



LEONARD LAKE STAKEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION

Membership Matters! If you enjoy receiving LLSA EBLASTS and have not renewed your membership or joined the association, please consider signing up now.

Pay your \$55.00 membership at www.leonardlakemuskoka.net or e-transfer to lisa1@outlook.com



In This Edition...

New LLSA Director and New Committee Member
News From the Water Team
District of Muskoka Lake Health System Review
Forest Fire Season
TML Short Term Rental Program Update
Michael's Corner
Food for Thought

We are pleased to make two announcements regarding the Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association Board:

LLSA welcomes Devon Galloway, recently appointed Director to the LLSA Board, and nominated for election at the 2024 annual general meeting. Devon as a third generation LL cottager, has been on the lake his whole life, firstly at his family's property, and more recently as a Glen Gordon cottage owner with his wife Brittany (who also grew up on the lake) and their two young children. The family lives in Waterloo, and Devon works in the Tech industry. Devon is excited to join the board of the Association to protect the long-term health of the lake, and to create more opportunities for fun social outings for the next generation.

Liz Winter, Leonard Lake Road 2, has volunteered for important Committee work with Board member Bruce McNeely on the drafting of new LLSA articles and a new

general By-law. Liz has been on the lake since 2018, when her parents purchased the Road 2 cottage, and has since enjoyed summer weekends on the lake with her parents, her husband, Mark, and two young daughters, Josephine and Frances. When not relaxing at the lake, Liz practices labour law in the education sector and is in the process of earning a Doctorate of Education in her spare time! The new LLSA articles and new By-law will be presented to LLSA members for approval at the 2024 annual general meeting and ultimately to the Provincial Government as required by the Ontario Not For Profit Corporations Act, 2010.

News From the Water Team

Although the water team investigated several reports from residents through our 'Eyes on the Lake' activity, we were very fortunate this season that none of the reports turned out to be cyanobacteria blooms. In contrast, Three Mile Lake experienced an extensive six-week lake-wide bloom in August–September. We have now started a dialogue with the Three Mile Lake Association water quality volunteers aimed at better understanding and managing the blooms on both lakes. Your “Eyes on the Lake” support is critical in our continuing work.

On Saturday Nov 4th, Bill Heatlie, Esther Giesbrecht and Ken Riley attended a virtual fall seminar hosted by FOCA on how lake health is changing in the many lakes across our region. The overall take-home message was, that while the changes and their causes are complex and not fully understood, we need to support more science and monitoring, strongly advocate to policy makers and managers, and take action ourselves to protect our lake and its fragile environment.

This message is reflected in the [2023 MUSKOKA WATERSHED REPORT CARD](#) which was released last month. It points out that the causes of increasing Cyanobacteria Blooms in Muskoka are complex, and that more work is needed.

District of Muskoka Lake Health System Review

Due to the number of blue green algae blooms in Muskoka over the last few years, associated causation studies and the recent Muskoka Watershed Council report, the District Municipality of Muskoka (DMM) is reviewing their Water Quality Model and Lake System Health Program.

For information on the existing District Water Quality see 2.6.3 in the District of Muskoka Official Plan.

Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. (HESL) is doing the review and will present their findings and recommendations to the DMM in the next few months.

DMM will select an expert panel of three individuals (yet to be determined) who will independently review the HESL recommendations and direction, and make their own recommendations to the District. HESL representatives will not be on the panel.

Changes to the Water Quality Model and Lake System Health Program will require an Official Plan Amendment including public consultation.

The plan is for changes to be in place for the start of the 2024 water sampling season.



Please be advised that each year, the Forest Fire Season ends on October 31st. While Forest Fire Season is over, and daytime burning restrictions are no longer in effect for this year, it is important to remember that all other burning requirements remain in effect. Visit [FIRE REGULATION BY-LAW](#)

Any questions or concerns related to burning in Muskoka Lakes should be directed to the Muskoka Lakes Fire Department at 705-765-3156 x274. Thank you, **Kalleen Turchet**, Communications Advisor. www.muskokalakes.ca

SHORT TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MUSKOKA LAKES

Municipalities across Ontario have established regulatory tools to ensure that Short Term Rental Accommodations (STRAs) are organized, safe, and respect the surrounding community. The majority of municipalities in Ontario have regulated STRAs through a licensing By-law.

The Township engaged in consultation in 2023 to allow public input to a STRA policy and potential By-law on July 14 and 18; conducted a public survey from May to July; and on October 12th, presented a draft STRA By-law to the TML Planning Committee for discussion and direction. The Township is currently revising the By-law as directed by Council. Discussions and recommendations included determining occupancy limits, and standards regarding minimum rental days and seasonal maximums. The Township plans to hold a final Public Meeting in early 2024 to hear feedback on the revised STRA By-law.

For additional information regarding Short Term Rental Accommodation in the Township of Muskoka Lakes see [ENGAGE MUSKOKA LAKES](#)

Michael's Corner



WINTER IS ON ITS WAY AND SO ARE THE SISKINS!

A regular winter bird sighting at Leonard Lake is the Pine Siskin (PISI). This songbird is a member of the finch family and, at first glance, could be mistaken for a small sparrow. Overall, Pine Siskins are brown, heavily streaked birds. Typically, the

most telling indicators are the notched tail, the pointy bill, and they often though not always show some yellow on the wing and the rump.

Pine Siskins breed to our north and for the most part spend their winters well to the south. However, Muskoka is an area where they are often spotted in the winter.

Siskins are seed eaters, so they are seen around cedars, hemlocks and even birches. They'll also come to bird feeders, preferring nyjer, thistle and millet. Leonard Lakers are almost guaranteed to notice them in the winter at feeders, but even without feeders these finches will be spotted on roads, especially attracted to the salt in late winter.

They are also highly irruptive species, found in great numbers during and after several years of bountiful seed crops. Then the population drops almost drastically when cone crops drop off. During those years when the seed crop is more limited, they will travel long distances looking for food, and may spend more time at feeders.

(Photos and narrative courtesy of M. Hatton)



LEONARD LAKE THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

A note from The West Muskoka Food Bank....

"Thanks to the Leonard Lake Community who does a dock drop food and funds collection for us every year. We are grateful!"

And from LLSA...Sincere thanks also to Gord and Jennifer Roberts for organizing the LL Food Drive for 2023. Your commitment and work is much appreciated.

The Muskoka Lakes region is blessed with an abundance of riches but 60% of the permanent households earn less than \$30,000 per year and 30% of those live below the poverty level. Children are at higher risk of food insecurity, creating the potential

for health problems that last into adulthood. Online or in-kind contributions are appreciated any time with the Christmas Season fast approaching:

West Muskoka Food Bank <https://westmuskokafoodbank.org/>

Manna Food Bank <https://mannafoodbank.ca/>

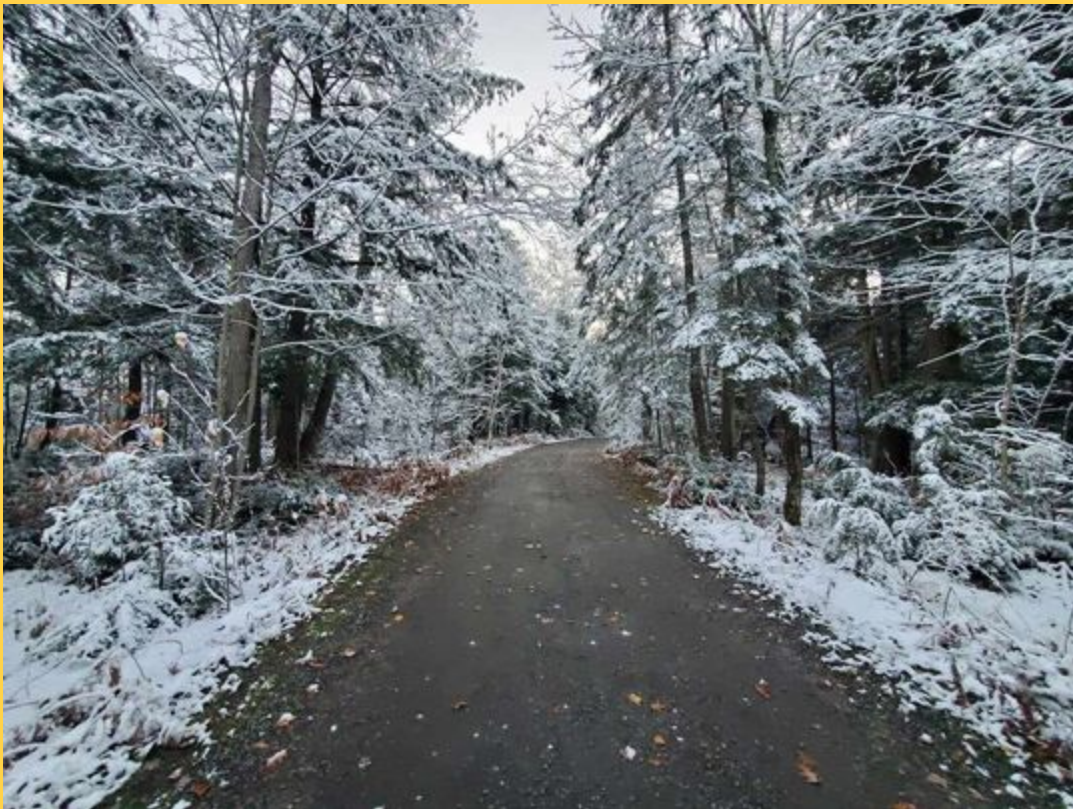
Salvation Army Bracebridge <https://southmuskokaministries.com/donating.php>

Winter food for thought...

[6 Simple Things To Protect Your Lake](#)

[9 Easy Ways To Get a Beautiful Shoreline and a Healthy Lake](#)

[Are pesticides available for use in Muskoka against mosquitos safe?](#)



November 1/23, LL Road 1, courtesy of Jean Riffel



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