



Muskoka
WATERSHED COUNCIL

20 YEARS OF CHAMPIONING WATERSHED HEALTH

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

Over the past 20 years, Muskoka Watershed Council has accomplished measurable success and strong public support in pursuit of its mission - *to champion watershed health.*

11

BEST PRACTICES
BROCHURES

4

STEWARDSHIP
BOOKLETS

18

POSITION PAPERS

STEWARDSHIP MATERIAL

Muskoka Watershed Council has produced a series of best practices and stewardship information packages for cottage and home owners, including the Living in Cottage Country handbook. There is a topic for everyone!

LOVE YOUR LAKE

Muskoka Watershed Council delivers the Love Your Lake Program, which assesses the shorelines of lakes and encourages lakefront residents to take stewardship action.

19

LAKES
PARTICIPATING

6,113

PROPERTIES
ASSESSED

8

YEARS
RUNNING

5,323

NATIVE PLANTS IN
THE GROUND

9

YEARS
RUNNING

7,071

SQUARE METERS
OF RESTORED
SHORELINE

RENATURALIZATION PROGRAMS

Muskoka Watershed Council has delivered several renaturalization programs, including The Natural Edge program to create important shoreline habitat, improve water quality, and promote environmental stewardship.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

MWC delivers the Muskoka Stewardship Conference, an event where the public learns about stewardship topics from renowned experts. MWC also helps coordinate the Muskoka Summit on the Environment, which promotes a dialog between science and policy to ensure healthy ecosystems in Muskoka and beyond.

6

STEWARDSHIP
CONFERENCES

5

SUMMITS
ON THE
ENVIRONMENT

\$781,861

RAISED THROUGH THIRD
PARTY FUNDING

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

To deliver stewardship programs and resources to the community, MWC relies on grants and fundraising. These funds greatly enhance MWC's success in championing watershed health.



MWC HIGHLIGHTS: OVER THE YEARS

2002

CLEAN & GREEN 13 LAUNCHED

MWC's first program! It challenges residents and visitors to make positive steps to improve the health of Muskoka's watersheds.

2004

FIRST MUSKOKA WATERSHED REPORT CARD RELEASED

The Report Card is a science-based evaluation of the health of Muskoka's watersheds. A series of Report Cards has been produced every four years since.

2007 & 2009

MUSKOKA WATERSHED INVENTORY PROJECT

This inventory identified significant natural areas of the watershed and degraded areas.

2011

FIRST MUSKOKA STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE

This conference highlights stewardship topics, ideas, and encourages action. Muskoka Stewardship Conferences are held bi-annually.

2016

PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IN MUSKOKA PUBLISHED

This report investigates the climate that Muskoka is likely to experience at mid-century, and recommends actions to ameliorate the impacts of climate change.

2017

FIRST MWC INTERN HIRED

Interns have since been hired annually to assist with program delivery and communications, which in turn prepares career-ready individuals.

2018

FIRST VIRTUAL WATERSHED REPORT CARD

Displayed on an StoryMap with videos and local spotlights, the 2018 Muskoka Watershed Report Card is interactive, engaging and encourages stewardship activities.

2019

ALGAE MONITORING PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The program was developed in response to a recommendation from the Planning for Climate Change report because algal blooms are expected to become more common with a changing climate.

2020

A CASE FOR INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IN MUSKOKA PUBLISHED

This publication details the need for Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) in Muskoka and discusses the steps and resources required to achieve IWM.

2021

COMMUNITY ROUND TABLE ESTABLISHED

To ensure the economic, societal, and environmental goals of the Muskoka River Watershed are considered to advance Integrated Watershed Management.

2001

MWC WAS ESTABLISHED

Founder Ken Black presented the concept of Muskoka Watershed Council to the District of Muskoka.

2004

MUSKOKA WATER STRATEGY PASSED

The District of Muskoka passed the MWS which formally provided ongoing support for MWC.

2005

BEST PRACTICES PROGRAM DEVELOPED

This program provides hands-on advice on how to live, work and develop properties in the watershed while protecting its natural values.

2008

ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE SERIES LAUNCHED

MWC has welcomed renowned experts to raise awareness about environmental issues. This series continues with lectures and talks presented regularly at Council meetings and across the watershed.

2015

LIVING IN COTTAGE COUNTRY HANDBOOK PUBLISHED

This publication guides residents on how to keep their property and way of living environmentally friendly while understanding local rules and regulations.

2017

MWC SERVED AS DISTRICT'S PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MWC provided significant community input to shape the District of Muskoka's Official Plan, which includes a local focus on climate, sustainability and water quality protection.

2018

ROBERT ALLEN MEMORIAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD INITIATED

In memory of Rob Allen, Muskoka native plant advocate and long-time MWC supporter, this award is presented annually to a resident on Three Mile Lake who demonstrates good stewardship.

2019

MWC INCORPORATED AS A NON-PROFIT

2019

CLIMATE CHANGE CURRICULUM DEVELOPED

MWC worked with students to develop climate change content for delivery in local schools.

2021

DOUG CROSS STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION PROGRAM LAUNCHED

To honour the late Doug Cross, a past MWC member, this annual program rewards Watershed stewards.