



'Regional Team Approach' - Looking Ahead

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"The evolution of IWM at the CRD mirrors somewhat my own career. Like the program, before coming to the CRD I started as an analyst, looking at what's in water but not thinking as much about where that water came from or where it was going. The program and I simultaneously evolved to consider watersheds as units containing multiple interacting factors and that the water quality issues we were measuring were the indicator of undesirable changes in the watershed. Along the way it was quickly understood that regional government, local governments and stakeholders cannot work on watershed condition and function in isolation nor can they leave it to each other to handle. A combined effort is essential for success."

There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew – *Marshall McLuhan*

"From this chapter, the reader should have a sense of the rapid realignment of our program's focus and the work still to be done. This took the effort and contribution of the entire program team, as well as our municipal champions and community stewards. Significant effort was put into creating a vision of the program future and at the same time ensuring that the service we deliver to protect watersheds, biodiversity and ecosystem health is effective in terms of benefits as well as cost."

"We see through our work, the incredible efforts put into watershed protection by community stewards. These seemingly tireless volunteers often are the kick-starters of new initiatives by identifying the need for action before staff are aware. Those walking the trails and using the waterways and ocean are often the first to know of changing conditions and effects on the environment. These are also the people that maintain the knowledge and make requests for change as staff and politicians' transition in and out of their positions over time and things are forgotten in old reports and filing cabinets."

"**Cooperation is key.** The CRD is composed of 13 municipalities and 3 electoral areas. Watershed boundaries are not political boundaries or even neighbourhood boundaries. We are lucky to live in a region of such significant environmental values. When local government champions come to the table to work with regional staff and each other, great things happen. The IWM program is about to re-engage with regular meetings with community groups and is also taking steps to enhance existing relationships and build new connections to First Nations. We continue to look forward and enhance cooperative efforts to make us all stronger and better able to protect and enhance our watersheds."