

LOVE YOUR LAKE MICROGRANT IMPACT REPORT

CANADIAN WILDLIFE
FEDERATION



FÉDÉRATION
CANADIENNE DE LA FAUNE



Watersheds
CANADA

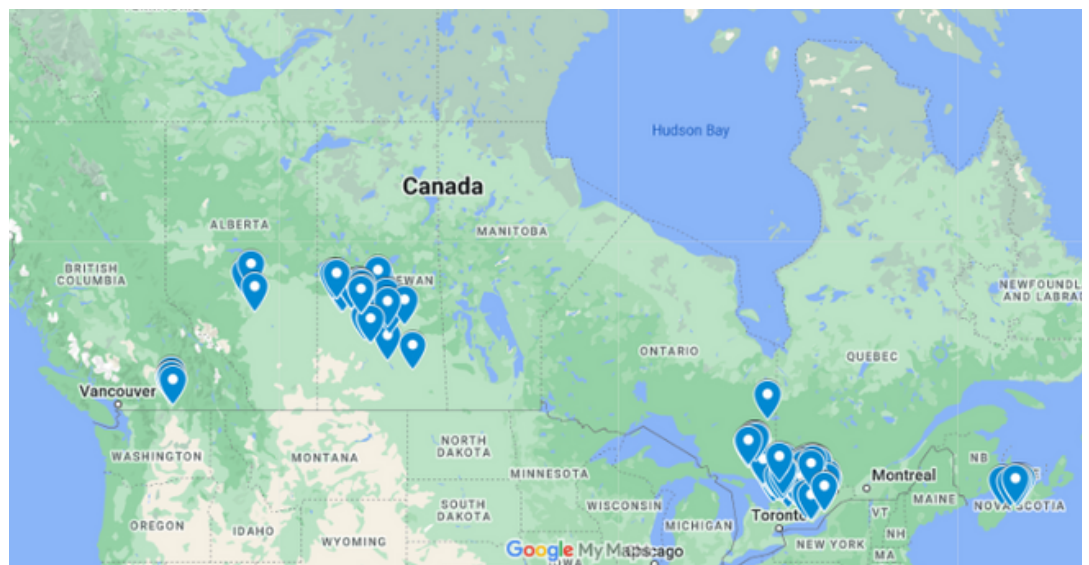


About Love Your Lake

Love Your Lake is a partnership program between the Canadian Wildlife Federation and Watersheds Canada. The program is delivered by local conservation groups and waterfront organizations across Canada.

This program connects shoreline property owners with the information they need to make smart land management choices that improve wildlife habitat, water quality, and the overall health of a lake, river, or bay.

The Love Your Lake program has assessed 44,274 properties on 187 lakes since its inception in 2013! Through a network of engaged regional partner groups and active stewards, the program has expanded into British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Nova Scotia.



Microgrant Impact

Lake groups and residents who had previously participated in Love Your Lake were able to apply for a \$500 microgrant to help naturalize their lake's shoreline. Projects needed to demonstrate involvement of their lake community members. Thanks to your support, 16 projects were funded.

Healthy shorelines are among the most productive and diverse environments. They support a vibrant community of plants and wildlife, help filter pollutants, and protect against erosion.



Microgrant Recipients

Crane Lake Association, ON

Desert Lake Property Owners' Association, ON

Greater Twin Lakes Area Stewardship Society, BC*

Lake Vernon Association, ON

Loon Call Lake Cottagers' Association, ON

Mississippi Lakes Association, ON*

Muskrat Watershed Council, ON

Nepahwin Lake Watershed Stewardship Group, ON

Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake Association, ON

Pike Lake Cottage and Watershed Association, SK

South Channel Association, ON

Southern Interior Land Trust, BC

St. Charles Lake Watershed Stewardship Association, ON

Three Mile Lake Association, ON

Upper Rideau Lake Association, ON*

Wollaston Lake Home and Cottage Association, ON

*these groups have not yet completed their projects due to restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme storms in Ontario, and extreme wildfires in British Columbia, and are not featured in this report.

CRANE LAKE ASSOCIATION



Crane Lake Association members took Love Your Lake program suggestions from their Shoreline Assessment Report and chose to take action with a native plant giveaway.

With the support of this microgrant, association members bought 100 native shoreline plants to distribute for free to waterfront property owners who were willing to renaturalize their own properties.



This initiative inspired waterfront property owners to continue naturalization efforts on their own and to spread awareness of the importance of maintaining a 'ribbon of life' and thriving waterfront ecosystem.

Lake association members like Tory and Roger were able to take their passion for the environment and act on the information they learned from their Love Your Lake property report. Their report reinforced the importance of the little things they instinctively did like letting native vegetation grow and not raking. The report helped them keep these actions up because they knew the reasons behind why they should do them.

Tory and Roger have been on the lake for over 50 years and look forward to passing on this lake protection information to their kids and grandkids.

Why did they participate in the plant giveaway? "We wanted to support the lake association. We were able to visit with people we hadn't seen in many months as well as get something free!"



DESERT LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION



Desert Lake Property Owners' Association chose to implement Love Your Lake report suggestions in an area that was reasonably accessible to members in an effort to show how easy and beneficial following the report was.



The president of the Desert Lake Property Owners' Association was ecstatic to hear that they received funding and was eager to put plans into motion. Planting was done in late fall.

The project sparked conversation and inspiration among members and people were eager to replicate the project on their own property.

LAKE VERNON ASSOCIATION



The Lake Vernon Association's Environment Committee undertook a successful shoreline restoration project on the heavily eroded toe of Gallaugh Island.

A wide range of stakeholders were engaged, including the Muskoka Watershed Council, the Ministry of Natural Resources, a local barge owner, a local quarry owner and 26 volunteers.



The 4-day project involved putting up sediment barriers, placing logs, and laying down landscaping cloth on the heavily eroded slope, placing small and variably sized river rock up the slope, and planting native species within the rock. Over 132 native plants were planted to protect the shoreline.



Before



After

Don, a member of the Lake Vernon Association, is the third generation in his family to have lived on the lake. Don was amazed at what a small group of volunteers could do. He was especially inspired by the number of volunteers who assisted in the project as if they were neighbours. This project provided his family with an opportunity to connect with them.

This project happened because the lake group saw a problem and could help thanks to the Love Your Lake microgrant program. This restoration project was too momentous of a task for Don to deal with himself so he never did anything.

Don was amazed at the difference in water quality after the project. It was improved dramatically after only 2 weeks!



Using native plants was totally out of Don's element; he did not know what was possible with plants alone. The Lake Vernon Association made this all possible by leading such a fabulous event.

LOON CALL LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

Loon Call Lake Cottagers' Association came up with the idea for a Planting Palooza, a one-day event to promote the health and preservation of their lake's shoreline.

Purchased native plants like Swamp Milkweed and Butterfly Milkweed were given to lake residents to plant in their own backyards. As a community, everyone was encouraged to plant at the same time on the same day and take pictures to commemorate the shoreline protection initiative.

The Planting Palooza was a continuation of the community's commitment to increase awareness of the naturalization of shorelines to enhance the quality of the lake.





Sue and Ross have called Loon Call Lake home for over 20 years. Ever since they bought the property, they have tried their hardest to add as much as vegetation as possible. For example, they have planted over 200 milkweed plants over their raised septic bed to do as much filtering of the system as possible before it enters the water. They also enjoy the beauty of the flowers as they attract many hummingbirds and monarch butterflies to their property.

"We don't consider anything that grows here as a weed. We think all plants here have a place. We let everything go natural."



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL



For this project, two local farms had fencing put up to keep cattle out of waterways, and an alternative watering source was put in place. This was greatly beneficial for both animal health and local water quality. It was a win-win for the community and farmers.



The agricultural streambank at three farms received rehabilitation with native plants and shrubs. A soil testing and workshop was done for at least 5 local farmers.

"Our planting and livestock fencing project was a great success. Our watershed will benefit greatly from the 2,000m of waterway protected with fencing and the 5,000 native plants rehabilitating the streambanks. This could not have been accomplished without great partners in funding like the Love Your Lake microgrant program."
- Karen



NEPAHWIN LAKE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP GROUP

This project focused on enhancing the naturalization of the riparian zone of the City of Greater Sudbury-administered Nepahwin Beach park. The current grass shoreline adjacent to the public swimming beach was stabilized and extended with newly planted native species.

This will augment ongoing community stewardship efforts to bring the highly urbanized Nepahwin Lake back to a healthy mesotrophic lake. Many species of birds, mammals, and fish live on the lake and depend on vibrant shoreline areas for habitat.

"We are a small volunteer group so this microgrant was a fantastic opportunity for us to partner with the City and galvanize the community around lake health."
- Mandy, Co-Chair, Nepahwin Lake Watershed Stewardship Group



OLMSTEAD-JEFFREY LAKE ASSOCIATION

After receiving the Love Your Lake program, the lake association conducted a survey which showed that members were positive about the content of their Love Your Lake reports and the goals of the Program overall, but were unsure of how or whether to proceed with the report recommendations. This hesitancy was compounded by the pandemic when most lake projects were halted.

The association used their microgrant to implement a Natural Edge shoreline renaturalization planting on a member's property to demonstrate the process and the results. This event inspired, taught, and motivated other property owners to create their own natural shorelines.



"As I look out onto the lake my view is the same but I have a different view of my property surrounding the lake with plants that were provided through this microgrant process. " - Janet and Ken

PIKE LAKE COTTAGE & WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



With this grant, Pike Lake Cottage & Watershed Association had the opportunity to create a demonstration site at the public boat launch at Heritage Park. These native flowering perennials and shrubs were planted in the summertime.



The plantings are intended to naturalize the shoreline, add aesthetic appeal, provide an educational opportunity for the public, and boost shoreline integrity.



SOUTH CHANNEL ASSOCIATION



The South Channel Association purchased 100 native plants from the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve native plant fundraiser.

These plants were provided to South Channel Association members free of charge during the summer to educate of the importance of, and to encourage individuals to reintroduce, native species on their properties.

The overall goal was to improve shoreline biodiversity throughout the South Channel.

SOUTHERN INTERIOR LAND TRUST



This project saw 145 native shrubs, perennials, and trees planted within a 176m² upland riparian section on Skaha Lake. Many neighbours walked by the restoration and asked questions about the plants and the purpose of the project. This property will act as a demonstration site for other homeowners on Skaha Lake to show the benefits of a riparian plant buffer.

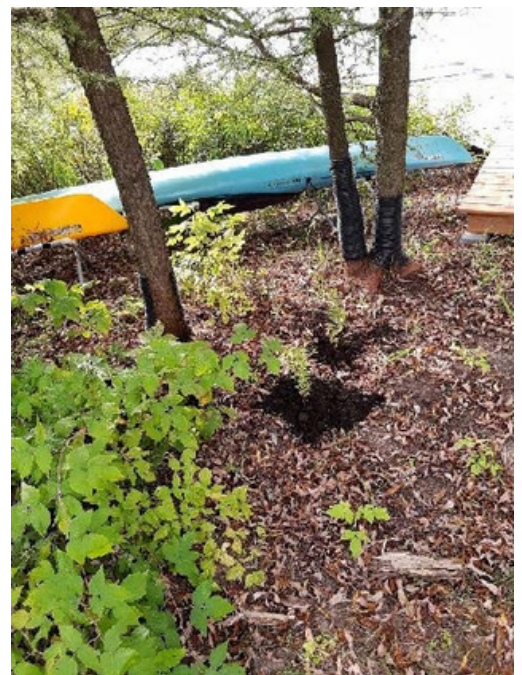
"The Love Your Lake crew told me they thought my property would benefit from added vegetation through a riparian buffer. They planned and proceeded with the restoration of the property and kept me informed at all times. They were very professional and far exceeded my expectations. I was very surprised at the number of plants that were available. We protected an existing patch of Milkweed and continued building the buffer to include more pollinator-attracting plants." - Douglas

ST. CHARLES LAKE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

For this shoreline restoration project, plants were distributed at a local lot to residents who had indicated that they wanted to receive plants.

Each plant was handed out in a recyclable cup with a label indicating the name of the plant, and its preferred conditions of soil, water, and sun.

In all, 350 plants were provided to help naturalize the shorelines at 18 properties on St. Charles Lake, plus one on Hannah Lake.



"Our group has been active for 10 years, doing community projects like testing the lake's water chemistry and giving away native plants. One of the advantages of this plant giveaway through the Love Your Lake microgrant program was that we could avoid having a monoculture of plants on people's properties and increase diversity in what grows and restores Sudbury's shorelines." - Ruth, Secretary/Treasurer, St. Charles Lake Watershed Stewardship Association

THREE MILE LAKE ASSOCIATION



The Three Mile Lake Association decided to hold a contest called "The Incredibly Cheesy Free Offer To Bribe You to Plant a Native Species Contest"!

Over five weeks in late spring and early summer, the lake association held weekly mini-contests with trivia questions. There was a very positive response, with people becoming very engaged in the questions to win the native plants.

Each week the association featured a different native species including Black Chokeberry, Bush Honeysuckle, Red Osier Dogwood, Elderberry, and Staghorn.



"As this was my first season as Lake Steward, the contest provided me with tremendous insight into the diversity of shorelines on our small lake. I delivered each plant, either by car or boat, and was able to answer any questions people had as to its care and best location to provide the most benefit. Thank you for offering this Microgrant." - Christine

WOLLASTON LAKE HOME AND COTTAGE ASSOCIATION



The Wollaston Lake Home and Cottage Association ran a "Healthy Shorelines Contest". Every contest entrant was given one native plant for their shoreline. Two grand winners received \$250 worth of native plants, as well as planting support from a local nursery and master gardener. To amplify the impact of this project, the Association and a local nursery donated an additional \$500 combined in native plants to award to additional contest winners.

The objective of the contest was to encourage property owners to read their Love Your Lake reports and implement the suggestions or recommendations.



"As new cottage owners, we were so grateful to have the opportunity to immediately begin improving our shoreline. We were shocked and delighted to learn that not only had we won the shoreline competition, but that we would be advised on how to properly select and place our prized plants!"

- L. Low



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