

# Duck Lake Cottagers' Association

Website:

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



## President's Corner - John Fisk

As we are all settling in for a change of seasons, the activities of the Duck Lake Cottagers' Association are continuing. We held an AGM via Zoom on November 7<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting new officers were elected. A director' meeting, also via Zoom, was held on November 14<sup>th</sup>. I have the pleasure of being your president for the next two years. Also serving will be:

Vice President - Chris Wheeler  
Secretary/Treasurer - Tom Howell  
Social & Youth Engagement Officer - Jody Dugas  
Communications Officer - Claire Theijsmeijer  
Webmaster - Ken Konkol  
Lake stewardship - Evann Seney  
Administrative Assistant/ Newsletter editor - Deborah Hart

Directors and officers serve a term of two years. Claire is stepping down from the president's position, after several years of great leadership. We all owe her a debt of gratitude. Allan Crowther and Janice Kuntz are retiring. Two new directors are joining the board, Jody Dugas and Evann Seney. At the meeting we discussed the various tasks for which the individual directors would like to take responsibility. These are indicated above so that you will know who to contact if you are having questions or suggestions.

It was decided that the dock should be completed beginning in the spring. Volunteers will be needed and welcome. Many are reporting improved cellular service. Jody, our new social chair wants to take advantage of this connectivity to promote a social dialogue among the youth on the lake. Placards will be available again this year for those who have paid their dues. Dues are expected to be paid with the coming of the New Year.

There is more information on our website at:

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

This President's Corner is a new addition to our newsletter. I wish to personally keep in touch with all of you. Make sure that your contact information is up to date and that you have paid your dues. Look for more information about what is happening around Duck Lake.

## Save these dates:

### 2021 Summerfest Picnic:

Saturday July 24, 2 - 7 pm., eat at 5- ish (Rain date July 25, noon -5 ish.)

At Allan & Kathy Crowther's cottage, Duck Lake Road. Bring: lawn chairs, swimwear, and a dish to share (salad or desert).

Cold drinks and BBQ options will be supplied. BYOB.

### 2021 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the DLCA will be on Saturday July. 31st, 2020, 9 -11 a.m.

Anyone interested is welcome.

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

**Second New Floating Dock Completed!**

A skilled crew of volunteers constructed the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8 x 20 ft. floating dock in late June 2020. Several of our U.S. neighbours were unable to come north this year, but other cottagers stepped up for the project. Again, we heartily thank Paul Cameron for donating his time and his Kubota to flip the dock and help install it. Sincere appreciation also goes to Tom, Dale, Rodger, Evann, and Tijs for their hard work. The dock is attached to the east side crib, old ramp and floater. There is now 20 ft of docking space on the west dock, and 38 ft. on the east dock.

With 6 more dock floats stored at the Blocks, the plan for 2021 is to construct a 3<sup>rd</sup> 8 x 20 ft. floater, and an 8 x 8 ft. ramp if needed. Currently there is \$1461.06 in the dock fund, which will almost cover the materials for the new 8 x 20 ft. dock. Construction will take place as funds come in. Funds will also be needed for future maintenance of the docks and launch.

Donations are appreciated and can be made by:

Etransfer to - [ducklakecottagers1@gmail.com](mailto:ducklakecottagers1@gmail.com)

or

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



Volunteer crew constructing the dock. Paul & his Kubota flipping the dock.

**Lake Water Quality**

Al Crowther has stepped down from the Lake Steward position. We thank him very much for his contributions in this position, especially for submitting the lake water samples to the Lake Partner Program. Rick Block agreed to perform the lake water tests for 2020, but the Program was put on hold until Oct.1, and he didn't receive the entire test kit.

In order to maintain continuity in the lake testing, the Theijsmeijers took 2 lake samples, in September, as directed by the 2019 AGM and took them to a water testing lab near their home. The results for phosphorus level put the lake in the average category, as in 2018.

Further testing will be needed to find out if this is a concerning trend.

**News Briefs:**

**Fish Enhancement Program**

Unfortunately, the Pickerel egg gathering was cancelled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row! 2019 - due to a late ice out and this year - due to Covid-19. Our donation will be kept to send in for Spring 2021, when we all hope the program will take place!



**Lee Family Plaque**

A memorial plaque was installed on the large rock at the public parking lot, in appreciation for Agnes and George Lee and family for granting the access to the lake.



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## Resources for Septic System Health and Good Lake Water Quality!



We encourage everyone to check out the great resources about septic systems from the Federation of Ontario Cottage Association (FOCA) website. <https://foca.on.ca/resources/>

Some examples are:

- "Septic Smart: Understanding Your Septic System"
- "Managing Waste from Septic Systems"
- "On-site Sewage System Maintenance Inspections" and, Step by step Videos.

Here is a sample from the "Septic System Fact Sheet":

"Bacteria that break down wastes in the septic system are killed by antibacterial, non-biodegradable or toxic cleaning products, gas and oil."

"Fats, oils and grease don't break down and form a scum layer at the top of your tank". "Conserve water to allow the time needed for treatment in the tank. Many older systems may be grossly undersized for the number of visitors on any given day".

To contact an on-site wastewater expert - "Find an Expert" on the Ontario On-Site Wastewater Assoc. website.

FOCA book - "Cottage Water Systems" by Max Burns, 1999. Available at libraries.

"Conserve water to allow the time needed for treatment in the tank. Many older systems may be grossly undersized for the number of visitors on any given day".

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## Report on Northern Broadband plans and Starlink: Chris Wheeler

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) represents 100 communities in northeastern Ontario. FONOM has joined other Northern Ontario stakeholders calling for better access to high-speed internet.

At its recent board meeting, FONOM passed a resolution indicating its support for Starlink, a satellite internet service being developed by SpaceX, the company founded by U.S.- based innovator Elon Musk. FONOM said it would also seek support from its partners for the Starlink program.

More than 1.4 million people in Ontario, or about 12 per cent of households, do not have broadband or cellular access. For those who do, the average download speed is just below 9 megabits per second (Mbps) and the average upload speed is just above 5 Mbps. For the average user that relies on fast internet speeds for business, education and more, download speeds of 50 Mbps and upload speeds of 10 Mbps are required as the bare minimum. In 2018, the federal government's Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) set a target to have 90 per cent of Canadian households with services that deliver download speeds of 50 Mbps and upload speeds of 10 Mbps by 2021. On November 4, Doug Ford announced the Ontario Government will be investing about \$680 million to expand and improve broadband internet and cellular access.

Starlink is aiming to deliver high-speed broadband internet, via satellite, to locations where access has been unreliable, expensive, or completely unavailable. It's targeting the northern U.S. and Canada for its initial release in 2020 and plans to reach "near global coverage" in 2021.

**Introducing our newest Association Directors:**



Hello, I am **Jody Dugas** your new Social and Youth Engagement Officer on the Duck Lake Cottager's Association executive. I put Julien's pic in here too because most know him and if not, you do now. lol We purchased our cottage 3 years ago and have fallen in love with our beloved Duck Lake! We live in Burlington and have 5 daughters and one golden retriever named Cooper. Julien works for Ford of Canada and I am an officer with Halton police! We have a big family and we all love Duck Lake and the community. See you on the dock next year!

**Lake Steward - Evann Seney**  
I just wanted to give you a quick blurb on who I am.  
My Grandparents, Wes and Ruth Gosnell bought properties with Hank and Rosemary Kearns in 1964. The cottages are just East of the Duck Lake access beside the Howes cottage. Ours is the little brown one, Nancy Hind now has her parents' cottage. I have gone up there every year since I was born in 1980. I built a place with my mother on 1 Bourbonnais Island in 2016, in hopes that my mother will spend more time on the lake when she retires. My wife's name is Lisa, and we have 3 girls. Taryn is 15, Addyson is 11 and Myla is 8. I work in the greenhouse division at Honey Electric in Chatham, where we install irrigation and electrical systems in greenhouses throughout Ontario. We live just outside of Chatham.  
I look forward to helping out around the lake as much as I can, and can't wait to work on helping the fish population.



**Duck Lake Cottagers' Association Directors 2020-2022**

**President:**

**John Fisk**

[Jrfisk43@gmail.com](mailto:Jrfisk43@gmail.com)

**Vice-President:**

**Chris Wheeler**

[cwheeler003@sympatico.ca](mailto:cwheeler003@sympatico.ca)

**Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary:**

**Tom Howell**

[Tomhowell610@gmail.com](mailto:Tomhowell610@gmail.com)

**Director/Lake Steward:**

**Evann Seney**

[evann@honeyelectric.com](mailto:evann@honeyelectric.com)

**Director/Social & Youth Engagement**

**Officer: Jody Dugas**

[jdugas1@hotmail.com](mailto:jdugas1@hotmail.com)

**Director/ Communications Officer:**

**Claire Theijsmeijer**

[reflect@vaxxine.com](mailto:reflect@vaxxine.com)

**Director/Webmaster:**

**Ken Konkel**

[iamthinken@gmail.com](mailto:iamthinken@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant/**

**Newsletter editor:**

**Deborah Hart**

[debthefroghearted@gmail.com](mailto:debthefroghearted@gmail.com)

# 2020 Canada Day Boat Decorating Contest and Flotilla



First prize went to Deborah Hart and Tom Howell's pirate themed pontoon boat. (Special thanks to Roxie's diner for donating a gift certificate towards this prize).

Some pics of the flotilla and the judge's Canada Day themed boat.



## LAKE ASSOCIATION DUES

Reminder – Dues now follow the calendar year!

2021 Duck Lake Cottagers' Association dues of \$100.00 are due in January.

To Pay:

Etransfer your funds to :

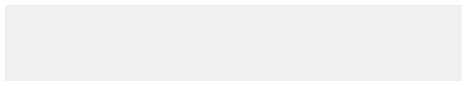
[ducklakecottagers1@gmail.com](mailto:ducklakecottagers1@gmail.com)

or

send your cheque to the treasurer –

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

Members will receive their 2021 placards (when available) once dues are paid.





**2021  
PROUD  
MEMBER**

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



**PROUD  
SUPPORTER  
2021**

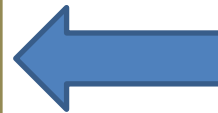
**Duck Lake Dock Fund**

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

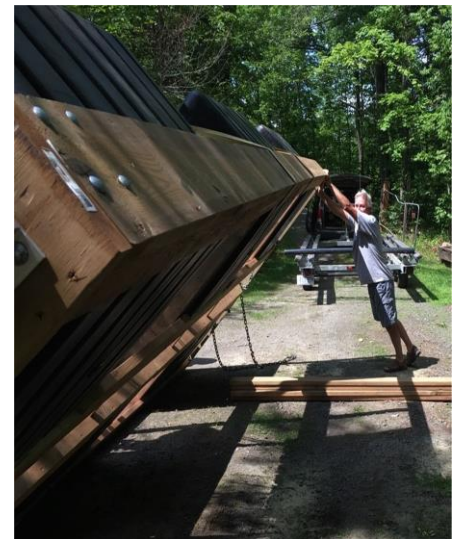


## Thanks warranted

When you see one or both of these placards attached to people's docks, or on their dashboards remember to thank them, as these are the people who have paid to keep our association and dock going.



Now here is a 'real' dock supporter for you. ;)



-Any social ideas please contact Director Jody Dugas.

-Any pictures or articles you would like considered for our Spring newsletter please email to the editor – Deborah Hart.

