

WATERSHEDS CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT
2018/2019



Watersheds
C A N A D A

A Message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

We have been working hard over the last year to take our programs to grassroots communities in new areas in Canada. We are now working with partners in Saskatchewan, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Alberta with plans to host programming in any region that needs help.

We have focused our efforts this year in working towards building capacity of grassroots groups that work on protecting the health of our freshwater through shoreline stewardship. We have built programs to educate and restore shoreline properties that can be transferred to any community.

We believe in working with existing partners who already know the needs of their communities and helping them deliver programs. This means giving groups training, materials, and funding assistance to take our programs and make them their own.

We are looking forward to continuing this work with our partners and helping people to take action on shorelines across Canada. Every Action Counts and Every Shoreline Matters.



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
Fish Habitat Program Manager

CHLOE LAJOIE
Natural Edge Program Manager

HEATHER MURPHY
Love Your Lake Program Manager

BRENDAN CREGG
Environmental Technician

JORDEN KEELEY
Communications and Fundraising Coordinator

EMILY BATTEN
Environmental Technician

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

MARY C. RAE
Retired Municipal Lawyer.

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

TOM WHILLANS
School of the Environment Professor at Trent University.

MARIEKA CHAPLIN
Executive Director: Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc.

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

JEROME MARTY
Project Director: Council of Canadian Academies River Champion: St Lawrence River Institute; President: Society of Canadian Limnologists (SCL).

Healthy Shorelines *for* Healthy Lakes

LOVE YOUR LAKE

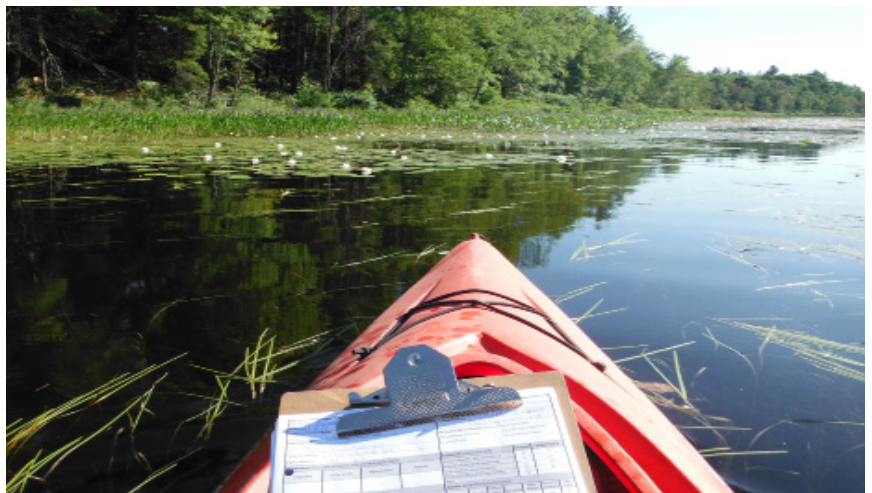
In 2018, we partnered with a total of seven regional organizations across Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. These organizations include **Nature Alberta**, **Carrot River Valley Watershed Association (CRVWA)**, **Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Association (WUQWA)**, **North Saskatchewan River Basin Council (NSRBC)**, **Watersheds Canada**, **City of Greater Sudbury (CGS)**, and the **Muskoka Watershed Council (MWC)**.

Lakes participating in the Love Your Lake program are assessed on a property-by-property basis using a standardized assessment protocol and datasheet. After every shoreline property on a lake is assessed from a boat, each shoreline property owner will receive access to a free electronic 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!

"Woefully ignorant of the impact our shoreline had on the wildlife we so enjoy at our beloved cottage, we thank you for this excellent shoreline property report. We are committed to assuming improved stewardship for our shoreline and property."

-Love Your Lake participant

Your shoreline is meant to be naturally beautiful. A naturalized shoreline is easy and long-lasting with minimal maintenance. It is cost-effective and the plants and flowers are stunning. Attract all sorts of birds, frogs and turtles and become the envy of your lake. Join us online at www.loveyourlake.ca 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 37,498
PROPERTIES ON 151 LAKES**



PROVINCE	REGIONAL ORGANIZATION	LAKES ASSESSED
ALBERTA	NATURE ALBERTA	3
SASKATCHEWAN	CARROT RIVER VALLEY WATER ASSOCIATION	1
	NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER BASIN COUNCIL	3
	WASCANA UPPER QU'APPELLE WATERSHEDS ASSOCIATION	1
ONTARIO	CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY	1
	WATERSHEDS CANADA	6
	MUSKOKA WATERSHEDS COUNCIL	3
LAKES SURVEYED (2018):	Mazinaw Lake, Kennebec Lake, Trout Lake, Carson Lake, Lepine Lake, Greenan Lake, Long Lake, Lake Vernon, McKay Lake, Bruce Lake, Lake Isle, Lac La Nonne, Pigeon Lake, Tobin Lake, Jackfish Lake, Turtle Lake, Brightstand Lake, Last Mountain Lake	TOTAL LAKES: 18



LAKE LINKS

A Collaborative Workshop *between* Citizens & Science

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 is 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, "Our Lake, My Responsibility - Our Reward", focused on the importance of good property-level decisions that engage communities and help keep shorelines healthy.

New this year was the establishment and first awardee of the Gord Rodgers Stewardship Award. This award is given to someone who engages their community, promotes stewardship by example, and goes above and beyond for their lake community.



Michael Jackson winning the 2018 Gord Rodgers Stewardship Award.

FISH HABITATS PROGRAMS

Fish Habitats Enhancement Projects

Projects Funded by:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program

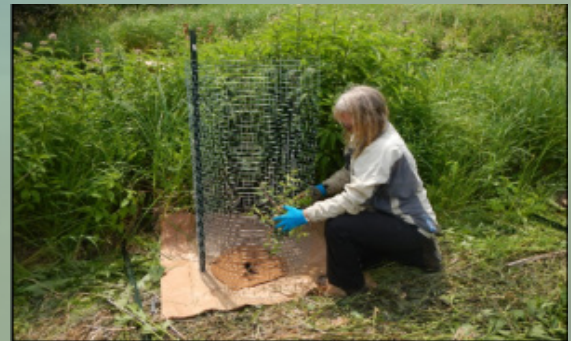
In 2018, we enhanced and restored two walleye spawning beds, one brook trout creek, and completed two brush bundle fish habitat enhancement projects.

Long Lake: Walleye Spawning Bed

Enhancements:

(Partners: Long Lake Property Owner's Association, Sharbot Obaadjiwan First Nation, 1st Drummond Scouts, Nedow Construction Ltd.)

Washed river stone was taken 1.5km across the ice to the spawning beds where it was then dumped and spread out on the rock on top of the ice. Everyone helped lay out the rocks according to the plan so the rocks would drop into place in the spring once the ice melted.



Waddle Creek: Brook Trout Habitat Restoration:

(Partners: Lanark County Stewardship Council, Lanark & District Fish & Game Conservation Club members, the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry staff & Youth Stewardship Rangers, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority)

Coldwater streams provide nursery habitat for many fish species including brook trout. We planted 75 black willow and silver maple trees along with wildflower seeds on the banks of Waddle Creek to stabilize the shoreline, enhance the buffer strip, and to provide future shade for the creek.



FISH HABITATS PROGRAMS

Enhancement Projects *Continued*



Canonto Lake: In-Water Structures Project:

(Partners: Canonto Lake Property Owners Association, Lanark Country Stewardship Council)
Sunken logs, trees, branches, and root balls provide excellent habitat for wildlife, including fish, turtles, birds, invertebrates, and more. Over 45 in-water brush bundle structures were placed in the lake which provide fish with a food source, as well as shaded areas to spawn, rest, and escape predators.

Mazinaw Lake: In-Water Structures Project:

(Partners: Mazinaw Property Owners Association, Lanark County Stewardship Council, Conservationists of Frontenac Addington)
Brush bundles and supplies were collected, cut, and assembled around the lake over the span of two days (August 30-31, 2018). In total, 24 brush bundles were deployed to enhance the fish habitat in Mazinaw Lake.



Thank you to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for their generous sponsorship of all these projects.

THE NATURAL EDGE

Restoring *the Ribbon of Life*

Between 50 private properties including 2 island properties, 3 demo sites, 4 workshop properties, and 5 agriculture properties, we were able to naturalize 5, 159.46 m of shoreline, covering a total area of 24, 767.1 square m, with 19, 161 NATIVE plants!



The Natural Edge Program is a shoreline naturalization program for waterfront property owners to help them restore their shorelines by planting native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers along the water's edge. With generous funding support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FOC), the Ontario Government (Trillium), and Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, Watersheds Canada was able to provide eligible landowners with:

- A free site visit to discuss concerns, provide recommendations, and assess planting conditions;
- A personalized planting plan using our self-developed app, 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 new plants.

From 2013-2018, we have:

- Planted on 232 sites on over 60 lakes and rivers;
- Naturalized 10,164.2 linear metres of shoreline, filling 52,115.2 square metres; and
- Planted a total of 34,403 native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in Ontario alone



We completed three demo sites: (1) **Red Pine Bay on the Ottawa River in Arnprior**, funded by FOC and was done in partnership with Ottawa Riverkeeper, and the Township of McNab/Braeside; (2) **Elvin Johnson Park on Halls Lake in Algonquin Highlands**, funded by TD Friends of the Environment (FEF) and done in partnership with the Township of Algonquin Highlands, and the Halls and Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association; and (3) **Elvin Johnson Park on the Ottawa River in Arnprior**, funded by TD FEF and done in partnership with Ottawa Riverkeeper, and The Town of Arnprior.

THE NATURAL EDGE

Continued

Five agricultural sites were planted on to help create buffers and reduce erosion and runoff:

(1) **Fisheries and Oceans Canada grant:** 3,012 plants were planted along 1119.1 m of shoreline. Thirty-eight sites and one demo site were planted. This was done in partnership with the Muskoka Watershed Council, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association.

(2) **Ontario Trillium Foundation:** in partnership with the Muskrat Watershed Council and Algonquin College - Waterfront Campus, 15,000 plants were planted along 3540.36 m of shoreline along agricultural sites.

(3) **Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund:** 932 plants were planted along 404.5 m of shoreline. Ten sites were funded and two workshops were held where landowners created their own planting plans.



New and Next *for the Natural Edge Program*

1. Continue year two of the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant

An additional 15,000 plants will be planted through this grant in the Muskrat region.

2. Launch the start of the Ontario Trillium Foundation Quinte grant

This grant will see 7,900 native plants planted in the Quinte area, including three demo sites. This project will be done in partnership with Quinte Conservation.

3. Pilot the new Natural Edge Starter Kit Model

For \$250, each kit includes: a free site visit, customized re-naturalization planting for the shoreline property, 50 native plants, 45 coconut fibre pads, tree guards for any deciduous trees planted, mulch for wildflowers, Plant Care Guide, Habitat Creation Guide, and Wildflower Garden Guide.

4. Develop Phase 2 of our Natural Edge app

We are excited to launch our program Canada-wide!



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue & Expenses

REVENUE:

NGO CONTRIBUTIONS	103, 762
FOUNDATIONS	134, 182
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	235, 197
PROGRAM INCOME AND OTHER DONATIONS	20, 164

TOTAL: 493, 305

EXPENSES:

OPERATING COSTS	46, 772
PROGRAM EXPENSES	435, 193

RESERVE FUND	10, 000
---------------------	----------------

TOTAL: 491, 965

PARTNERS

Algonquin College - Waterfront Campus;
Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association;
Bruce Lake Association;
Canadian Wildlife Federation;
Canonto Lake Property Owners Association;
Carrot River Valley Watershed Association;
Carson, Trout, Lepine, and Greenan Lakes Association;
Catarauqui Region Conservation Authority;
City of Greater Sudbury;
Conservationists of Frontenac Addington;
Elbow Lake;
First Drummond Scouts;
Halls and Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association;
Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association;
Kennebec Lake Association;
Lac la Nonne Enhancement Protection Association;
Lake Isle & Lac Ste Anne Water Quality Management Society;
Lake Networking Group;
Lake Vernon Association;
Lanark & District Fish & Game Conservation Club;
Lanark County Stewardship Council;
Long Lake Property Owners Association;
Long Lake Stewardship;
Lower Qu'Appelle River Watershed Stewards;
Mazinaw Property Owners Association;
McKay Lake Association;
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry;
Mississippi Lakes Association;
Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority;
Moose Jaw River Watershed Stewards;
Muskoka Watershed Council;
Muskrat Watershed Council;
Nature Alberta;
Nedow Construction Ltd.;
North Saskatchewan River Basin Council;
Old Wives Watershed Association;
Ottawa Riverkeeper;
Pigeon Lake Watershed Association;
Quinte Conservation;
Resort Village of Cochin;
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority;
RM of Mervin;
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds;
Sharbot Obaadjiwan First Nation;
South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards;
Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards;
The Battlefords Provincial Park;
The Land Between;
The Town of Arnprior;
Township of Algonquin Highlands;
Township of McNab/Braeside;
Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Association;
Water Rangers;
White Lake Preservation Project

THANK YOU

The Daniel & Susan Gottlieb Foundation

Daniel and Susan Gottlieb have been supporters of Watersheds Canada through funding native plant restoration projects that help protect our lakes and rivers.

“Dan and I care deeply about the mission of Watersheds Canada. We are making this donation in support of Lake Stewardship. Freshwater Conservation of this type is extremely important.”
-Susan Gottlieb



FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

1dea Design & Media Inc.;
A. & J. McDougall;
A. Best;
A. Gourlay-Langlois;
Algonquin College;
Arnott Bros. Construction Ltd.;
B. Painter;
B. Robbins;
Bio Talent Canada;
C. Lanoix;
C. Robbins;
Canada Summer Jobs;
Canadian Wildlife Federation;
Canadian Wildlife Foundation;
Capra Design Ltd.
Catarauqui Region Conservation Authority;
CICan Clean Tech Internship Program;
D. C. Fraser;
D. Goodfellow;
D. Vallee;
E. Bordeleau;
ECO Canada;
F. E. Huff;
Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund;
H. Evans;
J. Lidbetter;
J. Marty;
J. W. Marone;
J. Ward;
K. Inrig;
K. Kavanagh;
L. Eustace;
Leystone Insurance & Financial Inc.;
LUSH Cosmetics;
M. Chaplin;
M. E. Stoll;
M. Seargeant “In honour of John Knowlton”;
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry;
Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority;
N. Mezzapelli;
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority;
Rogers Foundation;
Shopbrain;
T. Kimmel;
T. Whillans;
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation;
The Daniel & Susan Gottlieb Foundation;
The McLean Foundation;
The Ontario Trillium Foundation;
The Sharbot Group Ltd.

Photos: M. Dakers, M. Seidel

