



Leech Lake Cottagers' Association NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

Membership Update

Reasons for paying cottage association dues include ensuring year-round road access, continuing lake stewardship, FOCA membership, participation in the regatta on August 2, fish stocking, access to the Facebook group, and attendance and voting rights at the June 2026 AGM.

Last year, 90% of cottagers paid their dues and, this year, as of March 29, 2026, 80% have paid. Let's all contribute to preserve access to our cottages, take care of our lake and build our community.

Save the Date

Free Lunch & Learn: Emergency Preparedness in Cottage Communities	Wednesday April 29 12:00 – 1:00 over zoom (see details later in newsletter)
Roadside garbage pick-up resumes	Monday May 4 2026
LLCA Annual General Meeting	Wednesday June 17 2026 over Zoom
Bug Count	TBD – usually a Saturday in mid July
Leech Lake Regatta	Sunday August 2 2026
Charity Bottle Drive	Sundays in August

LLCA Annual General Meeting – Join the Association, Join the Meeting

The annual meeting will be held over Zoom on Wednesday June 17.

Official notice and meeting materials will be distributed as required by regulation prior to the meeting. We will include online voting on motions as in past years.

We will be having elections for the positions of President and Secretary. The basic role descriptions are in our bylaws which are posted [here](#) on our website. We need volunteers to step into these roles to help guide and build our lake community. Please consider taking your turn.



New Leech Lake Secretary email address: leechlakesecretaryllca@gmail.com. Please change this in your system so your emails continue to be received.

2026 Road Report

Leech Lake Roads

This year, the Roads Committee plans to undertake the following regular maintenance and road improvements:

- Annual road grading
- Selective tree felling of dead trees
- Removing limbs of dying branches or dropping damaged or dying trees that are close to the road edges
- Install a drainage ditch/culvert by the south road property at #1199
- Widening of the north road on the echo creek hunt camp side between properties #1009 to #1023
- Enlarging the turnaround area at the very end of the south road for emergency / maintenance vehicles
- Determining scope of work to fix Biggly Hill on the North Rd.

Fraserburg Rd

The District of Muskoka is into their 2nd year of road improvements on various district roads. As for planned work on this road the DOM provided this response:

"The only thing confirmed that will happen this year on Fraserburg Rd is the replacement and upgrade of the test patch that was done last year. The test patch is located around civic addresses #1158 to #1258."

This winter they brought forestry equipment onto Fraserburg Rd which saw them clear swaths of land 10'-20'-30' into the forests. The entire road on both sides (where possible) will be cleared before the long weekend in May. This is being done to open up the sightlines as well as to clear damaged tree branches that pose a threat to hydro power availability. Expanded ditching at various locations will also take place over the next few months.



Lorne Rd

The Town of Bracebridge plans these work activities for 2026;

- Road edge brush clearing
- Pot hole filling, if required
- Culvert inspections and clean up, and potentially refitting with larger if required.
- Road edge dust/dirt sweeping

Stewardship Update

Representatives will attend the no-cost Muskoka Lakes Association 2026 Leadership Forum on June 13th in Bracebridge. The forum will focus on shoreline health, responsible development and boat wakes.

This year at Leech Lake we will commence a water testing program in association with the MLA. This will replace the discontinued Fleming program. Training will take place for participating lakes at a date to be announced. We will provide testing plans afterwards. If you'd be interested in becoming involved we'd love to have your support! Please reach out to Valerie McCoy at leech.lake.stewardship.committee@gmail.com.

The Lazy Cottager

Dear Leech Lakers,

Spring is here, and I'm already thinking about my cottage garden. To make things easier, I'm planning to focus on perennials! The Muskoka Conservancy is currently hosting their native plant sale, which is a great opportunity to stock up. Orders can be placed now for pickup on May 9.

Check out the details [here](#).

- The Lazy Cottager

Hummingbird Hazards (edited from Canadian Wildlife Magazine, Sept/Oct 2025 issue)

Feeding hummingbirds the wrong way can sicken or kill them. Here's how to keep your cottage visitors healthy and safe

A number of wildlife rehabilitation centres have recently reported an influx of sick and dying



hummingbirds with unretractable tongues due to fungal spores (candidiasis) becoming attached to the mouth and esophagus. It can affect the bird's entire gastrointestinal tract, as well as the skin and respiratory systems. Other symptoms include poor appetite, inflamed mucous membranes, difficulty breathing and swallowing, and thick mucous discharge.

This health issue comes from misinformed feeding practices. Here are a few tips to keep our hummingbirds safe:

- Boil one cup of plain, white, refined sugar in four cups of water – this is the only assured safe way to make hummingbird solution
- Never offer artificial nectar containing honey, artificial sweeteners or powdered, organic, brown and raw sugars

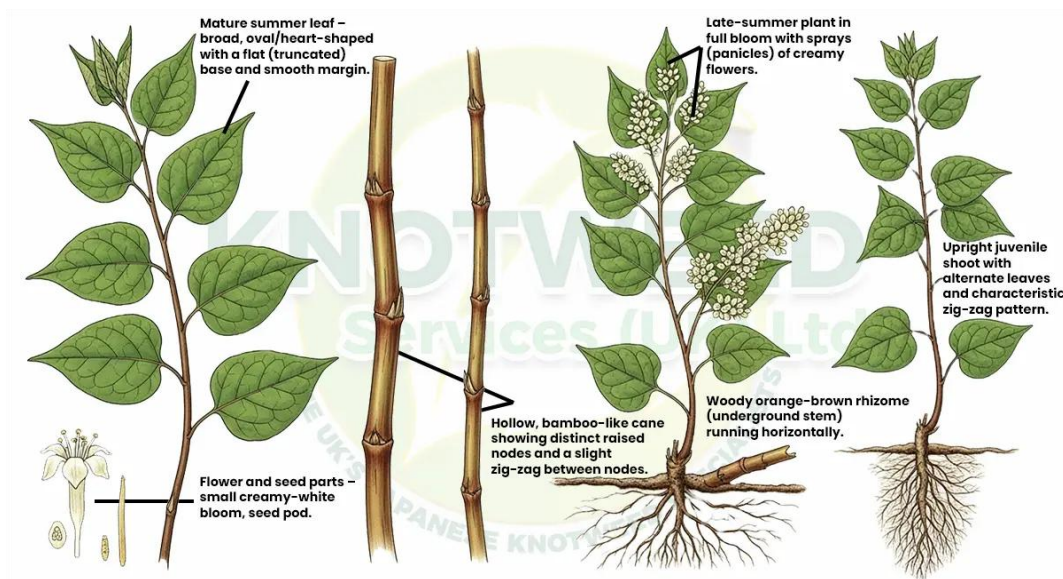
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- Don't add red dye colouring to attract the birds. Just like in humans, some of these dyes are harmful
- Keep feeders clean and hygienic, and don't allow dangerous fungi to grow in the solution
 - Try not to hang feeders in direct sunlight
 - Take feeders down every four or five days to scrub clean with hot water and dish soap – every third wash, you could immerse feeders in a 10% bleach solution
 - Don't fill the feeder full of solution – that way you'll clean them more often
- Suspend feeders with bright string or wire to minimize collisions with whirring wings
- Position feeders either within 30cm of glass windows or at least 4 metres away to prevent birds from hitting the glass
- Offer more than one feeder – hummers are pugnacious and will fight over access to a single feeder



Tying the knot in 2026 (Japanese Knotweed)

Japanese Knotweed is present around Leech Lake similar to last year. Various properties around the lake have it and removing/killing it can be a challenge. Do not cut, mow or dig it; this will stimulate the root system to go on a growing spree! Here's what it looks like:



It's very difficult to eliminate and eradicate but it can be controlled. Human intervention and herbicides (glyphosate or horticultural vinegar herbicide (20% acetic acid)) can greatly reduce its presence. If left unchecked it will starve out perennials, take down trees, kill shrubs, hedges and can damage building foundations, retaining walls, drives and roads.

Learn more about this naughty weed [here](#).

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Things to do in Muskoka this Spring

FOCA - 'Lunch & Learn' webinar: Emergency Preparedness in Cottage Communities

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm - When Minutes Matter: The Tools and Training That Can Save a Life at the Lake. Join FOCA and our partners at Action First Aid to learn how to save a life at the lake.

This is a free webinar, sponsored by Action First Aid. The event will be recorded, and an event recording will be circulated to registrants later, so you can watch at any time. You can find the registration link [here](#). Please share the registration link widely with family, neighbours, and your cottage community on social media.

Brunch at The Rosseau May 10th - 11am to 3pm

Celebrate Mother's Day at Windermere House!

Enjoy an unforgettable brunch experience with stunning lake views. Indulge in their gourmet spread featuring a Rosseau Carvery, a fresh Seafood and Raw Bar, made-to-order omelettes, and decadent desserts. A toast to Mom while enjoying the serene lakeside atmosphere. More info [here](#).

Bird watching in Muskoka

April 11th to May 28th

This is the second year for this series of bird watching tours around the Muskoka region.

Tours, tickets and additional info can be found [here](#).



Murder in Muskoka

Looking for an interesting/unique dining experience in Muskoka? The Muskoka Steamships & Discovery Centre invites guests to step back in time to 1942 for a Murder Mystery Gala.

An immersive wartime-themed evening presented in partnership with TimberBeast Productions on Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 6:00 to 10:00 PM.

More info and tickets [here](#).

The Goat - Goats + Walking = Happiness



Looking for something different to try with family and friends? Feel the need to connect with nature? Spend some time outdoors and get some fresh air, get your steps in, and unwind with a goat walk! More info [here](#).

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Did You Know?

The blue address number signs that identify your property on Leech Lake are known as “911 Civic Addressing Signs.” Their primary purpose is to help emergency responders find your property should the need arise. The Town of Bracebridge notes that every property should carry a 911 Civic Address Sign, and has guidance about signs and installation [here](#).

Please ensure you keep all vegetation, bushes and trees around your blue 911 Civic Address sign trimmed back so the sign is easily visible. Seconds count for first responders answering an Emergency Call; it could save your life or that of a loved one!

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 leechlakesecretaryllca@gmail.com.

In this issue, thanks go out to the Anonymous family because, this past winter, they created an access pathway along the shoreline that went all the way around our lake. It was put in place for those who wanted to walk, sled, ATV, snowshoe or cross country ski in those tracks. It got a lot of use!

Bits ‘n Pieces

1. **FOCA Elert:** the most recent Fdn of Cottage Associations newsletter is full of great [information](#).
2. **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](#).
3. More info on Friends of the Muskoka Watershed (FOTMW) can be found here – <https://fotmw.org>. **Kids can become a Citizen Scientist with FOTMW.**

LLCA Contact Information

Note new email for Leech Lake Secretary!

President - vacant	Vice-President - Robert McGill rob@ramlaw.ca
Treasurer – Anne Hampton leechlaketreasurer@gmail.com	Secretary - Leslie Wood leechlakesecretaryllca@gmail.com 416-464-7000
Road Advisory Committee Chair - Guy Pattison Leechlakeroads@gmail.com 705-646-3565	Road Advisory Committee Vice-Chair - Blair Clark revblairclark@gmail.com 289-259-9543
Stewardship Chair - Valerie McCoy leech.lake.stewardship.committee@gmail.com	

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