

RAVEN LAKE



2023

CONTENT



Spring 2022 Ice Out Update (April 20, '22)
Photo: Peter Wright



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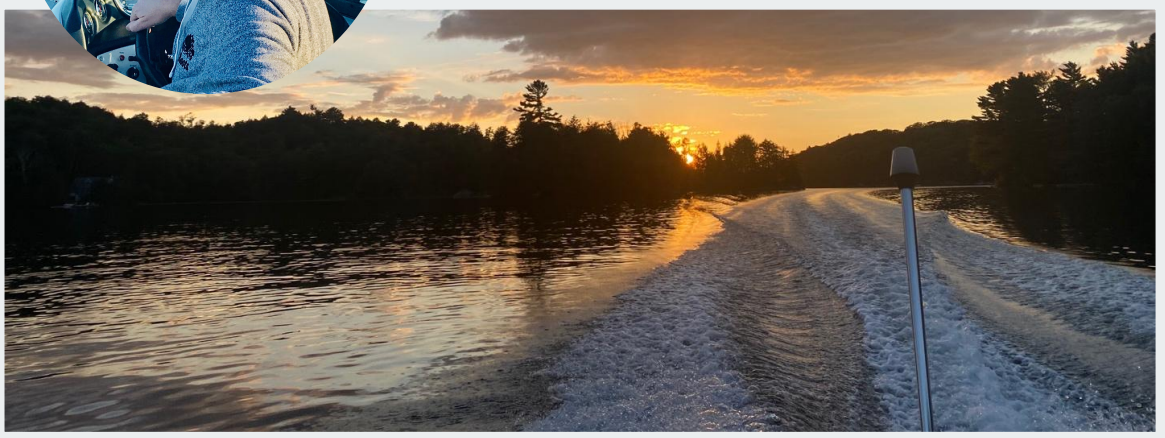
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A huge thank you to the entire Board of Directors, editorial contributors, and all RLCA members past and present, for working together to bring the newsletter together year after year.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Raven Lake Friends and Neighbours,



Here it is mid-March on Raven Lake, the weather has seemed stuck in a battle between winter and spring over the past week, much like it seemingly has all season: a day of warm temps and rain last week followed by a weekend of snow squalls and cold temperatures.

As I am sitting here writing, I am watching icicles drip from the roof and ominous grey snow clouds move in from the west. March break has delivered a welcome extension to the snowmobile season which has made it hard to think about spring and ice-out. But I think like many people I'm officially ready to flip the switch for warmer weather now.

2022 was a year of change for the RLCA, for Raven Lake and for Raven Lake Residents. With the completion of the RLDA docks last summer, the RLCA "landing project" which had been such a focus for the association for more than a decade came to a close, and with it the end to the uncertainty water access residents have felt throughout the project.



We were not yet ready to restart the in-person events like the Regatta and AGM, and we also saw many long-time RLCA board members decide to step down from the board. 2022 also saw the beginning of change.

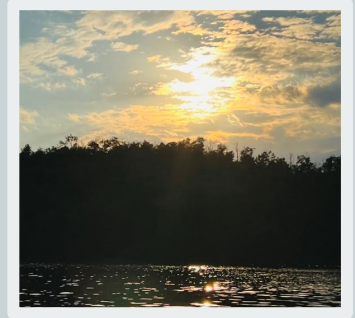
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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The RLCA started the “Ways and Means” committee to focus on good neighbour behaviours at the Landing, several new members joined the RLCA Board bringing new ideas and perspectives to the group, and although we were unable to hold the Regatta many lake residents expressed an interest in restarting the event this summer.



As we get ready for the start of the 2023 cottaging season I see this summer as a “New Beginning” for the RLCA and the Raven Lake community. The RLCA and the RLDA are working together in partnership with the MNR and the Township of Algonquin Highlands to ensure the ongoing summer and winter maintenance of the parking area at the landing.

The Ways and Means committee is expanding its focus to include Good Neighbour behaviour at the Landing and around the lake, taking on topics like safe boating, boat wakes, and being mindful of noise and light use through education and awareness. And the Regatta committee has begun to collect ideas and is looking for volunteers in anticipation of the return of the Raven Lake Regatta on the August long weekend this summer.

The countdown is officially on for the start of the 2023 cottaging season on Raven. The annual RLCA Facebook Ice Out contest is underway, the forecast is looking on the plus side going into the start of April and soon we'll be back to warm days of sitting on the dock and visiting with friends.

I look forward to seeing everyone again soon, both at the lake and virtually.

Sincerely,

**SEAN
HUNGERFORD**
RLCA PRESIDENT



2023 RLCA EVENTS



2023 AGM

Please watch for event details on the RLCA website (ravenlake.org) and the RLCA Facebook Page.



2023 RAVEN LAKE REGATTA! AUGUST 5th, 2023

Inviting all Raven Lakers to the Raven Lake Regatta August 5th 2023.

Join us for a memorable day with your family and friends, full activities such as the classics: nail drive, log saw, canoe race, bake sale (yum), tattoos, and addition of new events.

Helpers greatly appreciated!

Please reach out to Ian Hungerford and/or Amanda Hungerford @ ianhungerford@gmail.com / amandakenins@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

2022-2023 RLCA BOARD MEMBERS

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Cathy Séguin

Greetings Raven Lake cottagers!

Many thanks all members, new and returning, for your 2023 membership payments. We are so appreciative for the early responses to our membership renewal emails that were sent out this winter. The online renewal system has been the choice of many of you – thank you. The strength of our Association and our ability to work on your behalf are reflections of your support.

If you are already a member of the RLCA, we thank you for your ongoing support. Membership is open to all residents of Raven Lake. For those of you who are not yet members, we encourage you to join us.

Why Join?

Here are highlights of what the association does for you and why being a member is a great decision:

FOCA + DISCOUNTS

As a RLCA member you are also a member of FOCA which advocates at the federal, provincial and regional levels on priorities that affect waterfront property owners. FOCA can lobby effectively in a way that we, as a small lake association, would not be able to.

Through FOCA you are entitled to special pricing and discount product offers for Cottage Life Magazine, Boating and Places Magazine, Canadian Canoe Museum and Superior Propane foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits. As well, RLCA is able to obtain liability insurance in a cost-effective way through FOCA's broker, [Cade Associates Insurance Brokers Ltd.](#)

GOVERNING BODY RELATIONSHIPS

Maintain a close relationship with both Lake of Bays and Algonquin Highlands Townships and work with them on many issues

FOCA + CHA

Establish a positive working relationship with various government agencies and property owner associations such as FOCA and CHA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations and Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations); and maintain the regulations that are required of us, as an incorporated Not-For-Profit Organization.

Continued on next page.

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE CONTINUED



MEMBER ADVICE

- Offer an avenue to access other members, their experiences and their networks of contractors.

ANNUAL MEETING

- Conduct an Annual Meeting which provides members with up-to-date information regarding current issues, financial information and association business.

COMMUNICATION

- Maintain a website www.ravenlake.org and a Facebook page.
- Publish a Spring Newsletter focusing on issues affecting property owners.

SOCIAL EVENTS

- Organize social events: Regatta, Corn Roast, Family Fishing Day.

WATER TESTING

- Collect water samples and Secchi-disc readings which are monitored for changes in phosphorus levels and water clarity - key measurements of the health of our lake.

ADAPTABLE & CONNECTED

- Deal with the unexpected - the ability to organize rapidly to speak on behalf of the members ensures that when a strong, unified approach is required, the infrastructure already exists.
- Staying connected also offers all of us a strong communication tool, in a hazardous situation or when damage is done on the lake (eg power outages, micro bursts etc.)

HOW TO RENEW OR JOIN:

Visit the RLCA website www.ravenlake.org and click on the Join Us link in the menu and follow the steps.

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

All members have access to the membership directory online via the RLCA website. It provides a searchable list of all members including phone numbers, email addresses, and home mailing addresses. If you are logged in, you will see a "Membership Directory" link in the main menu. If you aren't logged in, simply click on the icon in the top right corner of the home page (or the big "Membership Directory" button about halfway down the home page) and login with the email address you used to renew your membership as well as your password.

• FLOATING DOCKS
• BUILDING MATERIALS
• HARDWARE

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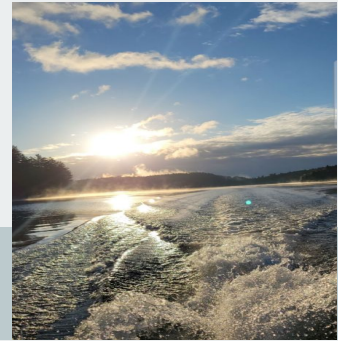
www.dorsetttimbermart.com

WATCH YOUR WAKE

By Harold Wilson

We're pretty good, and we're getting better every year, here on Raven Lake.

Raven Captains now (almost?) always use navigation lights at night, carry lifejackets for every passenger, respect sensitive shorelines and try not to impinge on other Ravens' enjoyment of life on the lake.



360° Boating

Every year brings change. 2022's new docks required us to approach the landing with a whole new sensitivity, from boat traffic patterns to reducing headlight, noise and trash pollution. Most changes were celebrated by area residents, but the Law of Unintended Consequences also highlighted a new area of concern for 2023 and beyond: damaging wave action.

Boat wakes spreading out from behind vessels underway vary in size and intensity, but we seldom think of them when we head out on the lake. As good captains, we look out for oncoming traffic, respect smaller craft and observe right-of-way rules; seldom do we concern ourselves with the impact of our wake on shores, docks and cottagers behind us.

If we are solo in a "tinny" travelling in the middle of the waterways, trailing wakes are largely inconsequential; however, the moment we load the 9.9 with the kids and their bags, those tiny wakes suddenly become heavy. Switch to the big pontoon, I/O or wake&ski boat and they can become titanic. The more water our boat displaces, the more we upset the surface of the lake.

Bigger and heavily-laden boats travelling parallel to shorelines suddenly became an issue last year near the landing. Docking realities relegated many big boats to the outside north and south finger slips; the unintentional consequence of this arrangement was bigger wakes being generated closer to the shorelines and docks of our friends living near the landing. Once that issue surfaced, like concerns were voiced about unintended damage to the "fjord", Sandy Beach and narrow passageways of the lake. Close proximity, parallel headings and ever-increasing boat size have resulted in accelerating erosion rates, banging boats and unsettled swimmers and canoeists.

Captains have traditionally paid close attention to what's in front and on either side of their craft – a 270° awareness if you will;

We really need to become 360° captains who can also manage the impact of trailing boat wakes.



WATCH YOUR WAKE

By Harold Wilson



HOW CAN CAPTAINS DO THIS AND NOT DIVIDE THEIR ATTENTION WHILE AT THE HELM?

Here are a few ideas:

- When possible, bring your boat on plane while at 90° to the shore you are leaving; your planing swells will roll down the lake and dissipate rather than crash onto neighbours' shores. Once on full plane, adjust your helm in the direction of your destination.
- As much as possible, avoid running close to and parallel to shorelines.
- Gradually slowing down as you approach docks and shorelines actually generates very damaging wakes; instead come off plane quickly, wait for your boat to "stall" and level out, and then put it in gear again. You will move as fast as before with no wake at all.
- Rather than overloading your boat and ploughing down the lake once from landing to cottage, try making two trips; you'll probably complete both runs in the same time it takes to make one "all in" run. Two trips will be safer and more enjoyable for everyone, will be more economical and unnecessarily titanic wakes can be avoided.

Yes, Raven Lake captains are good and getting better every year. Let's lead cottage country by being the first 360° boating community.





RAVENS & ROBINSONS

Robinson's and Ravens go hand-in-glove,
always have, always will... Wait! What's that?

ROBINSON'S CLOSED? Say WHAAAAAT?

Imagining summer at the lake without the General Store was, well, unimaginable. For generations of Raven Lakers, Robinson's has been so much more than "just a store". It has been a weekend DIYer's saviour, a meeting place, an introduction service, a family outing and for so many, a 1st job. For young Ravens, Brad & Joanne (along with the "Robinson's Regulars" like the late Ruth Ross) were much more than bosses; they have been teachers and bridges into the working world.



Did "the News" mean goodbye to all those student summer jobs, let alone permanent resident employment? Would it now be off to Huntsville for hardware and groceries? (Not certain the ice cream would make the trip home!) If Robinson's had stayed closed, could this have been the beginning of the end of our favourite, quaint village? Robinson's is the heart of Dorset, that's certain.

The rumour that Brad & Joanne could re-open the store in the spring, thankfully, has come true. They stepped up for their community and found two brothers, Ven & Satya, to run the business. But we must be under no delusions; this second "changing of the guard" in two years will not be a walk in the park for anyone. There will be "start-up hiccups" as the new managers work to get the business up-and-running. It's in all our interest to support, be patient and make certain the "new" Robinson's has the best financial summer ever.



RAVENS & ROBINSONS

Continued...

Even before the General Store good news was announced in late March, past and present Robinson's summer staff and their families were busy hoping to make a difference should Brad & Joanne actually pull the rabbit out of the hat and open the doors once more to the community. Several generations of The General Store's faithful collaborated in this RLCA Newsletter article, hoping their thoughts will inspire all Raven Lakers to help save Robinson's, and with it a great deal of what makes life on the lake so convenient.

Here's what they have to say. While they may speak our thoughts, we all need to give practical help, to put their thoughts into action: Shop locally, or keep filling up the car for multiple trips to Huntsville.



"I spent my last 6 summers working at Robinsons and wouldn't trade that for any other job. Robinsons has given me some of my absolute best friends. A lot of them I still see daily as we all go to Queens University; my current housemate and I met working at Robinsons. We have "Robinsons Weekends" where all the rest come to Kingston to spend crazy time together reminiscing about being back at the cottage.

I couldn't be more thankful for the role that Robinsons played in establishing lifelong friendships, but also for teaching me skills such as leadership, dedication, initiative, collaboration and so much more, all while having fun. Who wouldn't want to work on a lake with their best friends for a summer? I can't thank Willy and Joanne enough for the awesome environment they created and hope all the best for the business moving forward."

JESSLYN
REINGRUBER



RAVENS & ROBINSONS

Continued...

“Growing up on Raven Lake in the summers, Robinsons General Store has always been a staple to me and my family. It would always be a “trip” or an “event” to go into town. Even when I had friends up, I would try to find an excuse to show them the tiny town and cozy general store. I’ve made some pretty spectacular friends up at the cottage and I don’t think we would be as close without Robinsons. My friends started working at the General Store as soon as they could. Meanwhile, being a water access cottage on Raven it was deemed unsafe for me to make the daily commute alone. I was not pleased with this situation and anticipated the time I could join my friends at the store. Joanne hired me to work for a summer while in university and it must’ve been the most enjoyable summer (and job) I’ve ever had. From carving up tenderloins and stocking shelves with the homies, to jumping off the Dorset bridge on lunch, we were always occupied. Working at Robinson’s exposed me to a new community of cottagers on Lake of Bays, Kawagama, and even Otter Lake. A community of friends that I would’ve never met without The Store. I still keep in touch with these new-found friends years later and look forward to seeing them every year when summertime comes around.

Not too many things come to mind before Robinsons General Store when I think of summer cottaging and I hope that doesn’t change any time soon.”

STUART
McGUCKIN



“Going to the cottage means going to Robinson’s - we are there almost every day. From shopping for food, hardware (including many mouse traps), birthday cards, sweat shirts... the list goes on.... I hope someone can re-open the store. It will be a great loss for the cottage community without it. Robinson’s has always been the center of Dorset in my mind, and I have loved going there for about 60 years. It is still as fun now as I remember as a kid.”

PAT LEWIS
ROBINSON



RAVENS & ROBINSONS

Continued...

“The Lewis family on Raven Lake, like everyone else who has ever been there, love Robinson’s. We have been regular customers and big fans for 60 years. We can hardly go a day in the summer without going to town and visiting the amazing Robinson’s General Store. It was voted best general store for a reason. Big huge shopping trips for our large family gatherings or just running in to get a few necessities have always been a fun and very enjoyable part of cottage life. We love the Robinson’s vibe, the wonderful staff and the way they accommodate families - like letting my sister and I split the bill and pay with 2 cards. In addition to food we love their home decor and hardware and they always seem to have what we need. Who needs to go anywhere else when everything you could ever need is at Robinson’s? We miss Brad and the family and sure hope our favourite destination returns as it’s such an important part of cottage life in and around Dorset”.

SANDY LEWIS
FITZGIBBON

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“Robinsons General Store circa 1998- first time job, life skills, friends for life and an appreciation and love for the community and for the village of Dorset. Robinson’s is the heart of the village and owns a piece of mine.”

MEGHAN
WILSON

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RAVENS & ROBINSONS

Continued...

“My sister Danielle and I worked at Robinsons for a combined 9 years! While going to work can often be seen as a chore, the atmosphere of cottage country made going to work fun. Where else can you hang out with your friends all day? Robinsons provided us with our introduction into the workforce. All they asked from us was a good work ethic, and they taught us how to do the rest. When we started, we only knew our Raven Lake friends, but working at Robinsons brought us into a huge community. Suddenly we found ourselves traveling to Lake of Bays for spikeball tournaments and coordinating with friends from Wren Lake as they canoed to Raven, meeting us at the dam to hang out for the afternoon.

We loved seeing all the familiar faces of Raven Lakers who sought us out to help them find the ketchup or point out where the “specials” were in the store. I’m sure anyone who shopped at Robinsons can say that when they needed help, they looked for a familiar face- whether that was having Danielle slice cheese bread for them, Sean Williams getting them a fresh head of broccoli, or Matty Reingruber finding them a part in hardware.

Coming to Robinson’s made leaving the sunny dock a pleasant experience as you got to see the faces of the families who helped catch your boat at the landing, who have helped run the Regatta, Corn Roast, and who towed you back to your cottage that time you ran out of gas. One of our favourite memories of working at Robinsons was the actual process of getting there. There was something fun about doing a massive carpool to work at 6 in the morning. And as water access cottagers, Danielle and I often found ourselves going across the lake as fast as our 9.9 could handle in pouring rain, laughing as we had to change our entire outfit in the parking lot so we looked presentable.

Over our combined 9 years at Robinsons, Danielle and I have worked with at least 15 other Raven Lakers, and we want to continue the tradition of Robinsons being a great employer as well as the store that has everything we cottagers could possibly need. Whether it’s a fruitful and friendly shopping experience or the chance to make lifelong friends while working from the cottage. It’s our hope that future generations of Raven Lakers will have the same great opportunities we have enjoyed at Robinson’s.

ANDREA LUKE



RAVENS & ROBINSONS

Continued...

Well, the “Robinson’s Kids” have had their say. Whether or not their efforts will amount to anything is hard to tell, but one thing is certain: if Ravens don’t shop Robinson’s “big-time” and the store closes once again and probably for good, life at the lake as we know it will change forever.

We’ll see you at The General Store!





Greetings From

Councillor George Anderson

Happy spring everyone!

My name is George Anderson and I am the Councillor for the Ridout Ward within the Township of Lake of Bays. I know your lake well and have paddled its waters and surrounding lakes my entire life. Although many of your properties may be within Algonquin Highlands, we are all neighbours and have a common interest in the lake and the surrounding community.

I am looking forward to the many challenges and opportunities that will arise through being involved with the Lake of Bays Council for these next four years. I have highlighted below a few areas of interest.

DIGITAL

The Township Building Services Department has transitioned to a digital platform called Cloudpermit making the permit application process easier for homeowners, contractors and for the Municipal staff. The Township will, in the future, expand the use of Cloudpermit by digitizing its submission process for planning applications as well as by-law concerns.

POLICY

During this term (commencing in 2024), the community, the Township staff and Council will have the opportunity to update the Lake of Bays Township Official Plan. This is the policy document which describes how land should be used. This important document and the review process will welcome your input. The Township of Lake of Bays has a full compliment of Planning Department personnel with the addition of April Best-Sararas, Director of Planning Services.

PERMITS

UPDATES

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & FACILITIES

The Parks, Open Space and Facilities Strategic Plan was developed in draft form in December 2022. The community and all stakeholders were presented with an opportunity to provide input to this draft until the end of January 2023. The complete Strategic Report will be presented to Council to be discussed and will be used as a general planning guide for the next twenty years.

COMMUNITY HUB PROJECT

The Township of Lake of Bays Council received a report February 2023 from the Lake of Bays Library Board regarding a "Community Hub Project" in Dwight. The Library Board conducted a community survey regarding this idea and submissions supported a Hub concept. The project could include increased library services, community centre, technology, recreation rooms, workshops, music, social and mental health services.

FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT

February 2023 saw the annual Huntsville/Lake of Bays Firefighter Recruitment campaign. There was a great response and the total number of applicants for Lake of Bays is nine.

Councillor George Anderson

Continued from previous page.

HOSPITAL

The development of the two-site hospital project goal is moving closer to reality. This is a long term, high cost project for the District of Muskoka and its Municipalities. The Ministry of Health contributes approximately three-quarters of the project cost. The District and Municipalities, through discussions with Muskoka Algonquin HealthCare (MAHC), will determine the local share funding model. The Muskoka local share will be levied as a special line item on the District tax bill.

PROJECT

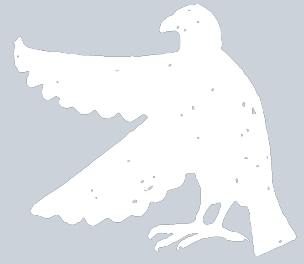
CONTACT

Please reach out to me anytime. I may be contacted by email ganderson@lakeofbays.on.ca or by phone (705) 789 - 6140.

INFO

Cheers,

**GEORGE
&
ANDERSON**



FUN FACT

Scientifically, a raven has 17 primary wing feathers, the big ones at the end of the wing. They are called pinion feathers. A crow has 16.

So, the difference between a raven and a crow is only a matter of a pinion.



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MOSQUITO CONTROL



Much anticipated springtime has arrived. Trilliums bloom, leaf buds swell and burst into green, birds return from their winter retreat—and then the bugs! Blackflies and mosquitoes can wreak havoc on outdoor life, particularly in cottage country.

Some people use mosquito control “fogging” services, or DIY products, to control bugs on their property. Usually these are liquid-based products that are sprayed on targeted, high mosquito-risk areas of the property.

Common products used for fogging are concentrated garlic oil, natural pyrethrin or synthetic pyrethrin, called pyrethroids. Multiple scientific studies show that synthetic pyrethroids, often called chrysanthemum oil making them sound natural, are chemically designed to be more toxic with lower breakdown times and are formulated with synergists increasing potency and compromising the body’s ability to detoxify the pesticide.

FACTS ABOUT PYRETHRIN AND PYRETHROIDS:

- Highly toxic to insects and used to control mosquitoes, fleas, moths, flies and ants;
- Highly toxic to honeybees, butterflies, dragonflies and all arthropods;
- Toxic to bird food supply;
- Highly toxic to fish and aquatic insects;
- Can enter lake water from soil through erosion and drift;
- Low potential to move to groundwater;
- Breaks down quickly in soil and water in the presence of sunlight; but breaks down more slowly in the absence of sunlight;
- Does not dissolve in water and tends to bind to sediment;
- Low toxicity to humans and other mammals;
- Infants, children, the elderly and people with sensitive skin and lung disorders are more vulnerable;
- Direct exposure to skin can cause irritation, numbness and tingling at site of contact;
- Direct exposure to eyes can cause irritation, blurred vision, tearing, itchiness;
- When inhaled, symptoms of irritation of the respiratory system, runny nose, coughing, difficulty breathing.

Adapted from an article by Caroline Konarzewski in the LOBA 2020 Current Connection spring edition newsletter.

MOSQUITO CONTROL



Please consider the following solutions for mosquito control:

- Plant insect repelling plants like **citronella, lavender, garlic, lemon grass, rosemary, basil, catnip, marigolds and petunias** around your property;
- Eliminate any **standing water** (even tiny amounts) to prevent infected mosquitoes from laying their eggs (breeding) in standing water.
- Use **window and door screens** to block mosquitoes from entering your home, cottage or workplace.
- Use **EPA** (Environmental Protection Agency) registered **insect repellents** to prevent getting bitten. EPA-registered means the product works and is safe when you follow the directions.
- Dress in **light-colored clothing, long pants, and long sleeves** and try to avoid areas where mosquitoes are present.
- Keeping in mind that information on toxicity on humans or on other insects such as caddisflies and dragonflies is unknown, **garlic spray** could be considered as it is less harmful than pyrethroids.
- **BTi** is a bacterium found naturally in soils and is harmless to humans, mammals, birds and reptiles and amphibians. Since 1982, it has been used successfully worldwide as a biological pest control agent to combat mosquitoes and black flies.
- For example, the product Mosquito **Dunk®** uses Bti and looks like a small, beige donut which floats on standing water. As the Dunk® slowly dissolves, it releases a bacterium which destroys the gut of black fly and mosquito larvae.

Perhaps it would be best to simply embrace outdoor life in Muskoka—bugs and all. But if you can't stand the mosquitoes, please do your research, ask questions and use products with the least negative impacts on human and environmental health.



RESOURCES:

citybugs.tamu.edu
anapsid.org
fmcprosolutions.com
colinpurrington.com
cdc.gov
npix.orst.edu

GARLIC OIL:

For more information about garlic oil, you can visit:

ecommons.cornell.edu
microbelift.com



Algae Quick Guide

Algae are simple, typically small aquatic organisms. They range in structure from unicellular (a single cell that is microscopic) to multicellular and some form colonies that are visible to the naked eye.

Algae can be found attached to various substrates (as periphyton) or free-floating in lakes and rivers (as phytoplankton).

Algae form the base of most lake food webs and are valuable and critical components of a healthy aquatic environment.

Algae are always present in lakes and rivers. When conditions are favourable, certain populations of algae can increase to levels that result in poor water quality and an algal bloom or scum may form.

Bloom-forming conditions often include:

- sufficiently high levels of nutrients (phosphorus and, to a lesser extent, nitrogen) in the water or sediments
- calm weather
- strong sunlight
- high air & surface water temperatures

You can help Ontario track the incidences of algal blooms!

Please report sightings of algal blooms, especially cyanobacterial blooms, to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) **Public Pollution Reporting Hotline** at:

1-866-663-8477 (MOE-TIPS)

Depending on the type of bloom suspected, MECP staff may collect samples for analysis in the lab. If a cyanobacterial bloom is confirmed, MECP will notify the local Health Unit, who may issue an official water-use warning and will recommend the most appropriate action to take.

Mistaken Identity Algal bloom or something else?



Pollen In the spring and early summer, pollen can collect on the surface of the water in a greenish-yellow hue, looking somewhat similar to blue-green algae. It usually appears dust-like and floats mainly on the surface, but can also form clumps. Over time, the pollen will become water logged and sink from sight.



Duckweed There are several small floating plants, such as duckweed, that can make slow moving water appear bright green. Duckweed is a small (2-5 cm long), disc-like plant with short hair-like roots on the underside. It can form a thick, green blanket on the water surface, looking similar to an algal bloom.

Algal Blooms in Muskoka

There are 3 main types of algae that may potentially bloom in the Muskoka area:
• Filamentous Green Algae • Chrysophytes • Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae)

Filamentous Green Algae

Description: are unicellular or multicellular and may form filaments that range from several millimetres to a metre in length. They can be found free-floating in shallow water on the bottom near shore or attached to submerged objects like rocks. They are typically green in colour, but can vary in shade depending on age and nutrient content. Some species form colonies that appear as cottony clumps, while others form thready, silky, slippery masses that are slimy to the touch.

Blooms: usually occur in the spring after heavy runoff or in the summer following hot spells and may appear as clumps or dense mats that float on or just beneath the surface of the water. Blooms can be a nuisance as they may produce a grassy or unpleasant odour and/or impede recreational activities.

Bloom-forming filamentous green algae commonly found in Muskoka:
Spyrogyra, Zygnema, Mougeotia, Cladophora



Chrysophytes

Description: most are unicellular with a few species forming colonies. They are generally found in low-nutrient lakes and some can move vertically through the water column.

Blooms: usually occur in spring or early summer. Colonial species may form a bloom below the thermocline in stratified lakes and the water may appear cloudy or coloured. Other species may form a yellowish-green bloom in the upper layers of the lake that is highly visible. Blooms may produce taste-and-odour compounds often described as fishy, musty, or earthy.

Bloom-forming chrysophytes commonly found in Muskoka: *Uroglena, Synura*

Photo credit: Andrew Paterson



Cyanobacteria

Description: are actually bacteria, but have features in common with algae. Most are unicellular and often blue-green in colour. Some species can control their buoyancy to move vertically through the water column and position themselves for optimal light and temperature. Some species have the ability to produce toxins, making humans and animals sick if exposed to high concentrations.

Blooms: most commonly occur in late summer and early fall in areas where the water is shallow, slow moving and warm, but may also be present in deeper, cooler water. Blooms typically look like pea soup or spilt paint with a bluish or greenish colour. Fresh blooms often smell like freshly mowed grass, while older blooms may smell like rotting garbage. *Gloeotrichia*, which appears as "fuzzballs" about 2 mm in diameter floating in the water column, may resemble tapioca on the lake surface when blooming.

Bloom-forming cyanobacteria commonly found in Muskoka: *Anabaena, Aphanizomenon, Gloeotrichia*

Photo credit: Alison Lake



* If you suspect a blue-green algae bloom is occurring...

...avoid contact with the water. Do not drink from it, cook with it, shower in it, or swim in it, and keep your pets away.



Muskoka
WATERSHED COUNCIL

www.muskokawatershed.org
www.muskokawaterweb.ca

RAVEN: A LAKE SWIMMING WITH TALENT



Barbara Scott

Barbara Scott, mother of Tim Scott, was a prolific painter, mostly watercolours. She was a regular on the Muskoka Art Tour every fall, where she was one of the founders.

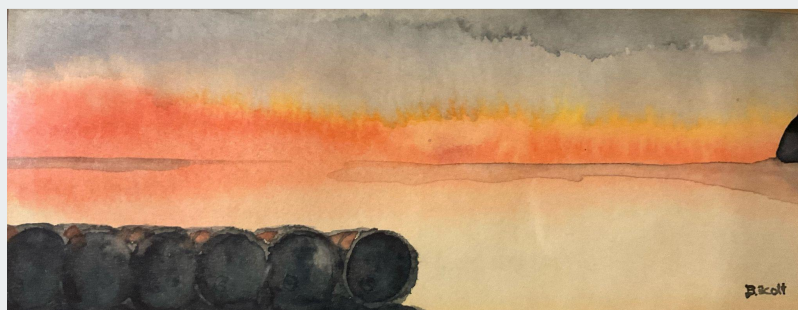
“A Village in Yorkshire, England” was painted by Barb on a visit to England with her husband Peter in the 1960s.

Peter Scott and family lived in Grise Fjord for two years (1962 to '64). Located at the southern tip of Ellesmere Island, Grise Fiord lies 1,160 km north of the Arctic Circle. Grise Fiord is the northernmost civilian settlement in Canada. It is also one of the coldest inhabited places in the world, with an average yearly temperature of -16.5°C .



“A Village in Yorkshire, England”

The sun is down all day from November 1 until February 10 when it first rises for a few minutes. That exciting day in February was captured by Barb in “Sun’s Return, Grise Fjord, Nunavut, 1962” with the ubiquitous fuel drums piled on the beach in the foreground.



“Sun’s Return, Grise Fjord, Nunavut, 1962”

Muskoka Autumn Studio Tour

OPEN HOUSE
September 22 - 23, 1984
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

C.

Barbara Scott’s Art Studio, 340 Mary St. North. See Barbara’s fresh imaginative watercolours. From Gravenhurst town core, turn west off Muskoka Road at Stedman’s. Travel two blocks to Mary St. It is the first house north on the east side. Box 1095, Gravenhurst, POC 1G0. (705) 687-2791.

RAVEN: A LAKE SWIMMING WITH TALENT



Gianna Loader

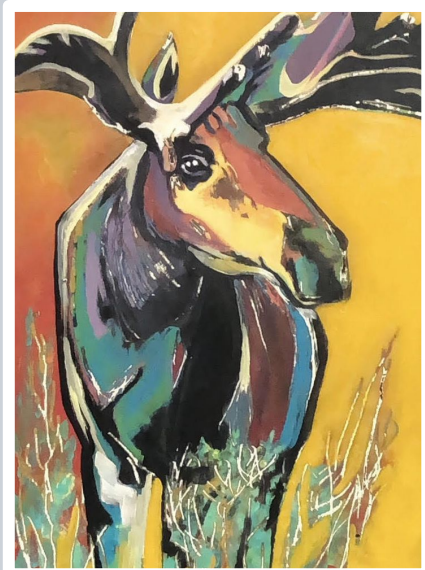
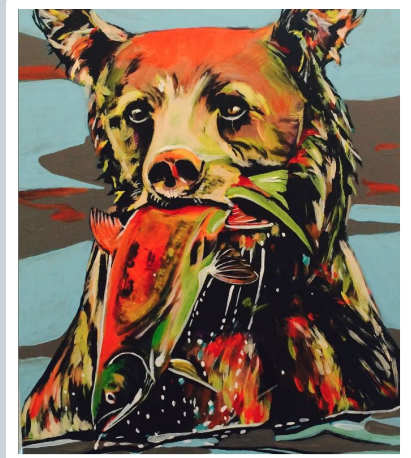
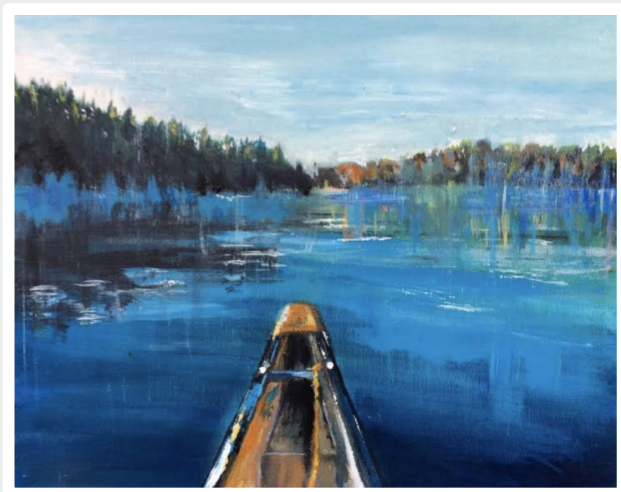


After decades of placing her artistic expressions on hold for career and family, Gianna reignited her journey into the arts in 2010.

Primarily self taught, Gianna loves to explore the beauty of life, nature and animals through her work and does her best to interpret that beauty through colour and composition. Gianna works primarily in acrylics but also enjoys working with other mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolours and oils.

Many of Gianna's paintings, including the attached, have been completed while sitting on her deck at the cottage that she and her husband Gary have owned since 2014. Having recently retired and moved to Huntsville, Gianna can't wait to spend even more time at the cottage sitting on the dock visualizing what her next composition might be.

"Life on Raven is paradise. How can I not be inspired to paint?" she says.



RAVEN: A LAKE SWIMMING WITH TALENT



Tim Campbell

Wildlife and landscape artist Tim Campbell was born in Whitby, Ontario in 1953. Growing up he spent much of his time exploring his rural environment of marshes, creeks, fields and orchards. His love and drive to explore, draw and paint nature was inspired by a book given to him in grade three by his one room country school teacher - "Two Little Savages", a book of American Woodcraft for Boys. He still has and cherishes this well worn book today. His love for wilderness and wildlife was further developed by his yearly trips to the summer camp in the Haliburton Highlands where he honed his woodsmanship and canoeing skills.

Tim received his honors B.A. in Fine Art from the University of Guelf, earning a scholarship for his work. He has participated in numerous art shows and has received awards for his work in several juried exhibitions. His works are also included in numerous private collections.

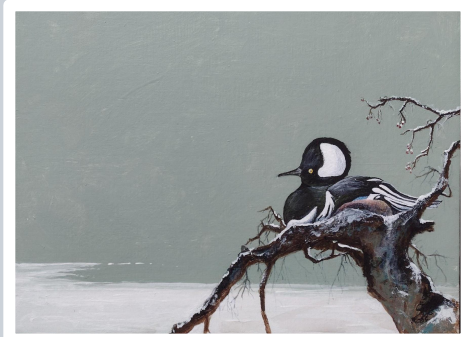
Over the years Tim has had the opportunity to travel and live in all of Canada's Atlantic Provinces. He has also travelled across Canada, canoed in the Canadian Arctic, visited the coastal areas of Alaska and visited the Louisiana Bayou as well as Great Britain and the Caribbean. He also spent much of his time exploring Northern Ontario by canoe capturing ideas for his work. He continues much of his exploring today from his water access summer cottage and studio retreat on Raven Lake, south of Dorset Ontario bordering the Leslie M Frost Natural Resource Centre in the Algonquin Highlands.

Tim works in a variety of mediums, oils, acrylics and watercolours, with works on canvass, board and paper, ranging from very small detailed works to very large fluid pieces. Also a number of his pieces have been reproduced as limited editions signed prints.

Today, Tim lives in Newcastle ON with his wife Lorna and their dogs.

I hope you will enjoy my work, as well as respect and cherish both the beauty of nature and all God's creatures.

Tim Campbell



RAVEN: A LAKE SWIMMING WITH TALENT



Heather de Haan

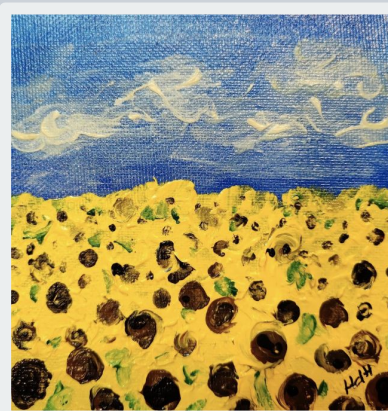


Heather lives in Burlington, Ontario with her inventor husband Darryl and two teens (Seth & Scarlett) and two Golden Retrievers (Charlie & Ginger) who are a constant source of inspiration. They all enjoy spending time relaxing (and painting!) at the family cottage on Raven Lake.

"Since I was a young child creating and designing have been a part of my everyday life. Summers we spent stretched out on the floor of my room, for countless hours, completely immersed in my sketchbooks. As an adult I was involved in the fashion design industry, more recently pivoting into a passion for painting and experiencing creativity in community."

I am currently developing my personal practice as well as facilitating art lessons with Community Living Burlington, offering private instruction and part time drawing & painting instruction at the Oakville Art Society. I enjoy encouraging beginner artists with skills and techniques that help to unlock their creative potential. I believe that the creative process is not defined by perfection, but by exploration, growth mindset, and that "making" is necessary, healing, and soul filling. I enjoy all forms of art, especially painting (mostly acrylics/oils), mixed media and murals/street art. Inspired by nature, fresh colours and the painterly style of impressionist artists I am currently very much a student of art on a journey while discovering my evolving personal artistic style."

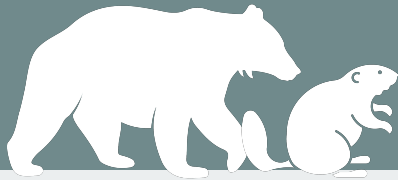
You can read more about Heather and the local artist Collective she founded at creativecollectiveonline.com.





Our Local Gem

CAMP DORSET



Did You Know...

There is a very special 4 star “resort” right here on Raven Lake? Like no other in all of North America? That’s right! Welcome to Camp Dorset!

Lions Camp Dorset, is a non-profit organization that provides outdoor recreational opportunities to people with kidney disease. Patients rely on regular clinical dialysis treatment, through use of a specialised machine, supported by nursing staff. A dialysis machine filters your blood through a dialyzer, also known as an artificial kidney, with built-in safety checks to be sure the process is safe and effective. Some people need treatment weekly or as often as a few times a week. This makes travel, vacations or any time away - alone or with loved ones- virtually impossible for those who rely on this life-saving treatment.

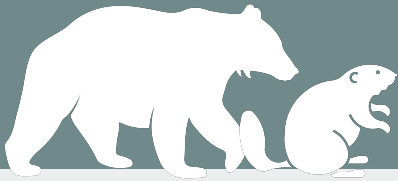
Camp Dorset has been running since 1978, with the first dialysis machine running in a converted school bus in the yard. It's the only family camp of its kind in North America where as a family you can have an actual vacation together and one of your family members can receive (sometimes) lengthy dialysis treatment safely through the week.

More on the interesting camp history can be found at lionscampdorset.com. Founded by the Lions, built on perseverance, maintaining the goal to provide families a unique place to spend time together, create memories while still under medical care. Patients from all over Ontario, mainly the GTA, come for a week with their families to swim, rest, play and enjoy the beautiful outdoor setting and all the natural and recreational offerings.

You may have navigated your vessel through the Deer Lake Narrows, past the cottages and caught a glimpse of happy campers fishing, boating or sunning themselves on the docks on the north east inlet of Deer Lake. You may have stumbled across the camp's facebook page and seen pictures of guests enjoying crafts, campfire smores or drum circles. You can read enthusiastic handwritten journals from families greatly impacted when the opportunity to enjoy a real holiday together is few and far between.

You may be like me, you have sort of been aware of the dialysis camp for many years but never had the opportunity to get to know more about the camp, its importance and it’s rich history. Maybe your road association might have used it for meeting space, or you or someone you know has stayed overnight at one of their cabins during the off season, maybe to attend the Snowball festival that was recently held in Dorset. Or maybe like me, you have occasionally volunteered and saw first hand the specialness of Camp Dorset- in the relaxation in the campers faces, the telling of the latest catch or wildlife they spied, as they experienced camp Dorset for the first time.

Continued on next page.



Our Local Gem

CAMP DORSET



Continued from previous page....

Upon seeing a call out for content in the newsletter, I thought of highlighting the camp as it's such close proximity and yet, like I once was, may not be aware of the magic that happens there all year long. I first connected Krystal and her partner Jeremy last July while inquiring about volunteering at the Lions camp this past summer. Like many of you I have been curious about the camp and was looking for opportunities to connect or give back to community, and let me tell you it was very warmly received.

Jeremy has been the camp manager since 2019, wearing many hats, from maintenance to writing cheques, to day to day operations. During the "off season" on winter, they also work on creating awareness, securing fundraising and advocating to the over 532 Lions clubs in Ontario. They have gained over 200 supporters so far but there is lots more support needed.

DONATIONS NEEDED

When I asked Jeremy about what the greatest needs are, currently the main thing is their new medical centre fundraising campaign. Like all healthcare facilities, the recent pandemic greatly impacted the operations of the camp, and has also impacted the centre. Upon reopening there are new health protocols in place, requiring more square feet per patient. Because of the size of the current health centre, this has reduced their capacity of who can be treated and also greatly impacts the valuable funding received to operate the camp.

A larger, updated medical centre is currently the dream, and there are plans drawn up but the funding needs to follow. You can read more, see the proposed new medical centre plan, and get direct donation information on their website..

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

Aside from donations, there are many other ways you can engage and assist-follow them on facebook.com/friendsofLCD to get updates on what's happening at the camp. Participate in their 50/50 draws. Raven Lakers are always welcome to attend some of the community activities hosted like trivia nights and bingo nights. Keep your eyes open for the upcoming open house (date to be determined at time of writing) and you can tour the property, meet the staff and learn more about this amazing place.

CONTACT INFO

If this has piqued your interest, and you would like to speak to Jeremy and learn more about the camp, inquire about rentals in the off season (Oct-May), volunteer as a family or group or individual for an upcoming work weekend, send some words of encouragement, or volunteer during the family camp season, feel free to send a note to:

manager@lionscampdorset.com

**All Ways
Roofing & Siding INC.**

**Ken Roberston
Owner**

**P: 705.767.3354
ken@allwaysroofing.ca**

www.allwaysroofing.ca

OUR SHORELINE



As we wind down the final weeks of winter and prepare to open up our cottages for another season, I thought it would be a good time to remind everyone about the importance of our shorelines.

The shallow waters along shorelines provide a range of habitats for both aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals. The level of biodiversity is higher along shorelines than most other places inland or out in the lake. This is a sensitive area that needs extra protection and care.

As it happens, we humans like the shoreline as well. We tend to build quite a lot on and around shorelines; docks, boat houses, pump sheds etc. can all take their toll on the flora, fauna and function of these areas. But so do things like the removal of natural rock formations, fallen trees, woody debris, etc. to make way for lawns, beaches and clear views. Where this natural matter collects along the shore, it creates structure and habitat for fish and amphibians and attracts animals that feed on such organisms. It's truly a collision of worlds and a very important part of the ecosystem.

Overall, Raven Lake is blessed with clean water and a healthy shoreline. Because much of the land around the lake is Crown land or Frost Centre lands, about 70% of the shoreline is undeveloped. Even where cottages do exist, for the most part such shorelines are naturalized.

However we must make a conscious effort to keep it that way because human behaviour can – and often does – have major negative consequences to our shorelines. A big part of this is keeping our shorelines as natural as possible in order to retain habitat. The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations provides some great suggestions on how you can accomplish this:

1. Creating a “no-mow” zone near the shoreline and allowing vegetation to re-establish on its own.
2. Planting native trees, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers and/or aquatic plants in the buffer area.
3. Allowing the accumulation of woody debris and rocky formations along shoreline.

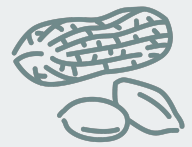
Finally, boat wakes impact shorelines greatly and making a conscious effort to minimize the impact of your wake when boating close to shore, is perhaps the largest daily behaviour change we can make to protect our shorelines.

ADRIAN CAMMAERT

Adrian is taking over the role of Lake Steward. He is relatively new to the lake, purchasing a cottage here in summer 2020 with his wife Jayme and three children (Cal 11, Addie 11 and Thea 8).



A CHIPMUNK NAMED SCARFACE



By Gianna Loader

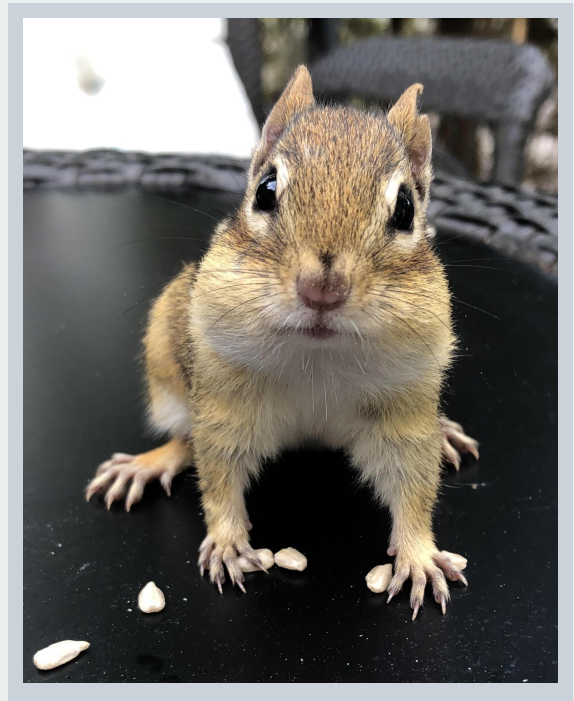
Grief is debilitating. After losing my brother, many did not understand my need to spend time alone at the cottage. I had no answers, only the desire to get away.

Raven Lake is my solitude, my well-being, and the closest I could be to the universe (and to my brother, at the time). No distractions, no expectations, just the sounds of the universe.....oh, and to my surprise, Scarface.

Scarface, as I chose to call him, was a warrior. A chipmunk warrior. A tiny little warrior with a bite out of one ear and a scar across the left side of his cheek (hence the name). If I could understand chipmunk, I'm sure he would have told me of his many battles. If I could speak chipmunk, I would have told him mine.

Scarface was with me everyday for two weeks. Everyday, he'd scurry by me, what seemed like a thousand times, before standing up on his hind legs to give me a "you see me, I'm here, where are my peanuts?" kind of look.

We had an understanding, Scarface and I. I shared my peanuts, almonds and blueberries with him, and in return he gave me companionship and a much-needed distraction from my grief. Where I went, Scarface went. If I heard his cluck cluck in the distance, with a simple call to him by name (yes, by name) he would come. Upon returning from my morning trip to the outhouse each day I'd find him waiting on the back of my Muskoka chair. I talked to him, I laughed with him, and at times I scolded him (when he tried to climb up my wine glass).



I know what you're thinking - Scarface just wanted my peanuts. Yes, I know that Scarface just wanted my peanuts. I know Scarface probably had 500 peanuts stashed in his den at the end of those two weeks. But, there is a part of me that also knows there was more to it than that. This scrappy little warrior was sent to me for a reason. My brother and I shared a love of nature and animals, and just maybe, the universe delivered me a much-needed distraction and a message of strength at the perfect time. Maybe nature had its way of taking me under its wing (...or shall I say, under its tiny little paw). Perhaps Scarface was there for more than just peanuts.

I have a story to tell. A tiny chipmunk named Scarface spent two weeks with me to help me fight through deep grief. Two weeks I'll never forget. If I could speak chipmunk, I would have said "thanks, Scarface". And I'm sure if I could understand chipmunk, he would have said "glad I could help you feel better, now leave a few extra peanuts behind and go back home".

By Nancy Cartmell

COEXISTING WITH NATURE



We are so lucky on Raven Lake to have extensive areas of Crown Land.

While it may seem that there is endless habitat for creatures, and most people think there are altogether too many insects, our cottage properties can potentially disrupt the very aspects of nature that delight us most. There are many ways to minimize our impact that in no way reduce our enjoyment of our property.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS:



Protect our dark skies

for stargazing and to allow nocturnal creatures to make their living. Moths in particular are essential for producing the caterpillars that birds depend on to raise their young, and everyone loves to see fireflies! Switch outdoor lights to yellow-toned bulbs, consider sensor lights or reflective strips instead of spotlights to guide night-time arrivals. Turn off outdoor lighting altogether when possible, and don't jump on the trend to light up your whole cottage.

Reduce shoreline erosion

and provide habitat (but discourage geese!) by maintaining a natural vegetation buffer of native shrubs and plants on shore and leaving native aquatic plants in place wherever you do not require swimming or boat access; even a narrow strip will help. Be aware of your wake, particularly during nesting season. If they are not a hazard, standing dead and fallen trees make especially good habitats.

Remove invasive plants such as periwinkle, ivy, and lily of the valley. They choke out the variety of native plants that wildlife depends on.

Watch the worms!

They are invasive too and actually change the forest composition by eating some seed species and decomposing the leaves too quickly. Do not dump leftover bait and avoid transplanting garden plants from home to cottage.

Continued on next page.



COEXISTING WITH NATURE



Shrink the lawn

for less maintenance and better habitat. Many native plants are excellent groundcover for walking and playing, look great, support pollinators, and provide wildlife with seeds and berries. Even your septic bed can be planted with low prairie grasses and flowers to welcome native bees.

Leave the leaves

to feed the soil, reduce erosion and provide habitat for the full life cycle of moths and butterflies. Even if you like a tidy property (and everyone needs safe paths and steps), is there room on part of it to just let the leaves, needles, and branches rest where they land? If not, perhaps a pile in a corner instead of burning?

Keep our water free of invasives

by following all guidelines for boat cleaning and transportation.

If you have cats or dogs.. they may be hunters. Now if they would only focus on the mice and not the birds..



Migratory birds and their typically very well-hidden nests are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. Tree and vegetation removal or other disturbing activities should be avoided during nesting season, mid-April to late-August.

Large windows and clear deck railings

are beautiful but can be deadly to birds. See flap.org for ideas to reduce bird deaths.

Even one change is a great start and will make a difference

Thank you for doing whatever you can!

If you want to learn more, check out beshore.ca/shore-is-beautiful/ (excellent local resource booklets to download), watersheds.ca, and loveyourlake.ca.



RESPONSIBLE ANGLING ON RAVEN LAKE

BY DEVIN CARTMELL-MARIN

WE ARE ZONE 15

Raven Lake is in Fisheries Management Zone 15 (FMZ15). FMZ15 is part of the Central Bait Management Zone, which means that no baitfish or leaches, alive or dead, may be transported into or out of the zone. Speaking of live bait, worms are a popular bait used on Raven Lake and responsible disposal of unused worms is very important. Most people assume that they can dump out their worms on shore; this is not an acceptable practice as worms are potentially invasive species to the Canadian Shield.

Please either put your worms in the garbage or drown them to ensure they are not introduced to our forests.

The popular sportfish of Raven Lake are both Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass and Lake Trout. Bass season opens on the fourth Saturday in June, the 24th this year, and closes on November 30th. Harvest limits for combined Bass is 6 with a sport license and 2 with a conservation licence. Lake Trout Season is from January 1st to September 30th. Harvest limits for Lake Trout are 2 with a sport licence and 1 with a conservation licence.

2023 SEASON:

BASS : JUNE 24 – NOVEMBER 30

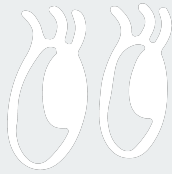
LAKE TROUT: JANUARY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30

Raven Lake also has additional restrictions : no lake trout between 40cm and 55cm may be harvested, and only one line may be used when ice fishing.

When catch and release fishing, a best practice is to use barbless hooks. This makes it easier to remove hooks from the fish and you if you are unlucky enough to hook yourself. Another important practice for successful catch and release is to keep fish out of water for the least amount of time possible. This could mean using a net so the fish can remain in the water for hook removal, then lifted out for a quick photo, then released. On the subject of nets, they must be wet before they are used to land fish so as to not remove the protective coat of slime on fish.

Additional information on fishing can be found at Ontario.ca/fishing.





Raven Lake

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

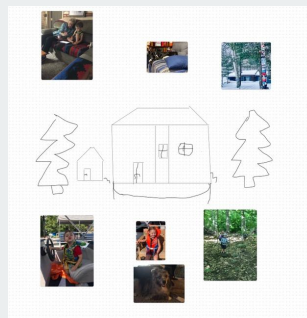
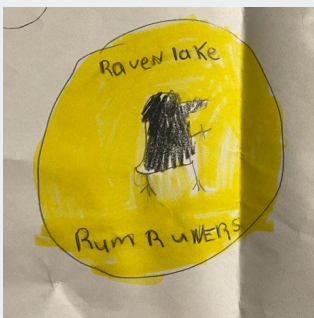
Written by Adelynn Davidson

Hi, my name is Ady and I am 8 years old. My Great Grandma has a cottage on Raven Lake. It is my favourite place to visit and I LOVE to spend as much time as I can here. My little brother Oliver and I always have lots of fun. Some of my favourite things to do are...

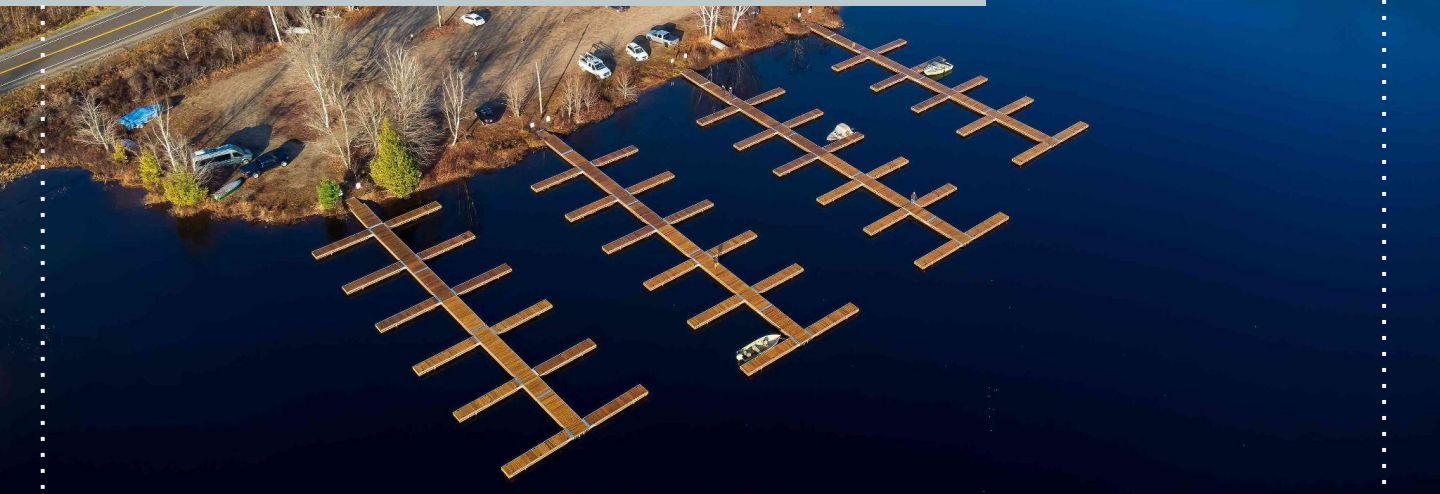
- Making brownies with my great grandma (because they are the best)
- Snowmobiling and playing in the snow
- Going for boat rides
- Swimming and playing on the floating mat
- Hiking and 4 wheeling behind the cottage
- Visiting with my family and friends and all the dogs!!!

I think ANY time of the year is great on Raven Lake and I am always counting the days until my mommy says we are coming back. There are so many fun things to always do here. I am so happy my great grandma and grandpa built this cottage and that we can come up and enjoy it so much.

ADELYNN
DAVIDSON



Miracle on Raven Lake



Is it a miracle? Or merely miraculous?

For those who have worked on it for many, many years, it likely seemed like a miracle to see the new docks go in at Raven Lake Landing.

For the rest of us, the new docks are a remarkable improvement in terms of accessibility, aesthetics, and safety. And for those boat access property owners who had no dock at all, this is simply the right thing for a community that cares for its neighbours and enjoys sharing the beauty of Raven Lake.

The Landing has always been a place to catch up with old friends and meet new neighbours. Now that so many of us have shared interest in the docks, we have one more opportunity to build our sense of connectedness. Quite simply, the 76 slips are able to accommodate many more cottagers than the old stick docks. And, with 4 main “piers”, it will be that much easier to congregate.

The newly incorporated Raven Lake Dock Association (RLDA) is the membership-driven non-profit organization that manages the docks. And it's no small task. Fortunately, we have 13 volunteers from all around the lake sharing the work. Plus, there are many others who helped with the winterization of the docks in the fall, put up snow fence for protection through winter, and opened the docks for the spring. *CONTINUED ->*

Like any new non-profit corporation, there has been a lot to get set up: building permits; insurance; our lease; an accountant, a bookkeeper, and a lawyer; maintenance plans; membership rules and a code of conduct; signage; slip assignments; municipal and provincial relations; a budget; a financial reserve investment plan; annual fees and invoicing systems; member communications; processes for accepting new members; and, all of the little details that I no longer recall

One of the biggest tasks for the board this year has been to collaborate with our lawyer to write the by-laws which will govern the organization for many years to come. In drafting these, there is a lot to consider to ensure that our members' interests are met for the long term. While the board needs the authority to ensure things operate smoothly on an on-going basis, it's also imperative that the members be consulted and have the "final say" (vote) on major decisions. The by-laws were recently approved by the board and will go before the RLDA members for ratification at our Annual General Meeting on June 27th, 2023.

As mentioned above, the RLDA is a big project that will (hopefully) require less work as our processes become established. For now, however, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the 13 members of the Board who have given their time at monthly meetings through the year (and with plenty of work in between) to govern the RLDA over the past year:

RLDA Board of Directors:

Ron Brown, Maintenance Chair

Graham Donald, President

David Groves, Secretary

Sean Hungerford, Past President

Peter Hungerford, Government Relations Chair

Nathan Jarrett, Treasurer

George Kenins, Membership Chair

Ross Lawrence, Director and Past Treasurer

Sean Lawrence, Director

Scott Lewis, Director

Patricia Middleton, Communications Co-Chair

Susan Nyilas, Communications Co-Chair

Corey Tkachuk, Vice President & Legal Chair

I look forward to seeing everyone on the docks this summer and connecting virtually for our AGM in late June.

Best wishes for a safe and warm summer!

GRAHAM DONALD

Graham Donald
President
Raven Lake Dock Association

Blue Frog Water Gardens

Weeds Away * Aeration Systems * Fountains
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BY GEORGE KENINS

THE VIEW FROM

8 KILOMETRE BAY

Lots of things get measured, or at least have numbers attached to them at the cottage. How many feet from the lake can I build? Do you think that skiboat is closer than 100 feet from the shore? (Is he obeying the “Universal Shoreline 10/30 Rule”?) How big a shed can I build without getting a building permit? Do we pay that close attention in the city, do you know your city frontage to within inches, or your acreage to two decimal points like cottagers do?

Apart from the Shoreline Rule, I don't think metric has caught on at the cottage: it's still horsepower, a five gallon gas can, feet and inches. Who buys a 3.78 litre can of paint? Do you know your property frontage or cottage square footage in metric? I do think it's neat that Kilowatts, Kilopascals and the Kelvin temperature scale were named for actual people. Invent your own term for yourself or friends with a “kilo” prefix. A Kilogeorge could be the number of cottage tasks not completed times the speed of a sloth squared. I can show you the math on that one, over 473ml of beer. Even the spelling of the term is subject to interpretation: Mr. Oxford claims that both kilometer and kilometre are acceptable. It's litres in Canada, liters for our American friends.

At the cottage, every number is sacred. Let's try a few more: my pontoon is 21 feet, the runabout is 17, and the tin boat 14. The canoe is 17 as well. In fact, the length is part of its name: Sawyer X17 – don't most boats have their length proudly emblazoned on them? (Do you know the length of your car that precisely?) Of course, engines are a favourite topic for the guys: how do those 150 horses run, is it 2 stroke or 4 stroke? How many cylinders? Do you use 10W30, what octane gas? What vehicle calculates horsepower to the tenth of a steed? The ubiquitous and humble 9.9 outboard motor does. 9.9 horses – what an odd concept; what part of the poor tenth horse is missing? Does Rudolf fly with 7.9 reindeer? Imagine running the 99.9 metres at the Olympics– there's a common metric distance: we don't run the 328.1 foot dash. Franz Schubert didn't complete his “unfinished” symphony, (not his last). That should definitely be his 7.8. He had a few unfinished symphonies – maybe he couldn't figure out the numbering

We were all wrapped up in numbers this past summer: how far out in the water will the new docks go, what is the length of each finger, how much space between the piers? How many times will I whack my neighbour's boat before I get it right? And, of course, how much will they cost?

Unquestionably the winner in the whole measuring thing is the distance-challenged explorer who named Five Mile Bay. I'm not sure how long it is, maybe 2 miles tops? Although it's true that in a canoe on a windy day it can feel like more.

Continued on next page.



BY GEORGE KENINS

THE VIEW FROM

8 KILOMETRE BAY

Some cottagers – it's easy in Five Mile Bay - just refer to their cottage by the fire number. But I'm not sure how the 15th cottage on our bay became number 86 – must have been the Five Mile surveyor at work.

While not measurements, highway numbers are part of everyday conversation: 35 sure is the prettiest highway in Ontario, but 60 takes you into Algonquin Park, 117 needs repaving. Wasn't traffic on the 400 terrible? Even that dinky stretch of Main Street in Dorset has a number. Of course, those who run or bike know the distances exactly: the intersection of 117 and 35 is 5km from the landing, Ox Narrows in the other direction is 13.8. I have discovered that the Home Depot in Huntsville is 7.4km closer than the one in Bracebridge. (Oops – I used metric.)

Even at the ultimate Raven Lake event, the Regatta, measuring and counting can't be avoided: how many swings of the hammer, how many seconds to saw the log, how high the splash? (Or how many of those gorgeous Rona trophies grace your mantle? We are fiercely proud of our four.)

When that forest fire threatened the north shore of Five Mile Bay a few years ago – at about the one mile point, if five is the total, while still in Toronto we had heard about it from cottage neighbours, and could do nothing but wait and contemplate rebuilding. What was irreplaceable at the old place? Only the wall where children's and grandchildren's heights have been recorded for 37 years – more measuring - and Rona's trophies.

Surveys are works of wonder when it comes to measuring, especially when you consider the founder of Dorset Zachary Cole measuring the Bobcaygeon Colonizing Road with lengths of chain. Our back property marker is a milepost on that road – at least 150 years ago, but who is counting?

I found it a bit bizarre when a neighbour asked for a variance to build closer to the shore, the document implied that he was going to build almost to the lake. What actually happened was that the township was measuring the variance from the newer 100 foot setback rather than the previous 66. By the way, in metric Canada, when you buy your shore road allowance from the township, it is in square feet.

There are cute measurements too: a cord of firewood, a baker's dozen, knots, a 2 x 4 that isn't, horses measured in hands, weights in stones, US gallons smaller than Imperial ones.

That's my two cents worth on numbers at the cottage.





Spring 2023 Ice Out (April 16 , 2023)

Congratulations Theresa Gould for winning our Facebook contest!

Photo: Peter Wright



**CHEERS TO ANOTHER YEAR
ENJOYED ON RAVEN LAKE!**

Questions about the RLCA?

Email info@rlda.ca.