



Leech Lake Cottagers' Association NEWSLETTER

Civic Holiday Weekend 2026



Three Days of Summer Fun Start Here



Leech Lake Events

REGATTA – THIS WEEKEND!



**** IMPORTANT: REGATTA HAS MOVED TO MONDAY! ****

☁️ **Mother Nature has issued a rain check!** ☁️

The Leech Lake Regatta will now take place **Monday, August 3rd**.

We're choosing to **save the best for last** and finish off the long weekend with games, prizes, laughter, and lunch by the lake!

🎲 Games start at **10:30 a.m.**

🍔 Lunch begins at **Noon**

We can't wait to see everyone at the boat launch on Monday for a fantastic finish to the holiday weekend!

Annual Bottle Drive – Every Sunday in August!

Wobbly pops for Local Charities! 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 please leave them a few feet 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 local charities in Muskoka.

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 can and bottle donations approximately 20 feet from the road on either side of your drive.



Leech Lake – Go Natural T-Shirts and Hoodies

Our first batch of **Leech Lake Go Natural** shirts and hoodies was a huge hit! We've seen them around the lake and they look fantastic. Due to popular demand, we're putting together a **second order**.

To proceed, we need a minimum of 12 items ordered, so round up your family, friends, and neighbours and show your Leech Lake pride!

Order Deadline: Monday, August 3, 2026

Available Styles:

Unisex Navy T-Shirt

\$25 (tax included)

Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Unisex Indigo Hoodie

\$40 (tax included)

Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL



How to Order:

Send your: Name, Email address, Phone number, Item(s), size(s), and quantity to leech.lake.stewardship.committee@gmail.com Or request an order form if that's easier!

Payment: E-transfer to: leech.lake.stewardship.committee@gmail.com

Wear Your Love for Leech Lake

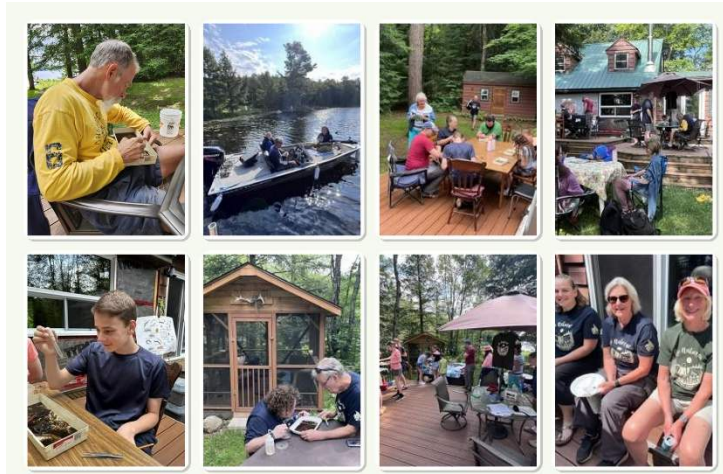
Whether you're helping restore natural shorelines, paddling the lake, or simply enjoying cottage life, these shirts and hoodies are a great way to support the **Go Natural** initiative and spark conversations about protecting the lake we all love.

Get your order in before August 3rd and help us reach our minimum order!

2026 Benthic (Bug Count) Results

Results are in from our 20th year of benthic monitoring event that took place July 25th.

Our Biotech technician from the District of Muskoka (DOM) arrived early to collect lake bottom samples at 2 sites. Rick McCoy took Mary by boat where she carried out the "Kick and Sweep" collection. From the collected samples, volunteers of all ages helped capture 200 benthics which were taken back to the DOM for further analysis. The kids collected tickets as they collected bugs, which went into a raffle for prizes. Thank you to Valerie and Rick for hosting the event!



Result summary:

Sample collected across from 1037 Lakeshore North:

Richness is equal to the Muskoka average, indicating typical biodiversity at this site. However, %EOT is well below the Muskoka average, suggesting fewer pollution-sensitive taxa are present. %Chironomids are slightly below the Muskoka average, indicating there is little evidence of organic pollution. %Predators are also below the Muskoka average, while collector/gatherers remain the dominant feeding group. The Hilsenhoff Index is slightly below the Muskoka average, indicating good water quality with little evidence of environmental stress.

Sample collected near Crown Land:

Richness is below the Muskoka average, suggesting somewhat reduced biodiversity at this site. However, %EOT is above the Muskoka average, indicating a relatively strong presence of pollution-sensitive species. %Chironomids are only slightly above the Muskoka average, suggesting little evidence of organic pollution. %Predators are slightly higher than the Muskoka average, indicating a modest shift in community structure, although collector/gatherers remain the dominant feeding group overall. The Hilsenhoff Index is well below the Muskoka average, indicating good water quality with little evidence of environmental stress.

Conclusions:

- Richness should be high (close to the average for Muskoka or above).
- % EOT will decrease and % Chironomids will increase over time with water quality impairment.
- % Predators should be less than the other types of benthos (shredders, collector/gatherers)
- and these percentages should remain relatively constant over time.
- The Hilsenhoff Index value should be close to the average for Muskoka or less, as a lower value indicates healthier water.

For more information please check out <http://www.muskokawaterweb.ca/>

Out and about in Muskoka

Attention Science Nerds

For those who like things icky, why not go on a cruise from the Gravenhurst Wharf to take science class on the water? You'll spend time learning about the critters that one would find in the lake and how they all work together. If you liked the stewardship bug count last weekend and you are available August 13th then this event is for you and your kids. <https://www.muskokalakeschamber.ca/event/peer-under-the-surface-cruise/>

Bracebridge Bandshell Concert Series

Wednesday evenings in Memorial Park. Enjoy free outdoor concerts featuring local talent and a beautiful Muskoka setting. Bring a lawn chair, a picnic, and enjoy an evening of live music under the stars.

Hockey Night in Muskoka

Cheer on community members, NHL players, and alumni at Hockey Night in Muskoka on August 13, 2026, at the Muskoka Lumber Community Centre. It's a fun summer event for hockey fans of all ages, with proceeds supporting local fundraising initiatives.

More information and tickets are available here: [Hockey Night in Muskoka](#)

Bracebridge Antique Show & Sale

August 21, 2026 at J.D. Lang Activity Park

Treasure Hunting in Muskoka! Browse antiques, collectibles, and vintage finds at the Bracebridge Antique Show & Sale. Whether you're a serious collector or just enjoy discovering hidden gems, there's something for everyone.

Roads Update

The cottage roads were graded this past week and we also installed two new culverts, one on the north rd (#1037) and one on the south road (#1006).

Hydro-One will be onsite next week continuing with the new poles for old poles upgrade project. They also spent time around our lake roads trimming back brush and branches that are too close to either their power lines or poles. Some of you may notice some discarded branches and tree debris on your properties from their pruning activities.

In the next two weeks Wes Finch and Sons will be onsite to build out a turn around area by the sled / walking trail on the south road. This project will improve the maneuverability for Garbage and Recycling trucks, Fire Trucks, Ambulances, Propane deliveries, Road graders and Snow services equipment. This could not come sooner as last Monday a recycling truck got beached well into the trail entrance which required a towing service company to pull the stuck vehicle out.

Keepers of the Lake

Dennis Hodges: For taking the time to clean up the boat launch and take some old broken chairs, garbage, etc. to the town dump in preparation for this weekend's regatta. Thank you Sir.

Steve Cooke: For his efforts in taking down a dying tree by the boat launch access road entrance. This makes it very easy now for vehicles navigating putting their watercraft into the lake.

Lloyd Watson: Who is very generous with his time and machinery over the past few weeks making the roads better for all of us. He has also helped out lake residents getting their watercraft into, or out of the water. We are grateful for his efforts keeping the boat launch access road in good shape and readying it for the regatta this weekend. His continued dedication to making the lake better is welcomed by all of us.



Upcoming Municipal Election

Prepare for the October 26th Municipal Elections!

To help members stay informed and engaged, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) has created a dedicated [Municipal Elections Resource Hub](#). There you'll find voter registration and eligibility information, FOCA's Municipal Election Priorities, links to Elections Ontario resources



We've Got a New Email Address!

The Leech Lake Cottagers Association now has an official email address: admin@leechlakecottagersassociation.ca

Whether you have a question, feedback, or information to share, we'd love to hear from you. Be sure to save our new address to your contacts and watch for future updates in your inbox!