



Leech Lake Cottagers' Association **NEWSLETTER**

Mini-Newsletter May 2023

Annual Meeting 2023

Our annual meeting will take place at 8:00 pm on June 7th over Zoom. Please see official notification and other important documents attached to this newsletter email.

Remember, you must be a paid-up member of the LLCA to attend the meeting and vote. The 2023 dues invoice is attached to this newsletter email just in case you need it.

Lake Stewardship – Shoreline Regeneration

Leech Lake Cottagers' Association has benefitted from a comprehensive State of the Lake study each year since 2010. It is undertaken by students who are overseen by experienced faculty of Fleming College's Ecosystem Management Technology Program.

Leech Lake is recognized as being challenged by the stressors of a high population density (132 cottages) on only 5.8 km of shoreline. Human shoreline use and development puts pressure on the health of our lake.

For the past 12 years Fleming's consistent message has been that we as property owners have the power and the responsibility to improve water quality through sustainable choices.

2022 was an extraordinary year with 5 students on site over 3 days producing the most comprehensive examination of our shorelines to date. The study shows that we must take action to restore shoreline riparian zones wherever possible. We will be presenting the full report at the Annual Meeting on June 7.

Each one of us as consumers see efforts that businesses are making to become more sustainable. We've learned that you need to keep bags in your car as plastic ones are no longer available in the checkout. We've all done things differently in the past and now that we all know better - we can do better.

Our executive is fully behind supporting Leech Lake water quality. What could be more important? Over this year and beyond, we will continue to provide information and tools on how we can work as individuals for the greater good of our lake. We need and welcome participation from all of our association members. The Fleming College study recommended a very simple solution all property owners can employ to help the health of the lake: restore your shoreline to a natural state, as much as possible. Shoreline remediation, which is relatively inexpensive and available to all, gives you the most 'bang for your buck' when committing resources to lake stewardship. We are proud that a member of our association has stepped forward publicly to show his commitment to lake sustainability. Please see below an article from Rob McGill, our vice president.

I am concerned about the water quality and health of our lake, and I am prepared to effect changes at my property in order to do my part. At the right is a photo of the shoreline to my property at 1194 Lakeshore Drive South. While I do not use any fertilizers on my grass, my lot is one of many that could benefit from shoreline remediation.

To do my part to enhance my shoreline, I propose to cease cutting the lawn right down to the shore, leaving a buffer of at least 10 to 15 feet above the current mow line; simply leaving an area this big uncut will, I hope, allow much natural remediation to occur on its own. I will also plant various native species to achieve a more natural waterline. For information on desirable, natural species you can plant at your shoreline please visit the Muskoka Conservancy's website [here](#). The webpage has information on the types of plants native to the Muskoka area that are best-suited for remediating your property. The drop-down tabs at this link share information on Native Plants and Native Shrubs best-suited for shorelines and wet areas.



As the summer progresses, I will post update reports and pictures to show the progress of my efforts to remediate my shoreline. I hope you will also take a close look at your property and make efforts to restore your shoreline to a more natural setting; the health of our lake and the value of our properties depends on it.

Rob McGill, LLCA Vice-President

Roads Update

Fraserburg Rd: As you may be aware, Fraserburg Rd. has a risk of flooding in the area around Sherwood Forest Rd. just west of the bridge that crosses the Muskoka River. There was a serious flood in 2019 that cut people to the east of the flooding off from everything for days, which is a real safety issue. Your association has taken part in discussions about how to move the town/district to fix this issue. [Here](#) is a recent newspaper article with more on the topic.

Cottage Roads - Proceed with caution: It started with heavy snow accumulations, then came a fast snow melt, then two days of heavy rains, followed by weeks of on/off rain. In the end Mother Nature wreaked havoc on our cottage roads. To make the road conditions even worse we've had a few service vehicles on our roads that got beached/stuck due to the soft road edges and these have damaged portions of the road edges on both the North and South Roads.

The current state of our roads is a mix of sinkholes, dips, potholes, humps and jumps, so please drive slowly. Vehicles with low ground clearance need to be extra cautious. The roads have been so bad that most of the gravel was pulled down into the road bed which pushed up the mud at various locations

around the lake roads. It was for a few days very boggy on our roads but most of those muddy locations will firm up once the warm temperatures return. The earth moves in mysterious ways and with the churning of the road base this spring we discovered buried treasures, including a 6ft - 4 x4 post which was pulled out of the road, a few pieces of 2x4, some logs, tree trunks, a bicycle frame, and a wooden hockey stick. It was almost like Christmas getting all these free gifts.

The Roads Ahead: We have several plans for the roads this summer, in particular;

- Adding more gravel to portions of the North and South roads
- Some widening of the North road to improve vehicle passing
- Additional trenching/ditching on the South and North roads to divert water from the roads.
- Some rock cutting in order to divert water into the ditching.
- Possible installation of a new culvert by #1037 on the North road

The bad road conditions this spring required us to bring in our summer road contractor (Robinson) to help firm up parts of the road. They managed a half day of work two weeks ago and more work is required from them, but the roads are still too wet and the weather too moist for them to complete the needed repairs. Robinson will be onsite the week of May 8 - 12, weather permitting. Once their road work is completed we have booked a road grading for the 1st week in June.

Our ability to make major improvements to our roads in 2023 may be hampered due to the costs associated with the 'emergency' road repairs needed due to this spring's weather. It could be improved though if we get dues participation from all the cottagers who call this lake home.

The 2023 LLCA Regatta

Did you know that in years past, there was an annual sailing regatta on Leech Lake?

Cottagers would compete for the LLCA Regatta Trophy (currently at the Henderson cottage), and onlookers would cheer them on. Following the race, a celebratory BBQ would be held.

While we have continued to hold our annual Regatta on the Sunday afternoon of the August long weekend, for the last 30 years there has not been competitive boat racing.

We are thinking of bringing back boat racing to this year's Regatta with morning events for: canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddle boards followed by our usual BBQ with games for all ages at the Boat Launch.

This year's Regatta will take place on Sunday, August 6.

Participating in the Regatta (and especially helping to run it) is a GREAT way to meet your neighbours on the lake.

IF you would be interested in participating in boat racing and/or helping to plan and run this year's regatta please email Susan Baskin at: llcapresident@yahoo.com

Building a Cardiac-Safe Community at Leech Lake

Blair Clark found this information on the FOCA web site and we thought our lake community might be interested. We know at least one cottage on the lake has an AED; it could be life-saving to build a cardiac-safe community at Leech Lake.

*Register now for this upcoming webinar: Cardiac Safe Communities & Your Association on **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm EDT.***

Is your cottage community prepared for cardiac emergencies? Join FOCA and the experts from Action First Aid for a "lunch and learn" webinar about the importance of automated external defibrillators (AED) and how to create a cardiac safe cottage community.

Highlights of this webinar session:

- > hear real cardiac arrest save stories*
- > find out more about AEDs - when they are needed and why they are important*
- > watch a quick AED demo, and learn how to take care of your AED*
- > learn about 24/7 outdoor AED access options for a cottage community.*

The webinar is FREE to the public but registration is required. Click [here](#) to register.

If anyone is interested in working on this important initiative, whether you can make it to the webinar or not, please email leechlakesecretary@yahoo.com.

The Bug Count is Back – Mark Your Calendars!

The much-anticipated bug count event was foiled by COVID last year, but it's back again in 2023!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday July 22nd**. Learn about the creepy crawlies that live in our lake, and see how many you can count. This is a great time for families. This is usually a mid-morning event followed by a barbecue lunch. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

If you want to make sure you get in on the fun, you can RVSP to leech.lake.stewardship.committee@gmail.com with how many people are in your group, and any dietary restrictions.

LLCA Contact Information

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