

Cavendish Community Ratepayers Association Inc.

Introducing the “Love Your Lake” Program

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 water.

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. As a result, the chance of algae bloom outbreaks is greatly increased, not to mention other ill effects to the lake water quality.

To determine the current state of our shorelines, what needs to be done in the future and how to get there, the Cavendish Community Ratepayers Association Inc. (CCRAI), in conjunction with your lake, cottage and property owners associations, will participate in a shoreline classification project on your lake or river this summer. The assessments will be carried out 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 will assess the degree to which natural shorelines have been displaced through shoreline development. These shoreline assessments will be conducted from the water where they will use Graphical Information Systems (GIS) data and GPS technology from a boat. No access to your property is required or will occur. Assessments will include the following lakes: Catchacoma, Mississagua, Beaver, Cavendish, McGinnis, Gold, Cold, Pencil, Picard, Greens, Galloway, and the Mississagua River.

Once the assessments are completed, each shoreline property owner will be provided with a confidential report on their shoreline’s status. This confidential information and report will only be shared with the property owner and is NOT made available to any government or private sector organizations such as the Municipality of Trent Lakes, The County of Peterborough, Ministry of Natural Resources, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), other property owners or the sponsoring organizations.

The confidential report will also provide recommendations for potential renaturalization options property owners 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.

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.

Once all the data collected has been analyzed, each property owner will receive a website address and a unique password to access their individual classification results and associated reference material. This report can download as a PDF at no charge or a full colour printed and bound report can be ordered for a charge.

This is an outstanding opportunity for us to assess the long term health of our lakes and waterways and take measures to enhance and protect them for the future. We will continue to publish information including the schedules for each waterway this summer and look forward to your support of this initiative.

We will require volunteers to assist in rolling out this program so if you are interested in helping out, please contact us at ccraimail@gmail.com.

We need volunteers to provide week day accommodations for the evaluators and provide boat transportation. If interested or 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.