

Giving Lake Trout A Helping Hand

By Joan Hayes | September 10, 2026

One of North Frontenac's rarest natural treasures got a vital lifeline this season thanks to a hands-on community conservation effort on 27 August. Local volunteers from the Palmerston Lake Association recently partnered with national charity Watersheds Canada to rehabilitate a critical lake trout spawning bed on Palmerston Lake. Only 1% of Ontario's lakes contain Lake Trout. Maintaining clean, rocky shoals is essential for the species' survival. Armed with brushes, a water pump and plenty of community spirit, the joint team worked to clear away suffocating silt and algae buildup - ensuring that the lake's native trout population has a healthy, oxygen rich environment in which to lay their eggs during the critical late-autumn spawning.

This project was made possible thanks to the generous support of Yamaha Financial Services' Stay Outdoors Program; Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' Community Conservation Fund; I.A. Financial; J.P. Bickell Foundation.

Community support for this project was overwhelming with 27 people involved, including Mel Dakers and her Watersheds staff, Palmerston Lake Association property owners, **Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nations** members **(along with Aspen, a lovely black lab)**, Councillor Roy Huettl, future Councillor Katie Surra with her entire family, and many environmentally concerned neighbours.

Thanks to this hands-on effort, one more generation of Palmerston Lake trout will have a clean, healthy place to call home.



[Watersheds Canada](#)

Last week, Watersheds Canada staff and community volunteers came together to restore a lake trout spawning bed on Palmerston Lake, ON! 🐟

Using a high-pressure pump, hose, and brushes, the team cleared away silt and algae that had accumulated on the existing spawning shoal. Lake trout need clean, rocky spawning surfaces with spaces between the rocks to lay their eggs, and this community-led project has helped restore those conditions for local lake trout.

The restoration also included planting native plants along the shoreline next to the spawning bed. These plants will help stabilize the shoreline, reduce erosion, and help prevent silt from entering the lake and accumulating on the spawning habitat in the future.

We're grateful to work alongside so many community volunteers, including members of Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation, who came together to help restore and protect this important habitat.

The restored spawning bed and newly planted shoreline will help provide valuable habitat for Palmerston Lake's lake trout population for years to come!

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