



“Love Your Lake” Program Update 1,364 Shorelines Completed

The “Love Your Lake Program” is a shoreline assessment and educational stewardship program being undertaken by many shoreline communities in Canada. The program is developed and administered by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation and delivered by organizations focused on environmental measures to protect our lake and water quality.

Excellent water quality is critical to both the recreational and economic value of all shoreline properties. Shoreline ecology specialists recommend that 75% of a lake’s shorelines be maintained in a natural state to support healthy lake ecosystems and high levels of water quality. Unfortunately, the presence of manicured and fertilized lawns right to the water’s edge have a detrimental effect on natural shoreline water filtering with excessive nutrients flowing into the lake.

This summer the Cavendish Community Ratepayers Association Inc. (CCRAI), in conjunction with your lake, cottage and property owner’s associations, initiated this shoreline classification project on the following lakes: Catchacoma, Mississagua, Beaver, Cavendish, McGinnis, Gold, Cold, Pencil, Picard, Greens, Galloway, and the Mississagua River. The assessments were conducted by a team of evaluators trained by Professor Tom Whillans of Trent University in Peterborough and certified through the “Love Your Lake” program, where they assessed the degree to which natural shorelines have been displaced through shoreline development. These shoreline assessments were conducted from the water where they used Graphical Information Systems (GIS) data and GPS technology from a boat.

The project commenced on July 12th and by August 9th, 1,364 shoreline properties had been evaluated across all 11 lakes and the Mississagua River by three evaluators and a host of volunteers from each of the lakes who provided their boats, boat drivers and accommodations for the evaluators. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the CCRAI, we would like to sincerely thank all of the volunteers who helped out with the Love Your Lake Program. We will formally thank all the volunteers at a later date. This project could not have been possible without the volunteers and the coordination by the Board of Directors of the CCRAI.

In the spring of 2018, each shoreline property owner will receive a letter from the World Wildlife Federation and the CCRAI with a website link and a confidential password where they can access their confidential report on their shoreline’s status. The property owner is the only one that will have access to this information and report and it will provide recommendations for potential renaturalization options that the property owner may wish to consider. These options will focus on increasing the amount of natural shoreline area and will be compatible with traditional shoreline activities. The report will also provide links to native plant material sources as well as advice and support resources for renaturalization work. It will be up to the individual property owner to decide what, if any, work they wish to undertake. The report can be downloaded as a PDF file for no charge or it can be ordered as a full colour printed wire bound booklet for a charge of \$20.00 that will be mailed to you.

Grant assistance will cover 90% of the costs of this program with the remaining 10% being absorbed by a combination of voluntary donations by property owners, your lake, cottage or property owner’s association and the CCRAI.

The CCRAI would like all property owners to consider making a donation to the Love Your Lake Program by sending it directly to the CCRAI at 32 Community Complex Drive, Trent Lakes, Ontario, K0L 1J0 or by dropping it off at the library at the Cavendish Community Centre.

If you have any questions on the “Love Your Lake” Program, email us at ccraimail@gmail.com or go to <https://cavendishcommunitycentre.wordpress.com/ccrai/> and access the “Love Your Lake” information.