

The purpose of the Lake of Bays Association is to promote, sustain and enhance a clean and healthy natural environment, a well-served community and a safe and peaceful Lake of Bays.



THE NEW HANDY DANDY RECYCLING APP

Everywhere seems to have different rules about what you can and cannot recycle. It gets to be so confusing that sometimes it seems easier to toss it all in the garbage. Now there is a free app to help you with this problem in Muskoka. Search for [Muskoka Recycles](#) and you're good to go. You will get up to date info such as garbage collection changes and landfill site addresses and hours. You can do a search for any item and it will tell you whether it should be recycled as fibre, containers or compost or thrown out with your garbage. Why not check it out now.



Save the Date

Lake of Bays Association Annual General Meeting

Saturday July 6, 2019
9:30 am – noon

Dwight Community Centre

Look for details on our website soon



It Takes a Community to Manage a Forest

By Rob Keen, CEO Forests Ontario

As a forester, cottager, and the CEO of Forests Ontario, I have had the opportunity to experience firsthand the countless ways forests support our day to day lives. From cleaning our air and water, to creating wildlife habitat to supporting our economy, forests play an irreplaceable role in supporting our healthy landscapes and thriving communities.

From an economic perspective, forests provide significant support to Ontario's communities; the province's forest sector employs 180,000 people, generates \$13 billion in revenue, and pays more than \$2 billion in direct wages and salaries. And of course you can't forget about all the products our forests provide, including lumber, paper, and the wood compounds used to make things such as tooth paste, LCD screens, and even car doors!

Exposure to forests is also linked to several human health benefits, such as lower levels of stress, decreased instances of obesity and cardiovascular disease, and reduced rates of asthma. These benefits, in addition to the many recreational opportunities our forests provide, keep us active and healthy.

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As well, our forests are a key component of a healthy landscape by removing pollutants from our air, moderating water levels and acting as flood controls, purifying our water, stabilizing soil and preventing erosion of our shorelines, and providing habitat for a range of wildlife species.

No doubt, forests play a fundamental role in supporting our economy, communities, and environment. However, given the planet's changing climate, one of the most powerful benefits our forests provide is their ability to sequester carbon. As trees grow, they store carbon. When trees are converted into wood products, such as lumber for our docks and cottages, the majority of the stored carbon is retained in that product well beyond the life of the tree, sometimes for centuries!

One of the most unique aspects of Ontario's approach to forest management is the importance placed upon public involvement.

Fully understanding and appreciating all of the benefits that our forests provide is essential to the continuation of their sustainable management. With this in mind, Forests Ontario introduced the It Takes a Forest ittakesaforest.ca initiative. Supported by more than 40 organizations, It Takes a Forest is a collaborative public awareness

initiative designed to provide Ontarians with fact-based information regarding our forests and forest products, as well as the role they play in sustaining our economy, mitigating climate change, and creating healthy environments. By providing access to better information, it is our intention to initiate informed dialogue, promote responsible decisions, and support healthy forests for our future.

In addition to disseminating information, It Takes a Forest also brings together rural and urban communities in celebration of how well we manage our forests. Both national and international studies recognize Ontario as a global leader in forest management due to our comprehensive regulations. Indeed, as Ontarians we have every reason to be proud of our first-class forest management practices.

One of the most unique aspects of Ontario's approach to forest management is the importance placed upon public involvement. The ability for citizens to participate in meetings and provide input to how our forests are managed is one of the reasons we have the best, world-renowned forest management practices.

We invite you to join the conversation on the importance of our forests and how they are managed by following It Takes a Forest on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter@ittakesaforest](#).

Rob Keen is the CEO of [Forests Ontario](#), a registered charity and non-profit organization. Forests Ontario's goal is to ensure healthy forests for healthy communities by providing tree planting and maintenance programs, delivering forest education programs, and engaging the community in learning more about the benefits of forests. 


a CALL for VOLUNTEERS



We are fortunate to have new volunteers join the LOBA team every year. Many start their involvement as Area Stewards, representing the Association to their neighbours while learning more about current concerns and plans. An easy and relaxed way to support our association, meet your neighbours and learn more about the lake we all cherish. This year we are actively seeking members who have an interest, or particularly a background in Planning and Development to help us in that area. If you have been following any of the planned developments on our lake, I encourage you to contact me for more details on how you could contribute.

We are in need of members who have an interest in our local and District governments and can attend some of the monthly council or committee meetings and report on the results. This is the responsibility of the External Affairs Committee. We all have a life that includes appointments and travel so our objective is to have a team where there is usually a member available to cover each meeting. An easy activity to try out, without making a long term commitment.

We are seeking a chair, or co-chairs, of our Environment committee. In this role you will keep Association members informed about environmental conditions in and around the Lake of Bays area, including the quality of the air and water, the health of fish and wildlife and the condition of trees and plants. You will work with the Water Quality Testing Coordinator on our annual water testing program. It's a big job, but very rewarding! Do you, or a family member, have an interest in learning about the people and places around the lake? We are looking for volunteers to assist in sourcing story ideas and writing short articles for the Yearbook and newsletter. Excellent opportunity for anyone developing or with developed writing skills.

We are fortunate to have so many people who generously give their time and expertise on behalf of LOBA and we thank all of our hard-working volunteers. If any of these positions interest you, or any other volunteer work with LOBA, please contact Ian White, Chair of Volunteer Relations at ian.white@rogers.com or 647-294-5544. 





a shoreline makeover

the Robinson shoreline naturalization is complete!




Spearheaded by Caroline Konarzewski, LOBA's Environment Committee chair, the Association offered Shoreline Naturalization grants in 2017. Despite several delays, planting of the Robinson's property at 1024 Deep Water Road was finished in August 2018.

Even though planting day was dreary and threatening rain, workers from Northway Gardeners, who also provided us a fabulous collection of healthy, indigenous plants; and superb volunteers Dennis Rolland, Chris

Rolland, Robinson's son-in-law Ken Hilliard and Caroline Konarzewski had all 51 plants in place by noon—just in time for the rain. What an amazing, hard-working crew they were—many thanks!

Sharon and Bill Robinson, who waited patiently through the delays, thanked Caroline and LOBA, and wrote, "This was a pretty big project for certain. Our property is going to benefit from this planting for years to come."

Improving your shoreline by adding indigenous plants helps to protect lake water

quality. Their roots suck up phosphorous from the soil preventing it from running into the lake where it can feed algae and contribute to unwanted algal blooms. Their roots also help to prevent erosion by holding onto the soil. The more indigenous plants in your shoreline buffer, the better. 

top left: The team from left to right, Kendra Grace and Kelsey Thomson from Northway Gardeners, and volunteers Dennis and Chris Rolland. **other photos:** Various stages of planting. **below left:** Project complete. Now just waiting for it to fill out.



Thinking of improving your shoreline? Check out these sources:

[LOBA NATIVE PLANT LIST](#)

[TREES OF ONTARIO - LIST OF NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS](#)

[MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL, RECREATING A HEALTHY WATERFRONT](#)

[MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL, YOUR BUFFER AREA](#)

[SHORELINE RESTORATION PLANTS](#)



HATS OFF

(Hauling Ash To Save Our Forests' Future)

Friends of Muskoka Watershed receives \$733,000 grant to further study how woodstove ash can help heal Muskoka's damaged forests and waterways

By Friends of the Muskoka Watershed

The ash from Muskoka's fireplaces and woodstoves can help the region's forests and waterways, protect vital aquatic creatures, and even increase the amount of maple syrup we produce. And thanks to a \$733,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, a three-year study beginning in January 2019 will determine the best ways to get the ash where it can do the most good.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation has announced a \$733,600 grant to the HATSOFF project, which is coordinated by the [Friends of the Muskoka Watershed](#) (FMW). The project will focus on ways to collect the wood ash, as well as doing field tests to determine exactly how much ash should be spread in different types of forests. "This is a great example of how individual community members can work together to make a real difference for our local ecosystem," said Norman Miller, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka. "I encourage residents to take part in this project and I look forward to seeing the results of the study."

HATSOFF (Hauling Ash To Save our Forests' Future) is a unique collaboration between scientists, municipal officials, and property owners, including the region's maple sugar producers. "We've known for a long time that calcium is a key factor in our forests and waterways," explained Norman Yan, one of the nation's leading freshwater biologists and the chair of the FMW. "Decades of acid rain have flushed a lot of that calcium away, with widespread environmental effects. But wood ash is an efficient way to return calcium into the forest and from there into the waterways."

A smaller study, which FMW completed in 2018, confirmed that the ash is not toxic. It also determined that many people who heat with wood are willing to donate their ash and have it spread in the forest. This next phase of study will begin by recruiting 100 to 200 Muskoka residents who are willing to donate their ash. FMW will be partnering with the District Municipality of Muskoka to set up collection sites at waste transfer stations. "In the meantime," said

Yan, "if you want to contribute your ash to help save our forest, please stockpile it for now. Details on where and how to donate it will be coming early in 2019."

"This is a great example of how individual community members can work together to make a real difference for our local ecosystem."

In the first two years of study, five to ten tonnes of ash will be spread in test plots located in sugar bushes in Muskoka. (Sugar maple trees are particularly prone to calcium loss and tend to respond very quickly when calcium levels are restored). Graduate students and research scientists will monitor the sites, studying the impact of the ash on tree growth, bird populations, water quality, and a wide range of other factors. In the final year of the study, FMW

aims to have 1,000 Muskoka residents share up to 100 tonnes of ash (believed to be 1/3 of the annual wood ash production in the District), to allow a watershed-level field test. The ultimate goal is to have a province-wide ash collection system, sufficient to supply hundreds of tonnes of ash every year. “This will take tonnes of material out of the landfills and have an enormous impact on the health of our forests and waterways,” said Yan. Since much of the wood burned in southern Ontario came from central Ontario forests, he added, bringing it back to the region closes a recycling loop.

Calcium depletion background

Where did all the calcium go?

A century of acid rain and historically poor logging practices have flushed calcium from the soil and from the lakes and rivers. Most of Muskoka’s lakes have lost 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the calcium they need. Even though acid rain has largely stopped, and forestry practices have improved, without intervention it will take centuries for calcium levels to rebound.

Why is this a problem?

All life needs calcium. In Muskoka, forests are about 2 per cent calcium by weight, and when calcium isn’t available, the trees and other forest plants can’t grow as quickly or efficiently. Many aquatic creatures—particularly hard-shelled creatures like crayfish, turtles and molluscs—are even more dependent on calcium. Crayfish diversity in many lakes has already declined by 25 per cent. When trees aren’t growing as quickly, they can’t capture carbon as efficiently, impacting their ability to help fight climate change. In lakes, the tiny crustacea and molluscs are often filter-feeders, performing a vital function in cleaning our waterways. Just one group of species filters the entire volume of Lake Muskoka every week in the summer.


Is this a problem everywhere?

No. The problem is most severe in areas with thin soils, granite bedrock, and a history of being exposed to acid rain. Muskoka and other parts of central Ontario are uniquely positioned to feel the brunt of this problem.

What will wood ash do?

Wood ash is about 1/3 calcium by weight, and also contains many other key nutrients. Much of it is absorbed into the soil and quickly taken up by trees and other

plants. What isn’t absorbed by the plants will make its way into the lakes.

How much ash will it take? It will take roughly four tonnes of ash per hectare over many thousands of hectares to restore the calcium balance. That is far more ash than Muskoka residents produce. The lessons learned in this three-year study will be used to help develop a province-wide ash recycling program, to bring wood ash from southern Ontario. 

WOODSTOVE SAFETY

While woodstove ash is going to be important in returning calcium to our lakes it’s important to be safe when operating your woodstove.



DOs

- Keep children and pets away when you are burning. Use a fireguard.
- Keep anything combustible at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- Install carbon monoxide and smoke detectors outside each sleeping area and on each level. Check they are in working order and change batteries every 6-months.
- Use quality clean, dry hard wood, or smokeless fuel. Kiln dried wood is great.
- Warm up the stove fully on the first loads of fuel before reducing the air controls.
- Have your chimney cleaned and inspected regularly.
- Have your woodstove inspected by a professional at least once every year for wear and tear.
- Ashes can take several days to cool completely. Regularly remove ash from the stove and dispose of them in a covered, metal container at least 10-feet away from buildings or vehicles and on a non-combustible surface.




DON'Ts

- Leave the stove unattended with the air controls wide open.
- Over fire your stove by overloading with fuel or leaving the air controls too far open for too long. This can damage the wood stove or result in a fire outside the unit.
- Close the stove air controls down too quickly before the chimney and stove have properly warmed up, it can stifle the fire and cause smoke and tar build up.
- Cover or remove your carbon monoxide alarm. It is there for your protection.
- Burn anything other than wood in your stove. Other combustibles (rubber, plastic, garbage, coal, etc.) can cause damage and could explode or give off toxic fumes.
- Let ashes build up in the bottom of the stove.

Congratulations Barry

Barry Morrison is the 2018 recipient of the Betty Day Award. Although Barry retired from the LOBA Board in 2018, he had been a Director for 14 years, since 2004. For many years he was co-Chair of the Planning and Development Committee, providing the Association expertise and guidance on proposed developments on the lake, and on District and Township Official Plans. His professional knowledge and experience in the field of planning made him invaluable to LOBA and although he has stepped away from the Board, he has been known to provide the Planning committee with advice when needed. Thank you for your many years of volunteer service Barry!

The Betty Day Award celebrates LOBA's greatest resource – our volunteers. Betty Day was LOBA's president in 1992 when she passed away suddenly. The award is presented annually to a LOBA member whose volunteer activities have significantly furthered the goals of the Association. Barry Morrison's years of work on behalf of LOBA makes him a deserving recipient of this prestigious award. 



update

by Wendy Gibson

Langmaids Island Development Proposal

Langmaids Island Corp. (LIC) has filed three Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) appeals on the basis that no decision had been reached by the respective approval authorities within the 180-day time limit mandated by the planning act. The three appeals were filed with the Township of Lake of Bays, the District of Muskoka and the Town of Huntsville and relate to LIC's application for a 36 lot residential subdivision on Langmaid's Island in the Township of Lake of Bays and two waterfront landings on the portion of Lake of Bays shoreline that falls within the boundaries of the Town of Huntsville. LPAT is the appeal process that replaced the Ontario Municipal Board and has been in effect since April 2018.

The first appeal was filed with the Township of Lake of Bays on November 14, six days prior to a council meeting that was scheduled to consider the revised application and hear a second round of public comments. The item was removed from the agenda once the appeal was received. Subsequently, the appeal filed with the Town of Huntsville on November 18 resulted in the application for the waterfront landings to be removed from the agenda of a council meeting on November 27. The planning staff reports for both the [Township of Lake of Bays](#) and the [Town of Huntsville](#) had recommended that the applications be denied.

Even though the delay in deciding on this application was necessary to receive and respond to the required impact assessments and peer reviews, LIC was within their rights to an appeal. The consequence of the appeal is that now LPAT will be leading a review of the application decision and will be providing a ruling or recommendation to council on the matter.

Community effort leads to job well done!

CLEAN DRAIN DRY

Last year, in conjunction with the Township of Lake of Bays, LOBA installed Aquatic Invasive Species signs at all public boat launches in the Township. Provided free-of-charge by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), the signs advise boaters to CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY your boat when going from one lake to another. Doing so will ensure that your boat is not introducing invasive species such as fish eggs, pathogens and plants to the lake. Invasive Pike and Spiny Water Fleas are already changing the balance and health of our Lake of Bays. Please do your bit to help prevent the introduction of other invasives.


This project was accomplished with the assistance of a number of individuals and groups. We heartily thank:



Township of Lake of Bays council who approved using Township staff to install the signs at 6 public boat launches on Lake of Bays and 7 launches on other lakes in the Township.

Township employees who installed the signs in record time.

FOCA for providing the signs and granted LOBA funds for the posts and hardware.

Volunteers who pitched in to install signs on the Lake of Bays boat launches in Huntsville and Haliburton. 

What happens now?

Once verified as a valid appeal (a basic pre-screening exercise) a Case Management Conference (CMC) will be scheduled. This is usually a one-day meeting presided by the Tribunal adjudicator to establish who will be ‘parties’ in the process, what the issues are and what the process will be for coming to a decision. Currently all three appeals have been assigned to the same file and it will be up to the tribunal member to determine if they will be dealt with together, sequentially or separately. This and other details will be addressed at the CMC which is largely an administrative meeting, although some aspects of the appeal will need to be raised in order to decide what the key issues are.

What are the timelines?

LOBA has been advised that given the current schedule of LPAT cases, a CMC is unlikely to be scheduled before June. After that, next steps are difficult to predict due to the complexity of these three related appeals and the fact that the LPAT process itself is still very new. Timelines will be clearer after the CMC.

What is LOBA's position?

LOBA supports the Township and Town planning staff reports to deny the applications. Our letter to the Township of Lake of Bays and a report prepared by our planning consultant providing an analysis of the revised plan of subdivision was submitted on November 19 ([read here](#)). It is our position that the natural heritage features for which the island was designated as a Muskoka Heritage Area have not been properly addressed in the revised development proposal and the amendments LIC has proposed to the Lake of Bays Official Plan and Bylaw are not supported in the local or provincial planning policies.

LOBA and the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation (LBHF) will be jointly requesting party status to participate fully in the appeal and have retained legal counsel to support our planning consultants in representing our position. We intend to strongly defend the policies that protect our local natural heritage and advocate for responsible land use planning that is consistent with the character of the surrounding community.

Can the public participate in the appeal?

Those with an interest in the matter may be able to request “party” or “participant” status for the appeal provided certain conditions are met. Visit the Environment and Land Tribunals Ontario website elto.gov.on.ca for information on the LPAT rules and appeal process. In addition, the Local Planning Appeal Support Centre (LPASC) has been established to help members of the public navigate the new LPAT system. Visit lpasc.ca or call 416-212-6349 or toll free 1-866-444-2248.

How can you stay informed?

Information on the progress of the appeal is posted on the Environment and Land Tribunals website under “e-status”.

The Langmaid’s Island appeal is filed under “L” [Lake of Bays—PL180898](#). This is where the date of the CMC, hearings and decisions will be posted. You can request notification of events related to the appeal by contacting the Case Coordinator, John Norris John.Norris2@ontario.ca.

LOBA will be keeping our members advised of any news via our electronic News-flash. If you have any questions or comments please email our Executive Coordinator, Lili Davis-Burchat at executivecoord@loba.ca.

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**Welcome to our new
Township of Lake of Bays Council**



L OBA worked hard this past election year to get information about the candidates to our members and encourage everyone, whether a seasonal or permanent resident, to vote. We hosted two all-candidates meetings with the Huntsville-Lake of Bays Chamber of Commerce and asked the candidates to provide written responses to questions, which we posted on our website. Voting was by phone or internet, so everyone was able to participate even from remote locations. While results varied slightly between wards, overall 53.5% of permanent residents and 31.5% of seasonal residents voted, for an overall percentage of 37.8%.

The new Council is comprised of one Mayor, two District Councillors and four Ward Councillors. We look forward to working with all of them!

In the Town of Huntsville Mayor Scott Aitchison was re-elected; the three District councillors are Nancy Alcock, Brian Thompson and Tim Withey and in Brunel ward Councillor Dan Armour was re-elected. At the District of Muskoka, John Klinck was appointed District Chair.

We thank all local elected officials for their service to our community.

back row, left to right: Ridout Ward Councillor Penny McEachern, Franklin Ward Councillor Nancy Tapley, McLean Ward Councillor Jacquie Godard **front row, left to right:** Sinclair/Finlayson Ward Councillor Rick Brooks, District Councillor Robert LaCroix, Mayor Terry Glover, District Councillor Mike Peppard

Photo: Township of Lake of Bays

President **Mary Ann Peden**



We held our open Board meeting in Baysville on January 19, on what could very likely be the coldest winter weather we have had for this meeting, with a polar vortex in place. Despite the frigid cold, we had many in attendance, most of whom are permanent residents who consider the Lake of Bays area their home. We were very pleased to have the entire newly elected Lake of Bays Township Council in attendance. Mayor Terry Glover spoke on the importance of collaboration and cooperation on the many current and future issues that are coming our way. We could not agree more that working together is of critical importance. Guest speaker Rob Keen, CEO of Forests Ontario, gave an engaging presentation on forest management—it was very reassuring to hear that there is excellent oversight of our forests in the province—let's hope that this continues.

Our board gave brief individual updates, including information on our finan-


...Continued Langmaids Island Proposal

How can you help?

LOBA and the LBHF are united in their concern about this development proposal and intend to keep costs to a minimum by combining resources. LOBA's Action Fund is a reserve fund used for extraordinary initiatives, including hiring consultants for planning and environmental issues. The past and ongoing support of member donations to our Action Fund when you renew your LOBA membership is deeply

cial, environment, membership and a report on the Town of Huntsville Official Plan review. The proposed development of Langmaids Island continues to be one of the most important issues that LOBA is dealing with. LOBA has teamed up with the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation (LBHF) to request joint party status at the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (formerly OMB). LOBA supports the Township and Town planning staff reports to deny the applications, it is our belief that the policies that protect the natural heritage of the island must be defended, and we advocate for responsible land use that is consistent with the character of the surrounding community. We are also watching closely as the provincial government considers several major potential changes to municipal, district and provincial governance.

I encourage all of our membership to keep abreast of all of these important issues through our newsletter and newsflashes. I am also asking that you consider volunteering with LOBA. We have an amazing depth of experience and knowledge on our board, but are always seeking more assistance with the many, sometimes complex issues that we are dealing with. Please consider helping us out and meeting and making some terrific friends in the process.

Keep healthy and active and embrace this beautiful winter weather—spring will be here before we know it! 

Mary Ann

appreciated and allows us to be represented in this and other important lake-wide issues. The Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation as a charitable organization can issue a tax receipt for any donations; the LBHF board has established a dedicated Langmaid's Fund to receive donations in support of our planning and legal expenses to defend our position on the development of Langmaid's Island.

Visit lakeofbaysheritage.ca. 



A family-friendly ski hill that feels like home! Located 7 minutes east of downtown Huntsville. Trial membership for the Muskoka Ski Club are available. Visit www.skihiddenvalley.ca for more information.



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