

LRML Joint Water Quality Committee

Spring 2020

The year 2020 has certainly started off with many challenges and obstacles, however, it appears that things are heading in the right direction. Although the “new normal” may appear different on several levels, we continue to be very fortunate to be able to enjoy the beautiful scenery that our lakes offer.

The Lake Rosalind Marl Lake (LRML) Joint Water Quality Committee wishes to welcome all of the new residents who recently moved to the lakes. As a gesture to these new residents and to reiterate for others, the information in this communication summarizes the work of our committee and offers a few updates.

The LRML Joint Water Quality Committee was formed to address resident concerns regarding blue green algae blooms occurring from time to time in our lake and to:

- Assist in creating community stewardship of both lakes
- Gather accurate water quality test results
- Research and investigate options for improving water quality
- Communicate strategies for maintaining the quality and delicate balance of human, animal, fish and natural life on both lakes
- Maintain a liaison with the Municipality of Brockton, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and other partners that can and do influence the quality of life in, on and around the lakes
- Operate as an advisory committee to the Lake Rosalind/Marl Lake Property Owners Associations

The LRML Joint Water Quality Committee will focus on but not be limited to the following priorities:

- Improving and maintaining a high quality of water on both lakes

- Educating residents about:
 - i. Reducing nutrients entering the lakes from lawn fertilizers, phosphate detergents, chlorine and ammonia products (**such as those from hot tubs**), faulty septic systems and agriculture run-offs
 - ii. The importance of shoreline buffer zones and why it is necessary to eliminate herbicides and pesticides

As a committee, we strongly believe that continued collective 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, recreationally safe and aesthetically pleasing.

The **DO YOUR PART** acronym serves as an easy reminder to all of us of the things we can do together to ensure collective lake stewardship.

Do not use pesticides/ fertilizers, inorganic/organic (**by-law ban #2012-37**)

Obstruct leaves, grass clippings and goose poop from entering the lake

Yearly review of your septic system monitoring schedule is essential

Observe all septic system compliance rules by replacing failing systems

Use non-phosphate detergents, soaps and shampoo

Read labels carefully to ensure the use of safe lake and septic products

Prevent the disturbance of the lake bottom – jets/aerator pumps point up

Always practice no-wake boating in the near-shore areas to reduce erosion

Refrain from feeding ALL waterfowl (**by-law ban #2016-070**)

Thanks for remembering to “scoop the pet poop”

The LRML Joint Water Quality Committee continues to explore opportunities to further understand indicators of water quality. Last year, under the leadership and guidance of one of our residents, the Committee collaborated with the University of Guelph on a water quality sampling and monitoring study on Lake Rosalind. The purpose of the study was to monitor fecal indicator bacteria at several locations around the lake and track the source, frequency, and relative quantity of fecal pollution during the sampling period. This thesis project will be defended academically; followed by a presentation to the LRML property owners and other stakeholders that will display the results in plain language. Please continue to be patient as the pandemic has caused unforeseen delays in the defence process.

If you are wishing to put your boat in the water, please contact Scott (519-616-1037) or Diana (519-636-3476) and advise of the date/time that you wish the gate to be open at the launch. This new protocol of single person key/gate access is assisting in keeping our residents safe and healthy.

A big thank you to all residents who are being respectful of the need to CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY your boat in order to help prevent the spread of invasive species into our lakes.

The LRML Joint Water Quality Committee recognizes that there is no easy answer or quick fix to a consistent high standard of water quality, however, we are dedicated and passionate about our lake communities. We invite others to join in a shared voice and vision in understanding how our individual actions affect the long term health of our lakes for current and future generations.

Please feel free to contact any of our members:

Deb Goddard(Chair)	lakros268@gmail.com	226-909-0580
Ken Coleman	colemans@eastlink.ca	519-901-0025
Mark Coleman	mscoleman@wightman.ca	519-881-1801

Diana Goodwin	dianalynngoodwin@gmail.com	519-636-3476
Rick Kalte	r.kalte708@yahoo.ca	519-364-2894
John McDougall	jamcdougall2012@gmail.com	519-540-8046

It is important that there is an up to date email list so that water quality issues can be communicated to all residents in a timely manner. For Lake Rosalind residents, please make certain that your most current email address is passed along to Kevin Golem - kgolemm@gmail.com. For Marl Lake residents, information can be forwarded to Rick Kalte at the email address or phone number noted above.

Talk to your neighbours to ensure that they have also offered their email address.

If you know someone who does not have an email address, please share communication from the committee so that all are informed.

Stay safe and keep healthy!