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The GLCA is a volunteer organization committed to representing the interests of the residents of Gull Lake.

President's Message

Last weekend I was sitting on our deck looking down the lake and musing on how fortunate we are as cottagers to have such a beautiful place as Gull Lake. Yet again it was a great summer leading up to this wonderful fall we have been enjoying. So with the holidays peeking around the corner we wanted to wrap up the year with our Newsletter update.

This year we began the summer with our Annual General Meeting graciously hosted by Kilcoo Camp. We had terrific attendance at the meeting which was, I believe, a great testament to the involvement of the membership and the vitality of the Association. Our guest speaker Paul MacInnes was very informative and passionate about lake health and shorelines.

Again we had beautiful weather for the annual Regatta with great attendance and lots of fun had by everyone that attended. The Rock Bass Tournament was extremely successful, well attended and great family fun. It was also a pleasant night for the evening social held at Summer Kiss. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make these events a success.

In addition to these annual events we were able to move forward as an Association on a number of important items. A very important initiative was sponsored by Don Drouillard and led by Judy Ingram whom organized the staff and volunteers for the Love Your Lake Program. In total 550 properties were assessed. In the spring, you will receive a letter in the mail with a website and confidential access code to view your report.

The GLCA will receive a report about the overall health of our lake, and we hope that it will be received in time for the AGM.

The Association continued its work on monitoring water quality with two initiatives this summer involving a testing program from the University of Waterloo and annual benthic monitoring activity with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Your Association also opposed the scrap yard location and with the aid of an environmental lawyer presented to council a compelling argument to change the process and informed council of upcoming changes to regulations. Frank Zechner reminded council about Ontario Regulation 85/16, which comes into effect in September. It includes changes to regulations involving construction projects like the proposed scrapyards. At this time no actions have been taken to secure the appropriate site testing, and we hope that none will be taken.

Many other activities are in process by your board members and I really appreciate all of the efforts by the entire group, including the many volunteers. Thank you.

What an incredible summer season at Gull Lake, with the added excitement of fireworks at Kilcoo and a potential forest fire averted with the quick response from Kilcoo staff. See you in the spring.

Keith Kennedy

Membership Update

By Judy Ingram, Membership Director

I would like to welcome many new members to the Gull Lake Cottagers' Association, and to thank everyone for renewing their membership. This year we had almost 100 % renewal rate of our Primary Members. We had eight new owners join, as well as 22 other cottagers from the Love Your Lake mail out. Membership is now 264 Primary Members and a record high of 74 Associate Members. Our association now represents 60% of the property owners.

Please let us know when there is a new owner on your road. We will welcome them with a GLCA Gift Bag and provide them with a Membership Form. You and your new neighbour will be featured in the next newsletter.

Don't forget to renew your membership as soon as possible. Not sure if you prepaid 2017? You will receive an email reminding you that your 2017 dues are paid!

Here are a few of our new owners from 2015 and early 2016. Late 2016 will be featured in the 2017 Spring Newsletter.



Michael Haines & Patty Aziz have taken over ownership of the family cottage. Our president, Keith Kennedy welcomes them to the world of cottage ownership!



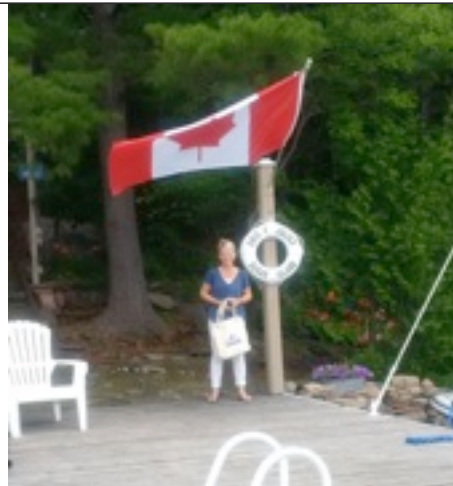
Suzanne and Trevor Gibbs are the new neighbours of Carolyn Treadgold, our Communications Director.



Marshall Hoare was sold on the GLCA by Larry and Irene Murphy. (Thank you Irene for taking the photo).



Cindy and Jim Heaps are still smiling even though they have to paint their new cottage.



Julia Fuller graciously accepted her gift bag while Eric Schwab was busy renovating the kitchen. They are our newest Sugar Island cottagers.



Seanna Metherrall is pictured here with Bob and Louise Nijse, who not only told her about the GLCA, but are coaching Seanna on the finer points of cottage life. I understand she's a quick learner.

Social Update

by Brian Pinnock - Special Events

On Saturday August 20th, the annual GLCA Summer Social was held once again at SummerKiss Restaurant. Those in attendance enjoyed appetizers and refreshments, along with opportunity to mix with fellow cottagers. As always, we encourage the members to bring forth any ideas for future social events. Suggestions for next year would be appreciated !! Please email any comments to : brianp@rogers.com

Communications Report

by Carolyn Treadgold – Communications Director

Recently you will have received an email with a link to a survey asking for your feedback. We hope that each of our GLCA Members will take a moment to complete the survey in order to provide the Executive with feedback on how we can best serve you. We are asking for input on a variety of items and you are welcome to share any comments or suggestions with us. We will be reviewing the results at our next meeting and will use your input as we plan for the 2017 cottage year. If you missed the email, the link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FHCL7R3>

Remember, if you have any questions or comments for which you would like a reply, please don't hesitate to email us at info@glca.ca.

We continue to look for someone who could help us over the winter to make some revisions to our website. If you could spare a few hours to help us with the back end of our site, please email us. Some members have commented that when they search for our website in Google, there is a message that the site may be hacked. This is an old message and our website is safe and secure. We are working with Google to have the warning message removed.

Finally, if you have any news about Gull Lake over the fall and winter that you think others would like to know, please send us an email and we will share your news. As the info@glca.ca email is checked only periodically, please email Carolyn Treadgold at treadgoldcarolyn@gmail.com if you have something that requires prompt attention.

Fire on Landside Trail

by Wally Oakes – Gull Lake cottager

Minden Fire department did yeoman's work containing a fire started by a dead tree falling on a hydro line on Landside Trail on a sunny, summer afternoon around 4pm. Within an hour it had covered 3 acres because of dry conditions; with any real wind, it would have been a lot worse quickly.

This photo shows how hard all of our volunteer firefighters fight for us, and on one of the hottest days of the summer, at the end of their "other job" work days, they prevented something that could have been a lot worse. We are fortunate to have them! A huge shout out to Kilcoo Camp - they were a big help; their firepump ended up feeding the fire dept's pumper truck to get water 400+ yds up the hills from the lake, as the fire was spreading.



Minden Hills Care Auxillary

by Mickey-Bonham, President

First of all, on behalf of everyone in the MHCA, I thank you so much for your on-going support. Your recent donation of \$500 will help us to continue to fund much-needed equipment for our Minden Emergency Department and for Hyland Crest, our Seniors' Home. In the past, purchases have included Trauma Stretchers and Lighting for the ER, Vital Signs Monitors for Hyland Crest, and a food processor for the kitchen. We have also committed \$25,000 for the furnishing of two Compassionate Care Suites at Hyland Crest in the next year.

Everyone in the Minden Hills area appreciates the high level of care available to us at the Minden Emergency Department. During the 2015-16 fiscal year, there were over 15,000 visits to our ER. And our 62 seniors at Hyland Crest, some of whom were cottagers in years past, are also very well cared for by the staff and volunteers. In addition to raising funds, several members of the MHCA volunteer with our seniors - visiting, singing, playing cards, and helping with other activities. And we run the Gift Shop located at the Hyland Crest entrance on McPherson Street. The Shop is open year round, from Sunday to Friday, from 12 – 3 p.m., and is an excellent place to find interesting and inexpensive gift items.

The MHCA is a very welcoming group of approximately 50 Minden Hills residents and we are always looking for new members. If you are interested, please email me at mandgbonham@live.ca

And the next time you see us selling raffle tickets at the grocery stores, or handing out bandages on Tag Day, please say hello!



Members of the MHCA Executive, happy about the news of the donation from the GLCA.

Love Your Lake, Shoreline Assessment Project Update

By Judy Ingram, Love Your Lake Coordinator

Early this spring, all of you received a letter introducing the Love Your Lake Project, brought to you by the GLCA. Some of you were fortunate enough to attend the AGM and hear Paul MacInnes speak so passionately about this subject. This project is designed to educate property owners and provide information on how to protect their shorelines and improve water quality in the lake.

The execution of this project took place immediately following the long weekend in May. Our evaluators were Mystaya Touw and Shelby Heath, from Trent University. They set out on Tuesday, May 24th to do 550 shoreline assessments. Each lot will have a private confidential report prepared and made available in the spring of 2017. Property owners will receive a letter, or letters (some owners have more than one lot) in the spring with a survey access code for each lot and instructions on how to access your confidential report. Your report will contain a summary of the features observed on your property, with voluntary recommended actions you can take to protect or restore your shoreline.

It is important to note that the shoreline assessments for Gull Lake occurred between May 24th and June 14th of 2016. This early timeframe provided challenges for our evaluators. If your dock was not yet in, educated guesses were made based on what was visible on the shore. More importantly, it was too early in the season to spot invasive species. Please take the time to go to the CHA website, COHPOA.ORG, and investigate the **Invasive Species** information under the **LAKE HEALTH** tab. Familiarize yourself with what these species are and what to do if you see them.

You don't have to wait for your report. You can be proactive and reach out to the many Shoreline Renaturalization Designers on the CHA website, COHPOA.org, under the **SHORELINE HEALTH** tab. Our own Paul Carey, a long time supporter of the GLCA, from Carey's Garden Centre in Minden, is available to consult with you on your shoreline. I spoke to Paul this summer and he indicated that each property is unique, it's best to have someone come out and consult with the property owner. He can provide a variety of solutions for every budget.

This project will provide the GLCA with an overall picture of the health of our lake. The GLCA will be provided with a summary that will become part of The Lake Plan. We hope that this information will be made available to us before the AGM so that we can present it at that time. This information will provide us with a benchmark with respect to the health of our lake, so that going forward, we can plan our next steps wisely.

The execution of this project would not have been possible without our volunteers. Even though we were first on the docket and many cottagers were not available, we were lucky to have had a number of volunteers come forward to drive the evaluators around the lake. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our boat drivers. They are Michael Flaherty, Laura Blew, Tom Ingram, Don Drouillard, Barb Reid, Brian Pinnock, Neil Cutler, Alan Scriven, Peter Colpitts, Larry Murphy, Andrew Briggs, Martha Larsen and Dave Robinson. A special shout out to the Rea Family. The Rea's were not available for boat driving, but the Rea's allowed us to use their Pontoon Boat, as many cottagers and even some of the boat drivers, did not have their boats in the water yet. I hope that all of the volunteers will make an effort to come to the AGM so that we can all thank them in person.



Thank you to the following Who Donated Funds to the GLCA in 2016

- Mike & Laura Ball
- Bob & Marilyn Beamish
- Donald & Nadine Bell
- Kirk & Joanne Boggs
- William & June Cresswell
- Rodger & Nancy Cummins
- Allen Czerwinski
- Jim & Linda Ecclestone
- Tom & Jo-anne Ecclestone
- Rolf & Tania Fabricius
- Julia Fuller & Eric Schwab
- Trevor & Suzanne Gibbs
- Barb & Cam Gillies
- Linda Hutchison
- Jon Ingall & Siobhan Carmichael
- Marie Kennedy
- Tom Kraemer & Susan Ray
- Susan Logan
- Ian MacDonnell & Carol Brewer
- Eligio & Alice Palermo
- Dylan & Kelly Pannell
- Ross & Helene Pinnock
- Sandy Sainsbury
- Terry & Rita Seeley
- Rev. Tim & Betty Sharpe
- Charles & Evelyn Simon
- Gary & Helga Sonnenberg
- Paul & Julia Sward
- Ron & Diane White
- Miners' Bay Lodge
- Shepherd's Environmental Services

94th Regatta Day:

"Regatta Day" is always something that we look forward to. Gull Lake has one of the oldest if not the oldest regatta at 94 years and counting! With a new commodore on board this year we tried to change some of the races around to keep with the changing times. While the regatta has always focused on the younger generation, a new masters category was added, and the masters did not disappoint proving to the world that 50 year old parents can be as competitive or more than their 12 year old kids! The men's and women's 50+ races were very well attended, look forward to more next year! It was also great to see a lot of contestants in the trophy events move from 2nd and 3rd place in 2015 into 1st place for 2016! And of course how could we forget the family aspect, with many last names showing up again and again in all events with many generations, this is truly a family event. Special thanks go out to all the volunteers and GLCA board members that helped out this year. Looking forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Sailing Race Awards: July 23, 2016

Duncan Trophy - 1st: B&B Lett
2nd: B&S Williams
3rd: C Carzee

Sailing will always hold dear as a sport of inches, and this year did not disappoint. While we may not have as many boats as before, the competitors did not disappoint with many finishing within 60 seconds of each other. They have a great competitive spirit with many sailors both new and old, and many family teams entering. We had a wonderful day with a very happy group, fair winds to all for the 2017 race!

Regatta Race Awards: July 30, 2016

Bedlington Cup - 1st: M. Forrest
2nd: L St. John
3rd: C. Carzee

Carley Allison Memorial - Mixed Terrain Race

The Allison Family

Chisholm Cup - Parent & Child

D. & J. Williams

Christie Cup - Mixed War Canoe

The St. John Family

Crerar Family Paddles - S. Jones, M. Hutchison

Earl Family Paddles - M. St. John, R. Allison

Masters Event - W. Oaks, G. Birkett

Minto Cup - 1st: S. Hutchison
2nd: S. Jewett, R. Jewett, S. Oaks
(triple tie)

Parr Memorial Trophy - The Jewett Family

Sharpe Family Paddles - L. St. John, M. Forest

Stinson Plaque - The Williams Family

Treadgold Trophy - 1st: E. Fode & M. Hutchison
(tie)
3rd: S. Jones



Treadgold Trophy - 1st: E. Fode & M. Hutchison (tie)



Masters Event - W. Oaks, G. Birkett



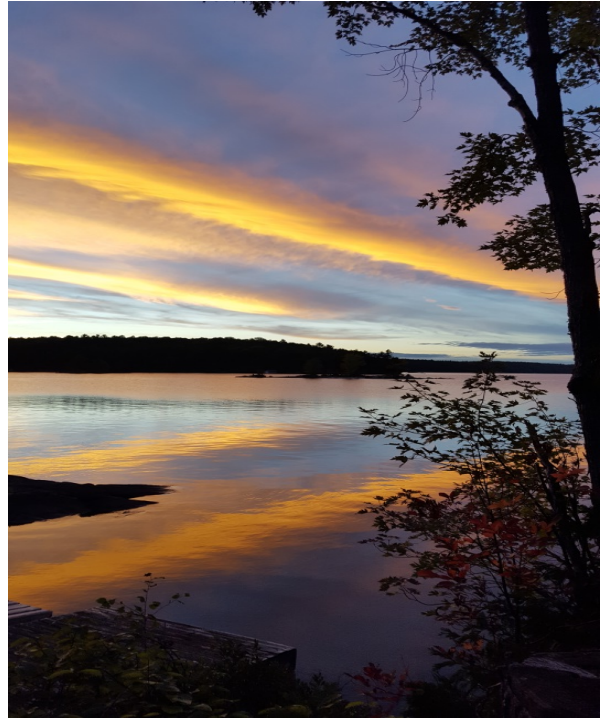
Carley Allison Memorial - Mixed Terrain Race
The Allison Family

GLCA Photo Contest

In 2016 we ran the second annual GLCA Photo Contest. We had almost twice as many pictures submitted. Each winner was able to choose a \$25 gift certificate from one of the businesses in Minden that had sponsored any of our GLCA events. This way we were able to put \$125 back into the community as a thank you. The winners in each category, as chosen by our volunteer judge Cindy Heaps, are as follows.



LIFE AT THE COTTAGE: "Campfire Moments" by Laura Blew, who selected a \$25 gift card for Home Hardware. Judge's comment: "Beautiful cottage evening with kids making summer memories"



LANDSCAPE: "Sunset" photographed by Barbara Gillies, who asked that her \$25 be donated to the Minden Food Bank. Judge's comment: "One of the many sunset pictures that spoke to me"



NATURE: "Chipmunk" photographed by Georgia Kennedy, who selected a \$25 gift card for Up River Trading Company. Judge's comment: "All cottagers love feeding their chipmunk friends"



Photo by Kids (15 or younger): "Dive" photographed by TJ Latimer, who selected a \$25 gift card for Up River Trading Company. Judge's comment: "A carefree summertime dive into Gull Lake"



ACTION: "In Flight" photographed by TJ Latimer, who selected a \$25 gift card for Up River Trading Company. Judge's comment: "Captured fun in flight"

Report on Water Levels (CEWF General Meeting Sept 10, 2016)

By Don Drouillard, Lake Steward

The CEWF held its annual communications meeting in Haliburton with the representatives of our member associations. What follows is a brief summary of the water management related presentation by members of the CEWF Executive and representatives of the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW).

2016 – A year of Weather and Some Water Level Extremes High Water with Ice in Spring 2016 Spring 2016 saw many reservoirs reach record or near record water levels with ice still on the lakes. As reported on the CEWF Website in early March, TSW began filling the reservoirs early on the basis of the limited snowpack and the early spring melt in order to capture the available water. By mid-March the reservoirs had captured the snowmelt and had risen to about 70% full (See TSW Slide of Haliburton Storage) with ample storage to accommodate normal spring rains. However the last half of March in Haliburton turned out to be very wet with monthly precipitation totals almost 2.5x normal levels. Even more significantly in the last 8 days of March the Haliburton weather station recorded 97 mm (~ 4 inches) of rain with some areas receiving over 125mm. The extreme rainfall far exceeded the capacity of the rivers to pass water downstream and TSW made the strategic decision to spread the water out by increasing storage in all reservoirs above the full level. Lakes rose quickly to near record levels while the downstream flows were managed to pass water as quickly as possible. In the Burnt River Reservoirs and the Central Reservoirs (Crystal, Mississagua, Anstruther, Eels and Jack's lakes) immediate log removals relieved the high water within a few days. On the Gull River managing flows to avoid flooding in Minden meant the high levels on upstream reservoirs were maintained longer. There were reports of significant damage from ice and high water across the reservoir area and CEWF is preparing a report documenting the damage based on the information we have received.

The CEWF was supportive of the TSW decision to partially fill the reservoirs earlier than normal. In their presentation TSW presented data to show how short the forecast warning time was for the unexpected extreme storm events at the end of March. Given the circumstances it appears the extreme levels were unavoidable since filling reservoirs with the available snow runoff is a recognized priority and there was not enough warning time to allow that process to be reversed before the storms hit. CEWF noted that based on climate change projections and our experience in recent years with some low snow winters followed by early melt and spring storms, residents need to recognize that the risk of high water with ice on the lakes is now greater than in the past. Leaving lakes at lower levels until later in the spring is not a viable option as it increases the risk of low lake level extremes through the navigation season of May to early October. Waterfront property owners may need to rethink our shorelines and avoid constructing structures that are susceptible to ice damage with high water.

Extreme Drought and Water Management Challenges May to August 2016 Late spring and summer 2016, from mid-April through to the 12th of August, saw extreme drought conditions over the entire Trent River basin. CEWF presented Environment Canada data documenting that precipitation at Peterborough was 187mm below normal for the period as they only received 31% of their normal rainfall. At Haliburton the short fall was 125mm and they only received 59% of normal precipitation. Based on the long range weather forecasts in the spring, TSW made the strategic decision to store as much water as possible throughout the Trent system. The reservoirs were kept higher than normal through May and

June, The Kawartha lakes and Rice Lake were overfilled and the flow on the Otonabee River and on the Trent River was reduced to minimum flow by the end of May. In the reservoirs only the minimum flows on both the Gull system and the Burnt system were maintained, but with very little rain reservoir levels began to decline particularly on the Burnt where reservoirs are smaller and storage is very limited. In the central lakes where there are no minimum flow protocols, reservoir levels were held high in reserve. Some spotty rainfall over some areas helped replenish some of the reservoirs in June and July. TSW managed the logs in our dams very closely to store whatever precipitation fell. Drawdown began in late June but was limited until early August when the TSW began to draw from the higher Central Lakes. The Forecast issued on August 8th was for draws of up to half a metre over two weeks from some reservoirs. Prospects were for reservoir levels to fall well below seasonal normals. But on August 13 there was significant rainfall across the Trent basin followed by more rain on the 16th. TSW responded very quickly to the rainfall by replacing logs and bringing reservoir levels back to seasonal levels or higher. TSW presented data on slide 63 which illustrates seasonal fluctuation across the reservoirs. The graphs show how low some reservoirs in the Burnt system fell during July as a result of minimum flows and how those lakes were given priority to fill once rains came. In contrast the graph also illustrates how the storage in the higher Central lakes was drawn heavily at the beginning of August. In all areas the relief provided by the rains on and after August 13 is clearly illustrated.

On reflection the strategy adopted by TSW in May to hold all reservoirs high along with the higher than normal levels and minimum flows on the Kawartha Lakes and downstream resulted in minimizing the impacts from the extreme drought across the entire TSW including the reservoirs. We were very fortunate that circumstances allowed for early strategic decisions and that in the end rain came just when the extreme draw on the reservoirs was beginning. We avoided what could have been very low levels by the end of our season. Additional water management related reports from the CEWF Executive were presented dealing with our efforts to document the damage from ice and flooding in spring 2016, and our initiatives to draw together existing reservoir-specific information which will help us to quantify potential impacts from extreme low water levels.

An update was also presented on the new Upper Trent Water Management Partnership (UTWMP). The UTWMP is a new partnership of the 6 local municipalities in Haliburton and Northern Peterborough Counties and CEWF with the primary objective of working towards integrated water management planning across the entire Trent watershed.



Lake Stewards Report - Fall 2016 – Water Quality Report

With the assistance of Mike Thorne, the annual multi port sampling was completed on August 17, 2016. It was a beautiful calm day that had been preceded in days previous by heavy rainfall and strong winds. Overall, with the exception of Total Coliform counts, the results were representative of previous years with no indication that we are undergoing any negative trends in Lake Water Quality. The trend graphs are shown below. We will not have the Lake Partner's results from Mid-Lake off Rackety Creek until early in the new year and those results will be posted at that time.

Dissolved Oxygen Survey

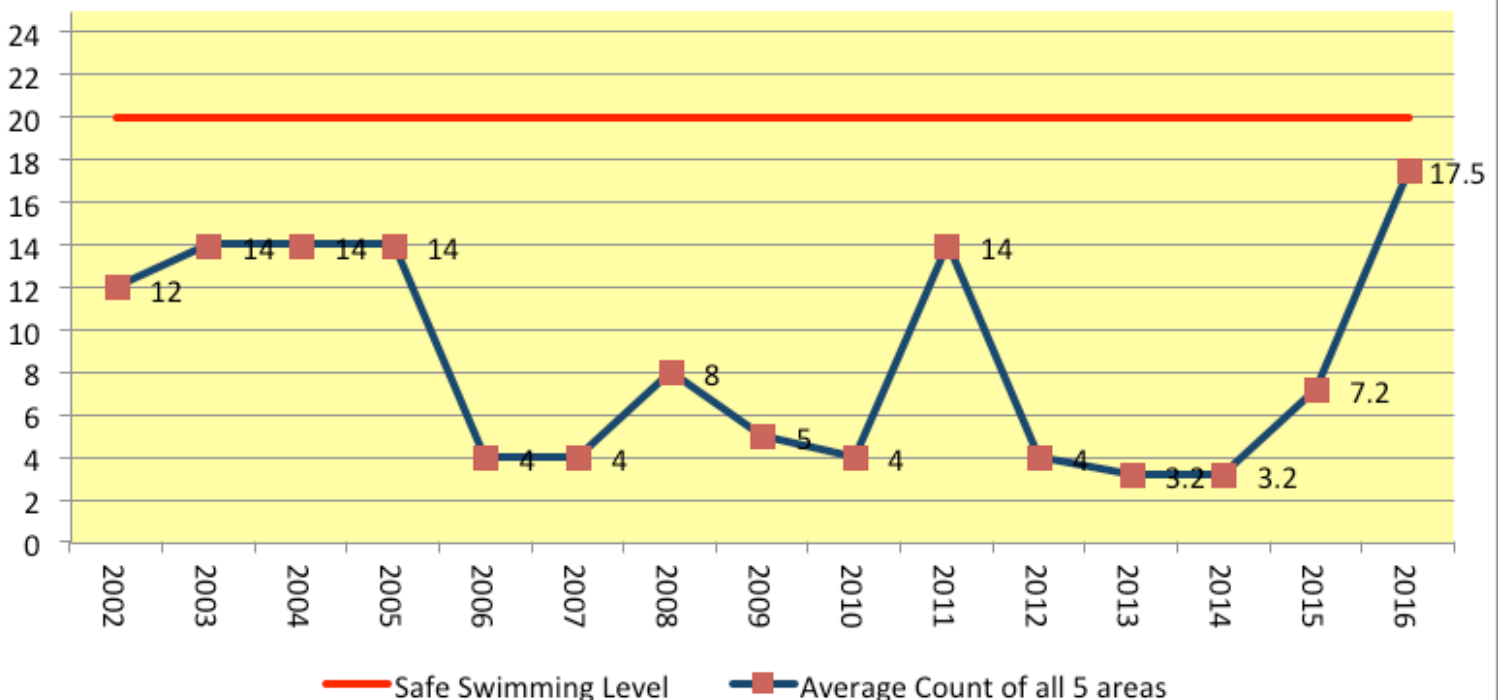
Mike Thorne and I also completed a dissolved oxygen survey of two of the deepest basins in the lake on Aug 30. This information will be distributed at a later date and included in the archives of the Lake Plan. The information will also be shared with the MOE in Dorset. The dissolved oxygen levels are important to the survival of Lake Trout. Trout typically habitat the deeper levels in the lake to avoid predators and require a minimum dissolved O₂ level of 7 ppm. It appears that we are still able to provide this minimum level of oxygen in the depths of our lake. Warmer water (climate change) and the decomposition of excess plant growth that comes with the warmer water and excess Total Phosphorus from pollution, robs the water of dissolved oxygen necessary to sustain our Lake Trout population. Our main focus in preventing excess phosphorus levels in the water continues to be reduction of Total Phosphorus entering the lake. (the biggest contributor that we can control is Septic System Health) and maintaining a natural shoreline to act as a biofilter to prevent entry in to the lake.

Please take a minute to read some interesting water articles in the next few pages. We are here to help educate cottage owners on best practices to promote the health of the lake water.

E Coli Counts

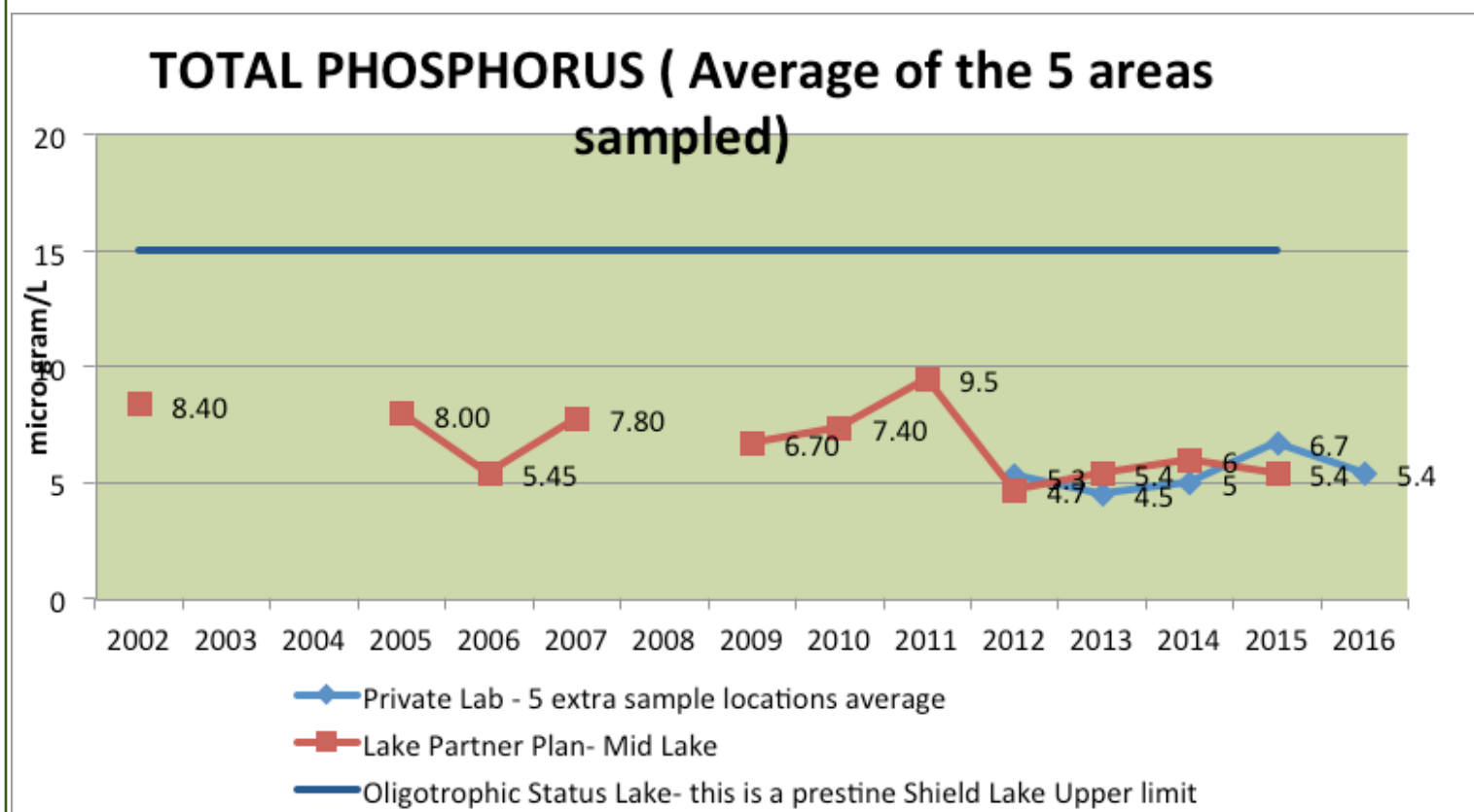
The average counts are much higher than previously found on this sampling. This is to be expected due to the high amount of rainfall just prior to the sampling. During periods of heavy rain, surface run off can drastically increase the amount of E coli in the lake as agricultural land is washed into the lakes and streams and also there is the possibility of sanitary sewers overflowing into the lake as well. The E coli are short lived outside of body temperatures and results can fluctuate widely from day to day. All areas sampled on the lake were within safe swimming levels with the exception of the water entering the lake from Gull River, which was 10X the safe limit for swimming. This value was an outlier and removed from the overall Lake Average. We do not have a sampling system to report biologically un-safe water counts as is done on public beaches in major cities. It is advisable to avoid the risk of infection from swimming in the river following heavy rainfall and also the dangerous rapidly flowing water conditions that may occur following a heavy period of rainfall.

E Coli Count /100 ml Sample



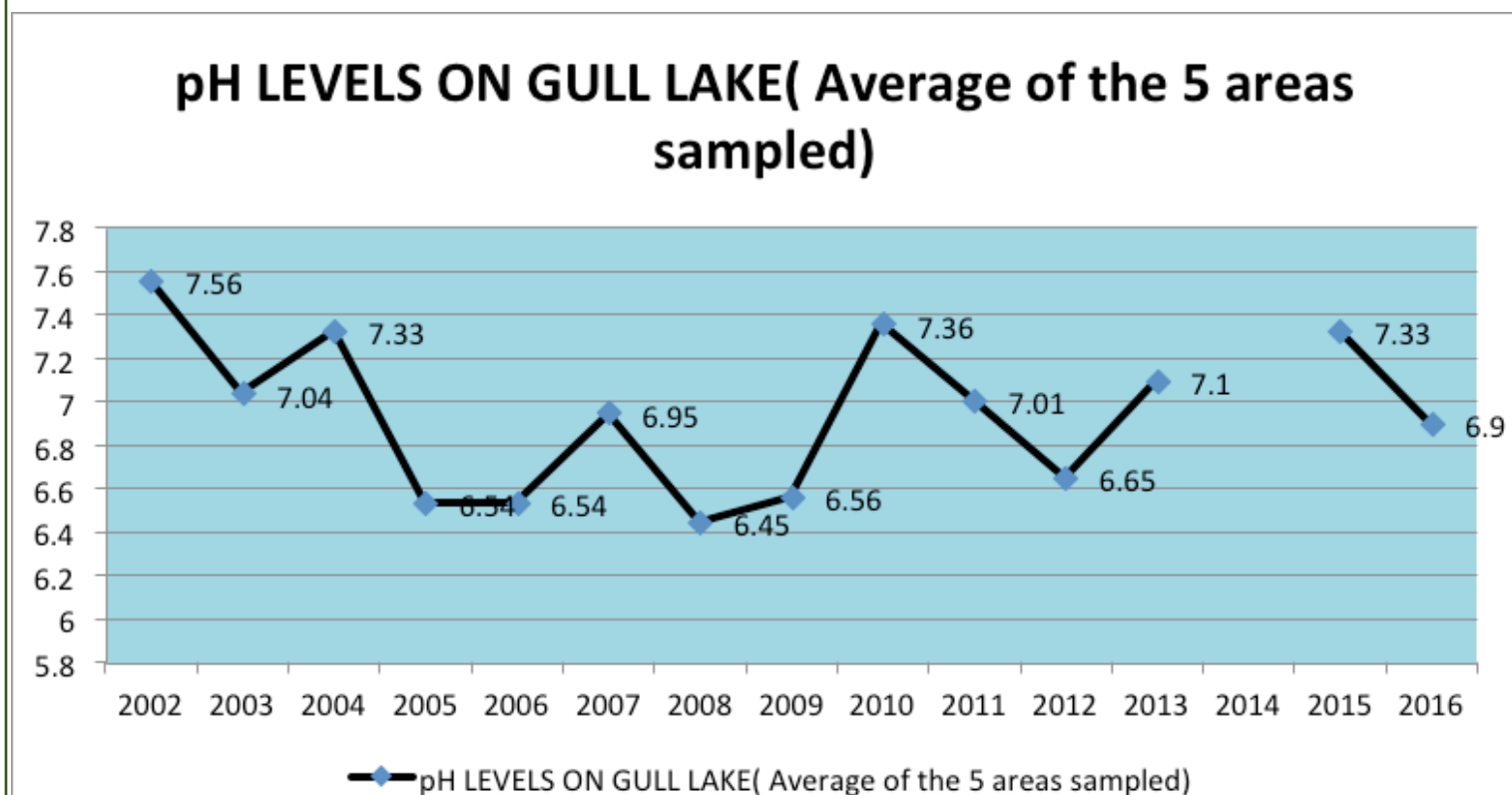
Total Phosphorus

Once again our key indication of Lake Health is consistent with previous years



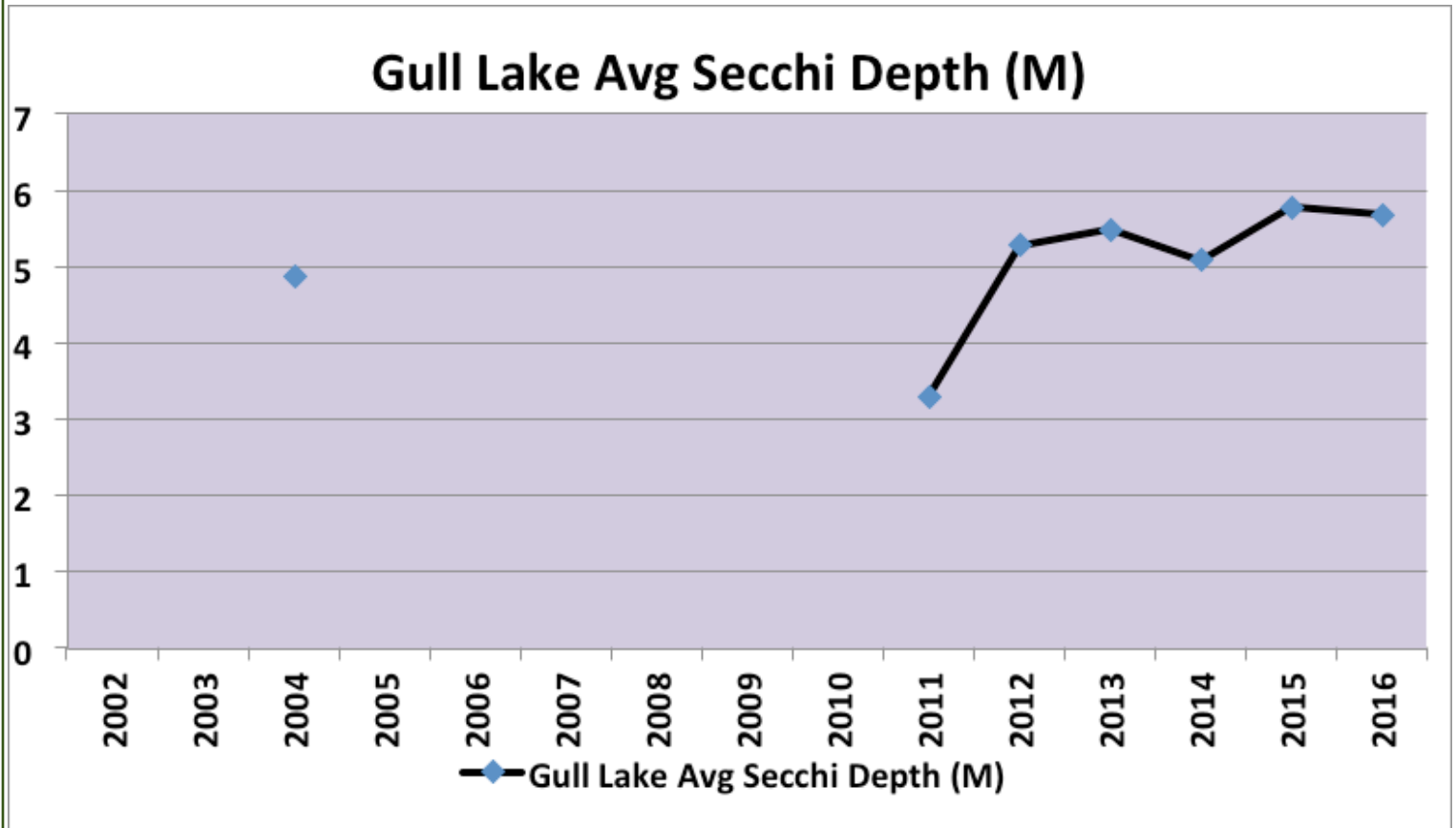
pH Levels

pH Levels are still within normal range. Variations from year to year are impacted by the amount of rainfall during the year.



Secchi Depth

The clarity of the water remains unchanged. The disc is still visible in the water at nearly 5 meters. This parameter is fairly consistent with previous years. We keep a record of this result, as the clarity would be impacted if we should ever have an issue with increased algae growth in the water.



Request for our Trout Fishermen to volunteer once again!

As discussed at the AGM and as an action item in the Gull Lake Plan, we are requesting serious and experienced Lake Trout Fishermen (summer and/or winter) to report their catches from Gull Lake. It is important that we have regular seasoned Lake Trout Fishermen and not the occasional novice fisherman for the data to be meaningful. The MNR (Minden) will receive the collected data from the dedicated anglers and will analyse the information to determine the relative population of the natural producing Lake Trout in our Lake (Gull Lake is not stocked). It will take at least 3-4 years to collect sufficient data but this information is crucial. Without this knowledge no further action can be taken to change regulations or other measures to protect the species.

If you would like to participate or know of someone else that could help us out by participating, please contact me and I will send them an information package on how to record their catches. It is not important for the participant to be a member of the GLCA or even to own a property on the lake. The only requirement is that they fish regularly for Lake Trout on Gull Lake.

Scrap Yard on Hunter Creek Watershed?

Update on Rezoning Application *By Judy Ingram, Membership Director*

For those of you who were unable to attend the AGM this spring, here is a brief update. As explained in the Spring Newsletter, the GLCA retained the services of Environmental Lawyer Frank Zechner. Frank presented a compelling presentation to the Municipal Council on May 12th, 2016. Articles were featured in The Minden Times and The Highlander newspapers. Our council member Pam Sayne thanked the GLCA for a very comprehensive report outlining many of the potential risks of a Scrap Yard at this location. Council has instructed the applicant, to provide them with the Level 2 Environmental Assessment, which will include ground water assessment. We will upload the presentation to the GLCA website, for your perusal.

At this time, there have been no assessments or reports of any kind submitted to the Planning Department or Council. Ian Clendening, the Planner, has indicated that the application remains open. Unfortunately, there is no time line stipulated for these applications, and therefore the application could remain open indefinitely. We have raised our concerns with Council, with respect to a reasonable time line and the incorporation of an expiry date to rezoning applications in order to have closure for all those involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the tireless efforts of Irene and Larry Murphy. Irene gathered an incredible amount of information for our lawyer, saving the GLCA a lot of money that would have gone out to "research". Irene and Larry attended all the Council Meetings and kept the Scrap Yard Committee up to date and informed.

Toxic to Your Family – Toxic to Your Lake

Chemicals used in many drain cleaners kill the essential bacteria needed by septic systems.

Septic systems rely on natural bacteria to treat wastewater. Harsh chemicals used in many drain cleaners kill the essential bacteria needed by septic systems.

Chemical drain cleaners are among the most dangerous of all cleaning products to human health. Most contain corrosive ingredients such as sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide (lye) and sodium hypochlorite (bleach) that can permanently burn eyes and skin. Some can be fatal if ingested.

They can also harm our lakes by harming the beneficial bacteria in our septic systems. In a study by Gross (1987), a lab study found significant decreases in concentrations of bacteria at very low Drano concentrations. Just 0.1 mg of Drano per liter of septic tank effluent reduced the concentration of bacteria tenfold; 1.3 mg is enough to kill most bacteria, and at 3 mg/L they are destroyed. Three mg/L corresponds to 11.3 grams in a 1,000-gallon septic tank. Also, there was a slight decrease in pH at higher concentrations of Drano. This amount could possibly be used by a homeowner in a short time period when unclogging a drain. It will take the bacteria population 48 hours to recover to its original concentration following the addition of the Drano. During those 48 hours every drop of water into your septic system means a drop of untreated water out of the system into the water table and into your lake!

Alternatives That Won't Harm Your Family or Lake

• Prevent drains from becoming blocked in the first place by having really good and inexpensive metal or plastic drain screens in all drains from sinks, showers, tubs, laundry, etc. Large food scraps, along with fat, oils and grease should be collected and disposed of with the solid waste or composted when possible, and not dumped down the drain.

• Keep your drains clean – once a month mix one scoop (one Tbsp.) of *Eco Ethic Septic Treatment* in a ½ litre of warm water and pour down each of your drains at bed time. Note- Eco Ethic Septic Treatment can be purchased locally at Organic Times in Minden and Northern Expressions in Haliburton

• Use a non-toxic alternative to open a drain – pour 1/2 cup salt and 1/2 cup baking soda down your clogged drain. Then pour 6 cups of boiling water after it. Allow to sit overnight and then flush with hot water.

• Mechanical methods – The most likely spot for a sink drain to clog is about 6 inches below the drain opening in the trap. If a clog occurs, many times the plumbing under a sink can be removed and manually cleaned. In other instances a plunger may also help to clear the obstruction or a drain auger or snake is used to manually remove the material causing the slow or blocked drain. If the blockage isn't near enough to the sink to reach with a snake, look for other places to gain entry to the pipe. There should be clean-out ports that can be unscrewed to gain access to pipes for auguring. If it's a tough hair or scale-type clog, it may be worth it to call in a professional with better equipment to handle those types of blockages.

Adapted by the C.H.A from an article by Sara Heger, Ph.D., who is an engineer, researcher and instructor in the Onsite Sewage Treatment Program in the Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota



Article provided by

Bathing in the Lake

In response to a request by one of our cottagers, Judy Ingram has provided the following article regarding 'Bathing in the Lake'

People mistakenly think that biodegradable soaps are OK to use in the water. "Biodegradable" and "nontoxic" sound appealing. Terms like this may lead us to believe that the contents will break down immediately and harmlessly, causing no damage to the complex ecosystem of plants, fish, bugs, and other tiny aquatic creatures in the lake. Unfortunately, this is not true.

"Biodegradable" means that the soap will break down in the environment, but it glosses over how long that will take, and what sort of effects the process might have in the meantime. And those effects can be quite detrimental: **Phosphorus**, a common ingredient in soaps, is like steroids to aquatic plants and algae, leading to overgrown algal blooms and a sharp drop in the oxygen so vital to lake fauna. Soaps can also break the surface tension of water, further **lowering oxygen levels**. **Surfactants** in soap can be toxic to lake life, especially tiny invertebrates.

According to the EPA, a 30 mL of biodegradable soap needs to be diluted in 600 Litres of water (20,000 times its volume) to be safe for fish. Now imagine all of your neighbours scrubbing down on their docks, and you can see how the health of the lake could be significantly compromised.

An important consideration is that many cottagers draw their water directly from the lake. Would you want to wash your fruits, vegetables and dishes in someone else's bath water? Would you want to shower in it?

Forget the lakeside tradition of soaping up on the dock, and do your clean up in the cottage and let the septic process the "biodegradable" soaps properly and safely.

A Quebec environmental group said it well: "If you wouldn't drink it, keep it out of our lakes and rivers."

Magical Mystery Tours in the Highlands

We are rock hounds getting dirty but we don't care. With spade and hammer we are searching for hidden treasures at the Schickler Mineral Occurrence on the Mumford Road. After a few minutes of digging, a crystal of red apatite reveals itself – a glossy six sided specimen 4 inches in length and 1 inch in diameter - a keeper, to be sure. We are sitting in a trench where apatite was mined in the early 1900's as a source of phosphate for use in fertilizer. The search for more apatite, and calcite, fluorite scapolite continues – it can get addictive. This unique adventure has been designated as an Ontario Signature Experience. The geology of the area makes it a popular destination for mineral collecting for adults and families, beginners and experienced collectors. Haliburton rocks!

Beyond the joys of cottaging and lakeside living there is a world of art, heritage and nature to discover. When you get your needed and deserved fix of sun and relaxation consider stepping out to explore and experience the adventure, art and culinary offerings of this vibrant community we call the Haliburton Highlands.

Our backyard is a vast area of scenic landscapes, natural and cultural wonders, fine folk, warm hospitality, and amazing experiences. Barrie Martin, experience broker and owner/operator of Yours Outdoors, loves to share his passion for and knowledge of the Haliburton Highlands. He works with local individuals, businesses, and organizations to create a wide range of fun and educational experiences that will help you explore your own back yard in all seasons.

"These are not your typical sightseeing tours", says Barrie Martin, "We attempt to engage all of the senses. You will feel, listen, touch, see, and smell the Haliburton Highlands. Foraging, collecting and tasting wild edibles; blowing glass to create a scotch glass, and learning how to ice climb are examples of experiences we offer."

More examples:

- We meet an 18th Century fur trader dressed in full Hudson Bay garb who leads us on snowshoes along a creek to a log cabin - a trading post. Inside we hear the stories of the fur trade, touch an amazing collection of authentic trade artifacts; feast upon a lunch of bannock, baked beans, wild rice, venison sausage and hot buttered rum toddies; and marvel at the smoke and fire of a flintlock rifle.
- The best way to explore the art of the Highlands is on a bicycle. Art is everywhere. We cycle the back roads to visit studios for some quality time with one-of-a-kind artists, explore cool natural and cultural features and art attractions along the way, and treat ourselves to a scrumptious lunch set on a beach, a garden, or historical home. A sag wagon follows us should there be equipment malfunctions or purchased pieces of art to be transported. You can "pedal your arts" on 12, 35, or 65 km routes.

So if you are looking for more, there are many awesome authentic adventures awaiting you beyond your doorstep year round in the Haliburton Highlands.

For more information see www.yoursoutdoors.com or call Barrie at 705-754-3436 or 705-457-7557. For even more experiences visit www.adventurehaliburton.com or www.myhaliburtonhighlands.com

Author Barrie Martin is the creator and operator of [Yours Outdoors](http://www.yoursoutdoors.com)

If you Love Butterflies ---- Give your Rake a rest

Why NOT to rake your leaves! (Because butterflies begin in leaves, as larvae.)

Those brown, dead leaves are the planet's butterfly nursery. They're home to butterfly larvae, microbes and worms. And leaf litter is where many species of [butterflies and moths overwinter as pupae](#). Animals like toads, shrews and salamanders benefit from leaf litter to hide and hunt, too. This fall, let your rake collect only dust.

Can't leave all of your leaves where they fall? Here are a few other ideas:

Mulch leaves in your planter beds

Rake leaves off the lawn and into your planter beds.

Mulch leaves on your lawn

Use your mower to mulch leaves on the lawn and [improve your lawn health](#) by suppressing weeds and fertilizing the soil.

Collect browns to compost

[Composting 101](#) tells us to balance "greens" with "browns." Store leaves in a bin and add them to your backyard composter throughout the winter months.

Craft with leaves

Have children collect their favourite leaves in your yard and throughout the neighbourhood and try your hand at nature weaving. Make a [natural loom](#) or [craftments](#)

Note: DO rake leaves out of sewers and drainage pathways.

More actions you can take to help butterflies

- plant a [butterfly garden](#),
- get your [yard off grass](#),
- sign the [Monarch Manifesto](#)



Articles provided by



Cottage and Seasonal home break-ins are “crimes of opportunity” and thieves will look for easy targets.

Cottages and seasonal homes are most vulnerable to thieves from the week following Thanksgiving to the weeks prior to Victoria Day, especially if the owners are not using them for fall, winter or spring getaways.

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachment would like to assist cottage owners in Haliburton County with some crime prevention tips to keep in mind to help protect your property.

- Watch for suspicious people or activity in your neighbourhood. Have a trusted neighbour keep an eye out while you plan to be away. Do not announce your absence over social media.
- Deter potential criminals. Ensure outside lights work and consider motion sensor lighting.
- Lock doors and windows, even if you're going out for a short time. Install quality locks and a deadbolt on each outside door.
- Prevent break and enters. Keep garage doors and entry doors secured.
- Avoid access by intruders. Lock your vehicles at all times. Remove or secure valuables out of sight, even when in the garage.
- Store bicycles, tools and personal items in garages and sheds.
- Keep all valuables in the home in secure locations. Consider recording serial numbers and taking photos of personal property for documentation purposes.
- Trees, shrubs and fences create hiding spots for criminals. Keep your landscaping groomed and limit privacy fencing.
- If you're going to be away, keep the grass cut or driveway shovelled. Do not let newspapers or mail accumulate.
- Check around your property for objects that could be used to break in to your property and eliminate them as options for would be thieves.
- When closing up the cottage, winterize any vehicles such as boats and all-terrain vehicles (ATV's). Ensure they are covered, locked and the keys are hidden. For motorized snow machines, you can remove the track and hide the keys.

In the unfortunate event that your cottage has been broken into you should call the police as soon as possible and avoid touching anything as the police may be able to find evidence at your property that links to possible suspects.

For more information on how to protect your property please visit www.opp.ca

Be Bear Wise

Don't invite black bears to the cottage.



**BEARS CAN
BE DANGEROUS**

Most human-bear conflicts occur when bears are attracted by smells and rewarded with an easy meal. When bears pick up a scent with their keen noses, they will investigate it – even at your cottage. If bears are rewarded with feasts of bird food, garbage or pet food, they will return as long as the food source is available. It takes all cottagers working together to eliminate these attractants and to stop bear problems. Here are some tips to help avoid these unwanted visitors.

If you would like to report a bear problem, call 1 866 514-2327. In a life-threatening emergency, call 911 or the local police.

What cottagers can do:

- Never leave garbage behind. If you must leave before garbage day, or if you do not have curbside collection, take your garbage with you when you go. Take it to an approved waste disposal site.
- Fill bird feeders only through the winter months.
- Never purposely feed bears (or other wildlife) or try to approach them.
- Put garbage in containers that have tight fitting lids, and only put it out on garbage day, not the night before.
- Store garbage in a bear-resistant container, secure shed or garage. Do not store garbage in plywood boxes, old freezers or vehicles.
- Do not stockpile garbage. Take it to an approved waste disposal site regularly.
- Keep meat scraps in the freezer until garbage day.
- Remove grease and food residue from barbecue grills, including the grease trap, after each use.
- Do not put meat, fish or sweet food (including fruit) in your composter.
- Pick all ripe fruit off trees, and remove vegetables and fallen fruit from the ground.
- Encourage your neighbours to practise Bear Wise habits.
- If you rent your cottage, tell your tenants the importance of being Bear Wise.
- You are responsible for your own personal safety. Take precautions when you are outdoors.

Visit ontario.ca/bearwise for more information on bears:

- What to do if you see or encounter a bear on your property
- How to avoid encounters with black bears while enjoying the outdoors.

ontario.ca/bearwise • 1 866 514-2327 • TTY 1 705 945-7641





Garbage is the number one reason bears are drawn onto properties, followed closely by bird seed, suet and nectar. Whether you are closing the cottage for the season, or just between stays, you can take a few simple precautions to avoid problems with bears and other animals too.

If you would like to report a bear problem, call 1 866 514-2327. In a life-threatening emergency, call 911 or the local police.

Before you leave the cottage.

Before you go:

- Remove your garbage. Take it home or drop it off at an approved waste disposal site on your way out.
- Use a strong disinfectant to eliminate all odours from garbage and recycling containers and lids.
- Never discard cooking grease outside. Instead, place it in a container with a lid, transfer it to a plastic bag and include it with other properly stored garbage.
- Take your barbecue with you when you leave the cottage, or store it in a secure shed. Make sure it is clean.
- Do not leave any food or food scraps outdoors for pets or other wildlife.
- When packing up, remember to remove all the food from the inside of your cottage. A box of pudding or fruit flavoured dessert mix is all it takes to attract a bear.
- Do not leave scented products outside. Even non-food items like suntan lotion, insect repellent, soap and candles attract bears.
- Close and lock all windows and doors.
- If you are away for an extended period of time, have someone you trust check in and look for signs of a bear visitor or break in.

Visit ontario.ca/bearwise for more information on bears:

- What to do if you see or encounter a bear on your property
- How to avoid encounters with black bears while enjoying the outdoors.

Keep Dogs on Leash in Bear Country

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is reminding dog owners to keep their dogs leashed. An unleashed dog is placing itself and its owner at risk in the event of a confrontation with a foraging bear.

Free-running dogs that come across a bear may approach and challenge the larger animal through aggressive barking. While most bears encountering a barking dog will climb a tree or run away, a few larger, more mature animals, or mothers with cubs, could chase the dog to where the canine feels safe – right back to its owner. The bear, in pursuit and focused on the dog, can suddenly find itself confronting the dog's master, feel threatened and react defensively against the person.

A dog on a leash would not be able to approach the bear closely enough to be considered a threat and a confrontation between bear and dog owner could be avoided.

QUICK FACTS:

- If a bear poses an immediate threat to public safety by exhibiting threatening or aggressive behaviour, call 911 or your local police
- For advice on reducing bear attractants, call the ministry's Bear Wise reporting line toll-free at 1-866-514-2327; Hearing Impaired (TTY) 1-705-945-7641. You will be connected directly with a live operator during bear season (April 1-Nov. 30).
- Find out more about [what to do in emergency and non-emergency situations](#).
- Visit ontario.ca/bearwise for more information on bears.

ontario.ca/natural-resources-news

Disponible en français

Staying Safe & Warm: Tips and Information for Woodstove Safety



At this time of the year many of us look forward to being cozy in front of a wood fire. Before that can happen however, it is important to make sure that you protect your family by ensuring that your woodstove is in safe, working order and that you and your family are familiar with woodstove safety.

For your reference, here is a list of some helpful information so that you can be sure that you and your family have a safe and warm winter!

- Have your chimney cleaned at least once a year. Depending on how frequently you use your woodstove (for example, are you using it just on chilly nights at your seasonal cottage or is it being used year-round), it might be a good idea to consider having your chimney cleaned twice a year.
- If you've just purchased your cottage property and do not know when the woodstove was last cleaned, be sure to have a professional come and inspect the chimney before you begin to use it.
- Before starting up that inaugural fire, inspect the woodstove's chimney stack for damage. Harsh winters such as this past one can affect the stability of the chimney which can lead to an unsafe woodstove. Take the time to closely inspect the support straps in order to confirm that the chimney is straight and obstacle-free. Replace any damaged materials and check the cap and screen to ensure that no critters decided to make your chimney their winter home.
- Keep a fully charged **Class A** fire extinguisher on hand and be sure to test all of the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the cottage.
- Go over fire safety rules with your family. Make sure everyone knows where the fire extinguisher is and what to do in case of an uncontrolled fire.
- Use properly dried hardwoods such as maple, beech, ash, hickory, or oak as the fuel for your woodstove's fire.
- Do not use gasoline, charcoal starter fluid, or other flammable liquids to start your fire.
- Don't let ashes build up in your woodstove. A large buildup of ashes can eventually block the air intake from the draft registers and reduce the efficiency of your woodstove.
- For the extra ashes, have a metal container nearby and let them cool completely before disposing of them.
- Store wood and other flammable objects safely away from your wood-burning appliance in order to reduce the risk of fire.

Even if you take all of the above precautions, over time, burning wood leads to the buildup of **Creosote**. Creosote can take the form of a sticky liquid, a flaky, black deposit, or a hard tar-like substance. It is a highly combustible and unsafe material which, if left untended, can lead to a chimney fire. The only line of defense against this byproduct is regular woodstove maintenance and cleaning.

By ensuring that you have your wood burning stove inspected by a **WETT certified professional**, you will gain piece of mind knowing that your woodstove is in optimal working order, is in good structural condition, and that it is burning in a way that complies with WETT standards and therefore does not compromise your and your family's health and safety.

Here's to evenings around a safe and warm crackling fire!

Adapted from an article by Cade Insurance



Article provided by



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Spend a day, a week, a semester or a year.

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705-457-1680 or 866-353-6464 ext. 3
askus@hsad.ca

For information on all our programs:

hsad.ca

**Primary Membership:**

There is one Primary Membership per cottage. Primary Membership includes spouse and children who are still pursuing their education.

Associate Membership:

Associate Memberships are for individuals and families who cottage on Gull Lake but are not the Primary Member. Associate Memberships include spouse and children.

Benefits:

Both Primary and Associate Memberships entitle you to attend all events, receive newsletters and communication, and benefit from having Association volunteers work on your behalf to enhance the enjoyment and health of the lake. Only the Primary Member for your cottage can vote on motions.

Website: GLCA.CA

Contact: info@GLCA.CA

2017 GLCA Membership Renewal Form

Please Print

Cottage Address: _____

Primary Member:

Name (first & last): _____

Spouse (first & last): _____

Cottage Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

2nd Email (optional): _____

Home Address: _____

City, Province/State: _____

Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Associate Member:

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Cottage Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

2nd Email (optional): _____

Home Address: _____

City, Province/State: _____

Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Primary Membership (only one per cottage) \$40 _____

Hard copy of newsletter \$10 _____

Associate Membership (for each Associate membership) \$10 _____

Hard copy of newsletter (for each Associate membership) \$10 _____

Donation (any amount appreciated) \$ _____

Total dues for 1 year \$ _____

*Optional - renew for 2 years (double the 1 year total) \$ _____

Please make out cheque to "GLCA Treasurer"
Mail to 10 Shortland Crescent, Etobicoke, Ontario M9R 2T3