



N e w s l e t t e r



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

President's Message:

Board of Directors

President

Kim Sharpe

Lake Plan

Richard Newman

Treasurer

Nick Evans

Acting Membership

Judy Ingram

Secretary

vacant

Lake Steward

Don Drouillard

Special Events

Carolyn Treadgold

Communications

James Allison

Regatta Commodore

Keith Kennedy

Director at Large

Brian Pinnock

Newsletter Editor

Sue Montgomery

Membership Assistant

Jane Robinson

Website

James Allison
Adam Rumanek

www.glca.ca

Welcome Spring!

Hello GLCA cottagers!

It's that time to start thinking about the summer of 2015! I can't wait for these cooler days to move on to the sun and warmth of the summer. I was up at the cottage over the Easter weekend and noticed grass starting to grow under the snow, birds were singing in the trees and the ice beginning to melt along the edges of the lake..... it was breath-taking.

Along with the excitement of our coming spring, are the exciting activities that happen at the cottage.

Our AGM is back at Kilcoo Camp on Sunday May 17th with registration starting at 11:30. We have heard that the AGM can be boring and too long. This year, our AGM is moving in a very different fashion; the actual meeting portion will be cut to a 30 minutes discussion on the state of the GLCA. Then we are having a more casual "Cottage Opening Social" during which you can mingle with other members, meet new friends and be provided the opportunity to find out more about what is happening on the lake. You will also have the chance to hear from our guest, Paul MacInnes, from the CHA - Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association; <http://www.cohpoa.org>

Take a look at our website at www.glca.ca, we are working to keep it updated and you informed of activities of the GLCA such as the exciting new 2015 photo contest, to which my daughter has decided that, at the age of 8, she is going to "steal the show"! Also, we have incorporated some of the additions our members have requested to the website; such as the Classifieds and Lost and Found tabs. Again, let us know at info@glca.ca what else you would like to find on the website, we continually strive to make this a members' driven reality.

I am constantly reminded of and love the quote from the movie Field of Dreams; "If you build it, they will come"..... we will continue to build.

I hope you will continue to come out, meet your neighbours and other cottagers, participate in the events the GLCA champions and be part of the passion that is Gull Lake.

Look forward to seeing you May 17th!

Kim Sharpe

Treasurer's Report

The Gull Lake Cottagers Association is in good financial shape. Last year we were able to invest in a new website, publish an updated Membership Directory and complete the investment in the creation of the Lake Plan document. In terms of revenue, Primary membership increased by 20 cottagers compared to 2013, donations to the GLCA increased, and we started to collect some advertising revenue from the website and newsletter. Beyond the investments mentioned already, our costs stayed relatively flat. The one exception is water testing which usually costs us \$600 but was conducted as part of the lake plan, and we received a significant amount of work for free.

In 2015, membership revenue will drop by about \$2,300 as primary membership fees were reduced back to \$40 from \$50 (we had already reduced Associate fees in 2014). This will leave us able to run all our programs, make one key investment and end up in the positive by about a thousand or two. Which is about the right range for managing our annual programs.

I received some questions last summer about why the Association is trying to build up our financial reserves over the long run. The answer relates to being able to have some funds to provide an initial response to any significant risk to the lake. Risks might be environmental in nature or relate to large scale potential developments. There is no science as to what is the right number. For those who have experience in legal disputes, it is amazing how fast they can use up your funds. Some cottage associations have no reserves and a few in the Muskokas have a reserve of several hundred thousands dollars. We currently have reserves in the \$20K range and our sense is that, over time, it would be wise to have a contingency reserve of at least \$35K. If we keep doing what we are doing, we will get there over the next 5 to 7 years.

Nick Evans

Membership increasing

by Judy Ingram, Acting Membership Director

Now more than ever, it's easy to become a member or renew your existing membership to the Gull Lake Cottagers Association. Our new website GLCA.ca is easy to use and up to date.

Last year we managed to increase the primary membership from 210 to 232, that's an increase just over 10%. Last year, a lot of time and effort went into creating a database of all the cottagers and residents on Gull Lake. This year we will make use of that information and reach out to as many people as we can, encouraging them to join the GLCA. My plans are to do this as early in the season as possible, so new members can take advantage of the Regatta, and other activities planned throughout the summer.

The Annual General Meeting/Cottage Opening Special has been moved up to the traditional Long Weekend this year, and will have a much more social flair. Please plan to attend and encourage your neighbours to come also. New members are always welcome. I will look forward to meeting you at the Membership table. Please be sure to inform us of any recent ownership changes on your road or anywhere on Gull Lake for that matter, that you know about. I know I'm looking forward to the summer of 2015, it can't come soon enough

Gull Lake Cottagers Association
Statement of Profit and Loss
January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

REVENUE

Membership	\$12,490
Donations to GLCA	\$900
Newsletter	\$230
Merchandise	\$50
Regatta	\$1,920
Advertising	<u>\$350</u>
Total	\$15,940

EXPENSES

Newsletter and Website	\$3,200
Donations to Community	\$550
AGM	\$1,305
Regatta	\$1,500
Lake Plan	\$1,785
Water Testing	\$70
Member Directory	\$470
Association Fees	\$850
Insurance	\$2,000
Office expenses	<u>\$220</u>
Total	\$11,950

Annual General Meeting/ Cottage Opening Social Sunday, May 17th - 11:30 am

by Carolyn Treadgold, Special Events

Back by popular demand, the GLCA Annual General Meeting will be held on the Victoria Day long weekend. Please join us at Kilcoo Camp on Sunday, May 17th at 11:30 am to kick off the start to the cottage season.

The AGM will have a new format this year to include the "Cottage Opening Social"! We will be making the meeting portion about a half hour, which will provide you with more time to socialize, provide input and hear about items that interest you. From 11:30 - 12 noon, you will have a chance to register, pay cottage fees if not already done online, socialize and visit information booths. Tables will be set up to give you information about the following: Summer Events; Lake Plan; Photo Contest; Membership; Septic Information; and hopefully the PanAm Games.

Lunch will be beef on a bun, served at 12 noon. The meeting portion will begin at 12:15 and last approximately a half hour. Information tables will remain open following the formal portion of the meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM/Cottage Opening Social and encourage you to bring a neighbour.

Volunteering on Gull Lake

There are a number of opportunities for people to get involved in a small way or a more substantial way with activities on the Lake. If you are interested in any of these opportunities below please email us at info@glca.ca

Photo Contest Judges Needed

The first annual Gull Lake photo contest is looking for 2 Judges. Responsibilities are to review the entries of the photo contest at the end of the summer and select the winners in each category. Estimated time required 3-4 hours.

High School Students Looking for Volunteer Hours

There are a number of opportunities for high school students to gain their volunteer hours.

1. Manage the new lost and found and classifieds section of the website
2. Help with set up and clean up at the May AGM
3. Work at the membership table during the AGM and/or Regatta
4. Help out at the Regatta e.g. kids races, food, clean up

Organizers for the 2015 Rock Bass Derby

The Rock Bass Derby will be held on Saturday August 9th. Organizers will need to help communicate the event, collect some prizes for the kids, and run the weigh-in on August 9th from 12:30 to 1:30. Larry Murphy, who founded the event, is willing to support the new organizers and has assembled an easy to follow approach to running the event.

Tax Submission of the Gull Lake 2014 Taxes

Looking for someone who is willing to prepare the Gull Lake association tax return. All the accounting has already been completed. Estimated time 6 hours.

Assistant to Lake Steward, Don Drouillard

Don would like to train a few people to do the water sampling that happens a couple of times during the summer. Estimated time 2-3 hours each sampling period.

1. We would also like to begin record keeping on ice on and ice off dates on the Lake. This is important to assess the effects of climate change. If anybody has kept any history in the past ice in and ice out dates, I would appreciate if they could share this information. Also I would request one or more volunteers that live on the Lake to take part in recording this information in the future. If interested in helping please, notify me for further instruction.
2. As discussed on the AGM and as an action item in the Gull Lake Plan. We are requesting serious and experienced Lake Trout Fisherman (summer and/or winter) to report their catches from Gull Lake. It is important that we have regular seasoned Lake Trout Fisherman and not the occasional novice fisherman for the data to be meaningful. David Flowers of 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.
don.drouillard@sympatico.ca

Director GLCA Board, Secretary

The Secretary role is responsible for arranging the meetings that occur each year, developing the agenda, and taking the official notes. The Secretary does have a full vote on the Board. During the summer months the 2-3 meetings are usually held at someone's cottage and are relaxed and fun. There are also 2-3 meetings during the rest of the year at someone's home or by conference call. The role is a 2 year term.

Director GLCA Board, Director at Large

The Director at Large role enables someone to get involved on the board without having to take on any specific responsibilities right away. They are a full member of the board and can get involved in a variety of different areas. Often this role leads to someone deciding to take on one of the other Board roles once they feel comfortable.

Thank you to current volunteers:

Will Rea and Family and Friends who have taken on responsibility for organizing the 2015 Regatta
 Penny Gordon who is going to organize a new social event in 2015 called the Cottage Tour
 Jane Robinson who continues to manage the membership database
 James Allison who will continue to manage the development of the website
 Sue Montgomery for the creation of the spring and fall newsletters
 Lauren Treadgold who will be enhancing the association's use of social media in 2015
 Larry Murphy who started the Rock Bass Derby and will help out this year's organizers
 Bruce McClennan who is Vice Chair of the Executive Committee of the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF)
 Rob Cummins who is on the board of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA)

Judy Ingram, Volunteered as Membership Director**What do you enjoy most about life at the cottage?**

Initially, the cottage was an escape. It was a place to relax, recharge and escape the demands of work and city life. Now cottage life is a destination that can be quiet or full of social fun with fantastic cottage neighbours.

How come you decided to volunteer on the Board?

I retired in February 2013. I promised myself time off, no commitments, no demands, just me time.

Now that I am recharged, I'm ready to help out where I can. The GLCA has a need for someone to focus on Membership, and I have decided that the role would be a good fit for me.

What is one thing you are hoping to accomplish this summer in your role?

There are about 600 cottagers on Gull Lake, and just 235 are current members. My goal is to significantly increase the membership, so that the GLCA represents at least 50% of cottagers on Gull Lake.

Brian Pinnock, Volunteered as Social Events Director**What do you enjoy most about life at the cottage?**

A favorite thing is hard to choose amongst the wonderful setting provided by Gull Lake, but I think it is the feelings that come with the changing season's that I enjoy the most. The promise of spring, opening the cottage (bugs and all!), cruising the shoreline early evening on a calm summer day, and finally with some sadness, yet still invigorating, the feeling that comes with the cool fall winds that remind one of yet another cottage season gone by.

How come you decided to volunteer on the Board?

My choice to get involved happened quickly after attending the last annual meeting. I felt that after enjoying so many things on the lake over the year's, that it was my turn to help out. Having a sense of community on the lake is an important part of it's care and well being, and I think the association plays the lead role in that happening.

What is one thing you are hoping to accomplish this summer in your role? Following Carolyn Treadgold's footsteps will certainly be a tall order, but if overall we can say a year from now, that more people participated and enjoyed the various events and offerings provide by the association, then the year will have been a success.

Summer Social

“Doors Open on Gull Lake”

Tentative date: August 22nd

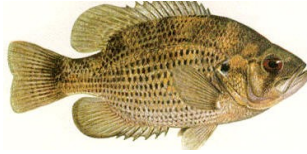
This year we are adding a new twist to the Annual Summer Social, including a cottage tour! Penny Gordon is well into the planning of this event.

The Gull Lake community is opening their doors for you to visit a few of the intriguing and charming cottages “or perhaps some with historical significance!”

If you are interested in adding your place to the cottage tour, please email the GLCA at info@glca.ca. Following the cottage tour, we will establish a meeting place for our annual summer cocktail hour(s). Please watch the GLCA website for details as the plans for this great event unfold.



Annual Rock Bass Derby



Last summer the GLCA had their second annual Rock Bass Derby on Gull Lake. On August 9 eighteen young anglers competed to bring in the highest weight of rock bass and all were awarded with prizes. In the top three spots, winners were Nolan Kennedy in first place, Ryann and Bryson Kilburn were in second place followed by Loren and Sarah Casey tied with Grant Ward for third place. Many thanks to Russ and Dottie Wunker for letting us use their beautiful facilities at Miners' Bay Lodge. Additional thanks goes out to all of the volunteers and sponsors that made this event possible. Sponsors included Minden Bait and Tackle, Canadian Tire, Kawartha Dairy Company, Miners' Bay Lodge, the GLCA and many cottagers on Gull Lake.

This summer we are looking for an individual or a couple of individuals who are willing to volunteer to run this fun one day event. We have summarized what needs to be done and will definitely support whomever is willing to take it on. Essentially the organizers need to source some prizes for the kids and run the weigh in for two hours on Saturday, August 8th. Please contact us at info@glca.ca if you are willing to be involved in any way.

By Larry Murphy



2015 Rock Bass Derby
Children 15 and Under

Saturday August 8th
12:30 pm Weigh-In
Miners' Bay Lodge



Rock Bass Derby

The Gull Lake Cottagers Association had their second annual rock bass derby that again took place at Miners' Bay Lodge on Aug 9th. There were lots of smiling faces and prizes at this great family event. A special thank you goes out to all of the sponsors, volunteers and families that supported the event. Sponsors included Miners' Bay Lodge, Minden Bait and Tackle, Canadian Tire, Kawartha Dairy Company and the GLCA. Submitted by Larry Murphy

Gull Lake Association 2015 PHOTO CONTEST

Submit your best pictures taken in 2015 for our 1st Annual Gull Lake Association Photo Contest!

The Four Categories are:

1. ACTION



2. LANDSCAPE AND NATURE



3. LIFE AT THE COTTAGE



4. PHOTOS by KIDS (under the age of 16)

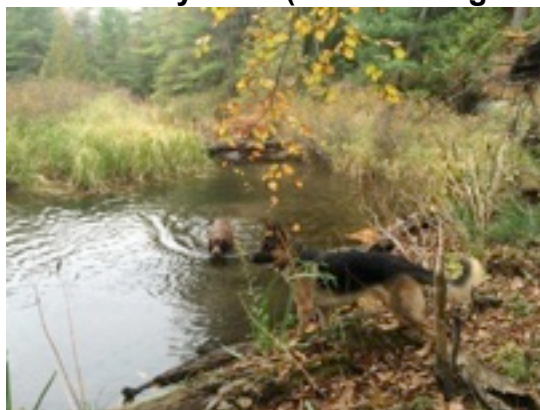


Photo by Lyndsie Sharpe of Rackety Falls

Enter by emailing the pictures to info@GLCA.CA by Labour Day Monday. No more than 5 pictures can be submitted by any individual. With each picture identify which category (Action, Cottage Life, Landscape and Nature, Photo's by Kids) and one sentence describing why you love the picture.

One Winner in each category will receive \$25 prize and their picture will be submitted to the Cottage Life National photo contest. Any photography enthusiasts who are willing to be judges please contact Nick at nickevans@rogers.com

By submitting your picture for the contest you are also giving the Gull Lake Association permission to display it on the Association website GLCA.ca.

University of Toronto - Survey Camp (History)

By J. W. MELSON, LECTURER IN SURVEYING
From the January, 1922 University of Toronto Monthly

In this camp our students in Civil and Mining Engineering get their Third Year field work in Surveying for six weeks and a month respectively. The Haliburton division of the Grand Trunk Railway from Lindsay north is the recognized route into this country but the old canoe route is still the choice of some students who prefer that means of travel and also wish to have their canoes by them during the stay in camp.

Students in Civil Engineering are re- requested to report at Gelert on the Railway on August 20, whence to travel by , stage eight miles to Minden on the Gull River and then, in a scow towed by a steamboat, five miles down the river and around the shore of Gull Lake to the University Camp. Students in Mining Engineering are expected to do likewise on September first; all to remain in camp till the fall term opens in Toronto.

As recently as 1919 all the Surveying Field Work was done i.e., what could be done was attempted in the University Grounds at Toronto, but as this had always seemed but a weak imitation of what practical Surveying should be, it was resolved by the staff in Surveying that a camp should be located somewhere in the country far from the inconveniences of the crowded city where the engineer behind the telescope could be given a chance to open out and use the instrument as it was intended it should be used and not tie it down to toy railway lines and imaginary power sites. But the trouble was not all with the river-less bridge-building, the quantity of the work was affected as much as the quality. Could a student be expected to produce results with eighty per cent, of his time-table taken up with other studies and his chances for slipping down town of an afternoon so easy? And, moreover, with co-education in full swing, why is a telescope anyway, and is it reasonable that a steel tape should always lie flat on the side-walk?

The outcome of all this was a scouring of the North Country by Professor L. B. Stewart and Mr Banting in search of a territory where many varieties of survey work could best be conducted. An eighty- acre lot was purchased on the north shore of Gull Lake in Haliburton between the points where the Gull River glides in and where Rackety Creek lowers its foaming waters, a hundred feet in 400 yards, from the Bob Lakes.

But all is not taken seriously at camp and the student is not overburdened with toil. After 5 o'clock he indulges himself in all the varieties of amusement that offer. Generally it is a swim and dive first. At the diving ladder on the point, all heights from two feet to eighteen can be taken into fifteen feet of water and within a few feet of the shore at that. Eating is not one of the least interesting pastimes to which the boys are given. The one and only call is invariably followed by a stampede. After supper the evening may be spent at baseball on the clearing in the middle of the lot, for this place is an abandoned farm, or in punt-racing, providing the season is early and the days long. Should the evening be dark, then roll a few logs together and tune the cigar-box banjo. This said banjo is not such a musical horror as might be supposed, especially when the full chorus tries to drown it out. In fact, on a still evening the effect of the bon-fire and the chorus is very pleasing.

When the above pleasures fail to draw the man, then he may be certain to find just the proper weight of fiction or animal story in the Gull Lake Branch of the University Library consisting of some hundred books. What a homelike place is that bunk-house with its eighty beds! Here are boys playing cards, there is a group known as the "Calculi" grinding for a supplemental, and everywhere else are the individuals each in his own setting of undress comfort.

The drinking water is taken from a spring on the grounds. A pumping station supplies the buildings with water. Besides the main building, bunk house, and dining-room-kitchen, there is the staff cottage, containing offices for the faculty which consists of Professors Treadgold and Crerar, and Messrs. Banting and Melson. Underneath the staff building is the photographic dark room where the Camera Survey pictures are finished and where students are given every encouragement in amateur work, being supplied with the necessary equipment and having at their disposal a film-tank developer.

"Well Spike Old Horse, we did that Lake in about half the time it took us coming up."

"Quite right Mel" I'm a new woman since I came to this place."

"How do your account for it?"

"I'll say it's partly the piney breezes, partly the thousand feet up, and partly the grub. But oh, that steady outdoor exercise, and that good fellowship around the camp fire!"

So ends the Gull Lake season and at the same time so begins the life-long season of friendship.

The University of Toronto was the bond to Gull Lake that ultimately created the Gull Lake Cottage Association we enjoy today.





University of Toronto - Survey Camp (Current)

I have been in contact with the university people who are planning the redevelopment of the camp. Actually, everything really looks quite wonderful. We have been concerned for some time that the camp would get sold to a developer and condos be put in, as has happened so much on Kashagawigamog. That seems to be the way of the world in so many situations these days. However, we are thrilled that the university wishes to improve the camp. The camp would be used year round, which actually pleases us as it would mean year-round custodial residence. And with the way the students are these days, they don't have time to be as rowdy as I remember some years in the past (LOL!), because the time limit of camp is so intense. And with residential development, we could be facing a whole lot of boats in the bay, which would be horrendous, not only from our standpoint as cottagers, but also from the standpoint of the dozens of nature creatures who rely on the bay for their nests etc. So maintaining the camp would be terrific for us. The U of T people are talking about creating nature trails and, of course, enhancing all of the buildings. Since there is a huge environmental department at U of T, they are very concerned about such issues, which is also comforting.

Families at our end of the lake certainly seem to stick around for a long time. Isn't it great!!!

Sincerely,
Bill Treadgold

**WANTED:
FAMILY DOCTORS
IN KINMOUNT
705-488-2646**

**A rewarding opportunity
Professionally, financially,
lifestyle**

Helping Hands - Reliable Help For You & Benefits to our Community

George and Audrey were so excited! George was retiring and finally they could move full time to their cottage in Highlands. There was a lot of work that needed to turn their vacation spot into a year 'round home, and both were eager to get started.

They were happily moved and full into renovations when disaster struck. George fell, seriously hurting his back. With help from a neighbor Audrey got George home from hospital but it was clear that he would not be doing anything strenuous for a few months. George gritted his teeth as he thought about all the work to be done: insulation added, the floors redone, windows replaced, not to mention the outside work! Of immediate concern was how to get the couch and sofa bed from the garage to the house by the time their daughter came on Saturday with Andrea, their 3 year old grandchild! Heads were spinning. They had no idea who to call, but then chance intervened.

That afternoon, Audrey was walking their dog, Bailey, past a house and it was sporting a lovely new porch. A woman was outside and a conversation ensued. Audrey asked who had built that lovely porch. "Oh, I hired Need a Hand," the woman replied, "They did an amazing job and to my delight they had great rates! And I was really pleased that Need a Hand is a social enterprise of SIRCH Community Services, so my money also goes to support other programs needed in the community."

George called that same afternoon and two workers from the SIRCH Need a Hand program came the next day to move the furniture. They also helped tidy up outside so it would be safe for their granddaughter. Over the next few months, Need a Hand workers helped put their docks in and finished the renovations. Audrey supervised clearing out the garage, and was delighted when they took a load of items to the Thrift Warehouse (keeping them out of the landfill). "I call them for all sorts of things," George confided to his neighbour, "They cleaned out my eaves last week and cut some trees. We always get quality work done by friendly people at a reasonable cost. I've booked them to come and check on our house when we're away next winter – having Need a Hand available has given us peace of mind."

George's back improved and then, after a few months, he was back in fighting form once again. As time went by, George and Audrey found that having Need a Hand took the load off of the "job jar" and left them more time to do the things they love to do. Today they are enjoying retirement to the fullest, and as George likes to say "when I need a hand, they're as close as my phone."

All workers are WSIB covered and have had a police check. If you "Need a Hand" call: 705-457-1742. Or email info@sirch.on.ca www.sirch.on.ca



Article provided by

www.cohpoa.org

Trumpeter Swans return to Gull Lake

Every spring the swans stop in the open water at the mouth of the Gull River - a beautiful sight to see! The numbers seem to be increasing each year. A few years ago, there was only 2 and last week I saw 8. Don Drouillard



TUNDRA SWANS (*Cygnus columbianus*) Spring Visitors to Southern Ontario

Tundra Swans are the most widespread and numerous species of swan in North America and there are two distinct populations of these birds. One is the Eastern population and the other, the Western population.

It is the Eastern Population only that travels through Southern Ontario, as they make their Spring migration between their Atlantic coast wintering areas and arctic coastline breeding grounds.

These birds spend their winters in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, USA, and up to 60,000 of them fly through this area in spring.

The Tundra Swan (formerly named the Whistling Swan) is identifiable by its black beak and has a small patch of yellow close to the eye.

Mute Swans have an orange and black beak, and the Trumpeter Swan has a completely black beak.

The male Swan is known as a "Cob" and the female is known as a "Pen" and it is said that these birds mate for life.

The Tundra Swan is the smallest of the three species.

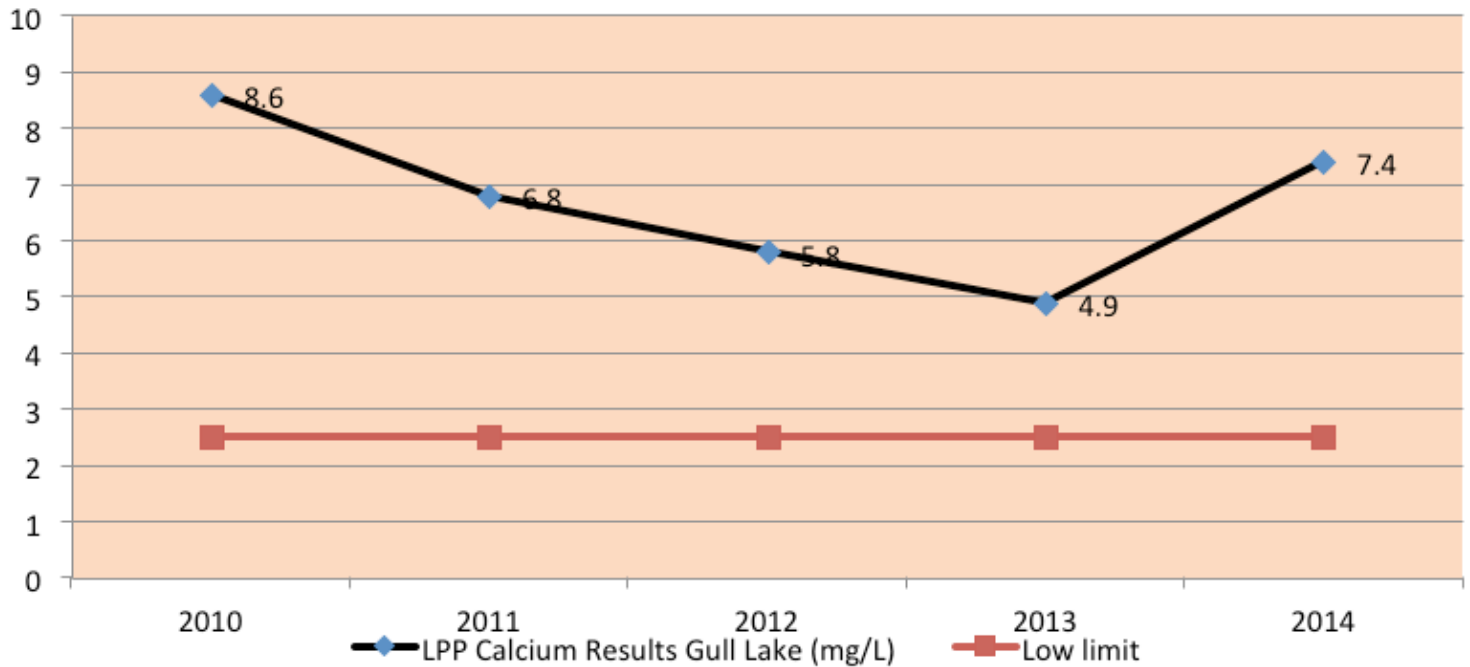


Report On Calcium & Phosphorus Levels

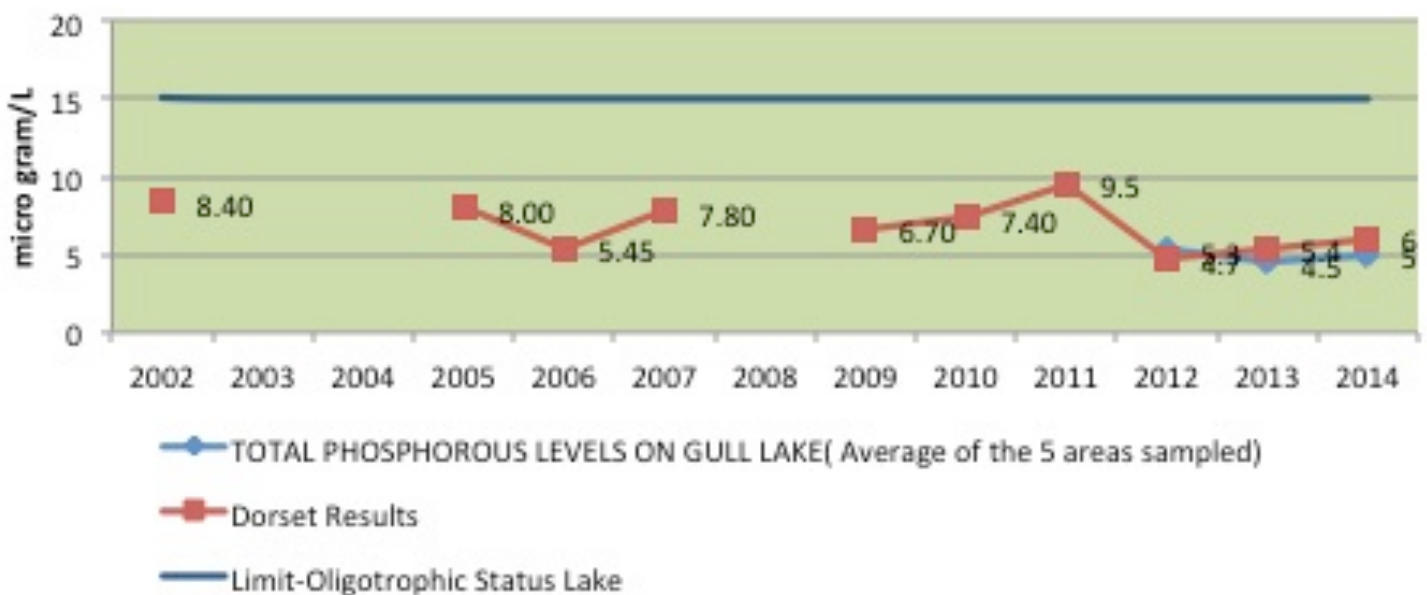
As mentioned in the Fall News Letter, we had requested additional analysis on Mid Lake Sample Location (LPP - Lake Partners Plan sample point) due to an alarming decline in Calcium results over recent years. Unfortunately there was a misunderstanding and only one calcium analysis was done on the four samples submitted. The result was showing a return to expected results. Dorset has agreed to do additional analysis in 2015.

Dorset did however complete total phosphorus analysis on the additional samples sent. These results are in agreement with past trends and expected results. Total Phosphorus results continue to be very low and the trend line is very much as expected. (not a concern at this time).

LPP CALCIUM LEVELS ON GULL LAKE

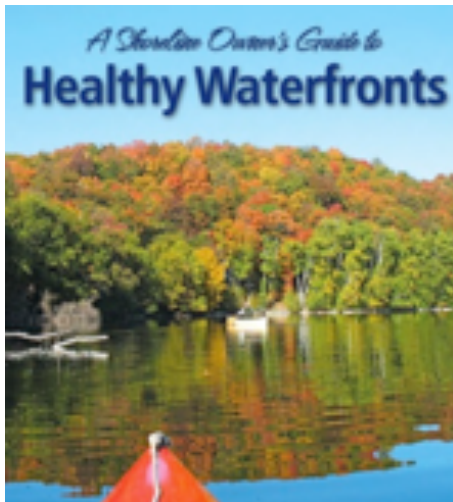


TOTAL PHOSPHORUS (Average of the 5 areas sampled)



Additional LPP Total Phosphorus Results (mid-lake – off-shore Rackety Creek)

LAKE_NAME	STN	Site ID	Lat	Long	Site Description	Date	TP1 (ug/L)	TP2 (ug/L)	Average TP1 and TP2 (ug/L)
GULL LAKE	1790	5	445202		784601NW Basin-Rackety Crk	30-Jun-14	7.4	7.4	7.4
GULL LAKE	1790	5	445202		784601NW Basin-Rackety Crk	31-Jul-14	6.2	4.6	5.4
GULL LAKE	1790	5	445202		784601NW Basin-Rackety Crk	23-Aug-14	5.2	5.0	5.1
GULL LAKE	1790	5	445202		784601NW Basin-Rackety Crk	07-Sep-14	5.6	6.2	5.9
Seasonal Average									5.95

Shore Line Restoration

Please open <http://foca.on.ca/shoreline-owners-guide-to-healthy-waterfronts-2011-edition/> to view a FOCA document on shore line restoration.

Shore line restoration is one of the main action items to improve or maintain a healthy lake. There is lots of useful information contained within. More information will accompany each newsletter.

Plant Native Species Dog Wood for shoreline restoration:

Dog Wood is a very common native shoreline plant that can easily be used to contribute to the naturalization of your shoreline. There is no need to buy it as it is very abundant and can easily be dug up and transplanted. It can be even easier. Many times it can be started from just a cutting and pushed into the ground. Also it can be trimmed if it becomes too tall.

Like most dogwoods, it has opposite leaves and branches.

Note the distinctive shiny red bark. Near the ground it tends to be more green. The coloration appears to be dependent on whether the sun shines on the bark. Where shaded, it is green. In the sun, it is red.



Copyright © Walter Muma
Distinctive shiny red bark.



Copyright © Walter Muma
Flowering in spring.



Copyright © Walter Muma
A Red Osier Dogwood thicket in late fall.



Copyright © Walter Muma
Ripening fruit in the fall.

Will The Call Of The Loon Disappear?

This past September the Canadian Audubon Society released a study predicting that our children and grandchildren may not hear the call of the loon around our lakes.

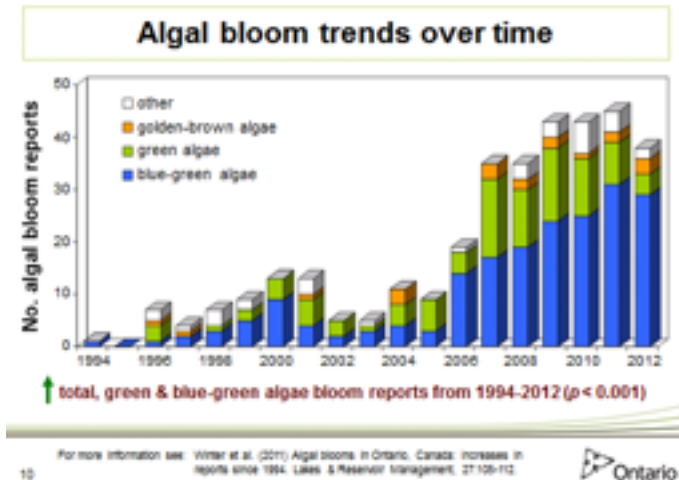
As lakefront owners talk, people with long experience on the lakes tell stories of

- how many more frogs, fish, crayfish etc. there used to be
- how the lake water was so much clearer and
- how algae and weed growth are increasing

Many wonder if the things they take for granted are threatened.

Let's explore one issue – Algae and Blue Green Algae Blooms in order to help us understand how things have changed.

Here is a chart from the MOE showing the rapid increase in Algal Blooms.



We used to think that protecting our lakes from algae and most importantly blue/green algal blooms was simple. If we kept our phosphorous levels below a certain range then we were safe. But over the last few years algae blooms have occurred more and more frequently in lakes that previously were thought to have safe levels of phosphorous. The best lake health scientists are starting to understand that our lakes are being affected by what's called – Multiple Stressors.

What are those stressors and how do they relate to increasing danger of algal blooms?

Decrease in Calcium levels – is leading to fewer Daphnia and less healthy Daphnia in our lakes. These tiny creatures are known as the living lawn mower for their ability to eat algae and thus keep algae levels under control.

Increased invasive species – Example – in Lake Nipissing which used to have the 5th largest fresh water fish population in Canada, the invasion of spiny water fleas has had very serious effects. As these fleas die they use up incredible quantities of oxygen in the lake water. As the oxygen levels drop, the phosphorous that has built up in the sediment on the bottom of the lake (from our septic systems) is released into the water column - increasing algae growth. The fishery in Lake Nipissing is now virtually destroyed.

Increasing Lake Temperatures – due to Climate Change our lakes are 1-2 degrees warmer than they were a decade ago – warmer water holds less oxygen and increases algae growth.

Scientists are looking at many more possible stressors and state that they do not have all the answers they would like to have – more research is needed. *(One scary piece of info is that the Dorset Environmental Science Centre is one of the key places where this research takes place – yet their staff has been cut by almost 2/3 in the last decade)*

So will we continue to hear the call of the loon? – Perhaps it's up to us. For what you can you do to protect your lake please read the companion article to this one – entitled **Practical Lake Protector Tips**

Author Paul MacInnes, Chair of the C.H.A., is a Passionate Lake Protector

Article provided by



www.cohpoa.org

Practical *Lake Protector* Tips

We all care about the health of our lakes but who is looking after lake health? Governments of all stripes are cutting back on the people and programs that used to protect our lakes and give us up to date data on lake health indicators. Lake associations can help fill this void but only if all of us step up individually and become *Lake Protectors*. What can we do to make a difference? The C.H.A. has some of the most knowledgeable lake health scientists in Canada as scientific advisors and we asked them that the question. Based on their advice here are the most powerful steps you can take to protect your lake.

1. **Keep your septic system healthy** – septic systems are the # 1 contributor of phosphorous to our lakes in Haliburton County – the more phosphorous the greater the chance of an algae bloom –
 - a. take 20 minutes and watch “Poop Talk “ at <https://vimeo.com/channels/lakeprotectors/63522168> and then take action by
 - b. Keeping anything that can kill bacteria out of your septic system
 - c. Minimize and spread out the use of water
 - d. Have your system inspected by an inspector who will take the lid off and do a proper physical inspection
 - e. Have your tank pumped every 3-5 years
2. **Re-naturalize your shoreline – natural shorelines deliver incredible benefits**
 - a. Filtering out pollutants such as phosphorous before it gets into the lake
 - b. Providing habitat for all sorts of life that supports healthy loons, frogs, fish etc. Remember 80-90% of all life in your lake depends on natural shorelines
 - c. Learn about the importance of Natural Shorelines by watching the *Ribbon of Life* at <https://vimeo.com/channels/lakeprotectors/90929405>

Keep in mind even a small area with native plants will help. If you have grass to the lake – simply stop cutting all or part of it and nature will re-naturalize the area over time.

3. **Vote for people who care about and will act to protect our lakes - Municipally, Provincially and Federally.**
The last few years have seen major cutbacks at organizations that are responsible for lake health such as The MNR, Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and many more. The C.H.A. has the opportunity to work with many of these organizations and know that the people left are passionate about their jobs and work very hard. They need our support. Let the politicians know that the health of your lake is very important to you.
4. **Support your lake association** – the volunteers who hold positions with our local lake associations are fabulous people who give up much of their personal time to be Lake Protectors. They need your support.
 - a. Volunteer for as little as 1-2 hours a year and help out.
 - b. Stop them on the street or at your AGM and say – thank you – trust me it will mean a lot
 If each of us becomes a *Lake Protector* our children will be able to enjoy some of our favourite things
 - The call of the loon
 - Frogs by the shore
 - Swimming in a clear, clean lake

Author Paul MacInnes, Chair of the C.H.A., is a passionate *Lake Protector*

Calcium

in Ontario's Inland Lakes

Calcium is a nutrient that is required by all living organisms. For example, water fleas (*Daphnia*, Figure 1), which are tiny organisms called zooplankton, are very sensitive to declining calcium levels.

Daphnia use calcium in the water to form their calcium-rich body coverings when they moult.



Figure 1. Image of a calcium-rich *Daphnia*. (Photo credit: Dr. Derek J. Taylor)

Recent experiments by Dr. Norman Yan (York University Professor) and his colleagues have shown that the reproduction of most *Daphnia* species is jeopardized at lake calcium concentrations below 1.5 mg/L. There are many other aquatic animals that need calcium, such as mollusks, clams, amphipods, and crayfish. A literature review by Dr. N. Yan and A. Cairns found that calcium concentrations of 0.5 mg/L and between 1-2.5 mg/L are the survival thresholds for daphniids and crayfish respectively. However, these results are based on laboratory experiments; in nature, where organisms must cope with multiple stressors, limiting calcium concentrations could be higher.

Based on a dataset of 770 lakes in Ontario, approximately 35% currently have calcium levels below 1.5 mg/L. Many lakes on the Precambrian Shield in Ontario are nearing or have recently crossed this important threshold.

Ecosystem Disturbances & Lake Calcium Decline

Under natural conditions (i.e., without human influence), calcium levels in soils are governed by inputs from mineral weathering of rocks and atmospheric deposition of calcium-rich dust, and losses through uptake by growing forests, and leaching to lakes and rivers (Figure 2a).

The two main human causes of calcium decline in soils, and thus in lakes, are acidic deposition ("acid rain") and forest harvesting, which are described below.

Acid rain

The majority of Ontario's lakes are located in the Precambrian Shield region where the bedrock is very hard and resistant to weathering. This is why most Ontario lakes have soft waters that are low in calcium. These low calcium concentrations can make lakes vulnerable to acid rain because they are less able to neutralize or 'buffer' incoming acids.

In the early days of acid rain (early to mid-1900s), calcium was leached from watershed soils into lakes faster than it could be replenished through weathering or through deposition from the atmosphere (e.g., dust). This accelerated leaching of calcium from watershed soils likely led to a period of increased calcium levels in some lakes (Figure 2b).

In recent years, acid deposition rates have fallen, and rain is 50% less acidic now than it was in the 1980s. This means that less calcium is being leached from watershed soils into lakes. In addition, with no or very slow replenishment of calcium to watershed soils, the available pool of calcium has slowly decreased in size. This has resulted in noticeable declines in calcium concentrations in lakes and streams (Figure 2c).

Forest harvesting

Acid rain is not the only stressor affecting calcium levels in Ontario's Precambrian Shield lakes. As mentioned previously, forest growth is one way in which calcium is removed from watershed soils. The removal of timber, and the re-growth of forests following timber harvesting, can further diminish the supply of calcium in soils that is available for export to lakes (Figure 2c).

Climate change

Calcium decline is likely exacerbated by climate change. A recent study examined 29 years of calcium data from three intensively-studied lakes in south-central Ontario and found that calcium decline has worsened with recent warming. Climate change in this region has led to decreased water flow, resulting in less calcium being exported from watersheds to lakes.

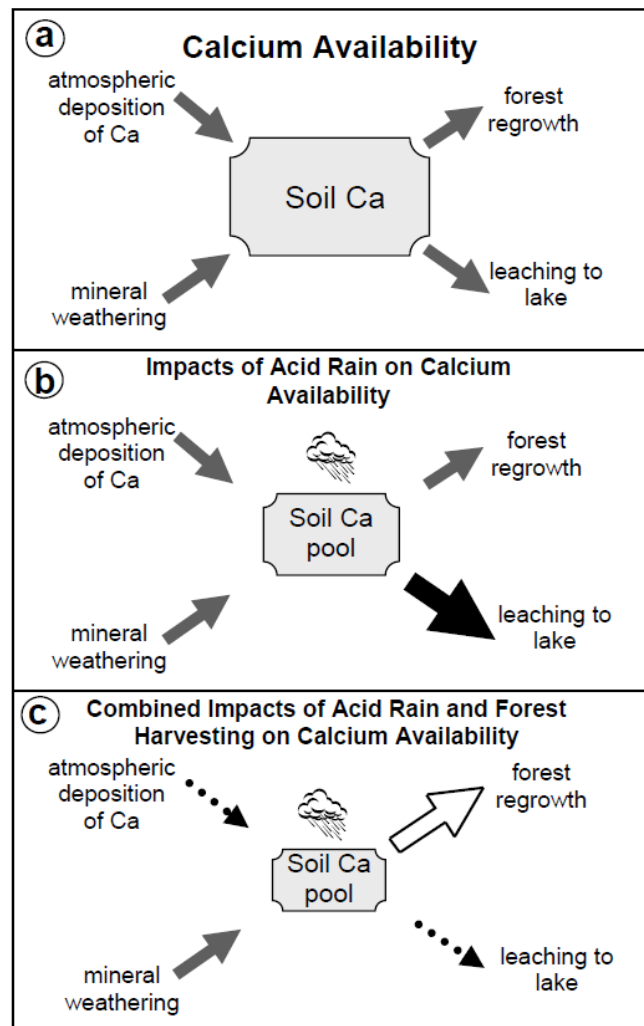
How is the Ministry of the Environment monitoring calcium in Ontario?

- Scientists at the Ministry of the Environment's Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC) have been monitoring calcium levels in south-central Ontario lakes and streams for over 30 years. They have found that calcium concentrations have declined significantly over the period of record in the long-term study lakes.
- Calcium concentrations have been measured from water samples collected by the Ministry's Lake Partner Program volunteers for the past 6 years.
- The DESC is also involved with monitoring lakes for water chemistry (including calcium) throughout the province as part of the Ministry of Natural Resources' Broadscale Monitoring Program.

What can we do to reduce the potential impacts of calcium decline?

Calcium in soils is normally replaced by the weathering of bedrock, which is a slow process. Long-term, sustainable solutions for the calcium decline problem have yet to be developed. Here are some examples of what that we can do to reduce the potential impacts of calcium decline:

1. Support the government's efforts to reduce SO_2 and NO_x emissions to reduce acid deposition rates;
2. Work with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Stewardship Councils to consider soil nutrients, especially calcium status, when they set logging quotas;
3. Join Ontario's Lake Partner Program to help to gather more monitoring data for Ontario's lakes. You can visit www.ontario.ca/lakepartner for more information.



Modified from Smol J.P., 2010. *Freshwater Biology* 55:43-59

Figure 2. (a) Calcium availability prior to human influence. In this undisturbed ecosystem, calcium concentrations remained relatively stable because calcium outputs were balanced by inputs. Specifically, mineral weathering of rocks and atmospheric deposition of calcium-rich dust were the main sources of calcium to soils. The major outputs were forest re-growth and the leaching of calcium to lakes and rivers; (b) the impacts of acid rain on calcium availability. During the early stages of acidic rain (early to mid-twentieth century), the leaching of calcium from watershed soils was accelerated, and the calcium available in soils decreased over time; and (c) the combined effects of acid rain and forest harvesting on calcium availability. Eventually, with continued acid rain, the pool of available calcium in watershed soils was diminished to the point that calcium leaching was greatly reduced. In addition, other disturbances, such as forest harvesting, caused an additional loss of calcium from the ecosystem. As trees re-grow following harvesting, more calcium is removed from the soil for tree growth.



KEEPING OUR PETS SAFE AT THE COTTAGE



It's been a long winter but now it's finally come time to open up the cottage! As exciting as it is to come back up north and get outside, there are a few extra hazards in this area that are important to consider. Here are some of the hazards and ways to avoid them.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS: We often put out mouse bait or traps and antifreeze in our toilets and drains prior to closing up the cottage. Some of the newer generations of bait are very poisonous to our pets. For some dogs and cats, after a long car-ride up north, a drink from the toilet is the first on the list of things to do. Antifreeze is sweet tasting and can cause kidney failure in a dog or cat within hours.

PREVENTION KEY: Take a walk-through the cottage and garages to clear out any potential toxins or hazards for your pet before letting them come and do their own inspection.

SKUNKS AND PORCUPINES: These creatures enjoying the warmer weather and longer daylight are most often found in the bushes early in the morning and later at night. Dogs for some reason can't resist these potentially dangerous critters. A summer of skunk smell or a face-full of porcupine quills can ruin anyone's vacation plans!

PREVENTION KEY: Keep dogs on a leash at dusk and dawn. For porcupine quills, it is best to have these pulled by a vet under sedation so that a thorough examination can be performed, including the top of the mouth and back of the throat. Get quills professionally pulled as soon as possible!

OTHER WILDLIFE: One of the things we love about cottage country is all the wildlife right in our backyard! However, there can be issues when our dogs and wildlife come in contact. Sometimes the wildlife can carry diseases such as Distemper, Rabies and Leptospirosis. Even indoor cats can be at risk if a bat flies into the house.

PREVENTION KEY: Ensure your pets are properly vaccinated for the added risk factors of living in the country.

TICKS: In the county we are more likely to be hiking through brush and long grass, which is exactly the type of environment these eight-legged spider-like monsters like to live in. Once they bite, they can transmit diseases to both you and your pets, most notably Lyme disease. Good to note, disease transmission for most things takes greater than 12 hours.

PREVENTION KEY: There are products, namely K9 Advantix from Bayer, that are excellent products for killing ticks. Good tick prevention is important. As well, it is a very good practice to thoroughly examine your pets daily and remove any ticks immediately since the chances are good they haven't yet transmitted disease. It's also a good practice to check yourself.

BLUE GREEN ALGAE: If the water appears to have a gray or green tinge or has sludge on it, there is a chance this could be Blue Green Algae. This type of algae can produce a deadly toxin with very low survival rates.

PREVENTION KEY: Better safe than sorry - If there is any concern, do not let your pet drink or swim in this water. Report blue green algae outbreaks by calling 416-325-3000 or 1-800-268-6060 & let your lake association know so that they can let everyone on the lake know not to swim in or use the lake water.

FISHING HOOKS: Every year our man's best friend gets stuck hooked on these rather than the scaly amphibians we are aiming for. The smell of fish is very attractive to the dogs and before you know it there's a hook sticking through the mouth.

PREVENTION KEY: Place all rods and hooks well out of reach from the inquiring tongues of dogs. If your dog does get hooked, call the vet immediately and get it dealt with. Be prepared that most dogs will need to be sedated to remove the hook safely.

Author - Dr. Jenn Morrow is the new Owner of the Minden Animal Hospital, Day Camp and Pet Resort

Article provided by



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