

Lake Stewardship Grant Program - 2023

Presented To:	City Council
Meeting Date:	April 25, 2023
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
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Recommended by:	General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure

Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the Lake Stewardship Grant Program – 2023.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to supporting ecological sustainability, creating a healthier community (promote Greater Sudbury as a great northern lifestyle alternative) and strengthening community vibrancy (encourage the active engagement of formal and informal neighborhood groups) as identified in the Strategic Plan. The report also refers to increasing reforestation efforts as identified in the Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP).

Financial Implications

Fourteen applications for lake stewardship grants are recommended for approval with the total amount allocated being \$5,000 by way of cash grants and \$1,650 by way of provision of native shoreline plants purchased by the City of Greater Sudbury. The funding for these grants is provided for in the 2023 operating budget and will be approved through this by-law.

Summary

In 2023, the City's Lake Stewardship Grant program received fifteen applications for funding from local lake stewardship groups. City staff reviewed the applications and recommended that fourteen of the applicants be awarded funds through the Lake Stewardship Grant program with a total funding allocation of \$5,000 by way of cash grants and \$1,650 by way of provision of native shoreline plants purchased by CGS. A By-Law, presented at this meeting, must be approved for funding to be provided. The funding for these grants is provided for in the 2023 operating budget.

The Lake Stewardship Grant program was initiated in 2005 to support and encourage lake stewardship groups by providing them with additional resources. This is the 18th year of the Lake Stewardship Grant Program. Funding criteria and the application form were drafted by the former Watershed Advisory Panel. To receive funding, projects must benefit the water quality of the lake and/or watershed and demonstrate support and involvement of lake stewardship members, other lake residents or community members.

2023 Summary Report of Lake Stewardship Groups Recommended to Receive Funding Support

Clearwater Lake Stewardship Group

Project Name: Restore Your Shore

Project Details: The lake stewardship would like to host a shoreline plant giveaway to help promote the Love Your Lake program that was conducted on Clearwater Lake by CGS staff in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation. The plant giveaway is intended to promote healthy shoreline buffers by encouraging the planting of native shoreline plant species. The stewardship is estimating they will receive ~200 plants and that half of all homes on the lake would participate in the program and receive 10 plants each. The stewardship will also host their annual roadside cleanup event and community BBQ where they will promote native shoreline planting project.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used to purchase and distribute native shoreline plants.

Amount Being Awarded: \$500 by provision of native shoreline plants purchased by the City of Greater Sudbury.

Fairbank Lake Camp Owners Association

Project Name: Community Building Event and Roadside Cleanup

Project Details: The lake stewardship will host a road cleanup event on all roads leading to and around Fairbank Lake in spring 2023. This will include two groups of volunteers divided between the east and west sides of the lake and after the cleanup has been completed all volunteers will gather at a central location for collection. The event will end in a lunch event for the volunteers who will help to promote community building with new residents. The stewardship plans to collaborate with the City of Greater Sudbury's Litter Cleanup Program to provide bags, vest, gloves and pick up of collected bags from a central location.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used for roadside cleanup and community BBQ.

Amount Being Awarded: \$500 by way of a cash grant.

Four Lakes Community Association

Project Name: Plant and Seed Swap Event

Project Details: The stewardship will host an education event on local seeds, plants and flowers that grow best in the local area as well as what types of plants are appropriate for shoreline buffers. The event will be held in a central location for all the residents of Dixon, Frenchman, Hanmer and Joe Lake. Volunteer "gardening neighbors" will be at the event to share knowledge and information about plants as well as provide attendees with local seeds, plants, and information pamphlets to new and existing gardeners.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used for tent/equipment rentals, signage, information pamphlets and event refreshments.

Amount Being Awarded: \$480 by way of a cash grant.

Lake Wahnapiatae Home & Campers Association (LWHCA)

Project Name: LWHCA Septic Pump-Out Rebate Program

Project Details: The LWHCA has engaged residents for several years on the importance of proper septic maintenance to encourage the proper routine maintenance and pump-outs of their septic systems. The LWHCA's goal is to aim for an average of 52.5 pump-outs per year to maintain a 3-year cycle for permanent residents and a 4-year cycle for seasonal residents. The stewardship has setup a septic tank rebate program for residents who provide their proof of pump-outs to be entered into a draw for a \$100 rebate. The LWHCA has seen a steady increase in the number of submissions to this rebate program since 2020. The stewardship has approved a budget of \$3,500 for the 2023 pump-out rebate program with \$3,000 coming from stewardship funds for rebates and promotional material and \$500 requested from grant funds for rebates.

Use of Funds: Funds to be used to partially cover septic tank rebate initiative.

Amount Being Awarded: \$500 by way of a cash grant.

Ironside Lake Campers Association

Project Name: Ironside Lake Cleanup Project

Project Details: The lake stewardship plans to host their annual spring meeting to educate camp owners on the clean water initiative which aims to help clean up the shores of Ironside Lake. The shoreline cleanup will conclude with a community BBQ and a shoreline plant giveaway with native shoreline plants being provided by the City to promote healthy shoreline buffers.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used to host a community shoreline cleanup, community BBQ and to purchase and distribute native shoreline plants.

Amount Being Awarded: \$300 by way of a cash grant and \$200 by provision of native shoreline plants purchased by the City of Greater Sudbury.

Lake Panache Campers Association

Project Name: Water Quality Sampling and Hazardous Waste Day

Project Details: The lake stewardship has been collecting samples to monitor the lakes water quality since 2013 and has requested funds to continue this initiative in 2023. The stewardship also plans to continue the annual hazardous waste collection day for residents of the lake to drop off their hazardous waste at a central location to then be brought to the City's household hazardous waste depot.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used to cover the cost of promoting the annual household hazardous waste collection day and to partially cover annual water sample analysis.

Amount Being Awarded: \$270 by way of a cash grant.

Long Lake Stewardship

Project Name: Septic Sensibility

Project Details: The lake stewardship plans to raise awareness about property septic system maintenance by holding a draw for two septic pump-outs worth up to \$500 each. Education materials will be distributed to members via the lake stewardship email distribution list, newsletter and through an event booth at Kivi Park. The education and promotional materials will be distributed throughout the summer and all stewardship members will be eligible.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used to partially fund septic rebate initiative.

Amount Being Awarded: \$500 by way of a cash grant.

McCrea Lake Stewardship Committee

Project Name: Shoreline Cleanup/Social Event

Project Details: The lake stewardship plans to promote the McCrea Lake Stewardship and to educate residents on the importance of the protection of McCrea Lake. Lake stewards plan to host a shoreline cleanup with surrounding lakeside residents along that conclude with a social BBQ event.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used for shoreline cleanup supplies and social BBQ.

Amount Being Awarded: \$500 by way of a cash grant.

McFarlane Lake Stewardship Committee

Project Name: Summer Water Quality Sampling Program

Project Details: The lake stewardship is proposing to continue to enhance its monitoring of total phosphorus (TP) in McFarlane Lake through continued open water monitoring. The study plan also includes a second phase of work, which would include monitoring the water quality and flows of major inflows to the lake to better understand external and internal nutrient loading. The stewardship plans to conduct spring TP sampling through the provincial Lake Partner Program with 4 additional samples taken at 4 long term stations. Starting in June and ending in late October, two stations will be sampled monthly to measure dissolved oxygen 1m from the bottom. If there is evidence of oxygen depletion, a sample would be taken to measure TP 1m off the bottom. Additional sampling at the major inflow into the lake will be conducted for TP and total suspended solids.

Use of Funds: Funds to be used for analytical support for 26 total phosphorus sampling events.
Amount Being Awarded: \$500 by way of a cash grant.

Nepahwin Lake Watershed Stewardship Group

Project Name: Lake Trout Release & Water Quality Monitoring

Project Details: The lake stewardship will be hosting a live lake trout release in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), Junction Creek Stewardship Committee, the City of Greater Sudbury, students and teachers of LoEllen Park Secondary School and R.L. Beattie School and stewardship volunteers. The stewardship is requesting funds to help provide transportation for students to Nepahwin Beach Park for the event. The stewardship is also continuing with their efforts of monitoring chloride using conductivity meters at 6 inlets into the lake. The additional funds will be used to cover the cost of equipment calibration and sample analysis.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used to cover the cost of school bus rentals for students to the spring lake trout release event at Nepahwin Beach along with conductivity meter calibration solutions and chloride analysis.

Amount Being Awarded: \$400 by way of a cash grant.

Onwatin Lake Stewardship

Project Name: Onwatin Re-Green

Project Details: The lake stewardship is seeking funds to help purchase of seedlings to be planted on a section of crown land on Onwatin Lake. The lake stewardship has received permission from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) to plant these seedlings on the property for the purposes of rehabilitate the property from past damage. The stewardship will also use a portion of the grant funds to host annual picnic and for the installation of a sign at the west side of the river to encourage good stewardship and cleaning up any litter found.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used for annual community building event, installation of no-littering signage and to purchase native trees for community planting event.

Amount Being Awarded: \$200 by way of a cash grant and \$300 by provision of native trees purchased by the City of Greater Sudbury.

Ramsey Lake Stewardship

Project Name: Growing Support for Shorelines and Supporters

Project Details: The lake stewardship plans to promote the importance of healthy shorelines and increasing vegetative buffers. The lake stewardship plans to distribute physical information pamphlets to residents as well as through their new enhanced webpage. The stewardship has requested funds to purchased native shoreline plants to be distributed in fall 2023 to shoreline residents.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used to cover the cost of purchasing and distributing native shoreline plants and associated information pamphlets.

Amount Being Awarded: \$100 by way of a cash grant and \$400 by provision of native shoreline plants purchased by the City of Greater Sudbury.

Richard Lake Stewardship

Project Name: Shoreline Plantings & Septic Care Awareness

Project Details: The lake stewardship is seeking funds to purchase native shoreline plants to help restore an area of shoreline along Richard Lake to prevent erosion and improve conditions for wildlife in the area. The stewardship is also seeking funds to help raise awareness of the importance of septic care and its connection to lake health through a septic tank pump-out rebate program. This program will require eligible residents to submit proof of septic pump-out to be eligible for the rebate and will include information fliers to educate the public and residents.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used to purchase native shoreline plants for community planting event along with partially covering the stewardship's septic pump-out rebate initiative.

Amount Being Awarded: \$250 by way of a cash grant and \$250 by provision of native shoreline plants purchased by the City of Greater Sudbury.

Tri-Lakes Stewardship (Simon Lake Stewardship)

Project Name: Tri-Lakes Community Stewardship Summer Events

Project Details: The lake stewardship plans to host two summer community information sessions at Simon Lake Park in the summer of 2023 for community members surrounding Simon, Mud and McCharles Lake including community partners from Atikameksheng First Nations. The goal of these events is to build upon the stewardship and further build the community of members and residents to ensure that everyone is aware of their responsibility towards water stewardship, ensuring citizens have a voice and ensuring the sustainability of water resources for current and future generations.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used to cover the cost of food and supplies for community information sessions event and insurance cost for events.

Amount Being Awarded: \$500 by way of a cash grant.