LLSA Winter-Spring BLAST March 18, 2021

For the past couple of weeks gaggles of geese have been honking their way across the Toronto skyline heading north to cottage country. Word has it that some of those geese are Leonard Lake alumni, eager to return to the Lake to nest and raise their young.

Is your property goose friendly? Canada Geese are beautiful in the air, but once landed, they pollute the ground and can cause a high e-coli bacteria concentration in shoreline waters. An adult Canada goose poops about 2 pounds, per bird, per day!

If you want to discourage geese on your property and waterfront, the spring is the time to act - before geese shed their flight feathers. Looking for help? Google the topic and check government sites (e.g. Ministry of Natural Resources) but be sure to check Canadian sites to be clear on the laws in place to protect Canada geese. Here is an article to start: https://www.tvo.org/article/ontario-doesnt-have-a-goose-problem-it-has-a-bureaucracy-problem

Leonard Lake Water Quality Series #1

What Stakeholders Can Do to Suppress Algal Blooms in Leonard Lake

With changing weather patterns and warming temperatures, the possibility of algal blooms increases. Current research supports that taking steps to reduce nutrients entering the Lake directly from our properties or through feeder streams and nearby wetlands is the easiest and most effective strategy to help reduce the recurrence of algal blooms in our Lake.

1. Plant native shrubs along each property waterfront - shrubs act as a natural "filter" that binds nutrients before they enter the Lake. Native plants are hardy for our Muskoka climate and often require very little maintenance. Find a selection of suitable plants at the following sources:

Muskoka Conservancy, 47 Quebec Street in Bracebridge. Ordering for the Native Plant Sale is now open and plant pick up date is May 9th. Call Aaron at 705-645-7393 ext. 200.

Windermere Garden Centre,1453 Dee Bank Rd Rr2, Utterson ON P0B 1M0 705-769-3238

Brackenrig Nursery, 1015 Brackenrig Centre Rd, Port Carling ON P0B 1J0 705-765-6261

2. Minimize high wakes throughout the boating season. Over time high wakes break down shorelines, causing the shoreline to recede with resulting loss of land and filtering vegetation.
3. Slow down in shallow areas. Turbulence from boats disturb bottom sediments, thus releasing nutrients that can cause algae blooms to form.
4. Rain and snow contain more than 3 times the level of phosphorus than in Lake water. Direct downspouts away from the Lake, and where possible, create a depression or catchment below the downspout so that water will soak directly into the ground.
5. Consider using catchment barrels at the end of primary downspouts to slow the force of sudden downpours and to preserve rain for watering plants during dry periods.
6. Preserve wetlands, the best filters of all for water entering the Lake from its catchment area.
7. Use cleaners at your property that do not contain phosphorous/phosphates. In no case should anyone bath or wash hair in the Lake, and boat washing should be done as far as possible from the waterfront or streams, etc.
8. Monitor your septic system. Pump your tank every 2 to 3 years. If the area around your septic is unusually green or feels spongy underfoot, call for an inspection.

If a cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) bloom is reported on the Lake, do not drink the Lake water, do not shower in Lake water, do not swim anywhere in the Lake, do not allow pets to wade anywhere in the Lake or drink water from the Lake until an "all clear" is received from Simcoe Muskoka District Health. Poisons from the bloom are invisible and winds and currents can move a bloom and poisons a kilometre or more in a day. Neither filters nor boiling water will destroy the cianobacteria. There are cases in Canada where pets, children and adults have become ill, and in some instances died, from consuming water contaminated with cyanobacteria toxins.

Spring Insurance Reminder

You may be a seasonal, permanent, or year-round use resident of Leonard Lake. You may or may not rent out your property for a week or all season. You may or may not have improved your property that could increase property values. In all cases, it makes good sense to have an open and honest talk with your insurance broker at least once a year to review your policy.

Are you aware of your policy responsibilities? Regardless of how much time is spent at your Lake property, there are policy owner obligations that must be met to ensure coverage.

In the event of property damage resulting from fire, vandalism, etc., are you insured for the true and current value of your property? Construction costs increase yearly, and in particular, there has been a considerable jump in materials and labour over the past year that would directly impact the cost of structural repairs and rebuilds.

If you have not reviewed your policy coverage this year, this may be a good time to have that conversation with your insuring agent.
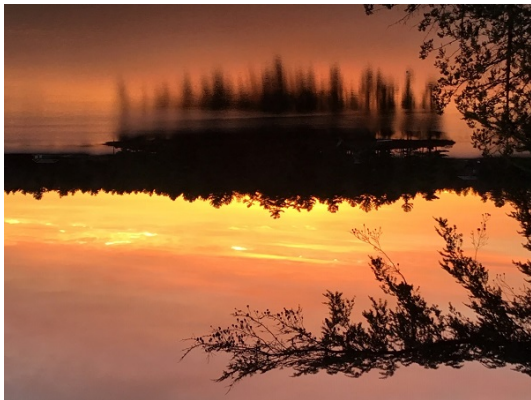
LEONARD LAKE PHOTOS

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

January scene and winter sunrise Mark Scarrow

November sunset, Wendy Taylor, October sunset, Jean Riffel

The Wallace Leonard Lake Curling Rink - a culmination of hard work, skill and ingenuity - drink a lot of Folgers coffee then repurpose the cans as curling stones!

Leonard Lake's very own Polar Bear Club...B McNeely you may be pushing the season just a little...

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