



# Leech Lake Cottagers' Association NEWSLETTER

Civic Holiday 2024

## **Leech Lake Roads' speed limit is 20 kph.**

While sitelines on our roads are getting better, and the roads are getting smoother, this is not an invitation to speed! It is impossible to see around corners, and vehicles exiting driveways are often blind. Safety first! If you rent your cottage, make sure renters also know how important it is to go slowly. Take your foot off the gas, for everyone's safety.

## **Leech Lake Regatta is Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>!**



Come one, come all, to the Leech Lake Regatta.

12:00 noon – 3:00 pm at the boat launch.

We will have a barbecue lunch followed by games for kids, and adults who still feel like kids. Come and participate and have a laugh with your neighbours.

Photo contest prizes will also be given out to our three winners!

## **Save the Date**

Leech Lake Regatta	Sunday August 4 noon-3
Bottle Drive	Every Sunday in August
Scrap Metal Drive	August - September

**We need volunteers for all of these events – please contact [leechlakesecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:leechlakesecretary@yahoo.com) and we'll get you organized to help out.**

## **Road Work Ahead...and Behind**

The first two weeks of July work began, expanding a portion of the North road, mainly to make it easier for first responders, vehicle recovery, and contractors as well as improving the sightlines. It's still a work in progress, and is a tad unsightly, for now. In the months ahead more rocks and gravel will be added to build up the voids created by the larger rocks we placed in the ground.

At the 90-degree right turn area on the North road we pushed back some boulders /rocks in order to improve the drainage and sightlines around this corner.

We also tried some cold pack asphalt on portions of Bigley hill on the North road in order to stabilize / firm up some ground there. We will monitor how well it holds up to the car, truck, service vehicle traffic and the weather. This is a stopgap measure until we can undertake a proper fix of the hill.

Road Grading: All Leech Lake roads were graded on the second week of July. We added 180 ft of new gravel on the North road.

Road edge brush clearing: In the third week of July a service provider was onsite to cut back the brush and grasses at our road edges. It was not their best work, and some issues around job quality on the North road were encountered. We noted these to the service provider who made amends, corrected the minor problems their work caused and reduced their invoice.



## **The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Leech Lake Bug Count A Big Success!**

The benthic monitoring (bug count) held on Sunday July 21 was a great success. More than 20 Leech Lakers were guided by Maggie Dechert, a District of Muskoka environmental technician, in the counting of insect life present in lakewater samples that she and Rick McCoy gathered earlier in the morning. This assessment of the bugs living in the lake will tell us important things about the health of our water. Big thanks to Valerie & Rick McCoy (1037 North) for hosting, and volunteers Shelley & Vaughn Bumstead (1011 North) and Leslie Wood (1173 North).



## **Leech Lake Photo Contest – Results are In!**

There were 62 gorgeous photos of Leech Lake nature and wildlife submitted to our photo contest. Some of the wildlife resembled homo sapiens, but we figure those are a kind of wildlife, so if the shoe fits...

More than 20 Leech Lakers voted for their top 10 photos. The 3 winning photos, and the 7 honourable mentions, are displayed [here](#) on our website. The top 10 photos were created by:

1	Chris Trevelyan	2	Tom Bartlett
3	Gail Labelle	4	Chris Trevelyan
5	Ashley Lennox	6	Kathy Labelle
7	Chris Trevelyan	8	Chris Trevelyan
9	Tom Bartlett	10	Greg Walsh

The winning photo, by photographer Chris Trevelyan (1089 North) is also shared below.



## **Septic System Pump-outs Underway**



We have completed five waves of Septic System pump outs so far this year. A wave = three cottages. There are another three waves coming in the weeks ahead.

Should you decide to have your septic system pumped out this year you can reach out to the roads group to get set up.

Email to [leechlakeroads@gmail.com](mailto:leechlakeroads@gmail.com)

## **Creating Our Own 'Natural Edge' Shoreline – by Valerie McCoy**

More than 10 property owners have taken advantage of the shoreline assessment offered free of charge by the Natural Edge program. We received a planting plan for our property last fall, and in the spring picked up our plants. The weekend we planted was filled with torrential rain, but Kasey and Alex were troopers and braved the many raindrops to get our planting done. We are looking forward to watching everything grow!



## **August / September scrap metal drive**



If you have old bikes, wood stoves, tire rims, oil tanks, scrap metal of any kind, metal cabling or old appliances you can add them to our 60-day scrap metal drive.

The proceeds from the scrap metal will be going to local charity(s), which have yet to be named.

Bring your scrap metal to the drop-off location. Look for the flagged markers in between #1094 and #1098 South road.



## **99 Bottles of Beer on the wall...**

Our month-long bottle drive will be taking place this August. As with other years, the proceeds of our bottle drive will help out two local charities – who they are is still TBD. The bottle drive volunteers will do pickups on Sunday afternoon, or early Sunday evening. If you normally leave late Sunday night or early Monday please leave your donations - cans and bottles are welcome - approximately 20 feet from the road on either side of your drive.



## **Summer in Muskoka: Come out and Play!** – by Guy Pattison

Before Streaming: Years ago when the family summer vacationed together one of the more popular vacation activities was to watch a movie outside, in the open air, under the stars, on the big screen at the drive-in. There's something absolutely magical about a drive-in movie. Find out more [here](#).

Can't wait for Christmas? Take the family out to Santa's village theme park. There are lots of activities for the whole family. No visit to Muskoka is complete till you've gone to Santa's Village. A Muskoka tradition for almost 70 years. Check it out [here](#).

Got a need for some speed? A little over an hour away from Leech Lake in Brechin you'll find a karting facility for both novice and serious Karters. Learn more [here](#).

## **A different kind of shower is coming soon**

Look up in the sky, is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the annual Perseid meteor shower!

You can watch these unfold August 11-13. Best viewing time is midnight – 4am, but you'll see them earlier too. You can enjoy them from the comfort of your deck, dock, or on the water. It really is a spectacular sight to behold.



More info [here](#).

## **Bits 'n Pieces**

1. **FOCA Elert:** the most recent Federation of Cottage Associations newsletter is full of great [information](#).
2. **Garbage is for early birds!** – our garbage and recycling pickup provider comes early on Monday mornings, often before 8:00 am. Please don't put garbage and recycling out after that time, it will sit for a week. The green bin truck comes later in the day – remember not to leave a green bin out on Sunday night (unless it's in a bear bin) or it will attract animals.
3. More info on Friends of the Muskoka Watershed (FOTMW) can be found here – <https://fotmw.org>. **For the kids, check out how you can become a Citizen Scientist with FOTMW.**

## **LLCA Contact Information**

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