

Main Bayfield Watershed Plan

JANUARY 2014

Happy New Year!

You are receiving this newsletter as either a landowner within the Main Bayfield watershed, or as a project partner. Now that the *Main Bayfield Watershed Plan* has been completed, newsletters will be one way we keep you updated and informed about the implementation of the plan.

A huge **thank you** to all the landowners, community groups and advisory committee members for helping to develop this community-based watershed plan. The real challenge now is to see how much can be implemented. Great things have already been accomplished, and we look



forward to working with everyone to continue this trend in 2014.

The watershed plan works with four principles: Building Awareness, Supporting Community Involvement, Taking Action, and Measuring Success. You can apply these to your own property (rural or urban) when making improvements, and know that your neighbours are doing the same.

Twenty-two projects have been completed to help improve water quality and enhance forest cover since 2011.

We would like to thank all the landowners who have supported this plan, those who have completed projects, and those who are managing their land in efforts to work towards a healthy watershed.

Contact Hope Brock at Ausable Bayfield Conservation for more information, or for a copy of the plan. View the plan at abca.on.ca/downloads/Main-Bayfield-Watershed-Plan-FINAL.pdf



Wise Drain Watershed Walk

In order to start implementing the recommendations in the plan, a watershed walk will be taking place in the Wise Drain watershed in the winter/spring of 2014.

The purpose of a watershed walk is to gain information about how

water flows over the landscape, and to understand how each property functions in a watershed context.

In partnership with the landowners, we hope to walk every property and help identify low draws or erosion prone areas.

If you live in this area, we will be contacting you in the next month or so.

For more information, please contact **Hope Brock** at **519-235-2610** or hbrock@abca.on.ca

Hold back water and save your soil

Soil is a valuable resource - one that you don't want washed away

There are many different ways to hold back water on your property such as no-till, berms, cover crops and sediment basins. Soil conservation has, and will continue to become more important as we experience changing weather patterns. Ausable Bayfield Conservation is committed to helping landowners build a stronger, healthier watershed.

Grants may be available for soil conservation projects. Contact **Ausable Bayfield Conservation** at **519-235-2610** to see what could work on your property.



Did you know that there are more living individual organisms in a tablespoon of soil than there are people on earth?

Win this t-shirt!!

For the last few years, Ausable Bayfield Conservation has completed windshield surveys for the Main Bayfield watershed to gain more information on current cropping practices. If you are using **cover crops** and we noted it during our fall 2013 survey, you will be entered into a draw to win the t-shirt below. Draw to take place on **January 31, 2014**.



Tree Order Time!

Thinking about a buffer, windbreak, or retiring some marginal land? Trees offer multiple benefits to both the landowner and the larger watershed. Contact **Ian Jean** at **519-235-2610** or **ijean@abca.on.ca** to inquire about where trees could be planted on your land. Mail in orders due by **January 31, 2014** and orders accompanied by payment taken until February 28, 2014.



Contributions from the **Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation**, the **Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada** have made it possible to work with landowners and residents to develop and implement the community-based **Main Bayfield Watershed Plan**.

The Main Bayfield watershed is one of five priority watersheds along the southeast shore of Lake Huron in the *Healthy Lake Huron - Clean Water, Clean Beaches* campaign, a concerted effort to address nuisance algae concerns and to promote safe and clean beaches.

Upcoming Events

Huron Soil & Crop Guest Speaker, Dan Towery (Ag Conservation Solutions) - February 2014

Rain Barrel Blitz - kicks off March 22nd

Rain Garden Workshop - Spring 2014

Watch **abca.on.ca** and local papers for more details