

## Loon and Lake Conservation Tips from the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey

The **Canadian Lakes Loon Survey** helps us to assess the long-term health of Common Loons and the lakes they depend on. Participants spend time observing loons at their favourite lake throughout the summer. For more information visit [www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/clls](http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/clls) or call Kathy Jones at 1-888-448-2473 ext. 124.

**Why Loons?** Loons fulfill the same role for a lake that the canary fulfilled in the mines – acting as an indicator of environmental conditions. CLLS monitoring of loon reproductive success has proven effective for monitoring broader lake health. In fact, survival of loon chicks is a good indicator of the impact of lake acidification and other water conditions on fish stocks and aquatic life. In addition 97% of the world's common loon population lives in Canada; 56% of these in Ontario and Quebec – this makes the Common our responsibility to conserve.

Ten Steps to a Loon-Friendly Lake	Twelve Simple Steps To A Wildlife Friendly Waterfront ( <a href="http://www.livingbywater.ca">www.livingbywater.ca</a> )
<p><b>Keep it wild:</b> Work to preserve the wild parts of your lake.</p> <p><b>Keep your shoreline natural:</b> Vegetated shorelines provide shelter for both fish and loons.</p> <p><b>Watch your wake:</b> Use sensitive boating practices and steer clear of loons.</p> <p><b>Don't Discard:</b> Return plastics, metals, fishing line, tackle and other refuse to shore and dispose of it in appropriate containers.</p> <p><b>Test the waters:</b> Help monitor your lake's water quality. Find a program in your area or call us.</p> <p><b>Be level-headed:</b> Work to reduce large water level changes during the nesting season (May - July). Talk to your local officials.</p> <p><b>Don't mess with the food chain:</b> Don't feed nest predators such as raccoons or gulls. Dispose of your garbage properly.</p> <p><b>Lobby for loons and lakes:</b> Get involved in national air pollution issues and local water quality programs.</p> <p><b>Spread the word:</b> Place loon and lake conservation messages on websites and in papers and newsletters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the lot well-treed -- never clear-cut.</li> <li>• Protect shoreline vegetation; replant areas lacking shrubs and trees with native species.</li> <li>• Start a buffer strip by leaving some grass uncut near the water</li> <li>• Build at least 30 metres away from the shore.</li> <li>• Give clear instructions to your contractors and monitor their work.</li> <li>• Avoid spilling fuels, antifreeze, paint thinner or other chemicals on land or water -- clean up fast!</li> <li>• Don't use fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides near the water.</li> <li>• Use environmentally friendly soaps, detergents and cleaners in your home.</li> <li>• Pump out your septic tank regularly -- every two to three years.</li> <li>• Extend the life of your septic system by avoiding tank additives and minimizing water consumption.</li> <li>• Refuel your boat with care -- don't spill a drop.</li> <li>• Watch your boat's wake -- it causes erosion!</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Be a citizen scientist!</u></b></p> <p>Watch over nesting areas and join the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey! For more information visit <a href="http://www.birdscanada.org">www.birdscanada.org</a></p>	

### Are you causing harm?

People can harass and stress loons without even being aware they are doing so. While on the lake or shoreline keep an eye out for the following and, if seen, move away.

- A loon is splashing across the water, appearing to stand up.
- A loon is vocalizing at you.
- A loon is lying very flat on the shoreline with its head down. The loon is on its nest, and if approached, may slide into the water, leaving the eggs exposed to predators.
- Watch your pets as well; please keep them away from wildlife.