

LIVINGSTONE LAKE NEWS

July 2024

Acknowledgement

Today, we are the stewards of Livingstone Lake (Wawiyagama), and we acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Algonquin, the Huron-Wendat, the Anishnabek and Odawa people.

President's Message July 2024

Greetings Livingstone Lake families. After a very strange "non" winter and one of the shortest seasons of ice on the lake in decades we now look forward to summer with friends and family at the cottage.

Your executive has been busy securing seedlings for the gravel pit (see Wayne's article), attending FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association) meeting, tracking the CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Cottage Owners Association), and monitoring the health of our lake. (See Karen's article on blue green algae.) Our membership in FOCA and CHA continues to be one of our main expenses and like all things is going up. There is considerable value in being part of these two organizations. Last year we shared information on Firesmart and ideas to make your cottage more fire safe. This year we will share information on creating cardiac safe cottages and communities and AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators). Living remotely has many benefits but also some risks. AEDs can significantly increase the chance of survival in the case of sudden cardiac arrest. More to come at the lake meeting.



We look forward to gathering in person at the Fitton's cottage on August 17th at 3:30 pm for our annual get together and AGM meeting and we hope you will join us. We have decided to mix it up a bit this year and will be organizing a corn roast and hot dogs (or veggie dogs if you prefer). We will also be having door prizes for the first time ever! You'll receive one entry for your paid annual dues and an additional entry for every \$10 donated to your association. You'll also receive one additional entry for everyone attending the meeting in person. Dues for 2024 will be held at \$20.00 and can be paid at the meeting or at any time via e*transfer to Dee McLaren our treasurer at do-neenscott@hotmail.com. There will be activities for the kids. Please bring any feedback, questions and opinions you may have and we will be happy to address these.

Please remember to follow us on Instagram (@livingstonelake) and check out our web page at Livingstonelakeassociation.ca for lots of interesting information and photos (thank you to James for his efforts on social media!)

Hoping everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

Steve Bolliger



Forestry and Gravel Pit Report

Wayne Parker

After years of dealing with all manner of noise and nuisance at the County Rd 12 gravel pit, I am happy to report this past year, and year to date 2024, have been the quietest I can remember since becoming a full-time lake resident in 2003. While there were a couple of nights when tent campers were in the pit, there were no incidents involving vehicles, bonfires or target shooting. This is a most welcome change and a testament to the astute problem solving from management at Westwind Forestry Stewardship who came up with the idea of reforestation as a potential solution to our problems. The perennial issue is that the pit is Crown Land and as such must remain accessible to all and so cannot be

closed or restricted. By planting trees, both were achieved in the long run quietly and with minimal contest. Reforestation efforts have taken off and will become a permanent solution in time. More on the trees elsewhere in this issue.

We faced a new challenge last summer as campers took over the Algonquin Park canoe access on County Road 12. This happened at least two different times and involved multiple tents and vehicles, rendering our only public access to the lake unavailable and useless. At one point I went to address the occupants and found the site abandoned with a table laden with food left out in the open, countless trash items scattered around and piles of TP and xxxx everywhere. I contacted the Township, Haliburton Water Trails and Park and received no help or indication of intention to get involved or resolve the problem. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry owns the land and no one wants the responsibility. It's a boat access and camping is not permitted. I left a sternly worded letter for the occupants but they cleared out before I had a chance to go back to meet in person.

I fear we are going to be alone again on this issue and will have to monitor the situation closely. Neighbourhood watch is the best solution, so please do stop and talk with anyone setting up an illegal campsite on the only public access to our lake. Go in pairs so you won't put yourself in harm's reach. Take pictures, names, licence plates and document. It's all we can do for the moment.

Regarding increased traffic on Dagger Lake Access Road, Clint Wood will be accessing his timber lease for another year, so please be mindful of logging trucks and equipment. Additionally, the large island on Rockaway Lake has been sold and the MNR has agreed to allow the owners to build a temporary road to transport materials and equipment needed to build a lodge on the island. The agreement was settled with the understanding that the road must be removed once the construction is completed. Guess we'll see. For sure this means we will experience a lot more equipment on Dagger over the next couple of years.

Reporting Wildlife, Public Safety or Nuisance Violations

A reminder to please call the TIPS line 877-847-7667 and OPP 888-310-1122 (non-emergency) to report wildlife, public safety or nuisance violations when you observe poor behavior in the gravel pits. Documented incidents remain our best hope for closure of the gravel pits.



Blue Green Algae Spotted in Livingstone Lake

Karen Hammond

Lake Steward

705-783-3270

In early September last year (2023), a small, blue green algae bloom (shown in the accompanied photo) was spotted on the the north shore of the main basin of the lake between the Bettger's and the Trica's cottages.

Bryan Bettger took a sample and contacted me. I called the Ministry of the Environment's Blue Green Algae Hotline hoping to get the sample tested so we would know for sure if it actually was blue green algae. I learned that the Ministry prefers to come and take their own samples. They asked me to go back to the site to confirm the algae was still there. By the time I got back the next day, the algae was gone, dispersed by a wind that came up in the interim.

Two lessons were learned from this. The first is that we need to act quickly in this situation. If anyone spots an algae bloom that looks like the one in the photo, please call the Hotline directly at the number below. Take a photo to send to them. They can often confirm from the photo if it's a blue green algae bloom. They were fairly certain from this photo that we did have a small bloom on the lake. While they were unable to come last summer, they will make every effort to come and take a sample. Also, please let me know if you do make a call to the Hotline.

The second lesson learned is that while we are always concerned to see blue green algae on our lake, it does not always grow into a larger bloom. Wind and rain will often disperse it. If the bloom is in front of your cottage and you get your drinking water from the lake, you should not drink the water while there is an active bloom.

To help prevent algae blooms, we all need to keep our septic systems in good working order and use as little water as possible. The heavier the flow of water into your septic tank, the greater volume of septic-water flowing into your septic bed and therefore into the lake. This water contains phosphorus (from urine) which acts as a fertilizer and can lead to algae blooms. Get your tank pumped out on a regular basis and ask for a septic inspection at the same time. As well as regular pump outs and control of water flow, be careful of what is going down the drain. Only human waste and toilet paper should be going into the system. Scrape and wipe dishes and pots before washing dishes to keep food waste and especially grease out of the system. Grease can clog the holes in the system so it doesn't drain properly and may back up into your cottage. Place drain collectors in the shower to keep as much hair out of the system as you can.

Blue Green Algae Hotline 1-866-663-8477

Blue Green Algae on Livingstone Lake September 2023



One Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty!

That's how many seedlings your Association planted in the pit on a warm and buggy Saturday May 18th, 2024.

Close to 30 cottagers, young and old, participated in the planting of 1000 tamarack and 230 white pine seedlings in the pit. It was heart warming to see dozens of cottagers and several generations of owners represented in this most important and significant event. After years and years of struggling with the abuse of the pit and the noise and destruction of heavy vehicle use and illegal activity, these trees represent a permanent solution to the problem. They usher in a clean, healthy return to nature and native plant communities in an otherwise disturbed landscape.

This plan was two years in the making and these seedlings were provided at no cost to us by our partner Westwind Forestry Stewardship to help rehabilitate the pit. We're grateful for this generous gift and members are encouraged to reach out and thank them.

We began the afternoon with orientation to the rudiments of species and seedlings and a demonstration of proper handling and planting techniques. The perimeter of the planting area and tree spacing were reviewed. In a nod to long-serving Livingstone Lake Past President and Secretary, Brian and Susan Wiese, their grandson Foster had the honor of planting the first tree. Brian would have been thrilled after working so hard to solve the pit issues. Sue was happy and proud to represent three generations on the Lake.

We then divided up into teams each heading up a line of trees to plant and went to work in earnest. Almost three hours later, all trees were in the ground and we ended with a group photo and said our goodbyes. We returned home a little weary but with the sense that we had done something good, something lasting.

It's been said that planting a tree is an act of kindness, a gift that one generation gives to another to enjoy. On that day in May, we gave out 1230 gifts to folks we will never know. In the subsequent days and weeks, the Creator blessed our efforts with ample rain and sunshine. Weeks later I'm happy to report that our seedlings are flourishing. Please do take time this summer to wander through the pit and enjoy the fruits of our Association's labours.

Wayne Parker

Tamarak and white pine seedlings, planted in the gravel pit, May 2024.



Annual General Meeting 2024

When: Saturday, August 17

3:30 meeting / 4:30 drinks

Where: Dave & Lisa Fitton's

1239 Hughes Drive.

There is parking for approximately 8 vehicles by the cottage, but you will need 4-wheel drive to navigate the hill. More parking is available next to his garage off Hughes Drive. Dave will shuttle people down the hill in his ATV. Call or text him if you need a shuttle at 705-878-3253 or call him at the cottage land line at 705-766-0704. There is also dock space for 4 or 5 small boats.

Annual General Meeting 2023 Recap

Last summer our annual lake party and AGM was held August 19th at the Fitton Cottage. We had a beautiful day for it and an excellent turnout. We were very fortunate to have Mayor Liz Danielson and Deputy Mayor Jen Dailloux in attendance. Liz updated the group on a wide range of activities and initiative that council has been working on including the condition of County Road 12, shoreline bylaws, short term rentals, expected increase in property taxes, the new online portal and many, many other topics. We acknowledged the passing of two former long-time lake executive members Brian Wiese and Paul Adams. The executive shared some information including fire safety handouts from FOCA, and updated lake map thanks to Beth Adams and James Schwartz, our financial status from Dee McLaren, an update on the gravel pit from Wayne Parker and overall lake health from Karen Hammond, our lake steward. With the completion of the formal part of the meeting we adjourned to the social part, enjoying a casual buffet supplied by the association and activities for the kids in attendance.

Need Firewood, Land Cleared or Driveway Repaired?



If you are looking for firewood delivered direct to your cottage, need your driveways repaired, or land cleared for building projects, please consider supporting Okewood Logging, our local loggers.

Firewood is \$140/cord and their expert road repair skills are at a cost far below anyone else in the area given the proximity of their equipment to our lake. It is worth taking advantage of before they leave the vicinity. One member of their road-building crew has 50 years experience and has constructed nearly every road in our area.

A few of us have taken advantage of these services and have been extremely happy with the results.

Call or text Clint Wood at 705-380-5050.

Never Feed Wildlife

By Karen Hammond



Last winter this young fox made regular visits to my property and some of my neighbours. While it was nice to see such a healthy and attractive fox, I was dismayed because he showed no fear of humans. These photos were taken at New Year's while I had several guests. About five people were present while the photos were taken while he continued to wait expectantly. He was waiting to be fed of course. We didn't give him what he wanted but he continued to return throughout the winter looking for handouts. This means that someone, likely someone in the area, had been feeding him.

Wildlife professionals such as biologists and conservation officers say we should never feed wildlife. Wild animals need to derive their food and shelter from natural habitats and under natural conditions. This will maintain their natural adaptations and ensure the long term survival of the individual animal and of the species. There are negative consequences to feeding wild animals,

many of which can harm the animal in question but also harm humans and pets too.

Threats to Wildlife

- Animals can become dependent on artificial food sources.
- Artificial food such as pet food is not healthy for wild animals.
- Animals can lose their natural fear of humans and pets, becoming more prone to conflict.
- Feeding animals near roads increases their risk of being hit by motor vehicles.
- Wild animals may gather in groups when being fed. A concentration of animals in one area can spread parasites and disease and can cause destruction to natural habitat.
- Animals may fight each other for food, causing injury or death.

Threats to People and Pets

- Feeding wildlife may attract other unwanted animals such as bears to your property.
- Animals will learn to associate all humans with food and can become nuisance animals to you, your family and your neighbours.
- Habituated animals can become aggressive to people and pets.



Does Balsam Fir Repel Ticks?

By Karen Hammond



Living in southern Ontario, we often see information about how to protect yourself and your pets from black legged tick bites which can carry Lyme disease, babesiosis, anaplasmosis, and Powassan virus. Black legged ticks (also known as deer ticks) are well established in southern Ontario and do not die over the winter. In my experience however, I have never seen a tick on myself or any of my pets in my 32 years of visiting and living on Livingstone Lake.

That's why I was very interested when I recently read an article on the CBC's website about new research showing that balsam fir can kill ticks. Shelley Adamo, a professor at Dalhousie University noticed that ticks often didn't survive winter on her property near Halifax which has stands of balsam fir trees.

She and her researchers collected ticks from the area and put them in test tubes with balsam needles. In some cases, they used essential balsam oil distilled from the needles. The tubes were made of mesh to let air and water in and then put in simulated winter conditions. Virtually all of the ticks died. Then they tried putting the test tubes outside in December and collecting them in March. Again, the ticks died.

For control purposes, other ticks were put in test tubes with oak and maple litter and then placed in the same winter conditions. Sixty to 80 percent of those ticks survived. They tried this for three winters and the results were the same. Virtually all the ticks placed in balsam needles or with balsam oil died.

Professor Adamo believes winter may be a good time to spray for ticks. When people spray with insecticides to kill ticks in the summer, they may also be killing beneficial insects such as pollinators.

This is good news for us here in this area. I, for one, will be celebrating all the balsam fir we have around here and will stop thinking of them as weed trees.



**2024 Association Membership Fees Now Due.
Membership fees are once again \$20 per year.**

**This year, if paying by
cheque, please mail
your \$20 fee to:**

Livingstone Lake Association
21 Warren Crescent
Toronto, Ontario
M6S 4S1

Make cheque to:
Livingstone Lake Association

Or, send an e transfer to:
Dee McLaren
doneenscott@hotmail.com

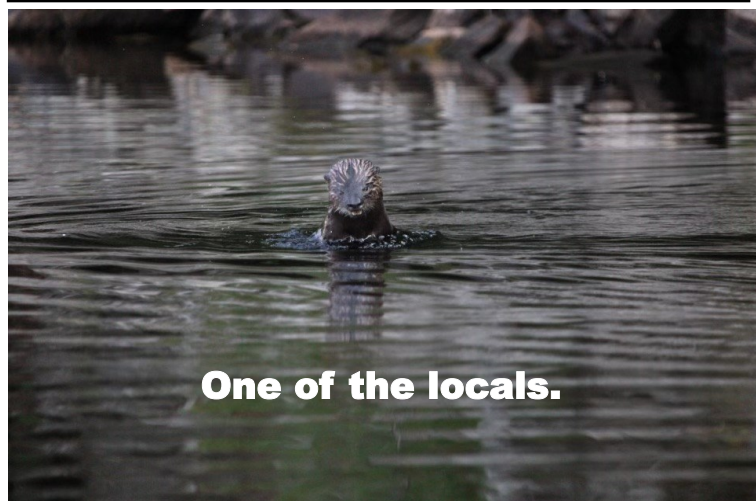
Or by text message to:
416-668-0670

2024 Association Executive

President - Steve Bolliger
Vice-President - Wayne Parker
Treasurer - Dee McLaren
Lake Steward - Karen Hammond
Recording Secretary - Beth Adams
Website/Social - James Schwartz
Newsletter Editor - Bev McHenry

Members at Large:

Pat Dubé
Dave Fitton
Christine Sprengler
Amy McCarten



One of the locals.

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