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

We've been busy for the last month, out presenting information, meeting people and working on some exciting future projects. Dr. Norman Yan will be at Muskoka Chautauqua on Thursday, August 10, presenting our latest information about the growing threat of algal blooms. We'd love to see you there. We are also proud to feature our third ASHMuskoka report: *Non Industrial Wood Ash Chemistry and its Biogeochemical Effects on Sugar Maple in Three Central Ontario Sugar Bushes —Two Years After Treatment*. And lastly, but very exciting, is our Instagram photo contest. Please enter and tell your friends to enter too.

Muskoka Chautauqua

presents

The Threat of Algal Blooms in Muskoka,
a presentation and Q&A by
Dr. Norman Yan, founding director of FOTMW



When: Thursday, Aug. 10 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Where: Muskoka Chautauqua

**Theatre in the Woods 1039 Golf Avenue, Windermere
Village**

It's Free!

Dr. Norman Yan, a founding director of Friends of the Muskoka Watershed, will be a guest speaker for Muskoka Chautauqua on Aug. 10.

Algal blooms have returned. Why is it happening?

What should we do?

What role should Muskoka play?

Algal blooms are once again on the rise in Ontario, this time in seemingly pristine, nutrient-poor lakes. In his presentation, Yan will illustrate how one invader, the spiny water flea, coupled with rising road salt use and falling calcium levels in our lakes may all be contributing causes, and that climate change multiplies the threat. Yan will reflect on how appropriate knowledge about environmental problems can inspire the public will to act. Science can drive solutions if our democracy is functioning well. Yan will conclude with a dream, suggesting that Muskoka is a logical location for a world-class environmental research centre that could

treasured Muskoka lakescape.

Join him on Aug. 10 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. where he talks about this topic of growing concern and then takes time to answer questions.

Free tickets to Dr. Yan's talk



 Friends of the Muskoka Watershed

Photo Contest

Deadline: September 4, 2023

To enter:

- *Follow us on Instagram [@friendsofthemuskokawatershed](#)
- *Post your photo using the hashtag [#muskokawatershedpics](#)
- *Tag [@friendsofthemuskokawatershed](#).
- *Set your account to public

BY ENTERING THIS PHOTO CONTEST, YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD, AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE DISCLAIMER ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS CAROUSEL.

Friends of the Muskoka Watershed proudly presents our *Lakeside Lens: Framing Muskoka's Watershed* summer Instagram photo contest!

Calling all shutterbugs and nature enthusiasts to capture the breathtaking beauty of Muskoka's lakes and waterbodies, and potentially win some fantastic prizes!

With "Science Driving Solutions" as our guiding principle, we invite you to submit your best photographs, revealing the delicate balance between nature's wonders and the imperative need for conservation.

We have six generous sponsors offering great prizes for three judged categories plus bonus draws.

Muskoka's Watershed - win four day passes to Muskoka Beer Spa
<https://muskokabeerspa.com/>

Generations - win \$200 worth of native species plants from Brackenrig Nursery
<https://www.brackenrignursery.com/>

Animals - win a \$700 value 1/3 size replica moose from Cottage in Muskoka.ca - realtor Lenore Inniss

Everyone who submits a photo will be entered into the draw for a \$200 gift certificate for Basilico restaurant at Inn at the Falls, Bracebridge, donated by realtor Debbie Vernon. <https://www.debbievernon.com/>

Three mid-draw prizes, drawn at the end of day on Aug. 4, Aug. 18 and Sept. 1, will include everyone who has entered during the previous period. Each winner will receive a bundle of Nite Ize goodies. <https://niteize.com/>

Please note that you must have a public Instagram account to enter! We can not see photos on private accounts. 😊

*Instagram is in no way associated with this contest. By entering this photo contest, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by all the terms and conditions set forth in the disclaimer on our instagram account contest announcement.



Gravenhurst council commits to reducing road salt

Gravenhurst Council members received a deputation from Joanne Smith of the Gull & Silver Lake Residents' Association on July 18. Dr. Norman Yan of Friends of the Muskoka Watershed presented scientific information about the salt levels in Muskoka and their impacts on area lakes.

Following the presentation, council passed a resolution stating it is committed to reducing the use of road salt. To see the

See the Deputation



Friends of the Muskoka Watershed

ASHMUSKOKA



WE'VE RESEARCHED, TESTED, STUDIED & GATHERED DATA

In this newsletter, we are featuring:

*Batool S. Seyda and Shelby Conquer, of Trent University, prepared the report: **Non Industrial Wood Ash Chemistry and its Biogeochemical Effects on Sugar Maple in Three Central Ontario Sugar Bushes — Two Years after Treatment***

This is one of our seven ASHMuskoka reports

To determine if residential wood ash additions could mitigate the long-term damage done to Muskoka forests by acid rain, we collaborated with Trent University researchers and three participating Muskoka sugar bushes.

We added two doses of residential wood ash (4 and 8 tonnes/ha) in the summer of 2019, and tracked changes in soil chemistry and the nutritional status of the sugar maple by looking at the foliar chemistry of mature and seedling sugar maple over the next two growing seasons (2020 and 2021). After one year we saw big improvements in soil chemistry at all three sites, with pH and concentrations of many nutrients being higher in ash treated plots compared with controls. However, in the first year after application there were few differences in foliar chemistry and only potassium levels increased in the leaves, a result of potassium being the most mobile cation present in the ash.

responses showing that the beneficial responses to ash take time.
Click the link below to read the full report.

READ REPORT: Non Industrial Wood Ash Impact on Sugar Maples

FOTMW staff and volunteers were out and about this month!



A big thanks to the Lake Rosseau North Association (LRNA) for giving Friends of the Muskoka Watershed \$1305.00 from their 50/50 draw.

Corrine Hagerman, of LRNA presents the money to FOTMW's Sandy Lockhart along with LRNA's Jud Crombie and Teri McGurk.



Dr. Norman Yan was the keynote speaker at the Andrew Daniels Fish Stewardship Foundation (ADFSF) AGM on July 4. ADFSF President Thomas Ransom, Minister of Natural Resources Graydon Smith, Dr. Yan and Lake of Bays Mayor Terry Glover were all in attendance.



These three men are responsible for more than 150 years of collaborative work on damage and recovery of Sudbury area lakes. John Gunn, Canada Research Chair in Stressed Aquatic

Yan and Bill Keller, recognized by both the Provincial Government for his work on acid rain and Canadian Society of Limnologists for his research, met in Sudbury last week to discuss the past and future of freshwater science in Northern Ontario. They were helping to plot the future of science in Killarney Provincial Park and to plan a manuscript to study the recovery process of Sudbury's formerly acid lakes despite climate change and associated new stressors.



Chair Peter Kelley and Communications Director Sandy Lockhart attended the Port Carling market on July 27 to chat with people interested in learning more about FOTMW projects.



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

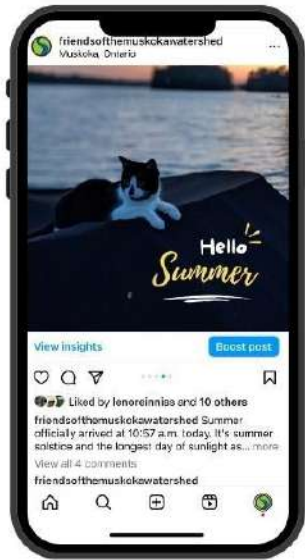
*from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at
the Bracebridge transfer site*



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



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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



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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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