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**Welcome to the February 2023 edition of *Under the Surface*,
the newsletter from Friends of the Muskoka Watershed.**

We had over 100 people participate in our webinars. Our next ash drive is March 25. Watch the conference presentation of collaborator Dr. Shaun Watmough of Trent University. Tell us about the ash you are spreading at home.

A green background with a white lightbulb icon in the center. The lightbulb has a stylized blue and green wave logo inside it. Below the lightbulb is a blue rounded rectangle containing text.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO
KNOW MORE ABOUT?**

The response to our first two Zoom webinars was overwhelming. We plan to do more in the future. What topics interest you?

Email sandy@fotmw.org

Our webinars in January and February were a huge success with over 100 people participating.

On January 24, FOTMW's Dr. Norman Yan's topic was
Road Salt is Impacting our Lakes and Rivers.

On February 9, FOTMW's Dr. Neil Hutchinson's discussed
Why are we Getting more Algal Blooms?

We plan to host more of these in the future. What would you like us to discuss?

I'd love to see a webinar about....



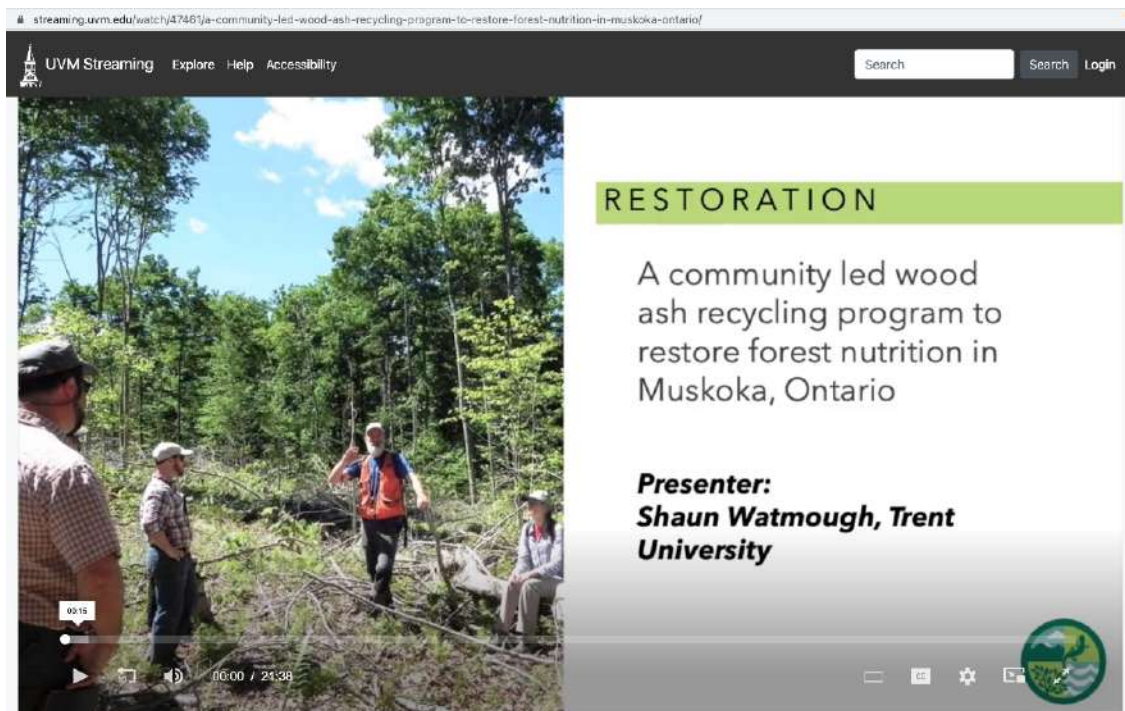
Road salt is a focus of Friends of the Muskoka Watershed. Check out Dr. Neil Hutchinson's interview on Muskoka Unlimited to learn more.

[Read the article](#)

SEE THE PRESENTATION

Dr. Shaun Watmough, Director of the Environmental and Life Sciences

2022 Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative Conference in Burlington, Vermont on Dec. 15. It was based on the work of FOTMW and the work of Trent University student researchers.



The image is a screenshot of a video player from UVM Streaming. The browser address bar shows the URL: streaming.uvm.edu/watch/47461/a-community-led-wood-ash-recycling-program-to-restore-forest-nutrition-in-muskoka-ontario/. The player interface includes a search bar and a 'Login' button. The video content shows a group of people in a forest setting, with a slide overlay on the right. The slide has a green header with the word 'RESTORATION' in white. Below the header, the text reads: 'A community led wood ash recycling program to restore forest nutrition in Muskoka, Ontario'. The presenter is identified as 'Presenter: Shaun Watmough, Trent University'. The video player controls at the bottom show a progress bar at 00:00 / 24:38 and various playback icons.

[Click here to view the presentation](#)



Friends of
Muskoka
Watershed



Are you restoring your forest with wood ash? Let us know!

Restoration is one of FOTMW's goals, so we want to know if you are spreading ash on your own property.

Email
citizenscience@fotmw.org
to tell that you've spread
ash and in what community
you are located.



Are you restoring your own forest with wood ash?

FOTMW friends have learned the value of spreading clean woodstove or fireplace ash on our forests.

Years of acid rain have left our forests calcium-depleted and wood ash is high in calcium and other important nutrients. Over 1000 of you have donated ash to help with our research, but we recognize some of you have also tried it on your property instead. We appreciate it all.

Restoration is one of FOTMW's goals, so we want to know if you are spreading ash on your own property. We want to be able to measure this additional impact of our ASHMuskoka work.

If you are spreading ash on your property, we want to know! We don't need too many details; we are trying to get an understanding of how many people are spreading ash and where they are doing it.

Email citizenscience@fotmw.org to tell us about the ash you've spread and in what community you are located.



GIVING A GIFT TO PROTECT OUR WATERSHEDS

A Muskoka cottager since infancy - and now year-round resident - made donations to Friends of the Muskoka Watershed as Christmas gifts for her adult children.

"I don't normally donate to causes but I believe in what you are doing. I know the trees and water are very important and I can see the work being done," says the donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

"My kids are all naturalists and interested in nature so they really appreciate the donation as a gift."

FOTMW does not have a stable funding source and depends on membership fees and donations to fund its work protecting Muskoka's watershed forever. As a charity, FOTMW gives a tax receipt for donations.

Visit fotmw.org/donate for your next gift and help protect our watersheds.

Make a donation



Friends of the Muskoka Watershed
ASHMUSKOKA



**Thank you to everyone who attended our ash
drive on February 18.**



We were very busy screening the donated ash on Saturday. More than 40 donations were received, totalling over 1100 kg of ash. Thank you for your donations of clean, cold ash.

Our next drive is on **Saturday, March 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m** at the Transfer Station at 1062 Rosewarne Drive in Bracebridge.



Friends of the Muskoka Watershed Citizen Science



MEET OUR CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

We regularly feature those who are helping with this important program

Citizen Scientists

Joanne and Clarke Smith are Citizen Scientists working on Friends of Muskoka Watershed's new road salt research initiative.

Joanne was in education for 30 years teaching science using her Zoology and Environmental Science training. Clarke was a real estate lawyer. A love of water and affinity for old boats brought them to Gull Lake in Gravenhurst upon retirement in 2009.

As members of the Gull and Silver Lake Resident's Association, they are concerned about rising chloride levels in Gull Lake and many Muskoka lakes. They have volunteered their time, working with FOTMW staff and director Dr. Neil Hutchinson, to measure and record the chloride levels in water in selected locations in Gravenhurst. Without volunteers like the Smiths, FOTMW would not be able to do this important work. Thank you! **Learn more about our road salt program in our next newsletter.**





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



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***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.***

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