

# Leech Lake **Cottagers' Association** **NEWSLETTER**

Canada Day 2025

## Annual General Meeting

The 2025 Leech Lake AGM took place over Zoom on Wednesday, June 18. Thirty-four members attended the Zoom meeting, and 38 members voted on our annual meeting motions.

Vice President Rob McGill reviewed highlights from the membership survey which was fielded in April 2025. There was good discussion on roads improvement, winter road maintenance, stewardship priorities, and dues.

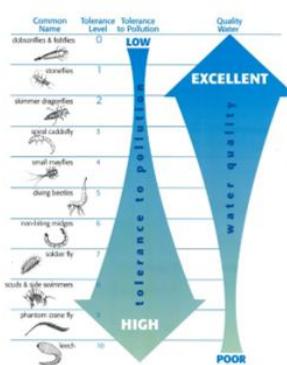
Shelley Bumstead, Treasurer, presented highlights of the association's financials. Our membership is slightly down from 2024, which is a concern. Our reserve (emergency) fund is being built back after being depleted in 2022/2023. Shelley is stepping down from the Treasurer role, and she emphasized the need for people to step up and volunteer for the LLCA executive.

Rob thanked Shelley for all her hard work and efforts in service to the organization.

Valerie McCoy, Stewardship Chair, presented the following on 2024 results and 2025 plans.



## Benthic Monitoring



### Benthic Monitoring (Bug Count) July 21, 2024

- Organic pollution score (Hilsenhoff index value) indicated better water quality than the Muskoka average Vs 2023 where it was not as good
- Keep in mind results will differ with temp, site chosen etc. Looking for long term trends.
- We need undisturbed shoreline with silty bottom (vs. roe) not easy to find!
- Continue working on things we can control WRT to what gets in the lake & at what rate.
- Septics chemicals we put in & around our property, limit run off & shoreline erosion encourage natures filtration system

### Next Bug Count July 19th, 2025

- BBQ & Prizes for Counters
- Need volunteers to plan & on the day
- Contact Valerie McCoy



<https://www.saugeenconservation.ca/en/water-management-and-protection/biomonitoring.aspx>

**Muskoka WaterWeb**

Your Link to Muskoka's Water!

Search...

WATER 101 LAKE DATA WATERFRONT LIVING RESOURCES BY TOPIC CONTACT US HOME



You are here: Lake Data > Muskoka Data > Lake Data Sheets > Leech Lake

**Leech Lake**

**Location**  
Leech Lake is located in the geographic township of Oldfield east of the Muskoka town centre. Leech Lake can be accessed via Leech Lake Rd off Muskoka Rd 14 also known locally as Fireberg Rd. Leech Lake flows into the South Branch of the Muskoka River.

**Lake Data Sheet**  
Muskoka's Lake System Health monitoring program includes tests for benthic depth (a measure of water clarity), phosphorus concentrations (a measure of nutrient enrichment), dissolved oxygen and temperature.

The data collected for each sample site is summarized in a Lake Data Sheet. The [Muskoka District Shorline Data](#) document explains the information contained in the Lake Data Sheets.

For sampling methodology, please see the annual Lake System Health Monitoring Program report, which is available on the [District Muskoka's Lake Data](#) section.

[Muskoka Web Map - Sample Point](#)  
[Leech Lake Data Sheet](#) (coordinates: 45.0496 -79.0988)

**Shorline Land Use Maps**  
Shorline Land Use Surveys collect data on shoreline vegetation, shoreline structures and the first 20 metres of land surrounding a waterbody. This information is then mapped and presented to lake associations, Area Municipalities and other interested parties for planning purposes.

[Leech Lake Shorline Land Use Survey](#)

**Leech Lake Land Use Survey, June 2006**

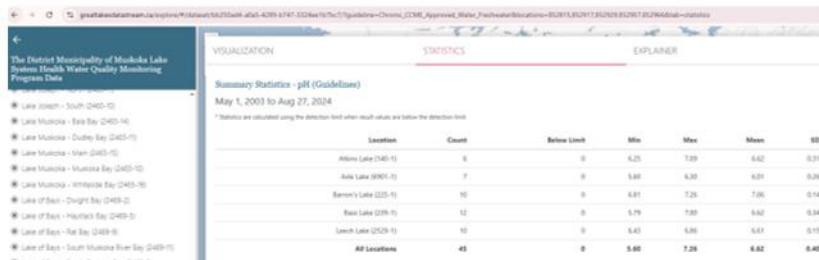


The map shows the outline of Leech Lake with a green boundary. Inside the lake, there are several small yellow dots representing survey points. The surrounding land is divided into various property lots, each with a different hatching pattern. A legend in the bottom right corner provides a key for these patterns, including 'Residential', 'Commercial', 'Agricultural', 'Forested', 'Wetland', and 'Other'. A north arrow is also present on the map.

<http://www.muskokawaterweb.ca/lake-data/muskoka-data/lake-data-sheets/leech-lake#c>

## Lake Reports

- Fleming State of the Lake Reports (CP4) included chemical, benthic, micro tests and a study of the trends over time in a readable format of 100+ pages. Program suspended
- Expected to get report for the EM Technician program. No data, no report
- Not sure about 2025- tbd in fall
- DOM does chemical testing every 2 years now on DataStream



## LLCA Has A New Treasurer!

The LLCA is delighted to welcome Anne Hampton (1042 South) as our new Treasurer – thank you Anne for volunteering! Anne has budget experience from her past employment, and acted as treasurer on a previous board of directors. Shelley will transition the position to Anne over the next few weeks. We look forward to Anne's keen eye taking care of our finances.

## **2025 Save the Date!**

Bug Count (benthic monitoring)	Saturday, July 19, 2025 10:00 am, 1037 North
Leech Lake Regatta	Sunday August 3, 2025 12:00 noon-3:00 pm
Bottle Drive	Every Sunday in August

## **Septic Service**

**The cut off date to book your Septic System service for 2025 will be July 4<sup>th</sup>.** The provided prices are based on septic system sizes. Current prices are \$508.50, \$627.15 and \$745.80. These may change once



we get over 11 residents signed up, because that will trigger their volume discount. We currently have 10 residents participating. Payment can be made by E-Transfer, Cash or Cheque directly to the provider.

You do not need to be onsite but you will need to ensure that your tanks covers are free and clear of tree parts, dirt, debris, grass etc. They will not pump out your tanks unless the covers are easily accessible.

There will be a few waves of pump outs taking place July-5th thru to July-14th. More info to follow.

## **Stewardship** – by Valerie McCoy

### **Muskoka Lakes Association Executive Forum**

Leech Lake Exec received an invitation to attend the Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) Executive Forum on Sat June 21st. Valerie & Kasey McCoy attended the no cost ½-day session at the Muskoka Lumber Community Centre in Bracebridge on behalf of the LLCA.

Representatives from small and large associations joined including Horseshoe Lake, Brandy Lake, Stephen's Bay, 3 Mile Lake, Skeleton Lake, High Lake, Little Lake.

Topics & speakers included: Managing Muskoka's Watershed - Keynote Speaker - Kevin Trimble, Director and Past Chair, Muskoka Watershed Council

Breakout Sessions included:

- Advocating for Responsible Development- Steve Rohacek, Chair, MLA Government & Land Use Committee & Ken Pearce, MLA President
- Addressing the Impact of Boating, Dian Paquette, President, Safe Quiet Lakes, Director FOCA
- Monitoring & Managing Water Quality - Deb Martin-Downs, Chair, MLA Environment Committee; President FOCA

MLA has a comprehensive water sampling program that could provide LLCA valuable information at a low cost. Samples are collected and tested for Total Phosphorous, Water clarity, Total Coliforms, E Coli and in some cases Chloride (from road salt) and Harmful Blue Green Algae. ALS labs provides a volume discount for the testing and Hutchinson Environmental Services Ltd. analyzes the results and reports on trends. The consolidated report is published and available for MLA members.

MLA [Www.mla.on.ca](http://Www.mla.on.ca). has a comprehensive members-only section on its website and publishes impressive educational material.

The attendees had similar issues whether it be making things happen at the municipal level, maintaining private roads to trying to “preserve the view from the canoe”. Our Leech Lake swag caught the attention of a number of people and we were surprised to have a small line-up at our table. The experience in the room was impressive and networking opportunity valuable. The benefit of being part of this Association could be significant.

We have recommended LLCA pay the \$150 individual membership. [Www.mla.on.ca](http://Www.mla.on.ca).

FYI -A rally is planned Sat Aug 9th to demonstrate against developers who have made appeals to the Ontario Land Tribunal regarding important policies / environmental safeguards in the Township of Muskoka Lakes Official Plan. At issue is the conditional sale by Infrastructure Ontario of 33 hectares of the former Muskoka Regional Center / Sanatorium.

## ***The Lazy Cottager***

Dear Leech Lakers,

I am a laid-back cottager who does the bare minimum of work around my cottage by the lake. My shoreline is teeming with native plants that attract birds, fish, and animals, all thanks to my hands-off approach. To my surprise, the Muskoka Watershed Council actually encourages my laziness, as leaving the shoreline untouched is beneficial for the lake's health. It turns out that being idle can have its rewards. [muskokawatershed.org](http://muskokawatershed.org)

Yours truly,

The LazyCottager

PS – I will periodically share my thoughts and experiences on how lazy cottaging is good for lake stewardship. You too can be lazy and help the lake!

### **Wobbly pops for Local Charities – Annual Bottle Drive**

During the month of August a band of volunteers will be doing pick-ups of your previously enjoyed beverage containers. If you wish to donate those please leave them a few feet up your drive away from your regular garbage, compost and recycling bins. We will drop by early Sunday evening or early Monday morning. The funds generated from the bottle drive this year will be donated to the Manna Food Bank, Salvation Army Food Bank and the Alzheimer's Society of Bracebridge.



## **Ticks in Muskoka – play it safe!** – by Leslie Wood

Blacklegged ticks, which can carry Lyme disease, are present in Muskoka and other parts of Ontario. These ticks are becoming more common due to climate change and are active during warmer months, particularly in wooded and grassy areas. It's important to take precautions when outdoors to avoid tick bites and Lyme disease.

- **Ticks thrive in specific environments:** They are commonly found in wooded areas, tall grass, and overgrown grassy habitats. Ticks are often found in and near areas with trees, shrubs, grass, wood piles and piles of leaves. Ticks can also be found around your home. They can't survive for long in dry, sunny areas.
- **Lyme disease is a concern:** It is a bacterial infection transmitted through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick.
- **Early symptoms of Lyme disease:** May include fever, chills, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, and a rash that expands from the bite site.
- **Severe symptoms can occur if left untreated:** These can include recurring arthritis, neurological problems, and heart disorders.
- **How to protect yourself from ticks:**
  - **Wear protective clothing:** Long-sleeved shirts and pants, closed-toe shoes, and light-coloured clothing are recommended to make ticks easier to spot.
  - **Tuck your pants into your socks and your shirt into your pants:** This helps prevent ticks from crawling under your clothing.
  - **Use insect repellent:** DEET or Icaridin-based repellents can help deter ticks.
  - **Stay on marked trails:** Avoid walking through tall grass and wooded areas where ticks are likely to be present.
  - **Check for ticks:** After spending time outdoors, thoroughly check yourself, your children, and your pets for ticks.
  - **Remove ticks promptly:** If you find a tick attached to your skin, remove it carefully with fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible, then pull it straight out with steady, even pressure. Avoid twisting or jerking the tick. After removal, clean the bite area and your hands with soap and water or rubbing alcohol.



Do not attempt to remove a tick by burning it, using petroleum jelly, or any other folk remedies. These methods can be ineffective and perhaps harmful.

Kill the tick before disposing of it by drowning it in rubbing alcohol or by freezing it for several days. Avoid squashing ticks with bare fingers as infection may enter through breaks in your skin, such as close to the fingernail. You can dispose of ticks in your household garbage once they're dead.

- **Shower soon after being outdoors:** This can help remove any loose ticks.

If you suspect you have Lyme disease:

- **Seek medical attention:** If you develop symptoms of Lyme disease, especially a rash that resembles a bullseye, consult a doctor for diagnosis and treatment.
- **Early treatment is crucial:** Antibiotics can effectively treat most cases of Lyme disease in the early stages.

**There is an excellent Canadian resource called TickTool that can be found [here](#), and an associated public platform called etick.ca for image-based identification and population monitoring of ticks in Canada.**

## **You're the Bee's knees, but are your trees OK?** – by Guy Pattison

Not sure if your **Pine** trees are healthy? Here are signs of problems: Pine cones with spots, brown needles, bugs, bark damage, the presence of fungi on the tree bark. Sawdust on trunk or base indicate bark beetle.

Not sure if your **Fir** trees are healthy? Here is what to look for: Yellow needles, early needle drop, bark abnormalities (peeling, or missing sections), dead or brittle branches, and the presence of decay at the base. Patches of missing bark can indicate a long-term problem as well as vertical cracks in the trunk indicate disease or decay.

Not sure if the **Birch** trees on your property are healthy? Here are some tell tale signs something is amiss. Look for sparse, drying or yellowing leaves. You may also see wilting and dying of foliage from the crown, or top of the tree. You may also notice D-shaped insect exit holes in the bark. Excess sap on tree trunk will be due to insect infestation. Once these symptoms are visible, the tree will continue to decline, even if treated.

Not sure if the **Maple** trees on your property are healthy? Leaves may turn yellow, brown, or black, often indicating a lack of nutrients or water. Leaves changing colour earlier than normal in the season can be a sign of stress. The bark on your tree may also experience large patches of missing or peeling / cracking bark: This can indicate damage, disease, or pest infestation, and may expose the tree to further harm. You may also have root damage if you have bare branches on one side of the tree.

Contact one of the many local arborists should you have tree issues, e.g, Davey Tree, Barlett Tree Services, Integrity Tree Care.

## Looking for things to do around Bracebridge in July?

### **Who's got the power, who digs pioneers and likes shows?**

The Muskoka Pioneer Power Show takes place every July at the J.D.Lang Activity Park in Bracebridge. For almost 40 years this show has educated and entertained generations of families. This years show will take place on July 11,12 and 13.

It's a niche type event but if you're with the grands that weekend take them down there so Mom and Dad can have a break or bring the whole family and enjoy the show. More details [here](#).

### **Are you Crafty, or a Crafter?**

The annual Muskoka Arts and Crafts fair will be taking place July 18, 19 and 20. It's one of Ontario's oldest and largest rural outdoor events. Come on out and enjoy the food and live music and maybe find that unique, quirky or functional piece for your cottage. Find details [here](#).

## Volunteer for the 2025 Leech Lake Regatta

We have one volunteer who has stepped up to help with the Regatta – thank you, Hui! That's a great start but we need more folks to take on the planning and running of the event. Following is a list of the roles / tasks required. Please email [leechlakesecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:leechlakesecretary@yahoo.com) or [leech.lake.stewardship.committee@gmail.com](mailto:leech.lake.stewardship.committee@gmail.com) to let us know your interest and we'll connect the volunteers to take it from there. LLCA will provide the committee with a budget for the event.

- Site Co-ordinator (plus two other volunteers)
- Food Co-ordinator (plus two other volunteers)
- Prize Co-ordinator
- Games Co-ordinator (plus two other volunteers)

We will also need volunteers to undertake communication pre-event and prepare signage as needed on the day.

Let's make this a regatta to remember!



## Keepers of the Lake

It takes an army of people to build community. We know there is lots of helping and kindness that goes on around Leech Lake, and we want to call out some of our helpers in each newsletter. If you know someone you'd like to have recognized for something they did, please email [leechlakesecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:leechlakesecretary@yahoo.com) and we will get it in our next newsletter.

In this issue we would like to recognize Shelley Bumstead, who stepped down from the LLCA Treasurer role at the AGM on June 18 after four years of service. Shelley has a quiet demeanour, but she has wicked skills and could be counted on to know the details of our finances at any moment. Shelley guided us well during budget development, and managed all the 'finance and admin' details brilliantly. We thank her for the tremendous effort that goes into making an important job look easy!



## TUESDAY, JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>

**JOIN US IN DOWNTOWN BRACEBRIDGE  
FOR AN EVENING OF FUN!**

Memorial Park - Noon - 4pm    Downtown - 4pm - 9pm    Bracebridge Bay - 6:30pm

### Live Music

#### Memorial Park Bandshell

- 12:00 - Muskoka Concert Band
- 1:00 - Mitch Beube and Jason Crawford - "Hip Hop Jazz"
- 2:00 - Tamica Herod and Friends
- 3:00 - Curt Dunlop and Grady Kelnick

#### Manitoba Street - Downtown

- 4:00 - Briar Summers
- 5:00 - "Me and Maggie G."
- 6:00 - Menfolk
- 7:00 - Todd and Robyn
- 8:00 - Liam Kearney Kids Show

#### Bracebridge Bay - Wharf Road

- 6:30 - The Mighty Lopez
- 7:30 - Metis Fiddle and Dance with Alicia Blore
- 8:30 - Classic Canadiana with "Wheelhouse"
- 9:45 - Drone and Fireworks Show

### Food Trucks

#### Manitoba Street - Downtown

- Fry-R-Truck
- Wild Kernel Co.
- Sugar Nuts
- Screamy's Ice Cream

#### Bracebridge Falls - Wharf Road

- Lions Club BBQ

### Cottage Games

4:00pm - 9:00pm

Pickle Ball, Badminton, Connect 4, Tetherball, Corn Hole and more!

### Tour a Fire Truck

- Tour one of the Fire Departments Trucks

### Canada Day Craft

- Make and Take a Craft

### Bracebridge 150

- Check out the Muskoka Pioneer Power Display
- Discover fun facts about Bracebridge history!
- Check out the "Walk Down Memory Lane" panels along Chancery Lane."

### Canada Day Cupcakes

12pm while supplies last

- Grab a cupcake and flag at the Bracebridge Visitors Center - 3 Ecclestone Drive. Courtesy of the Bracebridge Chamber of Commerce

### Fireworks

9:45 pm

**Suggested Donation - \$20 per Family**

Brought to you by Bracebridge Rotary Club



[www.downtownbracebridge.com](http://www.downtownbracebridge.com)    Downtown Bracebridge BIA

● Silver Bridge is closed for repairs no vehicle or pedestrian traffic will be permitted.

## Bits 'n Pieces

1. **FOCA Alert:** the most recent Federation of Cottage Associations newsletter is full of great [information](#).
2. 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

<b>President</b> - vacant	<b>Vice-President</b> - Robert McGill <a href="mailto:rob@ramlaw.ca">rob@ramlaw.ca</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> – Anne Hampton <a href="mailto:leechlaketreasurer@gmail.com">leechlaketreasurer@gmail.com</a>	<b>Secretary</b> - Leslie Wood <a href="mailto:leechlakesecretary@yahoo.com">leechlakesecretary@yahoo.com</a> 416-464-7000
<b>Road Advisory Committee Chair</b> - Guy Pattison <a href="mailto:Leechlakeroads@gmail.com">Leechlakeroads@gmail.com</a> 705-646-3565	<b>Road Advisory Committee Vice-Chair</b> - Blair Clark <a href="mailto:revblairclark@gmail.com">revblairclark@gmail.com</a> 289-259-9543
<b>Stewardship Chair</b> - Valerie McCoy <a href="mailto:leech.lake.stewardship.committee@gmail.com">leech.lake.stewardship.committee@gmail.com</a>	