

Theme: Water



The Trent-Severn Waterway, an important historical and cultural feature in the Greater Peterborough Area.

Where Are We Now?

The Greater Peterborough Area is well known for its abundance of lakes and rivers. Blessed with 134 lakes, this reputation is well merited. Also home to the Trent-Severn Waterway and the world's largest hydraulic lift lock, water navigation has played an important role in shaping the Greater Peterborough Area's identity.

Conservation Authorities, groups such as the Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association, Cottage and Lake Associations, and many others are working diligently to keep our lakes and rivers clean and healthy. However, overdevelopment, invasive species, nutrient loading, climate change, and more are persistent threats to the integrity of our aquatic ecosystems. Water is a precious resource, to be valued and cherished, and we must work collectively as a community to ensure that we protect this resource in perpetuity.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will make wise use of our water to enhance its quality and quantity, ensuring that future generations will be able to use our water to drink, fish, and swim.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Protect watersheds to ensure healthy water quality and quantity.
- Conserve the amount of water we use.
- Recognize and protect the ecological functions of the shorelines of water bodies.
- Maintain public access to our lakes and rivers for recreation and enjoyment.

Priority Actions

- Establish a water conservation and efficiency program that motivates water consumers and makes available resources for water conservation.
- Find funding that will enable the inventorying and identification of shoreline and wetland areas in need of ecological restoration.
- Establish an integrated watershed management plan to promote ecological health and sustainability within the Greater Peterborough Area watersheds.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Water Use Conservation Bylaw** – Encourage water conservation through the summer months via enactment of a conservation bylaw or policy.
- **Water Conservation Incentive Programs** – Encourage the installation and utilization of water conservation devices such as low-flow toilets, low-flow showerheads, rain barrels through the implementation of a municipal incentive program.
- **Testing Your Lake Water** – Join Kawartha Lake Stewards' Association (KLSA) water testing program.
- **Inspect Your Septic** – Ensure your septic system is working properly by completing a personal inspection or hiring someone to have a look.

Sustainability in Action

- With its campus nestled on both the east and west banks of the Otonabee River, it is fitting that Trent University is home to both the Water Quality Centre and the Institute for Watershed Science. In partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Fleming College, the Institute for Watershed Science undertakes research to better understand watershed function, develop tools to improve watershed management, and to share this knowledge with water resource managers.
- The Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield and the City of Peterborough both employ summer watering restrictions in an effort to conserve water in dry summer months.
- The County of Peterborough, City of Peterborough, City of Kawartha Lakes, Trent University, and Fleming College are working towards establishing Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Peterborough as an international centre of excellence for water quality.

THEME: WATER (A)

Goal

We will make wise use of our water to enhance its quality and quantity, ensuring that future generations will be able to use our water to drink, fish, and swim.

Strategic Direction Supported

Conserve the amount of water we use.

Priority Action

Establish a water conservation and efficiency program that motivates water consumers and makes available resources for water conservation.

Description

Water, though abundant in the Greater Peterborough Area, is valued very highly amongst community members and should be treated as any other resource – to be conserved and used wisely. Often we give little second thought to our water consumption. This project seeks to assist community members in reducing the amount of water they use through conservation and motivating people to utilize water efficient fixtures and appliances.

Activities

- Sell rain barrels to community members on a cost recovery basis
- Provide low flow showerheads for those on municipal water systems
- Provide faucet aerators for those on municipal water systems
- Implement toilet replacement rebate programs to encourage municipal water users to upgrade their toilets
- Provide education on water reduction behaviours (e.g. running full loads of laundry, shorter showers, etc.)
- Consider tiered water rates and meeting the future requirements of the Water Conservation Act
- Obtain sustainable funding for water protection programs

Toolbox Resources

- **Water Use Conservation Bylaw** – Encourage water conservation through the summer months via enactment of a conservation bylaw or policy
- **Water Conservation Incentive Programs** – Encourage the installation and utilization of water conservation devices such as low-flow toilets, low-flow showerheads, rain barrels through the implementation of a municipal incentive program
- **Using A Rainbarrel** – Harvest rainwater by purchasing and installing a rain barrel
- **Outdoor Water Conservation** – Design a yard that requires a minimum amount of water

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Peterborough Utilities

Potential Partners

- City of Peterborough
- Other municipalities with municipal water services
- Peterborough Green-Up

Measures of Success

- Consumption volumes
- Participation in programs

THEME: WATER (B)

Goal

We will make wise use of our water to enhance its quality and quantity, ensuring that future generations will be able to use our water to drink, fish, and swim.

Strategic Direction Supported

Recognize and protect the ecological functions of the shorelines of water bodies.

Priority Action

Find funding that will enable the inventorying and identification of shoreline and wetland areas in need of ecological restoration.

Description

Healthy, natural shorelines contribute greatly to water quality and provide abundant habitat for aquatic species. Already existing in the Greater Peterborough Area is the Shoreline Advisor Program, which is a free resource to community members looking to take steps to naturalize their shoreline and reduce their impacts on aquatic ecosystems. This action proposes to continue and build on the great work being accomplished through this and other programs, protecting the shorelines and aquatic ecosystems so valued by the community.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Natural Assets

Activities

- Conduct an inventory of shoreline and wetland areas in need of restoration
- Identify potential priority sites and work with willing hosts
- Develop strategy for restoration
- Expand lake capacity monitoring
- Enhance coordination of water polices amongst Conservation Authorities
- Define appropriate Lake development

Toolbox Resources

- **Shoreline Inspection Program** - Have a thorough inspection of your shoreline completed by the Lakeland Alliance's Shoreline Advisor Program
- **Testing Your Lake Water** – Join Kawartha Lake Stewards' Association (KLSA) water testing program
- **Inspect Your Septic** – Ensure your septic system is working properly by completing a personal inspection or hiring someone to have a look

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Lakeland Alliance

Potential Partners

- City of Peterborough
- Cottage and Lake Associations
- County of Peterborough
- Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Lakeland Alliance)
- Ducks Unlimited
- Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (Lakeland Alliance)
- First Nations
- Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
- Kawartha Conservation (Lakeland Alliance)
- Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of the Environment (Lakeland Alliance)
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Otonabee Conservation (Lakeland Alliance)
- Parks Canada (Trent-Severn Waterway)
- Peterborough County Stewardship Council (Lakeland Alliance)
- Peterborough Green-Up (Lakeland Alliance)
- Source Water Protection Committee
- Townships

Measures of Success

- Completion of inventory and assessment
- Number of sites restored

THEME: WATER (C)

Goal

We will make wise use of our water to enhance its quality and quantity, ensuring that future generations will be able to use our water to drink, fish, and swim.

Strategic Direction Supported

Protect watersheds to ensure healthy water quality and quantity.

Priority Action

Establish an integrated watershed management plan to promote ecological health and sustainability within the Greater Peterborough Area watersheds.

Description

Climate change is putting our water resources at risk. We are already experiencing rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns, causing reducing river flows, extreme weather events, greater flooding, while negatively impacting our quantity and quality of drinking water.

The purpose of an integrated watershed management plan is to manage human activities and natural resources, while promoting ecological health and sustainability. The plan will evaluate water quality, water quantity and the physical, hydrologic, and biological health and functions of the water within the watershed. It is an evolving and continuous process through which decisions are made for the sustainable use, development, restoration and protection of ecosystems. Watershed management is a tool to aid water and land use decision makers.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Natural Assets
- Agricultural and Food
- Land Use Planning

Activities

- Evaluate historical and forecast future water quality and water quantity by watershed
- Evaluate the physical, hydrologic, and biological health and function of the watersheds
- Develop a strategy and long term restoration plan
- Enhance coordination of water policies amongst all water based agencies

Toolbox Resources

- **Shoreline Inspection Program** - Have a thorough inspection of your shoreline completed by the Lakeland Alliance's Shoreline Advisor Program
- **Testing Your Lake Water** – Join Kawartha Lake Stewards' Association (KLSA) water testing program

Potential Lead and Coordination

- Otonabee Region Conservation Authority

Potential Partners

- City of Peterborough
- Cottage and Lake Associations
- County of Peterborough
- Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Lakeland Alliance)
- Ducks Unlimited
- Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations
- First Nations
- Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
- Kawartha Conservation
- Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of the Environment
- Lakeland Alliance
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Parks Canada (Trent-Severn Waterway)
- Peterborough County Stewardship Council
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Source Water Protection Committee
- Townships

Measures of Success

- Completion of integrated watershed management plan
- Formation of a watershed management working group