

2026 Lake Stewardship Grant Program

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Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the Lake Stewardship Grant Program and its 2026 recipients.

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

This report refers to supporting ecological sustainability, creating a healthier community (5.2 - promoting Greater Sudbury as a great northern lifestyle alternative) and strengthening community vibrancy (5.7 - 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 \$4,335 by way of cash grants. The funding for these grants is provided in the 2026 operating budget and will be approved through this By-law.

Background

In 2026, the City's Lake Stewardship Grant program received 10 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 \$4,335 by way of cash grants. The funding for these grants is provided in the 2026 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 21st year of the Lake Stewardship Grant program. Funding criteria and the application were drafted by the former Watershed Advisory Panel and updated regularly with suggestions from the Lake Water Quality Program Coordinator, Manager of Strategic and Environmental Planning, and Legal Services staff. To be eligible for funding, the applicant must:

- Be an organized lake group;
- Be recognized by the City of Greater Sudbury as a lake stewardship group that is based in the City of Greater Sudbury;

- Have a stable volunteer base in place to carry out activities;
- Demonstrate a willingness to cooperate and/or partner with other related community groups (i.e. CANs);
- Submit a complete application in the prescribed form by the prescribed deadline; and,
- cannot be in default in reporting or other requirements under a prior approved grant.

Only one application per lake stewardship group per year will be accepted and the funds shall only be applied to that successful lake stewardship group. Applications for a project involving more than one stewardship group (i.e., pooled resources) will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If the applicant is intending to undertake construction or site alteration in or around water, they should contact Conservation Sudbury to obtain a work permit, if required.

Successful projects must:

- have a distinct start and end date within the calendar year for which the grant was provided;
- identify specific deliverables based on the project; and,
- benefit the residents of the lake and/or watershed for which the grant applies.

Applications are ineligible and will not be considered if:

- the application relates to a project which is currently being done or could be done by other agencies (government, conservation authorities, non-profit, etc.);
- the application relates to proposed activities which duplicate support provided by the City of Greater Sudbury directly or by other agencies;
- the application is submitted by a lake stewardship group that is in default to the City of Greater Sudbury due to failure to report satisfactorily for previous grants;
- the application relates to work which will be carried out for the benefit of one individual; or,
- the application is submitted by a lake stewardship group on behalf of another lake stewardship group.

Ineligible expenses include salary, honoraria, or consulting fees, postage costs, laboratory analysis that is offered through other programs (i.e., Lake Partner Program) or done through the City of Greater Sudbury or another agency (this includes total phosphorus and chloride analysis), facility rental costs (explore options with Coordinator of the LWQP first), and alcohol-related expenses.

Applications

Four Lakes Community Association

Project Name: Hanmer and Frenchman Lake Scuba Diving Clean Up Project

Project Details: The Four Lakes Community Association plans to have volunteer scuba divers help identify, flag and remove garbage from the bottom of Hanmer and Frenchman Lake (in 2025 volunteer scuba divers removed garbage from Joe Lake). Other volunteers will help appropriately dispose of the garbage. Refreshments will be offered to all volunteers after the cleanup.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used for scuba diving tank re-fills, refreshments and tent rental.

Eligibility: Eligible – meets criteria

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

Ironside Lake Campers Association

Project Name: Community Enhancement Project

Project Details: The Ironside Lake Campers Association plans to hold a shoreline and roadside cleanup late spring/early summer followed by a community picnic a couple months later. This is open to all members of the Ironside Lake Campers Association as well as residents around the lake. The goal is to support a clean and healthy environment while building community.

Use of Funds: PPE, garbage bags, fuel, landfill fees, refreshments (food and drinks for the community picnic), propane and tableware.

Eligibility: Eligible – meets criteria

Amount To Be 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 rebate to members pumping out their septic system to encourage residents to pump their systems every 3-5 years. They cover 6 lakes with 1300 residents and tourists. This initiative helps minimize the risk of waste by products entering the lakes.

Use of Funds: The funds will be for the Septic Pump-Out Rebate Program.

Eligibility: Eligible – meets criteria

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

Lake Panache Campers Association

Project Name: Lake Panache Clean Up

Project Details: The Lake Panache Campers Association 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 clean up 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.

Use of Funds: Hazardous waste and metal collection, fuel, printing and signage.

Eligibility: Eligible – meets criteria

Amount To Be Awarded: \$335 by way of a cash grant.

Long Lake Stewardship Committee

Project Name: Septic Sense

Project Details: The Long Lake Stewardship Committee(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 LLSC 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 their invoice to the LLSC.

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

Eligibility: Eligible – meets criteria

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

Lake Wahnapeitei Home and Campers Association

Project Name: Lake Wahnapeitei Home and Campers Association (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 pump outs per year. The last 5-year average is 18.8 pump outs per year, aligning with roughly 35% compliance. The goal is to provide 30 rebates of \$100 to members in good standing for 2 years or if they purchase a 3-year membership and provide proof of their pump out.

Use of Funds: The funds will be used for the septic pump out rebates.

Eligibility: Eligible – meets criteria

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

McFarlane Lake Stewardship Committee

Project Name: Monitoring of Lake Water Quality

Project Details: The McFarlane Lake Stewardship Committee plans to participate in the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks Lake Partner Program to collect spring total phosphorus, chloride and calcium data. The MLSC also plans to conduct additional total phosphorus monitoring/sampling from June to late October at the basin stations. Dissolved oxygen will be measured 1m above the bottom during the on-set of thermal stratification and if there is evidence of oxygen depletion a sample will be taken to test for internal loading. Additional grab samples will be collected from the Algonquin sub watershed inflow stream for total phosphorus.

Use of Funds: Analytical support for total phosphorus monitoring.

Eligibility: NOT Eligible – does NOT meet criteria.

The City of Greater Sudbury conducts total phosphorus (TP) testing through the Lake Partner Program, and McFarlane Lake Stewardship Committee participates annually in this program. As the proposed sampling is a repeat of work undertaken by the City, the project is ineligible.

We encourage the McFarlane Lake Stewardship Committee to continue their valuable participation in the free Lake Partner Program and to apply next year with a project that aligns with the guidelines.

Amount To Be Awarded: \$0

Nepahwin Lake Watershed Stewardship Group

Project Name: Nepahwin Lake Lawn Sign Campaign for Watershed Stewardship

Project Details: The Nepahwin Lake Watershed Stewardship Group (NLWSG) plans to design, produce and distribute 25 durable 16x24 inch lawn signs to raise awareness and promote stewardship actions within the Nepahwin Lake watershed. Signs are going to be placed on the front lawns of 25 highly visible private properties (with consent). Signs will be compliant with municipal signage by-laws and explain the current water quality of Nepahwin Lake such as phosphorus levels.

Wording will be run by the Lake Water Quality Program Coordinator and the Manager of Strategic and Environmental Planning prior to being printed.

Use of Funds: The funds will be used for printing the lawn signs and to pay for a portion of their website fees.

Eligibility: Eligible – meets criteria

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

Onwatin Lake Stewardship

Project Name: Onwatin Clean Water

Project Details: The Onwatin Lake Stewardship is planning to do a lake cleanup where garbage is removed from around the lake with the help of scuba divers. They also want to place a sign near the mouth of the river asking visitors to take their garbage with them. If money remains, plants will be purchased to create shoreline buffers.

Wording will be approved by the Coordinator of the Lake Water Quality Program and the Manager of Strategic and Environmental Planning prior to being printed.

Use of Funds: The funds will be used for landfill fees, refreshments, and signage.

Eligibility: Eligible – meets criteria

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

Simon Lake Stewardship (Tri-Lakes Stewardship)

Project Name: Tri-Lakes Community Stewardship Annual Barbeque Event

Project Details: The Tri-Lakes Stewardship plans to host their annual summer BBQ event at Simon Lake Park in Naughton. The goal is to foster community engagement and provide educational outreach regarding lake protection and water quality improvements. The activities will be shoreline stewardship education and networking to recruit new members.

Use of Funds: Funds will be used for the BBQ rental, 2 propane tanks, musician equipment rental, food/refreshments, advertising and canopy rental.

Eligibility: Eligible – meets criteria

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