

Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association

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



In This BLAST:

LLSA 2022 water quality project
Planting your septic bed

GET INVOLVED IN PROTECTING LEONARD LAKE WATER QUALITY!

Our Water Team 2022 Project - Tracking the Source of the Blue-Green

This month our Leonard Lake (LL) Water Team will commence further investigations and monitoring to understand what is causing the recent cyanobacteria algal blooms on our lake, and the best ways to monitor and control these blooms.

We are working together with the Muskoka Watershed Council's Algal Sub-Committee, the Provincial Lake Partner Program from Dorset, and the Muskoka Lakes Association. As an integral part of this year's project, we are consulting with Dr. Mark Verschoor, a Limnologist from York University; Dr Sue Watson, harmful algal blooms specialist; and Hedy Kling, Algal Taxonomist to advise us on plankton diversity and abundance, monitoring shoreline runoff, and deep-water studies to better understand the algal blooms on the lake. Our water quality plan for the season will include additional testing to identify areas of internal loading areas (phosphorus stored in lake bed sediment) at low oxygen sites and potential external loading at near shore areas.

This is a follow-up on the extensive study that was done five years ago and should tell us whether water quality conditions are improving, deteriorating, or remaining the same. This year, we also aim to learn more about how to track where Leonard Lake blooms originate.

It is expected that the LL 2022 water quality program budget of \$9,500. will allow LLSA to undertake a credible study, and to cover essential items such as expanded scope of testing and laboratory fees, water sampler rental and expert consultation. While we are keeping costs as low as possible through the generous donation of time by Leonard Lake volunteers, fund raising is required to cover a deficit of \$3,000 to pay for project equipment and services. Please help the LL Water Team launch a successful project by contributing to project costs.

Do you have questions about the LL water quality program? Are you interested in additional details about LL water quality or the activities of the water team? We are most interested in hearing your opinions, questions, suggestions and/or concerns. Let us know at leonardlakemuskoka@gmail.com

The Leonard Lake Water Team Needs Your Help!

To continue with "Eyes on the Lake" this season. We can expect blooms on our lake any time from June to November. If you see anything on or in the water that you think might be a bloom, please call one of our water team members as soon as possible:

- Bill Heatlie 705-840-6421
- Esther Giesbrecht 647-763-8677
- Ken Riley 705-764-1695
- or email leonardlakemuskoka@gmail.com

To be part of the water sampling team. We are looking for volunteers who will be living at the lake from May to October to help with sampling, recording, or dispatching samples by courier to the lab. We plan to sample midweek when there is less boat traffic. Please contact Esther at 647-763-8677 if you are interested and available to volunteer.

To financially support this effort. If you are able to donate:

-Send an e-transfer to LLSA at lisa1@outlook.com (no password required) and write 'water quality donation' in the notes, or,

-Go to www.leonardlake.net and choose 'donate' or,

-Renew your May 1, 2022 LLSA memberships dues at www.leonardlake.net and add a 'donation'

Do you have an available bunkie or bed for July 25th, 26th, or 27th? Dr. Mark Verschoor, will be returning to LL to work on the Leonard Lake study this year and needs accommodation on the lake for those days.

Thank you for any contribution you can make towards Leonard Lake water quality.

Our LLSA Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2022 (IN PERSON THIS YEAR!) at the Milford Bay Community Centre and members of the Water Team will be on hand to answer any water quality questions you might have. We look forward to keeping in touch with all stakeholders as the season unfolds, and a wrap-up report is planned for the fall. Stay tuned...

CAN I PLANT FLOWERS AND SHRUBS ON MY SEPTIC BED/DRAIN FIELD?

Yes you can. Many plants are safe for your septic bed but some can be problematic, so check before you plant. [Perennials](#) and grasses (including [ornamental grasses](#)) work best around your septic tank and drain field. Their shallow root systems are less likely to invade the underground system and cause it damage. Avoid planting large, fast growing trees and shrubs with root systems that aggressively seek out sources of water that could include the pipes in your septic tank drain field.

A good way to start is to consider growing conditions - sun or shade. The soil around the bed can be wetter and/or saltier than usual and you may need to look for deer-resistant perennials or ground cover.

It is not safe to eat food crops grown in the ground around a drain field because eating them might entail ingesting harmful bacteria. Be sure to wash your hands well after handling the soil on and around your septic bed/field.

<https://www.thespruce.com/safe-plants-to-grow-over-septic-tanks-and-drainfields-2132661>

LEONARD LAKE PHOTOS

Thanks to those who have taken the time to share pictures and memories - and we'd like to post your pictures too - people, scenery, times gone by, local flora and fauna, activities, etc. Any season will do! Send your favourites and comments to leonardlakemuskoka@gmail.com

Beautify your septic bed - 2021 pictures courtesy of B. McNeely



Copyright © 2022 Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

