



Watersheds
C A N A D A

ANNUAL REPORT
2016/2017



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2016 was a year of development. We have grown beyond our capacity to meet the demands of those wanting to participate in our programs. Our Board of Directors and staff have spent considerable time planning how we are going to meet these needs in the future. We have big plans and are currently working to find the financial resources to expand our reach and support for grassroots organizations across the Country. We will begin to diversify our funding streams by working towards connecting with monthly donors to help support our work.

We are also in the process of working to better communicate how Watersheds Canada works to protect our lakes and rivers. We recently hired our first communications staff member and are looking forward to providing stories, videos, and resources for others to use in keeping our lakes and rivers healthy and sustainable.

I'm looking forward to 2017 and the challenge of ensuring that we have the financial resources in place to meet the needs of partners and landowners seeking help from our organization. Thank you to all of our funders, staff, and partners for supporting us as we learn, share and grow. We would not be where we are without you!

Barbara King
Executive Director, Watersheds Canada

Watersheds Canada is a federally incorporated non-profit organization and registered Canadian charity. We are committed to providing programs to communities across the country that work to engage and help shoreline owners 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
CANADA
Your Lakes. Your Rivers. Your Future.

CORE STAFF

BARBARA KING
Executive Director

KAREN BALLENTINE
Administrative Assistant

MELISSA DAKERS
Habitat & Stewardship
Programs Manager

JORDEN KEELEY
Communications Coordinator

CHLOE LAJOIE
Natural Edge Coordinator

BRENT MACDOUGALL
Lake Planning &
Stewardship Technician

HEATHER MURPHY
Love Your Lake Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANDREW TREBLE
(CFO), Financial Business Consultant

MICHAEL DWYER
Chief Administrative Officer for the
Township of Rideau Lakes

JEFF WARD
Retired Partnership Specialist for
Ministry of Natural Resources
and Forestry

EMILIE MORIN
Legislative Council/Conseillère législative
at Department of Justice Canada/
Ministère de la Justice du Canada.

MARY ELLEN STOLL
Retired Manager for Ontario Ministry
of Natural Resources and Forestry

TOM WHILLANS
Professor, School of the Environment
at Trent University

LOVE YOUR LAKE

HEALTHY SHORELINES FOR HEALTHY LAKES

Shoreline property owners undoubtedly love their waterfront. Fond memories with family and friends are formed during the weekends: legendary fresh fish fries, epic water tubing adventures, amazing bonfires, and stunning displays of stars – or even the northern lights. However, did you know that the very shoreline properties these lifelong memories grow from are also the very shoreline properties that can keep our lakes clean and healthy?

Lakes participating in the Love Your Lake program are assessed on a property-by-property basis using a standard assessment protocol. After every shoreline property on a lake is assessed from a boat, each shoreline property owner will receive access to an individualized property report consisting of information on the state of their shoreline and suggested voluntary actions for shoreline improvement. These simple suggested actions help protect and enhance shoreline and lake health; for people and wildlife!

In 2016, we partnered with a total of eleven regional organizations across Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. These organizations include Nature Alberta, Carrot River Valley Watershed Association, Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed Stewards, Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Association, North Saskatchewan River Basin Council, South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards, Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, Watersheds Canada, City of Greater Grand Sudbury, and the Muskoka Watershed Council.

LEARN MORE ABOUT
LOVE YOUR LAKE AT
LOVEYOURLAKE.CA

TOGETHER WE HAVE
ASSESSED OVER 22,229
PROPERTIES ON 101 LAKES



PROVINCE	REGIONAL ORGANIZATION	LAKES ASSESSED
ALBERTA	NATURE ALBERTA	1
SASKATCHEWAN	CARROT RIVER VALLEY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION	1
	LOWER QU'APPELLE WATERSHED STEWARDS	1
	WASCANA UPPER QU'APPELLE WATERSHEDS ASSOCIATION	1
	NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER BASIN COUNCIL	5
	SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER WATERSHEDS STEWARDS	2
ONTARIO	COALITION OF HALIBURTON PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATIONS	27
	GEORGIAN BAY BIOSPHERE RESERVE	3
	WATERSHEDS CANADA	2
	CITY OF GREATER GRAND SUDBURY	6
	MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL	1
TOTAL PROPERTIES SURVEYED (2016)		11,850

LAKE LINKS 2016

Lake Links is a one day workshop held every October, in Perth, Ontario. 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, network and see what's new. Each year we address the lake and river issues that matter most to our communities with expert speakers, breakout sessions and dynamic presentations.

This year's workshop explored trends in the ownership of shoreline properties in Eastern Ontario, with a special focus on what those trends may mean in terms of fostering lake stewardship actions across generations. We also learned about practical tools and approaches that you can use to bolster the effectiveness of your communications and outreach to shoreline property owners. After all, every waterfront matters!

SAVE THE DATE

The 16th Annual Lake Links Workshop will be held on Saturday October 21, 2017, from 8:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. at the Perth Civitan Hall. Workshop topics and agenda coming soon!



LAKE PLANNING

WHITE LAKE

The First Draft of the White Lake State of the Lake Report has been completed. The draft report was reviewed by agency experts, the general public, and Steering Committee Members. Several Steering Committee meetings were held throughout the year to provide updates in regards to the progress of the Lake Planning process and findings of the Draft State of the Lake Report.

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. 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 were made to Municipal Councils of all four Townships bordering White Lake highlighting key areas of the State of the Lake Report. 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.

SYDENHAM LAKE

A Draft Sydenham Lake State of the Lake Report has been completed and is under review by Steering Committee Members. Completion of both White Lake and Sydenham Lake Stewardship Plans are anticipated during the summer of 2017.





THE NATURAL EDGE

The Natural Edge Program is a shoreline naturalization program for waterfront property owners to help them restore their shorelines by planting native trees, shrubs, ground cover, wildflowers, and grasses along the water's edge.

With generous funding support from Canada Fisheries and Oceans, and Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, Watersheds Canada is able to 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 all plants;
- A free Stewardship Manual to ensure that the newly planted vegetation thrives in the first few years of establishment and growth; and,
- Follow-up and support with your new plants.

In 2016, we naturalized a total of thirty-two properties, ten of which were funded by Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, with the remaining twenty-two having been funded by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. We also completed two demo sites this year. The first, funded by TD Tree Days, was at the Bay of St. Lawrence near Gananoque, Ontario, while the second, of which was made possible through funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and took place at Stillpoint House of Prayer near Burnstown, Ontario.

BETWEEN THE 32 PROPERTIES, AND 2 COMPLETED DEMO SITES, WE WERE ABLE TO NATURALIZE 1,553.8M OF SHORELINE, COVERING A TOTAL AREA OF 6, 858.9M SQ, WITH 4,246 NATIVE PLANTS!

NATIVE PLANT DATABASE

We are also proud to announce our new Native Plant Database! It is a free-to-use online resource that can be used to determine which native plants are best for certain regions and conditions. We will be continuing to expand this database through 2017. The database can be found on our website at:

<http://watersheds.ca/plant-database/>



FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT



This past year, Watersheds Canada received a three year grant from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to complete several projects in the Eastern Ontario region. In a partnership with Lanark County Stewardship Council and the Lanark & District Fish and Game Conservation Club, we were able to restore a kilometre of brook trout habitat. The restoration included the removal of an online pond, removal of obstructions blocking flow in the creek, naturalizing the shoreline with sixty native trees and the placement of pea stone gravel to enhance the bottom of the creek.

Watersheds Canada also worked with the Christie Lake Association on the second year of the brush bundle placement in the lake, focusing primarily on the Eastern portion, with the addition of twenty brush bundles in ten sites.

A historic walleye spawning bed is being enhanced in Cole Creek with the help of the residents of Howe's Lake. Flow and access to the spawning bed has been restored through the removal of several large obstructions, including a large beaver dam, which was completed this winter. The final phase of this project will be completed in July 2017 with the addition of forty tons of washed river rock, which will enlarge the existing spawning bed.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY



REVENUE

NGO & Partner Contributions:	\$ 108,940
Foundation Grants:	\$ 53,738
Government Grants:	\$ 291,693
Other Income & Donations:	\$ 25,383

TOTAL: \$ 479,754

EXPENSES

Operating Costs:	\$ 42,784
Program Expenses:	\$ 487,135

TOTAL: \$ 529,919

PARTNERS

Adam's Outfitting
Bayview Lodge
Bonnechere River Watershed Project
Canadian Wildlife Federation
Carrot River Valley Watershed Association
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Cedar Cove Resort
Christie Lake Association
City of Greater Sudbury
Coalition of Haliburton Property
Owners Associations
Conservationists of Frontenac Addington
Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations
Friends of the Tay Watershed
French Planning Services Inc.
Frontenac Addington Trappers Council

Frontenac Stewardship Council
Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve
Hastings Stewardship Council
Howes Lake Residents
Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association
Lake Networking Group
Lanark County Stewardship Council
Lanark & District Fish & Game
Conservation Club
Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed Stewards
Lyndhurst Rejuvenation Committee
Malcolm & Ardoch Lakes Landowners'
Association
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change
Mississippi Lakes Association
Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
Muskoka Watersheds Council

Nature Alberta
North Saskatchewan River Basin Council
Quinte Conservation
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds
Sharbot Lake Association
Stillpoint House of Prayer
South Saskatchewan River Watershed
Stewards
Sustainable Eastern Ontario
Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands
Township of Marmora & Lake
Trent University
Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds
Association
White Lake Marina
White Lake Preservation Project
White Lake Property Owners Association

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

A. Gourlay-Langlois
Algonquin College
Canada Summer Jobs
Canadian Wildlife Foundation
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Christie Lake Association Inc.
CICan Clean Tech Internship Program
ECO Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
GKR Consulting

G. Manchester
Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund
Industry Canada Youth Internship Program
Innovation, Science and Economic Development
Canada's Youth Internship Program
J. Purchase
Lanark County Community Grants Program
L. Huff
M.E. Stoll & S. McGovern
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
Ontario Library Association

Rogers Foundation
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Salmon Lake Cottage Owners' Association
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds
Sustainable Eastern Ontario
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
The Daniel & Susan Gottlieb Foundation
The Ontario Trillium Foundation
The Sharbot Lake Group Ltd
Twp of Leeds & Thousand Islands

