

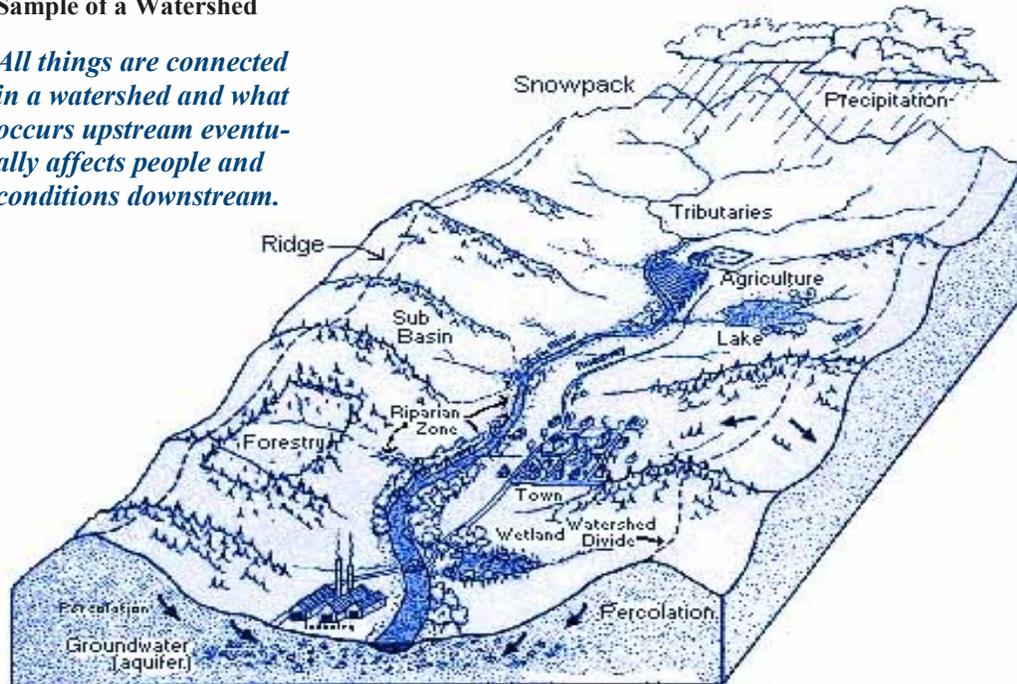
WATER TALK: WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP HELPS!

A watershed is an area of land that is drained by one stream or river and its tributaries into a particular body of water such as a pond, lake or ocean. As a rain-drop flows across fields, forests and towns and as it joins others in the river, nature,

including humans, affects it in many interconnected ways. A watershed is made up of a unique mixture of habitats that influence each other. These habitats include forests, wildlife, creeks, rivers and lakes, wetlands, farms and cities and towns.

Sample of a Watershed

All things are connected in a watershed and what occurs upstream eventually affects people and conditions downstream.

**EVERYONE LIVES DOWNSTREAM**

Surface water quality is greatly affected by the actions of many watershed users. You can help by: educating yourself about water resources and uses in your watershed, getting to know your drinking water source and staying informed and getting involved in source protection planning.



MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER FACT SHEET

There is a finite amount of water on the earth and that supply is recycled over and over. If we use up more water that can be replaced naturally, we will run short.

Ausable Watershed

Residents use groundwater and Lake Huron for drinking water.

Hay Swamp is the only major remaining natural wetland filtration area.

The watershed features 83 fish species including rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, yellow perch and northern pike.

Winter Water Tips

- Locate and mark the main water cut-off valve. This valve is usually found near where the water line comes into your home. Damage from running water can be minimized if you can turn off this valve quickly.
- Make sure the water line to outside faucets (lawn sprinklers and such) is turned off and the line is drained.
- Consider wrapping or insulating water pipes, especially those near outside walls, under the house or in the attic.
- Eliminate drafts. Check around your home for areas where water supply lines are lo-

cated in unheated areas and take measures to prevent the flow of cold air in these areas. Both hot and cold water pipes should be insulated.

- If your water pipes do freeze, never try to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch. You can use a hair dryer or portable heater but always be careful of the potential for electric shock.
- If you will be away from home, keep the thermostat at a reasonable temperature to make sure all areas with water pipes are kept above freezing.
- If you are vacating your home, locate and turn off your main water cut-off valve. After the valve is turned off open a faucet on each level of your home to allow for expansion should the undrained water freeze.

Water Links

www.abca.on.ca—Our Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority has access to stewardship grants for community groups or individuals

www.conservation-ontario.on.ca—Info on source water protection

www.great-lakes.net

Municipality of Bluewater—14 Mill Ave.—Zurich, ON N0M 2T0— Ph: (519) 236-4351 Fax: (519) 236-4329

Support our Blue Flag Beach and Marina on Lake Huron in Bayfield!

