

Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association

A community focused on protecting, nurturing and cultivating the natural, physical and social characteristics of Leonard Lake



ANNUAL LEONARD LAKE GOLF DAY - *THIS SATURDAY!*

**August 23rd - tee times from
1:00 PM**

Still room for two golfers! **RSVP to
Deb Solarski for golf and cart
Y/N at dlsolarski@gmail.com**



Apply for a short-term rental license by **September 30, 2025** to receive **20% off** your first annual license fee. Licenses will run **Nov 1, 2025 – Nov 1, 2026**

<https://www.muskokalakes.ca/township-hall/by-law-enforcement/short-term-rental-accommodations/>

WHO'S TAKING OUR WATER?

Fowler Construction is building roads close by and draining water from LL to assist with the work. Kent Taylor caught this photo of a Fowler truck filling up at the boat launch. Residents are concerned that our LL water level is low. Councillor Gord Roberts contacted the Township of Muskoka Lakes, Director of Operational Services following LL residents enquiries and was advised that the Township does not control water taking from lakes and rivers within the Township. Companies apply directly to the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Energy and Parks for water taking permits. Questions can be addressed to (Ontario) Client Services and permissions Branch 416-314-8001 or 1-800-



REQUEST FROM A CONCERNED LEONARD LAKE RESIDENT...

Leonard Lake Deserves Better - Why Hitting Golf Balls into the Lake Is Harmful and Should Be Stopped

At first glance, driving golf balls into Leonard Lake might seem like harmless cottage fun. The open water, the crisp sound of a perfect shot, and the sight of a ball sailing through the air all add to the appeal. But the truth is, this seemingly innocent pastime is harmful—to the lake, its wildlife, and the community that treasures it.

Even with the best intentions—like saying ‘Don’t worry, I’ll retrieve them’—you won’t recover all the balls from the lake. I still find ones that have been sitting on the lakebed for years.

Golf balls are not biodegradable. Their rubber cores and plastic coatings will break down slowly, releasing microplastics and toxic chemicals like zinc acrylate and BPA into the water. Over time, these accumulate on the lakebed, polluting the ecosystem and compromising water quality.

Beyond environmental harm, there’s an issue of respect. Leonard Lake is not a private driving range—it’s a shared natural space. People come here for clean water, scenic beauty, and peaceful recreation. Littering the lake with golf balls sends the wrong message: that personal amusement outweighs community responsibility.

There are also legal concerns. In many jurisdictions, dumping materials into a lake violates environmental regulations and can lead to fines. But regardless of legality, the moral issue is clear: if we claim to love our lakes, we must care for them.

Fortunately, there are alternatives. Hitting nets, or simply practicing on land are all better options that don’t involve polluting a fragile ecosystem.

In short, hitting golf balls into Leonard Lake is not harmless fun—it’s environmentally irresponsible. Let’s stop this practice, and protect the lake for the next generation. Nature deserves more than our trash.

Respectfully,
Mark Agro,
Leonard Lake resident

The Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) is the only member of the genus *Mniotilta*, which means ‘moss-plucking’, a reference to its behaviour of probing bark and moss. It is also one of our most distinctive and easily recognized warblers, with snazzy black-and-white stripes that results in it sometimes being described as a tiny zebra that creeps up, down and along the bark of trees.

Unlike most warblers, which typically flit quickly through foliage in search of insects, the Black-and-white Warbler shows off more like a nuthatch. You will see it climbing up and down tree trunks and large branches, probing under bark as it searches for high protein meals of insects and spiders. Equipped with strong legs and long “toes”, it scoots up and down vertical surfaces with ease.

The Black-and-white Warbler breeds across much of Canada as it favours mature deciduous and mixed forests from the east coast through to the west coast. Notably, it lets loose with a high-pitched, squeaky song—often described as “wee-see, wee-see, wee-see”—especially during the breeding season.



Black-and-white Warbler singing

By late summer, Black-and-white Warblers begin their southward migration. They will travel solo or in mixed groups, destined for wintering areas stretching from the southern United States through Central America and as far as northern South America. Some might make it as far south as Ecuador.

These warblers are regularly reported in the Muskoka area, especially in early spring. Conifers around our Leonard Lake shoreline make for excellent Black-and-white Warbler habitat and more than half a dozen birders have reported seeing one or more on the Huckleberry Rock Trail this year.

M. HATTON LL RD 2



LEONARD LAKE MEMORIES

(have any old LL stories to share?)

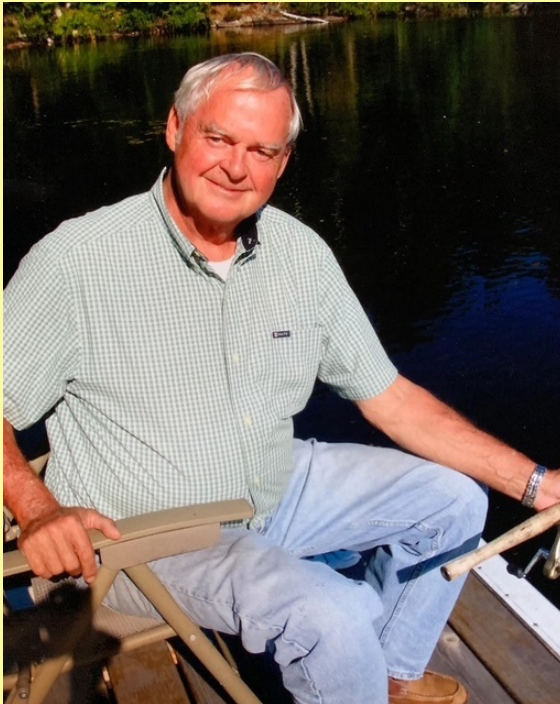
The Indian Trail

My first view of Leonard Lake was as a 10 year old in 1959. From then on, I spent my holiday summers with my mother on the lake. Things were very different then. In early 1960s there was still a distinct trail running parallel to the shore from the boat ramp to the north west bay. Most cottages were empty during the week except those with kids on summer holiday like me. The west shore had cottages built in the 1950s to 1960s. The east shore of the south bay wasn't developed until the 1970s.

As kids, we thought we found the remnants of a birch bark canoe amongst the lily pads against the shore between the docks of the Jays and Abbott Frys - the ribs and hull did not appear to be a cedar strip - thus, the trail became the "Indian trail". We saw no issue in following the shore line as it crossed the lots along the shore. Such a practice is highly frowned upon now as it is seen as trespass, yet our adjacent neighbours, on either side of us, pass back 'n forth to go to visit as we have for

decades, instead of demanding the longer climb up to the road and down again. All that is required is a wave and greeting as they pass through, made all the more natural as the four families in a row are now into their fourth-generation cottagers.
Sharon Abbott Road 2

COMMUNITY NOTICE - IN MEMORY OF KEITH VEITCH



Keith Veitch had a lifelong love for Leonard Lake, where his parents, Harvey and Dorothy Veitch, bought two beautiful lots in 1955. He later shared one of the cottages with his wife, Carole and their sons, Daniel and Cameron who still enjoy the lake with their families today.

Keith loved the simple things, dropping a line off the dock, reading in his hammock, and enjoying a glass of wine over a BBQ steak. He also loved playing games with his grandchildren, where he taught them that cheating "just a little" was all part of the fun.

To Keith, there was no such thing as a bad day at the lake!

Squirrels fly after midnight on Road 2...July 3/25 S. Watkins



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