

e-Bulletin

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In This e-Bulletin

- * 2010 Watershed Report Card
- * Forest Health Education Program
- * 2010 Freshwater Summit

Watershed Report Card Links

2009 Municipal Progress Report Card 2007 Muskoka Watershed Report Card 2004 Muskoka Watershed Report Card Indicators of Watershed Health

Forest Health Links

DMM Forest Health Program

MWC brochure – Caring for Your Woodlot

Ontario Woodlot Association

Parry Sound-Muskoka Stewardship Network

Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.

Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

LandOwner Resource Centre

Primers

The Shore Primer

A Cottager's Guide to a Healthy Waterfront

The Dock Prime

A Cottager's Guide to Waterfront-Friendly Docks

The Fish Habitat Prime

A Guide to Understanding Freshwater Fish Habitat in Ontario

The Baitfish Prime

A Guide to Identifying and Protecting Ontario's Baitfishes

The Drain Primer

A Guide to Maintaining and Conserving Agricultural Drains and Fish Habitat

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2010 Muskoka Watershed Report Card to be Released in May

The Muskoka Watershed Council (MWC) is finalizing development of the 2010 Muskoka Watershed Report Card, the third Report Card to be released on the health of Muskoka's watersheds.

The Report Card is a science-based evaluation of the health of the water, land, and wetlands in Muskoka. Data collected since the last Report Card in 2007 substantially enhances MWC's ability to measure and benchmark watershed health, using specific indicators which include:

Land - Forested area, Large forested patches, Protected or managed land, Unaltered riparian habitat

Water - Total phosphorus, Shoreline fish habitat, Fish contaminants

Wetlands - Wetland cover

The 2010 Report Card will include a four page full colour insert in local district-wide media, which will provide a summary assessment of Muskoka's major watersheds. An extensive background report with the data and assessment methodology will be posted on the internet, along with individual subwatershed reports for all 20 of the subwatersheds in Muskoka. The launch of the 2010 Muskoka Watershed Report Card is scheduled for mid-May.

Visit the Muskoka Watershed Council website to view the 2004 and 2007 Report Cards.

Forest Health Education Program

The District Municipality of Muskoka has developed a Forest Health Program to promote forest health in Muskoka. Resources are available to assist landowners who wish to explore management options for their forests, including:



- * A Landowner's Guide to Selling Standing Timber brochure and booklet;
- * A Landowner's Guide to Careful Logging brochure and booklet;
- * A Forest Health Technician who is available for no-cost consultations where the District is notified ahead of any logging operations. This person is also available to discuss forest management options with landowners, upon request. To speak to the Forest Health Technician, please call 705-645-9352 or 705-788-4905.

The above booklets, produced by the Ontario Woodlot Association, are available free of charge by contacting The District Municipality of

Muskoka (705-645-2231 x288) or the Muskoka Heritage Foundation (705-645-7393).

2010 Freshwater Summit: From Science to Policy

On June 1-2, 2010, the Muskoka Watershed Council, Town of Bracebridge, District Municipality of Muskoka, and Nipissing University, and Muskoka Heritage Foundation, amongst others, are planning to hold a national level Freshwater Summit that highlights issues

and trends and examines policy options for future action.



Canada is a leader in freshwater management and this summit will be an opportunity for Canadians to showcase our environmental monitoring and management of inland water.

The purpose of the Summit will be to identify issues and stresses on inland lakes and rivers and develop a position on the management of this valuable resource that can be presented to the Canadian contingent at the G8. The target audience includes the general public; local high school, college

and university students; and professionals from academia, government and the private sector.