Healthy Shorelines

Healthy Shorelines for Healthy Lakes

July 21, 2014
Dear Shoreline Property Owner,

Your lake organization, Drag and Spruce Lakes Property Owners' Association (DSLPOA), is excited to announce a great new program we are participating in called *Love Your Lake*, and it is happening on Drag and Spruce Lakes as well as Outlet Bay and the river to the dam, this summer! The *Love Your Lake* program is developed by the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds and delivered in Haliburton County by the Coalition for Haliburton (waterfront) Associations (CHA) and local associations.

What is *Love Your Lake*?
Love Your Lake is a shoreline survey and stewardship program delivered by trained staff of U Links and Fleming College for Haliburton. The purpose of this program is to identify shoreline restoration or improvement opportunities and suggest voluntary actions you can take on your property to contribute towards the health of your shoreline and lake.

Shorelines are one of the most unique places on earth and our actions can have a huge impact on these delicate environments. Daily choices by all individuals can help conserve our lakes; which not only helps maintain or improve your property value but also sustains the many reasons you enjoy waterfront living – a place for you to rest and relax, swim, fish and play! Did you know that a 1m decrease in water clarity has been shown to decrease property value from 1%-6% on average (Boyle et al 2002) while an increase in water clarity improves property value.

Starting in mid to late August, you may see staff on your lake, in a clearly identified boat, surveying the shoreline as part of this program. They will not be landing. These staff members will be observing and photographing the shorelines of **all properties** on your lake but will not inconvenience you or your family. They will, however, be more than happy to tell you more about the program, answer your questions, or talk about shoreline and lake health!

What's in it for you?
Beginning in the spring of 2015, you will receive access to your own individualized shoreline property report. This report is complete with a picture of your property and summaries of the shoreline features observed this summer that contribute towards a healthy lake. **Each report is**

unique to the individual property, and only you will be able to see your property report. It will be full of recommendations on how you can maintain or improve the health of your lake through some simple – and completely voluntary – actions. We are also hoping this report will lead to further participation by our lake organization and your fellow waterfront landowners to collectively engage in positive behaviors that keep our lake healthy.

How you can help! We need your help!
We will need volunteers with boats to drive the evaluators around for a day or two, pontoon boats are preferable. Gas will be reimbursed. The more boats we have the less time commitment for everyone. We will also need billets for one or both of our evaluators, Dominik and Daniela, for some or part of the time. They will be here for approximately 2 weeks in mid to late August (the date will be confirmed as we get closer).They have their own cars and will look after their own meals. Contact Barb or Bert if you can help or for more information (see below).

How can you access your report?
Every shoreline property owner will receive a coupon delivered in the mail with your unique survey code. To access your report, you will need to go online to **Report.LoveYourLake.ca** and enter your unique survey code. You will be able to view an online version of your property report or order a hardcopy to be printed and delivered to you. Look for your coupon in your mailbox in the spring of 2015! No one else sees your survey results. DSLPOA receives an overall general report to help with future planning and projects.
If you would like to choose to opt out of receiving this report please notify Barb or Bert (see info. below). Please include your contact information and your property 911 address when you contact us.

Take the Values Survey:
Join the conversation and have your opinion heard. Complete the Love Your Lake Values Survey by downloading it from the DSLPOA website (or complete the survey online at **www.surveymonkey.com/s/LoveYourLake**) and tell us what you think about your lake, how you enjoy it and what is important to you.

So this summer, if you see someone in a boat taking pictures of your shoreline, do not be alarmed. It is likely staff associated with *Love Your Lake*, working towards a healthier lake or waterway. Feel free to contact us any time with your questions, concerns or comments.

Contact Information:
For information on the *Love your Lake* program and this shoreline survey, please contact Barb Bohlin or Bert Bicknell from DSLPOA at dragandsprucelakes@gmail.com or Barb at (705) 457-8864. There is also more information on the DSLPOA website such as Frequently asked Questions (FAQ). You can also contact Kelsey Jensen from the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds at 613-264-1244 or jensen@watersheds.ca.
For more information about the *Love Your Lake* program, and for some great shoreline stewardship resources, visit the website at www.loveyourlake.ca.

Sincerely,
Barb Bohlin & Bert Bicknell
DSLPOA
www.dragandsprucelakes.ca