



Watersheds  
C A N A D A

# ANNUAL REPORT

2013/2014





## Executive Director's Message

This has been a year of change for us at Watersheds Canada, starting with a new office in Perth, Ontario, and rebranding of our organization including a new logo, website and communications pieces funded by Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC). We have been operating under the name Centre for Sustainable Watersheds since our incorporation in 2002. At that time, we were a public centre located in Portland, Ontario, offering a storefront of environmentally friendly products and information. When we undertook a strategic planning process at the beginning of 2013, we chose to take this opportunity to rebrand our organization to better represent our national scope of protecting and restoring our freshwater environments.



Our new identity will help support our growth and future success as a registered Canadian charity. Thank you to our amazing board, staff, partners and funders for a great year; we couldn't accomplish all that we do without your support.

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

**Kelsey Jensen**

Communications &  
Programs Coordinator

### Board of Directors

**Andrew Treble**

Financial Business  
Consultant

**Michael Dwyer**

Acting CAO, Township  
of Rideau Lakes

**Jeff Ward**

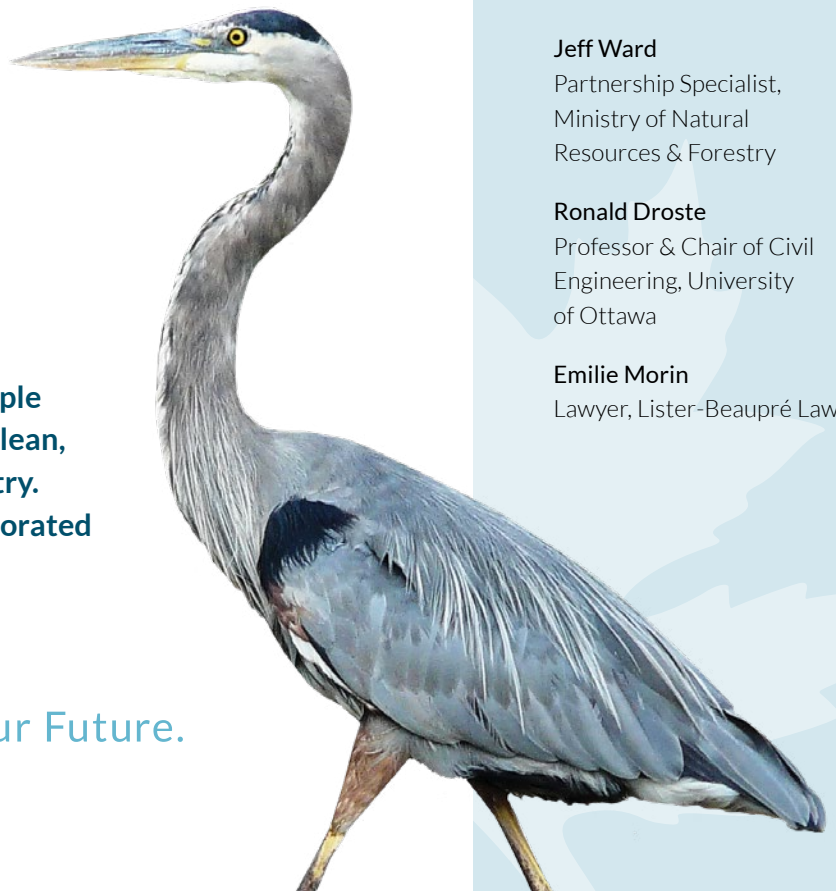
Partnership Specialist,  
Ministry of Natural  
Resources & Forestry

**Ronald Droste**

Professor & Chair of Civil  
Engineering, University  
of Ottawa

**Emilie Morin**

Lawyer, Lister-Beaupré Law





# 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 2013 and 2014, we partnered with five regional organizations across Ontario, including Muskoka Watershed Council, City of Greater Sudbury, Bonnechere River Watershed Project, Lakeland Alliance and the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations.

Together we assessed over  
**9,000 properties on 33 lakes!**

Region	Regional Organization	Lakes Assessed	
		2013	2014
Kawarthas	Lakeland Alliance	1	1
Sudbury	City of Greater Sudbury	5	1
Muskoka	Muskoka Watershed Council	3	2
Eastern Ontario	Watersheds Canada (Formerly Centre for Sustainable Watersheds)	8	2
Haliburton	Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association	-	10

**Learn more about Love Your Lake at [www.loveyourlake.ca!](http://www.loveyourlake.ca!)**

<b>Total Properties Surveyed</b>	<b>4,486</b>	<b>4,982</b>
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# 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, Friends of the Salmon River, and many lake associations.

**In 2013 and 2014, we naturalized 66 properties with over 6,500 native plants on 27 lakes and rivers!**

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.

*"Great job by the entire Natural Edge team. The results are fantastic! It brings us closer to nature and our true natural surroundings!"*

- M. Jackson, Killenbeck Lake

# Lake Links 2014

Lake Links is an annual workshop coordinated by a steering committee of members from local organizations. The 2014 workshop marked the 13<sup>th</sup> year of bringing together over 100 people in Perth, Ontario to network and learn about lake protection issues and actions.

Lake planning experts Randy French and Gord Rodgers, of French Planning Services, provided insight and strategies for lake communities to get their lake plans off the shelf and into action. Dr. Jesse Vermaire, of Carleton University, and Dr. Andrew Paterson, of Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, presented their latest research on algae and aquatic plants in lake environments. A panel of Lake Association representatives provided examples and best practices for bringing their lake residents together. Each year we receive feedback that this is the best lake event in Ontario!



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

**Save the Date for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Links Workshop on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

*Topic: Lake Fisheries Management in Ontario*

## Mississippi Lake Planning Project

In partnership with the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, the Mississippi Lakes Association and French Planning, the Mississippi Lake planning project is in its final stage of producing the Mississippi Lake Plan. This plan will outline recommended actions to protect Mississippi Lake based on three public consultations and two community surveys.

With funding support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Valley Heartland and RBC Bank, we have completed the Mississippi Lake Today Report, which provides a snapshot of the state of the lake's environment, land uses and development levels.

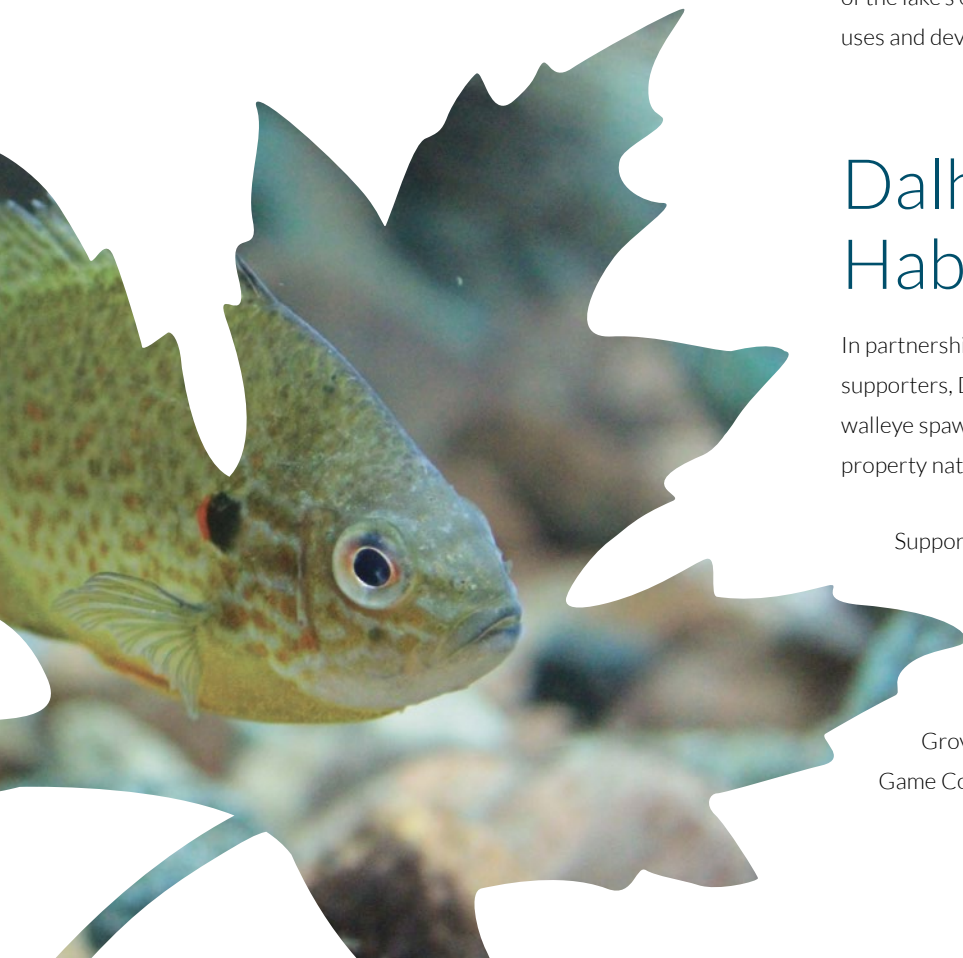
Mississippi  
Lake *Plan*



## Dalhousie Lake Fish Habitat Project

In partnership with the Lanark County Stewardship Council and supporters, Dalhousie Lake fish habitat was improved with two walleye spawning beds, 20 fish habitat structures and six shoreline property naturalizations.

Supporters included: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Lanark County (Darwin Nolan), Lanark Highlands (Dave Ennis and his crew), the Dalhousie Lake Association, Arnott Brothers Construction, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Pine Grove Productions, the Lanark and District Fish and Game Conservation Club members and many volunteers.



# Financial Summary

## Revenue

Partner Contributions	\$85,128
Foundations	\$218,691
Government Grants	\$51,716
Other Income & Donations	\$5,584

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Total: **\$361,119**

## Expenses

Administration	\$34,847
Program Expenses	\$294,584
Reserve Fund	\$20,000

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Total: **\$349,431**

## Partners

Canadian Wildlife Federation	Sharbot Lake Association
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority	Seeley's Bay Area Residents' Association
Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations	Township of Beckwith
Friends of the Salmon River	Township of Mississippi Mills
French Planning Services	Township of Drummond/North Elmsley
Frontenac Stewardship Council	Upper Rideau Lake Association
Gananoque River Waterways Association	Mississippi Valley Conservation
Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association	Mississippi Lakes Association
Greater City of Sudbury	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Lake Networking Group	Otty Lake Association
Lakeland Alliance	Quinte Conservation Authority
Lanark County Stewardship Council	Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Loughborough Lake Association	White Lake Preservation Project
Muskoka Watershed Council	

## Financial Supporters

Canada Summer Jobs	Home Depot - Evergreen
Canadian Wildlife Federation	Mountain Equipment Co-op
Community Access Program Youth Initiative	Ontario Trillium Foundation
ECO Canada	Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
EcoAction, Environment Canada	Rogers Foundation
Enbridge Canada	RBC Blue Water Project
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Sharbot Lake Association
Freshwater Future	Step Forward Paper
Frontenac Stewardship Council	Sustainable Eastern Ontario
Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund	Tay Valley Township
	TD Canada Trust
	Upper Rideau Lake Association



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