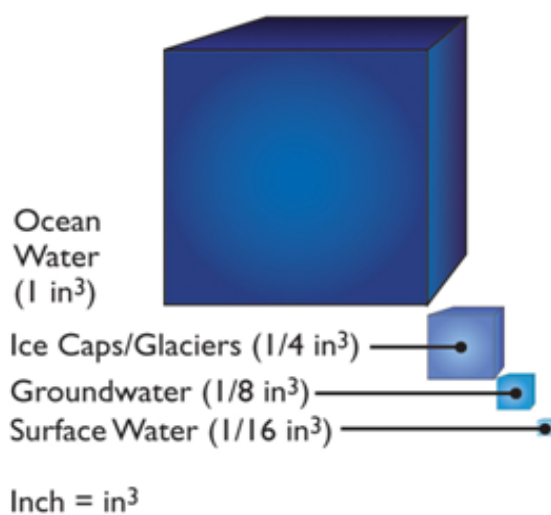


## The Earth's Water Supply

If the volume of water in the oceans is represented by a one-inch (2.5 cm) cube, a one-fourth inch (0.6 cm) cube would represent the water stored in the ice caps and glaciers. A one-eighth inch (0.3 cm) cube would represent groundwater, and a one-sixteenth inch (0.15 cm) cube would represent surface water.



### What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is one of those words that we hear all the time without really knowing what it means. In fact stewardship is a hard thing to define, but it is about how we are in the world: the way we care for it, respect it, live in it. It is about being actively involved in making the world be a place we want to live in. Our goals as stewards are to develop the skills necessary to make the changes we desire, and to organize ourselves and others to take action in a responsible, caring and knowledgeable way.

### Why Watershed Stewardship?

Ninety percent of the world's water is contained in salt oceans. Of the remainder, 69 percent is in the form of ice and snow. Freshwater for human use, found in lakes, swamps, rivers and underground, makes up only 0.008 percent of the world's water. In British Columbia we are lucky: we have streams, lakes, rivers and estuaries covering 1.25 percent of our province. But as the population grows, more and more of this available water is being contaminated by human development.

Many kinds of skills are useful to a watershed steward, but all stewards share some characteristics. A steward is worthy of trust, demonstrates respect for life, carries a genuine heart, embodies constancy of mind, and acts with autonomy.

### Stewardship...

- actively involved in caring for the environment

## **WATERSHED KEY TERMS...**

**Miramichi River Watershed:** This is the area of land where all the water on the surface flows into the Miramichi River and makes it's way towards the ocean.

**Tributary:** Is a stream or a brook or a spring that flows into a river (Miramichi River) and adds more water to it.

example: Renous River, Cains River, Dungarvon River, etc...

**Erosion:** Is when the current from the river or stream washes away the stream bank or river bank because there is NO vegetation (no plants, no trees, no bushes). Erosion is bad because it turns rivers and streams brown and muddy which suffocates and kills young fish and other aquatic organisms.

**Sediment:** Fine particles that are found on the bottom of a river stream (smaller than sand).

**Substrate:** The type of bottom a river or stream has (rocky, sand, mud, sediment or silt).

**Dissolved oxygen:** all water contains dissolved oxygen. We can measure how much oxygen water contains. Cold water holds more oxygen and is better for fish and other organisms.

## Stream Classification

Streams are classified by their size. The smallest streams are first-order streams. When two first-order streams meet they form a second-order stream. The place where the two streams meet is the confluence. The stream formed at the confluence of two second-order streams is a third-order stream. The process continues until the stream or river empties into a lake or the ocean. The place where the river system ends is its mouth.

