

Lake Environment News August 2025

Protect Our Lake and Its Ecosystem This Summer!

Dear Residents,

We have had a perfect summer so far with lots of sun for lake activities. Let's come together to ensure we keep our beloved waters healthy and clean. Here are **important steps** you can take to protect our environment throughout the season:

1. Maintain a Natural Shoreline

- Cutting shrubs and vegetation down to the ground is prohibited within 10 meters (35 ft) for slopes less than 30% and 15 meters (50 ft) for steeper slopes.
- **Avoid disturbing natural vegetation** near the shore—native plants stabilize the soil and filter runoff before it reaches the lake.
- **Inspect your shoreline and property** for invasive species like purple loosestrife or Japanese knotweed. Please contact the Lake Association for proper disposal guidance.
- **Switch to phosphate-free and biodegradable soaps and cleaners.**
- **Avoid using fertilizers or pesticides** near the water to prevent nutrient runoff that can fuel invasive plant growth.

2. Clean, Drain, and Dry all boats, paddleboards, canoes, and fishing gear before launching.

This prevents the introduction and spread of invasive aquatic plants and animals.

- Remember only your own household watercraft (with LSJ decals) and watercraft accessories (paddles, etc.) are permitted in the lake to prevent contamination from invasive plants transported from other lakes (Eurasian milfoil, Chinese mystery snails, Zebra Mussel, etc.).
- If your guests must bring their own watercraft (kayaks, paddleboards, inflatables, paddles etc.) which have been in other bodies of water

they must **Clean, Drain and Dry** them before putting them in our lake

See this **video from Fisheries and Oceans Canada** on how to prevent the spread of invasive plants: **Clean Drain Dry**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFSJjAXhnmU>.

3. Be Fire-Safe This Summer

- **Check local fire bans and restrictions** before lighting campfires or using outdoor grills.
- **Clear dry brush, pine needles, and deadwood** from your property in spring to reduce fire risk.
- **Keep fire-fighting tools nearby** and ensure everyone knows evacuation procedures in case of fire.
- **Never leave fires unattended**, and fully extinguish them before leaving

4. Be Wildlife-Wise: NO FIREWORKS!

The ashes are toxic to fish and to residents whose water is supplied by the lake. Fireworks frighten wildlife and break the tranquillity residents seek.

5. Septic System Check

- **Inspect and maintain your septic system** to prevent leaks into the lake.
- **Pump your septic tank regularly** – every two years for full-time residents and every 4 years for weekend residents

Let's work together to keep our lake clean and healthy for generations to come. Your actions will help protect water quality, wildlife, and the beauty of our Laurentian home.

Thank you for being a **steward of our lake**. Have a wonderful rest of the summer!

Sincerely,
Mariam Bowen.

