

LAKE KASSHABOG AND THE ENVIRONMENT-June 2021

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The environment committee continues to focus on four areas:

- 1. *Wildlife Protection:*** Covia Mine generously provided funds for the **2020 Loon Project**, but unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions, we did not conduct this study, which involves: 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. 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. The 2021 Loon Project is underway with the assistance of 15 loon monitors, Nancy Bidgood (Loon Monitor Coordinator), Caryn Phoenix-Renz (Data Management Coordinator) and Genevieve Ramsey (Project Assistant). Thanks everyone for your time and effort this summer!
- 2. *Shoreline Education and Improvement:*** Last year, 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. <https://thelandbetween.ca>. Unfortunately, in light of COVID-19 ongoing restrictions, we need to reschedule again- Spring 2022 to host the shoreline workshop. In the meantime, for more information on how to improve your shoreline with native species see Anne Rawson's article, "Maybe It's Time to Go Native" in our 2021 newsletter. Also, FOCA has an excellent document, "Shore Owners Guide to Healthy Shorelines", which can be downloaded: <https://foca.on.ca/shoreline-owners-guide-to-healthy-waterfronts/>. Finally, Peterborough County Shoreline Conservation Committee is expanding to include representatives from other lakes. Please contact Roslyn Moore (roslyn.moore@rogers.com) for more information.
- 3. *Water Quality Testing:*** Dr. Paul Frost and his colleagues from Trent University conducts annual water testing as part of their long-term ecological research program. This sampling included a trip to Lake Kasshabog on August 5, 2020. During this trip they measured water pH, phosphorus, calcium and other ions. These data are being analyzed across years as well as other surrounding lakes. The results of this analysis indicated that the water quality continues to be very good and well within the normal range for lakes in our region. Similar water quality sampling and some additional research activities are planned by the Trent Aquatic Research Program (TARP) for the upcoming 2021 summer. To learn more about TARP and how you can help to support it, please contact Dr. Paul Frost at paulfrost@trentu.ca.
- 4. *Invasive Species Management:*** This area/subcommittee seeks to better understand and possibly limit the impacts of the invasive species affecting 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/>. Last year we experienced a gypsy moth infestation. We are now entering year two of this infestation. Please see newsletter article, **Preparing for Year Two of the Gypsy Moth**, for some techniques in mitigating/managing this infestation.