

## Chapter 4

### Next Steps

The information in the watershed report cards helps us to understand the state of our water and forests in a comparative but non judgmental way. It is hoped that this information will be used by a variety of agencies and groups who need up to date and holistic resource information to carry out their work and plan for the future. For example, municipalities can use the information to produce policies on issues such as nutrient management and tree preservation.

On a more formal basis, the report cards provide the background information needed to strategize, plan and direct future work. They help us to develop targets and set action plans to meet the targets and ensure our monitoring program will allow us to track the changes.

The next step may be the production of a UTRCA Conservation Strategy. This strategy should:

- select priority watersheds for protection and rehabilitation;
- develop measurable targets;
- set up an action plan to meet the targets;
- set up a comprehensive monitoring program to track progress;
- identify research needs;
- implement action items and research projects; and
- update report cards (e.g. grades) every 5 to 10 years.

A broad Conservation Strategy for the UTRCA may also be comprised of more specific strategies such as fisheries, stormwater management, land acquisition or species at risk strategies.

Other groups and agencies can develop their own strategies based on their mandates using the report card information.

