

## Shout Out to our Watershed Heroes! Kaye Edmonds

Kaye Edmonds is one of those "unsung" watershed heroes, who has and continues to energetically contribute to the health and wellbeing of our watershed with a camera, a paintbrush, a garbage bag, and the outspoken heart of an advocate.

Her passion for the environment is rooted in memories of a childhood lived in nature. She walked to school at 5 years old with bears criss-crossing the road ahead of her, listened to the purrs and screams of lynx outside her bedroom window, speared suckers with her elders, swam alongside the snakes in Pine Lake and gathered pails of sap by toboggan. Growing up, it was completely normal to see a bear hide stretched on the side of a log house to dry. Her treks through the bush between Turtle and Pine Lakes to check on her grandparents are etched in her mind. Nowhere did she see a piece of litter. She grew up having no idea what litter even was. As Kaye says, "we were taught early



on to respect and care for what we have: our rivers, our lakes, our forests. Not so much in lessons, but in the very way we lived."

Years later, she went on to join Friends of Laurier Woods and Nipissing Naturalist Club. She whole heartedly walks the trails and roads around our natural areas cleaning up litter first on her own, and now as a volunteer with Clean Green Beautiful. Kaye has helped place bat monitors, count chimney swifts, start a downtown nature garden, and fundraise to support the education and

conservation efforts of the Nipissing Naturalists. She has been a regular supporter of NBMCA's Chippewa Creek EcoPath Festival sharing her paintbrushes, helping young and old create their own wildlife rock painting.

Her real interest is exploring in minute detail everything she sees in nature through photography or painting. Her favourite place is any sunset. She shares her photos free of charge with any artist. An avid birder, many of her beautiful, detailed wildlife photographs are posted on social media, educating the public and fostering public interest in our watershed. Her excitement at photographing and sharing her photographs of the Long-eared owl, the Great gray owl, the Black capped night heron, the Brambling – birds not normally seen in our region - is contagious.

NBMCA is proud to recognize you Kaye as a Watershed Hero!

