

LRML Joint Water Quality Committee Communication

Spring 2021

It is so hard to believe that we are soon heading into our busy summer months at our wonderful lakes. The past year has been one of various trials and tribulations on many fronts, however, we continue to be most fortunate as we enjoy the beautiful scenery and serenity that Lake Rosalind and Marl Lake have to offer.

Over the past year, we have welcomed many newcomers to the lake. Each year, the LRML Joint Water Quality Committee uses this Spring Communication as a tool to introduce ourselves and reinforce our purpose. Although this information may appear redundant to those of you who have heard it many times, we want to make certain that those who are new also gain insight into the work of the committee.

As noted in previous communications, the LRML Joint Water Quality Committee was created to address resident concerns regarding lake water quality issues.

For those of you unaware, a 2010 water study was conducted on our lakes in order to gather information related to water quality for drinking and recreational purposes. The data at that time pointed primarily to concerns resulting from overextended residential usage surrounding the lakes. The years since 2010 have seen a substantial increase in seasonal non-winterized cottages being turned into year-round homes. It is important to recognize the impact that this has on how well our lakes continue to manage the cleansing and filtration properties using the marl that lies at the bottom of our lakes. Everything we do in, on or under the ground can have positive or negative results on water quality depending on what enters the lakes.

Fast forward to 2021...

The data from our yearly water sampling has continued to demonstrate higher phosphate and nitrogen counts especially during the summer months. The nice summer weather brings an increase in visitors. As well, we are experiencing new times with more people working from their cottages/homes as a result of Covid. This increase in year-round residents and summer visitors can put a strain on already overworked septic systems. The result is that systems struggle to do their job of effective filtration if there is too much input or if the septic system is not regularly maintained or inspected for failures. Until our lakes benefit from sewer installation similar to those in the cities (which is many years off if at all) we must all do our part to keep our systems in good working order by only using septic safe products and engaging in maintenance programs that will ensure that there is no leakage into the lakes.

Last year our committee noted that one of our residents had engaged in a Masters level thesis using research and data from our lake focusing on fecal indicators. The purpose of the study was to track the source, frequency and relative quantity of fecal pollution during various sample periods. Our committee appreciated the opportunity to hear the results of this extensive study and we wish to thank Jeff Avedesian for taking the time to share his findings over a recent zoom meeting. Jeff has noted that he is willing to share these findings more broadly when the Covid restrictions allow for such an opportunity. As a committee, we are attempting to understand how this research can be incorporated into our work. Congratulations to Jeff on his Master Degree!

How else can each of us make a positive difference? For the last few years, the LRML Joint Water Committee has been encouraging all residents to consider making simple adjustments, where and when they can. We are greatly encouraged to see that residents have made big changes in these last few years with positive results demonstrated in our water quality. We continue to encourage all to:

- i. Reduce or eliminate nutrients entering the lakes from phosphate detergents, chlorine and ammonia products (such as those from hot tubs).
- ii. Respect shoreline buffer zones including the prevention of shoreline erosion resulting from boat waves. It is expected that ALL boaters practice NO-WAKE BOATING in the near-shore areas. Idle speed only in shallow areas and in signed areas, please.
- iii. Recognize that there are 2 enforceable Municipal By-law Bans around the lakes:
 - a) The feeding of all waterfowl and seagulls is prohibited. (by-law ban [#2016-070](#).)
 - b) The use of all types of fertilizers, inorganic and organic is prohibited (by-law ban [#2012-37](#)). It is the homeowners' responsibility and NOT the lawn care company to abide by this ban.

Any resident who has concerns or questions regarding By-law or Property Standards matters can contact the Municipal Office at [519-881-2223 ext 141](tel:519-881-2223).

Last summer our committee engaged in an experimental gesture by purchasing and installing several Biochar bags in strategically placed areas on our lake. Our goal is to gather data from the use of these bags over several years in order to determine their effectiveness in helping to keep our lakes clean and healthy. The data that has been offered so far appears to indicate that the bags are effective in gathering and holding on to unwanted nutrients preventing the spread of these in our lakes. This is certainly a good indicator, however, more data over a longer period of time is needed in order to draw more concrete conclusions.

For this reason, the LRML Joint Water Committee in collaboration with the Lake Rosalind Property Owners Association and Marl Lake residents has decided to

purchase and install these Biochar bags once again using data obtained from Jeff's thesis as well as other indicators to assist in determining number and placement.

There are now 3 Veed Cutters for use on our lakes. Two are located on Lake Rosalind and one on Marl Lake. Last year, residents assisted in a collaborative effort to reduce the amount of invasive and detrimental weeds in the lake. There will be an opportunity to join a Veed cutting team effort once again in the near future. Watch for a notice to be sent forward requesting assistance as volunteers are most certainly welcome and appreciated. If you wish to borrow the Veed Cutter for your personal use, please contact Scott Miller (Road 4), Bonnie and Donnie Shewfelt (Road 1) or Rick Kalte (Marl Lake).

Zebra mussels continue to be an unwelcome nuisance in our lakes. With the water being so clear this time of year, it is easy to spot these creatures attached to rocks, docks, or anything else they can attach to. Please remember that these creatures are sharp and can cause rather nasty cuts if stepped on or rubbed up against. They can also carry bacteria. It might be a suggestion for those entering the water's edge to wear rubber soled water shoes for protection. It is best to safely remove these from the water as they will die if exposed to air for a period of time. If you remove these, please dispose of them appropriately and safely.

Our Committee wishes to welcome three new members who have stepped up to offer their expertise. It is our pleasure to welcome Jeff Spong, Don Rhodes and Ben Harvey who all bring knowledge and extensive background skills.

It is imperative that all residents do their part in contributing to the long term health of our lakes. The Committee is one tool, however, it takes collective commitment and shared action to truly make a difference. Your ideas, comments and suggestions are welcome so feel free to connect with any members of the Committee.

LRML Joint Water Quality Committee Members:

Deb Goddard (Chair)	lakros268@gmail.com	226-909-0580
Ken Coleman	colemans@eastlink.ca	519-901-0025
Diana Goodwin	dianalynngoodwin@gmail.com	519-636-3476
Ben Harvey	benharveysamsung@gmail.com	
Rick Kalte	r.kalte708@yahoo.ca	519-364-2894
John McDougall	jamcdougall2012@gmail.com	519-540-8046
Don Rhodes	Don.rhodes@icloud.com	
Jeff Spong	jt.spong@gmail.com	