



Muskoka
Watershed Council

WHAT WE DO

- Produce a series of **Watershed Report Cards**.
- Develop evidence-based **position papers and reports** on watershed health issues, including aggregates, wetlands, climate change, and power generation.
- **Work cooperatively** with other organizations on projects related to watershed health.
- Carry out the **Muskoka Love Your Lake** shoreline assessment and stewardship program.
- Develop and deliver **public outreach** programs including education materials and community presentations.

To sustain and enhance the air, water and terrestrial ecosystems of the watersheds of Muskoka for the environmental, health, economic, spiritual and intrinsic values they provide.



HOW TO HELP

Be Aware

Awareness is the first step to understanding. The Muskoka Watershed Report Card provides residents with a measure of how healthy our watersheds are and provides a basis for action.

Be Accountable

We are all responsible for our water, so we need to manage our impact on our watersheds.

Be Active

Even small changes can have a big impact. If we all participate, our watershed health will greatly improve.



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Championing
Watershed Health



MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL

MWC is a volunteer-based non-profit organization with the mandate to **champion watershed health**.

It is comprised of representatives from a wide range of stakeholders, including municipal, provincial and federal governments; lake and area ratepayer associations; local industry, academia, tourism, real estate and other interests from across our watersheds.

In Muskoka, where there is no conservation authority, MWC provides a coordinated voice on issues affecting the environmental quality of our watersheds.

OUR HISTORY

Muskoka Watershed Council was established in 2001 with the belief that the most effective way to sustain the watersheds of Muskoka for future generations is through cooperative approaches to watershed management.

MWC is a collaboration of the Muskoka community and The District Municipality of Muskoka.

MWC is not a regulatory or enforcement agency. Instead, it provides information to decision-makers, managers and the general public on ways to protect and restore the resources of our watersheds.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. **Evaluate** - Develop and implement science-based programs to research, assess, monitor and evaluate environmental health.
2. **Advise** - Encourage sound watershed management practices and policies based on evidence.
3. **Communicate and Educate** - Develop and deliver public information and education programs that promote sustainable lifestyle choices and an understanding of the impact of human actions on the watersheds.
4. **Promote and Demonstrate** - Identify best practices that support an environmentally sustainable economy and a healthy community structure.

A strong and independent voice to champion watershed health!



WETLANDS

are an important component of the Muskoka landscape. They are the kidneys of our watersheds and ensure that we continue to enjoy excellent water quality. We must encourage the identification, evaluation and protection of our wetlands in order to ensure the long-term health of these essential ecosystems.



LAKES & RIVERS

feature prominently in iconic images of Muskoka's natural environment. Their wellbeing is fundamental to overall watershed health and they are essential to our social and economic welfare. MWC facilitates science-based evaluation of water quality to help define the balance between built and natural environments.



FORESTS

are a fundamental building block of a healthy watershed. They are essential for maintaining biodiversity and ecological services like water and air purification, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, and erosion and flood control. Healthy forests are needed to sustain forestry as a traditional economic activity.