

Connecting land use to water quality

practical options for landowners

FOCA
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Stewardship Actions

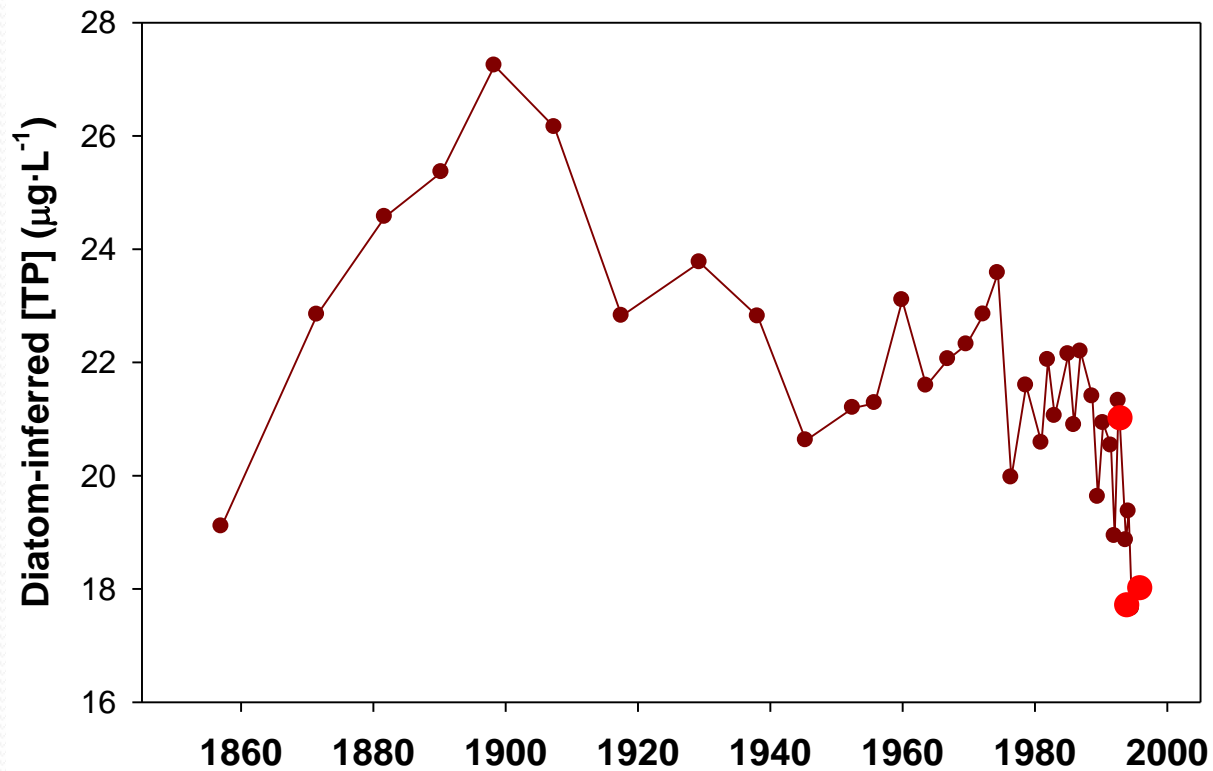
- Maintain septic systems
- Use phosphate free soap and cleaning products
- Preserve native vegetation, especially along the shoreline
- Eliminate chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- Buy energy efficient vehicles and reduce gasoline consumption
- Recycle and compost household waste
- Maintain 75% of shoreline in a natural state







Diatom-inferred phosphorus



30 Metre Buffer Strip

- 50 to 100% shade for streams and near shore
- Maintenance of large woody debris
- 90% sediment removal at 2% grade
- Nutrient and bacteria removal
- Erosion control
- Protection of aquatic invertebrates

- District of Muskoka Shoreline Buffer paper
<http://muskoka.fileprosite.com/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=4844>

Key Messages

- Maintain all four layers of shoreline vegetation
- Set back new development 30 m
- When doing renovations – look for a net improvement



Key Messages

- Review your stormwater management
- Where is the silt from your driveway or private road ending up?
- During construction are you taking measures to reduce stormwater impacts?



Watershed Report Card

The
Muskoka Watershed

REPORT CARD

2010



Partnering with nature

The Watershed Report Card presents the results of monitoring and evaluating the health of our region's natural features. It uses the best available science and is a snapshot of current conditions of the terrestrial and aquatic resources within the watershed.

As people live and work, they modify the landscape, impact the plants and animals in the watershed, and alter both ecosystem services and ecosystem functions. The Watershed Report Card presents the results of monitoring these changes and evaluating the health of the natural features of Muskoka's watersheds.

Unlike some parts of Ontario, Muskoka's natural areas, in general, are in excellent condition; 94 percent of the watershed is in natural cover; water quality is much better than provincial guidelines for recreational use, and most wetlands are intact. We are in the enviable position of being able to develop the watersheds in a sustainable manner.

It should be noted, however, that not all parts of Muskoka enjoy this high level of ecological health. Some areas are already showing early signs of degradation and local stewardship programs are needed to reverse these trends and restore watershed health.

Careful monitoring and local benchmarking will assist in understanding the human impact on natural processes and encourage modified behavior before significant environmental damage is done.



Subwatersheds of the Muskoka watershed

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a river, lake or stream. The Muskoka watershed refers to all watersheds lying totally or partially within the District Municipality of Muskoka and includes areas in Algonquin Park, the Township of Seguin and the Township of Algonquin Highlands. All water in the Muskoka watersheds eventually flows into Georgian Bay.



Be a watershed steward

- Maintain large natural areas
- Retain shorelines in a natural state
- Protect wetlands
- Reduce your carbon footprint

The Muskoka Watershed Report Card is produced by the Muskoka Watershed Council. The mission of the Muskoka Watershed Council is to: **Champion Watershed Health**. For the full background report, visit www.muskokaheritage.org/watershed



