

# Duck Lake Cottagers' Association

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

---

Hello fellow cottagers,

**Spring is Almost Here!** The DLCA is preparing for another cottage season.

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter. We hope that you have all had a healthy and enjoyable winter. We are sure most of you can't wait for this year's official cottage season to begin. (Those of you who haven't been up at all over the winter months, it's been a long time coming).

Thanks to Tijs Theijsmeyer, a new information sign will be installed at the parking lot. This is for DCLA news only, please no community events.

---

## **Argyle Fish Enhancement Program**

*For years now the volunteers of the Argyle Fish Enhancement Program have worked to maintain healthy populations of pickerel in the lakes of the Pickerel River. In early spring shortly after ice out, pickerel eggs and sperm are collected for the hatchery. After hatching, the fry are kept in the hatchery long enough to get a good start in life and then stocked in the lakes. The process attempts to increase the number of fish surviving from egg to fingerling. The program has remedied a badly over fished situation and continues to help maintain a sustainable pickerel population.*

*Duck Lake Cottagers Association supported a successful request to the Ministry of Natural Resources to increase the enhancement program's permissible limit of collected eggs, to again stock fry in Duck Lake after a several years' hiatus. During the spawn, Assoc. members Dick Dixon, Tom Marshall, John Fisk, Tom Howell, and Rodger Wilson have assisted with collection and stocking, making a healthy addition to Duck Lake's pickerel population.*

---



---

## **Upcoming Events**

**July 28**

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

Saturday July 28, 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.

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

Cold drinks supplied. BYOB.

RSVP: Tom & Deb 705-757-3756, or Claire [reflect@vaxxine.com](mailto:reflect@vaxxine.com)

---

**Sat. Aug. 4, 2018**

**The Annual General Meeting of the DLCA will be on Sat. Aug. 4, 9 -11 am. at the Arnstein Community Centre. Anyone interested is welcome. Find out what the Assoc. does, and bring any topics you want discussed.**

---

**The fish enhancement program is seeking volunteers and financial support to continue their efforts.** The DLCA is contributing a group donation in 2018 as agreed at the 2017 AGM. Members can still make individual donations to DLCA which will be added on top and sent on. The directors feel this support will enhance our ongoing relationship with the Argyle Fish Enhancement Program.

**Volunteers are needed during the spring spawn shortly after ice out,** for weekends and some weekdays. Check the Duck Lake Group Facebook page for notice. Those wishing to volunteer for any of the program's activities which include a summer Poker Run may contact Dan Feasby of Wright Point Resort at 705-757-1190 or email [dan@wrightpointresort.com](mailto:dan@wrightpointresort.com).

Contributions should be payable to Duck Lake Cottagers' Association and designated for the Argyle Fish Enhancement Program. With the program's greatest expenses occurring in spring, we have already contributed in early March, and further donations will be sent on as they come in. Cheques may be mailed to:

Tom Howell, treasurer DLCA

610 Lumberton Cres., Mississauga, ON L4Z 3Z6

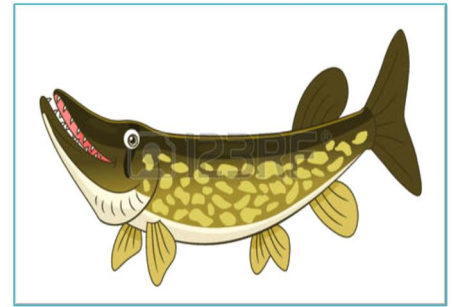
## More Important News

### Aquatic Invasive Species Study Completed

In 2017, the Duck Lake Cottagers Association (DLCA) applied for and was granted funds from the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations to conduct an aquatic invasive species study for Duck Lake. The full written report by Tys Theysmeyer and Sandra Turner can be found on the DLCA website - ([sites.google.com/site/ducklakecottagersassoc/](https://sites.google.com/site/ducklakecottagersassoc/)).

The study reveals that only 2 invasive species (Reed Canary Grass and a nonnative freshwater jellyfish) have been identified in Duck Lake, neither of which presents an immediate danger to the lake or cottagers. The jellyfish is not known to be toxic nor is it expected in the foreseeable future to have any significant negative effect on the lake and there is no known way to remove it. The reports recommend a project be undertaken to eliminate the Reed Canary Grass, since it will smother native wetlands if not removed. More information on such action will be posted. Special thanks to Sandra and Tys (son of Tijs and Claire) for conducting this study.

We are fortunate to have such experts in our midst.



Reed Canary Grass

## **Help Do Your Part to Prevent Invasive Species in Duck Lake by:**

- *Do not use any crayfish, salamanders, live fish or minnows, or leeches that did not come from this local area. Bait buckets should be emptied on land at least 30 meters from the water.*
- *Upon leaving the water drain water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells.*
- *Never release or flush aquarium pets or aquarium water into a waterbody, drainage ditch, or sewer.*
- *Do not move firewood between regions. Use local wood only.*
- *Do not bring in plants for your garden from outside the region.*
- *See [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com) for more info.*
- *To report invasive species, call the hotline at 1-800-563-7711.*



---

## **Public Dock Maintenance and Upgrading**

For many years, the DLCA has been responsible for maintaining the public dock. Members have done several repairs and remove and re-attach the floater yearly to avoid ice damage.

Recently, repairs are getting more frequent. In winter 2017, the crib shifted significantly and this was not completely fixed. The old crib is about 50 years old and may need major work. Many water access and other cottagers, locals and visitors use the dock. New cottagers come yearly as lots are sold around the lake.

The DLCA is looking into ways to upgrade to new docking and boat launching. Info will be sent to members, posted on the signboard and we appreciate your feedback. Anyone who uses the dock is encouraged to contribute to the Association's dock fund.

Make cheques payable to:

Duck Lake Cottagers Association c/o Tom Howell - Treasurer  
610 Lumberton Cres., Mississauga, ON L4Z 3Z6

---

### **Duck Lake Cottagers' Assoc.**

---

#### **2017-2018 Directors:**

**President: Ken Konkel**  
[iamthinken@gmail.com](mailto:iamthinken@gmail.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:**  
Claire Theijsmeijer  
[reflect@vaxxine.com](mailto:reflect@vaxxine.com)

**Director/Membership Committee Chair:**  
Nancy Hind  
[Nancy.a.hind@gmail.com](mailto:Nancy.a.hind@gmail.com)

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

---

**The Spring Migration** submitted by John R. Fisk

---

Every spring about this time, there is an interesting phenomenon occurring in the north bound lane of I-95 where we live in South Carolina. A string of vehicles with Ontario license plates are returning to their northern homes. The six-month period when they can be absent from the province before losing their health insurance is over. If those vehicles stopped along the way at the barrier islands where we spend the winter, they would see the birds that will be returning to their summer home along with these snowbirds. Soon we will leave for our summer home in Port Loring, where we often see the same birds that we saw migrating through South Carolina in late February and early March.

When the ice goes out, gulls and ducks will appear along the shoreline. There will be ring-billed gulls by the flock at White Birches. The first ducks we will see are the smaller diving ducks, the Coots and the Buffleheads. They will then go further north for breeding. The Mallards and Blue-winged Teals will come a little later and stay. In the trees will be the yellow rump warblers, the gold finches and cedar waxwings. We always have house finches, Downy woodpeckers and Blue Jays at our feeder, and a phoebe will nest under our porch stoop.

All of these we have seen in February and March in the marshes and forests in South Carolina. The shore birds seen on the barrier islands go further north to breed, but we occasionally see them feeding on a mud flat along the Pickerel. The Common Loon is of particular interest. They are familiar to us for their call across the lakes, and we enjoy seeing a pair teaching their young to dive or hiding them under their feathers on their backs. They seem solitary in summer but this is not the case all year. They spend the winter along the Atlantic Coast feeding in the salt water or flocking together on the larger southern reservoirs. For four months they lose their primary feathers and their black and

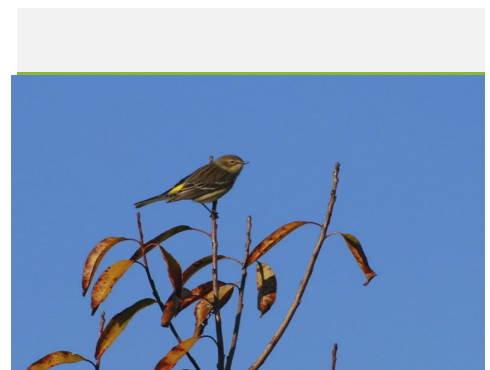
---



**Common Loon and young in Summer**



**Common Loon in winter plumage**



**Yellow-rumped Warbler**



**Ring-billed Gull in winter plumage**

white spots and must stay on the water, unable to fly. With dull gray plumage they are still recognizable by their familiar silhouettes. One day in February we saw 120 Common Loons on the Jocassee reservoir. So, next year as you are driving from Florida to parts north, stop in South Carolina and get a preview of the feathered friends of summer.

---



*Blue-winged Teal*



*Phoebe*



*All ready for the first trip to the cottage*

**Reminder :**  
2018 Duck Lake  
Cottagers' Association  
dues were due in  
January.

**If you have not yet paid  
please send your  
cheques ASAP to the  
Treasurer – Tom Howell.**