

# Leech Lake Cottagers' Association **NEWSLETTER**

Labour Day Weekend 2025

## **Leech Lake REGATTA Rocked!**

The afternoon of Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Leech Lake boat launch was a rockin' good time. We had trouble counting because those kids kept darting every which way, but we're pretty sure we had more than 100 people enjoying the day.



Everyone had their fill of burgers and hot dogs, brownies, watermelon, donuts and juice while they caught up with friends and met new neighbours. And then the games began!

There were games for kids and adults alike, everything from musical buckets to water balloon toss, hanging donut eating, egg toss, relay races, fill-the-bucket-with-your-sponge and more. There was lots of healthy competition, good

sportsmanship, laughter and FUN. The tug-o-war with teams on paddleboards was a splashing good grand finale.

Many, many thanks to the volunteers who made this happen for everyone, including:

- Guy Pattison - set-up and tear-down
- Blair Clark - set-up, games support, tear-down
- Rob McGill - set-up
- Brad Clark - games co-leader
- Jaimie Clark - games co-leader
- Hui Wang - games support
- Jen Reilly - ribbons, medals and prizes
- Vaughn Bumstead – set-up, barbecue chef, tear-down
- Shelley Bumstead - barbecue and prize support, tear-down
- Don Wood – set-up, barbecue chef, tear-down
- Leslie Wood – food, set-up, barbecue support, prize support, tear-down



This year's success set the bar high for next year – let's come together to make it a great day in 2026!



### **Charity Bottle Drive reminder**

This Sunday, August 31, is the last collection day for Leech Lake's Charity Bottle Drive. Place your empties at the end of your driveway (other side from your garbage) on Sunday afternoon and volunteers will pick them up.

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.

### **LLCA Members' Community Hub on Facebook**

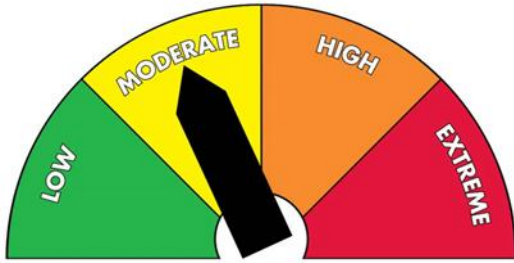
This Facebook group has been going strong for four years, and we are up to around 165 members. This private group is for members of the LLCA (and family). We are currently reviewing the membership of this group, and to give everyone fair warning, we will be removing anyone who has not paid their 2025 dues.





## Fire Danger Rating – Know the Facts

### **FIRE DANGER RATING**



**NO DAYTIME BURNING**

With our summers becoming hotter and drier every year, it's important that we all know the Bracebridge Fire Danger Rating. It's also good to understand the burning control bylaw.

The Fire Danger Rating is posted on the Bracebridge website [here](#) and updated whenever there is a change. You can also get up-to-date info by calling the Bracebridge Fire Department at 705-645-8258 or emailing [admin@bracebridgefire.com](mailto:admin@bracebridgefire.com).

The Burning Control Bylaw can be found [here](#). It is important to note that propane barbecues and propane fire pits are exempt from a fire ban in Bracebridge (because they don't create sparks), although they should be used with extreme caution.

A few keys to having a safe fire on your property include:

- Never leave the fire alone, even for a minute
- Only burn environmentally friendly products
- Keep the fire contained so that sparks and flames don't reach a neighbouring property
- Have ample water at the fireside at all times
- Ensure the fire is completely extinguished before being left.

Anecdotally, firefighters have said that many calls stem from campfires that were not put out properly, smouldered and then got out of control. Take extra care to be sure your fire is out before you leave it.

If you notice a fire on the lake during a fire ban, do the neighbourly thing and head over to check it out. Have a chat about the fire ban, maybe even offer to help them put it out.

## *The Lazy Cottager*

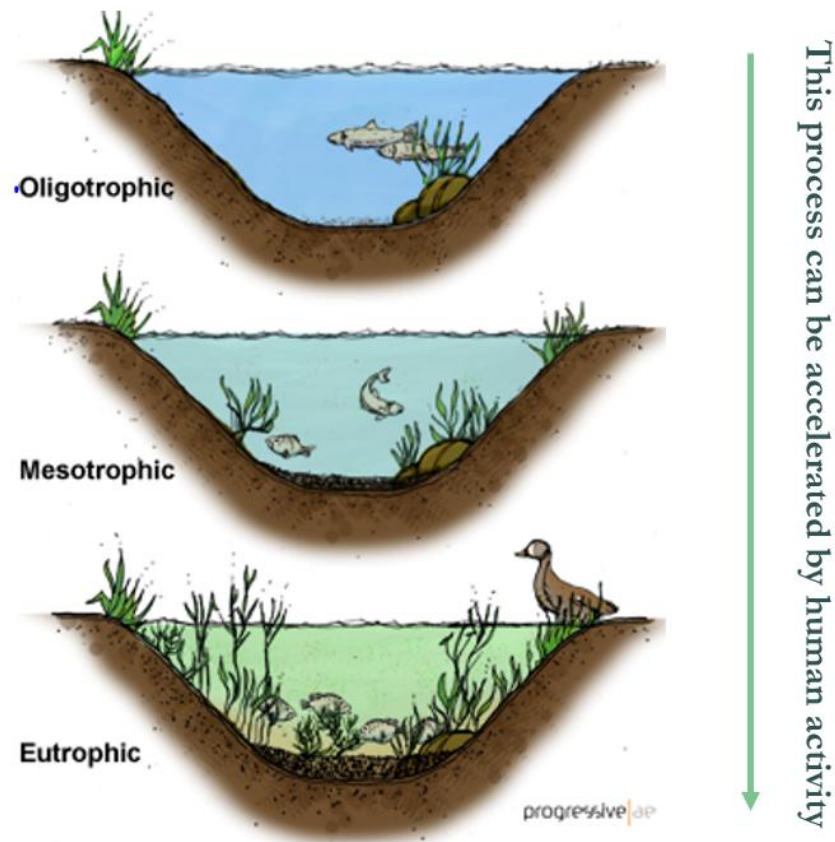


Dear Leech Lakers,

Let's talk about gardens. The effort required when planting annuals includes planting, weeding, watering, and fertilizing. Consider native perennials instead. Year after year, they surprise you by popping up like cherished visitors. They flourish with minimal effort because they have adapted to the Muskoka climate. You can find lots of ideas [here](#).

## Don't feed our lake!

- In freshwater lakes, phosphorus (TP) is the main limiting nutrient
- Major sources include human and animal waste, soil erosion, detergents, septic systems, and runoff from farmland or fertilized lawns.
- Legacy TP can be dormant in sediment and released with chemical processes or lake turnover
- As TP  $\uparrow$  so does productivity which increases demand for dissolved oxygen (DO)
- As DO  $\downarrow$  there is less for fish & other aquatic animals
- Strong correlation between human development and increased nutrients
- "Trophy" is an ancient Greek word for nutrients. Our TP indicates Leech Lake is Mesotrophic



*The introduction of phosphorus into lakes is called **nutrient enrichment** or eutrophication..*

[Source: Total Phosphorus? Totally Cool! - Muskoka Watershed Council](#)

Limiting nutrients entering the lake is something we DO have control over. Limit the nutrients on your properties. Now that the drought and scorching weather has subsided - let the buffer between your property and the shorelines grow.

## **The Town of Bracebridge's Silver Bridge**

Silver Bridge (on Ecclestone Drive, crossing the Muskoka River) was built between 1929 and the mid 1930s. In 1938, the bridge had decorative lights added and it is still lit up at night today. Silver Bridge has become a local landmark and icon and the bridge also enjoys heritage value due to its unusual design. In 2015, a stylized Silver Bridge became part of the Town of Bracebridge logo.



In January 2025 the bridge was closed after damage was discovered. Discussions are ongoing as to whether to refurbish or replace the bridge. Numerous companies within Ontario are participating with Expressions of Interest in repairing / refurbishing the Silver Bridge due to damage that was discovered in January of this year.

On July 15 there were several firms onsite (8 of the 41 interested) with the DOM and TOB representatives to go over the restoration work required. Work could begin early in the fall but the Silver Bridge re-opening could be as long as two years out. It would be nice if the town could open up at least a portion of the bridge for pedestrian, pet and bike traffic.

There is currently \$5 Million earmarked by the DOM for preliminary studies, special expenditures and immediate rehabilitation needs.

### **Did you know?**

**Paving roads and shoulders is good for turtles.** It discourages them from nesting which reduces the risk of injury or death from humans. If you are fortunate enough to see hatchlings this fall - only move them if they are on the road and move them in the direction of where they are going.

**Loons are indicators of water quality.** Loons require crystal-clear lakes (which makes it easier for them to see prey underwater) with abundant populations of small fish. Learn more [here](#).

**Young loons are left behind to migrate for their own good.** When adult loons start migration late fall, the young are left behind to feed and build strength before starting the journey. They will form groups (called rafting) and migrate together south. Once there the young will spend years on the wintering grounds before returning north to breed as adults. More details [here](#).

## **Red, Purple, Orange and Yellow**

Fall will be here soon, along with the spectacular fall colours.

There are many ways to see and enjoy the fall colour show. You can enjoy it, by boat, helicopter, rail, plane, hot air balloon, or by walking.

In Gravenhurst you can take daily or sunset steamship tours on Lake Muskoka. Some of these tours also offer lunch and dinner packages. Get more details [here](#).

Fancy an old time train tour of fall colours? Find out more [here](#).



## **Looking for a laff or two?**

Head out to Sandhill Nursery to their performance space for an evening of improv comedy taking place on Sept 19 @7:30pm. Check it out [here](#).

## **Muskoka Lakes Association Tidbit for Today**

The MLA has a printable Septic System Maintenance Record that could be useful at your cottage. You can find it close to the bottom of this page on their [website](#).

## **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.

A big Thank You to Blair Clark for his years of effort and energy spent working on behalf of us all at Leech Lake. Blair is co-chair of roads, but he does so much more! Blair is a font of knowledge about the area and goings-on around the lake. Further, he is a huge regatta proponent, and stores (and hauls) boxes and bins galore of regatta paraphernalia all year round so we have it to enjoy on regatta day.

## **Bits 'n Pieces**

1. **FOCA Elert:** the most recent Federation of Cottage Associations newsletter is full of great [information](#).
2. **Bracebridge Fall Fair:** Sept 12-14, JD Lang Park. There will be exhibits, antiques, games, food vendors, rides and cow pie tossing?
3. **Listen to Muskoka Information Radio:** Did you know about the Muskoka Information Station? It's at 98.3 FM on the radio dial, and you can find out more [here](#).
4. 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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