Environment Council for Clear, Ston(e)y and White Lakes

www.environmentcouncil.ca

November 2025

Hello, and happy autumn from the Environment Council!

As always, Summer 2025 went by in the blink of an eye! Here at the Environment Council, we're pleased with the work we accomplished, and our presence continues to grow on Ston(e)y, Clear and White Lakes. We succeeded in having at least one of our leadership team members at each of your AGMs, and appreciate the time given on busy agendas to talk about our projects and goals. I came away from each of the meetings attended with the reassurance that all our lake associations are working toward a common purpose: responsible and thoughtful stewardship of the water and land we all love so much.

As a wrap-up to the cottage season, I'd like to take the opportunity to highlight some of the great work that we've done this year:

- Township Liaisons: Lois Wallace (Douro-Dummer), Cate Dandy (Selwyn) and Roz Moore (North Kawartha) are keeping up-to-date on the environmental issues in each of these townships, specifically septic re-inspection, shoreline protection and land development. Municipal elections will be held in 2026, so this is a particularly important time to hold township councils accountable.

- Natural Edge Program: The EC built terrific momentum this summer with the Watersheds Canada/Kawartha Lake Stewards *Natural Edge* shoreline planting program. Various presentations at association AGMs yielded 15 new participants, with a number of assessments already completed, and two plantings on White Lake recently completed.

- On July 28th, the EC hosted an afternoon of lively discussion with members-at-large, association presidents and environment reps. We prioritized four high priority issues:
    - Protection of shorelines from development impacts (advocacy with townships)
    - Septic re-inspection (advocacy with townships that do not have programs)
    - Other aspects of water quality (i.e. invasive aquatic species and their management)
    - Engagement of association members and others beyond that reach in order to inform more of the lake community about these issues and the solutions

We recognize that identifying the issues is only the first step. Perhaps the most important part of what happens next — providing solutions and suggestions — will rely on the ways our valued

lake associations can help spread our communication, and urge their members to act. Throughout this winter and spring, the Environment Council will work with associations to develop an issue-based communications plan and simple messages for the start of next cottage season. With the participation of association communications or membership directors, we can hit the ground running in Summer 2026!

At our July 28th discussion, Jocelyn Wyatt, president of USLA, shared an important document that her association has been working hard to produce: an Environment Protection Plan, reflecting the concerns and support for relevant environmental initiatives within their organization. I encourage you to read it through and *consider working with your boards to create a similar 'pledge of action'*. We would be happy to work with you over the winter to make this happen, and I will reach out in the new year for your thoughts. We are currently updating our own Environment Council strategy and action plan to be ready for 2026, and I will share this with you as soon as I can.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of the Environment Council. We are committed to protecting our lake and its shorelands for generations to come, and we couldn't do it without your help.

Enjoy this gorgeous fall!

Best,
Carrie Scace
Association Liaison
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