

Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association EBLAST April 9, 2021



ICE OUT - Bruce McNeely reports "The ice at the south end was taken by currents yesterday towards the west end of the Lake and all of the south end that I can see from my dock is clear."

The McNeely's got their boat in the water with the help of a good neighbour and took a quick run from Heron Bay and into Long Bay today to check the ice cover - the rain prevented a visit to the west bays. The Lake appears to be ice free, apart from a fringe along some shorelines that sit in the shade this time of year. Thanks to the McNeelys for the "ice-update" and for sharing a current picture of the conditions in Long Bay.



Leonard Lake Water Quality Series - #2 - Shoreline Re-Naturalization

Could Your Shoreline Use a Boost?



Help is available through the Natural Edge Program (Muskoka Watershed Council) and includes a shoreline consultation - and to "kick-start" your project there's an optional Starter Kit available for purchase at \$250.

The kit will contain a customized re-naturalization planting plan for your shoreline and 50 native plants (trees, shrubs and wildflowers), the planting materials required, and several guides on various topics such as caring for your new plants, building a wildflower garden and habitat creation.

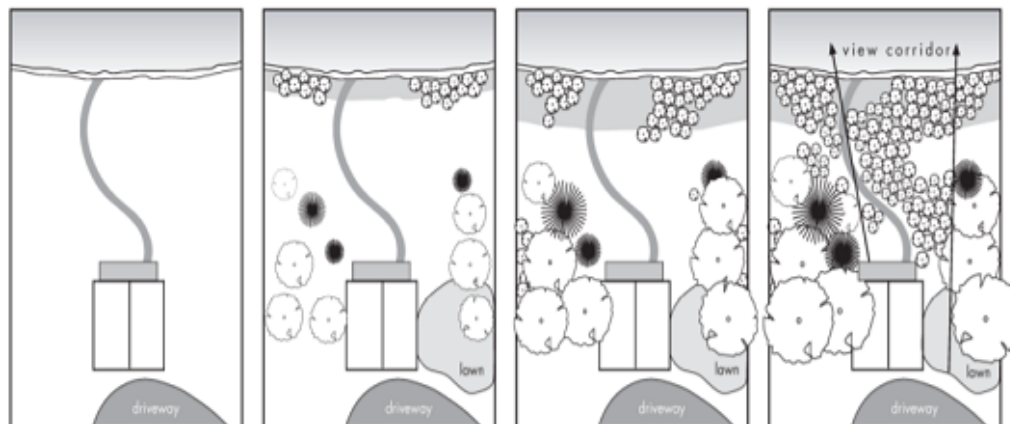
Covid-friendly site visits begin the end of May/early June and are available through to October. Click here to book a site visit, or to find additional links with information on native plants and shoreline restoration.

<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/programs/the-natural-edge/>

A SHORELINE RE-NATURALIZATION PLAN CAN PROGRESS THROUGH MANAGEABLE STEPS OVER SEVERAL YEARS. (DIAGRAM ADAPTED FROM "ON THE LIVING EDGE")

Restoring Your Shoreline Buffer

Adapted from *On the Living Edge: Your Handbook for Waterfront Living*



Year 1

Large lawn area down to the water, minimal trees, appealing habitat for Canada geese.

Year 2

Grass left unmowed along the shoreline, native trees & shrubs planted, invasive species weeded out.

Year 4

Larger area is left unmowed, more trees and shrubs planted, invasive species weeded out.

Year 6

Healthy buffer zone re-established with trees and shrubs providing wildlife habitat, shade & privacy.



Are you planning a "DIY" shoreline project and/or want to add some native plants to your waterfront or lot, the Muskoka Conservancy (MC) offers additional resources.

What is a native plant? According to MC, native plants can be defined as those that have evolved in a

certain area over thousands of years, forming symbiotic relationships with surrounding flora and fauna.

Typically, in North America, a plant is classified as native if it existed naturally in an area prior to European settlement. The exotic, non-native plants that have been introduced to the North American landscape typically don't function in North American ecosystems.

Although the Conservancy Annual May Plant Sale for 2021 has been cancelled, the MC website link below provides helpful information regarding the types of native plants suitable for various growing conditions, e.g., sun/shade, shallow soils and wet areas.

<https://www.muskokaconservancy.org/native-plant-program>

Why not plan a visit to a native plant garden to pick up some ideas for your own property? Next time you are in Bracebridge, drop by the "Corner Garden" of Riverstone Environmental and Muskoka Conservancy at 47 Quebec Street (corner of Quebec and Dominion). Garden strolls are welcomed and you will see an abundance of native plant species that are typical to Muskoka and identified by name, for your reference.



Looking for more detail? The Muskoka Water Web site provides information on shoreline buffers, native vs non-native plant and shrub species and links to some local nurseries.

<http://www.muskokawaterweb.ca/waterfront-living/gardening-and-landscaping>

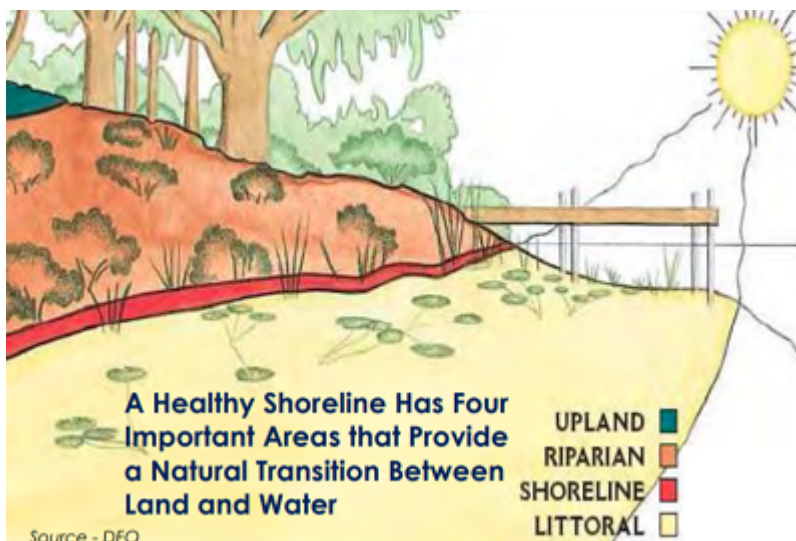


Muskoka
WATERSHED COUNCIL

...and the last word on shorelines from the Muskoka Watershed Council

That quiet spot by the lake is likely the richest natural environment that most of us will ever come into contact with, and almost certainly the most complex piece of the earth that we will ever have the opportunity to live near and share.

The waterfront area is crucial to your lake's health, providing oxygen, food, and cover for wildlife, a barrier to contaminants, as well as a living retaining wall for the shoreline. The nearshore area is also where many fish species lay their eggs, feed and seek protection from predators.



The Muskoka Watershed reminds us that the natural shoreline has four highly connected and inter-dependent zones, beginning underwater and extending upland - from the water's edge to where the sunlight no longer penetrates to the lake the bottom (littoral zone); where land and water meet (shoreline); the land closest to the shore (riparian zone); and the upland zone which is typically forested.

As important as these separate zones are, it is vital to remember that the shoreline is a natural progression - each area transforms into the next in a gradual, almost seamless transition. Altering any portion of this region affects the whole, diminishing its ability to support life on the lake.

https://www.muskokawatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/1_NaturalWaterfront1.pdf

WANTED: A mechanical lift for a 16 foot boat. Please contact Donna McNeely at 705-764-5454.

LEONARD LAKE PHOTOS

Thanks to those who have taken the time to share pictures and memories. There is much on all of our minds right now and a few smiles or laughs can be a welcomed diversion. We are always looking for lake pictures to share - people, scenery, times gone by, local flora and fauna, activities, etc. Any season will do! Send to leonardlakemuskoka@gmail.com

Hello LLSA,

We enjoy receiving your newsletter updates and I wanted to contribute a couple of pictures as suggested in the latest issue. Last fall, I had a few friends up to the lake to enjoy some fishing. We caught and released 21 smallmouth bass over the weekend, including the one in the attached photos, which in my 40+ years of fishing on Leonard Lake is the largest bass I have ever seen. The person who caught the fish (and in the photos) is my friend Mike Vanderpost – not I, unfortunately!

Thanks again for your newsletter updates,

Cam Veitch

LL Rd. 2



L - A tornado warning in the fall of 2020 had all eyes focused on that ominous sky...*courtesy of Jenette Heeneman*

R - Name the year...Who remembers Octoberfest and LL beer steins? ...*courtesy of Kathleen Dills*



Great summer of 2020 memories...courtesy of MH taken from the Hunkeler dock in Long Bay. Ski moves courtesy of Steve S!

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