

President's Address Loon Call Lake Cottage Association

June 29, 2019

North Kawartha Community Centre

Margaret Colquhoun

Welcome to all attendees and newcomers to Loon Call Lake. In particular, welcome to Margaret Adkins and Johan Ragletli who purchased Malcolm Martini's cottage last fall. We hope you enjoy Loon Call Lake as much as we do.

There are several issues of interest to cottagers that I will address. I may repeat one or two that you have been sent previously. I will speak to others that were discussed at the NORKLA spring meeting.

Walk-in Clinics

Cottagers and visitors now have access to walk-in care three times per week, including Saturdays and Sundays. Look for Syd's email for the poster.

Electricity Costs

FOCA is advocating on our behalf regarding a huge increase in hydro fees. \$1000/yr.

Night Light Pollution

There are more and more solar light systems being installed around the lake and they are not good for our environment as they shine all night. Cottagers are encouraged to use lights that turn on and off as needed, or change the colour of light bulbs. In a new copy of a property assessment tool regarding shoreline properties the type of lights is included in the assessment, because of the effect of light on night birds and animals.

Making better outdoor lighting choices will protect the natural rhythms of wildlife and plants and prevent light pollution (i.e. the inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light).

How light pollution impacts the waterfront environment

Light pollution has a negative impact on lake property owners and visitors. Glare and light trespass can reach great distances to unintended destinations.

All plants and animals have spent thousands of years adapting to the light and dark cycles that are part of a natural day and night rhythm. However, modern artificial lighting has been changing the number of hours in the night that darkness is present in our environment. **Scientific studies are showing measurable negative effects on birds, mammals, amphibians, insects, and even plants. The International Dark Sky Association, for example, describes how artificial lights can negatively impact the nocturnal calling and breeding habits of amphibians. Light pollution has also been shown to cause shifts in predator-prey relationships and to disrupt the navigational abilities of migrating birds.**

How does light pollution impact safety?

Outdoor lighting is often used to enhance security and the safe use of our properties at night. However, depending on the type of lighting, it can have the opposite effect. For example, when glare shines in our eyes, our pupils constrict, which reduces our night vision abilities and decreases our safety (International Dark Sky Association). The glare can also create harsh shadows that, when combined with our compromised night vision, can make it harder to spot hazards. A property owner may be tempted to make it easier to see these hazards by adding more powerful lights or more light fixtures, but this will increase the amount of light pollution occurring at the property.

Four Types of Light Pollution

Glare – Excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort. Glare increases difficulty in spotting

Night time hazards. Older eyes are more sensitive to glare.

Skyglow – Brightness of the night sky over inhabited areas. Skyglow **reduces human and wildlife ability to see the stars.**

Light trespass – Light falling where it is not intended or needed (such as into bedroom windows, onto neighbouring properties, or into natural environment areas).

Clutter – Bright, confusing and excessive groupings of light sources.

Some good outdoor lighting alternatives

It is possible to manage your outdoor lighting to provide darkness for wildlife while also providing useful lighting for navigating your property safely.

- Use lower wattage bulbs.
- Choose shielded lights that are purposely directed at doorways, stairs or other features while minimizing glare and light trespass.
- Limit the use of your outdoor lights to when they are needed.
- Choose light bulbs that produce a warmer orange colour, rather than the cooler blue white options.
- Consider retrofitting existing lights with a nightsaver shield

Lake Protection Workbook - A Self-Assessment Tool for Shoreline Property Owners – Watersheds Canada

Watersheds Canada in partnership with the Daniel and Susan Gottlieb Foundation will provide financial support to volunteers groups for projects that have a positive impact on the health of our lakes. We can get up to \$500 for education and action projects such as:

- **Shoreline restoration**
- **Shoreline property owner education**
- **Water quality testing and education**
- **Invasive species education and eradication**

The Shoreline Assessment Booklet link has been put on our website and is attached.

[Shoreline Assessment](#)

If we wish to assess our properties as a group we can ask for funding the cost of \$1.50/booklet.

No one here on our lake is intending to destroy our habitat and ecosystems, but there is no one looking after lakes anymore and our Loon Call community are the ones to preserve Loon Call Lake.

Visit by Park Biologist to Assess Invasive Species on Loon Call

Late last summer we were very fortunate to have a visit by our park biologist. We visited about 8 sites looking for invasive plants. She took samples for assessment and spoke with some cottagers. We are very pleased that at that time we did not have invasive species in our lake.

Blue Lakes Project

[Blue Lakes](#)

This project was mentioned last year and is now asking for volunteers. Being a blue lake member means that we have at least 4 cottages that are willing to engage in stewardship activities. These are not onerous and may involve the shoreline assessment just mentioned. They include shoreline health, citizen science, nutrient management and reducing degradation. There will be an app in a week.

“This year we are looking for lake associations across The Land Between bioregion (from Georgian Bay to the Ottawa Valley) to help us pilot our program and ensure it is effective and state of the art. See the questionnaire below for more details as to what is expected.

Candidate lakes will have active associations and boards, the ability to sample water quality according to Lake Partner Program standards, have a minimum of data for water quality and fisheries, and time for monthly meetings. “

If any cottagers are interested please contact me.

Garbage Left in Winter

A cottager who frequents the lake in winter found piles of garbage following winter weekends at Loon Call, more than once. This is not only irresponsible but illegal in the park.

“If the garbage is being dumped on park land the person could be charged.”

Potential Education Sessions for Loon Call Cottagers

We are willing to set up education sessions for any/all to attend, based on your interest.

- Design Your Own Shoreline Garden -\$20 pp (about 1/3 of Loon Call Lake properties had recommendations in the Love Your Lake report to add native plants to their shoreline)
- Turtle Workshops
- Succession Planning Workshops

Please let me or another member of the executive know if you are interested in attending a sessions for LCL

Welcome Booklet

FOCA has drafted a welcome booklet template produced as a member benefit. Our Exec will meet and consider producing such a book for Loon Call. A large % of the work is done but we could use a volunteer to help us make the book ours. Sample on our website and at the meeting.

Fireworks

This is a reminder that fireworks are NOT allowed in provincial parks. (and we are in a provincial park) There is a negative impact on animals.

[Fireworks](#)

Volunteer Recognition

According to the Conference Board of Canada, almost 50 percent of Canadians volunteered in 2017 contributing approximately 2 billion hours of community service. A cause that we as individuals and collectively care deeply about, or our passion to help others, our environment and our community drives us to volunteer. Many studies have shown that the more you volunteer the happier and healthier you become.

Apparently, volunteering promotes personal growth, increases self-esteem and life satisfaction. It helps us built bonds and friendships, makes us more physically and mentally active and may even increase longevity.

The FOCA website features a short video entitled “Why do Lake Associations matter? What can they do for you?” The conclusion is that ongoing stewardship and the volunteer efforts of lake association members helps to ensure that future generations will have the same wonderful experiences that we ourselves have had.

There are health, social, political and economic reasons to work together as cottage owners. Today, I wish to acknowledge the incredible efforts that volunteers have made over the years to make Loon Call Lake and our cottage life experience better. We salute the amazing time and effort that Presidents, Executive officers, lake stewards, area directors, road committee executives, regatta and corn roast volunteers and our webmaster at Loon Call make. In addition, individual cottage owners volunteer to help whenever the need arises. Last year when we required volunteers to help dispose of a moose carcass a group formed in minutes and the job was done before I got there! That is Loon Call!

A recent example of this dedication is “A Brief History of Cottaging on Loon Call Lake”, published in July 2015. A special thanks are extended to the history book team: Malcolm and Mary Martini, David and Lenore Pressley, Carolyn Smith-Green, Syd Boycott, Jim Hartog, Elke Heidemann, Helen Yielding and Don MacDonald. I feel very proud to hand out copies of the book to our new cottagers.

Many presidents and teams have worked on behalf of Loon Call over the years. One team fought off potential uranium mining and a long term lake steward, Franz Mueller, received a special award from the province for his long-term monitoring of our water quality.

THANKS TO LOON CALL VOLUNTEERS!!!!

Please join me in a round of applause for our incredible volunteers.