

# Duck Lake Cottagers' Association

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

## Plans for Stage 3, 2020 of the New Dock and Launch Project

By July 2019, the new ramp and floating dock were completed by volunteers, and with the old ramp and floater attached, there are 44 ft. of docking space available. The old crib was removed with help from Paul Cameron and his Kubota, and some of the good lumber sold or reused. Then Brooks Constr. Assisted by Paul, graded the launch area with new gravel, for easier launching. A new crib was built on the east side of the access. Sincere thanks to Paul and to our other hardworking volunteers: Rick Block, Allan Crowther, Dick Dixon, John Fisk, Ted Gillis, Tom Howell, Ken Konkell, Jeff Pearson, Claire and Tijs Theijsmeyer !

In summer 2020, we plan to build another 8 x 20 ft. floating dock, to attach to the crib on the east side. We already have the floats for the dock, donated by the Fort Erie boat club through Terry Rigsby. The cost is expected to be about \$3000 for the lumber and hardware. Let us know if you can help with construction. We are asking for donations and will fund raise also. We would like to add a 2nd 20 x 8 ft. floater on the east side. Enough floats can be obtained by Terry for this. Lumber and hardware will cost \$2000. When enough money is available, we will complete this project.

Money will continue to be needed for dock and launch maintenance in the future.

Send your donations to: Tom Howell, treasurer, DLCA, 610 Lumberton Cres., Mississauga, ON, L4Z 3Z6. Or by e-transfer to: [ducklakecottagers1@gmail.com](mailto:ducklakecottagers1@gmail.com)



Autumn is here !



## Cottage Watch –

This official program has folded, but we would encourage all cottagers to watch out for strange people or things happening at your neighbours' cottages. You can find contact information for EMS#s in the members only section of the DLCA website to let them know. Also don't hesitate to call the authorities if warranted.



Paul Cameron grades the launch.



Some of the volunteers who built the new dock.

## Fundraising - Our Raffle

We are very grateful to Kathy Crowther for donating her original painting of a Colorado Fun Moose to raise funds for the DLCA. During August we held a raffle online and at the Farmers' market with the painting as 1st prize, a hand painted cottage sign as 2nd prize, and a handmade charcuterie board as 3rd prize.

Congratulations to Sharon Blundell, winner of the painting; to Paul Tiller who won the sign, and to Ruth Willson who won the board! Thanks to everyone who took part in this project. We raised \$320.

Watch for another fundraiser next summer, and you may be a winner!

## - Our Cottage Crafts sales

We would also like to send out a big thank you to all of our crafty association members who donated of their time, talents and items to create the other crafts we sold to raise funds for the dock fund. Craft items donated by members raised over \$500.00 towards the dock fund. Thank you to: Claire and Tijs Theijmeijer, Deborah Hart, Janice Kuntz, Cathy Dixon and Kathy Crowther.

## Reminder - Dues now follow the calendar year !

2020 Duck Lake Cottagers' Association dues are due in January.

To pay: e-transfer your funds to  
ducklakecottagers1@gmail.com  
or send your cheque for \$100.00 to the treasurer -

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

Members will receive their 2020 dock placards (when available) once dues are paid.

## 2020 Summerfest Picnic:

Saturday July 25, 2 – 7 pm., eat at 5- ish (Rain date July 26, noon -5 ish.)  
At Allan & Kathy Crowther's cottage, Duck Lake Road.  
Bring: lawn chairs, swimwear, something to grill and a dish to share.  
Cold drinks will be supplied.  
BYOB.

## 2020 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the DLCA will be on Saturday Aug. 1st, 2020, 9 -11 a.m. @ Arnstein Community Centre.  
Anyone interested is welcome.  
Come find out what the Assoc. does, and bring any topics you want discussed.  
This will be an election year for directors, please consider running for office.



#98964239

## Spawning Pickerel April 2019 - John Fisk

We were dressed with at least five layers, insulated gloves and boots as we headed out across the lake long after sunset. The ice had gone out on the lake the day before. Our destination was a stream that in the summer is little more than a flowing brook. Tonight it was a roaring torrent as the up lands were draining the spring melt. Our goal was to net spawning Yellow Pickerel known in the States as Walleyed Pike.

Our lake located at the headwaters of a forty-mile long chain of lakes, has seen a decline in the numbers of Pickerel caught over the last three decades. Pickerel are a favorite game fish for the tourists who are the primary source of income for this remote region of Near Northern Ontario. Local residents had taken it upon themselves to obtain proper licensing and knowledge for operating a hatchery. Our team signed on to harvest fish in a lake where we all had cottages. It is one of the reasons my wife and I leave South Carolina to come north in early April.

Using strong spotlights we nosed up into the rapids. One person was operating the motor; two worked the lights back and forth over the bottom of the shallows. When we spotted bright golden eyes on the bottom one of us would place a dip net into the water. The water temperature was 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The fish were sluggish although they had to be cautiously teased into the nets. The females ranged from 6 to 12 pounds, the males averaged much less. Our goal was four or five males for each female. Sexing the fish was easy as they were ready to spawn and easily oozed their gametes.

The fish were placed in separate tanks according to this gender for transport to shore where we had cages anchored in shallow water. The next day we would milk them. Using a stainless steel bowl eggs were mixed with sperm for a two-minute fertilization period. Beyond that time limit the sperm and the eggs if not fertilized would die. Clumping and adherence of the fertilized eggs to the bottom of the pan demonstrated what happens in nature where they would adhere to the rocks on the bottom of the stream. Next we mixed the eggs into a clay solution for twenty minutes to discourage the adherence. Then they were rinsed in a fine mesh container before transporting them to the hatchery. Nineteen to 21 days later they will hatch and be returned to the same stream where we caught their parents. They too were returned to that same location.

The biologists working with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources have estimated that only 2% of eggs spawned in the wild yield fry. They further estimate that 75% of those hatched in a hatchery reach that point. As we headed back to our cabins at 2am, cold and tired, we had a strong feeling of a successful evening. In the next three days we caught thirty fish yielding 300,000 eggs.



On behalf of all Duck Lake cottagers - A big thank you to all our Duck Lake volunteers who took part in this year's collection of spawning Pickerel!

## First Annual Canada Day Boat Decorating



1st Prize - Elenore & Rick Block



2nd - Jodie & Julian Dugas' family



3rd - Cameron family



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**Duck Lake Cottagers' Assoc.**

**2019-2020 Directors:**

**President: Claire Theijsmeijer**  
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**Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary:**  
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