



Painted Turtle at Caribou Lake, MB. Photo by Julie Navitka. 2023 Lake Biodiversity Photo Challenge.

Next up in the Summer Speaker Series

Why do we need Natural Lake Shorelines?

Wednesday, August 30 • 3:30-4:30 pm PT / 6:30-7:30 pm ET

Natural shorelines support wildlife, mitigate climate change risks including flooding and erosion, and protect waterfront homes. If you need another reason to love natural shorelines, they're more cost-effective and resilient than hard armoring approaches such as seawalls. In our next Summer Speaker Series, Christine Callihoo, Executive Director of the Stewardship Centre for British Columbia, will talk about how the [Green Shores program](#) helps waterfront property owners minimize the environmental impacts of shoreline projects and support the long-term health and beauty of these spaces.

[REGISTER](#)

*This session will be recorded, emailed to everyone who registers, and posted to the [Lake Blitz event page](#).



2021 Public Favourite Winner by Arni Stinnissen.

It's time to vote for your favourite photos!

Over 600 beautiful and impactful photos from all across Canada have been submitted to the **2023 Lake Biodiversity Photo Challenge**. Now it's up to you to help choose a Public Favourite in each category! Visit the [2023 online gallery](#) and follow the instructions to cast your votes! Online voting will run all month long until August 31st.

The Public Favourites will be announced in early September along with the Judges' Favourites selected by a judging panel made up of Living Lakes Canada team members and prize sponsors. All the winners will receive generous prize packs courtesy of our partners: [Lush Cosmetics](#), [Kicking Horse Coffee](#), [Teadore](#), [Earth Rangers](#), [Laykhaus](#) and [Float-Eh](#).

VOTE NOW

Winner of the July Challenge

For Lakes Appreciation Month, we challenged Lake Blitz volunteers to visit their chosen lake on both monitoring weekends and upload the data before the end of July for a chance to win a prize

package. Congratulations to everyone who completed the challenge and thank you for your dedicated work to support lakes!

The winner of the July Challenge is **Patricia Gaudet**, who monitors Gap Lake in the Eastern Slopes of Alberta's Rocky Mountains!

[VIEW GAP LAKE OBSERVATIONS](#)

Lake Stories



Lauren Wonfor at Snafu Lake, YK

This month's **Volunteer Spotlight** features Lauren Wonfor, a teacher and canoe guide who coordinates the Yukon Youth Conservation Corps. Lauren is monitoring the popular and well-loved Snafu Lake near Whitehorse. In the summer, Lauren spends a lot of time taking kids out to Snafu Lake and teaching them about water health. Learn more about Lauren's experience with the Lake Blitz and how she helps grow a sense of curiosity and stewardship with youth.

[READ LAUREN'S SPOTLIGHT](#)



*Left: Adult Snapping Turtle at Lake of Two Mountains, QC. Photo by Kilby Gordon. 2023 Lake Blitz Volunteer.
Right: Snapping Turtle hatching at Little Whitefish Lake, ON. Photo by Mark Kuhne. 2023 Lake Blitz Volunteer.*

Snapping Turtles are the largest freshwater turtle found in Canada, with a range that extends from Saskatchewan to Nova Scotia. Although an adult can weigh **up to 35 lbs**, Snapping Turtle young, called hatchings, start out the size of a loonie. Despite the name, Snapping Turtles have an overexaggerated reputation for aggression.

Within their natural range in Canada, Snapping Turtles are a species of “special concern”. This means that there’s a risk they could become endangered or threatened. Habitat loss, road mortality and slow reproductive rates threaten this fascinating and ancient species. Learn how to ID Snapping Turtles [here](#).

Remember to record any Snapping Turtle sightings in your Lake Blitz observations! Thank you to Lake Blitz volunteers, Kilby Gordon (monitoring [Lake of Two Mountains, QC](#) and Mark Kuhne (monitoring [Little Whitefish Lake, ON](#) for capturing these two amazing photos while monitoring!

Resources



How to Use the Lake Blitz Map video.

The [Lake Blitz Observation Map](#) is a great tool to find the data you've collected and see what fellow volunteers are observing at lakes across the country! In this "how-to" video, you'll learn how to better navigate the observation map and find the information you're looking for!

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

"Cyanobacteria are a natural part of our ecosystem and were the first organisms to produce oxygen on Earth. We don't want to get rid of cyanobacteria, but we want to control harmful blooms," said Roxanne MacKinnon, Executive Director of Atlantic Coastal Action Plan (ACAP) Saint John. Learn more about [cyanobacteria](#) in our June summer speaker series.

[VIEW THE RECORDING](#)

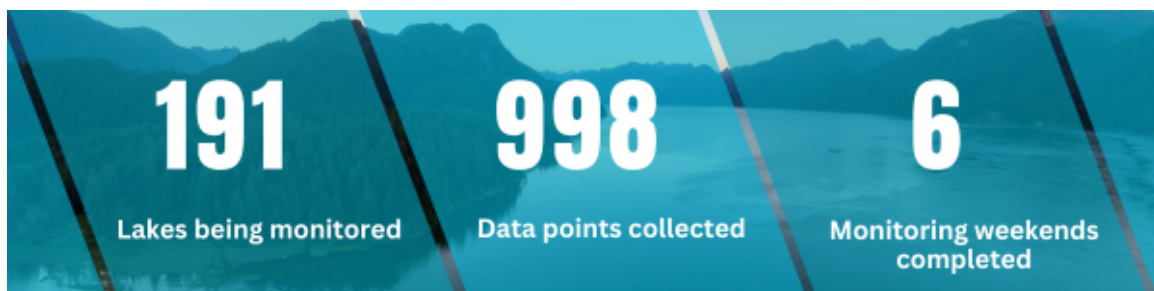
Other Opportunities



Blanding's Turtle

If you spot a **Blanding's Turtle** in Ontario and submit a photo to [iNaturalist Canada](#), wetlands as far as two kilometres away from the observation could be protected. Blanding's Turtle is currently listed as a Threatened species under the Ontario Endangered Species Act. Habitat protection is key to ensuring the survival of this unique yellow-necked turtle. For all Ontario-based Lake Blitz volunteers using iNaturalist, we encourage you to learn more about this initiative [here](#).

August Lake Blitz Update:



Questions? Email Camille and Kaite at lakeblitz@livinglakescanada.ca

Office hours every Tuesday 12-1 pm PT / 1-2 pm MT / 3-4 pm ET

Use LIVING23 at checkout to get 20% off Teadore's loose leaf tea products



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