

LRML Joint Water Quality Committee

Communication #2

It is hard to believe that winter is passing us by and spring is just around the corner. Over the past months, the LRML Joint Water Quality Committee has been very busy with continued water testing, crucial conversations with Municipal partners, critical dialogue with Ministry of Agriculture staff and further research connected to water quality improvement of our two lakes.

Last summer Lake Rosalind and Marl Lake experienced some very large algae blooms resulting in concern with drinking and recreational use. We are hoping that commitment from residents will assist in keeping our lakes healthy and enjoyable. If each resident does his/her part, we will give our lakes the best chance possible to remain clean and aesthetically pleasing.

In short, we must all recognize that our lakes are vulnerable and in order to make them thrive, residents, both individually and collectively, must assume responsibility for their care.

The LRML Joint Water Quality Committee would like to ask you to take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire below. **Please score one point for each “YES” and 0 points for each “NO”**

1. I am aware of the bylaw and do not use any harmful pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers on my lawn **(Remember, chemicals used to create a green lawn = a green lake)**
2. I sweep up leaves and grass clippings in order to prevent them from being carried into the lake where they decompose and use oxygen.
3. I keep my SEPTIC system in good working condition and have a current maintenance contract (aerobic system) or I am on a regular pump out schedule (conventional system).
4. I commit to replacing failing septic systems or those that are not in compliance with the rules.

5. I read labels carefully and ensure that I am using non-phosphate and/or biodegradable detergents, soaps and shampoos.
6. I keep solvents, plastics, paper, diapers, bleach, fats, grease, unused/expired medicine (prescriptions) and other similar products out of my septic system.
7. I take steps to reduce water run-off into the lakes.
8. The motor on my boat is in good working order avoiding any pollutants from entering the lake (i.e. oil from older engines)
9. I practice slow no-wake boating in posted areas.
10. When entering or leaving a lake, I check the boat, trailer, anchor, and bait buckets for exotic species such as zebra mussels and/or unknown plant species.
11. I preserve as much natural vegetation as possible between my home and the lake to filter sediments and nutrients from surface runoff.
12. I have planted or will consider planting native grasses, wildflowers, trees, and shrubs along the shoreline.
13. I am a conscientious and responsible pet owner who “poop scoops” at all times.
14. I do my best to keep rafts and docks free of goose droppings and never sweep this into the lake.
15. I make certain that I do not empty my hot tub/ pool with full strength chlorine/bromine and algacide into drains and lake.

Scoring:

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 11-15 | Good for you! Keep up the good work! |
| 6- 10 | You're trying hard. See what you can do to up your score. |
| 0- 5 | Keep working on it. Every step counts! |

The LRML Joint Quality Water Committee is considering hosting an Education Fair where guests would be invited to share their knowledge regarding lake stewardship of our water resources and effective/efficient ways in which we can do our part to preserve our lakes.

This event would take place on a Saturday morning in early spring before the weather gets too nice.

Please respond to dianalynngoodwin@gmail.com by March 25th and advise if you are interested in attending this event. **Your response is needed so that we can plan accordingly.**

You may wish to drop in and check out the upcoming **Native Plant Sale:**

Where: Grey Sauble Conservation Authority – 237897 Inglis Falls Road, Owen Sound

When: April 28th, 2018 – check out the website for details

Our committee is always interested in hearing from you regarding water quality issues or concerns. Please feel free to contact any of our members:

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