



ONE LAST SWIM, ONE LAST SUNSET,
A SUMMER OF STORIES WE WON'T FORGET.



SWIPE THROUGH FOR
EXCLUSIVE
FLIPBOOK CONTENT

NEWS & VIEWS
Late Summer 2025
Digital Flipbook Version





2025 AGM SUMMARY

By: Tim Dobush & Kevin Henry

On July 5th, 2025, the Shadow Lakes Association (SLA) held their AGM at Wards Park in Norland. The AGM meetings generally consist of formal matters like the election of directors, the approval of previous year's meeting minutes and approval of the yearly Statement of Receipts and Disbursements. This is followed by remarks/Q&A from Mayor Elmslie and Councillor Emmett Yeo and a guest speaker. For this year, Councillor Emmett Yeo was unable to attend.

We were pleased to welcome the membership's election of two new directors, Carol Henderson and Rob Kelly bringing our current Board of Directors to 13 directors. Our directors are volunteers, and we are grateful for their dedication to our association. As always, we welcome new directors and if you are interested, please contact us at info@shadowlakesassociation.ca.

Mayor Elmslie stated that he enjoys attending AGMs to share City news/information and also engage with members of our association.

NOTABLE REMARKS

Brush Pickup

This was an intense operation that started immediately after the March ice storm. They have hired contractors to help with the cleanup and expect to complete the cleanup operation by the end of July. It is estimated that the cost for cleanup and restoration to be around \$14-15 M of which the Provincial Government will pay part or all of the costs.

Short-Term Rentals

Mayor Elmslie noted that they had many problematic rental properties and have taken an aggressive approach to rectifying the situation and it seems to be working. He noted that there is a shortage of long-term rentals within the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Growth

The City has a growth plan with large swaths of land under housing development. He noted that the Province will be providing funds to offset infrastructure and other costs.

Waterfront Property Taxes

Mayor Elmslie took the opportunity to address the services that waterfront property owners receive with about 200 services. Notable services include covering 75 percent of the cost for the Kawartha Conservation Authority, \$52M on roads, approximately 60 boat launches, healthcare including an additional \$7M for the Coboconk Wellness Centre, community centres, police, fire, paramedic services and landfill sites.

Coboconk Wellness Centre

The construction of the centre is expected to be completed the end of 2025/beginning of 2026. The City has applied for grants to help to cover the costs of staffing the centre and are working with the Province to accelerate the hiring programme.

Emergency Management

The City is looking to hire a full-time Emergency Management Manager. Mayor Elmslie commended the Hydro crews, including those from other provinces, that worked 14-16 hr/day to restore power to our community.

Guest Speaker Presentation

Kevin Henry went through the Emergency Preparedness presentation by Katie Dukelow, Fire Prevention Public Educator, City of Kawartha Lakes who was unable to attend in person. An audio version of the presentation can be found via tinyurl.com/bepreparedtips

SUMMER SOCIAL

By: Lisa Padgett

After the AGM, attendees were treated to a delicious free lunch featuring foavorful beef brisket from Peterborough's Fresh Urban Plate, that had many going back for seconds.

We were lucky to have a warm sunny day which allowed attendees to eat outside. The event sparked plenty of new friendships and lively, cottagy conversations—making the meal as memorable for the connections as it was for the food.

Hope you will join us next year!



SHADOW LAKES SYSTEM WATER LEVEL UPDATE: LATE SUMMER 2025

By: Tim Dobush

Since the beginning of July, we have been experiencing stable flow rates of +/- 20m³ per sec over the Norland Dam. Around the start of July, the TSW management team started the drawdown where the water levels are lowered in the reservoir area of the Trent-Severn Watershed. In the Haliburton reservoir lakes area, drawdown occurs throughout the summer season to address downstream needs along the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW), primarily navigation. For Shadow Lakes, this typically results in stable water levels for the July-September period given that we are a flow-through lake for the Gull River watershed.

We have been experiencing a hot and dry summer where June's average daily temperature was approximately 25° C with total monthly precipitation of only 26mm.

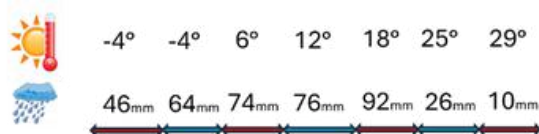
July has been an extremely hot and dry month with total precipitation of only 10mm with an average daily temperature of approximately 29° C (readings taken from the Environment Canada PETERBOROUGH TRENTU FARM data station).

Last year, June's average daily temperature was 24° C and we had 147mm of precipitation. For July 2024, the average daily temperature was approximately 27° C with 71mm of precipitation.

SO, WHY HAVE OUR FLOW RATES REMAINED STABLE IN THESE VERY HOT AND DRY CONDITIONS?

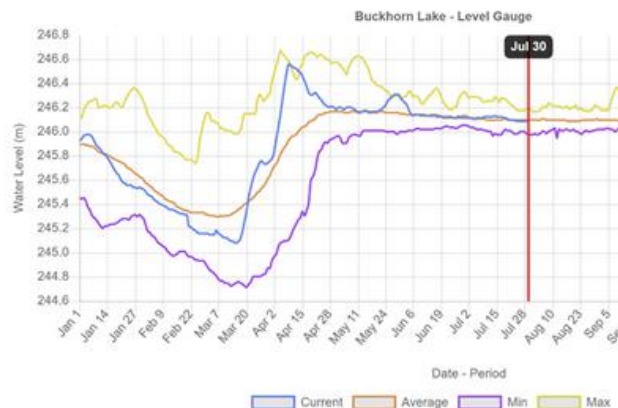
Due to these very dry and hot conditions along the downstream section of the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW), the TSW management team increased the drawdown rate to offset these very dry and hot conditions.

If you refer to the Buckhorn Lake chart, you will note that their water levels have remained around average levels. However, if you refer to the Maple Lake chart, their water levels are below average for this time of the year.



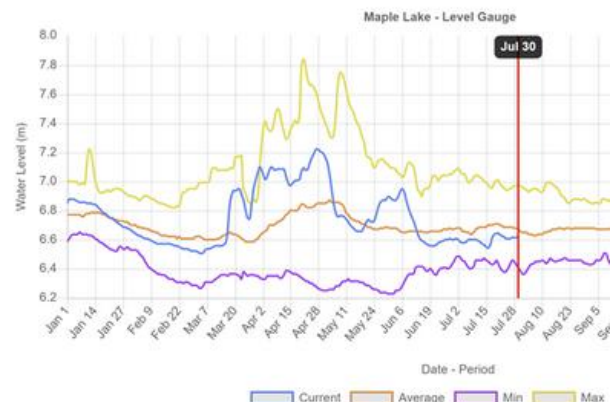
Buckhorn Lake

Graph Table



Maple Lake

Graph Table



SHADOW LAKES SYSTEM WATER LEVEL UPDATE: AUGUST 2025

By: Tim Dobush

Moving forward, we have three months to go for the TSW navigation season, so we need some significant precipitation.

If we do receive significant precipitation in the downstream region of the TSW, the drawdown will be slowed down to conserve water to support the remaining TSW navigation season. If this occurs, the flow rate for the Gull River watershed will be reduced to a minimal flow rate of 10-12 m³/sec that will result in a notable drop of water levels on Shadow Lake.

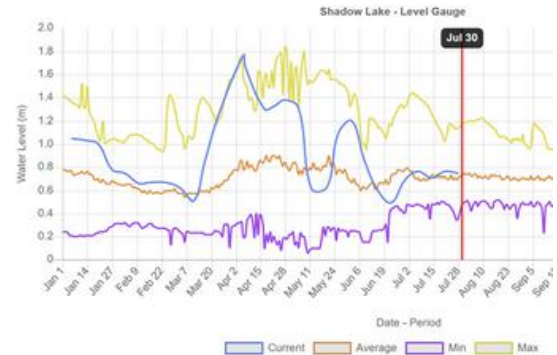
2025 has been a lesson on the impact of weather on the Trent-Severn Waterway. For the March-May period, high precipitation rates along with the snowmelt resulted in high flow rates and near record water levels. For the June-July period, we experienced the opposite weather conditions with low precipitation and hot temperatures. In both cases, the TSW management team has excelled in managing the water distribution throughout the system while minimizing the impact to properties and shorelines.

For more information on Drawdown, please visit tinyurl.com/TSWDrawdown. For our paid members, we will keep you informed of water level changes by email and our E-Newsletters.

Shadow Lake

Graph

Table



30 METRES IS EQUIVALENT TO

- Motorboat x7
- Canoe x6
- Rowing boat x20
- Duck x38

9 KM
NO WAKE
WITHIN 30 METRES FROM SHORE

Learn more about responsible boating and the impact of wakes at safequiet.ca

Boat Safely. Have fun.
Slow down and enjoy the scenery.

The Ontario Provincial Police patrol the lakes. Be sure you have the required safety equipment, obey the speed limits and don't drink and drive. If you see dangerous boating, the OPP wants to hear from you at 1-888-310-1122. For life-threatening emergencies call 911.

Please watch your wake

Even at slow speeds you can create a large, damaging wake if your bow is riding high out of the water. Here's how to eliminate your wake:

- When slowing down for no-wake zones, throttle back to idle for about 10 seconds
- Wait for the bow to drop and your boat to level out before proceeding at the regulated speed
- Keep an eye on your wake until clear of the no-wake zone

9 KM NO WAKE WITHIN 30 METRES FROM SHORE

The speed limit within 30 metres (33 yards) of any shoreline and docks is 9 km/hr on the Muskoka lakes. This protects swimmers and other boaters, and reduces shoreline damage.

Find out more about Safe Boating at safequiet.ca

FLOATING OR GROUNDED TREES AND DEADHEADS

By: Tim Dobush

The March Ice Storm and April-May high water levels created navigation and debris challenges with floating or grounded trees and deadheads (water-soaked logs that float vertically and can weigh tons) along the Shadow Lakes System.

At our July 2025 AGM, this topic was discussed during the meeting, and we thought it would be helpful to provide a summation for this newsletter.

One of the challenges of knowing where to go to inquire about tree removals is understanding the various Federal/Provincial/Municipal land and water rights. All waterways are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government; all lakebeds and riverbeds are under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government; and all shorelines above the high-water mark are either under the jurisdiction of the City of Kawartha Lakes or the individual property owners.

We suggest that if a tree grounds on your shoreline that you take responsibility for removal.

Please note that the Shadow Lakes Association is not responsible for the marking and/or removal of tree debris or deadheads.



FUN FACT ABOUT HOW OFTEN THE WATER TURNS OVER ON SHADOW LAKE SYSTEM

By: Phil Taylor

The Shadow Lakes are unique in that all the water in the Gull river watershed from the south end of Algonquin Park through 50 plus lakes in Haliburton eventually passes through the Shadow Lake system before it enters the Trent Severn waterway at Coboconk.

So it's interesting to realize that the time it takes for the entire volume of water in the Shadow Lakes to be replaced under normal summer conditions ranges from about 14 to 28 days. This is a result of the high volume of flow into the lake from the Gull River at Norland. (as a comparison, Four Mile Lake has a replacement cycle of about 2.75 years).

A typical summer flow rate at Norland is about 25 cubic metres of water per second coming over the dam. At that flow rate all the water in the Shadow Lake system would turn over in about 17 days.

Based on work done by the Kawartha Conservation authority that is documented in the lake plan for Shadow Lake we were able to estimate the total volume of water in our lake system and create the model that provides this estimate.

We are fortunate to enjoy the clean water that our neighbours in Haliburton consistently send to us.

SUMMER
days



Out of Sight, Top of Mind: Protecting Your Septic and Well Systems

Protecting the health of our drinking water starts at home. Waterfront property owners play a vital role in safeguarding groundwater, lakes, and rivers by maintaining septic systems and wells through regular inspections, upgrades, and responsible stewardship.

Are you Well Wise?

Like most homeowners, you probably were not directly involved in the construction of your well. Did you know there are different types of wells? Dug, bored, drilled, sand point, and below grade. Your property's characteristics, including soil, geology, gradient, and surroundings all had a part to play in the selection of the most appropriate well system.

Regardless of the type of well that services your family, nothing but water should be entering your well, and it should only enter from underground recharge. If you believe your well is no longer watertight, or experiencing leaks or seepage, it may be time for a check-up. Deteriorating or unsealed wells can act as pathways for contaminants to enter groundwater systems, posing a threat to human and environmental health. Once an aquifer is contaminated, it may never recover.



Before and After: Pit well experienced contamination from surface water flowing into the well cap. Landowner received funding to support hiring a well driller to secure the structure and casing.



For more information, and to check if your project is eligible, contact: Julia Derue, Stewardship Technician at jderue@kawarthaconservation.com 705-328-2271 x 241 or visit

KawarthaConservation.com/SepticsAndWells

Are you Septic Smart?

Did you know that wastewater from shoreline septic systems is one of the largest contributors of nutrient pollution in our Kawartha Lakes? Septic systems, especially those that are worse for wear, contribute elevated levels of nitrogen and phosphorus which are the essential for aquatic plant growth. Excessive phosphorus can cause harmful algal blooms and oxygen depletion, which endanger aquatic life and pose a risk to human and pet health.

If you own a shoreline septic system, it's your responsibility to ensure your system is in working order. Undertake routine inspections and pump-outs, and consider a septic replacement if your system is failing.



Septic Replacement: Landowner received funding to replace a failing weeping bed system that was within 50 ft of shoreline with a relocated tertiary treatment system that provides better quality effluent before entering the natural onsite soil.

Funding Available

Kawartha Conservation offers a landowner incentive program for septic and well improvement projects called the Water Fund.

Landowners in Kawartha Lakes are eligible to receive up to 50% of their project cost, to a maximum amount of \$4,000, for projects including: well upgrades, well decommissions, and septic replacement and upgrades (if septic systems are within 100 metres of a lake or river).

Happy Summer



the wellness
centre
Rebuilding a Healthy Community Together

We are getting closer every day to the Grand Opening of the Summit Wellness Centre!

By: Jen Wilson

Earlier this month, it was announced that **the province is committing \$3.4 million** in our area to expand access to primary care and other support services.

“This initiative led by the Kawartha North Family Health Team will be adding new interprofessional teams in Coboconk, Woodville, and Minden...The Kawartha Lakes Haliburton-Ontario Health Team will establish a process to accept new patients and will communicate this to their local community.”

This is great news for our communities!

We are continuing to prepare the building to host these services, along with many other services, like dental, fitness programming, a community kitchen, massage therapy, and much more.

There are naming opportunities available, like the Buy-a-Brick program. If you'd like to know more, please email Jen at jwilson@coboconknorland.ca. We'd love to hear from you!

And finally, thank you to so many of you - for your support of the SWC and for your input into what is needed in our communities.

We like to say that the SWC was designed by the community...because it was!





Norland Horticultural Society

By: Anne Cutting

Volunteers purchase and maintain the gardens and planters along Highway 35, Riverside Park, Mud Turtle Park, Ward Park Community Centre and Norland Public School/Library.

Become a member: \$20 single, \$25 family or \$25 business annually. Meet fellow gardeners throughout the spring, summer and fall at workshops, guest speaker events and gardens tours, or be a supporter. All are welcome.

Reach out to join, donate, attends one of our events!

norlandhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com
tinyurl.com/Norlandhorticultural



KEEPING SAFE WHILE WALKING ON BASELINE ROAD

By: Elizabeth Henderson

Hiking is a great activity for our minds and bodies, and it's important to make it safe for you, your family, your pets, and the drivers on the road. Many of us use Baseline for walking and running, it can be dangerous due to speeders and large trucks passing by.

Here's some walking safety tips

1. Follow the Rules of the Road: If there are no sidewalks, like on Baseline Road or our cottage roads, always walk facing traffic so you can see approaching vehicles.
2. Be Visible: Wear light or reflective clothing and carry a flashlight after dusk.
3. Be Aware: Avoid headphones or looking at your phone.

Because Cottage Life Doesn't End With Summer...

There's something special about autumn on the lake. The pace slows, the air turns crisp, and the shoreline glows in shades of gold and red. Bugs disappear, mornings are misty, and evenings call for wool socks and a fire.

Fall is quieter, cozier, and every bit as magical as summer. Pack your toque, pour the cider, and embrace sweater weather—cottage life doesn't stop when the leaves turn. It just gets better.

What Fall Brings to the Lake

- Peace & Quiet: Fewer boats and neighbours mean true calm.
- Cooler Weather: Layer up—mornings are chilly, nights are for fires.
- Shorter Days: Plan chores or hikes while the light lasts.
- Wildlife: Loons, deer, and migrating birds are on the move.

Ready, Set, Cozy: Cottage Prep Checklist

- Stock firewood, propane, and blankets.
- Drain outdoor water lines if needed.
- Bring essentials, local shops sometimes cut hours after Labour Day.
- Critter-proof cupboards and seal gaps.
- Plan on when to pull the boat and raise the dock

Cozy Cabins and Autumn Adventures



Closing up the cottage for the season – Cottage Life

This last is the most traumatic, for running water, hot and cold, is the lifeline of the cottage.

cottage.life.com

cottage.life.com/exp/closing-up-the-cottage-for-the-season/?utm_source=chatgpt.com



Festivals | Celebrate Nature & Community with Us

Join us for festivals celebrating nature, conservation, and community! Enjoy outdoor activities,....

[Kawartha Conservation](https://www.kawarthaconservation.com)

www.kawarthaconservation.com/learn-and-get-involved/festivals/



www.algonquinhighlands.ca/explore-play/parks-and-outdoor-spaces/dorset-scenic-lookout-tower/

SHORELINE TO INBOX – HOW WE KEPT YOU IN THE LOOP IN 2024!



NEWS & VIEWS
Late Summer 2025

Digital Flipbook Version



Settle in with a cozy read by the lake

Explore the flipbook edition of our newsletter and feel free to share it with your family!

Exclusive Flipbook Read: Discover this and more!

“Cottage season isn’t over—it’s just getting cozy. 🍂 Scan to learn how to make the most of fall at the lake.”

Cottage Country Extras: Just for Members

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.

Your annual \$30 membership helps ensure safe navigation, provides updates, promotes environmental stewardship, and fosters connections with neighbors. PLUS FOCA benefits.

Cottage Life

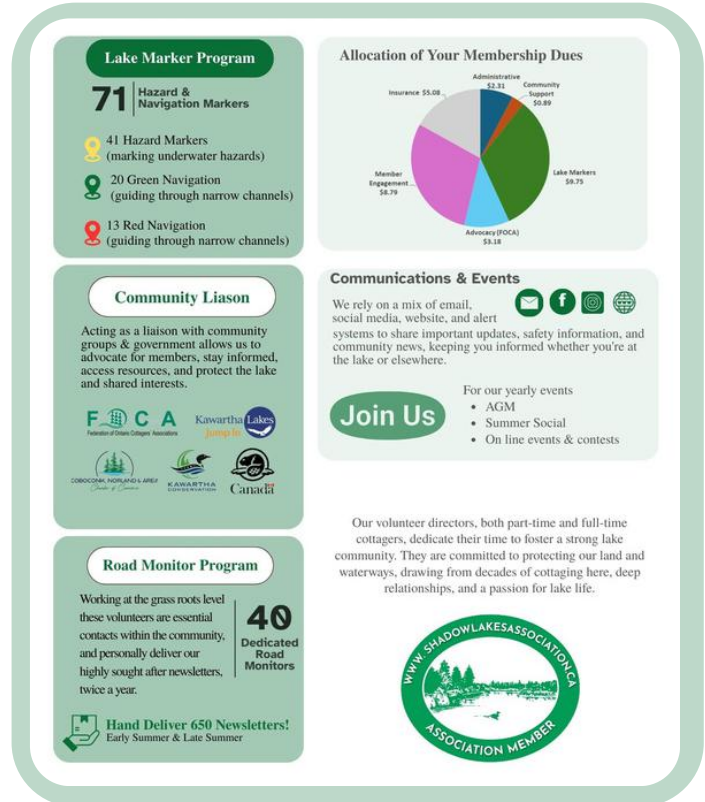
The amazing folks at Cottage Life have graciously extended their three free issues + fall Cottage Life Show ticket offer!

BUT hurry, pay your dues before September 5th, to benefit. You will receive a members only link in your inbox to sign up!

-  Get 3 free issues of Cottage Life magazine
-  Receive 1 free ticket to the Fall Cottage Life Show (Nov 14–16 International Centre, Mississauga)
-  Plus, get discount codes for additional tickets to the show

Already paid your dues? Thank you! **You're still eligible!**

If you didn't take advantage of the three free issues you will get the opportunity to sign up. PLUS you will also get the opportunity to get the free show ticket and discount codes for more! Check your inbox for the link!



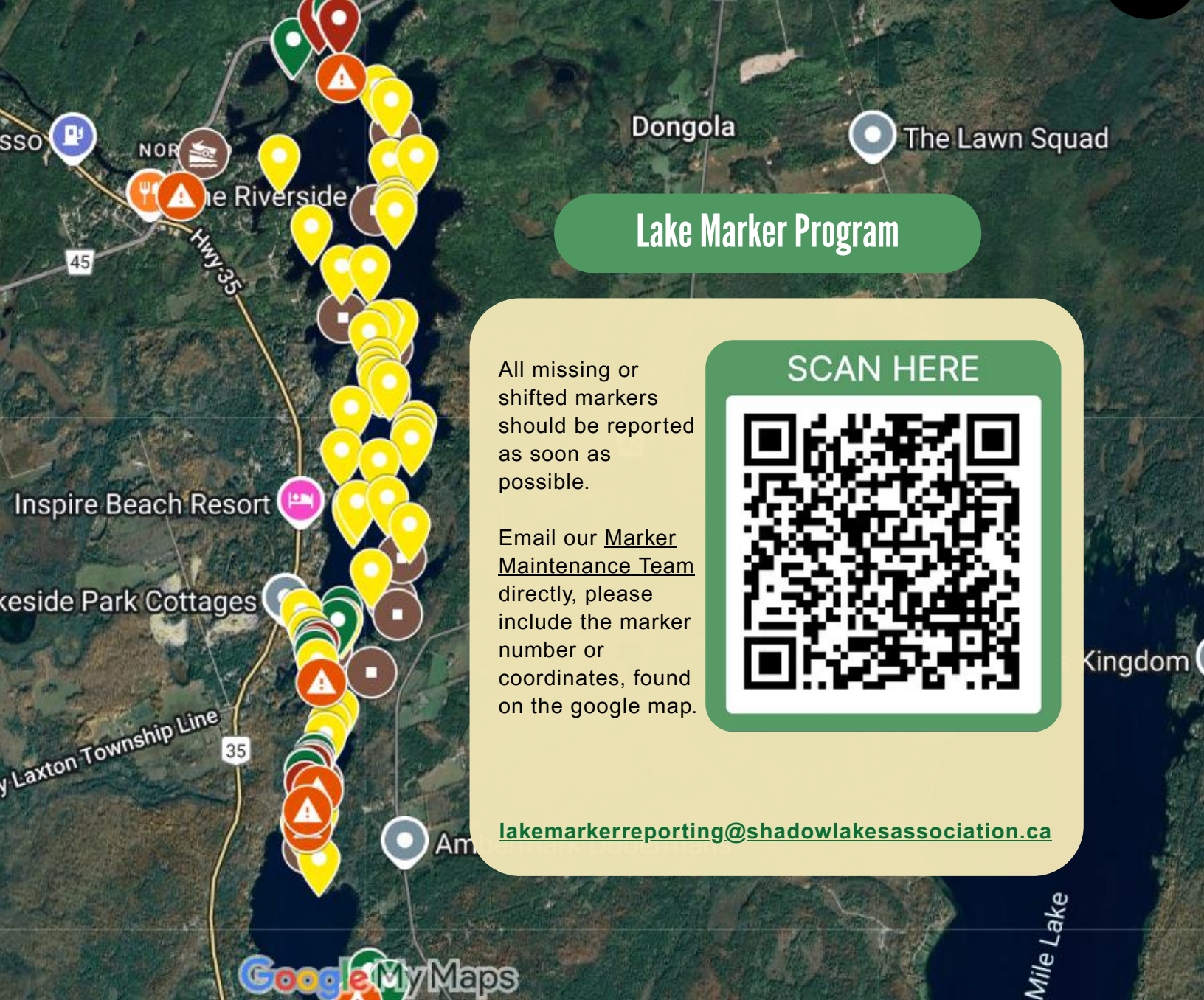
Renew
your membership today

Continue to receive our e-Newsletters for high water alerts, community updates, and to support the Association's ongoing work.

- 1** e-Transfer your dues (\$30) today! Attn: treasurer@shadowlakesassociation.ca
No password required! Include your Shadow Lake address that the payment pertains to.
- 2** Mail using the included return envelope and completed dues card along with your cheque.
- 3** Drop Off Cheque or Cash using this card and return envelope to the Home Hardware in Coboconk or give to your Road Monitor.

♥ Not Sure if You've Paid?

If you're unsure whether you've paid for this year, just send a quick email to: membership@shadowlakesassociation.ca. We will be happy to check for you.



Lake Marker Program

All missing or shifted markers should be reported as soon as possible.

Email our Marker Maintenance Team directly, please include the marker number or coordinates, found on the google map.

SCAN HERE



lakemarkerreporting@shadowlakesassociation.ca

Good to Knows.

MORE
INFO



Reminders.

- » Who to Call When! www.kawarthalakes.ca/en/living-here/who-to-call-when.aspx
- » Minden Urgent Care Clinic, same-day, non-emergency healthcare on a first-come, first-served basis. Daily from 10 AM to 5 PM <https://knfht.ca/home/mucc/>
- » Fireworks By-Law 2007-236, require residents obtain a permit to discharge consumer fireworks on their own property for an event outside of the designated days. www.tinyurl.com/COKLFireworks