto Lake

We are launching a new Shoreline Planting Database thanks to Enbridge Inc. and the Great Lakes Community Guardian Fund. Property owners can access and download native plant lists for their region directly from our website, to help facilitate their own shoreline planting projects.

Financial Summary

Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Partner Contributions | \$191,469 |
| Foundations | \$30,740 |
| Government Grants | \$198,993 |
| Other Income & Donations | \$33,381 |

Total: **\$454,583**

Expenses

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Administration | \$91,677 |
| Program Expenses | \$357,152 |

Total: **\$448,829**

Partners

| | |
|---|--|
| Canadian Wildlife Federation | Moore Lake Property Owners Association |
| Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority | Muskoka Watershed Council |
| City of Greater Sudbury | Otter Lake Association |
| Clearwater Lake Stewardship Group | Ramsey Lake Stewardship Committee |
| Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association | Sharbot Lake Association |
| Crane Lake Association | Sustainable Eastern Ontario Township of Beckwith |
| Friends of the Salmon River | Town of Carleton Place |
| French Planning Services Inc. | Township of Drummond/North Elmsley |
| Frontenac Stewardship Council | Township of Greater Madawaska |
| Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association | Township of Lanark Highlands |
| Gull Lake Cottagers Association | Township of McNab/Braeside |
| Halls & Hawk Lake Property Owners Association | Township of Mississippi Mills |
| Healey Lake Property Owners Association | Upper Rideau Lake Association |
| Kawagama Lake Cottagers Association | Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority |
| Kushog Property Owners Association | Mississippi Lakes Association |
| Lake Networking Group | Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry |
| Lake of Bays Association | Quinte Conservation Authority |
| Lanark County Stewardship Council | Rideau Valley Conservation Authority |
| Loughborough Lake Association | White Lake Preservation Project |
| Malcolm & Ardoch Lake Association | White Lake Property Owners Association |

Financial Supporters

| | |
|--|--|
| A. Gourlay-Langlois | L. Pratt |
| A. Stewart | M. Prescott |
| B. Martin | Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry |
| C. Brimacombe | Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority |
| Canada Summer Jobs | Mountain Equipment Co-op |
| Canadian Wildlife Federation | Ontario Trillium Foundation |
| Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority | Quinte Conservation Authority |
| Community Access Program- Youth Initiative | R. Bennett |
| D. O'Leary | R. Ferguson |
| Dr. G. Schnider | Rideau Valley Conservation Authority |
| D. & S. Johnson | Rogers Foundation |
| EcoAction, Environment Canada | R. & D. Zabloski |
| E. Cuyllits | Sharbot Lake Association |
| Enbridge Canada | Sharbot Lake Group |
| Fisheries and Oceans Canada | S. & W. Russel |
| Gottlieb Foundation | Step Forward Paper |
| G2 Gallery | Sustainable Eastern Ontario |
| G. Beaton | TD Canada Trust |
| Great Lakes Community | Idea Design & Media Inc. |
| Guardian Fund | Lake Networking Group |
| K. Krech | |



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