



LoveYourLake.ca

Love Your Lake FAQs

What is the program?

Love Your Lake is a packaged shoreline survey and educational stewardship program that can be transferred to any shoreline community across the country. This program is coordinated by the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds (CSW) and the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) and is delivered by regional partner organizations.

Who is involved?

As part of the program, CSW and CWF provide resource materials and training to regional partners who facilitate local delivery with lake associations and to shoreline property owners. The program is designed to be delivered to entire lakes where shorelines of all properties are surveyed without disrupting shoreline property owners.

This year, we are partnering with the City of Greater Sudbury, Muskoka Watershed Council, Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association and Lakeland Alliance to bring the program to Sudbury, Muskoka, Eastern Ontario, Haliburton and Kawarthas.

How does it work?

Lakes participating in the program have their shorelines surveyed on a property-by-property basis by trained staff on a boat using a standardized Shoreline Survey Protocol and datasheet.

Shoreline property owners will receive a letter explaining the project and when they can expect the project to begin. Once the entire shoreline has been surveyed and the information has been entered into the database property owners will receive a coupon to go online and order their confidential personalized property report.

The report will contain information about the state of their unique shoreline with suggestions of voluntary actions they can take to improve the natural state of their shoreline and lake health. Lake organizations will also receive a lake-wide report which summarizes the data collected at the lake level and identifies opportunities for community stewardship activities.

Why is it important?

Shorelines are one of the most unique places on earth and people's influences can have a huge impact on these delicate interfaces. Daily actions by all individuals can help conserve our lakes. Keeping shorelines healthy and natural is the easiest way to protect water quality. This not only helps maintain or improve property values but also provides cleaner, clearer water that will benefit future generations and wildlife.

Program coordinated by:



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What about my privacy?

CSW and CWF provide each regional partner with privacy policies, data sharing and partnership agreements. Program staff delivering the program in each region and each lake (including program coordinators, shoreline surveyors, volunteer boat drivers, and data enterers) are required to sign a confidentiality agreement. All information contained in the individual landowners report and lake association report is confidential and non-regulatory.

How do people get involved?

There are many ways that people can get involved in the *Love Your Lake* program, primarily by naturalizing their shoreline. Visitors of LoveYourLake.ca can take a shoreline self-assessment to determine the health of their shoreline. After which, they download an action checklist for simple, yet meaningful, actions to take to maintain or improve shoreline and lake health. Better yet – if you're a shoreline property owner, get your lake involved in the program! Contact Kelsey Jensen at jensen@watersheds.ca for more details.

What is the history of *Love Your Lake*?

Love Your Lake has been developed by the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds and the Canadian Wildlife Federation with regional support from partners across Ontario (including the Bonnechere River Watershed Project, Muskoka Watershed Council, the City of Greater Sudbury, and Lakeland Alliance).

Love Your Lake is a modified and updated version of a scientific protocol developed by MAPLE (Mutual Association for the Protection of Lake Environments) in the 1980s. Centre for Sustainable Watersheds had been using a modified shoreline assessment protocol for over ten years and in 2012 they partnered with the Canadian Wildlife Federation to officially brand and broaden the program into the *Love Your Lake* program today.

How is it funded?

Love Your Lake is a joint program of the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. The program has received generous support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Rogers Foundation, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program.

Which lakes have participated in *Love Your Lake* so far?

In 2013, 17 lakes participated in the program in 5 regions: Renfrew, Eastern Ontario, Sudbury, Muskoka and the Kawarthas. For a current listing of lakes involved please visit LoveYourLake.ca

How many shorelines have been surveyed?

In 2013, approximately 4,300 shorelines on 17 lakes were surveyed through the *Love Your Lake* program.

In 2014, over 4,100 shoreline properties on 15 lakes will be surveyed through the *Love Your Lake* program.

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