



# THE EAGLE EYE

Newsletter of the Eagle Lake Conservation Association (ELCA)

JUNE 2026

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*Greetings all,*

I would like to sincerely thank the ELCA Board for the tremendous amount of work it continues to do on behalf of our lake community. The dedication, professionalism, and generosity of our volunteers make a real difference and are deeply appreciated.

I encourage all members to visit and subscribe to our new YouTube channel, where you will find informative videos about septic systems and other lake stewardship topics. Watch for many more helpful resources and educational videos. Marker buoys continue to improve each season, helping to make our waterways safer for everyone.

We are always looking for volunteers willing to lend a hand and I encourage members to watch for upcoming phragmites removal days and other ELCA initiatives. If you have never considered serving on the Board, give it some consideration. We are always looking for fresh perspectives. We are fortunate to have many talented individuals who generously share their gifts and experience.

Following our AGM, I will be stepping down from the Board to pursue another way of serving our lake and local area. More about that will come later. Thank you again to everyone who has supported our mission, board members and volunteers alike.

**HERE'S TO A SAFE AND WARM SEASON AHEAD!**

*Mark Savill*

*President,  
Eagle Lake Conservation Association*

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# HELP PROTECT OUR LAKE



In 2017 the ELCA received reports about some unusual vegetation growing in the Lake. We had samples examined and it was identified as invasive phragmites which, in 2005, had been identified by the Federal Government as the worst invasive vegetative species in Canada. Since 2018 our volunteers have been working hard to eliminate these plants and stop them from spreading elsewhere in Eagle Lake.

Over the past eight years we have achieved significant results with the elimination of invasive phragmites in the deeper parts of the Lake and in a number of locations where it was growing on land amongst other vegetation. In the rest of the stands the phragmites have been dramatically thinned out and no longer grow nearly as high. In 2018 our volunteers worked for three full days and removed about half of the invasive phragmites. Each year since then all the invasive phragmites growing in, or near, the Lake have been cut, safely removed to the Machar landfill and burned.

For the past few years our successful cutting has required our volunteers to work for only four mornings in late July or early August when the plants are fully grown but their seed pods are not ripe. Unfortunately, last year required cutting on five mornings. I really hope to return to a four-day requirement and, eventually, less than that. To do this we need to increase the number of people who participate. If you have not joined in our previous efforts, please consider helping this year. This vegetation is a threat to our Lake and every shoreline property.

*Mike Mitchell*



The organizing committee has set six dates for 2026 to allow for four dedicated days and two more in case a scheduled day or two must be cancelled because of inclement weather. They are:

-  Monday July 20
-  Thursday July 23
-  Sunday July 26
-  Wednesday July 29
-  And if needed –
-  Wednesday August 5
-  Saturday August 8



Please register with me by email:  
[mpmconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:mpmconsulting@gmail.com)



or by telephone at  
**705 386-2803**

If you would like additional information about what is required to participate, please contact me and I would welcome the opportunity to provide more details about our program.

# Important Information for Machar Township Voters – 2026 Municipal Election



Dear Eagle Lake Conservation Association Members,

As the 2026 Municipal Election approaches, Machar Township residents should be aware of several important changes and deadlines regarding voter registration and voting by mail.



## Confirm You Are on the Voters List

The Township will be using Ontario's voter registration system. Residents are encouraged to verify that their information is accurate well before the election.

You can:

- Confirm your name and address are on the voters list.
- Update your address if you have moved.
- Add yourself to the voters list if you are not currently registered.
- Register additional eligible properties that you own or rent in Ontario.



To update or add your information, visit:  
<https://www.elections.on.ca>

Voters will generally need identification showing their name and Ontario address.



## Seasonal Property Owners

Individuals who own or rent a property in Machar Township that is not their primary residence may still be eligible to vote in the Township election. Property owners should verify that all eligible properties are properly recorded on the voters list.



## Vote by Mail

Machar Township will conduct voting by mail.



## A FEW REMINDERS

- Use the envelope provided specifically for you.
- Complete and sign the voter declaration form.
- Ensure the secrecy envelope is sealed.
- Follow all instructions included in your voting package carefully.
- Verify your voter registration well before the election to avoid delays.



## WHY THIS MATTERS

Municipal government decisions affect road maintenance, taxation, planning and development, emergency services, environmental stewardship, lake management issues, and many other matters that directly impact Eagle Lake property owners and residents.

Whether you are a permanent resident or a seasonal property owner, taking a few minutes now to confirm your voter registration will help ensure your vote can be counted in the 2026 Machar Township Municipal Election.

## VOTE BY MAIL DETAILS



## What Will Be Included in the Vote-by-Mail Package?

Each voting package will contain:

- Voting instructions
- Official ballot
- Secrecy envelope
- Voter declaration form
- Prepaid return envelope
- Any additional materials required by the Clerk



## When Will Packages Be Mailed?

The Township intends to mail voting packages during the week of September 26–27, 2026, to electors who are on the voters list as of September 10, 2026.



## Added to the Voters List Later?

Electors added to the voters list after September 10 may pick up a voting package at the Municipal Office from September 14, 2026, until October 26, 2026, at 8:00 p.m.



## Lost or Missing Voting Package?

If a package is lost, destroyed, or not received, a replacement package may be issued through the Municipal Office after October 12, 2026, subject to verification by Township staff.

## RETURNING YOUR BALLOT



After marking your ballot:

- 1 Place the ballot in the secrecy envelope and seal it.
- 2 Complete the voter declaration form.
- 3 Place both items into the prepaid return envelope.
- 4 Return the package by mail or deliver it to the Township's Ballot Return Station.

## IMPORTANT MAILING DEADLINE



To ensure delivery by Canada Post, voters are encouraged to place their return envelope in the mail no later than:

**Thursday, October 15, 2026**

After that date, voters should strongly consider delivering their completed ballot directly to the Township's designated Ballot Return Station.



## BALLOT RETURN STATION

A Ballot Return Station will be available at the Municipal Office.

Ballots may be deposited:

- Monday, October 19, 2026 through Friday, October 23, 2026 Between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

As well as:

- Monday, October 26, 2026 (Election Day) Between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

A secure Municipal Office mail slot will also be available for ballot returns.



## ELECTION DAY DEADLINE

All completed voting envelopes must be received by:

**8:00 p.m. on  
Monday, October 26, 2026**

Ballots received after 8:00 p.m. will not be counted.

The Eagle Lake Conservation Association encourages all eligible members to verify their voter status and participate in the democratic process.

Mark Savill  
President, Eagle Lake  
Conservation Association

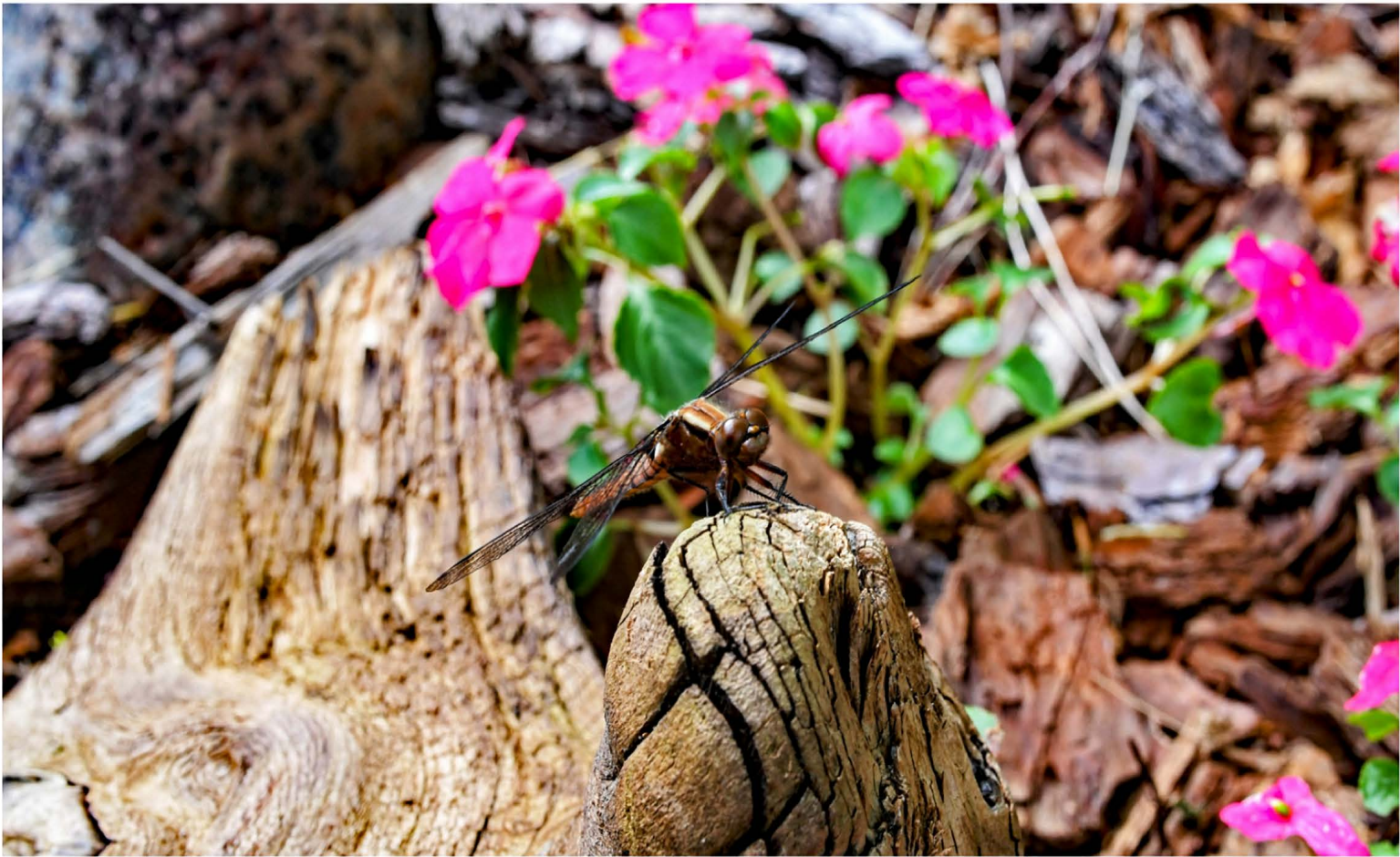
# Spring Awakening: Protecting Our Lake's Health

The ice is long gone, the loons have returned, and that familiar, vibrant spring greens have matured into the deep, steady hues of summer. As we settle onto our decks for family visits and quiet mornings on the dock, it's the perfect time to turn our gaze toward the water.

Our lake is more than just a view; it's the heart of our gatherings. It's where we teach our grandkids to boat and fish, where we cool off on scorching July afternoons, and for many of us, it is the very water we drink. Protecting Eagle Lake isn't only about ecology—it's about preserving investments and the legacy of our summer sanctuary for generations to come. Being **Lake-Minded** ensures that the memories we build today don't compromise the water quality of tomorrow.

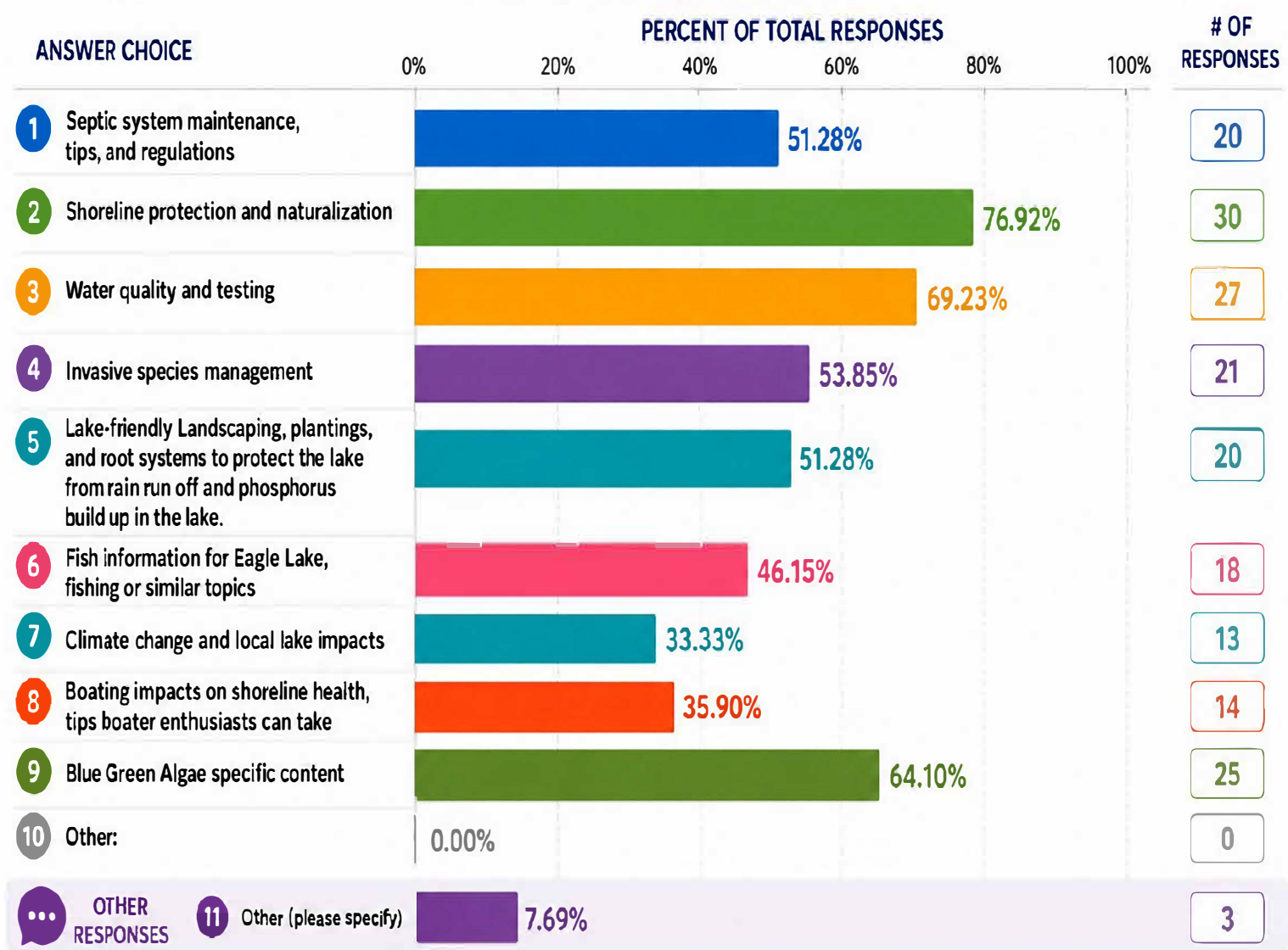
ELCA is in the early phase of growing webinars and our expert speaker series- A very BIG thank you, for taking the time to give feedback- I appreciate hearing your voices and ideas, stay tuned for more! If you are wondering about who to reach out to for septic inspections and more septic information-- remember, Kris Rivard, CBO, Onsite Waste Manager for the North Bay- Mattawa Conservation Authority invited questions. Additionally, <https://www.oowa.org/business-directory-map/> helps connect professionals and people together.

[Eagle Lake Conservation Association - YouTube](#) <https://www.youtube.com/@oureaglelake>



## Survey Results: Topics of Interest

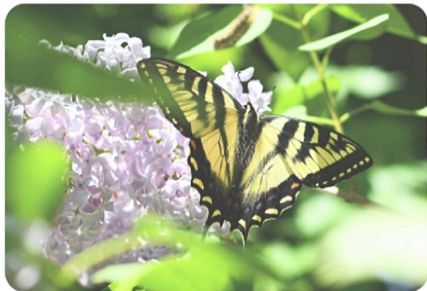
Percent of Total Responses (N = 39)



\* Total responses may exceed 100% as participants could select multiple topics.

\* Additional suggestions include fun topics, recreation, wildlife, in person event with BBQ, wild fires, and preparedness locally for wildfires.

**\*Snapshot as of May 11, 2026**

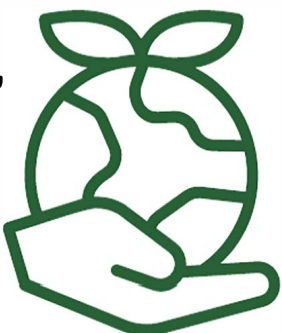


We are looking for members to lend a hand with our upcoming webinars and in-person events. Whether you have a little time or a lot, your support makes a difference. Plus, keep an eye out for our **June 2026 Septic Working Group Update** on more ways you can make a difference.

[education@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:education@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)

In Stewardship,

Erin





Check out the **ELCA** YouTube Channel!

You will know it's ours because of our logo.



We already have a few posts/shared content from other creators and 2 videos from our expert speakers!



Register to receive updates! Our communications team will broadcast reminders along the way.



Stay informed. Stay connected. Together, we protect Eagle Lake!

Watch. Learn. Get Involved.  ELCA on YouTube 



# FOCA 2026 Spring Seminar & AGM

## *Event Summary*



This past March, I attended FOCA's Spring Seminar and AGM entitled "Where Lake Leaders Connect" held at the Bayview Golf and Country Club in Thornhill. There were 125 attendees and an additional 127 participants by Zoom webinar. In total, there were seven presentations led by expert speakers that covered many hot topics:



Rural community engagement tips leading up to the October 2026 municipal elections



Highlights from the 2025 FOCA Road Issues Survey



First Nations relationship building & land visioning



Source water protection and community lake planning for associations



How to identify aquatic invasive plants



Preparing for climate impacts: wildfire, flood, heat & air quality



As part of the business of the AGM, a vote was taken and the "**Salt Resolution**" was approved. This resolution calls on the Province to develop limited liability legislation tied to mandatory training and enforceable best practices, among other actions.

Road salt is a known toxic substance and salt levels in Ontario's groundwater aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes have increasingly worsened since the 1970's, seriously affecting municipal drinking water sources and aquatic life. Also, recent evidence suggests that soft water/treated lakes (such as Eagle Lake) may experience effects at 10–20 mg/L, significantly below the federal **CCME guideline on 120 mg/L (long term maximum)**.



I strongly recommend all members of the ELCA to log into **Foca.on.ca** to access a summary of the AGM's events (12 pages!) and links to the slides from the presentations.



### Water Quality Results for 2025

Unfortunately, the water clarity, phosphorus, chloride, and calcium results for 2025 have not yet been made public. Results should be available and will be presented at the ELCA Annual General Meeting in July

*Debra Lamb*

# Proposed Tourist Commercial Camp

at 517 Jim Young Rd 



As was set out in *The Eagle Eye* December 2025, Machar Township Council has requested more studies and additional information before it would be willing to consider an application to amend the Official Plan to allow for the establishment of a tourist commercial camp at 517 Jim Young Road.

*Stephen Armstrong*

## THE REQUESTED STUDIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INCLUDE:



A revised environmental impact study undertaken during the growing season which demonstrates that the proposed development would result in a "net reduction" in phosphorus as per Township policy.



A complete estimate of the combined sewage flow of all facilities on the site.



An in-situ soils assessment study.



An archaeological assessment of the entire property by a licensed archaeologist.



Further details on how the property is to be accessed.

## LOVE EAGLE LAKE? *Help Keep It Healthy!*

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE SURVEILLANCE ON EAGLE LAKE

We're looking for *lake lovers* who enjoy being on the water to help keep Eagle Lake safe, healthy and beautiful for everyone.

TOGETHER,  
WE CAN  
LOOK, SEE &  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!

*You can help!*

Volunteers with *any* of these are needed:



CANOE  
PADDLE & OBSERVE  
OUR WATERS



KAYAK  
GET UP CLOSE &  
KEEP AN EYE OUT



DRONES  
SEE MORE.  
REPORT MORE.



BOAT  
EXPLORE MORE AREAS  
OF THE LAKE

#### AS A VOLUNTEER, YOU WILL:

- ✓ Passively look for signs of blue-green algae while enjoying the lake
- ✓ Report what you see—it's easy!
- ✓ Help protect water quality and public health in Eagle Lake
- ✓ Be an eyes-on-the-water resource for the Eagle Lake Conservation Association and Board



OUR LAKE.  
OUR RESPONSIBILITY.  
OUR LEGACY.

Your time on the water  
can make a big impact.

#### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR VARIOUS AREAS OF EAGLE LAKE!

Join together as a network to watch over our lake, share what you see, and help keep Eagle Lake safe for all.



*Love the Lake? Be a Lake Guardian!*

INTERESTED? LET'S CONNECT!

✉ [education@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:education@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)

LOOK. SEE. REPORT. PROTECT.  EVERY OBSERVATION COUNTS.

HEALTHY  
LAKE.  
HEALTHY  
FUTURE.

# Keeping the Lights On

## ALTERNATIVE POWER BACKUP SYSTEMS FOR EAGLE LAKE COTTAGE OWNERS

Power outages have always been part of cottage life on Eagle Lake. Whether caused by summer thunderstorms, high winds, ice storms, or aging rural infrastructure, losing electricity is often an inconvenience—and sometimes a serious safety concern. As extreme weather events become more frequent, many cottage owners are exploring alternative backup power systems that provide greater reliability, lower environmental impact, and long-term energy security.

Today's backup power options extend far beyond the traditional gasoline generator. Cottage owners can now choose from propane standby generators, solar-powered battery systems, portable power stations, and hybrid combinations that balance reliability with sustainability.

*Dan Van Horne*



### TRADITIONAL GENERATORS: RELIABLE BUT FUEL DEPENDENT

Portable gasoline or diesel generators have long been the go-to backup solution. Portable units range from \$500–\$1,000, while installed standby generators cost \$2,000–\$5,000 including installation.

They're simple and can power essential appliances as long as fuel is available. But, generators are noisy, require maintenance, produce emissions, and pose fuel storage and carbon monoxide risks.

Propane standby generators offer a cleaner alternative to gasoline, though they still rely on fossil fuel.



### SOLAR AND BATTERY BACKUP SYSTEMS

Solar-plus-battery systems pair rooftop or ground-mounted panels with lithium-ion battery storage to power your cottage during outages.

Typical cost range from \$9,000–\$14,000 before incentives, depending on system size and features. While the upfront investment is higher, operating costs are dramatically lower because sunlight is free.

Environmental benefits include:

- No direct emissions during operation
- Reduced dependence on fossil fuels
- Quiet operation with minimal impact on neighbours and wildlife
- Ability to store renewable energy for later use
- Increased value on Ontario's electricity grid

A well-sized battery bank can power essential cottage loads for 12–24 hours. When paired with solar panels, systems can recharge each day.



### PORTABLE POWER STATIONS

Portable lithium battery power stations are ideal for essential appliances and weekend getaways. Prices range from \$1,000–\$4,000, depending on capacity.

They're easy to use, quiet, and can be recharged with portable solar panels. Perfect for short outages.



### HYBRID SYSTEMS: THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Hybrid systems combine solar panels, battery storage, and a backup generator. Batteries handle daily energy and short outages, while the generator kicks in during extended periods or for high demand.

Hybrid configurations can significantly reduce emissions while improving reliability and adaptability during emergencies.

Upfront costs are higher—often over \$20,000—but these systems provide exceptional resilience for remote cottages where multi-day outages are not uncommon.



### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR COTTAGE COUNTRY

Ontario's lakes, forests, and wetlands are precious. Backup power choices should protect them for future generations.

Traditional generators are the most emission-heavy. Studies show that solar and battery systems can cut carbon emissions by nearly half and reduce noise pollution.

Battery manufacturing has an environmental footprint, but over the life of the system, the benefits of reduced fossil fuel use and lower emissions far outweigh the impacts.

### AT A GLANCE



#### GENERATORS:

Affordable and reliable with fuel, but noisy and emission-intensive.



#### SOLAR + BATTERY

Clean, quiet, and low operating costs with sun-powered savings.



#### PORTABLE POWER STATIONS

Flexible and convenient for short outages and on-the-go power.



#### HYBRID SYSTEMS

Maximum resilience by combining renewable energy with backup support.



### LOOKING AHEAD

The future of backup power in Eagle Lake cottage country is likely to be increasingly hybrid. Blending battery costs, improved solar technology, and smarter energy management systems give cottage owners more options than ever. By choosing solutions that reduce emissions and protect our natural spaces, we can keep our cottages comfortable—and our lakes pristine to come.



# Communications Update

EAGLE LAKE  
CONSERVATION  
ASSOCIATION



Our new website is:  
**oureaglelake.ca**

If you go to the site, it currently states:  
the site is still under development.  
Stay tuned and you'll receive an eblast  
when its goes live!

Our Head Website Guru John is working  
extremely hard to have the website  
up and running soon! We appreciate  
your patience.



Debra Lamb has provided examples  
of physical signage for placement  
around the lake to increase awareness  
of the Eagle Lake Conservation  
Association to the public and  
encourage joining membership.  
Signs will appear soon!



If interested in assisting the  
Communications Team in any manner  
eg. Web design, EagleEye newsletter  
development etc. please contact:  
**communication@  
eaglelakeconservationassociation.com**

*Teresa Tsuji*  
Teresa Tsuji  
Communication



Together, we protect and preserve the natural  
beauty of Eagle Lake for generations to come.

# What Does ELCA Do?

ELCA aims to promote, foster, and improve the quality of the air, water, flora, fauna, including boat safety for the conservation in and around the region of Eagle Lake.

ELCA is a notforprofit organization communicating with people living on or owning property on Eagle Lake. We may make members' interests and views known to all municipal and other government authorities and each other for the mutual benefits of the community. ELCA advocates for the development of lakehealth policies with Machar Council and other government bodies.

## *Your membership dues go toward Eagle Lake:*



**Markers for Boat Safety**



**Water Quality Monitoring**



**Lake Stewardship Projects**



**Newsletters**



**Annual General Meeting**



**FOCA**

**Federation of Ontario Cottage Association**  
(ELCA Representation at FOCA Annual General Meeting)



**Member access to FOCA information, webinars (at ELCA Members reduced cost or complimentary)**



**and much more!**



We encourage your feedback and participation to keep our lake healthy for generations to come.

Have a question, idea, or concern you'd like to share?

Please email us at:

[information@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:information@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)

## Renew your membership today



Membership to ELCA is \$30 per year or \$120 for 5 years.

The membership year runs from July 1 to June 30th.

Please contact:

[membership@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:membership@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)  
to confirm the status of your membership.



If you are already a member, please help us to increase membership by encouraging other family, friends, neighbours or those interested in the preservation of our Eagle Lake and encourage them to become members or make a donation.

**Thank you in advance!**



# ELCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Dues: \$30 Annually OR \$125 for Five Years (\$25 Discount)

1. Please complete the Online form and click SUBMIT at the bottom of the page.
2. The Applicant must be an Eagle Lake Property Owner
3. e-Transfer/Direct Deposit dues to: [accounts@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:accounts@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)
4. Alternatively, please print and complete the form and mail to:

ELCA

Box 539, South River, Ontario P0A 1X0

Memberships are subject to renewal by **June 30th** annually or every 5 years depending on the registration term. *Can't remember if your membership has expired?* Contact us at:

[membership@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:membership@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)



Applicant/Member Name: First:

Last:

Address Change:

Lake Address:

Postal Code:

Primary Address: (if different from above)

Postal Code:

Email Address:

Lake Phone # :

*Please send newsletters and other correspondence to : Email address above OR if I do not have an email, please send to my :*

Family Email Address:

Home Phone # :

Membership Type: New : ☐ Renewal : ☐ Term: 1-Year (\$30) ☐ 5-Year (\$125) ☐

Other: ☐ I would like to make a donation in the amount of: \$

Are you interested in serving on any of the following committees? (please check)

LAKE MARKERS: ☐ LAKE REHABILITATION: ☐ PHRAGMITES: ☐

OTHER: (Please Specify):

Comments:

If you would rather not use the on-line Submit Button, please provide a completed copy of this form to:  
[membership@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:membership@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com) or by mail to the above address. Click here to Print :

Thank You!



# EAGLE LAKE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



## CONTACT US



**President:** Mark Savill

[president@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:president@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)



**Vice-President:** Patrick O'Neill

[vice-president@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:vice-president@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)



**Secretary:** Rebecca Hunter



**Treasurer:** Lisa Regan



**Past President:** Mike Mitchell



**Communication:** Teresa Tsuji

[communication@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:communication@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)



**Education & Program Development:** Erin Cunningham

[education@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:education@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)



**Board Members-At Large:**

Stephen Armstrong, Debra Lamb, John Linde, Dave Quirt



**Send any general questions to:**

[information@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:information@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)



**Membership questions can be sent to:** Teresa Tsuji

[membership@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:membership@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)



**For e-transfers and direct deposit options contact:**

[accounts@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:accounts@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)



**Lake marker inquiries can be sent to:**

[markers@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com](mailto:markers@eaglelakeconservationassociation.com)