

Lake Stewardship Grant Program - 2025

Presented To:	City Council
Meeting Date:	April 29, 2025
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 – 2025

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

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 to mitigate effects related to climate change.

Financial Implications

Nine applications for lake stewardship grants are recommended for approval with the total amount allocated being \$4500 by way of cash grants. The funding for these grants is provided for in the 2025 operating budget and will be approved through this By-Law.

Summary

In 2025, the City's Lake Stewardship Grant program received nine applications for funding from local lake stewardship groups. City staff reviewed the applications and recommend that nine of the applicants be awarded funds through the Lake Stewardship Grant program with a total funding allocation of \$4500 by way of cash grants. 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 2025 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 20th 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.

2025 Summary Report of Lake Stewardship Groups Recommended to Receive Funding Support.

FAIRBANK LAKE CAMP OWNERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

Project Name: Publication of Materials

Project Details: The Fairbank Lake Camp Owner's Association Inc. will collaborate with a committee led by an association member to update the "Wa-Shai-Ma-Gog: Memories of Fairbank Lake and Surrounding Area." Originally created in 2000 as a millennial project, this memory book now needs an update after twenty-five years. Many properties have changed hands, and new residents, whether they have purchased properties listed in the original book or acquired empty lots, are eager to have their histories included in the updated version.

Use of Funds: The funds will be used as a downpayment for the book.

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

FOUR LAKES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Project Name: Joe Lake "Scuba" Clean Up

Project Details: The Four Lakes Community Association has recruited three scuba divers to assist in cleaning Joe Lake. Additional volunteers will handle the proper disposal of the debris retrieved from the lake and will also manage snacks, refreshments, and the setup and takedown of tents, tables, and chairs.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used for air tanks for two days, snacks and refreshments and for a washroom rental.

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

IRONSIDE LAKE CAMPERS ASSOCIATION

Project Name: Lake Water Education

Project Details: The Ironside Lake Campers Association aims to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining clean lake water and to encourage younger cottage owners to get involved. They plan to create an informational map that includes tips on clean water initiatives and overlays property boundaries and owner names on a 1912 bathymetric map. To ensure the project's success, the association will seek advice from another Lake Stewardship Group that has previously undertaken a similar project.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used to create the map.

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

KUKAGAMI CAMPERS' ASSOCIATION

Project Name: Septic Pump-Out Rebate Program

Project Details: The Kukagami Campers' Association plans to offer a \$100 rebate to members who pump out their septic systems. To qualify, members must provide a receipt from a licensed septic pump-out contractor. The Septic Pump-Out Rebate Program has been in place for over 10 years, with more than 150 rebates issued to date. This initiative encourages members to pump their septic systems every 3-5 years. The long-term goal is to have as many property owners as possible pump out their systems on a 3-year rotation to minimize the risk of waste by-products entering the lakes.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used for the septic pump-out program.

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

LAKE PANACHE CAMPERS ASSOCIATION INC. (LPCA)

Project Name: Lake Panache Clean Up

Project Details: The Lake Panache Campers Association Inc. aims to encourage campers to maintain clean and healthy properties to minimize the risk of hazards entering the lake. To achieve this, they hold an annual hazardous waste and scrap metal cleanup event in July. The LPCA collects and disposes of the waste through the Toxic Taxi for hazardous materials and a private vehicle for metal. This event provides an opportunity for the LPCA to connect with new and existing campers around the lake, offer memberships, and promote stewardship initiatives. Additionally, water samples are taken at 10 locations around the lake semiannually in May, with the data shared on the LPCA's website and with the City of Greater Sudbury.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used for the hazardous waste/metal transportation, printing of signage and educational materials, water sample testing and fuel for water sampling by boat.

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

LAKE WAHNAPITAE HOME AND CAMPERS ASSOCIATION (LWHCA)

Project Name: LWHCA Septic Pump-Out Rebate Program

Project Details: The LWHCA aims to support their "Healthy Lake" initiative by promoting regular septic system maintenance through scheduled pump-outs. Their goal is to achieve a 50% compliance rate, equating to approximately 52.5 pump-outs per year. From 2021 to 2022, they saw a 37% compliance rate with a 3–4-year cycle (just under 20 pump-outs), and in 2023 and 2024, they averaged 20 pump-outs per year. To apply for the \$100 rebate, residents must be members of the LWHCA, either in good standing for 2 years or by purchasing a 3-year membership and provide proof of their pump-outs. The goal is to offer a maximum of 30 rebates.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used for septic pump-out rebates.

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

LONG LAKE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (LLSC)

Project Name: Septic Sense

Project Details: The LLSC aims to continue attracting members and raising awareness in the watershed about proper septic maintenance. They utilize their contact list of over 500 individuals to share septic-related information from sources such as FOCA, Watersheds Canada, and government agencies. To encourage membership, the LLS requires a paid membership to enter the septic pump-out draw. One winner in August will receive a septic pump-out reimbursement of up to \$500, provided they submit the invoice to the LLS. Additionally, the stewardship will share educational materials throughout the summer, host a meet and greet with the LLSC, and operate a display booth at Kivi Park.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used for a septic pump-out reimbursement.

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

MCFARLANE LAKE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (MLSC)

Project Name: Summer Water Quality Sampling Program

Project Details: The McFarlane Lake Stewardship plans to continue enhancing the monitoring of total phosphorus (TP) in McFarlane Lake throughout the ice-free season. This includes monitoring the quality and flow of the major inflows to the lake, which will help distinguish between "external" and "internal" nutrient loadings. Monthly sampling will be conducted at two stations, with samples sent to a local lab for analysis. Dissolved oxygen levels will also be monitored using a Hatch kit, along with secchi depths. If there is evidence of oxygen depletion, additional TP samples will be taken 1 meter off the bottom. Samples for TP and total suspended solids (TSS) will also be collected from the Algonquin subwatershed inflow stream, the lake's major inflow. The MLSC is seeking funding for the analytical services needed to support this sampling program.

Use of Funds: Funding will be used for analytical support.

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

NEPAHWIN LAKE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP GROUP (NLWSG)

Project Name: Engaging a Diverse Watershed Community

Project Details: The Nepahwin Lake Watershed Stewardship Group aims to continue its multi-faceted approach to educate and engage the community in good lake stewardship practices. They will use the funds for educational purposes, including website maintenance and annual renewal fees, and will activate the community by sampling storm outlets using chloride test strips. Additionally, the NLWSG will participate in and host various activities throughout the year, funded in-kind by other organizations.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used to cover their annual website fee, chloride testing strips and associated sampling devices.

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