

Duck Lake Cottagers' Association

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Spring 2023 Newsletter

11th edition



President's Corner

- Jody Dugas

Happy Spring Everyone!!

It's finally arrived and we are all so happy to welcome another beautiful season. It's time to trade the Skidoos for the Seadoos and the Polaris for the pontoon. Duck lake is almost thawed and it will be no time before we are all back at the lake to make more memories and see all our friends again.

The association would like to offer a special thank you to Vice President Claire Theijsmeijer as she steps down from the DLCA board. We offer a heartfelt thank you for all her wonderful service to the environment and the people of the Duck Lake community.

The Association would also like to offer our deepest condolences to our Lake Steward Evan Seney who lost his mother, this past week .

Your association has been very busy planning a few fun summer activities, which we hope you will take part in.

Here are a few dates to save if you wish:

Over the May 24 long weekend, We would like to build one or two loon shelters, which anyone is welcome to be a part of with a tentative build date of May 21. More information to come on that.

July 1 in celebration of Canada Day, we will be having our annual boat decorating contest with prizes for most creative boats. For our new families on the lake, it's such a fun event and then we have a boat parade that does a small tour around the lake. The kids love it and it's so much fun. Who doesn't love a parade. Then we are inviting everyone back to our place for a BBQ and some fun social gatherings. Then there are some fabulous fireworks on Wilson Lake by Port Shores later that evening.

July 29 is our annual picnic this year hosted by Tom and Deb at their cottage. Also, a super fun day and they will speak to all that goes into planning that day.

August 5th will be the AGM from 9 am to 11am, at our cottage and then new this year we are introducing the first annual Duck Lake Fishing Derby from 12 to 4. Director Lori Willson will be the lead on this and more to follow but save the date. Prizes will be awarded.

Saturday September 2nd we are planning a "make your own boat" regatta for the young and young at heart. Cardboard boats, noodle races, an event to bring our young people together and have some fun and meet some new friends. Director Nicole Wilson will be the lead on this. More to follow but save the date. There may be ice cream involved!!

President's Corner continued

I would like to thank everyone who took the time and participated in the survey from SurveyMonkey that was sent out a month ago. The survey was sent to 60+ cottagers of Duck Lake, 18 people participated in answering the survey, but unfortunately, we were only able to see the first 10 responses leaving 8 surveys not able to be captured. This was only learned about Survey Monkey once the 10th survey arrived, and it was very pricey to be able to see the other responses, unfortunately. We could not justify spending \$400 to see the other 8 responses. What I can advise of those first 10 responses are:

- All ten people were for the fire pump
- 6 people were for the AED and 4 against

55% of people advised evening gatherings were favoured
33% wanted more BBQ's
11% were other

70% in favour of a loon shelter and willing to contribute to build it

We received some great suggestions to include for the welcome package for new cottagers thank you

We also received a few families willing to contribute their special skills and their time to help out on the lake when needed

Because the AED is such a large ticket item, \$1800 approx., we wanted a more accurate reading of who supports the idea of an AED or who does not support it. We value what you have to say and are listening. Some people have strong feelings about this purchase and some are indifferent, either way, please make your vote count and let us know what you would like so we can make a more accurate decision. We ask that you reply directly to this our Secretary, Lori Willson at lwillson@goodlifefitness.com with either: No, I do not support an AED or Yes, I do support an AED. This would be greatly appreciated and assist us very much in this discussion.

The Fire pump was approved for purchase at last year's AGM and we want to thank Community Liaison/ Director Brent Corder for all his research and assistance on this. We are hoping to display it with a demonstration on Canada Day weekend. More info to follow.

On a personal note, I would just like to thank everyone for being so kind, patient and supportive of this new role I'm navigating. I want you all to know that You have a great small team of committed volunteers who are trying to serve you and our Duck Lake the best way we can, in all the ways that we can.

Take care of each other and we will see you all at the Lake *Jody*

Duck Lake Cottagers' Association Directors 2022-2023

President:

Jody Dugas

jdugas1@hotmail.com

Vice-President:

Director/Treasurer:

Tom Howell

tomhowell610@gmail.com

Director/Lake Steward:

Evann Seney

evann@honeyelectric.com

Director/Social Engagement Officer:

Nicole Wilson

nicwilsonrn@gmail.com

Director/ Community Liaison:

Brent Corder

bcorder1@ford.com

Director/Secretary:

Lorie Willson

lwillson@goodlifefitness.com

Non-Director Positions

Newsletter editor& Webmaster

Deborah Hart

debthefroghearted@gmail.com

Cottage Opening - Top 10 Safety Tips from FOCA

1. Check your car's lights, signals, tire pressure and fluids before the trip to the cottage.
2. Assemble a first-aid kit for your cottage and your car. Already got these? Review the contents of the kits, and replace any missing or expired supplies.
3. Review the condition of boat(s), including fuel lines and tanks. Ensure that all required safety equipment is on board and in good repair.
4. Check your electricity meter and interior wiring, cords and plugs for any signs of gnawing or other damage before turning on your power for the season!
5. Install and maintain cottage smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
6. Remove dry leaves and debris from the cottage roof and/or eavestroughs to reduce fire risk. (Remember: use ladders with caution!)
7. Boating in spring weather? Beware of the dangers of cold-water immersion. Get more tips for boating and cold-water safety, here: <https://foca.on.ca/safe-boating/>
8. Talk to your insurance representative to review your cottage, car and boat coverage. Bear in mind that many property insurance policies carry exclusions related to water damage - check yours and be sure you understand what you are covered for.
9. Prepare for extreme weather events by creating a family emergency preparedness plan for the cottage. Just like at home, consider what your family would need to survive at the cottage for 72 hours in a time of emergency.
10. Talk to your neighbours, and plan ahead for emergencies by identifying vulnerable people as well as potential community volunteers.

Loons Are Under Threat. - The Canadian Loon Survey Investigates Why

"Loons are excellent indicators of broader lake health. Loon reproduction can tell us what impacts acidification and other indicators are having on fish stocks and aquatic life".

When scientists confirmed that northern lakes were acidifying in the 1960's from acid rain, biologists started noticing that the number of loon chicks produced was decreasing. Birds Canada began a national research program to monitor loon reproduction and find out the reasons for the decline. The program has been going for 40 years. The decline in loon chicks has increased more in Ontario than western Canada. Ongoing threats to loons include increased boating, contaminants, water level fluctuations, and more shoreline development. Birds Canada is working with Acadia University this year on a detailed study to find out which factors are the most crucial. Volunteers take part in the Birds Canada yearly survey to monitor loon chicks on lakes near them. This summer, the DLCA will be participating in this survey, and inviting some Duck Lake cottagers to help. Volunteers contact the DLCA and we help you register you on the Birds Canada website. You record observations of a loon family at least once in June (are they nesting?), once in July (for chicks), once in August to see if the chicks survive to first flight. We invite you to be a volunteer at one of these locations: the bay near Woodlands, Howes Bay and Howes Lake, the bay at Lee Point. Evann Seney will monitor the bay southwest of Bourbonnais Is, and Tom & Deb will monitor Kelsey's Bay beyond Bourbonnais Is. Volunteers need to be registered by mid/late April. Contact: Evann if you wish to be a volunteer. Email - evann @honeyelectric.com

Everyone can take action to help loons raise chicks and thrive on our lake.

Top Six Actions to Help Loons:

- 1. Keep it Wild -let native plants grow along your shoreline**
- 2. Keep it Calm - slow down near wetlands and shorelines. Wakes can wash out nests.**
- 3. Steer Clear - steer your boat well away from adult birds and young**
- 4. Dispose Responsibly- dispose of trash and fishing line on shore to avoid wildlife becoming entangled or injured**
- 5. Reduce Your Impact-reduce energy use. Climate change raises lake temperatures which allows metals to accumulate in wildlife. Avoid adding chemicals to water bodies.**
- 6. Get Involved- be aware and be an advocate for healthy lakes and wildlife.**

More information is available from Birds Canada, www.birdscanada.org



Get the Lead Out

- Claire Theismeier

Stewardship BINGO with FOCA!

Mark off each action you take at your property to help protect water quality & healthy waterfronts:

Maintain SEPTIC SYSTEMS in good order, with appropriate service checks	Plant or maintain healthy TREES on your property	Share tips for healthy shorelines with a neighbour	Don't pollute the lake (that includes no bathing in it!)	Join your local Lake ASSOCIATION
Consult authorities & obtain required PERMITS prior to construction or reno projects	Report finding a turtle, loon, frog or other sign of a healthy lake in a volunteer "count"	Minimize speed and boat wake near shore to prevent erosion or loon impacts	Read FOCA's "Shoreline Owner's Guide to Healthy Waterfronts"	Minimize the amount of LAWN, and keep it far back from shorelines to prevent runoff
Enhance BIODIVERSITY: leave natural aquatic plants & sunken trees as fish/frog habitat	Find out about volunteer opportunities at the lake		Avoid the use of harsh CLEANSERS or other household chemicals	Get on the FOCA E!ert (e-news) list for cottage country updates
Avoid hard surfaces (paved driveways) that increase runoff to the water	Consult authorities & obtain required PERMITS prior to construction or reno projects	Avoid the use of fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides	LEARN: Attend a talk or webinar about water quality or environmental topics	Clean+Drain+Dry boats, or similar actions to prevent the spread of invasive species
Become a FOCA Individual or Family Supporter	Stop mowing the grass. Instead: more hammock time!	Visit the FOCA website for resources: https://foca.on.ca	Limit light pollution with downward-facing fixtures	Maintain or restore a NATURAL SHORELINE

Tally all your actions. How'd you rate?

12 or more = Stellar Steward! You're an ambassador for healthy waters & can spread the word to others.	5-11 = Water Winner! Keep up the good work and try "leveling up" this year by choosing 2 additional actions.	0-4 = Potential Protector! Pledge to become part of the solution for Ontario's waterfronts this year.
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Unsure why one of the actions above is important?

Learn more here:

<https://foca.on.ca/shorelines-stewardship>



Contact us:

info@foca.on.ca

"Get the Lead Out" program, developed by Wolfe Lake Association, Westport. Website -www.wolfelake.org/fishleadfree.ca Margie Manthey of the Wolfe Lake Assoc. partnered with South Frontenac and Rideau Lakes townships and received a grant to start this program for Wolfe Lake in 2022. They created educational programs and signs about the dangers to loons, eagles and other wildlife from lead fishing tackle, decoy weights etc. Local businesses were asked to participate by promoting the information, and offering those who brought in their old lead fishing tackle a \$10 voucher toward buying new steel or bismuth tackle. Containers to receive lead tackle were set up at launches, along with information signage and brochures. Volunteers take the lead tackle to participating businesses or to a local recycling program. In 1 year, they collected 170 lb. Of lead! "The" Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program," is a voluntary initiative that will serve to reduce toxic lead fishing tackle from accumulating in the environment where it is responsible for the deaths of millions of birds and other wildlife annually. Loons, eagles, swans and waterfowl are especially vulnerable. Lead is very harmful to all living things, including people and it threatens our water quality. Lead (Pb) is a neuro-toxin which attacks the nervous system and can lead to blindness, decreased reproductivity, seizures and death. Lead is fatal to loons and other aquatic birds." (www.wolfelake.org/fishleadfree) Lead tackle is a serious threat to the loon population whose declining reproduction has been documented by Birds Canada. Implementing a Get the Lead Out program would be a beneficial addition to initiatives like the loon survey and building loon nesting platforms.

WINTER 2023 ON DUCK

The **Cornell** Lab  of Ornithology

Join Project FeederWatch

and learn about the birds in your own backyard while helping scientists study bird populations.

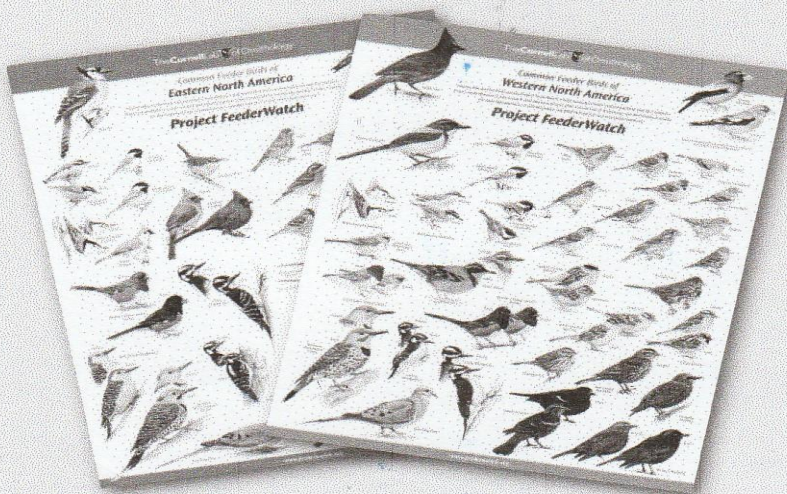
FeederWatching is as easy as...

1. Choosing an area to watch birds
2. Counting the birds that visit
3. Submitting your counts through our website or mobile app

www.feederwatch.org

New participants receive

- Tools to track your birds over time
- Project instructions and information about birds and bird feeding
- Double-sided 17" x 22" poster of common feeder birds (optional)
- FeederWatch calendar (optional)
- *Winter Bird Highlights*, our annual summary
- Access to the digital version of the Cornell Lab's *Living Bird* magazine (U.S.) or Birds Canada's eNews (Canada)



Sign up today!

Participation fee is \$18 in the U.S. or a donation of any amount in Canada.



Chilling by the fire
- Rodger Willson



Happy snowmobilers
- Dick Dixon

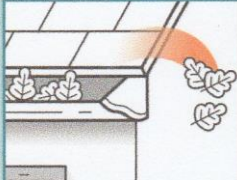
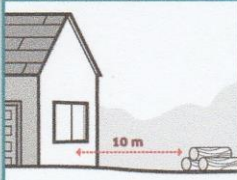
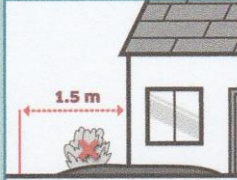
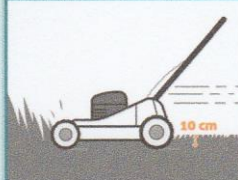
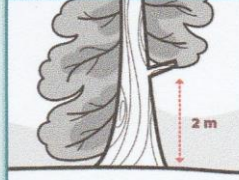


The Curling Rink
- Barb Burgess

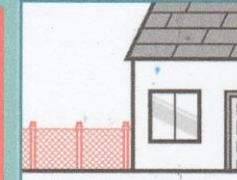

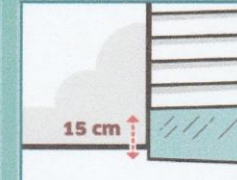
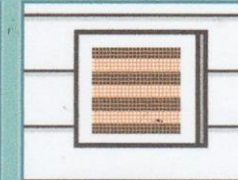
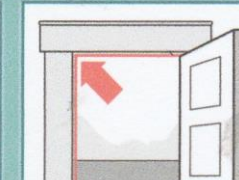
FireSmart Canada

Three Steps to Cost-Effective Wildfire Cottage Protection



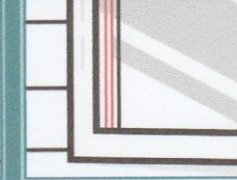
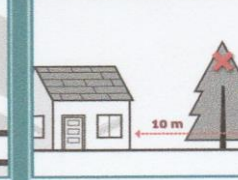
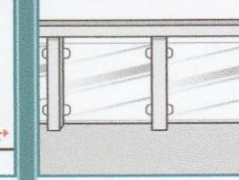
Complete these 3 steps to reduce the risk of a wildfire spreading to your cottage. Give decks, sheds and outbuildings within 10 m of your cottage the same FireSmart consideration as you do your cottage.

\$0 - \$300	 <p>Remove needles, leaves and other debris from gutters, roof surfaces, decks and balconies. Regularly clean vents.</p>	 <p>Remove combustible materials (firewood and lumber) stored within 10 m of the house perimeter and under decks.</p>	 <p>Remove all combustible ground cover (mulch and plants) within a 1.5 m of the house perimeter.</p>	 <p>Mow the lawn to <10 cm and plant low-growing, well-spaced shrubs and other vegetation.</p>	 <p>Prune trees to create a 2 m clearance from the ground to the lowest tree branches.</p>
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Step 1: Maintain what you've got at least twice per year

\$300 - \$3,000	 <p>Install non-combustible fencing within 1.5 m of the house (cement fiber, metal, chain link or stone).</p>	 <p>Install non-combustible ground surfaces within 1.5 m of the house (mineral soil, rock, concrete or stone).</p>	 <p>Create a 15 cm ground-to-siding non-combustible clearance (e.g., install cement board or metal skirting).</p>	 <p>Add a non-combustible 3 mm screen to all external vents, except dryer vents.</p>	 <p>Replace worn or missing weather stripping on all doors, including garage doors.</p>
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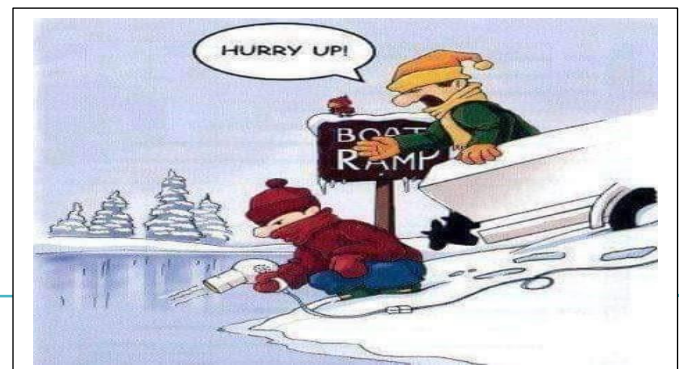
Step 2: Complete simple upgrades

\$3,000 - \$30,000	 <p>Install Class A fire-resistant roof covering (e.g., cement fibre, metal or asphalt shingles).</p>	 <p>Install non-combustible siding (stucco, metal, stone, cement fibre board).</p>	 <p>Install multi-pane or tempered glass windows and exterior fire rated doors.</p>	 <p>Remove conifer trees that are within 10 m of the house.</p>	 <p>Retrofit all deck components to be fire-rated, with a continuous surface.</p>
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Step 3: Complete more complex upgrades

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



Dates to Remember - Summer 2023

Loon Platform building

May long weekend (tentative date is Sunday May 21st)
More details to follow.

2023 Canada Day Boat Decorating Contest & Flotilla

Saturday July 1st. Meet at the Duck Lake docks for 2pm for the judging and awarding of prizes. Followed by the parade of boats around the lake, a BBQ at the Dugas' and then evening fireworks on Wilson 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, towels (and your non-motorized water craft if you wish - i.e., peddle boats, kayaks, paddleboards), 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. at the Dugas' cottage. Anyone interested is welcome. Come find out what the Assoc. does, and bring any topics you want discussed.

Fishing Derby

Saturday August 5, 2023 12- 4 p.m. Start and end at the Dugas' cottage.
More details will be coming.

Regatta

Saturday September 2, 2023. More details will be coming your way.

Thanksgiving Weekend

Main docks to be removed for Winter storage by this date.

LAKE ASSOCIATION DUES

2023 Duck Lake Cottagers' Association dues of \$100.00 were due in January. If you have not already done so - here's how:

To Pay:

Etransfer your funds to:
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.



Remembering - Shelley Seney

Long time Duck Lake cottager