



Watersheds
CANADA

2023 - 2024 Annual Report

Who We Are

Watersheds Canada is a federally incorporated non-profit organization and registered Canadian charity. We are committed to providing programs to communities across the country to help enhance and protect the health of lakes and rivers. Our vision is for communities to come together to care for their waters, resulting in clean, healthy lakes and rivers that will support humans and wildlife for years to come.

watersheds.ca

Meet Our Team



ROBERT PYE
Executive Director



DEBORAH D'AMICO
Senior Development Lead



MELISSA DAKERS
Habitat and Stewardship
Program Manager



CHLOE LAJOIE
National Conservation Director



MONICA SEIDEL
Communications and
Fundraising Manager



NICOLE DUBÉ
Freshwater Health Coordinator



CHANTAL LEFEVRE
Natural Edge Regional
Coordinator



KAREN BALLENTINE
Bookkeeping, Administration
and Fundraising Support

Meet Our Board of Directors



BRETT PAINTER
Treasurer on the Watersheds
Canada Board of Directors



BRIDGET ANDREWS
Executive Director for the
Saskatchewan Association
of Watersheds



KATHRYN KAVANAGH
Executive Director
of Water Rangers



LAUREN LAWSON
PhD Candidate at the
University of Toronto, Secretary
of the North American Youth
Parliament for Water



MARY ELLEN STOLL
Board Chair on the Watersheds
Canada Board of Directors, Retired
Manager for the Ontario Ministry
of Natural Resources and Forestry



MIKE THOMAS
President of the Paudash Lake
Conservation Association



STEPHEN BLIGHT
Retired Vice President for
Capital Lands and Parks,
National Capital Commission



TOM WHILLANS
Professor of Environmental
and Resource Science/Studies
at Trent University

A Message from the Executive Director

When you work or volunteer with passionate freshwater leaders, it is easy to connect the value of every action with the big picture: a planet that desperately needs our urgent care and attention.

A typical day for Watersheds Canada goes like this:

- We planted 75 more native trees and shrubs to help protect another river from intense storm fronts and fires.
- We deployed 20 brush bundles on a cottage lake to regain what was lost due to increased development.
- We shared advice for shoreland protection at a town hall meeting.
- We set up another library with more Nature Discovery Backpacks to give more families the incentive to fall in love with nature.

The relevance of every Watersheds Canada effort shared in this year's Annual Report comes shining through the dark and discouraging news of 2023 and 2024. Floods and wildfires, loss of habitat and greenspace protection, harmful blue green algae, salt pollution, erosion, and lack of outdoor access and resources that are holding back the futures of freshwater leaders of all ages.

As a national organization, we take confidence in knowing that every locally delivered action is in response to local needs, while also being profoundly relevant to absolutely everyone – everywhere – who cares about Canada's freshwater resources.

Thanks to the many great partnerships highlighted in this Annual Report, Watersheds Canada continues to grow, as does the relevance of our hands-on work in communities that have been overclouded with bleak environmental news.

Watersheds Canada is proud to hold the bright light with freshwater actions that are volunteer-driven, tangible, impactful, and highly relevant for all.



Robert Pye
Executive Director



A Message from the Board of Directors

The impact of donations in all forms for Canada's freshwater is clear on every page of this annual report, but the power of planned giving in particular is emphasized on page 34. This is where you will meet Doug Smith and Janet Taylor.

For years, Watersheds Canada dreamed of the opportunity that was generously provided by Doug and Janet in the spring of 2023. But the couple contributed more than just funding. Our first ever legacy donation came with an inspiring message – the Doug Smith story – that is forever told on our website. It's the best six minutes of freshwater legacy reflection that anyone could experience.

In that video, Doug looks toward the window and says "yeah, we're going to do this." He was talking about a life decision that all Watersheds Canada supporters are encouraged to consider. Doug and Janet felt their love of water deserved to be championed for generations to come through the programs of Watersheds Canada.

As you flip through the Annual Report, we are sure you will take pride in the fact that donors and volunteers like you are making a difference for our lakes and rivers. And, if legacy giving is on your mind, our humble charity would be thrilled to chat with you.



Mary Ellen Stoll
Board Chair



LOVE YOUR LAKE

Healthy Shorelines for Healthy Lakes

Total Impact since 2013:



PROPERTIES
49,753



FRESHWATER BODIES
216

Love Your Lake is a nationally delivered program that trains and equips regional delivery partners to assess and understand the health of a freshwater body. Trained surveyors assess each property on a lake, bay, or river, noting different terrestrial and aquatic features that may influence freshwater health.

These property-specific observations are used to create a private, individualized report that shoreline property owners can use to take voluntary stewardship actions to improve and protect their water quality and wildlife habitat.

A summary report of the waterbody as a whole is also created which details the observations recorded around the waterbody including the degree of erosion, the types of development, the presence of invasive species, and voluntary community-level stewardship opportunities.

As an environmental stewardship guide, both property reports and summary reports can be used to take proactive steps toward improving local freshwater health by creating and maintaining healthier shorelines that benefit humans and wildlife.

Generous funding this year was provided by the Rogers Foundation, Canadian Wildlife Foundation, and Government of Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program.

Love Your Lake, a partnership program between Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation, is delivered by regional delivery groups like conservation groups and waterfront organizations. Visit loveyourlake.ca to learn more.



2023 National Delivery:



LAKES
14



PROPERTIES
3,034

This year, the program was delivered to shoreline property owners across Ontario and Nova Scotia with help from six regional delivery groups:



Nova Scotia
- Sherbrooke Lake
- First Lake



Ontario
- Opinicon Lake
- Dickey Lake
- Lake of Islands
- Lost Lake
- Perch Lake
- Stoco Lake
- Inverary Lake
- Twin Sister Lakes



Ontario
- Lake Bernard



Ontario
- Three Mile Lake



Ontario
- Red Deer Lake



Ontario
- Six Mile Lake

THE NATURAL EDGE

Using Technology & Native Plants to Restore Shorelines



Total Impact in 2023:



SHORELINE LENGTH
9,261m



NATIVE PLANTS
40,638



SHORELAND AREA
159,356m²



To make shoreline naturalizations easier, The Natural Edge guides landowners through every step of a shoreline restoration process, from planning to planting. We visit your site and work with you to create a custom plan suited to your shoreline and your aesthetics. We empower property owners and community groups to restore their shoreline, protect their water quality, and create habitat for wildlife and pollinators using native species of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers.



We provide organizations across Canada with the tools and information they need to deliver the program in their community, including our Natural Edge App, Canada-wide Native Plant Database, private online Admin system, and all necessary program materials. The Natural Edge aims to help Canadians improve their lake, river, or tributary's water quality by reducing runoff, stabilizing shorelines, and attracting native wildlife.

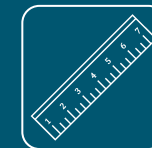
WATER CANADA
SUMMIT

Watersheds Canada's program, The Natural Edge, was a finalist for the prestigious Conservation Award at the 14th annual Water Canada Summit and Gala Awards.



This award recognizes a conservation project that uses new technology or a creative approach to effectively manage, conserve, and restore impacted areas.

Total Impact since 2013:



SHORELINE LENGTH
36,650m



NATIVE PLANTS
143,200



SHORELAND AREA
368,500m²



FRESHWATER BODIES
120



PROVINCES
6

FEATURED PROJECTS & EVENTS

RBC TECH FOR NATURE



This two-year project will expand The Natural Edge across Canada with community groups to build their capacity to protect freshwater areas and restore shorelines with native plants. During year one of the project, we connected with 20 groups and began developing online training. Stay tuned for more information next year!

This project to increase shoreline resilience and community engagement is generously funded by the RBC Foundation.

SUSTAINING OUR FRESHWATER

This two-year project wrapped up, resulting in 3,500 native plants being used to restore 1,682m of shoreline. This resulted in 10,028m² of shoreline habitat being restored in South Frontenac and Tweed, Ontario! This included three large, public demonstration sites as well as many individual shoreline property restorations.

This project was funded by the Government of Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program.



DEMONSTRATION SITES



Watersheds Canada delivered two large planting sites in Ontario, first with the Town of Gananoque and Cataraqui Conservation to plant 200 native plants along the Gananoque Municipal Marina's shoreline. Another 300 native plants were put in at Morrisburg Waterfront Park thanks to St. Mary-St. Cecilia Catholic School students, the Municipality of South Dundas, and Morrisburg Waterfront Advisory Committee.

These projects were funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Coors Seltzer Canada as part of the Change the Course initiative, and Ontario Power Generation.

AKWESASNE & CORNWALL, ONTARIO



We wrapped up a three-year project in the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern in Ontario by planting 9,223 species this year along 16,104 m² of shoreline.

Funding for this project was thanks to the Great Lakes Protection Initiative - Areas of Concern Program by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

MUSKRAT LAKE, ONTARIO

A recent nature-based restoration project to protect the long-term health of the Muskrat Lake in Ontario was led by the Muskrat Watershed Council, Watersheds Canada, and community volunteers. Over 12,500 native trees and shrubs were planted to restore more than 12 acres of shoreline habitat adjacent to agricultural and residential lands.

This project was possible thanks to support from Coors Seltzer Canada as part of the Change the Course initiative.



MAITLAND TOWER, ONTARIO



Watersheds Canada staff worked alongside local partners from Maitland Tower and Door Number One to continue naturalizing the shoreline at the Maitland Tower site on the St. Lawrence River, Ontario.

This project received generous funding support from Coors Seltzer Canada through the Change the Course initiative, a program of the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and the Government of Ontario's Great Lakes Local Action Fund.

PLANNING FOR OUR

Shoreland Development with Nature in Mind



SHORELANDS

Responsibility for conserving shorelands in Ontario is shared across a diversity of stakeholders, including municipal councillors, planners, and lake-river associations. Planning for our Shorelands is a policy and planning program aimed at helping municipal decision-makers understand the benefits of vegetated shorelines, including climate change mitigation and resiliency, water quality protection, wildlife conservation, and erosion control. Our created resources provide policy support to protect and restore shoreland vegetation in the face of proposed waterfront development.

The way we are achieving this is two-fold:

- 1) Organizing and facilitating webinars and discussion forums, providing an opportunity for decision-makers to discuss issues their municipalities are facing and learn from each other's experiences.
- 2) Developing a Best Management Practices Toolkit for sustainable waterfront land use planning which will provide municipalities with the scientific literature discussing the social, economic, and environmental benefits of natural shorelands, discuss common but complex issues municipalities are currently facing with regards to shoreland development, and offer policy solutions based on the success of municipalities from across Ontario.



Planning for our Shorelands is possible because of the guidance and support from the knowledgeable and passionate steering committee, which includes experienced professional planners, conservation authorities, and lake stewards:

Robert Pye (Watersheds Canada) · **Emily Su** (Cataraqui Conservation) · **Glenn Tunnock** (Friends of the Tay Watershed) · **Janet Taylor** (lake resident) · **Leora Berman** (The Land Between) · **Mary Rae** (former Watersheds Canada Board Member, and Retired Municipal Lawyer) · **Terry Rees** (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations)

Sustaining our Freshwater

Planning for our Shorelands developed science-based information and educational resources to facilitate public engagement for this nature-based restoration project.

Freshwater information toolkits, public consultations, and information events held in 2023 continued to engage and empower municipal decision-makers, freshwater stakeholders, Conservation Authorities, Indigenous communities, and waterfront property owners to take action in protecting local freshwater in the Municipalities of South Frontenac and Tweed, Ontario.



Public Outreach

Latonnell Conservation Symposium webinar

October 24, 2023

“Nature-based solutions and technology: Help municipalities and shoreline property owners protect their freshwater”



River Symposium webinar

October 27, 2023

“Nature-based solutions and technology help Canadians protect their freshwater”



Latonnell Conservation Symposium webinar

November 21, 2023

“Building Resilient Shorelands: How to take positive land use action in a changing environmental and legislative climate”



As well as numerous presentations to waterfront groups, and delegations presented to different municipalities.

Launch of Road Salt Education Toolkit

The Issue

While road salts play an important role in human safety, their persistent use is causing immense consequences for our freshwater ecosystems. There has been a significant increase in the salinization of freshwater bodies over the past decade as road salts continue to infiltrate our waterways.

Our Solution

With the launch of the new toolkit and your support, we will:

- Raise awareness about the detrimental effects of road salt pollution on our freshwater.
- Encourage discussion on how municipalities and communities can have more comprehensive norms and enforcement regarding road salt usage.
- Promote de-icing alternatives that are both effective and ecologically responsible.

Toolkit Features

The Road Salt Education Toolkit featured blog posts, a webinar and educational handout, a Road Salt Policy Review document, an Introductory Slide Deck for community groups and municipalities, a Public Perception and Awareness Survey, a media release, and social media content.

These resources can be used to take action against road salt pollution. Access them for free by visiting watersheds.ca/salt

Funders

This education toolkit was generously supported by:



FISH HABITAT

Restoring Critical In-Water Habitat

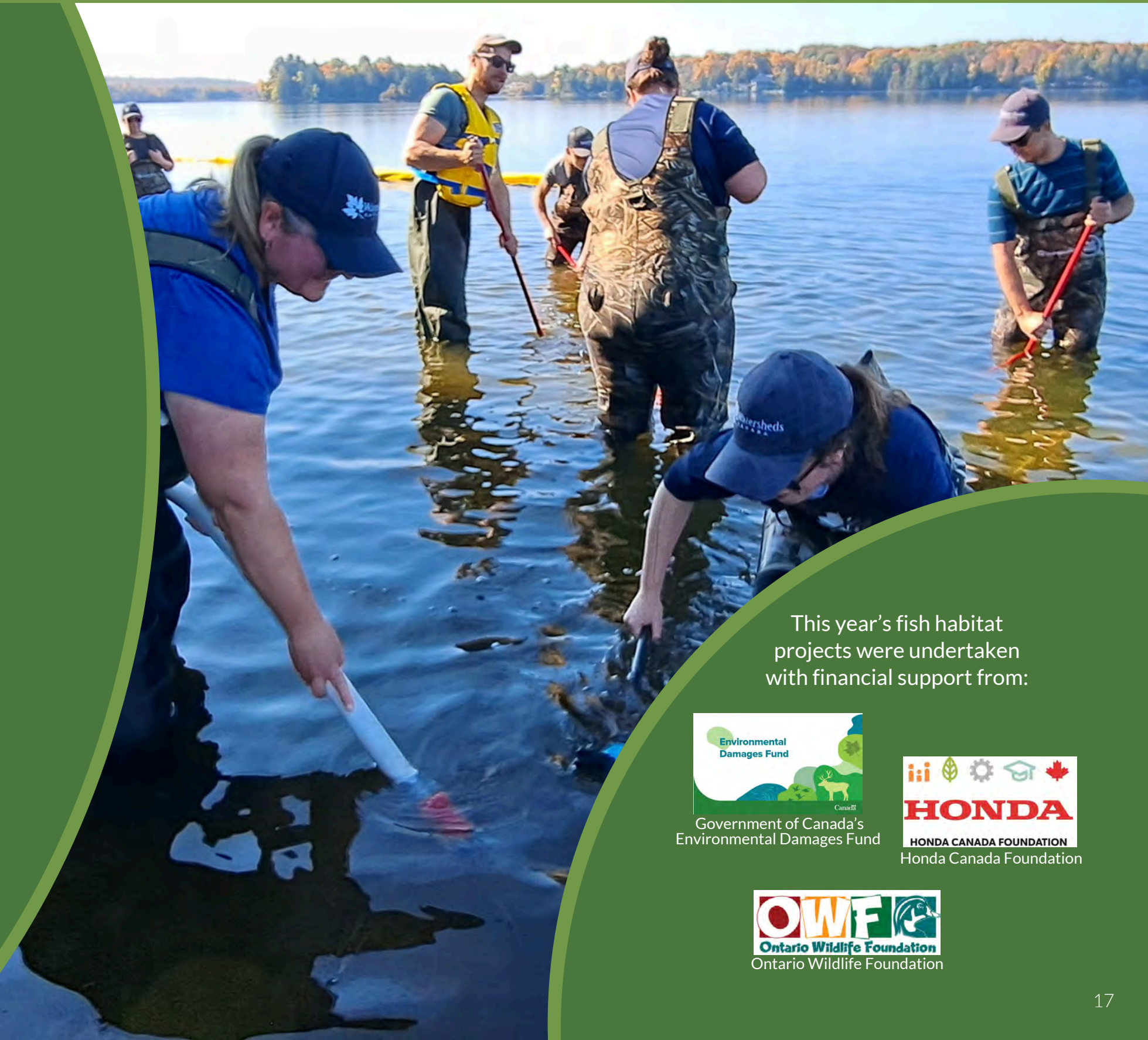
PROGRAMS

With the steady increase in development along Canada's lakes and rivers, critical fish habitat is being compromised and degraded. Watersheds Canada, in partnership with local organizations, is working to protect, enhance, and restore various freshwater fish habitats. Some of our projects include walleye and trout spawning bed restorations, cold-water creek habitat enhancements, and adding woody debris back into our lakes with our brush bundle projects.

Enhancing walleye and trout spawning beds by cleaning silt and adding additional rocks will help strengthen their populations and the freshwater biodiversity (left photo).

Cold-water streams are significant tributaries in the proper function of natural ecosystems as they help to moderate temperatures in the larger rivers and lakes they flow into. Cold-water habitat restorations support these streams as water temperature regulators. They also provide nursery habitat for many fish species, including brook trout, who require the cold temperatures and high dissolved oxygen levels of these creeks.

Sunken logs, trees, branches, and root balls provide excellent habitat for wildlife, including fish, turtles, birds, and invertebrates. In-water fish habitat enhancement projects promote the health of wildlife populations and improve water quality by creating additional woody debris habitat, such as brush piles. Brush piles can provide fish with a food source, as well as shaded areas to rest, spawn, and escape predators.



This year's fish habitat projects were undertaken with financial support from:



Baptiste Lake, Ontario

~ June 2023

Lake Trout Spawning Bed Survey



Watersheds Canada provided the Baptiste Lake Association with valuable information on how to improve their fishery and restore local fish habitat and populations in Baptiste Lake.



Big Clear Lake, Ontario

~ October 2023

Walleye Spawning Bed Restoration Project



After observations revealed that the spawning bed had silted over and was damaged from ice push, Watersheds Canada began conducting site visits in May 2023.



Watersheds Canada worked with the Big Clear Lake Association to complete a walleye spawning bed restoration project for the cool-cold water fishery in Central Frontenac Township.



In the fall, two volunteers and Watersheds Canada staff swept and washed silt off the historic walleye spawning bed using brushes and a high pressure pump (on loan from OFAH Zone F) into a silt curtain.

Farren Lake, Ontario

~ August 2023

Brush Bundle Project

Watersheds Canada and the Farren Lake Property Owners Association created and deployed 23 brush bundles on their lake.

This is the second fish habitat restoration project undertaken by the residents of Farren Lake in a twelve-month period, with a total of 52 brush bundles built and deployed.

This grassroots project was led and organized by a group of over 20 volunteers, including Tay Valley Township Council member Reeve Rob Rainer, families, and multi-generational cottage owners.



Although direct monitoring efforts will not occur until next year, the positive effects of these restoration projects are already showing.



With both the eastern and western portions of the lake now rehabilitated with underwater sticks and branches, residents of the lake can rest assured that their aquatic and amphibious neighbours will have the homes they need to survive and thrive far into the future!



Paugh Lake, Ontario

~ February 2024

Lake Trout Spawning Bed Restoration



Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Watersheds Canada and the Paugh Lake Property Owner's Association, action was taken to protect the cold-water fishery and lake trout population in the township of Madawaska Valley.

Sleds, ATVs, and a compact tractor transported 17 tonnes of smaller gravel-sized stone across the ice road to the spawning bed. Watersheds Canada staff and 10 volunteers unloaded the rock to spread it out in a thin layer on top of the ice.



A site visit on Paugh Lake completed in July 2023 indicated that wave action and ice movement and push had altered the rock formations on the spawning bed, making it less productive for fish spawning.



With the spring ice melt, the rocks will fall into place ovetop the spawning bed and ensure the lake trout have areas to lay their eggs that will receive enough oxygenation. The spawning bed will be monitored in fall 2024 to document the spawning activities that take place.

FRESHWATER

Empowering Canada's Freshwater Stewards

STEWARDSHIP COMMUNITY

This virtual community is a centralized place for lake and river associations, individuals, academics, students, and other organizations to connect and work together to protect local freshwater and shoreline areas. Launched in January 2021, the Freshwater Stewardship Community has thousands of Canadians who attend monthly webinars, use free education resources, and network with other stewards across Canada.

Webinar recordings, handouts, and family activities are available for free on our website: watersheds.ca/freshwater-stewardship. Join the Freshwater Stewardship Community and register for upcoming webinars to learn about invasive species, native wildlife, family and classroom resources, shoreland protection, freshwater management, and community science.

This past year, we hosted webinars featuring diverse guest speakers from across many sectors, including academia, non-profits, businesses, and community groups. A few of the topics explored include climate change, blue-green algal blooms, Ontario's native turtles and their habitat, and ice fishing.



This past year, we collaboratively hosted **19** webinars attended live by more than **660** people. In addition, the creation of **17** education handouts provided a summary of the presentations, giving attendees extra tools and resources to take action in their community.

Generous funding provided by:





NATURE DISCOVERY

Connecting Youth to Local Nature

PROGRAMMING

Nature Discovery Programming is about getting children and youth outside in local nature areas, whether they live in the city or the country. This curriculum-linked programming was created to decrease financial, geographic, experiential, and knowledge-based barriers for the next generation to participate in community science, species identification, and environmental stewardship.

Nature is for everyone, at all learning levels! Discover videos, lesson plans, handouts and more to help your family or classroom identify local species, explore and connect with nature, learn about water quality, and lead local stewardship projects.

Access free curriculum-linked games, activities, and lesson plans that are perfect for informal and formal educators, parents, and grandparents. These education resources will help the next generation of environmental stewards learn more about local species, freshwater health, and how they can take action.

This year, Watersheds Canada's Nature Discovery Programming featured:

1 NATURE DISCOVERY BACKPACKS

2 BRINGING NATURE INTO THE CLASSROOM

3 OTTAWA FAITH COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

• Winnipeg, Manitoba

26 Manitoba-curriculum linked Backpacks are now available for students in grades K-8 to borrow from CPAWS-MB during their workshops thanks to a partnership with Watersheds Canada.

Partners and Funders:   TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

• Greater Madawaska, Ontario

Watersheds Canada launched a Nature Discovery Backpack lending library featuring Ontario-curriculum linked Backpacks and a new permanent book collection available to borrow from the Greater Madawaska Public Library and Learning Centre.

Partners and Funders:   TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

• Carman, Manitoba

This year, Watersheds Canada provided two freshwater-themed backpacks to the Boyne Regional Library in Carman, Manitoba to add to the suite of nature-themed backpacks they have available to borrow. These freshwater-themed versions of the Nature Discovery Backpack are Manitoba-curriculum linked and will encourage families to explore local freshwater bodies and the species that call these areas home.

Partners:  Boyne Regional Library

• Hastings Highlands, Ontario

Watersheds Canada launched a Nature Discovery Backpack lending library featuring 15 Ontario-curriculum linked Backpacks available for students in grades K-8 to borrow from Hastings Highlands Public Library.

Partners and Funders:    TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

• Sudbury, Ontario

Watersheds Canada launched its first French Nature Discovery Backpack lending library in the Greater Sudbury, Ontario area following the successful launch of an English library in 2022. Now over 50 Ontario-curriculum linked French and English Backpacks are available for students in grades 7-12 and families to borrow each summer from all 13 Greater Sudbury Public Library (GSPL) branches.

Partners and Funders:     TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



Each Backpack includes activities and field equipment, such as:

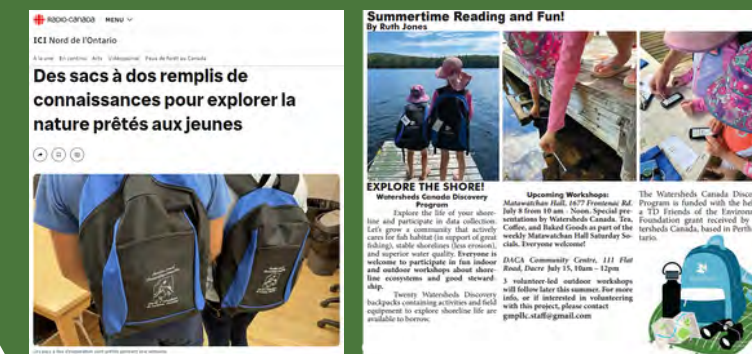
- tiny water quality test kit
- aquatic dip net
- binoculars
- identification guides

The backpack contents will help increase student engagement and identification skills regarding local species, and contribute to local environmental sustainability knowledge and action. Find free PDF versions of the Nature Discovery Backpack workbooks available on [our website](#).



MEDIA COVERAGE:

In 2023, the Nature Discovery Backpack program was featured on CBC Radio-Canada and in several local news articles!



Launching in spring 2024, the Nature Discovery Backpack program will be expanding to Saskatchewan and Alberta!

Watersheds Canada, in partnership with Girl Guides of Canada-Saskatchewan Council, will launch a Nature Discovery Backpack lending library in Regina and Saskatoon featuring 20 Saskatchewan-curriculum linked Backpacks for students in grades K-10.

In partnership with Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement, Watersheds Canada will also launch an Alberta-curriculum linked Nature Discovery Backpack lending library for K-12 students with 30 Backpacks created under the guidance of local Elders and staff.

Bringing Nature into the Classroom


Watersheds Canada partnered with Carleton Heights Public School and W.E. Gowling Public School in Ottawa, Ontario for the second year to give the next generation of environmental stewards the opportunity to explore their local environment and learn about the impacts people can have on native plant and animal species, shorelines, and freshwater health.

During the 2023-2024 school year, four grade 1-4 classes with over 85 students received curriculum-linked units on the growth and changes in freshwater fish and native plants. The program featured Ontario curriculum-linked video lessons, activities, handouts, workbooks, classroom education kits, and take-home native wildflower seed kits that provided an introduction to different local species found in the Ottawa area.

The program was specifically developed for New Canadian and English Language Learner (ELL) students and offered free take-home materials for students. This free program was especially beneficial to RAISE (Resource Allocation Index based on Socioeconomics) schools that participate in fewer programs and field trips based on financial barriers. Watersheds Canada's program helped to break down geographic, financial, experiential, and knowledge-based barriers for students to learn about local species and take action.

All resources from Watersheds Canada's school programming are published free online. While the materials have specific curriculum links for the Ontario grade 1, 2, 3, and 4 science units, they can easily be adapted for younger or older audiences including informal education settings like nature groups and homeschooling. Download all the materials for free at watersheds.ca/FPP-Program



Generous funding provided by:  OTTAWA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
Invested for good

Ottawa Faith Community Capacity Building Program

Watersheds Canada, in collaboration with Greening Sacred Spaces, completed the second year of its two-year Ottawa Faith Community Capacity Building program. This pilot project served to empower six Ottawa, Ontario and surrounding area faith communities with the tools and support needed to lead six freshwater stewardship projects in 2023-2024 to benefit their local community and environment.

The Freshwater Stewardship Engagement Toolkit, curated with 10 chapters and over 620 pre-existing resources from various organizations, was also published online for free public access during the program's second year.



Ascension Anglican Church completed an energy audit and retrofit project. They installed a new water boiler and LED lights to improve the energy efficiency of the church. They aim to be as close to net zero carbon emissions as possible and to be a leader in the community in the greening of buildings.



Members of Carleton Memorial United Church and local volunteers planted a community garden and a pollinator garden. They also removed invasive Common Buckthorn and planted native shrubs to provide essential habitat for native insects, birds, and other wildlife in their community.



Members of the Kanata Muslim Association planted a pollinator garden with native species. They also installed two rain barrels to help with stormwater management by reducing runoff and capturing water for their garden, and held an education event for the community.



Rhoda Masjid hosted a knowledge-sharing community workshop about gardening. Industry experts, faith communities, Indigenous leaders, and the local community joined together to share perspectives on gardening and insights about how individuals can sustainably steward their yards.



Members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church planted a pollinator garden with native species, including Butterfly Milkweed, Black-Eyed Susan, and Wild Bergamot to help support local pollinators.



Trinity United Church installed three new heat pumps to replace a gas boiler and reduce carbon emissions. The church also hosted a community information session to share about their new heat pumps and provide information for homeowners.

An interactive online story map was created to illustrate all of the initiatives completed. It acts as inspiration for future projects and showcases the actions achieved to promote environmental education and sustainability.

Explore the new interactive online map: watersheds.ca/ofccb

22nd Annual Lake Links

October 21, 2023



70+
steward participants!



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
"HOOKED
ON
HABITAT"
FOR THE FUTURE



Lake Links is a collaborative one-day workshop held every October. It attracts citizens and scientists to share ways we can help sustain our lakes and rivers. Individuals spread across five watersheds in Eastern Ontario and beyond attend this day-long event to learn and network. Each year, Lake Links addresses the lake and river issues that matter most to our communities with expert speakers and dynamic presentations. This year's workshop explored topics around sustainable fisheries for the future. In particular, we discussed Ontario's fisheries, the threats they face, and solutions for their recovery and protection.

Wendell Crosbie was the 6th recipient of the Gord Rodgers Memorial Award. The Gord Rodgers Memorial Award is given to someone who engages their community, promotes stewardship by example, and goes above and beyond for their lake community.

This year's event was planned by Friends of the Tay Watershed, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Cataraqui Conservation, Lake Networking Group, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and Watersheds Canada. The event was generously funded by Cataraqui Conservation, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations.

Gift Catalogue

Symbolic Adoptions

Two easy ways to order:
 1) Visit watersheds.ca/gifts
 2) Call Monica at 613-315-6110

Tax receipts provided for donations of \$25 or more.



\$1000

ADOPT A LAKE



\$85

NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER



\$80

COMMON LOON



\$85

OSPREY



\$70

SMALLMOUTH BASS



\$70

BROOK TROUT



\$60

WILDFLOWER BOUQUET



\$60

SPOTTED SANDPIPER



\$60

BEAVER



\$50

PAINTED TURTLE



\$50

EASTERN RED-BACKED SALAMANDER



\$50

BLANDING'S TURTLE



\$40

MONARCH BUTTERFLY



\$30

WILD COLUMBINE



\$30

WILD BERGAMOT



\$30

GREAT CAMAS



\$25

TREE

Unique Gifts



\$500

LAKE HEALTH REPORTS FOR A LAKE



\$500

MAKE A HOME FOR FISH



\$250

REDUCE FERTILIZER RUNOFF



\$100

CREATE POLLINATOR HABITAT

Each gift you make comes with a:

- 5"x7" postcard featuring artwork by a Canadian artist
- Beautiful blank honour card for you to personalize and give as a gift



Gifts that keep Canada's lakes, rivers, and shorelines natural and beautiful!




Your legacy. Canada's freshwater future.

At Watersheds Canada, building trust with partners and donors starts with sincere discussion. Our new legacy giving program, founded by Doug and Janet, is a result of a solid relationship. Donors set their own legacy funding terms, and we respectfully follow through with careful attention to details and delivery.

Meet Our Legacy Plan Founders

Doug Smith & Janet Taylor



-  Like you, Doug and Janet care about our lakes and rivers. Their relationship with water inspired support for freshwater protection through Watersheds Canada programs.
-  Doug and Janet shared legacy interests with Watersheds Canada's team because they saw a need to support the freshwater stewardship work of our action-based charity.
-  Their formal legacy plan, detailing how and where donation dollars would be earmarked, was developed with care and compassion by the Watersheds Canada team.

Every gift to Watersheds Canada is a gift that honours and protects Canada's natural beauty today and for future generations. Make a difference and leave a legacy gift to build the world you'd like to see.

[WATERSHEDS.CA/LEGACY](https://watersheds.ca/legacy)

New Initiatives



In September 2023, Watersheds Canada launched its first-ever charity 50/50 lottery event where a win for you was a win for Canada's freshwater!

Following three early bird winner draws, Philip L. of Maitland, ON was the grand prize winner and generously chose to give his prize money back to support Watersheds Canada's shoreline restoration work.

Watersheds Canada held a contest to win also a beautifully hand-crafted, new quarter size decorative Common Loon carving made by Canadian artist, Mike Reader!



Partners and Volunteers

Funders

Love Your Lake

City of Greater Sudbury
 Lake Bernard Property Owners' Association
 Muskoka Watershed Council
 Re-imagining Atlantic Harbours
 Three Mile Lake Community Club
 Chaffey's Area Lakes Association
 Shawano Ratepayers Inc.
 Twin Sister Lakes Rate Payers Association
 Inverary Lake Residents Association

The Natural Edge

The Land Between
 Muskoka Watershed Council
 Muskrat Watershed Council
 Sustainable Resources, Forestry, Fisheries & Environmental Services Inc.
 Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association
 Cataraqi Conservation
 Quinte Conservation
 Junction Creek Stewardship Committee
 Great River Network
 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
 St. Lawrence River Institute
 Raisin Region Conservation Authority
 Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association
 Lake Kasshabog Residents Association
 Town of Gananoque
 Morrisburg Waterfront Advisory Committee
 Municipality of South Dundas
 St. Mary-St. Cecilia Catholic School
 Door Number One
 City of Cornwall
 Lake Clear Conservancy
 Carson, Trout, Lepine & Greenan - Lakes Association
 Kashwakamak Lake Association

Planning for our Shorelands

Cataraqi Conservation
 Friends of the Tay Watershed
 The Land Between
 Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

Fish Habitat Programs

Farren Lake Property Owners Association
 Paugh Lake Property Owner's Association
 Baptiste Lake Association
 North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery
 Big Clear Lake Association

Freshwater Stewardship Community

BC Water & Waste Association
 Birds Canada
 Canadian Wildlife Federation
 Carleton University
 Female Anglers of Manitoba
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 Great Lakes Commission
 Helping Nature Heal Inc.
 Queen's University
 Safe Wings Ottawa
 Sequencing the Rivers for Environmental Assessment and Monitoring (STREAM)
 The River Institute
 Town of Stratford
 University of Trent
 University of Waterloo
 Western University
 Wildlife Preservation Canada

Nature Discovery Programming

Ascension Anglican Church
 Boyne Regional Library
 Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) - Manitoba
 Carleton Heights Public School
 Carleton Memorial United Church
 Greater Madawaska Public Library and Learning Centre
 Greater Sudbury Public Library
 Greening Sacred Spaces
 Hastings Highlands Public Library
 Junction Creek Stewardship Committee
 Kanata Muslim Association
 Lake St. Peter Property Owners Association
 Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
 Rhoda Masjid
 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
 St. Peter's Lutheran Church
 Trinity United Church
 W.E. Gowling Public School

Lake Links

Cataraqi Conservation
 Friends of the Tay Watershed Association
 Lake Networking Group
 Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Angel Foundations



CORPORATE SUPPORT





In Memory and In Honour Donations

In honour and in memory donations are a meaningful way to recognize a co-worker, friend, or loved one. A donation honours them while restoring and enhancing critical shoreland habitat across Canada.

In Honour

Arthur McConnell Clift
Andrea Best
Chantal
David Guse
Mother Earth, All Children Matter
Paul Shulist

In Memory

Anne Frances Miller
David Fay
Dawn Broughton
Douglas Smith
Hillary Knack
Jack Roach
Jean Stalker
Sean Hudson
Tony Best

Financial Summary

Revenue

NGO Contributions	\$123,914
Foundations	\$411,643
Government Grants	\$277,550
Program Income & Other Revenues	\$124,950

Total: \$938,057

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$813,673
Operating Costs	\$105,834

Total: \$919,507



Canadian charity: 863555223RR0001
watersheds.ca



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