

KLCA Newsletter - June 2019
"Preserve the Heritage"



You Are Invited!

KLCA Annual General Meeting

July 6, 2019 - 10:00 am

Dorset Recreation Centre

Please come out and hear from our 2 informative speakers who will talk about preserving our natural heritage.

Connecting to our Forests

Join Rob Keen, CEO of Forests Ontario, as he provides detailed insight into how our forests are managed and the values our forests provide - social, economic and environmental.

Wood Ash vs. Calcium Decline

Carolyn Reid will share what she has learned about calcium decline in Ontario's lakes and forests and the effectiveness of wood ash in mitigating the decline.

These presentations are offered free to all KLCA members. For more information on these speakers, please see page 18 of *Reflections*.

Save and Spread Your Wood Ash!



We need wood ash to put vital calcium back into our soils. Adding calcium will improve forest growth, improve aquatic life and diversity in our lakes and improve maple syrup yields. You can help.

DO:

Save the ash from your fireplace or wood stove.

Allow the wood ash to cool completely - for several days - before spreading it around your trees.

Sprinkle COLD wood ash around trees on your property, especially Sugar Maples.

Spread it all around.

DON'T

Don't burn metallic foil, plastics, pressure treated wood, wood with nails, staples or other metal, wood with chemicals or preservatives.

Don't dump wood ash in any water body.

Don't dump it in one pile.

What will wood ash do? Wood ash is about 1/3 calcium by weight, and also contains many other key nutrients. Much of it is absorbed into the soil and quickly taken up by trees and other plants. What isn't absorbed by the plants will make its way into the lakes.

For more information please go

to: <https://friendsofthemuskokawatershed.org/province-funds-hauling-ash-project/> (source: ASHmuskoka.ca)

Welcome!

The KLCA would like to extend a warm welcome to the following 2 new members of the Board of Directors.

Kaitlyn McGlade - Lake Partners Program: Kaitlyn and her family first came to Kawagama 20 years ago. Spending her summers on the lake ultimately led her to where she is today, enjoying her career in the environmental field (and her weekends on the dock most of all!)

Kim Daries - Regatta Director: Kim (Daries)Taylor's family has been on the lake since the 1930's. Both Kim and her children have had the opportunity to enjoy many summers growing up and working at the marinas and in town.

Calcium Decline - Impacts and Potential Mitigation Efforts In Kawagama Lake

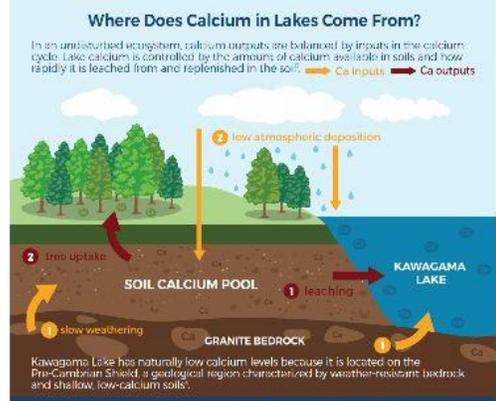
(to read the report below in full size, please click on this link, <https://klca.org/calcium-decline> or go to: www.klca.org



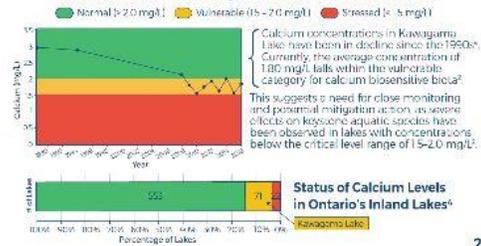
Calcium Decline, Impacts, and Potential Mitigation Efforts in Kawagama Lake

Overview

Calcium is an essential nutrient vital for physiological and structural processes of living species. Within the past decade, calcium decline has emerged as a precursor for softwater lakes across North America and Europe. Calcium decline is a legacy of long term acid deposition and can be further exacerbated by timber harvesting and subsequent forest regrowth. Adverse ecological impacts of calcium loss such as extirpation of calcium-rich keystone species, dominance of calcium poor competitors, food web changes and increase in algal blooms have been reported. Potential mitigation strategies include catchment based forest management plans, use of wood ash and lime in forests, application of dust suppressants and in-stream liming. This booklet describes the calcium status in Kawagama Lake in Ontario, Canada, and discusses potential biological impacts and mitigation efforts.



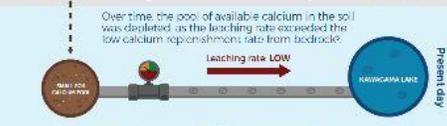
Calcium Levels of Kawagama Lake from 1990 to 2016



Causes of Calcium Decline

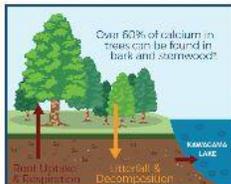
The main mechanisms attributed to the depletion of calcium from soil pools and changes in lake calcium concentrations are elevated rates of calcium leaching caused by decades of acidic deposit (in combination with forest harvesting and the subsequent regrowth of forests).

Reason #1: Acid Rain



Air pollution policies since the 1970s have successfully decreased acid rain, therefore, even less calcium was leached from residual soil calcium pools, which contributes to observed calcium declines in the lake.

Reason #2: Tree Harvesting



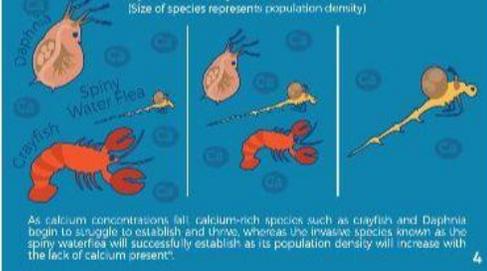
Why is Calcium Important?

Calcium is an essential nutrient required in large quantities by terrestrial and aquatic biota. Species vary in their calcium requirements, and as calcium concentrations decrease, species such as sugar maple and crayfish can become unhealthy and die. In the past, calcium concentrations have been higher and have maintained species diversity in both terrestrial and aquatic environments. Further declines of calcium can affect components within the ecosystem.

Impacts on Terrestrial Environment



Impacts on Aquatic Environment



Potential Mitigation Efforts

Below are four mitigation strategies that have the potential to increase calcium concentrations in Kawagama Lake.

1. Catchment-based forest management

Catchment based forest management plans are longer term efforts, typically twenty year plans in the Muskoka River Watershed. Leaving the bark, branches, and foliage on site help minimize soil calcium loss as the bark is calcium rich, while the foliage and branches are generally not of great use to industries. This would help retain calcium in the catchment and facilitate overall calcium replenishment.



2. Supplementing calcium in the watershed

i) Wood ash and/or lime application

Wood ash and lime application have been found to improve soil calcium concentrations when 4-8 metric tonnes of wood ash or lime are applied after harvesting. Application in riparian zones may assist in increasing lake calcium concentrations due to greater calcium transfer from the soil to the lake aided by hydrological connectivity.



ii) Dust suppressant application

Dust suppressant application on unpaved roads in the forest near the lakeshore occurs several times over the summer months. While this has been a primary method for slowing the process of calcium loss, some lakes have experienced an increase in calcium concentrations over a short period of time.



iii) In-stream liming

Direct addition of lime to the stream or lake will result in the rapid increase of calcium concentrations in surface waters. Although it is the most expensive form of mitigation, in-stream liming can be used for short-term recovery of lakes with critically low calcium concentrations (e.g. Sauribury lakes) so potentially prevent short-term loss of species.



Comparison of Methods



Conclusion

Calcium concentrations are falling in Kawagama Lake and other waterbodies in the surrounding watershed. It is important to understand both the background of calcium decline and the interactions between aquatic and terrestrial environments before selecting a method for mitigation.

References

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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Dr. Shaun Wilmshurst for his support and supervision. We express our gratitude to Adam Pitko and all KUCA members for assisting us, and would like to thank Amanda Form U Links for coordinating the project.



From left to right: Bona McCham, Anna, Tzipora, and Madeline Peels



Photography of Shawn Peels

Regatta Volunteers Needed

Our annual Kawagama Lake Regatta on August 3rd is something we look forward to! To make this day happen, it takes fantastic volunteers. We are looking for people to help us out to make it another terrific day. If you are able to volunteer for an hour, two or the day, your help would be appreciated. A variety of fun jobs are available to do! If you are interested please contact, Kimberley.daries@peelsb.com
Thank you and we hope to see you all at the Regatta!

You are a Member of FOCA too!

FOCA is the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, a not-for-profit organization representing volunteer associations and individual property owners all across Ontario. We are your provincial voice. Associations like yours help support FOCA's vision to protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario.

FOCA represents the people who live at the waterfront in Ontario, whether seasonally or year-round. Our members are lake and road associations, some very small and some very large, and every size in between. FOCA is made up of more

than 500 property Associations across Ontario cottage country - a total of 50,000 families. Our united voice carries weight on issues that matter.

FOCA acts as an information bridge between policy-makers and property owners on significant issues, including:

- The long-term environmental integrity of Ontario's freshwater resources
- Fair property taxation
- Effective land use planning
- Risk management for volunteer groups
- Rural safety and emergency preparedness in the face of extreme weather developments in recent years

For over 50 years, FOCA has played a key role in waterfront Ontario.

For more information on FOCA's most current files/accomplishments please see the FOCA 2018 Year in Review here: <https://foca.on.ca/2018-year-in-review/>

Please refer to FOCA's Resources page (<https://foca.on.ca/resources/>) for more information.

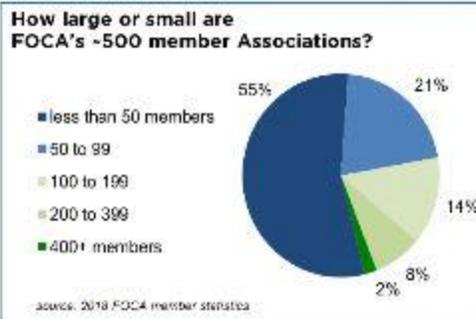
Deanna Panitz, FOCA



FOCA is the province-wide umbrella group for Ontario waterfront property owners, representing 50,000 member families in more than 500 lake and road associations.

Our united voice carries weight on issues that matter!

FOCA's work is:



What are lake association peers saying about FOCA?

"FOCA is the go-to for water resources."
 --Wendy L., Catchacoma Cottagers Association

"Insurance discounts, programs, resources; for just \$3.50 per person, we get real value from FOCA."
 --Danyla M., Otter Lake Ratepayers Association

"It's where our Association goes first, to find answers."
 --Martin H., Baptiste Lake A.

FOCA has resources on "hot topics" for Associations, including these, and much more...

Search by keyword at:
<https://foca.on.ca/resources/>



Do Your Bit to Protect Our Lakes

As you're planning projects for your property this summer, remember that the best thing you can do to preserve the health and stability of the shoreline and the lake ecosystem is to preserve or recreate a natural "ribbon of life" along your shoreline.

Studies show the first 10 to 15 metres of shore and the adjacent shallow water are critical to the survival of most lake and river life, as well as to land animals. A

natural shoreline of at least 30 metres is ideal for supporting wildlife and filtering bacteria. This buffer of native vegetation protects your property from erosion and absorbs nutrients before they can get to the lake, where they can cause algal blooms. In Haliburton County, shoreline trees are protected [under a by-law](#) as part of the effort to keep shorelines natural.

Keeping our lakes healthy by maintaining a natural shoreline will ensure they are more resistant to attack from invasive species, blue-green algae, and the effects of climate change, so that we will all have a beautiful, clean lake to enjoy for generations to come.

To find out more about the Ribbon of Life, check out this introduction from the CHA, including two short videos: <https://www.cohpoa.org/shoreline-health/>

In addition, the CHA has this excellent list of resources: <https://www.cohpoa.org/resources/healthy-shorelines/>

To find out more about Haliburton by-laws regarding shoreline trees, check out this FAQ: <https://www.cohpoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/County-Tree-Preservation-FAQ.pdf>

Love Your Lake also has a great list: <http://loveyourlake.ca/shoreline-property-resources/>

For databases of native shoreline plants suitable for naturalizing your shoreline, click here: <https://www.cohpoa.org/shoreline-health/shoreline-plant-search/>

An excellent article on shoreline health from *Cottage Life* is here: <https://cottagelife.com/outdoors/9-easy-ways-to-get-a-beautiful-shoreline-and-a-healthy-lake/>

Sara Goodchild

Grass at the Cottage?

We all love grass. It looks nice, is great under foot, super to play on and most of us have fond memories of doing some of our favourite things on grass.

So why do the lake health experts tell us not to use it around lakes in the Highlands? Are they just spoil sports or do they have valid reasons for their concerns with grass in lake country? Here's the scoop....

Commonly used grass varieties are not native in lake country.

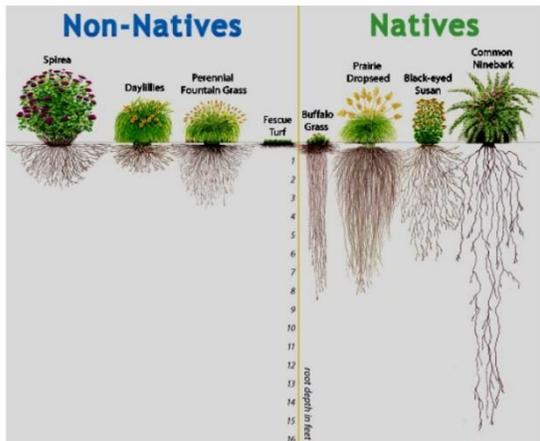
Non Native plants:

- Are not well suited to life in the Highlands and therefore need more inputs than native plants
 - Water – something the experts say we may soon be short of
 - Fertilizer- polluting our water- and costing us money
 - Cutting and trimming – adding to Global warming
- Do not provide any habitat for the species that we all love such as frogs, toads, butterflies, humming birds, etc.

Perhaps the biggest downside with grass is that grass does not contribute to and in fact harms the health of our precious lakes. Why is that? Well, there are all those reasons above but the biggest one is that grass does not do a good job of intercepting and absorbing nutrients before they get to our lakes. Nutrients such as Phosphorus come from:

- Our bodies, through our septic systems, where they leach into the soil and head down to water – our aquifers, streams, rivers and lakes
- Our Pets, Fertilizer use, Wildlife such as geese, birds etc.

This pictures shows why native plants absorb far more nutrients than non-native species such as grass:



While grass roots extend **mere inches** into the soil, the roots of native species extend **many feet into the soil**, searching for and absorbing nutrients such as phosphorous before they can damage our lakes. These long roots also do a better job of preventing erosion.

So why not take an area of your grass and plant it with native plants to help protect our lakes! You can start with a small area and then add more area over the years. Every little bit will help your lake where you, your kids and grandchildren can make new memories!

Author Paul MacInnes is Chair of the C.H.A. and a Member of the Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council.

Responsible Renting

It's important to understand that renters are extremely anxious to please the owner of the cottage they have rented. However, they are often inexperienced at cottaging and need direction. This is where the rental agreement comes in. It will itemize all of your expectations and consequences for not meeting your expectations. It gives a cottage owner and neighbours recourse if a rental group misbehaves.

Here are some areas where renters need direction:

1. Occupancy limits – limit the number of people using your cottage based on the capacity of your septic. Pollutants can leech into the lake when a septic is over-used. It is your responsibility to make sure this doesn't happen.
2. Define your boundaries – let renters know where your property lines are so they don't trespass on your neighbours'.
3. Noise restrictions – city folk don't always understand how noise travels in cottage country. It's a good idea to ask renters to put out the campfire and move indoors at 11 PM.
4. Fire Guidelines – provide campfire guidelines including instructions on dousing the fire at night and phone numbers for the MNR so they can check on fire bans.
5. Garbage – renters are accustomed to garbage pick-up. They need to be educated on how we deal with garbage in cottage country. Don't forget to tell them what to do with garbage between trips to the dump.
6. Fireworks – I recommend that you totally ban the use of fireworks at your cottage.
7. Emergency Services – leave your 911 address and emergency phone numbers near the telephone.
8. Itemize penalties for breaking rules.
9. Provide a cleaning checklist for check-out.
10. **Most importantly protect your lake and your investment by putting up the CHA Rental Posters.**

By Janice Bishop, owner of All-Season Cottage Rentals Inc

Article provided by CHA

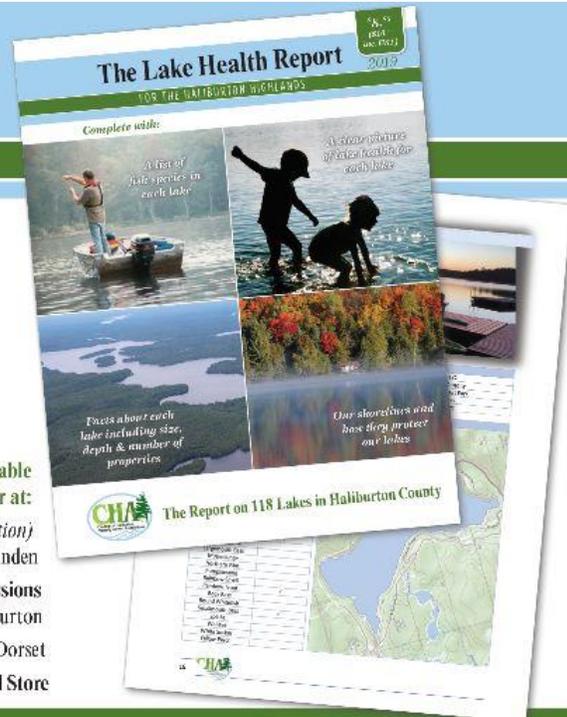
Many Questions... ONE Answer

THE LAKE HEALTH REPORT ANSWERS:

- What is **water quality** like in our lakes?
- How does the **future** look for our lakes?
- What does **fishing** look like in 118 lakes?
- What is the **depth and size** of each lake?
- What **trends** are we seeing in our lakes?
- ... and MORE!

The Lake Health Report is available through most lake associations or at:

- **Organic Times** (New location)
124 Bobcaygeon Rd in Minden
- **Northern Expressions**
13588 Hwy# 118 Haliburton
- **Robinson's General Store**, Dorset
- **Cardiff General Store**



New By-Law in Dysart

As part of our lake is in Dysart, please note the new fireworks by-law.

Municipal Council of Dysart passed a Fireworks By-law that regulates the dates and permitted times for the setting off of Consumer Fireworks within Dysart et al.

Fireworks are only permitted on New Year's Eve and the weekends of Victoria Day, Canada Day and the Civic Holiday. For further details including the permitted times please see the Fireworks By-law No. 2019-41 (a PDF copy is attached) or visit our website.

<https://www.dysartetal.ca/13277/>

Included in the new Fireworks By-law, Dysart Council adopted a total ban of Flying Lanterns within the Municipality. nd post on social media and/or on your association's home page.

In closing, please make note that any complaints regarding the discharge of fireworks or release of flying lanterns must be directed in writing to the By-law Department, not the Fire Department.



Ontario Budget 2019

What does the Ontario budget 2019 mean for our members?

Budgets are an important opportunity for governments to set out their mandate and to ensure that their priorities are suitably funded.

In the April 2019 budget, the Ontario government has indicated a number of decisions which may impact waterfront property owners in ways that we will only be able to determine in the coming months – budgets are notoriously light on details.

Generally, the Ontario 2019 budget includes no new taxes for residents or businesses. But it does include tax credits and other measures meant to help parents, seniors and business owners.

The Ontario government has announced a focus on five core commitments:

- “Put more money in people’s pockets”
- “Create and protect jobs”
- “Restore accountability and trust in government”
- “Clean up the hydro mess”
- “Cut hospital wait times and end hallway health care.”

They’ve also indicated that government will hold itself to the same customer service standards as private sector businesses.



So what does this mean for cottagers and for waterfront Ontario? To find out more, please go to: <https://foca.on.ca/ontario-budget-2019/>

(excerpt from letter written by Terry Rees, Executive Director, FOCA)

Upcoming KLCA Events:

AGM - Saturday, July 6th, 10:00am, Dorset Recreation Centre

KLCA Regatta - Saturday, August 3rd, 2019. 11:00 am, Moorelands Camp

KLCA Fireworks Display - Saturday, August 3rd, dusk, Marina Bay (to donate, please go to: www.klca.org)
