

Watersheds

C A N A D A



DECEMBER 2016
VOLUME. 01/ISSUE .01



CLOSING A BUSY SEASON & GETTING READY FOR 2017

LOVE YOUR LAKE
PG. 3,4,9, & 10

THE NATURAL EDGE
PG. 5,6,7,8,9, & 10

HABITAT MANAGEMENT
THROUGHOUT

LAKE PLANNING
PG. 4 & 9



WELCOME TO WATERSHEDS CANADA.

**HELLO! REMEMBER US?
WE KNOW, WE KNOW, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.**

Lately, we haven't updated you as much as we would like to about the goings on here at Watersheds Canada.

It's time for that to change.

This past summer, we began to make preparations to refine the ways in which we interact with you on all of our social platforms.

We endeavour to share what we do as an organization with you in new, creative, and interesting mediums.

Our goal is to keep you with us as we grow as an organization, reaching communities all across Canada. In fact, your involvement is paramount in the success of Watersheds Canada because we depend on you to carry a conscience for the future of our lakes and rivers wherever you go.

Our Summer was a busy one, and the autumn season wasn't any less of a whirlwind. Earlier this fall, we made the leap across Canada to pilot the Natural Edge Program in Saskatchewan and Alberta, just as we did with the Love Your Lakes program this past summer. After a season full of site visits, lake planning, lake assessments, and fish and wildlife habitat projects, our efforts have come to fruition, and we're excited to share the results with you within the pages of this issue.

As the leaves drop and we fall into Autumn and the colder months of Winter, we want to show you why we do what we do, and why we love what we do. We hope that you're excited to join us, because we're happy to have you with us. We truly thank you for being interested in the work that we do.



Watersheds
CANADA

THE STATE OF OUR LAKES



WHITE LAKE LAKE LAKE LAKE OPEN HOUSE



In September, we held an open house in Pakenham, ON, to provide an opportunity for the White Lake community to come together and discuss the future of the lake itself. 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 meeting allowed for an open dialogue between those who had worked on the report and the community with regards to topics explored within the report draft, such as water quality, fishing, and recreation, to name a few. This is

an ongoing project, and is in collaboration with the White Lake Preservation Project. These community meetings are designed to facilitate a channel in which to incorporate values and opinions from the community into the final report. There will be future opportunities for collaborations, and presentations have been made to the nearby municipalities in an effort to organize a joint meeting. The intended result will be the creation of The White Lake Stewardship Plan, which is a document intended to guide actions toward the protection and management of the environment and social characteristics of the lake.

LAKE LINKS



This year, Lake Links explored trends in shoreline ownership with a special focus on what those trends may mean in terms of fostering lake stewardship actions across generations. We were happy to see so many attendees come out to workshop and network, and we're already looking forward to next year.

THANK YOU

to all of our speakers, and to those who volunteered to help with the event.

We would also like to thank our 2016 sponsors: Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and the Christie Lake Association.

SUMMER OUTREACH



This summer we were fortunate enough to participate in Lake AGMs across several townships. This gave us the opportunity to engage with shoreline communities and promote sustainable processes for the ways we manage our lakes and rivers on a personal level.

If you are interested in our programs, and we have not had the chance to come to your lake AGM, contact us to arrange a visit for 2017.

Email: info@watersheds.ca
Phone: 613 264 1244

- In 2016, we visited:
- Mazinaw
 - Dog Lake
 - Charleston Lake
 - Lower Beverly
 - Cloyne
 - Sharbot Lake
 - Salmon Lake
 - Farren Lake
 - Mississippi
 - Buck Lake
 - Kennebec Lake

LOVE YOUR LAKE

In partnership with regional organizations, Love Your Lake has compiled data for lake assessments and reports on several lakes in Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, and are looking forward to establishing strong partnerships out West. We are spending time to tailor content and materials to suit Western provinces according to customs and procedures.

Throughout 2016, the following lakes were assessed, with data having been compiled into individual reports.

ALBERTA:

Nature Alberta: *Wabamun Lake*

SASKATCHEWAN:

Carrot River Valley: *Wakaw Lake*

Lower Qu'Appelle: *Katepwa Lake (recreational lakeside within resort area only)*

Upper Qu'Appelle: *Last Mountain, Buffalo Pound, Humboldt Lake*

North Saskatchewan: *Emma Lake, Christopher Lake, Jackfish Lake, Murray Lake, Anglin Lake*

South Saskatchewan: *Pike Lake*

ONTARIO:

Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners

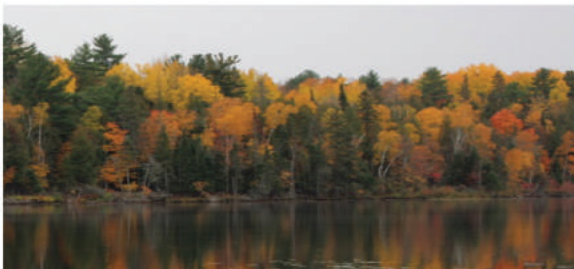
Associations: *Kennisis Lake, Loon Lake, Gull Lake, Glamor Lake, South Lake, Little Glamor Lake, Percy Lake, Mountain Lake, Miskwabi Lake, Long Lake, Wenona Lake, Negaunee Lake, 12 Mile Lake, Little Boshkung Lake, Otter Lake, Raven Lake, Livingstone Lake, Allen Lake, Big Barnum Lake, Big Straggle Lake, Charlie George Lake, East Lake, Kennaway Lake, Little Straggle Lake, Harcourt Long Lake, Deer Lake, Upper Paudash Lake*

Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve: *Kapikog Lake, Blackstone Lake, Skerryvore Bay*

Watersheds Canada in Eastern Ontario: *Mississippi Lake, Salmon Lake*

Greater Grand Sudbury: *Minnow Lake, Richard Lake, Joe Lake, Dixon Lake, Hanmer Lake, Frenchman Lake*

Muskoka Watershed Council: *Three Mile Lake*



MISSISSIPPI LAKE

SALMON LAKE

Summer students Jill Rohoczy, Jenna Laforet, and Jenny Miller worked together with program coordinator Heather Murphy on Shoreline Assessments and the creation of Property Reports as part of the Love Your Lake program out of our organization in Perth, Ontario. Together, with the help of dedicated volunteers, they compiled data in Eastern Ontario for both Salmon and Mississippi Lakes over the course of the summer. This project was determined as a follow up action as a result of the Mississippi Lake Plan that was created by Watersheds Canada with additional partnerships. The next step in the process is to plant native vegetation along the shorelines of lakefront properties, which is where our Natural Edge program comes in.





THE NATURAL EDGE: BRANCHING OUT

The Natural Edge Program has had the opportunity to participate in some very exciting events this year. In August, we went to Rideau Paddfest in Smiths Falls, Ontario, to speak to festival goers about the positive benefits naturalizing your shoreline can have on water quality. In September, we travelled to Miden, Ontario, to take part in the Children's Water Festival, wherein several elementary schools came by to take part in demonstrations regarding aquatic ecosystems and watershed sustainability. For our demonstration, we chose to convey to students the process of shoreline naturalization by showcasing how roots filter toxins and hold in the soil.

We also started adding to the Natural Edge program this year, particularly in the Cataroqui Watershed region, by adding bird and bat boxes to our program offerings, as well as wild flower gardens for pollinator species.

Recently, we were fortunate enough to have one of our Natural Edge program participants do a testimonial video for us. You can view this video, along with our new Native Plant Database on our website.

Thanks to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for their funding to make our program possible, and allowing us to complete twenty planting sites in 2016.





THE END OF A SEASON FOR THE NATURAL EDGE

The leafy green summer has come and gone and the golden reds have fluttered to the ground. Now, as we head into the colder months, planting closes, and planning begins. We've had a lot of fun this year with the Natural Edge program, and now, as the snow falls, we are busily planning for the year to come.

It has been a pleasure to connect with so many shoreline property owners who share our passion for shoreline stewardship. To those who have already participated in the program, we thank you for your interest and commitment to taking care of our lakes and rivers.

We would also like to thank our Natural Edge sponsors this year; Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, for making our work possible.



PICTURED: CHLOE & BRENT PLANTING ON SHARBOT LAKE
LEFT: DFO & GLGCF SHORELINE SIGN



FIELD NOTES

A PEEK INTO OUR WORK OUT IN THE FIELD



Our Staff participated in three demonstration sites this year as part of the Natural Edge Program. The first was in the Bay of St. Lawrence near Gananoque, as part of TD Tree Days (pictured on page 8). In one day, with the help of some wonderful volunteers, we collaboratively, with the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands, planted a total of 350 native trees and shrubs.

The second planting demonstration took place at Still Point House of Prayer near Burnstown Ontario, on the banks of the Madawaska River. Over three days, with the help from the Sisters and numerous volunteers, we planted approximately 800 trees, shrubs, and plants, and put in a large wildflower garden for pollinator species.

The third demonstration took place in November in Furnace Falls Park, which is located in Lyndhurst, Ontario as part of the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands. This demonstration will be in two parts, the first having been completed, and the second being scheduled for spring of 2017.

STILLPOINT HOUSE OF PRAYER BURNSTOWN, ONTARIO





FURNACE FALLS
LYNDHURST, ONTARIO



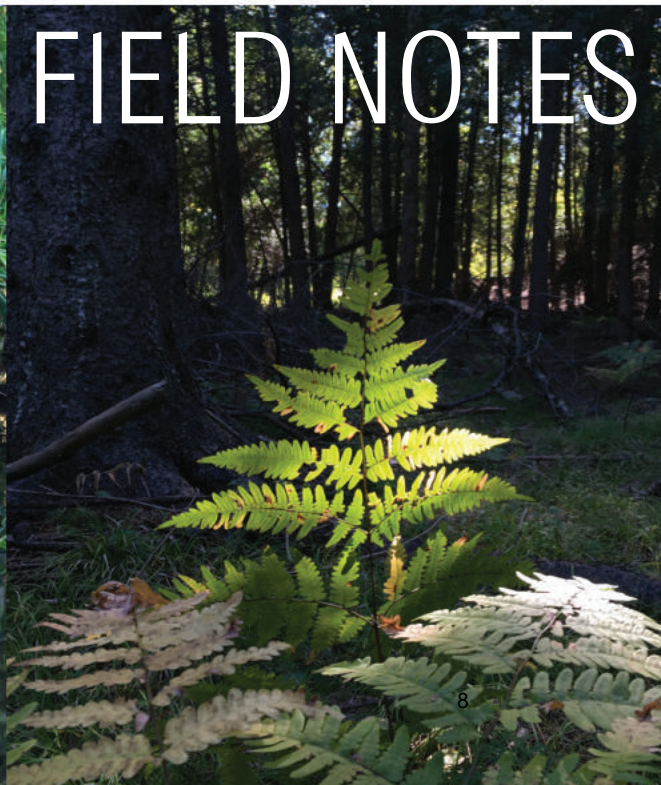
TD TREE DAYS

This past year, we have had the opportunity to work on fish and wildlife habitat projects. Over the course of the summer, Watersheds Canada worked on a Long Sault Creek restoration project in partnership with Lanark County Stewardship Council, Lanark & District Fish & Game club, MNRF Stewardship Rangers, funded by Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program. We also revisited a walleye spawning bed enhancement project that we began last fall in Paris Creek, White Lake, where we returned to spread out some of the rock we placed last fall. Special thanks to

Lanark & District Fish and Game Club, Lanark County Stewardship Council and Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry Junior Rangers for all of their help. Another massive thank-you goes out to all the wonderful people we had the opportunity to meet with and work beside during each demonstration and restoration project. Our Habitat Programs Manager, Melissa Dakers, is looking forward to getting our future restoration projects underway so that we can soon share them with you.



LONG SAULT CREEK
ONTARIO



FIELD NOTES



WHAT'S NEXT?

This winter we'll be settling into report writing and preparation for next year. We are also working to develop new training materials for both Love Your Lake and the Natural Edge.

Our Natural Edge Program will have a spring plant in 2017 in addition to the usual fall plant, and the other half of the Furnace Falls demonstration site will be completed in the spring as well. Our new plant database will also expand over the winter to include a wider variety of native plant, shrub, tree, and wildflower species. Next year, the program will expand to Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The Love Your Lake program will be reviewing protocol over the colder months, and creating training videos for partners. Lake assessment project partnerships have been established for 2017 and will take place on Loon Call Lake in Peterborough, Ontario, and Muskrat Lake, located in the Whitewater Region near Cobden, Ontario. There will also assessments occurring in the Haliburton and Muskoka Regions. Muskrat Lake, in particular, has seen decades of water quality issues. Multiple government mandated water monitoring programs have been carried out on the lake, by stakeholders since as far back as the 1980s. Love Your Lake will also continue in Saskatchewan and Alberta, with a pilot program planned in Manitoba.

In terms of Lake Planning, preparation for the Sydenham Lake State of the Lake Report is underway. After putting out the draft White Lake State of the Lake Report earlier this fall, roundtable discussions between municipalities bordering White Lake are pending, and development of the White Lake Stewardship Plan is underway.

GIVE THE GIFT OF CLEAN WATER THIS CHRISTMAS

We are a non-profit charitable organization that operates entirely by means of funding received through grants and donations. This holiday season, by donating to Watersheds Canada, you will become an honoured supporter. Your contribution will help us continue our work protecting lakes, rivers, and wildlife habitat across Canada.

A \$25 donation will help us purchase native plants for our shoreline restoration program, the Natural Edge.

A \$100 donation will help us give a home to wildlife.

A \$250 donation will help us create fish habitat, such as spawning bed restorations and installations.

A \$500 donation will help us restore a shoreline with native plants to protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

If you are interested in making a donation, please visit our website at www.watersheds.ca/donate or call us at 613-264-1244.

You will receive a charitable tax receipt with your donation.

We wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season!



GOING WESTWARD



LOVE YOUR LAKE AND THE NATURAL EDGE IN WESTERN CANADA

It has been an exciting year at Watersheds Canada. Earlier this summer, we went to Saskatchewan to pilot the Love Your Lakes program, through which we were able to partner with six new organizations!

In September we ventured back to Saskatchewan to pilot the Natural Edge program before stopping in Alberta to do the same. Program Coordinator Chloe Lajoie notes that it was a pleasure to meet with our twelve new Natural Edge partners and that we are all looking forward to future projects with them as we work to expand our shoreline stewardship practices.

LIVING WATERS RALLY

Our Executive Director, Barbara King, and our Habitat Manager Melissa Dakers, went to British Columbia this past September. Barbara was a guest speaker at the Living Waters Rally that took place in Vancouver and spoke on how Watershed groups act as catalysts for unlikely partnerships between smaller non-profit organizations and much larger organizations.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Office: 115-40 Sunset Boulevard,
Perth, Ontario K7H 2Y4
Phone: 613-264-1244
Email: info@watersheds.ca
Website: watersheds.ca



Watersheds
C A N A D A

Your Lakes. Your Rivers. Your Future.