

Lake Weslemkoon Facts



Lake Weslemkoon...

- Is an **oligotrophic** lake: it has low levels of nutrients, high dissolved oxygen levels, and deep areas with very cold water which provide the perfect habitat for Lake Trout.
- Is a designated **Highly Sensitive Lake Trout Lake**. Only 1% of Ontario's lakes contain Lake Trout.
- Is 19.3 km (12 miles) long and 2.5 km (1.6 miles) wide with a surface area of 1 955 hectares (4832 acres).
- Has a maximum depth of 55 m (180 feet) and an average depth of 9.3 m (30.5 feet).



Love the Lake?



Consider becoming a Friend of Lake Weslemkoon by joining the Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association (LWCA)

The **LWCA** is an active association dedicated to the preservation and protection of the natural environment of Lake Weslemkoon.

As a **Friend of the Lake** your membership donation will be used to support programs such as water quality monitoring, shoal marker maintenance, and social programs such as the **Junior Loons** and organized hikes which you are encouraged to participate in. **The Loon Call**, the association newsletter, is sent out in the early spring to all members.

Membership in **LWCA** provides many benefits and we encourage all who love the lake to join us.

For more information, please visit:
www.weslemkoon.com

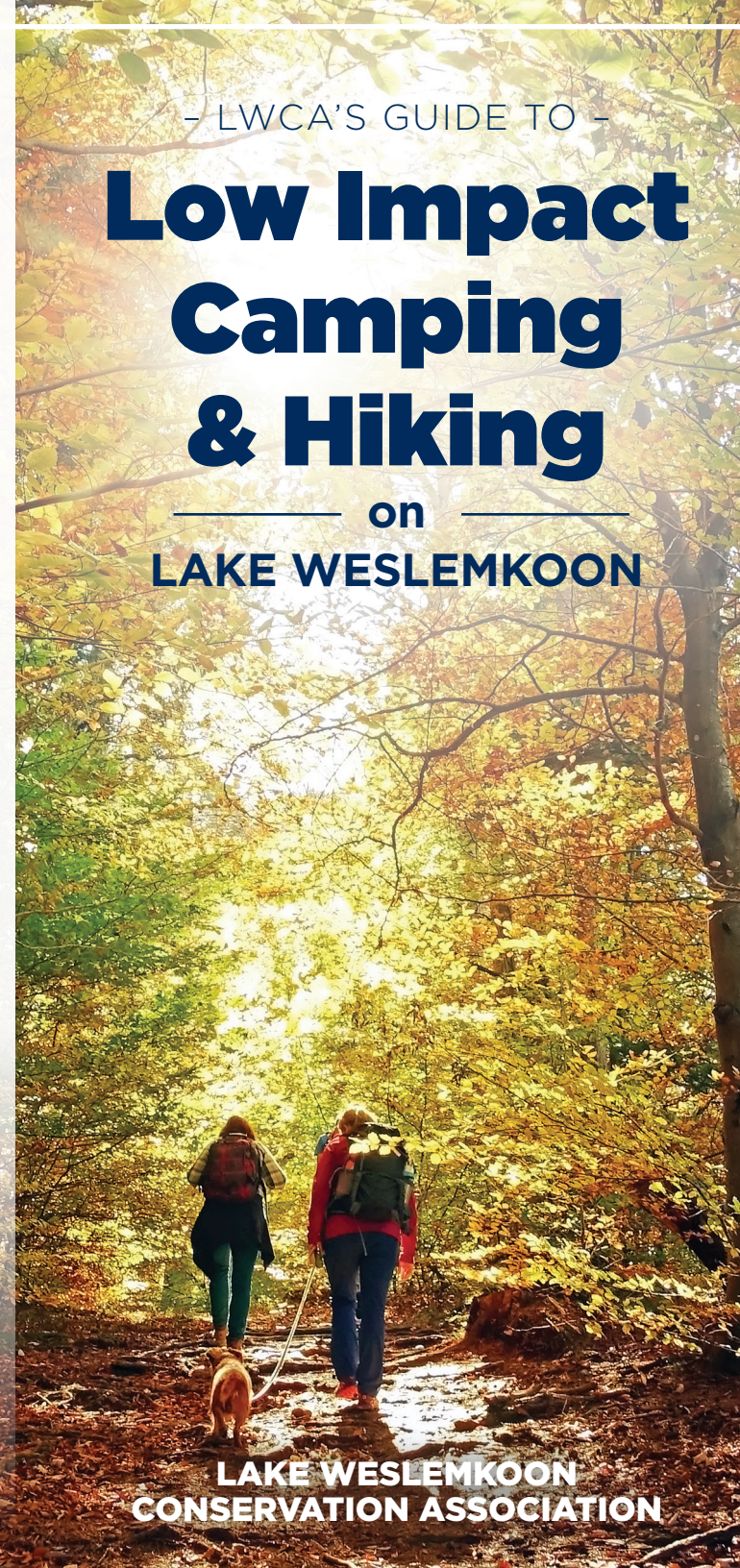
weslemkoon.com

- LWCA'S GUIDE TO -

Low Impact Camping & Hiking

on

LAKE WESLEMKOON



**LAKE WESLEMKOON
CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**

Caring For Our Lakes

We are so happy to have you as a visitor to our lake and have prepared this guide to help you enjoy your camping and hiking experience while ensuring the continued preservation of our beautiful piece of paradise.

Your Campsite

Whenever possible pitch your tent on an established camping surface that has already been cleared and try to keep your campsite as small as possible.



Campfires

Be aware of local fire bans before planning your campfire by calling the Township at (613) 336-1851. A fire ban includes all types of fires, and fireworks. Purchase wood locally instead of gathering dead branches. Construct your campfire close to the water and keep it contained in a fire pit or a ring of large stones. Do not burn garbage in the fire pit, apart from soiled toilet paper. Put the fire out at least 45 minutes before you go to bed or leave the site by pouring water on it and stirring the ash several times. Only fires for warmth or cooking are allowed between 7 am & 7 pm from April 1–October 31.

Minimize Waste

Bring homemade foods instead of individually packaged foods and pack all food in reusable containers using a food barrel or bag to hang in a tree. Be sure to use rechargeable batteries, and reusable kitchenware/utensils. Pressurized propane cylinders for camp stoves are considered hazardous waste in Ontario and must be taken to a hazardous waste depot; consider using a refillable fuel canister.

Dispose of Garbage Properly

Follow the “pack it in, pack it out” philosophy by carrying out all your garbage, compostables and recyclables for disposal through your local facilities. If you need to dispose of your waste before you get home, **Addington Highlands** has a disposal facility located on **Lake Weslemkoon Road** and another on **Hartsmere Road**.

Waste site hours are posted on their website

www.addingtonhighlands.ca.

Stop the Invasion

Avoid introducing and transporting invasive (non-native) species by cleaning all camping equipment before you visit and buying firewood locally. Remember to also thoroughly brush your dog to stop invasive plant seeds from hitching a ride. Be aware of live bait restrictions and leave all rocks and plants where you find them. Help us avoid aquatic invasive species by thoroughly cleaning your boat and other water toys before putting them in the water.

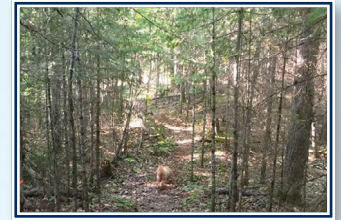
Nature Calls

If your campsite does not have an outhouse you will need to bring either a portable camp toilet or a small shovel, toilet paper and a paper bag with you. Find a spot at least 50 m (164 feet) from your campsite and the water's edge to locate your latrine then dig a hole at least 15 cm (6 inches) deep to contain your waste. Put soiled toilet paper into the bag to throw out in the garbage, or burn it in your campfire.

Washing Up

Use only biodegradable dishwashing soap, hand soap and shampoo and remember to ensure that no soapy water enters the lake. Biodegradable soap

only breaks down upon contact with the earth, and can harm the water. **Castille** soap is a great choice for camping and cottaging as it is completely plant based and does not contain any synthetic foaming agents. Look for the **EcoCert** logo as verification that the products you choose will not harm the environment.



Sun Safety

Adhere to the Slip Slap Slop policy of Slip on a Shirt, Slap on a hat then Slop sunscreen on what skin remains exposed. To protect yourself and the lake from chemical exposure choose sunscreens that are mineral based (zinc oxide or titanium dioxide) and free from chemicals such as **Oxybenzone** (see EWG.org for more sunscreen tips). Look for “Reef Safe” sunscreens if you will be wearing your sunscreen into the water.

On the Trails

Walk single file on the established trails being sure not to disturb the plants or wildlife. This will help preserve the beauty of the forests and will also help you to avoid encountering deer ticks and poison ivy. Lake maps showing trail locations are available to purchase at the marinas.

Enjoy the Silence

Be considerate of other campers and cottagers by keeping loud noise to a minimum so that everyone can enjoy the sounds of nature.