

ROOTED IN MUSKOKA. RECOGNIZED WORLDWIDE.

This year brought powerful momentum for Friends of the Muskoka Watershed... and a few unexpected challenges. When a fire broke out at our ash collection site, it could have stalled our work - but it didn't. Our team adapted quickly, our supporters stood strong, and our momentum never wavered.

Thanks to you, AshMuskoka and SALTYMuskoka made major strides. Community science and careful collaboration have helped us restore forest plots at five sites so far, monitor 26 road salt sites, and elevate our work to a global stage through a partnership with the UN's Global Water Academy.

We're now preparing for our most ambitious restoration project, 20 times larger than any previous restoration. It's a bold project with the potential to answer critical questions about how restoring the forest can restore lake health, protect biodiversity, and restore forest carbon capture.

Our students and researchers also continued breaking new ground. Two are now pursuing PhDs after contributing to long-term research on using wood ash as a forest soil amendment.

While we're not yet directly tackling hazardous algal blooms, it's a growing concern - and with your continued support, we're well positioned to help Muskoka navigate that threat head-on, too.

Thank you for helping us turn research into action - and for standing with us to protect what makes Muskoka special.

WITH GRATITUDE,
LENORE INNISS, CHAIR,
FRIENDS OF THE MUSKOKA WATERSHED
FRIENDS@FOTMW.ORG

2024 HIGH LIGHTS

OUTREACH

- * 160 donors contributed 5,500 kg of ash
- * Community Scientists performed over 600 measurements
- * Talks delivered to over 500 people

FUNDRAISING

- * \$74K EcoAction grant to launch SALTYMuskoka
- * \$30K ECHO Foundation grant

PUBLICATIONS

- * Two videos coproduced with Muskoka Discovery Centre adopted by United Nations for global Water Academy curriculum
- * Collaborated on a Paper of the Year nominee in Lake and Reservoir Management journal

RESEARCH TO ACTION

- * We have almost enough ash needed to conduct our largest forest restoration
- * This project will examine whether ash additions to forest can restore the water quality of a lake, increase forest carbon capture and help forest and lake animals that have high calcium requirements.

SUPPORTING STUDENT RESEARCH

- * Batoool Syeda defended thesis proving that our ash is a safe forest soil amendment anywhere in Canada
- * Shelby Conquer defended thesis proving beech and maple trees benefit from ash additions, that ash additions do not alter maple sap chemistry, and that soil chemistry and foliar nutrition greatly benefit from ash additions

LOCAL IMPACT

- * District of Muskoka cited ASHMuskoka in their plans to combat climate change
- * Town of Gravenhurst resolved to reduce road salt use while still protecting public safety
- * District of Muskoka reported some reduction in total road salt use in 2024

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

2024

REVENUE

Government Grant Support	\$19,795	16%
Foundations	\$30,000	24%
Individuals	\$68,864	55%
Misc - Events, Lottery, Interest	\$7,487	6%
TOTAL	\$126,146	100%

EXPENDITURES

ASHMuskoka	\$33,488	32%
SALTYMuskoka	\$29,215	28%
Other Projects	\$8,082	8%

TOTAL PROGRAMMING EXPENSES \$70,785

Administration	\$26,446	25%
Fundraising	\$7,780	7%

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$34,226

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES \$105,011 100%

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

WATERSHED

OVER \$100,000

Ontario Trillium Foundation • Ontario Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks

FOREST

\$50,000 TO \$99,999

Canada Water Agency
Chisholm Thomson Family Foundation

LAKE

\$25,000 TO \$49,900

Bob Jacob • Canada Summer Jobs Program
Muskoka Community Foundation through the
Community Services Recovery Fund

POND

\$10,000 TO \$24,999

The Northpine Foundation
Susan Eplett and Jim Walker

WETLAND

\$5,000 TO \$9,999

Lake Rosseau North Association
Karen and Donald Lang
The Manns • Elisa Nuyten • Seybold Family

STREAM

\$1,000 TO \$4,999

Brackenrig Nursery and Maintenance
Guy Burry • Doug Clark • William Fee
Gary and Jan Getson • Great Muskoka Paddling
Experience • Jim Griffin • Neil and Barb Hutchinson
Catharine Inniss • Lenore Inniss • Peter Kelley
Rena Liebster • MacDonald Griffin Charitable
Foundation • Rick McGraw • Gordon Miller
Muskoka Lakes Association • Norman Yan and
Sandra Yudin • Royal LePage Lakes of Muskoka
Realty • Mark and Pam Scarrow • Joanne
and Clarke Smith • Sunset Cruises • Brian and
Nancy Thompson • Tutsch Family
Debbie Vernon • Michael Wayling

BE SMART * ABOUT SALT

Thanks to a \$74,000 two-year Canada Water Agency EcoAction grant, we have launched the SALTYMuskoka Citizen Action Project.

BUT WE NEED TO RAISE MATCHING FUNDS. WILL YOU HELP?

WHAT IS SALTYMUSKOKA?

20% of local salt pollution comes from private walkways, sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots. With the help of citizen scientists from lake associations, schools, and the community, we will make a difference.

OUR PLAN TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE SALT USE:

WORKING WITH
SCHOOLS AND
CLASSROOMS

CREATING A
VOLUNTEER
SALTYCITIZEN
OBSERVATION
NETWORK

WORKING WITH
LARGE PROPERTY
OWNERS
AND WINTER
MAINTENANCE
SPECIALISTS

ENGAGING
WITH LAKE
ASSOCIATIONS

ENLISTING
SIGNATURE
STORES
THAT OFFER
ROAD SALT
ALTERNATIVES

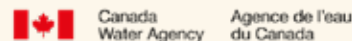
MONITORING KEY
WATERWAYS
LIKE MUSKOKA
BAY AND
JEVINS LAKE

LAUNCHING A
LOCAL BUSINESS
PLEDGE
CAMPAIGN

All donations will receive receipts for income tax purposes.



This project was undertaken with the financial support of
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de

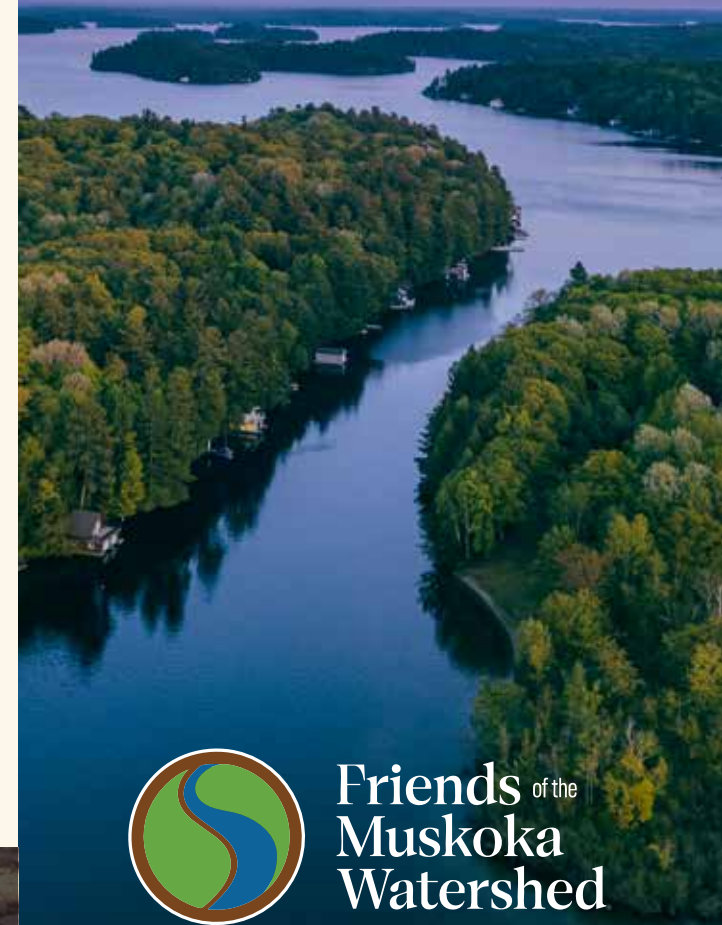


SCAN TO DONATE

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT SALTYMUSKOKA PROJECT LEAD
ALESHA BRECKENRIDGE: ALESHA@FOTMW.ORG

TURNING SCIENCE INTO COMMUNITY-WIDE ACTION



Friends of the
Muskoka
Watershed

Science Driving Solutions

WWW.FOTMW.ORG