






Hi Monica,

With the warmer weather and longer days arriving, Watersheds Canada and our partners are getting ready for our upcoming fieldwork seasons. We're sure you're getting started on spring plans, too, even if the spring has come a little earlier than normal this year. This winter has been a strange one, and buds on plants already starting to pop in many parts of the country. For us, that means planting shorelines, shoreline surveys, and nature backpack library launches are just around the corner. In the meantime, we have many exciting things to share with you in this month's newsletter:

1. [Register for a webinar](#) on April 1st to learn about flood impact maps and how they can be used to understand vulnerable Canadian landscapes.
2. Check out our latest article in *Water Canada* magazine: "[Fostering a Greener Waterfront](#)".
3. See how a lake community in Ontario [restored their fish habitat this winter!](#)
4. Are Canada's lakes becoming salty? Find out the answer in our [recent blog post](#).
5. Prioritize Canada's lakes and rivers with a legacy gift.
6. [Ensure salamanders have the habitat they need](#) as they come out of hibernation this spring!
7. Watersheds Canada has an open call for new board members - [will you join?](#)
8. As we head into spring, be sure to register for a [webinar on March 27th](#) to learn about conserving Canada's bumble bees!

 **Western Engineering**

 **Building Resilient Communities**
La Communauté des Communautés de l'Ontario


 **Watersheds CANADA**

Flood Impact Maps

A standardized Approach of Understanding Vulnerable Landscapes

Monday, April 1st at 2pm ET / 11am PT
Registration: watersheds.ca/freshwater-stewardship

Dr. Slobodan Simonovic
Professor Emeritus
The University of Western Ontario



Join us April 1st for the "Flood Impact Maps" webinar!

Water experts and flood modellers regularly explore the efficacy of new and upgraded climate models in representing flood inundation dynamics and how they will be impacted in the future by climate change. General Circulation Models can be used to examine the probable changes in Canada's floodplain regimes. This webinar will discuss a comprehensive study consisting of hydrodynamic flood modelling and statistical experiments that can be used to derive high-resolution Canada-wide floodplain maps for 100 and 200-year return periods. This study found a significant rise in flood inundation extents in the future periods, particularly intense over western and eastern regions.

Join [Dr. Simonovic](#) as he outlines observations which are vital for enhancing flood preparedness, optimal land-use planning, and refurbishing both structural and non-structural flood control options for improved resilience. He will describe the study's framework and the overall importance of revamping Canada's existing flood management approaches and adaptation strategies for future waterfront protection.

[Register now!](#)

Fostering a Greener Waterfront

Uniting communities for shoreline conservation

BY ROBERT PYE

Seasonal cottages are increasingly becoming three-story, permanent homes, situated on the same lot where an A-frame and an outhouse were built in the pre-baby boom era.

LAKE LIFE. Two words that send waves of leisurely thoughts of swimming, fishing, paddling, or just reading on the dock. The most relaxing times are always sunny days against the backdrop of nature. Today, however, our rural waterways and the people who enjoy them are under a cloud of stress from major redevelopment plans as well as the impact of climate change.

Seasonal cottages are increasingly becoming three-story, permanent homes, situated on the same lot where an A-frame and an outhouse were built in the pre-baby boom era. Family foundations, however, are still shaped by outdoor experiences. Families started and joined lake associations which were born out of respect for our shared environment. It was a natural shore that drew a generational commitment to the lake and to organizations like Watersheds Canada that have never been prepared to let unsustainable practices wash it all away.

Shoreland stressors

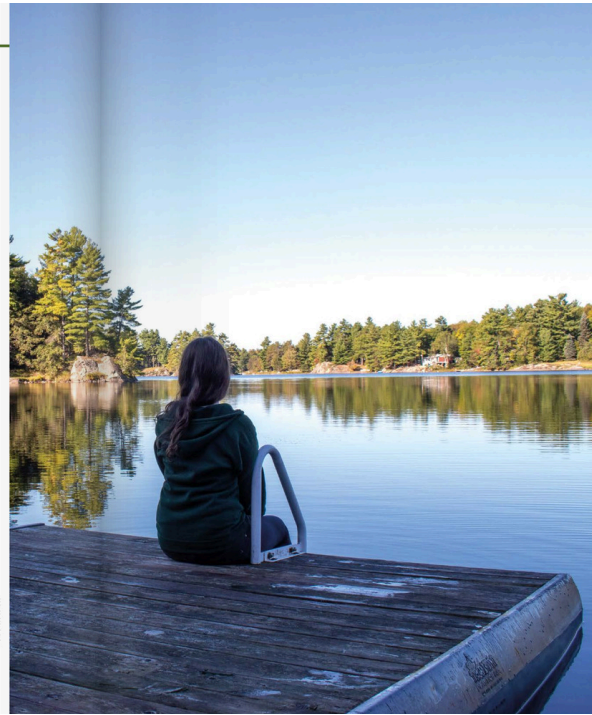
Evidence of property erosion and floods due to weakened shorelands is invariably linked to the changed aesthetic preference for a highly manicured waterfront. The natural armour that protected shores for centuries was gradually filled, mowed, and trimmed right down to the water's edge. Unfortunately, meticulous lawn care at the shore is fashion over function. Perhaps that explains why the aftermath of intense and sustained winds, tornadoes, derechos, or floods—all symptoms of climate change—are obvious along the shorelands of our rural lakes and rivers. Properties were left defenceless.

Thankfully Canada's water quality, fish and wildlife populations, outdoor recreation, and other freshwater values can be protected through shoreland preservation and restoration and caring landowners who understand the ecological services their properties provide. Anyone who enjoys Canada's two million lakes and rivers benefits from healthy shores, either public or private.

Waterfront residents have always been admired for their lakeside views, but what is more important is their view on freshwater stewardship. Residents are encouraged to see beyond their own dock and share Watersheds Canada's message that freshwater protection takes a community approach. From our grassroots perspective, everyone can help take on the heavy lifting to achieve environmental net gain.



Robert Pye
Robert Pye is the executive director for Watersheds Canada.



"Fostering a Greener Waterfront" now published in *Water Canada* magazine!

Canada's water quality, fish and wildlife populations, outdoor recreation, and other freshwater values can be protected through shoreland preservation and restoration, and caring landowners who understand the ecological services their properties provide. Anyone who enjoys Canada's two million lakes and rivers benefits from healthy shores. See how communities are coming together to foster a greener waterfront in our [latest article in *Water Canada* magazine](#).

Read the article



Seventeen tonnes of river stone restore trout spawning bed on Paugh Lake, Ontario!

Fish habitat was restored last month on Paugh Lake, Ontario thanks to Paugh Lake Property Owner's Association volunteers! Wave action and ice movement and push had altered the rock formations on the lake trout spawning bed, making it less productive for the fish to spawn on. Seventeen tonnes of river stone were added on top of the frozen lake. The stone will fall into place on the spawning bed with the spring ice melt. The spawning bed will be monitored in fall 2024 to document the spawning activities that take place.

This project was made possible thanks to funding from the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund, Honda Canada Foundation, and Ontario Wildlife Foundation.

[**Learn more about the project!**](#)



Are Canada's lakes becoming salty?

Our rivers, streams, and even crucial groundwater reserves are seeing increases in salinity. Current trends of year-round high chloride concentrations are being observed with chronically high chloride concentrations overlapping with spawning periods and early-life stages for many species. While the use of road salts occurs in the winter, the impacts are felt year-round. [See how Canada's freshwater lakes](#) are becoming seawater lakes in our recent blog post!

[Read the post now](#)

Thank you to one of our business supporters, Swish. Join businesses like [Swish](#) who have taken a step towards freshwater protection.

Swish[®]



What legacy will you have for Canada's freshwater?

Have you ever had an "awe" moment? The sunset on the river that was too stunning to seem real, the glass-like reflection on the lake as a loon called in the distance, the chasing of fireflies as your children and grandchildren laugh in glee. These moments define us for the rest of our lives, shaping our relationship with nature. You can make sure those memories are possible for generations to come with a legacy gift.

Watersheds Canada is now a member of Will Power, a national campaign that educates Canadians about the power of leaving a charitable gift in their will. Even 1% of your estate can have an incredible impact. See for yourself using the Will Power campaigns legacy calculator.

[Try the legacy calculator](#)



Symbolic adoptions to help animals thrive this spring

As we approach spring, species like the eastern red-backed salamander are coming out hibernation and will need pristine habitat to feed, reproduce, and grow. With the [symbolic adoption of an eastern red-backed salamander](#), you can ensure that the homes of this incredible species are maintained for years to come.

Each symbolic adoption includes a 5"x7" postcard with artwork from a Canadian artist as well as a beautiful blank honour card for you to personalize and give. All symbolic adoption are eligible for a Canadian charitable income tax receipt.

[Help species this spring](#)



Are you our next Board member?

Are you interested in volunteering your time and skills to champion the future of healthy lakes and rivers in Canada? Watersheds Canada's Board of Directors is seeking [skilled and passionate individuals](#) like you to help lead and drive change in our dynamic and growing organization. Watersheds Canada is looking for progressive thinkers with diverse voices, backgrounds, and perspectives on water and watersheds who are keen to contribute their expertise and knowledge to the growth of our grassroots environmental-action team.

[Learn more about this volunteer opportunity](#)




Conserving the Buzz

A multifaceted approach to conserving Canada's bumble bees

Wednesday, March 27th at 1pm ET / 10am PT
 Registration: watersheds.ca/freshwater-stewardship

Cole Blair
 Ontario Program Coordinator – Native Pollinator Initiative
 Wildlife Preservation Canada



Join us March 27th for the "Conserving the Buzz" webinar!

Our burly bumble buddies shape our world in more ways than we often recognize! Known for their effective pollinating services, bumble bees support the success of terrestrial ecosystems globally by facilitating the reproduction of wild and agricultural plants. Unfortunately, North America's native bumble bees are in decline, with 26% of species assessed as "Vulnerable", "Endangered", or "Critically Endangered" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). To help conserve our essential bumble bees, Wildlife Preservation Canada's Native Pollinator Initiative engages in research and monitoring, conservation breeding, community science, and education and outreach. Tune in to learn more about bumble bee biology, conservation, and how you can get involved!

Register now!

Despite our big name, Watersheds Canada is a small non-profit and charitable organization that raises every dollar each year from donations, grants, businesses, and foundation support. We do not receive any yearly support from government funding. **What has always set Watersheds Canada apart is our dedication to the local communities: we take the time to listen to the communities in which we work.** This means our programming is always specific, impactful, and as efficient as possible.

[Kindly consider donating today!](#) All donations are tax-deductible.

Click on each logo to connect with Watersheds Canada online:



Your Lakes. Your Rivers. Your Future.