

# Rainy Lake Watershed

WORTH PRESERVING



## Rainy Lake Conservancy

PROMOTING CONSERVATION IN THE RAINY LAKE AREA THROUGH:



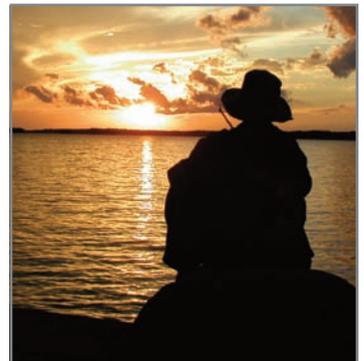
Science and Research



Clean Water and Healthy Shorelines



Education and Collaborative Efforts



Planning for Future Generations

more details

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Science and Research

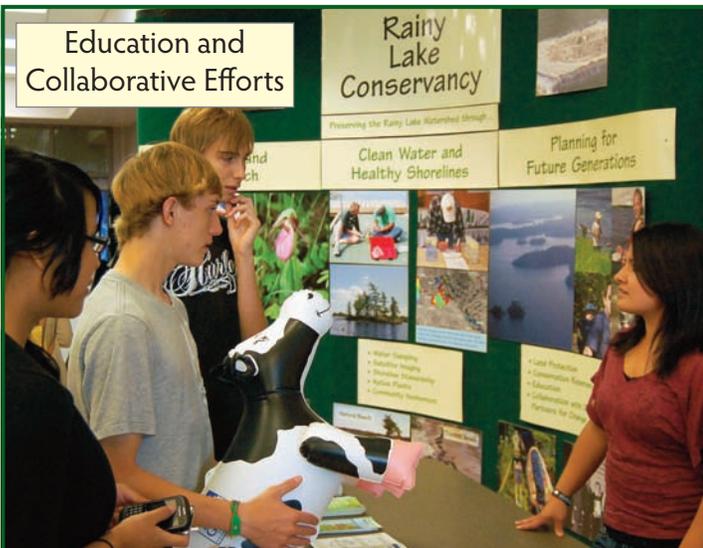
Rainy Lake Conservancy volunteers gather water samples and check water quality for a number of water monitoring programs including the Great Ontario Dip-In and other Lake Partner programs. Water samples are analyzed to provide baseline data on the quality of water in the Rainy Lake watershed. Some of the samples are used to provide collaborative information for satellite imaging. Conservancy volunteers also assist with loon surveys, dragonfly inventories, pine marten, fisher and wolf studies, benthic invertebrate sampling, fisheries research, moose and beaver studies, and lake sturgeon research. The Rainy Lake Conservancy contributed funds toward the purchase of an underwater camera to study juvenile sturgeon in the watershed.

Understanding that biological diversity is a key element in the web of life, the Rainy Lake Conservancy sponsored the first systematic biodiversity inventory of the Canadian side of Rainy Lake. Supported by a \$21,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, the Conservancy partnered with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the MNR (Fort Frances) to conduct the multi-year study. Northern Bioscience and Natural Heritage Information Centre biologists identified a total of 21 species of provincially rare plants, two significant nesting bird species, and eight provincially rare insects. They also identified significant wetlands, sites supporting rare species, and plant communities with high biodiversity values.



Clean Water and Healthy Shorelines

## Rainy Lake Conservancy: Preserving the Rainy Lake Watershed



Education and Collaborative Efforts

Preserving Rainy Lake's pristine islands has long been a major goal of the Conservancy. Founding members were instrumental in preserving most of a 300-acre island which is now owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Subsequently, they submitted a successful proposal to the Ontario Lands for Life to designate the remaining crown land on the islands of Rainy Lake as Conservation Reserves. These reserves contribute greatly to preserving the wilderness qualities and natural beauty of Rainy Lake. Following Ontario's lead, some Conservancy members are considering conservation easements on their own islands. Members contributed financially to the long term preservation of Ernest Oberholtzer's Rainy Lake Review Islands to help preserve the memory of the noted local conservationist. Rainy Lake is a place of natural beauty, clean water and abundant plant and wildlife – rare qualities in a world where forests and clean lakes are rapidly disappearing. It is worth protecting.

One focus of the Conservancy is to promote conservation locally. Through presentations, newsletters, advertising, memberships, and mailings, the Conservancy offers information on lakeshore stewardship and land protection options. Members have shared their passion for preserving Rainy Lake at museums and farmers' markets, conferences and workshops, IJC meetings, trade shows, tourism centers, school expos and classrooms. Local partnerships are key to effective work in the watershed: at the Ontario Trillium Foundation's 25th anniversary, the Conservancy, along with the Rainy River Valley Field Naturalists and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, received the Best Grant award in the environmental sector from the Trillium Foundation -- a great honour for the partnership!



Future Generations