

# WATERSHEDS CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT  
2017/2018



Watersheds  
CANADA



## A Message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

I just spent the most amazing 30 minutes swimming “with the loons” who were calling their baby to safety as I swam past 10 feet away. Treadingwater, I look around me and question why people aren’t doing everything in their power to ensure the future health of our freshwater ecosystems. At Watersheds Canada, when we survey people on what they value about water, people tell us that they value nature, wildlife, natural shorelines, water quality, etc., and yet their actions do not always reflect these values. Watersheds Canada has been working hard over the last year to continue our work towards bridging this gap between awareness and action through providing relevant information and resources to lake groups, individuals, and other NGO’s. Each year, we work hard to raise enough funds to continue our work aimed at restoring shorelines, enhancing aquatic habitat and educating landowners on what actions they can take to protect our freshwater. Watersheds Canada works to raise every dollar each year to meet the needs of our freshwater communities and this is becoming a challenge with so many cuts to environmental funding programs and limited donations given to environmental charities. In Canada, environmental charities in only receive 2% of total giving (Canada Revenue Agency, 2010.)

Thank you to all of our current and past donors and sponsors for helping supporting the work that we do in advocating for the health of our lakes and rivers

Barbara King, Executive Director



## About **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.

## Core Staff & **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **STAFF MEMBERS**

**BARBARA KING**  
Executive Director

**KAREN BALLENTINE**  
Administrative Assistant

**MELISSA DAKERS**  
Habitat & Stewardship  
Programs Manager

**JORDEN KEELEY**  
Communications & Fundraising  
Coordinator

**CHLOE LAJOIE**  
Natural Edge Coordinator

**HEATHER MURPHY**  
Love Your Lake Coordinator

**EMILY BATTEN**  
Environmental Technician

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Executive Director: Nashwaak Watershed  
Association Inc.

**BRETT PAINTER**  
Physical Science Specialist: Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

**JEROME MARTY**  
Project Director: Council of Canadian  
Academies; President: Society of Canadian  
Limnologists (SCL)

# Healthy Shorelines *for* Healthy Lakes

## LOVE YOUR LAKE

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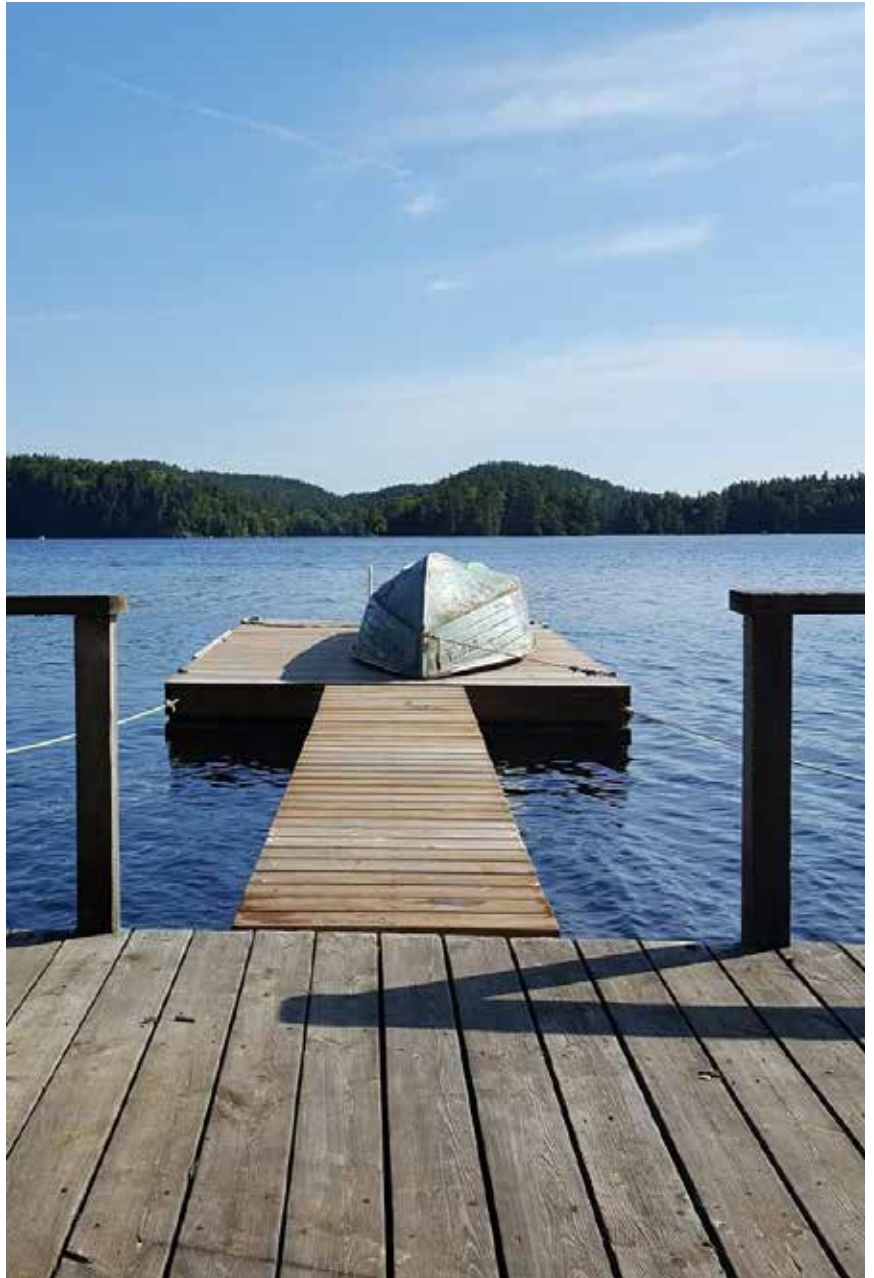
Lakes participating in the Love Your Lake program are assessed on a property-by-property basis using a standard assessment protocol. After every shoreline property on a lake is assessed from a boat, each shoreline property owner will receive access to an individualized property report consisting of information 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 2017, we partnered with a total of eight regional organizations across Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. These organizations include Nature Alberta, Carrot River Valley Watershed Association, Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Association, North Saskatchewan River Basin Council, Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association, Watersheds Canada, City of Greater Grand Sudbury, and the Muskoka Watershed Council.

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**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?**

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Love Your Lake is excited to announce the launch of our brand new website which went live at the end of April. With an improved interface and an engaging and friendly user design, you can easily find the information you need. Join us online to learn about what you can do to your shoreline property to help you Love Your Lake.





# LOVE YOUR LAKE

Healthy Shorelines *for* Healthy Lakes

**TOGETHER WE HAVE  
ASSESSED OVER 34,260  
PROPERTIES ON 139 LAKES  
TO DATE**



PROVINCE	REGIONAL ORGANIZATION	LAKES ASSESSED
ALBERTA	NATURE ALBERTA	2
SASKATCHEWAN	CARROT RIVER VALLEY WATER ASSOCIATION	2
	NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER BASIN COUNCIL	3
	WASCANA UPPER QU'APPELLE WATERSHEDS ASSOCIATION	2
ONTARIO	CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY	1
	COALITION OF HALIBURTON PROPERTY ASSOCIATION	25
	MUSKOKA WATERSHEDS COUNCIL	4
	WATERSHEDS CANADA	2
TOTAL PROPERTIES/ LAKES SURVEYED (2017):	TOTAL PROPERTIES: 7031	TOTAL LAKES: 41

# LAKE LINKS

A Collaborative Workshop *between* Citizens & Science

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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!



## HABITAT PROGRAMS

### Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects

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#### **Projects Funded by:**

***Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Grant & Ontario Community Environment Fund – Ontario Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change***

In 2017, we enhanced and restored seven walleye spawning beds, one brook trout creek, and completed one brush bundle fish habitat enhancement project.

#### **Pauls Creek: Brook Trout Restoration:**

*(Partners: Lanark County Stewardship Council (LCSC), Lanark County Fish & Game Conservation Club, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA), MNR Youth Stewardship Rangers, Paul's Creek Campground)*

Over 500 metres of stream was enhanced with trees and half log structures to provide more areas of shade to the cold water creek, in order to sustain colder water temperatures for the brook trout habitat.

#### **Howes Lake – Cole Creek Walleye Spawning Bed**

*(Partners: Lanark County Stewardship Council & Howes Lake Residents, Mike Coulter Sand & Gravel, Quinte Conservation)*

Historic Walleye spawning bed access was restored by removing six beaver dams and two tree obstructions in the creek. Then, forty tonnes of river washed stone was placed into Cole Creek to enhance and extend the historic spawning bed.

#### **Twin Sister Lakes Walleye Spawning Bed Enhancements**

*(MNR Peterborough, Twin Sister Lakes Rate Payers Association, Danford Construction Ltd., Crowe Valley Conservation Authority)*

Two spawning beds were enhanced with 115 tonnes of river washed rock on either side of the culvert that joins the east and west lakes.

# HABITAT PROGRAMS

## Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects *Continued*



### **FISH HABITAT PROJECTS CONFIRMED FOR 2018**

**Mazinaw Lake:** Brush Bundle Project

**Canonto Lake:** Brush Bundle Project

**Mellon Lake:** Mellon Creek:  
Walleye Spawning Bed Enhancement

### **Ardoch Lake Walleye Spawning Bed Enhancements**

*(Partners: Malcolm & Ardoch Lakes Landowners' Association (MALLA), MNR Youth Stewardship Rangers Minden & Kemptville districts, Conservationists of Frontenac Addington (COFA))*

MALLA has been very active in walleye spawning bed enhancements on both Malcolm and Ardoch Lakes, conducting walleye spawning counts every year and organizing walleye bed restorations. Over two days, volunteers helped move thirty-seven tonnes of river washed stone into two walleye spawning beds located on shoals in Ardoch Lake.

### **Mississippi Lake: Brush Bundle Project**

*(Partners: Mississippi Lakes Association)*

Due to increased development (over 1200 properties) on Mississippi Lake, a lack of woody debris has been observed, residents do not allow trees to naturally fall into the water or clean up their shorelines. Many fish species require woody debris for resting, feeding and nursery habitat. Eight brush bundles were deployed into the deepest parts of the lake.

### **Sharbot Lake: Walleye Spawning Bed Enhancements**

*(Partners: Lanark County Stewardship Council (LCSC) & Sharbot Lake Property Owners Association (SLPOA) & Arnott Bros. Construction Ltd.)*

Two walleye spawning beds were enhanced with 90 tonnes of river washed rock.





# THE NATURAL EDGE

Restoring *the Ribbon of Life*



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 2017, we naturalized a total of fifty-three properties on twenty-five different lakes, ten of which were funded by Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, with the remaining forty-three having been funded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). We also completed two demo sites this year.

The first of which, funded by DFO, was at Furnace Falls Park in Lyndhurst, Ontario, and was done in partnership with the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands, and the Lyndhurst Rejuvenation Committee. It was the second shoreline naturalization that we have completed at this location. Our second demonstration site took place at the Bay of St. Lawrence Park outside of Gananoque, ON. It was funded by TD Tree Days and was done in partnership with the TD Branch in Gananoque, and the Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands, and was also the second at this site.



**Between 53 properties, and two completed demo sites, we were able to naturalize 1,460m of shoreline, covering a total area of 6, 577m sq, with 4,560 NATIVE plants!**



# THE NATURAL EDGE

*Continued*

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In addition, this year we have worked hard to create habitat for our declining pollinator species. We used a total of 540 native wildflowers to create 15 wildflower gardens, helping our hummingbird, butterfly, and bee populations. We have also spent the last few months working with Capra Design Ltd to develop our Natural Edge App. This App will allow us to create our planting plans right on site with the landowners present, allowing for a faster, more effective program to take place. We will be piloting our Natural Edge App this coming spring in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

## NEW & NEXT

*for Natural Edge*

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**This past year brought in many new partnerships to the Natural Edge program:**

**Algonquin College – Pembroke Campus**

where we worked with students to naturalize 5 properties on Muskrat Lake.

**Ottawa Riverkeepers**

where with the help of many volunteers we naturalized two sites on the Ottawa River. We also took this opportunity to engage landowners and educate them on the importance of a natural shoreline through 5 workshops held during our site visits and planting events.

**Halls and Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association**

where we naturalized 4 sites in the Haliburton region.

**Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds**

where the 11 watershed groups each received funding from DFO to complete 4 naturalization sites/year. This is part of a two year grant which also includes one demo site/year which all 11 watershed groups take part in.

Watersheds Canada has just received a three year Grow Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation where we will be partnering with Algonquin College-Pembroke Campus students and the Muskrat Watershed Council to create natural buffers on agricultural lands on Muskrat Lake. This watershed is dominated by agricultural land with, nutrient loading and poor water quality including frequent outbreaks of blue green algae blooms. Water quality studies in the watershed show that much of the poor water quality is linked to land-based activities and a lack of shoreline vegetation.

This coming year will be our last with funding with our Ontario Habitat Restoration grant funded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. They will be funding us for 36 sites and one demo site to be held on public lands. We have also received a TD Friends of the Environment Foundation grant to naturalize the shoreline at Elvin Johnson Park on Halls Lake in the Haliburton region.



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Revenue & Expenses

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### REVENUE:

PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 93,756
FOUNDATIONS	\$ 96,430
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$ 293,610
INCOME AND OTHER DONATIONS	\$ 34,512

**TOTAL: \$ 518, 308**

### EXPENSES:

OPERATING COSTS	\$ 72,453
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$ 445,613

**TOTAL: \$ 518, 066**



## PARTNERS

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Algonquin College - Waterfront Campus  
Arnott Bro. Construction Ltd.  
Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association  
Canadian Wildlife Federation  
Carrot River Valley Watershed Association  
Cataraqi Region Conservation Authority  
City of Greater Sudbury  
Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association  
Conservationists of Frontenac Addington  
Danford Construction Ltd.  
French Planning  
Halls and Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association  
Howes Lake Residents  
Lake Networking Group  
Lanark County Fish & Game Conservation Club  
Lanark County Stewardship Council  
Loon Call Lake Cottager's Association  
Lower Souris River Watershed Stewards  
Lower Qu'Appelle River Watershed Stewards  
Lyndhurst Rejuvenation Committee  
Malcolm & Ardoch Lakes Landowners' Association  
Mike Coulter Sand & Gravel  
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry  
Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change  
Mississippi Lakes Association

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority  
Moose Jaw River Watershed Stewards  
Muskoka Watershed Council  
Nature Alberta  
North Saskatchewan River Basin Council  
Old Wives Watershed Association  
Ottawa Riverkeepers  
Pauls Creek Campground  
Quinte Conservation  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
Sharbot Lake Property Owners Association  
Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands  
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds  
South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards  
Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards  
TD Canada Trust - Gananoque Branch  
The Land Between  
Trent University  
Upper Souris Watershed Association  
Water Rangers  
Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Association  
White Lake Preservation Project

# THANK YOU

## For Supporting Freshwater *Protection Programs*

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In 2017, we celebrated Canada's 150th and Watersheds Canada's 15 years as a charitable organization. We would like to thank all who donated to our campaign, we certainly could not do what we do without your generous contributions. As part of our campaign, on August 23rd, 2017 we held a Sunset Cruise Fundraiser on Upper Rideau Lake. There, we enjoyed a cruise around the lake, while exploring the history of the Rideau Canal, and raising funds to support freshwater programs. Many thanks to all who took the time to join us on the water, and a big thank you to our silent auction sponsors and participants!

### **Thank you to our Boat Tour Silent Auction Donors!:**

Seasons Westport, The Beach House, Massage Remedy, McMullan Appliance & Mattress, Adam's Outfitting, Scottish Glen Golf Course, Wishberry, Father and Sons Barber Shop, Perth Pie Co., Lake Effects, Village Green Originals, Tangled Garden, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Perth PC, CWF, Perth PowerSports, Canadian Tire, Home Hardware, Vanilla Bean Cafe & Creamery, Kudrinko's, and Rosie Yumski's Fine Foods.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

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1dea Design & Media Inc.;	J. Bueller;
A. Best;	J. King;
A. Gourlay-Langlois,	J. Marty;
A. Judson;	J. & R. Ward;
Algonquin College,	K. Heiss;
Anonymous: " <i>In Honour of Greg Larson</i> ",	K. Inrig;
Arnott Bros. Construction Ltd.,	K. Kavanaugh;
A. Symon,	Leo Adams Investments Inc.;
Bio Talent Canada,	L. Eustace;
Canada Summer Jobs,	Leystone Insurance & Financial Inc.;
Canadian Wildlife Foundation,	L. Huff;
Capra Design Ltd.,	L. King;
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority,	M. Chaplin;
Christie Lake Association Inc.,	M. Hogan;
CICan Clean Tech Internship Program,	M. Taylor;
D. Browne;	M. Sargeant " <i>In Honour of John Knowlton</i> ";
D. Taylor;	M.E. Stoll & S. McGovern;
D. Vallee;	Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry;
D. Zabloski;	Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority;
Dr. T. Whillans	R. Bell;
ECO Canada;	Rogers Foundation;
E. Morin;	Rideau Valley Conservation Authority;
Fisheries and Oceans Canada;	TD Friends of the Environment Foundation;
F. Roy;	T. Kennedy;
GKR Consulting;	T. W;
G. Manchester;	The Daniel & Susan Gottlieb Foundation;
G. Rodgers;	The Ontario Trillium Foundation;
Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund;	The Sharbot Lake Group Ltd;
H. Evans;	Twp of Leeds & Thousand Islands;
Industry Canada Youth Internship Program	W. Miles
Innovation, Science and Economic Development	
Canada's Youth Internship Program;	



