

LAKE KASSHABOG AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The environment committee continues to focus on four areas:

Wildlife Protection: Covia mine generously provided funds for the *2019 Loon Project*, which involved: mapping the territories; identifying the number of breeding pairs; monitoring the nesting and hatching habits; observing the interactions between the breeding loons and intruders, and between parent and chicks; and recording the number of births and survival rate of the chicks. The total number of loon pairs counted for 2019 (May - August) was 19 pairs or 38 loons in total. Thirteen of those pairs were monitored by 21 volunteers. Eggs from three nesting pairs failed to hatch, two were due to predators and one of unknown causes. Nine chicks survived. Unfortunately, in light of COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions, the 2020 loon project (funded once again by Covia) has been deferred until 2021. Since loons are declining in Canada (see birdscanada.org/loons for more information), it is imperative that we continue to monitor loon activity on Kosh. To that end, we will still record our observations of the loon pairs throughout the summer as best we can. Please feel free to share any observations of loons on the lake with Nancy Bidgood (rnfr98l96@nexicom.net).

Consistent with The Land Between's position on fireworks, the LKRA executive decided to stop providing funds for fireworks on the lake. We suggest that you go to their website to read about the harmful effects on wildlife and the surrounding environment (noise, fires, chemical pollutants etc.) in making your own decision about using or modifying your use of fireworks at the cottage: <https://www.thelandbetween.ca/fireworks/>

Shoreline Education and Improvement: We were successful in securing external funds from Watersheds Canada in partnership with the Daniel and Susan Gottlieb Foundation to host a *Lakeshore Improvement Workshop* led by The Land Between on May 23, 2020. Unfortunately, in light of COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions, the 2020 shoreline workshop has been deferred until 2021. For more information on how to improve your shoreline with native species see <https://thelandbetween.ca>. There is an excellent PowerPoint presentation that can be downloaded.

Water Quality Testing: Prof. Paul Frost from Trent University conducts annual water testing as part of Kawartha Lakes water testing program. In 2019, he found the lake to be especially clear (Secchi dept of >5m) with very low nutrient concentrations (TP ~5 ug/L). Chlorophyll concentrations were also very low (2.6 ug/L). Altogether this makes the water quality of Kasshabog very high relative to other lakes in the region and currently at low risk of algal blooms. In all other ways, Kasshabog was within the expected ranges for boreal lakes in the region.

Invasive Species Program: The LKRA continues to work with our partners, including Prof. Eric Sager at Trent University, on better understanding and possibly limiting the impacts of the invasive fanwort plant on Lake Kasshabog. This is a reminder that introducing non-native plants, animals or fish into the lake ecosystem can have serious negative impacts. See more information about invasive species, and get your Cottager Action Plan at <https://foca.on.ca/invasive-species/>

Cathy Ward-Griffin
Environment Director, LKRA