

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
Lead poisoning & fishing line entanglement	" Use non-lead alternatives for fishing jigs and sinkers. Alternatives are available at many department stores
	" If non-lead alternatives are unavailable, encourage your favourite store to stock them
	" Don't discard fishing line or sinkers in (or near) your lake
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.

Visit our Web Page at: www.bsc-eoc.org

To learn more about the Loon-Friendly Lakes Campaign and the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, contact Kathy Jones

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Although donations are very welcome, information on the Common Loon and on loon-friendly lakes is available free of charge. But if you would like to participate in the CLLS, or support it as a contributing donor, send us your name and address and the \$25.00 (tax creditable) registration fee. Please indicate whether you would like to receive a CLLS reporting booklet. All CLLS supporters receive annual updates on the survey's results through a year's complimentary subscription to BirdWatch Canada, the national newsletter of Bird Studies Canada.

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