

# Duck Lake Cottagers' Association

Website: [sites.google.com/site/ducklakecottagersassoc/](https://sites.google.com/site/ducklakecottagersassoc/)

Hello fellow cottagers!

Welcome to the Fall 2018 edition of our newsletter.

The summer went by quickly and what a great season it was!

Here is a recap of our Association's activities, and plans for the 2019 season.



## Summer Festival July 2018!

A group of 28 cottagers, young and young at heart, met at Tom and Deb's cottage for an afternoon of fun and good food. We welcomed some new faces this year, some who have just bought their cottage and some "old timers". There was badminton, croquet, advanced bubble blowing, and swimming. Harley (Tom & Deb's lab) and Roan Crotty stole the show with a record for the most retrievals of a ball from the lake! We enjoyed a pot luck picnic barbecue at 5 pm. With one highlight being homemade brownies.



Save these dates :

**Saturday July 27, 2019**

**Annual Summerfest . Mark your calendar! Meet your Duck Lake neighbours!**

Saturday July 27, 2 – 7 pm., eat at 5- ish (Rain date July 29, noon -5 ish.)

At Deb Hart and Tom Howell's cottage, Kelsey's Bay by Mud Lake Falls (the one with the trampoline).

Bring: lawn chairs, swimwear, something to grill and a dish to share.

Cold drinks will be supplied. BYOB.

**Sat. Aug. 3, 2019**

**AGM -**

The Annual General Meeting of the DLCA will be on Saturday Aug. 3, 2019, 9 -11 am.

Anyone interested is welcome.

Come find out what the Assoc. does, and bring any topics you want discussed.

### Those Aquatic Invasive Species:

In August, a team of 5 members pulled out 3 boatloads of invasive Reed Canary Grass from Howes Creek. This grass was identified in the 2017 study in a large area near Ron Howes syrup camp, where it was originally planted for cattle fodder. It has spread east down the creek, and so it was vital to start removing it. The large root mats prevent the growth of native aquatic plants, and eventually destroy fish habitat. When the fire ban was lifted, the dried grasses were burned, at Theijsmeijer's fire pit, the best way to destroy them. The small patch east of Marshall's cottage will be pulled next summer. Another removal day will happen in 2019, so please join the removal team when a date is set.



Reminder: Cottage Association Dues now follow the calendar year:

2019 Duck Lake Cottagers' Association dues are due in January!

To pay, etransfer funds to [ducklakecottagers1@gmail.com](mailto:ducklakecottagers1@gmail.com) or send your cheque for \$100.00 to the treasurer -

Tom Howell  
610 Lumberton Cres.  
Mississauga, ON L4Z 3Z6

#### Update on Cell Service:

- Chris Wheeler

We are looking into improving cell service not only for Duck Lake but for Port Loring and surrounding areas. As such, I've been in touch with the chair of the Local Services Board, Debbie Keetch, and I plan on working with her on this project going forward.

If any of you have had any success in creating your own solution to improve cell service please let me know. Also, check out the App "Cell Tower Locator" on your phone or device (if you can) to see the closest cellular towers in our area. You have probably also noticed a tower on the east road which is for fixed DSL internet service. Some of the local residents, in the line of sight with the tower, are taking advantage of this but it's not meant for or tall enough for a good cell signal.

I have obtained information/ websites for other rural/remote areas like "Blue Sky Net" and their connected North program <http://bluesky.net.ca/project.connectednorth/>. Another area that had success getting connected was Lake of Bays in Muskoka, with Rogers. I haven't studied this in depth but I found the Rogers' report online which has plenty of detail. See this link: <https://lakeofbays.civicweb.net/document/20130> As well, there is the Federal Governments' overall program to bring highspeed internet into rural communities <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/119.nsf/eng/home>, be sure to check these sites out for more information.

You can also check out the Duck Lake or the Argyle Community News and Information Facebook pages for posts from Debbie Keetch regarding information she has obtained from SBA Telecommunications regarding the possibility of a new cell tower in our area. We will have more information for the spring newsletter.



## Progress Made on the Upgrade to the Public Dock:

We applied to the MNRF in August to start a several stage process to build 2 new smaller cribs that will eventually have ramps and floating docks, and remove the old crib. Since the cribs are at shoreline and under 15 sq.m. in size, a permit was not needed. However, shoreline work must be done between July 15 and Sept. 15 to avoid damage to spawning fish. MNRF gave us a week extension, and thanks to 3 volunteers, the first crib was built by Sept. 19, beside the old crib. A huge thank you to Paul Cameron who operated his Kubota with amazing skill, and to John Fisk and Tijs Theijmeijer, the skilled builders! Next spring a ramp will be added from shore to crib.

Over winter, we'll send an application to dredge to MNRF, which is required to remove the old crib. If approved, after July 15 Paul will return with his Kubota to spearhead the removal. The ramp and floater will be moved to the new crib. Volunteers will be needed to help, so please watch for a date announcement!

As funds come in, a 2nd crib will be built on the east side, with ramp and floaters. The 17 ft. between the cribs will be graded and graveled to provide a straighter smoother launch.

**Your support and donations are vital to continuing this project. Sincere thanks to those who have given donations already. The crib removal and addition of new docks can only happen as we receive funds from those who use the dock. Currently, the dock upgrade fund is at \$629.25.**

**We will need about \$2000 to add a 2nd floater to the first crib and dock next year, as well as volunteers to build it. Still more funds will be needed to complete the future second dock and grading/graveling.**

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## Cardinal Flowers - a Beautiful Wetland Species

- Claire Theijmeijer

'Lobelia cardinalis' or Cardinal Flower shows its lovely red spike of blooms in late July/ August and grows about 3 - 4 ft. tall. It is usually found along streams or rivers. Around Duck Lake you can see them along Mud Creek, along Sucker Creek, along the upper Pickeral River near Weller Lake, and along the Wolf River. The red bell-like flowers are a favourite with hummingbirds.

Caleb Beck, whose family owns a resort on Lake Memesagamesing, is studying at Dalhousie University and working with Dr. Mark Johnson. "Dr. Johnson is one of a few experts who research Cardinal flower as part of the study of the Lobelia genus worldwide. The plant is found in Columbia, Mexico, the southern U.S., and southeastern Canada. Dr. Johnson had thought that the Cardinal flowers in Algonquin Park were the most northern population."

Caleb contacted Jim Merrick of Commanda Country Gardens "who has collected Cardinal flower seed from the Pickeral River and grown the plant for years".

He also contacted Nature clubs in the area and received "an overwhelming response" pinpointing 18 locations from Mattawa, Temagami, Lake Nipissing, Restoule and more. [continued on page 4](#)



New crib added Sept 19, 2018

## Duck Lake Cottagers' Assoc.

### 2018-2019 Directors:

**President: Claire Theijmeijer**  
[reflect@vaxxine.com](mailto:reflect@vaxxine.com)

**Vice-President: John Fisk**  
[Jrfisk43@gmail.com](mailto:Jrfisk43@gmail.com)

**Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary:**  
**Tom Howell**  
[Tomhowell610@gmail.com](mailto:Tomhowell610@gmail.com)

**Director/Lake Steward:**  
**Allan Crowther**  
[Alcrow3@yahoo.com](mailto:Alcrow3@yahoo.com)

**Director/Social Committee Chair:**  
**Janice Kuntz**  
[jananddale23@gmail.com](mailto:jananddale23@gmail.com)

**Director/Webmaster:**  
**Ken Konkel**  
[iamthinken@gmail.com](mailto:iamthinken@gmail.com)

**Director**  
**Chris Wheeler**  
[cwheeler003@sympatico.ca](mailto:cwheeler003@sympatico.ca)

**Administrative Assistant:**  
**Deborah Hart**  
[debthefroghearted@gmail.com](mailto:debthefroghearted@gmail.com)

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## Cardinal Flowers *continued*

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In July 2017 he canoed the Wolf and Pickeral rivers, and local lakes to add plant locations to Dr. Johnson's study. Caleb spoke about the research at a Horticulture Society meeting last spring. Then Marla Booth and I found more locations of the flowers around Duck Lake, which are now added to the study. Caleb is excited to be helping with greenhouse research on the different Cardinal Flower types. He has found that " the leaf samples from the Wolf River and Lake Memesagmesing have the smallest genome size of any of this plant in the world, about 2/3 that of the plants from Arizona... This may be because of their shorter growing season, so they can produce seeds more quickly". He is also growing seeds that he collected from the northern populations. Caleb asks that you not uproot any Cardinal Flowers because they are small, fragile populations. You can harvest seeds in late August, which are found in small brown fruits near the lower part of the stems.

To report more Cardinal Flower locations to Caleb, email the GPS coordinates to: [ohcalebbeck@gmail.com](mailto:ohcalebbeck@gmail.com) .



Cardinal Flowers

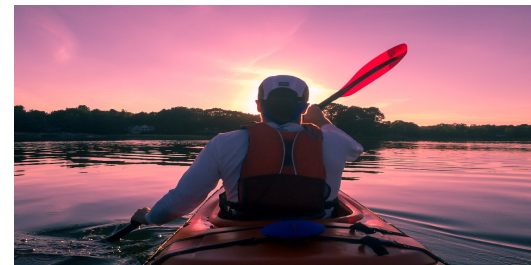
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## Social Corner: - Janice Kuntz

Along with our annual Summer Festival/ Picnic we are looking into the possibility of adding more social events to our calendar. We have had suggestions of:

- group canoe/ kayak or hiking trips around the area guided by seasoned Duck Lake cottagers
- a version of Geocaching around the area
- a photo contest with members entering their pictures from Duck Lake for a prize and /or to create a Duck Lake 2020 calendar
- a dance or karaoke night
- boat-in movie night, ...

Please let us know if you have an interest in any of the above suggestions, and please share your ideas as well, and we will see what we can add going forward.



Please note:  
If you wish to have pictures posted on the DLCA website contact the webmaster, Ken Konkel, at [iamthinken@gmail.com](mailto:iamthinken@gmail.com) .