

Lake Networking Group – Fall Meeting 2024

Watersheds Canada Update – Melissa Dakers, Habitat & Stewardship Program Manager

May-September 2024:

- Successful delivery of year two of the **in-classroom education program** in Ottawa, ON. WC reached 87 students in grade 1-4 this year. All of our new curriculum-linked resources are now posted online for free use: <https://watersheds.ca/fpp-program>
- Expansion of **Nature Discovery Backpacks** lending libraries in Buffalo Lake, AB, Regina and Saskatoon, SK
- **Light pollution education toolkit** published: <https://watersheds.ca/light>. WC had 23,535 impressions on social media, and the blogs and website traffic totaled over 4,130 views.
- Watersheds Canada has been submitting articles bi-monthly to **Water Canada magazine**. So far we have highlighted The Natural Edge, and Love Your Lake!
- **Natural Edge:**
 - Naturalized 26 shorelines and planted 10,000 native plants.
 - Carried out 40 Site Visits
 - Trained 8 new delivery partners
 - Received funding to continue NE delivery in the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern
 - Will be bringing the program to Crowe Valley Watershed
- Watersheds Canada just delivered its first Fish Week in the Bancroft area, completing 6 **Fish Habitat Restoration Projects** in 4 days, on 5 waterbodies. This season we have successfully completed 6 brush bundle projects and 2 walleye spawning beds restorations so far with another 3 projects planned in the coming weeks, along with 2 winter projects. <http://watersheds.ca/our-work/habitat-programs>
- The **Love Your Lake Program** assessed over 1100 individual properties in Eastern Ontario, on 6 lakes that included Benson, Indian, Clear, Bennett, Fagan and Otty Lakes. Data has been entered and property and lake summary reports will be available in the spring. <http://loveyourlake.ca>

Looking ahead:

- Education - working with Lake St Peter Property Owners Association and Bancroft Area Stewardship Council to deliver a high school-level multimedia project focusing on lake health and stewardship actions that students can lead. The project will launch in early 2025.
- Natural Edge - Going into fall planting season, naturalizing 29 properties
- Love Your Lake – working with new lakes for the 2025 season
- Wine & Water fundraiser event taking place in the Kawartha Lakes on October 26th: <https://watersheds.ca/wine>
- Our 50/50 draw ends on November 2nd: <https://water5050.ca>
- The contest for our carved belted kingfisher ends on September 30th: <https://watersheds.ca/kingfisher-contest>
- Watersheds Canada National Conference, May 1-2: <https://watersheds.ca/conference>
- Nature Discovery Backpack lending libraries being delivered in spring 2025 in Addington, ON, North Hastings, ON, and Carman, MB.
- Planning is underway for Fish Habitat Restoration Projects in Eastern & Central Ontario for 2025, including 8 brush bundle projects, if interested please contact Melissa Dakers

- dakers@watersheds.ca, spawning bed restoration planning with Baptiste, Wollaston, Lake St. Peter, Kamanisseg lakes and permitting for 2025
- Love Your Lake is currently setting up lakes for the 2025 & 2026 seasons – if interested contact Melissa Dakers – dakers@watersheds.ca

Lake Links – Saturday October 26, 2024 – 10-3pm

Planning for Change – the Ripple Effect of Lake Planning

- The 23rd annual Lake Links is happening on Saturday, October 26th, and we want to see you there!
- This year the event is being held at a **NEW VENUE: Elgin Lions Community Centre, 19 Pineview Dr, Elgin, ON.**
- Tickets are now on sale on Eventbrite– [buy them here!](#) \$30 includes lunch
- Doors open at 9:30am;
- Organization – display area, lots of time to network with other associations and organizations, Conservation Authorities
- Agenda will be finalized soon, speakers include
 - o Former General Manager MVCA – Paul Lehman – will talk about the impacts of climate change and the role it plays on lakes, local wetlands, and how lake associations can help educate property owners
 - o Thomas Saleh – Experimental Lakes - will cover recent and ongoing research projects at ELA and how they relate to climate change (some lessons from the research as well as some practical considerations they've had to deal with in terms of research methods, etc.). A recent project where they have used machine learning to predict the ice-off date for field researchers.
 - o Noelle Reeve – Planner – Tay Valley Township who will discuss how TVT includes lake associations and their lake plans in their development process.
 - o Case Study – Mississippi Lakes Association – how their lake plan sets out issues, priorities, objectives and actions for the MLA. The Lake Plan essentially establishes a "Charter" for the MLA, as a valuable means of focusing our attention and resources.
 - o Holly Evans, CRCA – will introduce us to a new initiative that CRCA is working on to help lake associations create an effective plan, with limited resources.
 - o It is time to dust off those lake plans – and put them to good use 😊