

*July 6, 2015*

## White Lake Fish Habitat Project

In late June 2015, Watersheds Canada staff, **White Lake Preservation Project representatives**, and Lanark County Stewardship Council members assessed potential walleye spawning sites on White Lake that were previously assessed in September 2014 and that were identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will be funding the Fish Habitat Enhancement Project through the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program.

During this last field assessment, a number of potential walleye spawning sites were identified. The majority of the sites previously mapped by MNR were no longer suitable as potential walleye spawning sites, but new sites were identified. Suitable sites require rocky substrate, low vegetative cover, and sufficient water flow to oxygenate the fertilized eggs. Sites suitable for habitat enhancement with woody debris were also identified and mapped. Sites deemed suitable for the addition of woody debris were carefully selected so that they would not interfere with boaters, which was an important consideration given White Lake has a mean depth of 10 feet and has heavy boating traffic. Rehabilitation will begin this summer and continue into the fall.



We will be looking for volunteers to participate in this project and for collection of woody debris around the lake. Anyone interested in can contact Melissa Dakers at Watersheds Canada, 613-264-1244 or [dakers@watersheds.ca](mailto:dakers@watersheds.ca).

The final phase of this project is to plant native vegetation on 15 shoreline properties on White Lake in the fall of 2015 with our Natural Edge Program. Fall participation is booking up quickly, so any shoreline landowner interested in this program should contact Courtney Allison at Watersheds Canada, 613-264-1244 or [allison@watersheds.ca](mailto:allison@watersheds.ca).