

Happy Thanksgiving to you and family from the Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association



“Everything is a gift, and when you step back and truly consider it with any measure of honesty, it is all incredibly humbling.”

(Excerpt from [RESISTING HAPPINESS](#), by Matthew Kelly)

Forget to renew your membership this year? There is still time to do so! Please go to leonardlake.net and either register and pay on-line or print the membership form and send it with your \$55.00 cheque (made out to the LLSA) to:

Bev Leabeter 1128 Leonard Lake Road #2
Bracebridge, ON P1L 1W8.

membership matters...



Leonard Lake Algae Bloom Update

September 18th, the Simcoe Health Department confirmed that algal identification was conducted on water samples collected by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) from a shoreline property in the south west bay of Leonard Lake. Subsequent analysis confirmed a bloom of blue-green algae (specifically Anabaena) and a public notice was issued indicating the precautions to be taken by lake users.

Approximately two weeks after the disappearance of a bloom, MECP conducts follow-up sampling at the original bloom site. It is expected that samples will be collected from the southwest bay location by October 5th and toxicity testing undertaken. Provided that tests do not indicate the presence of toxicity Simcoe Health will post that the previous public notice has been lifted.

(Please note that the Public Notice posted on the District of Muskoka website October 1st was a correction regarding the location of the original bloom site and not a new bloom report.)

Leonard Lake has Confirmed Blue-Green Algae - That's Serious! Can I Help?

We can all help. There is an opportunity right now for every person on Leonard Lake that values their property and wants to maintain the value of their property, to step up to the task of improving lake water quality.

As owners or residents of property (both waterfront and backlot), whatever we choose to put in or on our land, or shoreline, or water, will have some impact on whole lake water quality, either positively, if our choices are “good for the lake” or negatively, if our choices are “bad for the lake”. If the results of our actions were immediate and visible that would be helpful and instructive, but that is not usually the case. Water deterioration is complex and the link between cause and effect a challenge due to a host of factors, however, there is one thing that each of us can control, and that is how we treat our land and water.

There are some excellent examples of “good for the lake” practices on Leonard Lake and many of us may even have a short (or long) list of “good for the lake” improvements that we intend to implement and it's just a matter of finding the momentum to get started.

Let's start with Fall. This is often the time of year for lot clean-up, garden preparation, boat maintenance and storage, dock removal, leaves removal, equipment repair, etc.

Keep in mind that phosphorus feeds algae growth. If you want to reduce the number of algae-feeding nutrients in the lake, especially phosphorus, reduce the nutrients that make

it into the water.

It's best to avoid fertilizer altogether if you are close to a water source. Fertilizer that makes your garden plants grow (including natural fertilizer) is going to make algae grow too. Plant native species instead, which are well-adapted to the environment and don't require special maintenance.

Leaves and grass clippings are loaded with phosphorus. Rake or blow leaves and clippings away from streams and lake. Algae blooms can flourish in waterways overloaded with phosphorus, and decomposing plant materials lower the levels of dissolved oxygen in the water.

Getting rid of old oil, pesticides, cleaners or solvents? Washing out paint brushes? If you are emptying these pollutants outside, they could end up in groundwater, lakes and streams. Bracebridge has a full-time, free, hazardous waste drop-off Monday to Friday 9:00AM to 5:00PM 705-645-2231.

Winter is a good time to consider and plan some longer term "water quality" behavioural changes. For example:

- researching alternatives to products that you have traditionally used inside or outside the house or garage that may impede septic system efficacy or contain ingredients such as phosphates that encourage algae growth.

- Choosing land composting over garbage disposal which deposits food waste and nutrients into the septic system.

- Honestly assessing that old boat motor through an environmental lens.

- Considering a spring landscape change that replaces grass with native plants and adds a shoreline buffer if none exists.

- Lastly, one of the most significant contributors to lake phosphorus and algae blooms is a failing septic system. The TML septic inspection this summer identified few issues on Leonard Lake, which is surprising given the number of septic systems that are 30 and 40+ years old. Do you know if your septic system is leaking phosphorus into the lake?

This can be a start for all of us towards a healthier lake. If you have instituted some "good for the lake" practices on your property, we'd love to hear about them at leonardlakemuskoka@gmail.com

The Robert's Leonard Lake Annual Food Drive



Gord and Jennifer Roberts gordonrobertsmuskoka@gmail.com are in their fourth year of organizing a Thanksgiving food drive on Leonard Lake. Last year the Roberts collected more than 200 pounds of food donations from Leonard Lake docks (**thank you Gord and Jennifer and all of the LL donors!**) and this year through a news article at www.muskokaregion.com, are challenging all Muskoka small lakes to surpass Leonard Lake's food bank donation weight!

If you wish to contribute to the Robert's Thanksgiving Food Drive, please leave (unopened and non-expired) food donations in a sealed plastic bag at the end of your dock, or on shore if the dock is out of the water. Collection will be Monday evening, October 8th after 8:00 p.m. or Tuesday, October 9th at 10:00 a.m. Cash donations are also accepted - last year \$100 was collected for the cause.

Year-round and seasonal LL residents are encouraged to contribute to this worthwhile cause, and for those closing up the cottage for a while, donating unused supplies is an excellent way to simplify the process. Depending on the goods received, the Roberts aim to support the West Muskoka Food, Glen Orchard, Salvation Army Food Bank, and the Manna Food Bank.

Looking for donation ideas?

Canned (especially canned meat), unopened jar, and dried foods are appreciated and cans with pull-tabs are essential for some recipients. Consider donating snacks and lunch items for kids, basics such as cereal, coffee, tea, toiletries, soap, detergent, toilet paper and pet food.



Friends of Muskoka

Protecting our lakes from harm.



VOTE EARLY! As you are well aware, the 2018 Municipal elections are imminent.

Voting starts October 12th. As recent Township of Muskoka Lakes Council and Planning and Economic Development Committee decisions concerning unsustainable development on Leonard Lake, Gull Lake and Camel Lake have demonstrated, lake associations and communities have a strong voice - particularly at election time. Now is the time to use our combined voice to elect politicians who share our values and who will fight to protect our lakes.

Friends of Muskoka and the Muskoka Lakes Association have come together to recommend aligned candidates in Township of Muskoka Lakes, Gravenhurst, Bracebridge and Seguin.

<https://mailchi.mp/bbc0caed1c77/vote-to-save-muskoka>

VOTER INFORMATION LETTERS HAVE ARRIVED!

Last week you should have received your Voter Information Letter at the address where you receive your property tax bill. It contains all of the information that you will need in order to vote online or by telephone.

If you did not receive your Voter Information Letter this week, and you are entitled to vote, contact your municipal office to ensure you are registered on the Voters' List.

You must be registered on the Voters' List in order to vote. You can be added to the Voters' List at any time before election day, so it is not too late. Remember, you may vote in all municipalities where you own property. Check our election page [here](#) for your municipal office telephone number and hours.

Voting is online or by telephone only, from 10:00AM on October 12th until 8:00PM on October 22nd. You can go to your municipal office to get help with voting online. Please note that the Township of Muskoka Lakes mistakenly sent a warning to all voters that their date of birth is not on the elector list. **Take a minute to call the Voter Help Line at 705 765-3156 to find out if your date of birth is in the system because you cannot vote without it.**

Thank you so much for everything you do on behalf of Muskoka.

All the best, Laurie Thomson,
President, Friends of Muskoka



Vote For Gord Roberts - Councillor Ward B

Many of you on Leonard Lake know Gord Roberts well, and if so, none of the following will come as a surprise. To know Gord, is to understand that once he commits to anything, he keeps his eye on the goal and works tirelessly until the job is done.

Gord was the founder of the Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association in 2004. That is an easy thing to say, but hugely challenging to do. He started with a vision and a talent for selling a good idea and here we are 18 years later with a solid membership of 90 properties around Leonard Lake.

Gord has led many LLSA initiatives over the years, driven by his passion for the land and water: Muskoka Lakes Water Quality Initiative, Invasive Species Program, Lake Partnership Program, Benthic Study, loon nesting construction, Love Your Lake program and the 2017 intensive water quality study.

Never satisfied with just one project, Gord is currently Chair of the Milford Bay Community Centre Board. He spear-headed the building of 35 community vegetable gardens and is now leading the design and construction of a large memory garden in his spare time! In addition to "rolling up his sleeves" on lake and Community Centre projects, Gord has organized a crew as part of Muskoka Community Clean-Up Day and of course with Thanksgiving here, Gord and Jennifer Roberts are running their 4th annual "dock pick-up" food drive on Leonard Lake and challenging other small lakes in the area to do the same.

On a personal note, Gord has been in Muskoka for over 35 years and professionally brings both management and IT knowledge to the Councillor position. At a recent all candidate meeting, he was the only candidate to raise the economic necessity of investing in high quality internet services to attract badly needed new businesses to the District of Muskoka. We can only hope that Leonard Lake is on the short list if that IT plan comes to fruition!

Your vote counts. We fully endorse Gord Roberts for Ward B Councillor and ask that you do the same.

Sincerely, Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association Board Members



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