



Threats to Loons & Lakes, and Possible Solutions

Provided by the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, Bird Studies Canada

Threats to Loons and Lakes

What you can do

Lake acidification, mercury poisoning and other water problems

- Let governing agencies know of your concerns regarding water quality, acid rain and mercury contamination.
- Participate in lake water-quality monitoring programs. Contact natural resources and environment agencies, your lake or property owners association, or the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey to inquire about programs in your province.

Discarding garbage & fishing line entanglement

- Don't discard plastics, metals, fishing line, tackle or other garbage in waterways, return your refuse to shore and dispose of it in appropriate containers.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle whenever possible.

Shoreline development

- Work with fellow property owners to keep part of your lake wild and the shoreline free of development.
- Keep your shoreline natural. Reduce the size of your lawn, and preserve natural vegetation.
- Pump the septic tank regularly, use phosphate -free products, and avoid gas and oil spills.

Boating Activity

- Use sensitive boating practices. Steer clear of loons and other wildlife. Use a pair of binoculars to watch loons from a distance.
- Slow down in shallow areas and near the shore.

Water level fluctuations

- Talk to your local officials to ensure that lake water level manipulations are timed to occur outside of the nesting season. Nesting loons are most sensitive to water level changes from May through June.

Lack of knowledge about loon Conservation

- Educate your friends, family and fellow cottagers about loon and lake conservation.

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Anyone interested in distributing educational materials, displaying signs or participating in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey should contact Kathy Jones by phone at 1-888-448-2473, by e-mail at agsurvey@bsc-eoc.org, or visit BSC's website at www.bsc-eoc.org and click on national programs. Educational materials are provided free of charge although donations to recover postage are appreciated. To participate in the CLLS, surveyors need to register as members of Bird Studies Canada, Canada's pre-eminent, not-for-profit bird research and conservation organization. The \$35 tax-receiptable membership fee is fully used to cover core survey costs including kit preparation, mailing and data processing.

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