

Lake Ontario Watershed

What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Homes, farms, cottages, forests, small towns, big cities and more can make up watersheds. Some cross municipal, provincial, and even international borders. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes and can vary from millions of acres, like the land that drains into the Great lakes, to a few acres that drain into a pond.

DYK? What happens on the land impacts the water!

Forests, wetlands, and trees throughout our rural and urban environments help to slow runoff, clean and purify water, recharge groundwater and slow the frequency and impacts of flooding events.



The Lake Ontario watershed is 64,030 square km.

Produced by Quinte Conservation 2021 under license with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Copyright Quinte Conservation and the Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2021.
Digital Mapping Services
Hydrologic Features - Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Population Centres - GeoBC/GeoBC Services
Disclaimer:
This map is for illustrative purposes only. Quinte Conservation makes no warranties and assumes no liability whatsoever regarding the truth, accuracy, currency, or completeness of this map and its associated data.

The 20 Metre High Limestone Bluffs

DYK? Millions of years of history can be found in this 20 metre high limestone bluff!

In fact, the layers of rock found in the eroding cliffs are like pages from an ancient history book. If you look hard enough, you can see a glimpse of the past as plants and animals got trapped in layers of mud that over time formed into rock leaving imprints of this ancient life from the past (like the ones to the left). Look for fossils on the barrier beach below.

Many years ago, this region was covered in large ice sheets known as glaciers. As the glaciers moved, their weight caused large basins to be carved in the limestone bedrock and the glacial meltwaters formed rivers and lakes. This geological event helped to form the rugged shorelines, limestone cliffs, beaches, sandbars, soils, and lakes you see today.

Learn more about Ontario's fossils here:



Gastropod



Crinoid



Brachiopod



Step Back in Time and Discover the Barley Days Ruins

Discover the remains of a grain storage building from the late 1800s when you hike the Granary Trail!

DYK? Between 1860 and 1890, Prince Edward County gained a reputation for superior barley, dubbing this period the Barley Days! In fact, the production of barley occupied nearly one-third of the County's cultivated lands.

Large schooners shipped over 15 million bushels of barley across Lake Ontario to Oswego, New York.

Things changed for this lucrative industry when, in 1890, barley obtained from Western Canada became easier to purchase, thus diminishing this region's barley sales by 50%.

