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Welcome to the April 2023 edition of *Under the Surface*

Our ash drive was delayed until later this month, but we've still had so much to keep us busy.

Our final reports with our ASHMuskoka research results are complete and on our website. We have Citizen Scientists studying ash and road salt and a deadline approaching for the former. We have a dosage for ash on your own forest restoration project. Our AGM is just over a month away and we can't wait to see you all in person.



Dr. Neil Hutchinson, FOTMW director and scientist (right) and Spencer MacPherson, FOTMW project lead spent a cold day on Lake Muskoka testing chloride levels as part of the FOTMW chloride study project.

The purpose of our citizen science chloride pilot study is to continue to build our citizen scientists community while collecting water sample data that will help inform our larger road salt research initiative led by our very own Dr. Neil Hutchinson. We have 11 citizen scientists collecting data multiple times a week, with sample sites in Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, and Huntsville. They collect water samples, measure the chloride concentration, and submit their data for further analyses. We hope to expand this program next year as we continue to research the impacts of road salt on our watershed.

As always, you can contact Spencer@FOTMW.org for more information.



Friends *of the* Muskoka Watershed

ASHMUSKOKA



WE'VE RESEARCHED, TESTED, STUDIED & GATHERED DATA

See the 7 Final ASHMuskoka
reports on our website

visit fotmw.org/ashmuskoka-final-research-reports/

As a science-based charity, our reports are one very important measure of our work. In the last year, with our partners, we've written seven new ASHMuskoka reports.

They are all available on our website (and a link is below.) We will examine one report each month in future newsletters.

[Read our ASHMuskoka reports](#)

How much ash is enough to restore my forest?



Many ash "self-spreaders" are asking how much ash is needed to replace the nutrients lost by decades of acid rain. To find out, listen to Spencer MacPherson, project lead, in this short video. (Clue: It's equivalent to 4 tonnes per hectare and you might want to save a 750 gram yogurt container).

Please let us know if you are using this method to restore your forest.

And thanks to those who have reached out to let us know they are spreading ash on their own property. We want to be able to measure this additional impact of our ASHMuskoka work and thank you for your effort.

VIDEO: Learn how much ash is enough

Contact Spencer

Citizen Scientists

Kim Scott and Joanne Osborne are citizen scientists who live on property near Mary Lake in Huntsville.

“We have a curiosity and concern about environmental changes,” says Joanne. “We see that in the quality of our trees.”

So it made sense to get involved in the Citizen Science project that would study how adding woodstove or fireplace ash could improve the

health of trees. Citizen Scientists select one tree as the test tree and add the prescribed amount of ash. The other tree is left untouched as the control. Data is collected regularly and sent back to FOTMW for study. Kim and Joanne chose two oak trees and were surprised that participating didn't take very much time.

“We value being surrounded by a forest,” says Kim.

They are FOTMW members and attend FOTMW webinars to learn about changes to the environment.

“We feel so connected to nature living in Muskoka,” adds Joanne of the place they have called home for the past 16 years.



*"We see such a change"
— Joanne*

Save the date for our 2023 AGM



**Sunday, June 11
at 2 p.m.**



Friends *of the*
Muskoka
Watershed

**At the Muskoka Discovery Centre.
275 Steamship Bay Road, Gravenhurst
More information to come.**



APRIL ASH DRIVE RESCHEDULED

**It's now Saturday, April 29
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m
at the Bracebridge Transfer Station**





Friends of the
Muskoka
Watershed

Save the dates for our ASHMusoka drives 2023-24

Saturday, September 16

Saturday, October 21

Saturday, November 18

Saturday, Jan 20

Saturday, Feb 17

Saturday, March 16

Saturday, April 20

*from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at
the Bracebridge transfer site*



To see what we've learned
visit [fotmw.org/ashmuskoka-
final-research-reports/](https://fotmw.org/ashmuskoka-final-research-reports/)



Friends of the Muskoka Watershed
Citizen Science 

Hey ASHMuskoka Citizen Scientists!

We're starting our **third round** of Citizen Science tree data collection. Please collect your data and submit your samples between **April 20th** and **May 15th**.

We will be looking for your tree measurements (and soil samples and leaf samples if you have a soil and leaf kit). When taking a picture of the tree with a metre stick, try to include the entire tree in the picture if possible.

preservation of our beautiful watershed. You are making a difference!

Need help? Click here to contact Spencer@fotmw.org

HAPPY
*Birth*day
to us -
*Friends of
the Muskoka
Watershed
10 years!*

visit fotmw.org/donate



It's our birthday. We are ten!

And we were "born" in the month of Earth Day - what a great fit for us.

In the past year, we earned our charitable status so any birthday gifts are eligible for a tax receipt for income tax purposes. Or join as a member to celebrate this occasion.

We would like to thank everyone who has worked with us in the past ten years. Our future is bright and we have many plans to help protect our watershed forever.

Follow
us



Friends
of the
Muskoka
Watershed

Friends of the Muskoka Watershed is working to protect our Muskoka Watersheds forever.

Interested in supporting us? We welcome new members, donors, volunteers and supporters. A membership is just \$50 per person, \$90 per family and \$250 for a business. We are a charity and can offer receipts for tax purposes.

Be the change you want to see in the world.

Help us to make a difference.

Contact sandy@fotmw.org if you want to know more.

JOIN as a MEMBER



***Turning science into community-wide action
to protect your Muskoka watershed.
Proactively identifying environmental threats and proposing solutions so your piece
of paradise is preserved for future generations.***

Our mailing address is:

**PO Box 416,
Bracebridge, ON
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