

lake of bays ASSOCIATION currentconnection

LAKE OF BAYS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER VOLUME 34, NUMBER 1

WINTER/SPRING 2023



Investing in our Community

The Lake of Bays Association, since 2013, has donated \$17,900 from our Action Fund, to a wide range of projects that serve to enhance the local community. The funds are partnered with money raised by community groups who have identified a need and taken the lead in bringing improved services or experiences to the people of Lake of Bays.

Projects LOBA has contributed to in the past include electronic notice boards in Dwight and Baysville, the **Dorset Health Hub**, **Lake of Bays Renewable Energy Co-op's** solar project at the **Baysville Community Centre**, the **Andrew Daniels Fish Stewardship Foundation**, a picnic table and swim ladder for the public dock in Baysville, public washrooms at Dwight Beach, the Baysville 150 Anniversary, and the proposed Dwight library expansion.

In 2022 LOBA helped support improvements at the Baysville cemeteries (water taps), the 'Kitchen Party' held in support of the Dorset Health Hub and the United Way of Muskoka's Opioid Addiction Awareness event held in Huntsville.

...continued—page 2

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

ONTARIO'S monarch butterfly

by Caroline Konarzewski

Weighing about half a gram, less than a paperclip, the Monarch butterfly is Canada's most iconic insect.

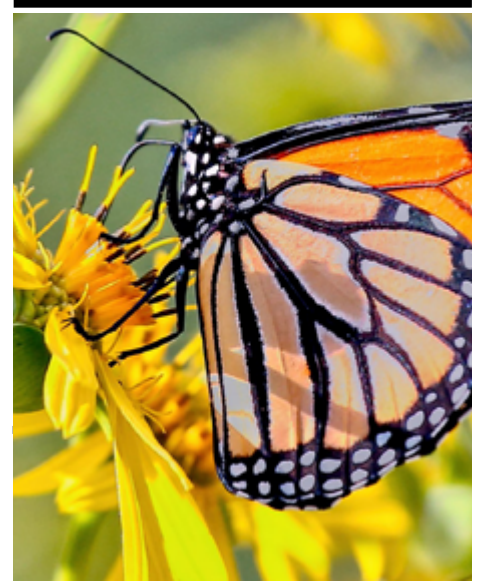
A Monarch butterfly possesses two pairs of brilliant orange-red wings with black veins and white spots along the edges. This bright orange-red colour is a warning to predators that they do not taste good. Males, who possess distinguishing black dots along the veins of their wings, are slightly bigger than females. Weighing about half a gram, less than a paperclip, the Monarch butterfly is Canada's most iconic insect. We are all excited when we see them around our home or cottage. Don't be fooled however, by the Viceroy butterfly which has a similar colour but an extra black stripe across the hindwing vein.

life cycle

A male Monarch butterfly mates throughout its lifetime. Over her lifetime, a female Monarch butterfly can lay 400 or 500 eggs one at a time, on multiple milkweed plants. Four days after an egg is laid, a black, white, and yellow striped caterpillar (larva) emerges and feeds voraciously on its milkweed plant. In eight to twelve days the caterpillar grows so rapidly—from less than one up to five-centimetres—that it typically will shed its skin (molt) up to five times before revealing itself as an emerald-green chrysalis (pupa). A week or two later the adult Monarch butterfly emerges.

life as an adult

Monarch butterflies feed on the nectar of a wide variety of flowers in spring, summer and fall. Spring flowers are extremely important because Monarchs arriving in Ontario then are very hungry. During the summer and early fall the female Monarchs are on the lookout for milkweed plants which are essential for laying their eggs. Sensory organs on their feet and heads help them to identify plants.



above and below: Monarch feeding on nectar as early as the spring months. Four days after eggs are laid the caterpillar larva emerges.

Adult Monarchs live only two to six weeks, except for the last generation of the season known as the 'Methuselah' generation, which can live for eight to nine months. They are the ones who make that long trip all the way from Ontario to Mexico.

marvelous, mysterious migration

The Monarch butterflies from Eastern Canada make an incredible 3,000+ kilometer journey to the Oyamel Fir forests in the mountains of Mexico.

This trip can take as long as two months and pound for pound (or is it kilo for kilo or gram for gram?) it is the equivalent of a human walking around the earth 11 times!



...continued—page 2

The Doug Cross Stewardship Recognition Program



above: Peter Sale presenting the award to Caroline Konarzewski.


left: Diane Crocker award winner for 2022.

In 2022, the Muskoka Watershed Council (MWC) introduced the Doug Cross Stewardship Recognition Program to help local community and lake organizations across Muskoka's watershed recognize the dedication, efforts, and good stewardship activities of their members.

The Lake of Bays Association selected Diane Crocker to receive the award in 2022. In 2021, Diane was concerned about shoreline erosion on her property. She reached out to the MWC and the Natural Edge program for help—muskokawatershed.org/programs/the-natural-edge/. Through the program, she had a planting plan drawn up and purchased indigenous plants. Diane forged ahead despite many obstacles including high water levels that made it impossible to follow the planting plan along the shoreline, wet weather in July 2021, followed by hot and dry weather in August, hungry deer, and munching insects. However as of August 2022, Diane reported that 28 of her 50 indigenous plants are thriving, and she has added more. She appreciated all the input she received from the Natural Edge program and would recommend it to others.


Congratulations and thank you Diane and Caroline!!

Also in 2022, the MWC awarded LOBA's own Caroline Konarzewski with the Doug Cross Stewardship Award. They recognized her 12 years of service representing LOBA on the Council and her tireless work attending MWC working group and sub-committee meetings, leading numerous FrogWatch workshops, writing articles, giving presentations, and providing input into educational initiatives. They also recognized all she has done for LOBA as Chair of the Environment Committee, including writing articles for the LOBA newsletter, implementing programs for shoreline renaturalization and invasive species awareness, assisting with water quality monitoring, and responding to countless inquiries from LOBA members about environmental issues. "Caroline is a great example of what a watershed steward should be and MWC would like to thank her for everything she has done, and continues to do, to protect watershed health", MWC said.

LOBA will again be awarding one person the Doug Cross Stewardship Award in 2023. If you know someone who is an exemplary watershed steward, please let us know at info@loba.ca. 

continued—Investing...page 1

The Township has allocated funds to undertake a much-needed facelift of the community room in the Baysville Community Centre. Mayor Glover and council have challenged the community to raise \$25,000 to match the Township's contribution to the project. LOBA has donated \$1,000 to this initiative. We will keep you updated on the plans to modernize the kitchen, update the washrooms, and upgrade the space to provide improved facilities for social, sport and cultural activities. If you wish to contribute to this effort, donations can be made by e-transfer to VKobyanski@LakeofBays.on.ca, by cheque to Township of Lake of Bays, 1012 Dwight Beach Road, Dwight, ON P0A 1H0, or drop off your donation at the Baysville Library.

In addition to these Action Fund donations, LOBA annually donates from the Operating Fund to each of the Huntsville Hospital Foundation, South Muskoka Hospital Foundation, Huntsville/Lake of Bays Volunteer Fire Department, and Township of Algonquin Highlands Volunteer Fire Department which serves Dorset. LOBA selects community projects for support based on merit and alignment with our mandate to "promote, sustain and enhance a clean and healthy natural environment, a well-served community and a safe and peaceful Lake of Bays". 

continued—Monarch...page 1

Once there, the butterflies cluster together on the same tree as their third, fourth or fifth generation ancestors had done the previous year. The weather in those mountains is cooler and allows the Monarchs' metabolisms to slow down so they can winter-over, living off their fat reserves while they take in only water. These butterflies are not sexually mature until the spring, when they start to produce the next generation, which will begin the migration north.

Depending on the circumstances, it takes three to four generations of Monarchs to eventually arrive in Ontario to the exact location where their ancestors lived. Those that leave Ontario have never been to Mexico and, likewise, those that return have never done the trip either. And just to make it all the more amazing, those travellers are generations away from the ones that previously made the journeys. How these small but mighty butterflies do this is a mystery that we humans have not been able to figure out.


beautiful, small, tough & vulnerable

Despite being tough enough to make the long journey to Mexico, Monarch butterfly numbers are dropping dramatically. They have been declared an endangered species in the United States and now Canada is on the cusp of making the

same declaration. This population decline is due to several problems.

- Wetlands that provide water, pollinators and ideal conditions for milkweed plants to grow, are disappearing.
- Invasive species are crowding out milkweed and other flowering plants.
- Climate change with its extreme weather conditions from drought to floods, extreme temperatures and severe storms present a problem here in Ontario, along the route to Mexico and in the Mountains where Monarchs over-winter. In 2002, approximately 80% of the Monarchs wintering over in Mexico were killed.
- Insecticides and herbicides are also thought to be having a negative effect.

how to help

- Plant a variety of plants in order to have flowers in all three growing seasons.
- Plant milkweed.
- Do not fill in wetland areas on your property—plant water loving plants there instead.
- Avoid using insecticides and herbicides.
- Become a citizen scientist by using the **iNaturalist app** to photograph and report the Monarch butterflies you see. 

Christmas 2022 at Lake of Bays was one for the record books. More than 135-centimetres of snow fell over most areas, with drifting doubling that, beginning on the morning of Christmas Eve. High winds and trees laden with snow resulted in frequent and prolonged power outages. Then, just as we were digging out from under the storm, mild temperatures and rain over New Year's turned the snow into heavy slush. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the plow drivers, Hydro workers, paramedics, OPP, firefighters, and snow removal contractors who worked tirelessly over the holidays to get the roads open, the lights on, and ensure public safety. The community spirit was strong as neighbours helped each other out. And despite the chaos, the white Christmas was a sight to behold.

As I write this, we are preparing for our winter Town Hall meeting to be held January 28 in Baysville. We look forward to welcoming and hearing updates from the newly elected District Chair, Jeff Lehman; Huntsville Mayor, Nancy Alcock; and Lake of Bays Mayor, Terry Glover. This meeting is an excellent opportunity for an exchange of news and information with our elected officials, and we appreciate their participation. A report on this meeting will be shared in an e-Newsflash.



president's report

Wendy Gibson

the survey, the snow and your support




There were literally hundreds of written responses that will take some time to analyse, but your feedback is valuable and appreciated. Thank you!

In November, LOBA conducted an online Member Survey to help us update our priorities and ensure that our activities are aligned with the needs of our members. I'm pleased to report that the response exceeded our expectations. We received 582 completed surveys of the 1280 distributed—a 45% response rate! This indicates an engaged membership and a valid survey.

The survey asked our members how important our current areas of focus are to them, and

whether our advocacy efforts are directed at issues they consider a priority. We also queried the value of LOBA's services and communications. The survey gathered information about member demographics and property usage, which will be compared to our 2012 survey to track changes and trends. Finally, there were several open-ended questions designed to seek input on what new issues or concerns members have and if there is more, or less, that LOBA should be doing. There were literally hundreds of written responses that will take some time to analyse, but your feedback is valuable and appreciated. Thank you!

The survey results will be used by our Board and program teams to inform a new five-year Strategic Plan. A Board of Directors workshop to initiate the Strategic Plan is planned for late April. We look forward to sharing the results of the survey and Strategic Plan this summer.

Which brings me to my final request. If you haven't renewed your 2023 membership, please do so now. We are gearing up for our 2023 Water Quality Testing Program, Yearbook production, and other educational and advocacy initiatives. Your continued membership is vital to the work we do. 



Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2023?

Your support allows us to continue our work to promote, sustain and enhance a clean and healthy natural environment, a well-serviced community, and a safe and peaceful Lake of Bays.

Go to loba.ca to renew and pay online or download a renewal form to renew by mail.

If you're unsure whether you have renewed, call 705.767.3395 or email admin@loba.ca.

FROM THE MAYOR LAKE OF BAYS

*We at the Township
wish to extend our
warmest regards as
we welcome 2023*

Happy New Year. Thanks to all who were of extraordinary service during our Christmas Holiday Blizzard event. We experienced record-breaking snow-falls. Roads and communication were well stretched over the holidays along with emergency services. Thanks to our wonderful staff.

After a couple of council challengers, the 2022 election produced the same Township council. District of Muskoka council has elected many new faces and we have recently been assigned our new portfolios and will begin reporting in the new year.

We have continued to work on several files from 2022.

- broadband and cell service improvements
- affordable housing solutions
- climate change and health care initiatives
- emergency services improvements
- staffing shortage challenges
- short term rental licensing
- implementing items identified in our recent service delivery review.

We have started several new projects.

- A strategy for more transparent financial controls and budgeting, and a continued investigative accounting strategy to educate council and Township residents on rising operational costs.
- A plan for a new business and social hub development with improvements to our library services.
- Under the direction of our new CAO and Treasurer we undertook a thorough review of the Township's operations to;
 - a) determine the most cost-effective method of delivering municipal services, and
 - b) identify longstanding operational situations that the Township may or should not be involved in.
 This review has resulted in several changes to the way the Township conducts business (e.g., numerous IT improvements, property tax and fine collection methods and revenue generating sources).




- A new strategic plan for council.
 - A new official plan.
 - A new parks' plan.
 - New fire services strategies.
 - New economic development strategy to include cultural tourism.
- These lists are only a brief snapshot of operations but might provide some highlights to preview some of our work at the township.

**It's important that I share a
vision for safety as we
address the new climate
change challenges that our
environment is facing.**

It's important that I share a vision for safety as we address the new climate change challenges that our environment is facing. We have just experienced a multi-generational snowstorm and our history with flooding and major wind events is constantly challenging our emergency services staff. At a minimum all homes should be equipped with a 72-hour emergency kit for food and water. This is a minimum. We are now seeing destructive weather patterns that have kept some residents without power and road transportation for longer periods of time. I cannot stress enough that you need to have a strategy in place to protect yourselves, guests, and property from new weather emergencies.

Check out ontario.ca/beprepared

Stay safe and stay well as we move forward into 2023. 

TERRY GLOVER, MAYOR

LANGMAID'S ISLAND

Development Update:
**Second Ontario Land Tribunal
Hearing Scheduled
for June 2023**

IT'S NOT OVER YET

When Langmaid's Island Corporation (LIC) filed appeals to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) in November 2018, the Tribunal determined that the appeal would be heard in two phases. The first hearing would provide a ruling to either approve or deny LIC's application to develop the island. If the Tribunal decision was to approve the development application, a second hearing would be held to determine the detailed lot plans, properly called a Plan of Subdivision, and any conditions that would need to be met for final approval to proceed with the development.

THE DECISION

In September 2022, the OLT delivered its 105-page Decision on the appeals by LIC to develop Langmaid's Island. The hearing was held in February 2021 and lasted 23 days. The Lake of Bays Association and the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation were joint parties at the hearing, supporting the Town of Huntsville's and the Township of Lake of Bays' staff reports to deny the application. The development application was approved, and the Tribunal ordered the Official Plan, By-law, and Zoning amendments to allow up to a maximum of 32 lots on the island, and two mainland waterfront landings on South Portage Road. These amendments have now been adopted by the Township of Lake of Bays (for the island) and Town of Huntsville (for the waterfront landings). The Tribunal's Decision included direction to proceed to the second hearing.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

As the ruling authority for all Plans of Subdivision, the District of Muskoka is tasked with drafting the Plans for both the island and mainland properties. The purpose of the second hearing is to determine the suitability of any "conditions" that need to be met by the developer prior to final ap-

FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIR

It is my wish that 2023 will finally be the 'TSN Turning Point'

On behalf of Muskoka District Council and staff, I am delighted to bring greetings to the members of the Lake of Bays Association. Organizations like yours play an essential role in promoting community vitality and we thank you for your ongoing efforts. As the new District Chair and a second home resident on Lake of Bays, I look forward to getting to know each of you and hearing about the important activities and initiatives that the Association has planned for 2023.

I am incredibly honoured to represent and serve the residents of Muskoka and the 22 members of Muskoka District Council. We are living in particularly challenging times, and there is a growing desire to see the District play a leadership role in certain issues affecting our communities—and to work collaboratively with both local municipalities and the federal/provincial government to address these issues. During my discussions in preparation to run for the District Chair position, three main priorities were brought to the forefront: affordable housing, protecting our beautiful Muskoka natural environment, and diversifying and growing Muskoka's local economy.


We are living in particularly challenging times, and there is a growing desire to see the District play a leadership role in certain issues affecting our communities.

Housing is perhaps the most complex and politicized issue for government today. In Muskoka, there is an urgent need for housing that people on a modest income can afford, but for many reasons, attainable housing shortages aren't solved by new waterfront development! In practice, housing shortages require very granular work, at the project level, in our settlement areas. We will need to work closely with our MPP, as well, to ensure the more concerning aspects of Bill 23 do not open the door to inappropriate development.



And certainly, growing our capacity in Muskoka to ensure watershed management and shoreline protection will be an early priority for your new District Council. Diversifying our economy can help strengthen local communities, with remote work now permitting business growth in sectors that previously might not have considered Muskoka. Basic infrastructure such as broadband will be a critical part of this, and I appreciate the work done by Mayor Glover and others on this issue in the past few years. We will continue to advocate on these issues, and all important matters, at both the provincial and federal levels, and with the continued collaboration and support of our area municipalities it's my hope that we will see more affordable places to live, the growth of businesses in new areas of the economy, and better protections of our waterways and watershed.

There are several important District initiatives underway that may be of interest to the Association: the Redevelopment of the Fairvern Long-Term Care Home; the Muskoka Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Initiative; Integrated Watershed Management in Muskoka; the Muskoka Workforce Development Strategy for the Early Years and Child Care Sector, and the Muskoka and Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT). You can learn about these projects and more by visiting engagemuskoka.ca.

It is my wish that 2023 will finally be the 'TSN Turning Point' that we have been desperate for since the onset of the COVID pandemic, when some badly needed "normalcy" returns to life. I look forward to building a strong and positive relationship in the year ahead and please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your ideas, questions or concerns. 

Sincerely,

JEFF LEHMAN, DISTRICT CHAIR

continued—Langmaids...page 4

proval of the Plan of Subdivision. For example, the second hearing will address details around the parking plans/capacity for the waterfront landings, how the development might be phased, mechanisms for stewardship of the conserved lands, and other issues of concern held by the parties, such as construction mitigation measures. The second hearing has been scheduled for seven days beginning June 5, 2023.

THE GOOD NEWS

While we were disappointed with the Decision, we feel our participation in the process so far has resulted in some definite improvements to the original development proposal. The first lot plan we reviewed in 2017 showed 38 lots, no conserved lands and a dock and boat house in the Narrows. After public consultations the proposal was revised. At the hearing, evidence presented by the parties opposing the development resulted in some further important adjustments to the proposal to accommodate concerns. There are three directives in the Tribunal's "Findings" that we believe are significant wins for LOBA and LBHF.

1. CONSERVED LANDS

Two blocks of land encompassing the island's highest peaks and the rock cliffs and barrens on the south end of the island will be protected in perpetuity by a conservation easement. The Tribunal also ordered that the six lots between the two conserved blocks whose rear lot lines abut, will have a limitation on tree removal 10-metres from their rear lot line. This will ensure a 20-metre natural connective corridor between the conserved blocks and enhance the scenic landscape.

2. PHASED DEVELOPMENT

The Decision has suggested that the development should be undertaken in two stages, with appropriate technical studies required prior to the commencement of the second stage. This provision was proposed to address the Tribunal's expressed concerns about the potential for over capacity for parking at the waterfront landings and the increased vehicle and boating traffic the development will generate. The phasing of the development will be addressed in the second hearing.

3. ENHANCED SHORELAND PROTECTION

The Bylaw amendment for Langmaid's Island specifies that selective tree trimming,

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Natural Gardening on your shoreline

By Caroline Konarzewski



Natural gardening on your shoreland helps prevent erosion, improves water quality, and provides habitat for wildlife. You may have questions though—Where do I start? Will it look messy? Will it block my view? Will it be a lot of hard work? What plants should I choose and where can I buy them?

You might want to start by taking a drive out to Dwight Beach. Pack a picnic and spend some time. Oh, and while you're there, check out the **sample indigenous shoreland preservation plot that LOBA completed in 2012**. The buffer is located on the left side of the boat launch and contains several indigenous plants. The only maintenance has been the occasional check for evidence of invasive plants. Other than that, what grows, grows, just as it does in nature. You will find shrubs of varying heights such as Bush Honeysuckle, Chokecherry, Ninebark, Serviceberry, Meadowsweet and Sumac and low growing herbs such as Beebalm (Wild Bergamot), Echinacea and Showy Goldenrod. Also, part of the project was the planting of indigenous trees along the beach, including Red Maple, Sugar Maple, Tamarac, and White Birch, which now provide welcome shade.

Now you have an idea what can be done, you might want to consider applying to the Natural Edge program to get you started. Site visits are free if you are just looking for some advice. If you would like to take advantage of the Natural Edge Shoreline Re-Naturalization Starter Kit, there is a one-time fee of \$300 which includes:

- ✓ **Site visit.**
- ✓ **Customized re-naturalization planting plan for your shoreline property.**
- ✓ **Fifty native plants including trees, shrubs, and wildflowers (the plants alone are worth more than \$300).**
- ✓ **Coconut fibre pads to deter grass from growing around new plantings.**
- ✓ **Tree guards for all deciduous trees.**
- ✓ **Mulch for your wildflowers.**
- ✓ **Plant Care Guide with instructions on how to take care of your new plants.**
- ✓ **Habitat Creation Guide.**
- ✓ **Wildflower Guide.**

**If your budget allows,
you can pay extra for more plants.**

You might want to start by taking a drive out to Dwight Beach . . . and while you're there, check out the sample indigenous shoreland preservation plot that LOBA completed in 2012.

Diane Crocker, 2022 LOBA recipient of the Doug Cross Stewardship Award, used the Natural Edge program to renaturalize her shoreline property and highly recommends it—**see page 2**.

To apply for the Natural Edge program, visit the Muskoka Watershed Council website muskokawatershed.org and look under Programs. Site visits are limited in this extremely popular program. To take advantage of the earliest possible dates for a visit and for planting it is essential to apply as soon as possible.

Should you want to go it alone you can visit some of the following garden centres with extensive knowledge of indigenous plants and how to plan your natural shoreland gardens:

Northway Gardeners
northwaygardeners.com

Hidden Habitat
hiddenhabitat.ca

Bark Ecological Gardens and Nursery
botanigal.com 

Above: Lake of Bays Association shoreline plantings are flourishing ten years later.

A sampling of indigenous plants, left to right: Bush Honeysuckle, Beebalm, Showy Goldenrod, Ninebark, Meadowsweet, Chokecherry



Healthy shorelines are vital for healthy lakes

This article is extracted from *Shoreland Health, The Blue Lakes Project*.

To read the entire article go to bluelakes.ca/shoreline-health/

Healthy shorelands are as valuable to people as they are vital to lake ecosystems. The area where land meets water can be both captivating and calming and is a primary focus for many recreational activities.

Sometimes referred to as shorelines or the “ribbon of life”, shorelands are actually the wide bands of land that surround the lake, including upland areas at least 30 m beyond the riparian edge. Since shorelands are ecotones, or a meeting place of upland and lowland/aquatic ecosystems, they provide important food sources and habitat for 80-90% of freshwater species, as well as essential support for up to 70% of land-based wildlife too—from birds, to minks, and moose.

In their natural state, shorelands can be remarkably resilient and self-sustaining. Rocks and the deep roots of native plants along the shore help prevent erosion from wind and wave action, protecting the lake’s habitats and landowners’ properties. Shoreland vegetation also acts as a filter, guarding the lake against the runoff of harmful excess nutrients or contaminants. However, this area is sensitive to excessive use and common human activities. Careful considerations are therefore needed to balance human recreation with lake conservation.

Natural shorelands have four key areas that are crucial for maintaining a healthy lake: the littoral zone, the shoreline, the riparian zone, and the upland zone.

Functions of a Natural Shoreland

Aquatic vegetation, wood debris, and rocks in the littoral zone are critical components of healthy lake habitats. Plants help supply the lake with oxygen and are important food sources for many aquatic species. Logs and rocks provide essential spawning grounds and nursery areas for fish. Combined, these features also offer places for rest


and refuge for the lake’s inhabitants.

Vegetation in the riparian and upland zones form a protective barrier against the runoff of contaminants from land to water. These natural buffer zones absorb a substantial amount of excess nutrients (from leaky septic systems, the use of fertilizers, and deposits from pets, for example) before they reach the lake. Without this protective barrier, the influx of nutrients such as phosphorous into the lake (a process known as eutrophication) can cause harmful algal blooms, which lower the lake’s water quality, reduce its oxygen levels, and destroy ecosystems.

Foliage in the riparian and upland areas also keeps the land and waters cooler and intact. Tree canopy creates shaded areas that regulate the lake’s temperature (cooler lake temperatures mean more oxygen for fish and other aquatic life), and thick layers of vegetation help prevent erosion. Leaves and branches reduce the impact of rain on the shore, for instance, which is further reduced by ground cover such as leaf litter, pine needles, and fallen twigs. Below ground, the deep roots of native plants, shrubs, and trees absorb the excess moisture, and their diverse roots form a complex web that acts

Natural shorelands have four key areas that are crucial for maintaining a healthy lake: the littoral zone, the shoreline, the riparian zone, and the upland zone.

as a “glue,” holding the shoreland together.

Natural shorelands provide food and shelter for terrestrial species as well. In fact, they are hotspots for biogeochemical activity. Compared to other habitats, the shoreland is one of the largest producers of the building blocks of ecosystems; organic carbon found here is an essential nutrient for fueling food webs. It fertilizes soil for plant growth and provides food for organisms at the base of the food chain/pyramid which then feed other species further up the ladder. Aside from providing essential energy, natural shorelands also offer safe travel corridors for wildlife. It is therefore important to preserve the features of these zones and connectivity between them to benefit life on the land and in the lake. 


continued—Langmaids...page 5

limbing and pruning for the purpose of views is permitted in the Shoreline Activity Area (SAA), however tree removal is prohibited, except for safety reasons. Trees and vegetation may be removed in the SAA only for the purpose of providing a maximum six-metre-wide, temporary construction access, which must be revegetated when construction is complete. After that, a maximum two-metre-wide pathway to the water/dock is permitted. This restriction on tree removal in the SAA is unique to Langmaid’s island, and in the long term will result in a more vegetated naturalized shoreline than standard residential lots on the lake where 25% of the shoreline frontage can be cleared for the SAA, up to a maximum of 23-metres. The stricter policy for Langmaid’s Island is intended to re-establish, as much as possible, an undisturbed shoreline—one of the natural heritage values for which the Island was recognized.

The Island will remain identified as a Heritage Area in the Lake of Bays Official Plan, and the design and construction of all structures will be subject to “Character Guidelines” approved by the Township of Lake of Bays. It should also be noted that the property standards for the Langmaid’s Island lots meet or exceed the standards for new lot creation on Lake of Bays. Some examples are.

	Current Standard	Langmaids Island
Minimum Lot Area	0.4 Ha	0.8 Ha
Minimum Water Frontage	60m	90m
Minimum Shoreline yard setback	20m	23m
Minimum Shoreline Vegetated Buffer	15m	20m

LOOKING AHEAD...

The environmental, servicing, and boating impact studies and peer reviews for this proposal were exhaustive. There are many recommendations in those reports that are critical to the protection of the environment and character of the lake. LOBA and the LBHF remain engaged and committed to ensuring that Langmaid’s Island Corporation, the District of Muskoka, the Town of Huntsville and the Township of Lake of Bays are accountable in implementing and monitoring an appropriate and sustainable development on this highly valued, Heritage-designated property and the waterfront landings that will service it. 



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Changes at LOBA

Over the past four years, a number of new directors have joined the LOBA Board while others have retired. At the 2022 AGM we thanked and said goodbye to Andy Barnett, Marcia Watt and Gloria Woodside. And now we are happy to report that three of our committees have, or will soon have, new chairs. Bruce Creighton has taken over the Membership team from Ian White, and Tim Hadwen has replaced Fraser Govan as chair of the Planning, Development and Government Relations team. Later in the Spring, Caroline Konarzewski will pass the reins of the Environment Committee to Susanne Gossage. We thank Caroline, Fraser and Ian for their many years of hard work as committee chairs and are delighted that all have agreed to remain actively involved in their respective portfolios.

President	Wendy Gibson
Vice President	Don Macintosh
Treasurer	Kathy Ogryzlo
Communications Chair	Susan Truscott
Environment Chair (effective Spring 2023)	Susanne Gossage
Membership Chair	Bruce Creighton
Nominations Chair	Mary Ann Peden
Planning, Development & Government Relations Chair	Tim Hadwen
Safety Chair	Pat Birnie

Directors

Ian Beverley, Sylvain Desjeans, Paul Gleeson, Fraser Govan,
Caroline Konarzewski, Anne Swan, Ian White

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