

SHADOW LAKES ASSOCIATION

NEWS & VIEWS

Dedicated to the care and protection of our land, lakes and river system so that future generations will enjoy what we enjoy today.

Dock Fest!
With Deez Guys!



2026 | Late Summer

Photo: Andrew Leslie

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RECAP

Tim Dobush

The Shadow Lakes Association AGM was held on July 12th, and it was wonderful to see so many members in attendance. Kevin Henry (our President) presented director service awards to Kate Hibbard and Tom Coyle and thanked them for their valued service. Kevin Henry went over our mandate that includes lake markers, advocacy with the Kawartha Conservation Authority and Trent-Severn Waterways, social events, and continual communications with our paid members on important matters like water levels. In addition, with this being a municipal election year, we will be providing our members a special late fall newsletter with questions/answers from all the candidates.

We had a productive discussion on membership dues noting that only 366 of approximately 600 properties supported to the care and protection of our land, lakes and river system so that future generations will enjoy what we today are enjoying. We went through our zero-based budget and given that dues have remained the same since the 2000s and that inflation has increased 66% during the same period, our members unanimously agreed to raise membership dues to \$45 in 2027 and onwards.



We greatly appreciated in hearing from our guest speakers: Mayor Doug Elmslie, Councillor Emmett Yeo, Paul Reed from the Summit Wellness Centre, and Irvine Marucelj - Project Manager, NORAD Modernization Infrastructure Project Delivery, National Defence / Government of Canada on the Over-the-Horizon Radar project. Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to the discussions.

OVER THE HORIZON RADAR SYSTEM

Canada is building an Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar (A-OTHR) system through a \$2.5 billion acquisition arrangement with Australia and BAE Systems Australia. This project is part of a broader NORAD modernization initiative to detect airborne and maritime threats deep in the northern approaches.

Project Details and Locations

- Technology Source: Derived from Australia's proven Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN).
- Transmit Site Location: 0 Thistle Trail, Kawartha Lakes, Southern Ontario (163 hectares).
- Receive Site Location: Clearview Township, Southern Ontario (288 hectares).
- Why Southern Ontario: Locating the bounce point south of the auroral zone avoids Northern Lights interference and provides maximum detection range over the northeast Arctic corridor.

Timeline and Future Plans

- Initial Operational Capability: Targeted for completion and functionality by December 2029.
- Economic Impact: Estimated to contribute roughly \$290 million annually to Canada's GDP between 2026 and 2033.
- Next Phase: Future plans include the Polar Over-the-Horizon Radar (P-OTHR) initiative for higher Arctic Circle coverage.



RECOGNIZING OUR VOLUNTEERS

SLA DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

HEATHER HOLMSHAW

The SLA is an association run by volunteers. Currently, there are 12 directors who make up the board.

Oliver Hibbard and Maddy Barrett were elected as directors at the July AGM.

We thought we would share some history and background of our directors and their ties to Shadow Lake.

If you are interested in becoming an SLA board member, please reach out to us!

nominatingcommittee@shadowlakesassociation.ca

Oliver O'Neill Hibbard is a fourth-generation family member on Shadow Lake. He, along with his brothers, has grown up on the lake, fishing, swimming, canoeing, hiking, camping, and listening to the stories and Hibbard family lore and legacy of the generations before them. The family cottage was constructed around 1923 and is one of seven original cottages built by Aldi LeCraw. William Dalton Hibbard and his wife Margaret. They began renting "Sunny Home" around 1934. His brother Herald Hibbard and his wife Charlotte also rented "Whippoorwill," the cottage next door, through the 1950s. When the lots were split and titles sold around 1951, Dalt and his son Tom purchased the cottage for an estimated \$1,500. Tom and Penny Hibbard (Oliver's grandparents) owned the cottage for over fifty-six years until they sold it in 2007 to Bill (William Dalton Hibbard II) and his wife Kate. In a recent genealogy search, it was discovered that Bill's great-grandparents, Herald Dalton Hibbard and his wife Minnie Pearl, were both Canadian-born (Pearl from Newmarket)! The Hibbard family cottage is a true coming-home story. The recent "Rock the Dock" social was held at the Hibbard cottage!

Maddy Barrett The Kelly family ties to Shadow Lake began in the early 1970s, when Maddy's grandparents first brought her mother to the lake as a child to visit family friends at Island View Trailer Park. Shortly afterward, her grandparents purchased a trailer in the same park, where Maddy spent much of her childhood. In 2008, Maddie's parents purchased a trailer in the same park and later bought a cottage across the lake, where her family has enjoyed many wonderful summers together. Now that her cottage is a four-season home, Maddy is fortunate to enjoy Shadow Lake throughout the entire year! Maddy's father Rob served as a director on the SLA as well!

SERVICE AWARDS: CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!



The strength of the Shadow Lakes Association has always come from the dedication of its volunteers. We simply would not be where we are today without the countless hours, energy and care given by so many members of our community. This year, we recognize years of service of Kate Hibbard and Tom Coyle.

Kate served as a Director for nine years from 2017 to 2025, and prior as a road monitor.



Tom served as director for over 30 years along with serving as a road monitor on Road 6. Tom is best known and appreciated as co-host of the famous Mo Park Children's Fishing Derby for 26 years ending in 2023!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Kate and Tom for their service, commitment and friendship. Their contributions have made a lasting difference and will be greatly missed.

SLA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

SUMMER SOCIAL WITH DEEZ GUYS

LISA PADGETT

Who knew a lake could throw a better party than most bars?

The band Deez Guys absolutely rocked the shoreline, cranking out everyone's favourite rock 'n' roll classics while a flotilla of boats anchored offshore for the best seats in the house. Before long, captains became dancers, passengers became backup singers, and the lake turned into one giant floating dance floor.

What an incredible event organized by the Shadow Lakes Association Social Committee, with great music, great people, and good vibes!

If you missed it, don't worry, we'll do it again next year.



BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE DOCK

A FALL REMINDER ABOUT LAKE MARKERS

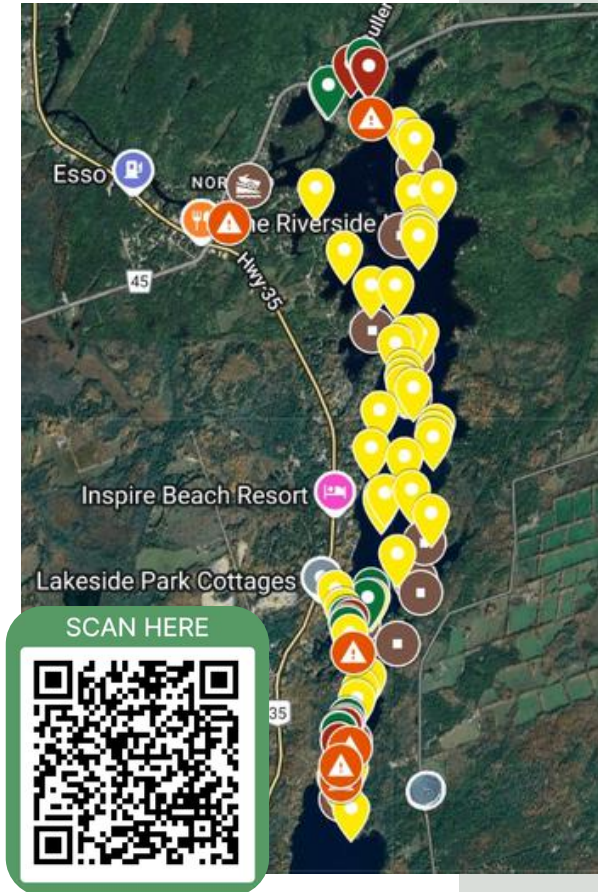
LAKE MARKER TEAM

As another boating season begins to wind down, a quick reminder that the Shadow Lakes Association lake markers will, as usual, be removed from the lakes and rivers between Norland and Coboconk following the Thanksgiving long weekend.

The exact timing will depend on weather conditions and water levels, so boaters are encouraged to plan ahead. Those who prefer to have their boats out before the river markers are removed should make arrangements in advance.

Should the timing change for any reason, Shadow Lakes Association Members will receive an e-newsletter with an update on the fall marker takeout.

lakemarkerreporting@shadowlakesassociation.ca



WATER LEVELS UPDATE

Tim Dobush

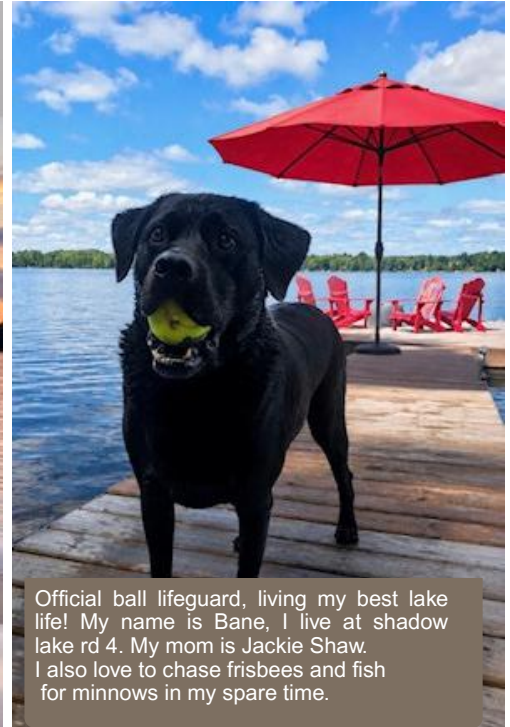
As we move into September, the month is expected to be drier than normal based on the long-range forecast. The expectation is that going into September, the flow rate will be around +/-15 m³/m that is below the normal flow rate of +/- 20 m³/m and we can expect a significant drop off in flow rates (water levels) if there are no pending rains. The winter drawdown for the reservoir lakes be mechanically completed by the end of September. For the first half of October, flow rates (water levels) will be totally under the control of Mother Nature. This means that water levels will be totally based on precipitation amounts with no adjustments coming from TSW.

We advise our members to be vigilant, especially in shallow areas, as watercraft may get grounded.

Although we will continue to provide updates to paid members, it is your responsibility to monitor water levels and ensure you pull out your watercraft at the appropriate time.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!

The Grand Puppies Lori Penycad



Official ball lifeguard, living my best lake life! My name is Bane, I live at shadow lake rd 4. My mom is Jackie Shaw. I also love to chase frisbees and fish for minnows in my spare time.

This is Niya. She is a one year old Aussie Doodle. Her first experience at the lake!
Laurie Osborne @ 16 Courtland Rd



Whiskey is an old dog now (13) but she still enjoys boating. She also has a favorite shady spot on the cool dirt. Janet Kennedy



Our sweet Bridget (AKA Bridgey) crossed the Rainbow Bridge this week. She spent 14 wonderful summers chasing tennis balls, swimming in the lake, and making memories at the cottage. We'd love your vote to celebrate her beautiful life. Paul Mitchell



STAYING PLUGGED IN YEAR ROUND

STAYING CONNECTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

FROM THE DOCKSIDE DECK

If you have not yet paid your 2026 dues or are not currently a member of the Shadow Lakes Association, now is a great time to join.

Membership is only \$30 for 2026 and helps ensure you receive our e-newsletters throughout the fall and winter months, as well as support the lake marker program, summer social, newsletters/communications, advocacy with community groups, and more. These updates are a great way to stay connected with what is happening around the lakes and rivers, even when you are away from the cottage.

They can also be especially helpful if there is an emergency, major weather event, or other important local development. Being a member means you will receive timely information and updates directly from the Association.

MEREDITH MERCER SUMMITS MT EVEREST

Pat Willmot

We're incredibly proud to report that Shadow Lake's Meredith Mercer recently accomplished her lifelong dream of climbing the Seven Summits. What started almost 20 years ago with her Climb for the Cure on Mt Kilimanjaro fittingly ended on Canada Day when Meredith completed the Messner List, with a successful summit of Mount Elbrus in Russia.



Pay your dues now to lock in the current rate of \$30 per year before it increases to \$45 in 2027. Members can pay for two or more years in advance, ensuring they remain informed, connected, and part of the Shadow Lakes community.



A week later, with a summit in Australia, she completed the Bass List, making her the 5th Canadian woman to ever complete both lists.

What makes this so meaningful to Meredith is the fact that she raised more than \$200,000 in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. She says every step she took was inspired by her mom's strength in her battle with cancer and her desire to support others affected by cancer.

Her seventh summit also supported the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), a new cause that has inspired her.

When asked what's next, she says there's another interesting mountain in Nepal she'd like to summit ... stay tuned!

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

FROM THE DOCKSIDE DECK

Municipal councils make many of the decisions that directly affect life in cottage country, from protecting water quality and shorelines to planning future development, maintaining roads and bridges, supporting emergency services, and investing in the infrastructure that keeps our communities safe and sustainable.

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) is encouraging both candidates and voters to focus on three key priorities during the 2026 municipal election:

- Protect our lakes and natural environment through shoreline protection, water quality initiatives, septic re-inspection programs and responsible stewardship.
- Support thoughtful planning and development that protects the character of our waterfront communities while balancing future growth.
- Invest in resilient infrastructure and municipal services, including roads, emergency preparedness, wildfire resilience and fair, sustainable municipal services for both seasonal and permanent residents.

These priorities help ensure that Ontario's waterfront communities remain healthy, vibrant and enjoyable for future generations.

Stay Informed Before You Vote

To help members make informed decisions, the Shadow Lakes Association will be inviting all Ward 1 municipal council candidates to answer a series of questions on issues that matter to our lake community. Candidate responses will be shared with all Association Members in a special e-newsletter before Election Day. It's another benefit of staying connected through your Shadow Lakes Association membership.

www.foca.on.ca/municipal-priorities/



We are almost to the finish line...

What comes next? The fun part!

Painting, Floors, Light Fixtures,
Furniture, Paving, and
Landscaping!

And we continue our work to
secure additional grant
commitments from the provincial
and federal governments.

We look forward to celebrating the
Grand Opening of the Summit
Wellness Centre in September
2026!

PS - The SLA has already
reserved meeting space for your
summer 2027 AGM!

FROM HAZY SKIES, TO WINTER DAYS

HAZY SKIES

Lisa Padgett

We experienced again this summer, hazy skies and the smell of smoke throughout parts of July as large wildfires burned across Ontario and neighbouring provinces.

Although the fires were hundreds of kilometres away, changing weather patterns carried smoke into cottage country, reducing air quality and creating the hazy conditions many of us noticed around the lakes.

FALL 2026 - WINTER 2027

OLIVER HIBBARD

As summer begins to wind down, it's never too early to start thinking about everything that makes the Shadow Lake area so special in the cooler months. Whether you enjoy getting outside for a quiet afternoon or making memories with family and friends, there's plenty to look forward to.

FALL ADVENTURES

Autumn is one of the most beautiful times of year in the Highlands. The nearby Minden Whitewater Preserve offers scenic hiking trails where vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows surround the Gull River perfect for a leisurely walk and a few photos.

Nothing says fall quite like a trip to a local orchard. Pick-your-own apples, fresh cider, homemade pies, and crisp country air make for a perfect weekend outing.

At times, the smoke also reduced visibility and left a distinct campfire smell in the air.

The summer served as a reminder that wildfire impacts can extend far beyond the immediate fire zone. During periods of poor air quality, it's a good idea to monitor local air quality advisories, particularly if you or your family members have asthma or other respiratory conditions. Reducing strenuous outdoor activity during smoky periods can help minimize exposure.

As we head into the fall, we are grateful for the firefighters, emergency responders and volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the wildfire season to help protect Ontario's communities and natural landscapes.

Orchards such as Moon Valley Farms offer a classic autumn experience with fresh apples and cider. If you're looking for a little extra fun, keep an eye out for nearby farms offering hay rides, corn mazes, and pumpkin patches throughout September and October. Many seasonal farms add these activities as the harvest season gets underway.

Before winter arrives, consider planning a visit to a local maple sugar bush. While the sap starts flowing in late winter, many producers welcome visitors to learn how maple syrup is made. Places like Conboy Maple Syrup offer a true taste of Ontario and are well worth adding to your spring calendar.

WINTER FUN

Once the snow falls, Shadow Lake becomes a winter playground. If conditions allow, why not gather some neighbours and create a skating rink right on the frozen lake? With a little shovelling and a pair of hockey nets, you have the perfect setting for skating or a friendly game of hockey. As always, safety comes first, be sure to check that the ice is thick enough to safely support your activities before heading out, and never assume conditions are the same across the entire lake.

For those looking to explore farther afield, the Haliburton Highlands feature hundreds of kilometres of well-maintained snowmobile trails, connecting lakes, forests, and small communities for unforgettable winter rides.

LAKE HEALTH MONITORING

Carol Henderson



The Kawartha Conservation is undergoing a comprehensive multi-year Lake Health Monitoring Project to track water clarity, nutrient levels (like phosphorus), and aquatic plant biodiversity.

Project Goals

- Collect routine lake health data and track progress against Lake Management Plan targets.
- Monitor water quality, nutrient loading, aquatic plants and shorelines across core lakes and tributaries.
- Share findings through an online dashboard, social media, media releases and annual reports.

Monitoring at Shadow Lake will occur monthly in 2026 and 2028. **Key focus areas include:**

Water Chemistry temperature, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, chloride, nitrate, phosphorus, nitrogen, ammonia, aluminum, calcium, magnesium, manganese, potassium.

Hydrology water levels at the dam, precipitation, and river station levels.

Monitoring Stations

1. River station #1: Gull River at TSW Dam
2. River station #2: Stream at Monck Rd and Buller Rd
3. River station #3: Stream on Monck Rd (near 3860 Monk Rd)
4. Lake station #1: Shadow Lake North
5. Lake station #2: Shadow Lake South

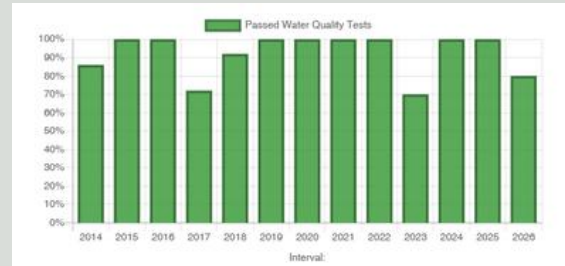
<https://tinyurl.com/lakehealthmonitoring>

In our late October or early November members-only e-newsletters, we will share the results, along with links to additional information.

NORLAND BEACH

Carol Henderson

Norland Beach (Bathing Area) Historical Water Quality Tests This beach has a great track record of having passing grades of E. Coli.



The Norland Bathing Area had been listed in a July weekly beach report as having a moderate to high risk for swimming due to elevated E. coli counts. Heavy summer rainfall and storm runoff often cause bacterial spikes in this area.

As of the beginning of August, Norland Beach was listed at low risk.

For the most up-to-date data visit <https://tinyurl.com/Norlandbeachtesting>

Healthy Shorelines.

Healthy Lakes.

Simple actions by each of us create lasting impact.

What Individual Property Owners Can Do

To combat eutrophication and shoreline degradation, waterfront property owners play a crucial role in protecting local watersheds:



NATURALIZE YOUR SHORELINE:

Avoid lawns that go directly to the water's edge. Establish "no-mow zones" and plant native species with deep roots to stabilize soil, prevent erosion, and filter contaminants from runoff.



MAINTAIN SEPTIC SYSTEMS:

Have your septic tank inspected and pumped every 2 to 3 years. Malfunctioning systems leach phosphorus and bacteria directly into the groundwater and adjacent lakes.



ELIMINATE FERTILIZERS:

Avoid using chemical fertilizers and pesticides near the water. Rain and irrigation wash these chemicals into the lake, creating prime conditions for algae blooms.



USE PHOSPHATE-FREE PRODUCTS:

Choose phosphate-free soaps and detergents for all outdoor and cottage use.



REDUCE RUNOFF:

Limit hardened surfaces to reduce stormwater runoff into the lake. Dispose of soapy wastewater in soil at least 60 meters away from the water's edge.

POWERBOATS & WAKES ON SHADOW LAKES

Sue Palmer

Shadow Lakes offer an incredible place to enjoy boating, swimming, paddling and other watersports. While these activities are an important part of lake life, it's also worth considering how certain boating practices may affect the health of our lakes and the safety of others.

Recent research from the University of Minnesota's 2025 study on recreational powerboats found that large wakes—particularly those created by wake boats operating in semi-displacement mode—can disturb lakebeds, increase water turbidity, resuspend nutrients such as phosphorus, and contribute to shoreline erosion. These impacts may reduce water clarity, encourage excessive aquatic plant and algae growth, and disrupt fish habitat and other sensitive ecosystems.

The findings also reinforce observations many waterfront property owners have made over the years: powerful wakes can accelerate shoreline erosion, damage fragile transition zones where wildlife such as loons nest, and affect the enjoyment and safety of those using the lake for quieter activities.

While wake boats were the focus of the study, the broader discussion includes other powerboats and operating practices that can create large wakes, including boats travelling in "plowing" or semi-displacement mode.

The goal is not to discourage responsible boating, but to encourage awareness. By understanding how boat operation influences our lakes, we can all make informed choices that help protect water quality, shorelines, wildlife habitat, and the recreational experience for everyone who enjoys Shadow Lakes, today and for future generations.



<https://tinyurl.com/UofMinnesotastudy>

<https://www.youtube.com/@LakesatStake>

<https://tinyurl.com/UofWaterloowaterinstitute>

<https://tinyurl.com/FOCAWakes>



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

2026 Annual Membership \$30

Joining the Shadow Lakes Association, whether as a full-time resident, weekend cottager, or seasonal visitor, is an easy way to support the lake community.

Lake Marker Program
71 | Hazard & Navigation Markers
41 Hazard Markers (marking underwater hazards)
20 Green Navigation (guiding through channels)
13 Red Navigation (guiding through channels)

Allocation of Membership Dues

Category	Percentage
Lake Markers	32%
Member Engagement	29%
Insurance	17%
Advocacy (FOCA)	11%
Community Support	3%
Administrative	8%

Community Liason
Acting as a liaison with community groups & government allows us to advocate for members, stay informed, access resources, and protect the lake and shared interests.

Communications & Events
We rely on a mix of email, social media, website, and alert systems to share important updates, safety information, and community news, keeping you informed whether you're at the lake or elsewhere.
Yearly events
• AGM
• Summer Social
• On line events & contests

Road Monitor Program
Working at the grass roots level these volunteers are essential contacts within the community, and personally deliver our highly sought after newsletters, twice a year.
40 Dedicated Road Monitors
Hand Deliver 650 Newsletters! Early Summer & Late Summer

Payment Options

-  e-Transfer to treasurer@shadowlakesassociation.ca
Include your Shadow Lakes address that the payment pertains to.
-  Mail (cheque)
Return the completed card using the enclosed return envelope.
-  Drop Off @ Home Hardware Coboconk or with your Road Monitor.
Cheque or cash using the enclosed card and envelope.

Is Your Email Up To Date?

Lynn Tennison-Moores

SLA Members: Is Your Email Up-to-Date?

An important benefit of membership is receiving emails from the SLA that aim to keep our river and lakes community safe and informed.

Having an up-to-date email address on file ensures you receive crucial, time-sensitive updates directly to your inbox, including:

- Urgent High-Water Alerts: Timely notices to help you protect your docks, shoreline, and property.
- Weather Event Updates: Impact of major storms on the rivers and lakes system.
- Regular E-Newsletters: Community updates, local events, and environmental news.
- AGM Details: Meeting information, voting details and announcements about key guest speakers, including local political representatives and experts on high-interest community topics.

Missing Our Emails?

If you haven't been receiving our updates, or if you've recently changed your email address, please take a moment to update your contact details with us.

Update your email address today: Send a quick note with your name, property address and current email to membership@shadowlakesassociation.ca

Help us ensure our important updates and safety alerts reach you without delay!