

Update from the Ecosystem Grant Working Committee (prepared for the 2025 AGM July 13)

Members: Marie, Oriana, Piper. With assistance from Simon Smith

The work on this grant application stems from the 2023 AGM, following which the working group was established with three members of the executive who did the work of researching and putting together the grant proposal (with the noted help of Simon Smith, who provided insight on the watershed our lake is an integral part of).

The Ecosystem Grant is provided by the South Frontenac Township.

It was first proposed we apply for the grant, was to cover costs of proper signage at the culvert. The ongoing issue of vandalism and visibility of the signs the Lake Association had been putting up at the culvert over the years led to the proposal of erecting proper metal signs on sign posts firmly anchored in the ground where they would be most visible by people using the water access point at the culvert.

The goal of the signage is to communicate harm reduction messaging to boaters coming from away who launch at the water access point. The aim is to encourage boaters to minimize their wake so as to reduce shoreline erosion, the threat to flora & fauna (including nesting loons), and promote safety of swimmers & paddlers on the lake.

The signage used at water access points on other lakes addresses the pressing issue of invasive species that hitchhike on boats when they are moved from lake to lake. They include caution signs as well as educational or informational signs, (like the ones erected at Desert Lake and at Devil Lake). The risk to wild life that nests along the shoreline was a central concern expressed by many.

Upon further study of the grant and Watershed Canada's Love Your Lake project, and Inverary Lake Association's experience, it was clear that the assessment could be covered by the Lake Ecosystem Grant, along with the signage.

We were approved for the Grant in the Fall of 2024 and are starting work this summer with Watershed Canada. The nearby Lake associations that have worked with them to have this assessment carried out were very happy with the results. Dessert Lake Property Owner's Association paid for it out of their general revenues, whereas Inverary Lake Association paid for it with the Ecosystem Grant.

Since signing of the agreement, we've worked with Watershed Canada to start the mapping and collection of addresses from the tax rolls. Once that work is complete, introduction letters

and value surveys will be sent to property owners. The assessment is scheduled to start in late July. Members will complete value surveys. Data will be entered by the fall. Watershed Canada's Love Your Lakes project will start compiling data and reports late fall, and a summary report will likely be sent by December 2025. Reports to individual property owners who submitted their forms is expected in the new year.

The Love Your Lake Program will provide written personalized assessments to property owners outlining actions they can take to better protect the lake's health and their property. It will provide NSOLA with a Lake Summary Report providing consistent stewardship information and recommended actions. The assessment provides a baseline against which we can measure changes-over-time for long-term program outcomes lending scientific methodology to our role as stewards of the lake.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the outreach and serve as guides to the people who will be doing the survey.

Would that interest you? If so, please contact me.

Thank you,

Piper

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