

# Duck Lake Cottagers' Association

Website: [ducklakecottagers.ca](http://ducklakecottagers.ca)

Association email: [ducklakecottagers@gmail.com](mailto:ducklakecottagers@gmail.com)

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

Fall 2022 Newsletter

10<sup>th</sup> edition



## President's Corner - Jody Dugas

It's November 17, 2022 as I write this. There is a light dusting of snow falling outside that looks like diamonds, the dog is curled up by the woodstove and we are hanging onto every last minute before the ice takes over and pushes us out 'til our return at Christmas. We are entering into our favourite season as we prepare for the holidays and fine-tune our sleds, pull out the heated blankets and flannel sheets and stock the wood piles in hopes of a cold snowy winter.

On our last DLCA meeting, I was voted in as your new president and look forward to serving this community for the next two years. We said good bye to president John Fisk and thanked him for his leadership over the past two years and to webmaster Ken Konkel for all his hard work on the DLCA website. We also had some new directors added to the team. All three bring a great deal of knowledge, enthusiasm and share a love for Duck Lake. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Brent Corder, Nicole Wilson and Lori Willson. We welcomed back Tom Howell as treasurer, and Evann Seney as Lake Steward and ClaireTheijsmeijer as the new Vice President. We would also like to extend a big thank you to Deb Hart for taking on additional work as the new webmaster.

You will be receiving a short survey questionnaire in the next few months from the team. We have a few new safety ideas for the lake like a community fire pump, AED and a few other ideas. We are interested in hearing your ideas, your opinions, any concerns or new social events or ideas you may have. We value your opinion so please look forward to this short survey. We also have some exciting new events planned for summer 2023. Our goal is to bring this community a little bit closer together all while promoting fun, friendship, connection and some fitness.

Did you know that some of the best snowmobiling in Ontario runs right thru Port Loring and Duck Lake? We hope to see you out on the snowmobile trails, outdoor skating rinks, fishing holes and encourage you to drop in for some hot chocolate or a cold beverage by a warm fire. Stay well everyone and enjoy this new season's many blessings.

Jody

### Save these dates

#### 2023 Canada Day Boat Decorating Contest & Flotilla

Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup>. Meet at the Duck Lake docks for 2pm for the judging and awarding of prizes. Followed by the parade of boats around the lake.

#### 2023 Summerfest Picnic:

Saturday July 29, 2 - 7 pm., eat at 5- ish (Rain date July 30, noon -5 ish.)

At Tom & Deborah's cottage - Frogheart's Howl Bring: lawn chairs, swimwear, and a dish to share (salad or desert). Cold drinks and BBQ options will be supplied. BYOB.

#### 2023 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the DLCA will be on Saturday August 5, 2023, 9 -11 a.m. Anyone interested is welcome. Come find out what the Assoc. does, and bring any topics you want discussed.

**New in 2023 ??**(depending on survey results)

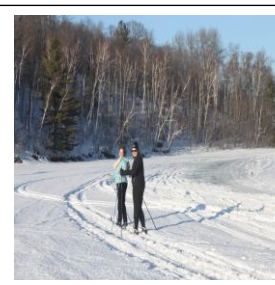
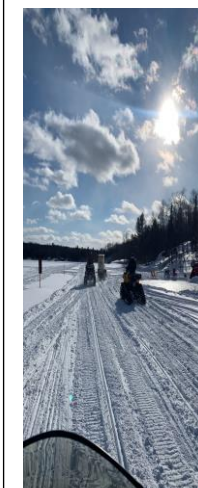
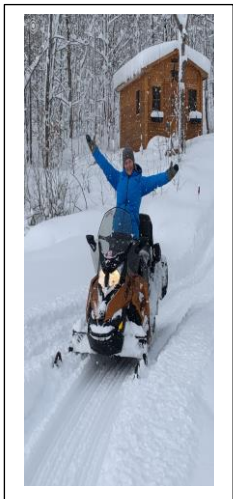
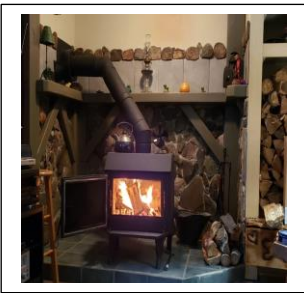
**Children's Fishing Derby – tbd**

**Regatta – tbd**

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## Winter on Duck Lake - Deborah Hart (photos courtesy of various members)

Some may think of our piece of paradise as a summer retreat, or at the most a 3 - season escape, but they would be missing a truly beautiful slice of what it is to be in this part of Canada. As our own place is water access (way back by the Mud Falls), we personally don't venture North until at least mid-January (we want a solid 8 -12" or more of ice before we set out over the lake). It takes a good day for the cottage to warm up fully, and we have to take our water from the lake once we drill a hole, but with our portable USB rechargeable shower we can stay for an extended time if we wish. Time to: socialize (there are a lot of us who head up), snowmobile, skate, snowshoe or cross-country ski, or just share a drink, a meal or cozy up by the fire. Drop in to see us when we're there. Hope to see you this winter.



## Pickleball

- Claire Theijsmeijer

This past summer, the exciting place to be was the Arnstein Community Centre! Pickle ball games were taking place twice a week, open to anyone in the community.

The Local Services Board worked together with Claire, Tijs and others to prepare the courts, obtain nets and equipment, and organize game times. Once the word was out on Facebook, a surprising number of people were interested in volunteering to help, and in playing.

The arena floor was cleaned and lines painted for 3 doubles courts, and 1 singles court. As a bonus, volunteers painted lines for a basketball court to go with the existing nets. The LSB provided a net, 2 others were generously donated, and a fourth borrowed for the first season. Freddy Falcon and Oliver Owl appeared in the rafters to keep away the messy seagulls. Two, 2-hour sessions per week were organized on Tuesdays at 9:30 am and Thursdays at 6:30 pm. If there was significant rain, play would be cancelled due to slippery floors. Everything was ready to start by early July!

On average, there were 12 to 16 players, both from the local community and cottagers. When more than 16 came, players easily took shifts on the court. About half were beginners, but keen to learn. With help from experienced players, and a court set aside to practice, they caught on fast. Lots of laughter and joking showed that everyone was having fun, as well as good exercise!

The first season lasted into mid-September. A big thank you to all the volunteers, who took care of setting up, storing equipment, and floor cleaning. We look forward to a new season of pickle ball in 2023. Why not think about joining in the fun! For more information, contact Paul Cameron, [pcncameron@hotmail.com](mailto:pcncameron@hotmail.com), or Pam Dekoter, LSB chairperson, [dreamcatcher1956@bell.net](mailto:dreamcatcher1956@bell.net)



## **Fourth New Floating Dock Completed** - Claire Theijsmeijer

We can finally celebrate the completion of the final stage of our multi-year public dock upgrade project! The 4th floating dock is now finished! There are now about 36 ft. of docking space on each of the west and east dock sections. You can dock a pontoon boat, and still have lots of space. Again, we are very thankful for the group of volunteers who did such a great job of planning and building it in late June

The entire dock upgrade project has taken 5 years and many volunteer hours. Volunteers also remove the docks each fall and store them in a quiet bay, then reattach them again each spring. The old floating dock is left for hunting season, then removed for winter.

A small ramp from the parking lot to the crib is planned for the west side, to assist people with reduced mobility. Many cottagers seem to be in their 'golden years' now.

Gravel will be added to smooth out the low spots in the parking lot.

There will be some ongoing maintenance costs for the docks, so your donations are always appreciated. If you can help with removing and reattaching docks in spring and fall, that would also be very welcome. Please contact Tom Howell,

[tomhowell610@gmail.com](mailto:tomhowell610@gmail.com). Donations can also be mailed to Tom, or sent by etransfer.

*See more dock build pictures on our website.*



Volunteer crew who constructed the **fourth** dock - Frank Juodvalkis

## **Introducing our newest Association Directors:**

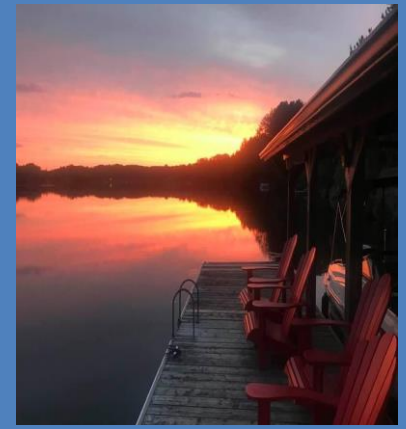


Social Director: **Nicole Wilson**

Hello, cottagers!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Nicole Wilson. My family and I have been enjoying Duck Lake life since 2018 when my sister Jody bought a cottage here! We started out with a little Bunkie on Jody's land and have since expanded to buying our own land and building our own family cottage. You can find us before the narrows - look for the blue and yellow water trampoline! My husband Andrew our 2 boys Jameson and Ben, and I are looking forward to making memories with all of you for years to come. As director of Social, I am hoping to get the lake together, host fun events for all and make some lasting friendships. Looking forward to planning some new, fun events this summer and hope you and your kids stop by for a jump!!!

## PHOTO GALLERY I



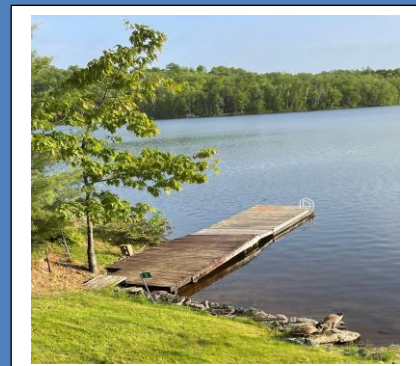
Sunrise on Pigeon Bay

- Ellen Hutchings



Snapper

- Janice Kuntz



Turkey at the dock

- Anne Marshall

**Newest Association Directors (cont.):**

**Community Liaison - Brent Corder**

My name is Brent Corder, pictured here with my wife Andrea. We bought #7 Bourbonnaise Island in the fall of '21 and look forward when time and funds permit us to build ourselves something modest and special to enjoy the river system. In the meantime, we purchased a travel trailer and parked it in White Birches as I pick away at land clearing etc. We live in Jordan, Ontario in the Niagara region with our 11-year-old border collie Maggie. I work for Ford of Canada and am also a Captain in our local volunteer firehall here in town. Andrea has been a realtor here for the past 15 years. We are quite familiar with the river system and have quite a few friends on it from Lost Channel to right here on Duck Lake so it already feels like home. I look forward to assisting with the board and helping implement some safety measures including a communal fire pump early next season. We will see you around the lake and look forward to meeting everyone. Have a safe winter.



**Recording Secretary - Lori Wilson**

Hello Duck Lake Cottagers:  
I have been a cottage owner along with my husband Ray Willson since 1996 and for 15 years before that we have vacationed and supported our neighbouring resorts. We love the lake and have made and cherished the best of friends to us and our kids. Best part of arriving every spring to Duck Lake is to see your neighbours and to start another great cottage season. I enjoy watching football and hockey along with fishing, hiking, socializing and also relaxing on the dock with a great book and a glass of wine. I look forward to representing the Duck Lake Cottagers' Association and am excited to help plan and participate to ensure we have a community that everyone Young and Old are included and engaged in various activities on the lake. Stay Safe and see you all in 2023. Lori

**Duck Lake Cottagers' Association Directors 2022-2023**

**President:**

**Jody Dugas**  
[jdugas1@hotmail.com](mailto:jdugas1@hotmail.com)

**Vice-President:**

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

**Treasurer:**

**Tom Howell**  
[tomhowell610@gmail.com](mailto:tomhowell610@gmail.com)

**Director/Lake Steward:**

**Evann Seney**  
[evann@honeyelectric.com](mailto:evann@honeyelectric.com)

**Director/Social Engagement:**

**Nicole Wilson**  
[nicwilsonrn@gmail.com](mailto:nicwilsonrn@gmail.com)

**Director/Community Liaison:**

**Brent Corder**  
[bcorder1@ford.com](mailto:bcorder1@ford.com)

**Director/Secretary:**

**Lori Willson**  
[lwillson@goodlifefitness.com](mailto:lwillson@goodlifefitness.com)

**Non-Director Positions:**

At this time the positions of both Webmaster and Newsletter Editor are being filled by -  
**Deborah Hart**  
[debthefroghearted@gmail.com](mailto:debthefroghearted@gmail.com)

## 2022 Canada Day Boat Decorating Contest and Flotilla



First prize went to Evann & Lisa Seney & family's Canada Day themed pontoon boat. All entries were awarded prizes thanks to the DLCA.



Some of **Kathy Crowther's** new series of paintings completed at their cabin on Duck Lake this summer. Inspired by the Indigenous culture with animals, birds & spiritual symbols.



# Duck Lake Summer Picnic 2022

- Deborah Hart

This year's picnic, on Sat. July 23, was a great success with our highest number of attendees ever! A BIG thank you to Allan & Kathy Crowther for hosting us all this year. There was lots of socializing (meeting some new as well as familiar lake residents), eating, a few games played, and some water relaxation as well as bidding on silent auction items and buying raffle tickets in support of the Assoc.'s new Lake Safety Initiatives.

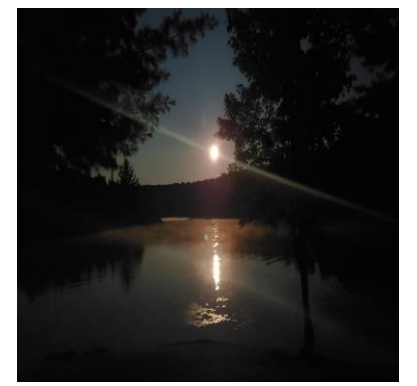
You can see even more pictures from the picnic on our website.



## PHOTO GALLERY II



Chilling by the rink  
- Elenore Block



Moonrise over Kelsey's Bay  
- Deborah Hart



Addyson shows how it's done  
- Evann Seney

**Website sneak peeks:** Two excerpts from our website to whet your appetite. Frank's essay, along with his original 2021 essay (Oh, Canada) can be found in the members only section. [Follow the directions on the website to be granted permission to the paid members only pages, if you don't already have it.](#)

**Loon Lake** - John Fisk

One of the most iconic occasions we all enjoy on Duck Lake is watching and listening to a loon just before sunset. Understanding their behavior only adds to that experience. The loon has been around for thousands of years. It is uniquely suited for fishing by diving and swimming long distances under water. To facilitate this its legs are located nearer to its tail than other waterfowl. When appreciating the feeding practices of birds on the water, the location of their legs facilitates different methods for feeding. Dabbling ducks such as mallards have legs more anteriorly near their chest. They dip forward down to feed in shallow water. They can walk easily on land. The divers with posteriorly located legs are great swimmers but because of the location of their legs walking on land is almost impossible. They slide on their bellies by pushing with their feet. All of this is to say loons must nest at water level along the shore. The wake of a boat or jet ski easily floods their nest.   
[\(Read the full essay on our website\)](#)

**OH, OH, CANADA!** -Frank Juodvalkis

Perhaps nothing's more emblematic of community spirit than a barn raising, a group of men working together on a project that is too big for one man alone. At the end of the day, they all go home, with only the tools they'd brought with them and a wonderful feeling of camaraderie.

Barn raising brings to mind the Amish in Ohio, or Minnesota farmers. A few days ago, I participated in what might be the Canadian equivalent: building a boat dock.

But first....

In August of last year, Ken Konkell invited me to join him and two other guys for the annual "opening" of his family's cabin in northern Ontario. The only house on an island a bit smaller than a football field, the cabin was inherited years ago by Ken, his brother Jim and sister Chris (Tragically, Chris unexpectedly passed away this past February). Again, this year, it was Ken, Dick (Chris's husband of 51 years!), old friend Wayne, and me. We went the last eleven days of June.

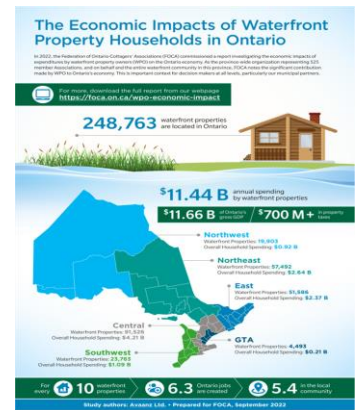
Getting from here to there is easy: drive to Niagara Falls, turn left, head north for 300 more miles, park. A bit less than 12 hours total from Columbus, Ohio. Current Canadian entry rules required visitors to fill out *ArriveCan* on line. a visa-like document. Downloading proof of Covid vaccination is required.

As the border guard handed back our passports, he said "which one of you is Frank?" He then gave me a small package, a Covid test kit. I'd been randomly chosen to test myself (cheek and nasal swab) within 24 hours and forward the sample to a Canada lab for testing. Under "Failure to Comply" was a list of scary, expensive penalties. A *Covid-positive result would require a quarantine-in-place for 10 days!* I texted Karen that I might have to remain in Canada a bit longer than expected. She didn't seem to mind....   
[\(Read the full essay on our website\)](#)



**New Economic Impact Report released**

FOCA is excited to release a first-of-its-kind commissioned Report, that articulates the important **economic impacts** on the Ontario economy of expenditures by **waterfront property owners (WPO)**.



The Report concludes that an estimated **\$11.44 billion** was spent in 2021 by a quarter of a million waterfront property households in this province.

**For every 10 waterfront properties**, on average **6.3 jobs** are created in the Province of Ontario, of which **5.4 jobs** are in the waterfront property community itself.

Read FOCA's **Media Release** about the Report, download the **Infographic**, and use your member web login to access a copy of the **27-page Report** which includes a breakdown of expenditures by region (Table 4) and by upper tier municipality (Appendix D), posted here: <https://foca.on.ca/wpo>

# Lake Steward update - Evann Seney

Excerpt from the 2022 FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter

## About the Lake Partner Program

Located in the heart of Muskoka is the Inland Waters Section of the Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Branch of the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP), home to Ontario's Lake Partner Program (LPP).

What originally began in 1996 as a collaboration between FOCA, the Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Organization, and the District of Muskoka, is now the largest and longest-running program of its kind in North America.

Each year, hundreds of volunteers collect water samples from lakes in Ontario, which are tested by MECP for total phosphorous, calcium, chloride, and water clarity. These data are accessible in digital format to volunteers, the general public, private organizations, researchers, and scientists. Through the work of LPP volunteers, a dataset over two decades long has been compiled, providing an overview of the historical trends of Ontario's recreational water bodies.

*The LPP is a great example of community water monitoring, bringing communities with a shared interest for lake preservation together.*

### What is tested?

#### Phosphorus

An essential element for organisms and the aquatic systems they inhabit; controls algal growth in most Ontario lakes. Gathering water samples to be tested for total phosphorus helps track lake conditions over time. Increased phosphorus may stimulate algal growth which can have implications for aquatic environments, such as reduced water clarity and/or deep-water oxygen levels, and increased frequency and size of algal blooms.

#### Calcium

A vital nutrient that many organisms rely on, including mollusks, crayfish and water fleas. Studies have shown certain Daphnia (water fleas, a type of zooplankton) are particularly sensitive to calcium levels. Within many Ontario Shield lakes, decades of acid loading and logging have led to a decline in calcium, which is expected to get worse in the face of climate change. For the tiny Daphnia, calcium levels below 1.5mg/L have been found to limit reproduction, and are therefore a cause for concern. In our current environment, the need for calcium testing and tracking is more apparent than ever.

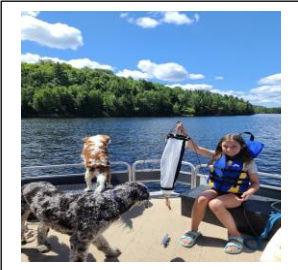
#### Chloride

Chloride is a natural component of freshwater environments. Like phosphorus, an excess of chloride can have serious implications for lake-dwelling organisms. In Ontario, the use of road salt is a common contributor of chloride, as it makes its way into waterways via runoff, melting snow, and vehicular movement. Monitoring chloride levels is essential to provide information that can be used to assess environmental risk and inform policies or programs aimed at protecting aquatic life.

#### Water Clarity

LPP volunteers track water clarity using Secchi disks. Water clarity or Secchi Depth, corresponds to the depth at which light penetrates into the lake. Factors such as biological turbidity (i.e. algae), non-biological turbidity, and dissolved organic carbon can have a direct effect on light penetration. Secchi disk readings can help track changes over time.

Please see attached pictures of the water sampling that took place this year. Myla with Blu and Copper in the one photo, and my mother Shelley and Myla in the other.



## ARGYLE FISH ENHANCEMENT

Box 26  
Loring ON P0H 1S0



May 12, 2022

DUCK LAKE COTTAGER'S ASSOCIATION  
c/o Tom Howell  
610 Lumberton Cr.  
Mississauga ON  
L4Z 3Z6

Dear Tom:

Thank you and the Duck Lake Cottager's Association for your generous donation. It will be used towards our annual operating costs of about \$3000.00.

Thank you for your continued support in the Argyle Fish Enhancement program.

Yours truly

Wanda Greenop  
Secretary

## Spring 2023 Pickerel Spawn - Evann Seney

Pictures of some of the Pickerel our volunteers netted in the Spring.



Hundreds of thousands of baby Pickerel (fry) were released into the lake, thanks to everyone's help and the help of the hatchery.

See the spawning story & more pictures of the spawn process on our website.

# LAKE ASSOCIATION DUES

2023 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 L4Z 3Z6

CANADA

Members will receive their 2023 placards once dues are paid and they are available.



## Remembering Dale Kuntz who loved the Lake

### Submissions Wanted

Please consider contributing items for our website and upcoming newsletters. Photos, original artwork, articles, stories, jokes and poems, etc. Send items to be considered to Deb Hart - [debthefroghearted@gmail.com](mailto:debthefroghearted@gmail.com)