

# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Watersheds  
CANADA

20 YEARS

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# A Message from the Board of Directors

I had to catch my breath for a moment when I recognized some time ago that Watersheds Canada is celebrating its 20th anniversary. When you watch your children grow, you celebrate their birthdays but you also celebrate how in so many other ways they grew and matured. In the last few years, it has become apparent to me, as Board Chair, how this organization has done the same.

Watersheds Canada programs have grown in number, as well as in scope and in scale. Our reach has grown in provinces to the east and west of our roots in Central Ontario. Other organizations, companies, and individuals are now reaching out to us so we can support their needs or for them to support our work financially. This is very rewarding to recognize that our work has real meaning and is important to others.

The organization was incorporated in 2002 as the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, with a small office in Portland, Ontario. At that time we were a public centre offering a storefront of environmentally friendly products and information. A strategic planning process at the beginning of 2013 led to a complete rebranding of the organization to better represent our national scope of protecting and restoring our freshwater environments. I am always proud to talk of the national importance of our lakes and rivers, and to speak about what Watersheds Canada has to offer all people in Canada.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to recognize the dedication and hard work of our staff over the past twenty years. They have all contributed to the proud organization we are today!



Mary Ellen Stoll

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](http://watersheds.ca)

# A Message from the Executive Director

“The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The next best time is now.” Appropriately enough, the best time for Watersheds Canada to share this action-now-adage is this year as we are celebrating our 20th anniversary.

It’s humbling to reminisce about Watersheds Canada’s lake association roots that were planted around the turn of the nial. The light of twenty birthday candles shines on the fact that we have never stopped working to help save our lakes, rivers, and shores. Since Watersheds Canada was founded, over 100,000 native species have been planted. And, we agree that the next best time is now... to plant for our future.

Twenty years is a major milestone for a charitable organization. From our beginnings as a lake association to a highly acclaimed national name with outstanding staff and programs, Watersheds Canada has matured into a true leader in the fight to protect freshwater. We remain dedicated to our mission while working to achieve sustainable funding. Watersheds Canada was born and raised on the support of caring environmental leaders. Thank you to our donors, partners, corporate sponsors, foundations, volunteers, Board of Directors, and staff and interns.

Right “now” our hard-working staff are racing against mother nature’s clock to dig down and plant native species fast as we keep up with the demands on The Natural Edge. We are taking on new fisheries restoration work, leading municipal election talks about freshwater protection, and delivering our highly acclaimed educational resources to students and waterfront communities.

Globally and locally, any discussion these days about the next twenty years of Watersheds Canada will highlight our long standing focus on freshwater protection. Watersheds Canada has clearly graduated to the highest of all environmental calls to action – climate change mitigation. We need to step up everything we have been doing to tackle climate change, especially where freshwater and land meet.

Climate change means more severe weather events which will mean more runoff and more erosion, and more demand for shoreland naturalization and our educational programs like Love Your Lake and The Natural Edge. Species at risk means increased demand for fish and wildlife habitat restoration. Shoreland development raises local concerns and highlights the need for Planning for our Shorelands. We have serious work ahead and are proud to have your support.

Please join me in wishing Watersheds Canada a happy 20th birthday,



Robert Pye

# LOVE YOUR LAKE

## Healthy Shorelines for Healthy Lakes



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 influence freshwater health. These property-specific observations are used to create an individualized report which shoreline property owners can use to take voluntary stewardship actions to improve and protect their water quality and wildlife habitat.

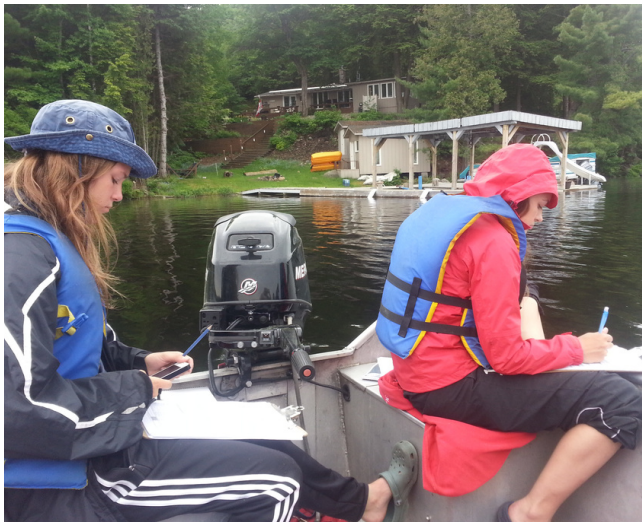
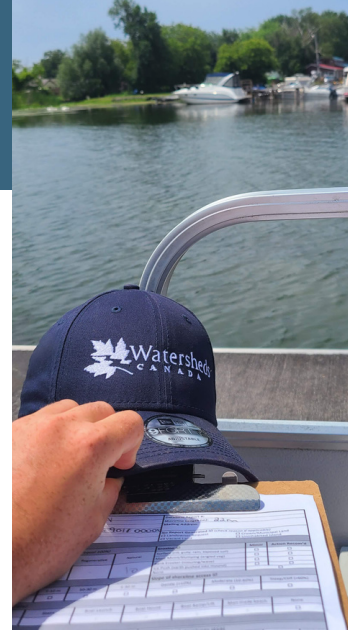
A summary report of the waterbody as a whole is also created which details the observations recorded around the waterbody including the degree of erosion, the types of development, the presence of invasive species, and voluntary community-level stewardship opportunities. As an environmental stewardship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

Love Your Lake is nationally coordinated and delivered by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Generous funding for the program is provided by the Rogers Foundation and Canadian Wildlife Foundation.

# 2022 Lake Assessments

In 2022, Love Your Lake was nationally delivered on 16 lakes with 2,443 total properties assessed. The program was delivered to shoreline property owners across Ontario and Nova Scotia with help from six regional delivery groups, including:

- **Muskoka Watershed Council, ON** ~ Bass Lake, Echo Lake, Morrison Lake, Ril Lake
- **City of Greater Sudbury, ON** ~ Onwatin Lake, Vermilion Lake
- **Watersheds Canada, ON** ~ Dog Lake, Lake Clear, Lake Doré
- **Lake Bernard Property Owners' Association, ON** ~ Lake Bernard
- **Munro Lake Cottagers Association, ON** ~ Blueberry Lake, Munro Lake
- **Re-imagining Atlantic Harbours, NS** ~ Fox Point Lake, Micmac Lake, Russell Lake, Sandy Lake



Since 2013, Love Your Lake has assessed a total of over **46,719** properties on **203** waterbodies!



Love Your Lake is a partnership between Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. The program is delivered by regional delivery groups such as conservation groups and waterfront organizations. It connects shoreline property owners with the information they need to make smart land management choices that improve wildlife habitat, water quality, and the overall health of a lake. Visit [www.loveyourlake.ca](http://www.loveyourlake.ca) to learn about what can be done on a shoreline property to help 'Love Your Lake'!



# THE NATURAL EDGE

Using Technology & Native Plants to Restore Shorelines



To make shoreline naturalizations easier, The Natural Edge guides landowners through every step of a shoreline restoration process, from planning to planting. Trained staff visit a waterfront property and work with the landowner to create a custom plan suited to their shoreline and aesthetic preferences. This program empowers 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.

Watersheds Canada provides organizations across Canada with the tools and information they need to deliver the program in their community, including the Natural Edge App, Canada-wide Native Plant Database, private online Admin system, and all necessary program materials. Through these trained regional delivery groups, The Natural Edge helps Canadians improve their lake, river, or tributary's water quality by reducing run-off and attracting wildlife.

Since 2013, over 104,729 native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers have been planted, restoring over 216,571 square metres of shoreline habitat along more than 120 freshwater bodies across Canada!

# Natural Edge Regional Delivery Partners

- 2022 -

The Natural Edge continued to grow across Canada this year and was delivered and supported by the following regional delivery groups:

- Shawnigan Basin Society - British Columbia
- Saskatchewan Carrot River Valley Watershed Association - Saskatchewan
- North Saskatchewan River Basin Council - Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds - Saskatchewan
- South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards - Saskatchewan
- Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Taking Responsibility - Saskatchewan
- Cataraqui Conservation - Ontario
- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne - Ontario
- Muskoka Watershed Council - Ontario
- Muskrat Watershed Council - Ontario
- Junction Creek Stewardship Committee - Ontario
- Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association - Ontario
- Raisin Region Conservation Authority - Ontario
- The St. Lawrence River Institute - Ontario
- Quinte Conservation - Ontario
- The Land Between - Ontario
- Watersheds Canada - Ontario
- Canaan-Washademoak Watershed Association - New Brunswick

As a regional delivery group of The Natural Edge, Watersheds Canada planted 9,379 native species along 3,340 metres of shoreline covering an area of over 21,668 square metres in the Mississippi Watershed, Cataraqui Watershed, St. Lawrence Watershed, and Quinte Watershed regions in Ontario.



# Maitland Tower Youth Planting ~ September 2022 ~

The Natural Edge hosted a youth planting workshop with the Maitland Tower organization "Door Number One" and a local grade 5/6 class of 30 students. A total of 159 plants were planted. Following the success of this first workshop, a second workshop will be delivered in fall 2023 to continue this important restoration process along the St. Lawrence River, Ontario.



## Shoreline Restorations in the Catarqui and Quinte Watersheds

Thanks to 140 dedicated volunteers and a partnership with Quinte Conservation, 4,007 plants were planted along 1,710 metres of shoreline in Ontario. As a result of this project, the Catarqui and Quinte Watersheds saw over 14,780 square metres of shoreland habitat restored!

Demonstration plantings were held in Clarence Bird Park, Jasper Avenue, and Potters Creek in Ontario. Thanks to City of Belleville, Tree Canada, Rotary Club of Belleville, Belleville Green Task Force, County of Prince Edward, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, and Scouts Canada.



This project was generously funded by the Ontario Community Environment Fund.



# Restoring the St. Lawrence River

- Year two -

Shoreline habitat restorations are well underway across the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern, Ontario thanks to Watersheds Canada, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, River Institute, Great River Network, and Raisin Region Conservation Authority. In total, 12,500-square metres of vital terrestrial and aquatic habitat will be restored along three kilometres of degraded habitat by 2024.

Generously funded by the Great Lakes Protection Initiative – Areas of Concern Program by Environment and Climate Change Canada, this three-year project will support important shoreline restorations that work towards addressing contributing factors of poor water quality in the St. Lawrence River, Ontario through The Natural Edge.



Through 10 plantings this year, 1,620-square metres of the St. Lawrence River was restored along 470 metres of shoreline with 925 plants! Year two of this project also involved the delivery of one planting workshop and 30 site visits and plans created.

This project contributes to the actions of the Remedial Action Plan to restore the St. Lawrence River (Cornwall) Area of Concern. The delivery of The Natural Edge directly addresses the legacy issues of ‘Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat’ and ‘Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae’ that have contributed to the Area of Concern status for decades.

# Morrisburg Waterfront Park

- October 2022 -

Watersheds Canada and local volunteers added native plants on the shores of the Morrisburg Waterfront Park, Ontario to make the area more welcoming for local residents and wildlife. Involving the next generation of environmental stewards was a focused priority during the park’s ecological restoration. This included plantings by community volunteers including the Morrisburg Waterfront Advisory Committee and the Agricultural Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) class at Seaway District High School.



This real-world learning experience and investment from children and youth as they planted native species is something they will treasure throughout their lives every time they visit the park with their family and friends. This project was generously funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

# PLANNING FOR OUR

Shoreland Development with Nature in Mind

# SHORELANDS



Responsibility for conserving shorelands 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. The created resources will provide policy support to protect and restore shoreland vegetation in the face of proposed waterfront development.

The way this is being achieved 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 past successes of municipalities.



# EcoAction Year One

The first year of the EcoAction project involved consultations with South Frontenac and Tweed, Ontario, as well as public information events held both online and in person. It was generously funded by the Government of Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program.

The resources created featured net gains, planting plans (thanks to additional funding from South Frontenac's Lake Ecosystem Grant Program), the science of buffers, and resilient shorelands. This multi-program pilot also included Love Your Lake and The Natural Edge.



## Outreach Programming

Thanks to generous funding from The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, and an angel foundation, this year's outreach featured:

- 1 Science of Buffers workshop
- 2 Municipal Engagement webinar
- 3 School Presentation at St. Lawrence College
- 4 Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations presentation
- 5 Healthy Shorelines, Healthy Lakes workshop
- 6 Sustainable Waterfront Planning Through Reconciliation webinar

Watersheds Canada launched an email campaign to rescind Bill 23 which resulted in 5,200+ letters being sent to the Ontario Premier and MPPs across Ontario!

Planning for our Shorelands is possible because of a volunteer steering committee made up of professional planners, conservation authorities, and lake stewards: Barbara King (Watersheds Canada), Catarauqui Conservation, Glenn Tunnock (Friends of the Tay Watershed), Janet Taylor (lake resident), Leora Berman (The Land Between), Mary Rae (Watersheds Canada Board Member and Retired Municipal Lawyer), and Terry Rees (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations).



# 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 and in providing nursery habitat for many fish species, including brook trout, which 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.

# Farren Lake Brush Bundles

- August 2022 -

This fish habitat enhancement project was possible thanks to funding from the Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund, and strong community support and involvement from the Farren Lake Property Owners Association in Ontario.



Watersheds Canada staff and 18 volunteers were together on Farren Lake, Ontario to build 29 new brush bundles made of branches and sticks. These brush piles were deployed at 10 locations on the lake. They will become underwater woody debris areas that provide excellent habitat for fish like smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike, sunfish, and yellow perch, and other wildlife including turtles, birds, and invertebrates. These natural areas provide important protection from predators and the sun.

# Jeffrey Lake Walleye Spawning Bed Restoration

- September 2022 -

In recent years, the Muskrat River in Renfrew County, Ontario suffered a flooding event which silted out the walleye spawning bed and caused spawning numbers to drastically decrease for this sensitive species. Silt covering the eggs prevents adequate oxygenation, resulting in increased embryonic walleye mortality.



With approval from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry, the restoration of the 280 square metre historic walleye spawning site was completed in two steps in fall 2022. First, community members and staff swept the bed to stir up the silt. Next, people came through with a power hose to push the silt downstream into a silt curtain at the end of the spawning bed where the Muskrat River opens up into Jeffrey Lake. The curtain minimized impacts on the system as it captured silt which was later disposed of on land. The gas-powered water pump and hoses were lent thanks to Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) – Zone F. Monitoring of the spawning bed and local walleye population will continue by volunteers and staff in early spring 2023.

This fish habitat enhancement project was possible thanks to funding from Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund, and strong community support and involvement from Olmstead Jeffrey Lake Association, Muskrat Watershed Council, OFAH Zone F, Algonquin College – Environmental Technician Program from the Pembroke Campus, and Watersheds Canada.

# 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 already has thousands of Canadians who attend monthly webinars, use free education resources, and network with other stewards across Canada.

Join the Freshwater Stewardship Community to learn about invasive species, native wildlife, family and classroom resources, shoreland protection, freshwater management, and community science.



Webinar recordings, handouts, and family activities are available for free online: [watersheds.ca/freshwater-stewardship](https://watersheds.ca/freshwater-stewardship).

Generous funding for the Freshwater Stewardship Community this year was provided by the Peterborough K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation and S.M. Blair Family Foundation.

# Freshwater Stewardship Community Highlights

- 2022 -

In 2022, webinars featured diverse guest speakers from across many sectors, including academia, non-profits, businesses, and community groups. A few of the topics explored included winter bird identification, the use of satellites to assess algal blooms, and microplastics.

**"BROWN, GREEN OR SILVER IN YOUR TEA AFFECTS YOUR PEE"**  
Webinar featuring Sandra Klemet-N'Guegan, Ph.D. Candidate, Trent University

**"WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY NEAR YOU"**  
Webinar featuring Alejandro Prescott-Cornejo, APC Wildlife Photography

**Rain Smart Neighbourhoods: Beautify your landscape while protecting water quality and reducing flood risk**

**HEALTHY YARDS LEAD TO RAIN SMART NEIGHBOURHOODS**  
Making small changes around your yard is a beautiful way to improve your landscape while adapting to climate change, boosting biodiversity, reducing flood risk, and improving water quality and habitat value of local waterways. Rain gardens, trees, infiltration galleries, permeable paving, and rain barrels are tools that you can use to slow down rain and soak it up on your property.

**Rain gardens**  
Rain gardens are a shallow basin garden that holds rain water until it soaks into the ground.

**Trees**  
Trees provide shade, water absorption, and year-round beauty for your landscape.

**Infiltration galleries**  
Infiltration galleries are an underground water storage solution that allow water to soak into the ground.

**Permeable paving**  
Permeable interlocking pavement helps to prevent runoff by allowing for ways for water to pass through the pavement and infiltrate into the ground.

**Rain barrels**  
Rain barrels are an efficient and low-cost way to collect water for reuse in your yard.

**RESOURCES BY REEP GREEN SOLUTIONS**

- Download the [Plant Catalogue](#), [Book](#), and watch this video about [How to Build a Rain Garden](#).
- Read the [Planting and Care Guide](#), and infographic about [The Benefits of Trees](#).
- Watch this video tutorial about [How to Assess your Soil Drainage](#).
- Explore [Your Options for Permeable Pavement: Gravel and Pavers](#).
- Learn [How to Make a Soakaway Pit](#) and [How to Install a Rain Barrel](#).

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- Read TRCA's [Complete Guide to Building and Maintain a Rain Garden](#).
- Download EAPP's [Top 10 Things You Can Do For Your Local Resource](#).
- Use Watershed Canada's free [Native Plant Database](#), [Wetland Garden Guide](#), and [Native Plant Care Guide](#).

Handout created by: Watershed Canada, REEP Green Solutions, S.M. Wood Family Foundation

Join the free Freshwater Stewardship Community!  
[watersheds.ca/freshwater-stewardship](https://watersheds.ca/freshwater-stewardship)

This past year, 14 collaboratively hosted webinars were attended live by more than 1,550 people. In addition, the creation of 11 education handouts provided summaries of some of the presentations, giving attendees extra tools and resources to take action in their community.

# Launch of Monthly Modules

- 2023 -

In 2023, monthly modules were launched and featured numerous webinars and informative handouts created around a central topic each month. So far, two modules have been hosted with multiple expert speakers contributing around the topics of fish habitat, and invasive species.

**"CONNECTED WATERS"**  
Webinar featuring Lina Azeez, Watershed Watch Salmon Society

**"THE THREAT OF GRASS CARP TO THE GREAT LAKES"**  
Webinar featuring Liana Hryniewicz, Invasive Species Centre

# 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 a 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:

- Nature Discovery Backpacks
- Bringing Nature into the Classroom
- Ottawa Faith Community Capacity Building Program



# Nature Discovery Backpacks

Thanks to a partnership with the Greater Sudbury Public Library, Junction Creek Stewardship Committee, and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation, and funding from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Watersheds Canada's Nature Discovery Backpack program expanded to Sudbury, Ontario in 2022!

Thirty Ontario-curriculum linked backpacks were created and available to borrow at three Greater Sudbury Public Library branches and at one Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation library branch. Each backpack included identification guides, field tools, and a 32-page 'Nature Discovery Learning Workbook' filled with activities. A free PDF version of the workbook is available [online](#).



To launch the program, four workshops were held and attended by a total of 41 adults and youth. The introductory workshops explained the environmental issues occurring in the Greater Sudbury area and showed participants how the tools inside of each backpack would help them connect to local nature and take part in different stewardship initiatives.

In addition to the activities and live demonstrations presented at the workshops, 30 attendees received native wildflower seed kits to continue their learning at home. The workshops acted as catalysts for at least three children to sign up for their own library cards!



Between July and October, Nature Discovery Backpacks were checked out over 80 times from the four library branches!

## Media Coverage:

In 2022, the Nature Discovery Backpack program was featured on CBC Listen live radio and in two CBC News articles!

### Empowering Youth for Junction Creek seeks input for second year

After last year's well-received pilot project, organizers have planned enhancements for summer 2022.

Warren Schlotte | CBC News - Posted: Feb 24, 2022 7:00 AM EST | Last Updated: February 24, 2022



The Junction Creek Stewardship Committee in Sudbury has a long history of connecting people with ecosystems in their home communities. (Submitted/Junction Creek Stewardship Committee)

### Backpack program aims to inspire urban explorers to reconnect with nature

Junction Creek Stewardship Committee and Sudbury's libraries are lending out packs filled with exploring gear.

CBC News - Posted: Jun 02, 2022 4:21 PM EDT | Last Updated: June 2, 2022



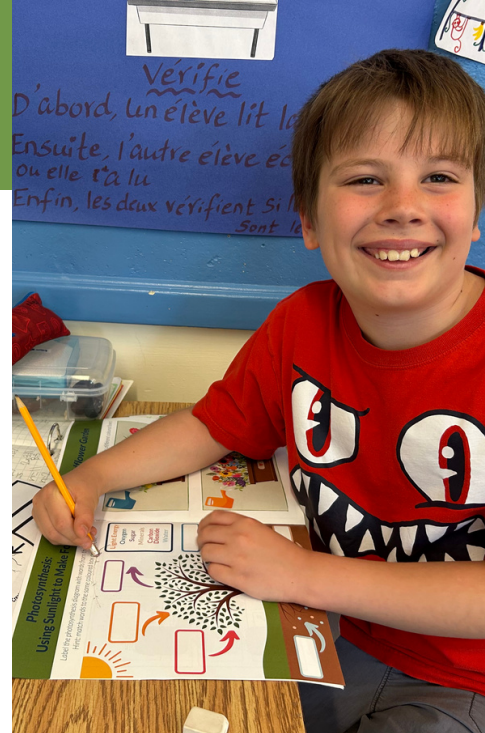
Backpacks supplied by the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee will feature nature identification guides, and capture jar and dip nets. (Submitted by Junction Creek Stewardship Committee)

Launching in spring 2023, 15 Ontario curriculum linked backpacks will be available for K-8 students to borrow in Hastings Highlands, Ontario thanks to Watersheds Canada's partnership with Lake St. Peter Property Owners Association and Hastings Highlands Public Library.

# Bringing Nature into the Classroom

Watersheds Canada partnered with Carleton Heights Public School and W.E. Gowling Public School in Ottawa, Ontario to deliver the “Bringing Nature into the Classroom” program for grades 1 and 3 students during the 2022-2023 school year.

This free curriculum-linked school programming featured freshwater fish and native plants units for eight classes. Thanks to generous funding by the Ottawa Community Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the next generation of environmental stewards had the opportunity to explore their local environment and learn about the impacts people can have on native plant and fish species, shorelines, and freshwater health. The program featured video lessons, activities, handouts, workbooks, and native wildflower seed kits.



The program was specifically developed for New Canadian and English as a Second Language students and offered take-home materials for students. This 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 New Canadian students to learn about and meet local species.

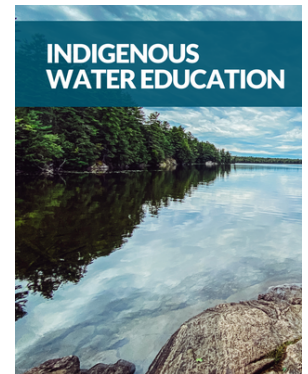
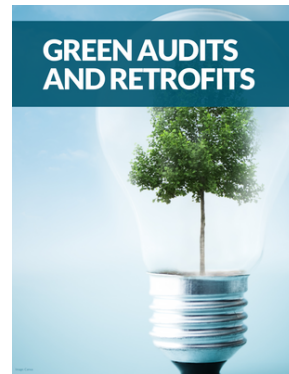
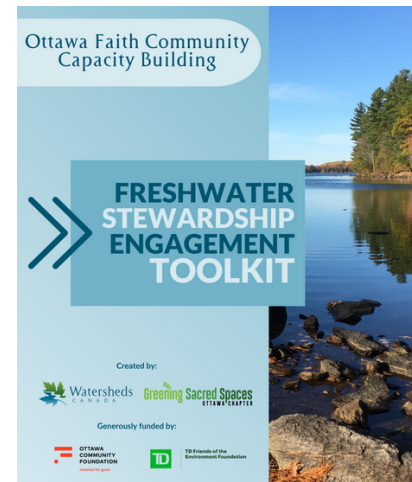
All resources from Watersheds Canada’s Bringing Nature into the Classroom are available online. While the materials have specific curriculum links for the Ontario grade 1 and 3 science units, they can easily be adapted for younger or older audiences including informal education settings like nature groups. Download all the materials at [watersheds.ca/our-work/nature-discovery-programming/](https://watersheds.ca/our-work/nature-discovery-programming/)



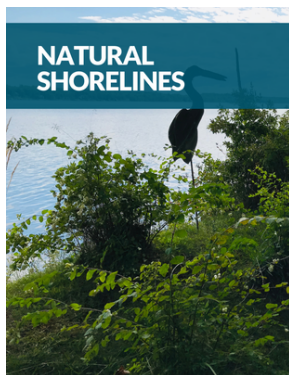
# Ottawa Faith Community Capacity Building Program

Watersheds Canada, in collaboration with Greening Sacred Spaces, launched year one of its two-year Ottawa Faith Community Capacity Building program. This pilot program will empower six Ottawa, Ontario and surrounding area faith communities with the tools and support they need to lead six freshwater stewardship projects in 2023-2024.

Six local faith community groups were selected and awarded microgrants to assist with their stewardship projects. Participating faith groups include Ascension Anglican Church, Carleton Memorial United Church, Kanata Muslim Association, Rhoda Masjid, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, and Trinity United Church.



During the project's first year, a Freshwater Stewardship Engagement Toolkit was curated with 10 chapters and over 620 pre-existing resources from various organizations. Hard copies of the toolkit were distributed to participating faith communities and an online version will be published during the program's second year for free public access.



Thanks to generous funding from the Ottawa Community Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and partnerships with Greening Sacred Spaces, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, the program's first year was a success! An interactive freshwater projects map will be launched in the program's second year to support and raise awareness for greening initiatives in the local area.

# LAKE LINKS

## Effective Engagement for Positive Action

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 attend this event to learn, network, and see what's new in other watersheds. Each year, Lake Links addresses the lake and river issues that matter most to our communities with expert speakers, and dynamic presentations.

On October 22, 2022, over 134 registered stewards participated in the 21st Annual Lake Links to discuss "Challenges and Solutions for Lake and River Health". This year's online workshop focused on how associations have recognized threats and problems on their lakes and rivers, and what steps they have taken to address them.

Individuals representing a diversity of stakeholders, including those from municipalities, academia, lake and river associations, conservation authorities, government, and non-profit organizations, attended the workshop to discuss current issues, see what is being done, and learn how they can help.

This year's event was generously funded by Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Cataraqui Conservation, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.





Photo: CBC / Robyn Miller

Barbara King was recognized as the fifth recipient of the Gord Rodgers Memorial Award for engaging her community, promoting stewardship by example, and going above and beyond for her lake community. Barbara King has been integral in working with lake groups and other non-profits on action-oriented stewardship programs into large multi-stakeholder initiatives that can be launched on a national level.

Keynote speaker Dr. Jesse Vermaire from Carleton University set the stage with an overview of issues that threaten the health of our lakes in Eastern Ontario - "Promoting Ecological Resilience in Lake Ecosystems in Response to Environmental Change". Next, the workshop featured a representative from Wollaston Lake on how they have tackled the invasive species Eurasian Milfoil in their lake, and from members of the Big Rideau Lakes Association and Upper Rideau Lake Association to speak about "Helping to Effect Change". Finally, South Frontenac Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee presented on "Environmental Action".

The Lake Links workshop is made possible by a collaborative group of Eastern Ontario environmental partners. The 2022 Lake Links Planning Committee included Lake Networking Group, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Friends of the Tay Watershed, Cataraqui Conservation, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Lake Networking Group, and Watersheds Canada.

## Challenges and Solutions for Lake & River Health

HOW ASSOCIATIONS HAVE RECOGNIZED THREATS ON THEIR LAKES AND RIVERS, AND WHAT STEPS THEY HAVE TAKEN TO ADDRESS THEM

**LAKE LINKS 2022**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022

10AM-12:30PM ET  
VIA ZOOM

**FREE REGISTRATION:**  
[WATERSHEDS.CA/LAKE-LINKS](https://watersheds.ca/lake-links)

**LAKE LINKS PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
CATARAQUI CONSERVATION, FRIENDS OF THE TAY WATERSHED,  
LAKE NETWORKING GROUP, MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION  
AUTHORITY, RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY,  
WATERSHEDS CANADA

Catch up on all past presentations by visiting Watersheds Canada's YouTube channel!



[Watersheds Canada](https://www.youtube.com/WatershedsCanada)

The 22nd Annual Lake Links will take place on October 21, 2023.  
For more details, please visit [watersheds.ca/lake-links](https://watersheds.ca/lake-links)

# GIFT CATALOGUE

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

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# Donors

## Love Your Lake

Canadian Wildlife Foundation  
Rogers Foundation

## The Natural Edge

Angel foundations  
Bonneville Foundation  
EcoAction Community Funding Program  
Great Lakes Local Action Fund  
Great Lakes Protection Initiative – Areas of Concern Program by  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Ontario Community Environment Fund  
RBC Foundation through RBC Tech for Nature  
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

## Planning for our Shorelands

Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation  
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EcoAction Community Funding Program  
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South Frontenac's Lake Ecosystem Grant Program

## Fish Habitat Programs

Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund

## Freshwater Stewardship Community

Peterborough K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation  
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## Nature Discovery Programming

Ottawa Community Foundation  
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## Lake Links

Cataraqui Conservation  
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations  
Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

## Additional Funders

3M  
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EcoCanada



A special thanks to these generous supporters for stepping up to protect Canada's freshwater!



# Partners and Volunteers

## The Natural Edge

Canaan-Washedemoak Watershed Association  
 Carrot River Valley Watershed Association  
 Cataraqui Conservation  
 Door Number One  
 Junction Creek Stewardship Association  
 Kawartha Lake Stewards Association  
 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne  
 Muskoka Watershed Council  
 Muskrat Watershed Council  
 North Saskatchewan River Basin Council  
 Quinte Conservation  
 Raisin Region Conservation Authority  
 River Institute  
 Seaway District High School  
 Shawnigan Basin Society  
 South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards  
 The Great River Network  
 The Land Between  
 Wascona and Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Association  
 Taking Responsibility

## Love Your Lake

City of Greater Sudbury  
 Dog & Cranberry Lakes Association  
 Lake Bernard Property Owners' Association  
 Lake Clear Conservancy  
 Lake Dore Property Owners Association  
 Munro Lake Cottagers Association  
 Muskoka Watershed Council  
 Re-imagining Atlantic Harbours

## Fish Habitat Programs

Algonquin College Pembroke campus  
 Farren Lake Property Owners Association  
 Muskrat Watershed Council  
 Olmstead Jeffrey Lake Association  
 Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters – Zone F  
 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

## Lake Links

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

## Freshwater Stewardship Community

APC Wildlife Photography  
 Botanigals Native Plant Nursery and Boutique Studio  
 Canadian Watershed Information Network  
 Invasive Species Centre  
 Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters  
 Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
 Reep Green Solutions  
 Trent University  
 University of Manitoba  
 University of Toronto  
 University of Toronto Scarborough  
 Watershed Watch Salmon Society

## Planning for our Shorelands

Barbara King (Watersheds Canada)  
 Cataraqui Conservation  
 Glenn Tunnock (Friends of the Tay Watershed)  
 Janet Taylor  
 Leora Berman (The Land Between)  
 Mary Rae (Watersheds Canada; Retired Municipal Lawyer)  
 Terry Rees (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations)

## Nature Discovery Programming

Ascension Anglican Church  
 Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation  
 Carleton Heights Public School  
 Carleton Memorial United Church  
 Greater Sudbury Public Library  
 Greening Sacred Spaces  
 Junction Creek Stewardship Committee  
 Kanata Muslim Association  
 Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority  
 Rhoda Masjid  
 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
 St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
 Trinity United Church  
 Water Rangers  
 W.E. Gowling Public School

## Corporate Partnerships

HANSAméd  
 South Shore Co.



# 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 Memory

Anne Frances Miller  
Bob Neville  
Brian Mayzes  
Doug Smith  
Sean Hudson  
Todd French

## In Honour

Arthur M. C.  
Clients of Watershed Training Solutions  
Delaney and Quinn H.  
Dennis O.  
Dylanne D. & Mavis J.  
Johan R.  
Kristin T.  
Pikwakanagan Algonquin First Nation  
Sunningdale Public School - grade 8 class

## Financial Summary

### Revenue

NGO Contributions	\$188,603
Foundations	\$302,099
Government Grants	\$282,370
Program Income & Other Revenues	\$93,537
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$866,609</b>

### Expenses

Program Expenses	\$768,128
Operating Costs	\$103,919
Reserve Fund	\$22,264
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$894,311*</b>

\*The Statement of Operations shows a deficiency of revenues over expenses of \$5,438 for the fiscal year. It's important to note that this fiscal year was the initial inclusion of vehicle amortization, resulting in total amortization of \$6,964 (2022: \$321). Considering that amortization is a non-cash item, when added back to the deficiency, the Organization's have an excess of revenues over expenses before amortization for the year of \$1,526



# Core Staff

**ROBERT PYE**  
Executive Director

**BARBARA KING**  
Director of Programs and Partnerships

**DEBORAH D'AMICO**  
Senior Development Lead

**MELISSA DAKERS**  
Habitat and Stewardship Program Manager

**CHLOE LAJOIE**  
Natural Edge Program Manager

**MONICA SEIDEL**  
Communications and Fundraising Manager

**NICOLE DUBÉ**  
Environmental Technician

**CHANTAL LEFEVRE**  
Natural Edge Regional Coordinator

**KAREN BALLENTINE**  
Administrative Assistant



# Board of Directors

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Association of Watersheds

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Retired Vice President, Capital Lands and Parks,  
National Capital Commission

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Executive Director, Water Rangers

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Academies/Directeur de projet, Conseil des  
académies canadiennes; Chair of the Partnership  
for Science and Engineering (PAGSE)

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Environment and Climate Change Canada

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