



MLPOA 2016 Love Your Lake Project

You will recall that we announced in the fall newsletter that Mountain Lake would be participating in a Love Your Lake project this summer. MLPOA is working with the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owner's Association (CHA) to bring you a program developed by Watersheds Canada that uses a shoreline assessment protocol to generate a confidential report for each property owner, containing key observations and recommendations for potential re-naturalization options for their shoreline to benefit the overall health of the lake.

Excellent water quality is critical to both the recreational and economic value of all shoreline properties. Ecology experts recommend that a significant percentage of shorelines be maintained in a natural state to support healthy lake ecosystems and a high level of water quality. Shorelines do an amazing job of slowing runoff, help filter sediment and contaminants (e.g. from septic systems) entering the lake and help keep water temperatures cooler in the summer. We are currently scheduled to evaluate the natural state of our entire shoreline in the latter part of July.

Two evaluators (Trent University environmental science students who have successfully completed an intensive shoreline assessment course) with the assistance of some MLPOA volunteers, will be assessing the entire shoreline of Mountain Lake by boat only. There is no need to access any landowner's property. After all the shoreline assessments are complete and analyzed, each individual landowner will be given the option to view a private comprehensive report about the state of their shoreline and what they could do to improve the naturalization of their shoreline if they choose to do so. There are no regulatory obligations to make any changes.

All information collected is kept private and is not shared with any government or regulatory agency. The only people who will know the results of the individual shoreline assessments will be the evaluators (each evaluator signs a confidentiality agreement.) and the property owner. The MLPOA will receive an overall report, which will provide only a broad overview of the results.

All costs for this assessment project are being covered by the MLPOA (through membership fees, donations, past fundraising, etc.) and with the assistance of money from the CHA's Ontario Trillium Foundation grant and a Haliburton County Development grant.

We hope you agree that this project will make an important contribution to keeping our shorelines as healthy as possible and our lake water quality levels high.

For more information on the "Love Your Lake" project, visit:

www.loveyourlake.ca and the CHA website at: www.cohpoa.org.