

Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association

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



Support your Lake - and Your Lake Association

Annual LLSA Membership for 2025 commenced May 1st this (and every) year and runs to April 30th next year. Thank you for your continued support and a big welcome to new members! It's...



2025 MEMBERSHIP FEES REMAIN AT \$55.00

In 2017 LLSA membership fees were raised to \$55 and have remained static in spite of increasing operating expenses each year. Annually, LLSA relies on ad hoc donations from a small number of members to support important and ongoing water quality initiatives and/or planning matters of importance to all stakeholders.

At the 2024 Annual Meeting a motion was put forward from the floor that the LLSA Board should review current annual fees, review past operating deficits, and fix a new fee that will cover all annual operating costs.

In addition to research and discussions over the winter, the Board has decided that an increase of membership should be a matter brought to the membership at the upcoming Annual Meeting, discussed, and voted on regardless of the fact that the Board has authority to increase fees without a membership vote.

We ask that members make every effort to participate in the Annual Meeting July 12th to hear the presentation from the Board and participate in the discussion and decision.

HOW DO I RENEW OR JOIN OR DONATE TO LLSA?

If you need information on membership visit www.leonardlake.net

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION PAYMENT OPTIONS

E-transfer is safe and quick: llsa1@outlook.com

No password is needed.

Please use the optional message section in e-transfer to add your name, lot number, phone number(s) and email address so your payment can be correctly attributed to your property.

You can also use the contact form in the membership section of www.leonardlake.net for this purpose.

Prefer to mail? Send to Mark Scarrow, 1250 Leonard Lake Rd 2, Bracebridge, ON, P1L 0M5 (and include your name, lot number, phone number and email address.)

Prefer to drop off? Leave your envelope with a cheque in the drop box at the Lowry cottage driveway, 1032 Leonard Lake Road 2 (and include your name, lot number, phone number and email address).

Want to donate to Leonard Lake water quality and the water team 2025 project plan?

Donate by e-transfer [**llsa1@outlook.com**](mailto:llsa1@outlook.com)

No password is needed.

Please use the optional message section in e-transfer to add your name, lot number, phone number(s) and email address. If you wish to direct your donation to a specific LLSA project of activity include your direction in the message section.

Messages can also be sent by email to leonardlakemuskoka@gmail.com

*Save the Date
Saturday, July 12, 2025*

LLSA ANNUAL MEETING

MILFORD BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

coffee/tea 9:00 am

meeting starts at 9:30 am - ends before noon

P.s., there's still time to shape the Annual Meeting Agenda. Do you have a suggestion? A topic that could be of interest, or timely for the membership? Could we improve the format in some way? Let us know at leonardlakemuskoka@gmail.com

Leonard Lake Water Team 2024-25-26

In Spring 2024 we welcomed Rose Hopkins (Veitch) to the water team. Rose joins Bill Heatlie, Laurence Jay, Betty Isbister, Sharon Abbott-Fry, Grahame Abbott, Bruce McNeely, Ken and Rohan Riley and Esther Giesbrecht.

Another step forward:

Generous donations from lake residents enabled the purchase of a "Sonde" in 2024. This water testing device can be lowered to any depth at any spot on the lake to obtain data, i.e., temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity measurements that vary throughout the season.

This information is vital to our understanding of "what is happening" below the surface of Leonard Lake. New instruments enhance the ability to collect and analyse new data and support progress. Understanding the lake's variations from season to season, and year to year, can help identify trends, and determine which changes or variations might be most significant to ensure good water quality. The more knowledge we have about our lake, the better we are able to customize mitigation efforts.

One such trend identified in our lake is the boost in salt content. In 2024, samples were taken at various land-to-lake runoff places around the lake. The sampling confirmed that salt levels in the runoffs close to the highway are problematic. Leonard Lake data has been useful to substantiate that claim, and to help raise awareness about the resulting increase in salt levels in Muskoka lakes. Based on sound evidence, governments are taking note of the negative affect of road salt from our highways on our lakes.

Thank you to the concerned residents who called in potential bloom sightings throughout the 2024 season. Evidence collected by the water team at bloom or potential events is invaluable in helping us to focus our work effectively in our efforts to understand and manage algal blooms.

Plans for 2025:

1. We will again participate in the Lake Partner Program which focuses on long-term trends, as well as the Algae Project which is part of the Muskoka Watershed Council.
2. We will continue with frequent lake water monitoring to determine which variations constitute yearly fluctuations and which ones may show trends.
3. We will depend on everyone's participation in "Eyes-on-the-Lake" to alert the Water Team to any algal blooms or other 'unusual' observations and encourage residents to be vigilant in early reporting for follow up purposes:

Esther Giesbrecht	647-763-8677	giesbrecht.e.e@gmail.com
Bill Heatlie	705-840-6421	wmheatlie@gmail.com
Ken Riley	705-764-1695	info@brooklandsfarm.ca

4. With guidance from Dr. Yan (Friends of the Muskoka Watershed), we hope to complete our study of lake currents.

5. A new (renewed and essential) project for 2025 - Obtaining reliable counts of Daphnia currently in decline in LL and many other Muskoka lakes. We rely on this zooplankton to help control algae growth. They also act as feed for small fish as part of the lower food chain. Daphnia are very sensitive to contaminants and changes in water chemistry. Increased salinity, dropping levels of calcium, and even extremely low levels of insecticides, known as pyrethroids, which are used around the lake to control mosquitoes and ticks, can negatively impact survival, growth, and reproduction of Daphnia .

Dr. Yan has also agreed to provide guidance on this project, and has historical LL baseline data for comparison purposes so we can better understand the degree of Daphnia population decline in our lake.

The District of Muskoka Lakes:

We have been participating in District review processes that are intended to:

1. Ensure important information about lake stewardship reaches all households, including new owners, (and hopefully renters as well);
2. Emphasize the importance of natural shorelines and buffer zones to reduce run-off and shoreline erosion, and discourage geese;

3. Encourage responsible and informed land use, and septic system maintenance and inspections;
4. Update policies to reflect changing environmental concerns and related issues.

We welcome input and feedback from all residents of Leonard Lake, and are grateful for your ongoing support. Sincerely, **LEONARD LAKE WATER TEAM.**

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