

Duck Lake Cottagers' Association

Website: ducklakecottagers.ca

Association email: ducklakecottagers@gmail.com

Etransfer email: ducklakecottagers1@gmail.com

Spring 2024 Newsletter

12th issue



Spring is here and cottage season is almost upon us!

Happy Spring Friends!

We are eagerly anticipating the return to the lake this season.

Our winter at the cottage didn't offer much excitement for lovers of snowmobiling and ice fishing unfortunately. The ice conditions were poor, and the lack of snow, along with mild weather, resulted in a slow start to the season. It seemed like the lake froze and unfroze about 5 or 6 times this winter transitioning between winter, spring, and back to winter again. At the end of February, when we left the lake, we witnessed it completely open and freeze three times, making it a peculiar season.

Many of us are eager for tranquil mornings on the dock, coffee in hand,

watching the sunrise with fish jumping in the distance and loons gracefully gliding by. I know we sure are.

Keep your calendars marked for our annual boat decorating contest and parade, always a fun event with our creatively-minded boaters on the lake.

We also encourage everyone to join the annual Duck Lake Picnic and our second annual fishing derby. All dates are included later in this newsletter, but stay tuned for more details about all our events.

We look forward to reconnecting with you all soon!

- Jody Dugas

What's Inside this newsletter:

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Lake Steward's Report

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Lake Steward's Report - Evann Seney

Last year I sent off the water samples to FOCA, and do not see the published results yet. It was a long delay the previous year to see any results.

I have added a new sign to the Duck Lake Landing. This sign reminds people that it is the law to drain and clean your boat prior to moving to a different body of water. With everyone's help we can help to stop invasive species from spreading.

Lori and I had a brief meeting about the water levels, and lack of communication between Dollars Dam and North Bay MNR. There is unfortunately still a large lack of communication between the two parties. I am going to contact both parties to see if we are able to help with this communication. For starters, I am going to speak with the rest of the directors about installing a water level stake at a location convenient for everyone. I think the best place would be near the Duck Lake Landing. Since all of us are not full-time residents, it would be great if several people keep an eye on water levels especially in the Spring. If I can be made aware of these levels by everyone, then I can pass this information on to the proper people in North Bay and Dollars.

Not only are the high water levels a nuisance to everyone, they could very well be a nuisance to spawning fish and other wildlife.

There was a large Osprey nest that I am sure most everyone saw on the larger island on Duck Lake – Miller Island. Last fall a bald eagle was witnessed for nearly 3 days destroying the ospreys' nest, after the osprey were gone South. The osprey were spotted, circling the lake in mid April, I'm assuming looking for a new roost! Hopefully everyone can keep an eye out, and we will find their new home to continue to see them!



Flooding at Duck Lake Launch - Spring 2024



New signage at bottom of Signboard at Duck Landing

Duck Lake Cottagers' Association Directors 2023-2024

President:

Jody Dugas

jdugas1@hotmail.com

Vice-President:

Position presently vacant

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:

Position presently vacant

Director/Secretary:

Lori Willson

lwillson@goodlifefitness.com

Non-Director Positions

Newsletter editor & Webmaster

Deborah Hart

debthefroghearted@gmail.com

Community News:



The Port Shores was recently ranked as a top 5 best ice cream spot in cottage country by Cottage Life Magazine - an exciting achievement for our community and an award we highly endorse.

If you are anything like our family, The Port Shores is a routine stomping ground for our littles and bigs alike. You simply can't go wrong with any of their dipped cones!

Congratulations Tommy and family! This recognition is so well deserved!

The Dugas Family



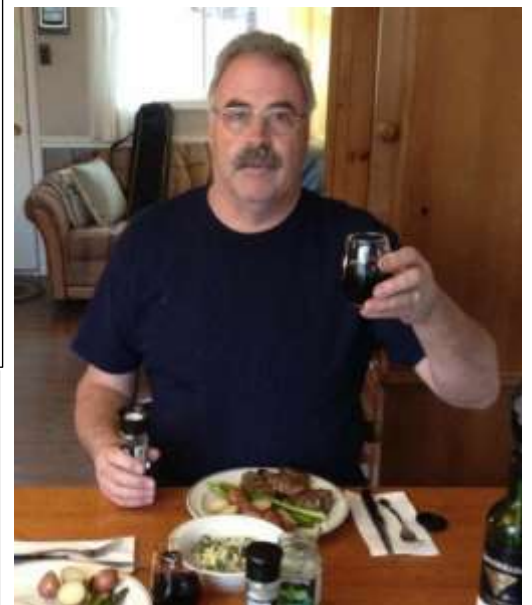
Rodger, Ray, Dick and Tom got the docks at the Landing in ahead of the high water this Spring.



Loon Raft

Last spring, a dedicated group of Duck Lake volunteers constructed a loon raft in the back bay to try to support the nesting loons. Their population was reportedly at risk and in crisis, driving the initiative.

Speaking of loons, FOCA offers a valuable program known as the "Get the Lead OUT" initiative. This educational program encourages the avoidance of lead sources in waterways and promotes the use of lead-free tackle whenever possible.



Remembering - Chris Tonge

Duck Lake cottager - gone far too soon.

Just a heads up, to let you know - Jake Weller, the original owner of Jake's Place, in Port Loring, is in ill health. We send him healing thoughts and our good wishes.

upcoming webinar: Practical Tips for Creating Cardiac Safe Cottages & Communities

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 from 12-1pm - Join us for an important one-hour **FOCA "lunch-n-learn webinar"** brought to you by event sponsor **Action First Aid**. This is a **FREE** public webinar for everyone interested in **top tips for cottagers and lake associations to help create a cardiac-safe community at your lake**. Come out and learn something that might save a life! [Register here.](#)



upcoming webinar: FireSmart Tips for the 2024 Ontario Cottage Season - increase your property's resilience to wildland fire

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 from 12-1pm - Join us for another one hour **"lunch-n-learn webinar"** with FOCA and our partners at the **Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Services** branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Memories of the 2023 fire season are still close at hand: a record-breaking 741 fires and 441,000 hectares of forests burned (almost three times the 10-year average!). **Learn what individuals can do to make waterfront properties more resilient** in the face of fire threats. This is a **FREE** public webinar. [Register here.](#)

(image: Sioux Lookout, late 2023 fire season @ONforestfires social media account)



with estate lawyer

Peter Lillico

brought to you by



upcoming webinar: Seize the Time or Take Your Time

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 from 7-8:30pm by Zoom webinar - Register to join FOCA and **estate lawyer Peter Lillico** for a "deep dive" into issues of timing for your family's cottage succession plan. This talk provides an overview of updated **taxation** considerations associated with transferring the cottage to the next generation, and funding solutions depending upon when the transfer will happen: now, later, gradually, or upon death of the cottage owner(s). The talk concludes with a deeper dive into the use of trusts as an asset protection plan. [MEMBERS register for free here;](#) remember to tell us your FOCA affiliation when you register!



Water Samples

A quick update on some FOCA news and updates: DLCA participated in the volunteer **IsampleON** program last summer, sampling the water near Duck Lake Launch in late August. We collected 3 water samples and 1 eDNA sample, which were sent to the lab for analysis. The results are still pending release.





THE FACES OF DUCK LAKE

This is where we want to feature you this summer season! You can text your images to 905-805-1316 for them to be included in our mini monthly newsletters. Besides updating you on details of upcoming events; we want to see what you're up to, what your favourite flavour of dipped ice cream is, the new inner tube you got for the grandkids, all of the things!



Here's looking at you kid ;)

Dates to Remember - Summer 2024

2024 Canada Day Boat Decorating Contest & Flotilla

Monday July 1st. Meet at the Duck Lake docks for 2pm for the judging and awarding of prizes. Followed by the parade of boats around Duck Lake and Pigeon Bay.

2024 Summerfest Picnic:

Saturday July 27, 2 - 7 pm., eat at 5- ish
(Rain date July 28, 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.

2024 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the DLCA will be on Saturday August 17, 2024 at Lori & Ray Willson's cottage. Anyone interested is welcome. Come find out what the Assoc. does, and bring any topics you want discussed. This is an election year so please consider putting yourself forward to fill one of the vacant positions. Many hands help lighten the load for all, and fresh faces bring new ideas.

Fishing Derby

Saturday August 17, 2024. Start and end at Lori & Ray Willson's cottage. More details will be coming.

Regatta

Saturday August 31st, 2023. More details will be coming your way.

Thanksgiving Weekend

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

LAKE ASSOCIATION DUES

REMINDER:

2024 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 2024 placards once dues are paid.

Submissions Wanted

Please consider contributing items for our website and/or upcoming newsletters. Photos, original artwork, articles, stories, jokes and poems, etc. Send items to be considered to Deb Hart at:

debthefroghearted@gmail.com

Or

Text to: 416-873-5323