

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.

The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey is delivered by Bird Studies Canada, a non-profit research organization. The survey is financed in large part by participant fees. Our partners and supporters include Canadian Wildlife Service, Canada Trust, Friends of the Environment Foundation, Canada Fund, Canadian Millennium Partnership Program, North American Loon Fund, Northern Reflections, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Backwoods Art, GMN Photography, and hundreds of Canadian Lakes Loon Survey participants and donors across Canada.

