



An environmentalist is a person who is concerned with or advocates for the protection of the environment. A few of the questions asked for the All Candidates Meeting were about the Dark Sky Initiative, Fireworks and Lake Health. Here are a few of the environmental concerns that I've researched;

- Did you know reducing the amount of light pollution causes less disturbance to wildlife, especially migrating birds, helps with energy conservation plus there are health benefits too. When we sleep well we produce melatonin which is a cancer fighting chemical best produced in the dark. In 2018 Ontario parks designated Killarney PP and Lake Superior PP as dark sky reserves.
- Not only do Fireworks scare & stress our pets but are very harmful for wildlife. Rehabilitation centers become busier after a weekend of fireworks with injured or orphaned birds & mammals. It's not just the noise that is harmful but the casing and metal after litter get into our lakes and are toxic. Upon the firework explosion fine dust is released that is toxic to inhale. Not to mention the fire risk.
- Many may not know that Bobolinks (which is a bird that is listed on the Ontario threatened list and is a species at risk) are killed by haying your fields too early. The Bobolink population has declined 75% in the past 50 years and 96% of eggs and nestlings are destroyed by early hay cropping. By delaying haying to mid-July you'd be saving a very important species. I witnessed 2 properties in our township that were filled with nesting Bobolinks but was saddened when one day as I drove by and the fields were chopped, the adults had left and the young all dead.
- On our smaller lakes and waterways the wake of any boat can cause damage not just to our shorelines but to the lake itself. Wakes from the boats can act like a firehose to our lake's bottom ripping up plants and churning sediment. This destroys fish habitat and spawning grounds. It can also cause phosphorus and other nutrients to mix into the water promoting algae growth.

What I propose we do to help our environment;

- More lake studies & water testing
- Investigate more erosion issues
- Initiate the dark skies initiative
- Reduce fireworks
- Add signage to known deer areas
- Enforce and publicize fines for altering & damaging shorelines (eg removing the rocks, cutting down trees, adding a sand beach)
- Posting more environmental education articles on websites

Please e-mail me at sue@allsummerscape.com if you have any questions or would just like to chat about what you feel is important for our community and what we can do together.