



The Muskoka Fire Rating is set to MODERATE
For the up-to-date Fire Rating please call: 1-877-847-1577

<https://www.muskokalakes.ca/en/residents/fire-rating.aspx>

Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association

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



SAVE THE DATE



LLSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 MILFORD BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER FROM MUSKOKA ALGONQUIN HEALTHCARE WILL DISCUSS THE PLANNED NEW SOUTH MUSKOKA HOSPITAL AND FUTURE HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY IN MUSKOKA

EBLAST CONTENTS

**TIME TO RENEW!
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FIRST BOAT IN THE WATER?



MAY 1ST - IT'S A NEW LLSA MEMBERSHIP YEAR - PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!

[HOW DO I RENEW OR JOIN?](#)

E-transfer is safest, quickest, and 100% of your membership or donation goes towards Leonard Lake activities and water quality initiatives.

*Prefer to mail? Include your name and lot number and mail to Mark Scarrow,
1250 Leonard Lake Rd 2, Bracebridge, ON, P1L 0M5*

*Prefer to drop off? Include your name and lot number and leave in the drop
box at the Lowry cottage driveway, 1032 Leonard Lake Road 2*

*Prefer PayPal/credit card through PayPal? No problem. Please consider
switching to e-transfer, if possible, to make the most of every dollar you give!
PayPal deducts a fee from every payment.*

Thank you! For information go to www.leonardlake.net

HIGHLIGHTS OF LLSA ACTIVITIES IN 2022-3

LL WATER TEAM

-**2022 water project** "Tracking the Source of Blue-Green Algae". Special thanks to Leonard Lake residents for financial support to this invaluable project. Donations last year were used in part to rent specialized equipment (Sonde) to perform different types of water testing, "all the way down to the sediment" at several deep sites. The findings were surprising and have implications for the way ahead. A full report on the 2022 project is in the works and information will be presented at the AGM in July. Good news - the 2023 "Tracking...Algae" project is underway, sampling water from the Leonard Lake sites used in 2022, thanks to those respective property owners. This second-year, same-location sampling will allow for year-over-year data comparison.

-**Eyes On the Lake** "resident input to LL water events" - blooms confirmed as b-g in 2022.

-**Causation Study** review and report to the District by LLSA outlining concerns and omissions in the study.

-**Annual seasonal water testing** undertaken with MLA, MWC and the District in addition to LLSA's own extensive testing protocols.

COMMUNICATIONS

-**12 EBLASTS** out to Leonard Lake (LL) residents - on lake plan, LL causation study, boat house survey, AGM, shoreline revitalization, LL birds, fire ratings, Election, Water Team and Algae, Social Events.

-**35 NEWSLETTERS** – lost and found, for sale and wanted, social events, TML public notices shared, water quality and algae updates, details for input into LL lake plan, TML Official Plan and LL Causation Study.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE - LAKE WIDE ACTIVITIES

All ages **Social Get Together** with games and refreshments

Pilates/Yoga Mashup on the Dock

Golf Tournament

LEONARD LAKE PLAN

The **Leonard Lake Plan** was accepted as part of the Township of Muskoka Lakes Official Plan (OP) and the **Township officially adopted** the OP subject to District approval.

LLSA OUTREACH

LLSA participated in numerous **public meetings** in support of Leonard Lake and remain active in committees including **Muskoka Small Lakes Coalition, Muskoka Watershed Council and MLA main and sub-committee.**

LEONARD LAKE'S FAVOURITE OWL?



This Barred Owl was photographed motionless 25 feet from a bird feeder on Leonard Lake in February of this year.

Muskoka is home to a variety of owl species and Leonard Lake has its share. The one that is seen most often, and reported, is the Barred Owl. This past winter, two were regularly observed on the south shore, though sadly, one died in situ possibly of starvation. The Barred is a medium size owl, typically about 21 inches in length, making it much larger than the petit Screech Owl (only 8 or 9 inches) and quite a bit smaller than the Great Grey Owl (a massive 27 inches). It's also distinguished by dark eyes, no ear tufts, horizontal bars on the upper chest and vertical stripes on the lower chest.

In 2012 a Barred Owl nest was discovered near the water on the south side of Leonard Lake's Outlet Bay. The bird was photographed hunting in the area and eggs were observed in the nest. However, not long after, the nest was predated and the eggs eaten, likely by a fisher.



This Barred Owl's nest, on the south shore, was predated shortly after the eggs were laid in 2012.

The pair that were repeatedly observed this past winter were likely preparing to nest. On the south shore they were seen most often not far from bird feeders through late fall and into the winter, and later the surviving bird continued to be seen at least into February. However, given the "passing" of the mate, the single bird has likely gone deeper into the forest to forage more widely. Note that Barred Owls do not migrate.

In 2020 a pair of Barred Owls nested near the shore of Leonard Lake and two owlets fledged. The adults were regularly heard and observed, along with the first-year birds, calling and hunting up and down Leonard Lake Road 2 for several weeks.



An owlet photographed at night on Leonard Lake Road 2 in 2020.

So, how do you go about finding a Barred Owl in our neighbourhood?

It's usually a matter of actively watching. Scan branches and other perching spots and examine these for a motionless bundle of brown feathers, a lump that might outline the shape of an owl. The Barred Owl sleeps for much of the day and remains very still, while other birds we witness, in winter or summer, are often seen because they move. Finding a motionless bird is much harder. Barred Owls will hunt and sleep near bird feeders, so that might be a good area to start your search. They eat small prey: birds, mammals, amphibians and even reptiles. Another approach, at least at first, is to listen. The Barred Owl is quite distinctive; its call is described as "who cooks for you ...". Google Barred Owl Call and you can listen to many examples.

Article and photographs courtesy of Michael Hatton, Leonard Lake Road 2



ALL AGES BENTHIC TESTING REVIVAL SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

**YOUNGSTERS BRING AN ADULT WITH YOU! YOUNG EYES ARE
ABSOLUTELY THE BEST TO IDENTIFY TINY BENTHOS - SIGN UP NOW!**

We need help! Benthos (or benthic macroinvertebrates that live on the lake/sea floor) are tiny critters that can tell us a lot about water quality over time - they are a little bit like the 'canary in the mine' - an early warning system that there are threats to water quality.

The job is to count the critters collected and we need 10 to 20 helpers!... it's a good way to engage the young ones too - they usually like looking through the microscope to identify the bugs, etc. The Benthic event usually lasts a few hours and you decide how much time you can commit. Send an email to leonardlakemuskoka@gmail.com to let us know you're interested, and budding 'scientists' in your family are welcome to join in the fun.



SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

The Township intends to roll out a new septic system inspection program in time for the 2024 season. Property owners identified for an inspection will receive correspondence from the Township in due course. This year, the Township plans to hire an Admin/Enforcement Officer and staff will proceed with the RFP process to engage a third-party Inspection provider. For more information on the new Septic System Inspection visit [Engage Muskoka Lakes](#)

FIRST BOAT IN THE LAKE THIS YEAR?

April 15th and slushy mush covered most of the main body of Leonard Lake. This morning, the lake was clear so ... time to go paddling!

THE HATTONS ROAD 2



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