Happy 10th Birthday

BATTLE RIVER
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

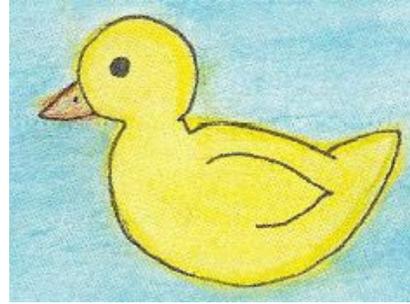## Click on this timeline to see some of our highlights over the past 10 years!

Stewardship Update-
2016 OTIS Award

Do you know someone who has done great stewardship work? Nominate a young person, an individual or Business/Organization for an OTIS!

The BRWA proudly presents the OutsTanding In

Stewardship (OTIS) award every year to a business/organization, youth, and individual who were chosen for their hard work, dedication to stewardship, and positive watershed impacts.

Nominate someone you know for an OTIS! Visit the OTIS webpage for the short form.

Ponoka County Landowners Improve River Health

Riparian Field Day, MSW Farms, Ponoka

"The cattle are getting more water and we've learned how to improve the quality of the river. It also showed me that I can make a big difference and that's been proven by seeing an increase in the fish that are hanging out in our section of the river."
-Mark Stewart, MSW Farms

Landowners, with support from local organizations have made the 2nd year of the Ponoka Riparian Restoration Program a great success! A few highlights include:

- 18 riparian health assessments by Cows & Fish,
- Over 10,000 trees planted in the Battle River valley with the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society,
- 6 kilometers of riparian fencing and
- 6 off-site watering systems have been installed to manage livestock access to waterways,
- Riparian Field Day at MSW Farms in Ponoka

Click here to learn more about the BRWA's Ponoka Riparian Project Updates

Supporting organizations and funders include: Cows and Fish, GOA's Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program, Canada's Environmental Damages Fund, Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society, Ponoka County, Town of Ponoka, Grey Wooded Forage Association.

Caring for our Watersheds 2017, Help us get to 300 Students!

The Caring for our Watersheds Competition invites students in grades 7-12 to write a 1000 word proposal on what they would do to help improve their watershed. Students and their school or club can win up to $1,000, and have access to a pool of $10,000 to implement their project (if they wish)!

For our 2017 contest we have been challenged to have 300 students participate, a steep jump from 165 last year.

You can help by sharing this info with youth, teachers, or club leaders (4H, JFW etc.).

Thank you!

Additional Resources about the program:
How it Works Document
BRWA Caring for our Watersheds Webpage
CaringforOurWatersheds.com
And check out this 2 minute video:

Caring for our Watersheds Video

Did you Know?

99% OF LAKES AND RIVERS IN CANADA ARE UNPROTECTED

Mark Totten via Flickr (modified). CC by-nc-nd 2.0

97 lakes, 62 rivers and 3 oceans. This is the number of lakes, rivers and waterways that are protected under the Navigation Protection Act right now.

Before the Harper Government changed freshwater protections, the law was called the Navigable Waters Protection Act and it protected every lake and every river.

The Trudeau government has announced a review of environmental and freshwater laws. The Council of Canadians are pressuring the Trudeau government to keep their election promises and "restore lost protection" to our waterways.

You can learn more and support these efforts at: canadians.org/EveryLakeEveryRiver

THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS

Upcoming Events

Caring for our Watersheds Final Competition
Saturday May 13th, 1:00pm-7:00pm, Reynolds Museum in Wetaskiwin.

BRWA AGM and Celebration!
Thursday June 15th, 10am-3pm. Heisler Hotel.
Our 10th anniversary ALL ABOARD! train trip was cancelled on October 14th due to poor weather.
We have rescheduled the train ride to align with our AGM meeting.
We can accommodate up to 50 people on the train. Invitations will be sent out soon.

 For more information on these and all of our events, visit the News and Events page.

Board Spotlight: Jim Geddes

Jim grew up on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan. He spent the next 30 years in a career in the oilfield which took him to various areas including Kindersley, Savanna Creek, Slave Lake, Camrose, and Drayton Valley areas. He semi retired this year. Jim previously worked with the group that helped to form the Battle River Watershed Alliance. He also was a director on the Special Places program to set up a provincial park known as Lesser Slave Lake Wildland Provincial park.

 Learn more about the BRWA Alliance Management, board and staff on our website.

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