

Report on Fish Stocking Program 2018

The Lake Association has had a practice of stocking the lake every year with fish. This past year, the Executive of the Association reviewed the practice by considering the following questions:

- What was the purpose of the practice?
- Should the practice be continued?
- If so, what species should be used?

This report focuses on these issues.

Benefits of Fish Stocking

There were four possible benefits identified:

- To attract wildlife that relies on fish
- To improve the health of the lake
- To attract visitors from outside for recreational fishing
- Recreational fishing by residents

To attract wildlife that relies on fish

Research on the web indicates that the preferred food of loons is fish but Trout are not high on their list of priorities. For instance, Wilderness North indicates that “Loons are predators; their diet in summer consists of fish, crayfish, frogs, snails, salamanders, and leeches. Adult loons prefer fish to other food, and seem to favour perch, suckers, catfish, sunfish, smelt, and minnows¹”.

Another example is from the Vermont Centre for Ecostudies. One of their recent documents² indicates: “Male and female loons both tend to feed their young, feeding insects and minnows at first and larger fish later. Although loons will eat most any fish they catch, perch are a favourite food.” The same document goes on to say: “Common loons will also eat live bait and lures from anglers. VCE routinely encounters loon tangled in fishing line and loons that have ingested fishing line and bait.”

In addition, discussions with a biologist suggest that fish stocking does not really have an environmental impact on a lake and is a social issue.

Conclusion: fish stocking of the lake to attract wildlife to the lake would only have a minimal

¹ Source: WWW.Wildernessnorth.com. Site mentions that their data is taken from *the Environment Canada website*

² <https://vtcostudies.org/wildlife/birds-water/common-loon>

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Members only document

This was a quick peak at the document available to members of the lake. If you are one go to the members page to view the full version!