



## Watersheds Canada is growing....

2015 has been a year of transformation for Watersheds Canada, starting with our new name and logo, and now we have grown to a current staff of eight.

*We love what we do, and we give it 100% each and every day!*

### Meet Our Staff:

Barbara King – *Executive Director*

Courtney Allison – *Natural Edge Coordinator*

Melissa Dakers – *Lake Stewardship Coordinator*

Brent MacDougall – *Development Database Coordinator & Stewardship Program Assistant*

Heather Murphy – *Ecological Technician*

Chloe Lajoie – *Shoreline Stewardship Assistant*

Nathan Crockford – *Shoreline Stewardship Assistant*

Karen Ballentine – *Administrative Assistant*



## Lake Links 2015 – “Lake Fisheries Management”

With 20 Lake Associations represented, 113 participants in attendance, this year's workshop focused on strategies for protecting the fisheries in our lakes with a special focus on fish habitat restoration. Focused discussions consisted of how to keep your fish populations healthy and strategies to complete projects on your lake. Lake Association examples and discussions looked at best practices for bringing lake residents together to protect, improve, and celebrate the health of their lakes. In the afternoon, we learnt from experts on how to manage projects on your lake including partnership development and fundraising. Special thanks to all our partners.



## The Natural Edge

The Natural Edge Program has had a busy fall season. In Eastern Ontario, 33 properties have been naturalized, with approximately 3,000 native trees and shrubs planted, on 8 lakes and 1 river.

Since 2013, we have naturalized 120 sites properties with over 11, 600 native plants on 44 lakes and rivers!



## Fish Habitat Enhancement Program

In partnership with the Lanark County Stewardship Council, Watersheds Canada received grants from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Recreational Fisheries Conservation Program and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation to improve the overall health of White and Christie Lakes by restoring natural shorelines, creating and enhancing spawning beds for walleye and improving existing fish habitat.

Through the generosity of Laventure Construction and M. Sullivan & Son Limited, who provided all the heavy equipment, three spawning beds were enhanced on White Lake with approximately 150 tonnes of washed river rock. As well as 19 sites on the lake were enhanced with brush bundles and recycled Christmas trees (donated by Perth Home Hardware), creating new habitat for fish. Ten properties on White Lake participated in the Natural Edge Program having their shoreline naturalized with native plants.



Christie Lake participated in the fish habitat enhancement program placing 19 sites with brush bundles and Christmas trees. Involving the 14<sup>th</sup> Gloucester Venturer Scout Company, allowed the youth hands on experience in fish conservation. Five properties were naturalized through the Natural Edge Program, in partnership with Rideau Valley Conservation Program.

These projects were completed with the help of wonderful volunteers from Lanark & District Fish and Game Club, Arnprior Fish and Game Club, Cedar Cove Resort, White Lake Preservation Project, property owners of White Lake, the Christie Lake Association, Camp Opemikon and the 14<sup>th</sup> Gloucester Venturer Scouts.

## Lake Planning

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 the municipalities, White Lake Preservation Project, White Lake Property Owners Association, Provincial Agencies and local businesses. The lake planning process uses a community-based approach, designed to present multiple opportunities for everyone with an interest in White Lake to provide their input, collaborate, and discuss issues pertaining to the lake. The first phase of the Stewardship plan, has been generously donated by the Gottlieb Foundation, G2 Gallery and public donations.



The first community meeting was held in October. The sixty-six participants that were in attendance shared their values, issues and identified potential actions. Work is underway with the State of Lake Report, a background report that will document the existing information and data that has been collected on White Lake. The draft State of the Lake Report is scheduled for release in February 2016.



## Love Your Lake

It has been a great year for the Love Your Lake Program. Twenty-one lakes in Ontario participated, with over 8,000 property assessments completed. Together with our partners, we have assessed over 53 lakes and 15,000 properties have been surveyed! In October, Watersheds Canada's Executive Director, Barbara King travelled to Saskatchewan to present the program to new partners, for an out of province launch in 2016.