



Dear Bruce,

Wherever you are this long weekend, our team wishes safety and happiness for you and your family. We know that many of you will be enjoying time by the water and reflecting on how important it is to protect these natural areas for both people and wildlife. The news is constantly reminding us that these areas can be dramatically changed overnight so we must all work together to protect our lakes, rivers, and shorelines so they are healthy and resilient for generations to come.

August has been a month of many new and exciting projects and we are thrilled to finally share some of them with you in this newsletter! As always, there is a lot going on at Watersheds Canada and we could not do any of this work without the support of amazing individuals like you, Bruce. Thank you!

Here are our latest updates:

1. Watersheds Canada is about to launch our first-ever 50/50 campaign!
2. Another successful year of "Nature in the Classroom" programming comes to a close.
3. Chloe Lajoie from our Natural Edge shoreline renaturalization team is interviewed for [this magazine feature](#).
4. Watersheds Canada staff and Board members celebrate together at a recent in-person get-together.
5. Check out the launch of our [new business supporter program](#) and see how your business or employer can support the future of Canada's freshwater.
6. Check out our [popular post on social media](#) about the Natural Edge Program.
7. Today is the LAST day to [enter our loon decoy contest](#) contest!
8. Lake Links 2023 [registration is now open](#)!



## **New 50/50 draw coming September 8th!**

A win for you is a win for Canada's freshwater! Ontario residents have a new and exciting way to support Canada's lakes and rivers by purchasing 50/50 tickets. Launching on September 8th, you can purchase 10 tickets for \$10, 50 tickets for \$20, or 200 tickets for \$40. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

License Number: RAF1334927

Ontario Problem Gambling Helpline: 1-866-531-2600



## Nature brought into the classroom for two Ottawa schools

When there are barriers to bringing students to the lake, you need to find a way to bring the lake to them. This was the case for Watersheds Canada and its second year of delivering classroom programming for elementary students at two Ottawa schools, W.E. Gowling Public School and Carleton Heights Public School. Eight classes in total, reaching over 170 students and teachers, received curriculum-linked units on growth and changes in animals and plants.

Thank you to the Ottawa Community Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for funding this project.

Learn more about our  
education programming





**Harmful alteration:** Retaining walls and other shoreline development can negatively impact waterways.

# Shoring Up

As natural shorelines give way to lawns and retaining walls, Ontario lakes are losing their ecological buffers. Will cottagers and governments rally to bring nature back to the waterfront?

By Jade Prévost-Manuel

## **New feature highlights the plight of shoreland health in the wake of increased development**

This summer, Chloe Lajoie, our Natural Edge Program Manager, was featured in the Ontario Nature quarterly magazine discussing the importance of shoreland vegetated buffers. Landowners often think they are doing what is best by keeping the grass on their



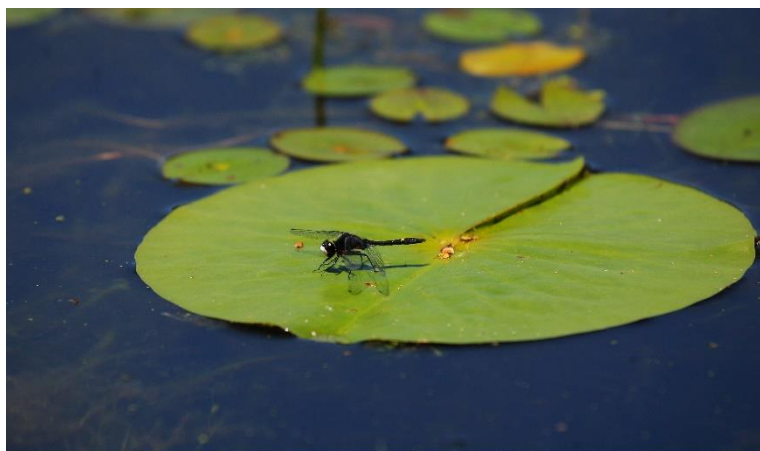
property trim, but this is actually harmful to their shoreline and the lake as a whole. Over 90 percent of aquatic life will use this shoreland area (the riparian zone) at some point in their lifetime so a natural shoreline is best for them.

[Read the full feature here](#)



## **Watersheds Canada staff and Board enjoy an in-person meeting!**

Members of Watersheds Canada's Board of Directors and staff team were thrilled to recently attend an in-person retreat together! This was a great time to connect, celebrate recent victories, and plan ahead for the coming years. Thank you to the team at Wintergreen Studios who were fantastic hosts during our stay.



**Business  
Supporter  
Program**



## **Watersheds Canada launches new Business Supporter Program**

Big or small, international or local – all business leaders have an opportunity to join Watersheds Canada's new Business Supporter Program! We are always open to discuss partnership opportunities with all other nonprofits and the private sector, including corporations, independent



retailers, family-owned businesses, firms, agencies, and industry associations. After all, freshwater protection is everyone's business!

**Learn more about our Business  
Supporter Program**



**Popular online: An overview of the Natural Edge shoreline  
restoration program**

Protect your freshwater by restoring a natural shoreline using native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers with the Natural Edge program! Having a natural shoreline creates habitat for wildlife like frogs, turtles, and birds. Native species of plants will help stabilize the soil and keep a shoreline intact while also filtering out excess nutrients and toxins before they enter the waterway.

You can learn more about the importance of natural shorelines and the species that live there by following us on social media - we are on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

**Give our Natural Edge post a  
'like' on LinkedIn!**



# DRAW ALERT!



Win a hand-crafted Common Loon by  
Canadian artist, Mike Reader!



## Today is the **VERY LAST** day to enter our Loon contest!

Enter to win a beautifully hand-crafted, new quarter size decorative Common Loon carving made and generously donated by Canadian artist, Mike Reader. Breeding pairs of Common Loon are a real treat to see on any Canadian lake, and you can bring this treat home by entering our draw before midnight tonight (August 31st).

[Enter the contest now!](#)



## **Lake Links 2023 is happening October 21st and it is in-person!**

The 22nd annual Lake Links workshop is back in-person! Join us on Saturday, October 21st, 2023 from 10am-3pm EST at the Perth Civitan Club (6787 Lanark County Rd 43, Perth, ON) for “Hooked on Habitat: Sustainable Fisheries for the Future”. Doors will open at 9:30am. Registration is \$25 and includes lunch. We encourage you to register early to stay up-to-date with everything Lake Links related.

The Lake Links 2023 planning committee includes representatives from Cataraqui Conservation, Friends of the Tay Watershed, Lake Networking Group, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and Watersheds Canada.

[Register now](#)

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Despite our big name, Watersheds Canada is a small non-profit and charitable organization that raises every dollar each year from donations, grants, 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.