

THE INFORMER

SPRING 2017



BLPOA 2017 Executive

OFFICERS

Sue Yallop	President	blpoa1@gmail.com
Doug Rumble	Vice-President	douglasrubble@yahoo.ca
Mike Smith	Past President	smith2x@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Peter Day	Regatta	peterday@endonetworks.com
Lawrence Edmonds	Director at Large	echo.beach@outlook.com
Paul Philip	Treasurer	paulphilip@rogers.com
Marilyn Roberts	Area Reps	marilynroberts367@gmail.com
Tom Steele	Membership & Communication	tomsteele1232@gmail.com
Jennifer Strype	Secretary	jennifertherockstar@hotmail.com
Vicki Woods	Informer	vickiwoods1@gmail.com
	Lake Steward	

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Scott Blyth	Data Management	scott.blyth@me.com
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ASSOCIATION EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2017

Breakfast @ 9:00am

Meeting @ 9:30am

Stanhope Firefighters Hall



REGATTA

SATURDAY AUGUST 5, 2017

11:00am – 4:00pm

Buttermilk Falls Resort

GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY AUGUST 19, 2017

Blairhampton Golf Course

CONTACT:

Judy MacKay:

jdth_mackay@yahoo.ca or

Jane Farquharson:

j.farq@sympatico.ca



BLPOA 2017 Area Reps

AREA	LOTS	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
1	1-25	Jo Ann Richardson	705-489-4916	jirichardson@rogers.com
2	26-46	Doug Dies	705-489-2552	dougdie@sympatico.ca
3	47-67	Tom Murdison	705-489-2935	tom.murdison@gmail.com
4	68-90	Judy MacKay	705-489-3298	jdth_mackay@yahoo.ca
5	91-116	Carole Wallace	705-489-3137	retiredcarole@hotmail.com
6	117-136	Al Aubry	705-489-1469	aaubry@interhop.net
7	137-155	Doug McLean	705-489-3042	mcleand@sympatico.ca
18	156-170	Ross Bateman	705-489-3114	bateman@kwic.com
17	171-196	Pat Kirkconnell	705-489-2722	johnkirkconnell@hotmail.com
16	197-216	Tom Steele	705-489-3372	tomsteele1232@gmail.com
19	217-228	Sue Munro	705-489-1985	munro745@hotmail.com
15	229-259	Linda Lohmus/ Peggy Anderson	416-433-3496 705-489-1749	linda@designstream.ca pmla2@sympatico.ca
14	260-287	Louise Tasker	647-990-7405	louisetasker@me.com
13	288-299	Lawrence Edmonds	416-303-1301	echo.beach@outlook.com
12	300-308	Jennifer Strype	416-910-0498	jennifertherockstar@hotmail.com
11	309-319	Marg Lythgoe	705-489-2449	lythgoe72@rogers.com
10	322-353	Ross Milligan	705-489-1766	roslin_milligan@hotmail.com
9	354-372	Yvonne Jackson	705-489-3093	ojackson@cogeco.ca
8	373-381	Marilyn Philip	705-489-3717	marilynp@rogers.com
20	400-480	Karen Wood	705-489-4733	karen.wood@sympatico.ca



COVER PHOTO

This year's cover features a photo by Jason McCann from 2015 which brings to us a lovely view of this well-known spot on the lake!

BOSHKUNG BRIDGE GROUP DONATES AGAIN!

The Boshkung bridge group meet weekly from June to September, and collect \$2.00 from each player to donate to Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden. The money is used to support their snack program which provides healthy food to all the children to ensure they are getting some regular nutrition. This year they donated \$200.00 to assist this initiative!

A Message From President – Sue Yallop

Greetings fellow Boshkungers...

(Every once in a while creating words is just appropriate, and I believe that for all of us who love this lake and this place we should be proud to carry this title).

It is a grey January morning which has become the norm this year after a very white December. The lake froze over about 12 days ago and the winter villages of fish huts around the lake are in place for the next 8 weeks or so.



We (your executive) have focused on lake health for the past almost 15 years now. Through various studies, surveys, articles and speakers, we have tried to make you all understand that if we don't look after our shorelines, septs and trees, there will be no Boshkung for the generations to come. Many of you may think this is all hype, but just Google Three Mile Lake and the green algae bloom that has all but destroyed what many there used to call their "piece of heaven". Lake Simcoe is dying. There is a lake in Haliburton with dead spots. Playing ostrich and saying it won't happen on Boshkung is just false thinking.

After our shoreline survey 3 years ago, we were told that we have 66% natural or regenerative shoreline. 75% is where we should sit to ensure future lake health. With this being known, we jumped on the regeneration band wagon when grants were offered. We were awarded grants for 2 properties. When we asked for interested parties, 1 property owner came forward, (definitely not what I had hoped), and their property was already one of the good ones on the lake!!! We turned to folks we felt might be interested and Dale and John Rider and Vicki Woods stepped up to have demonstration sites regenerated on their properties to show people what could be done affordably and easily without jeopardizing lake view or access.

This past year, through your participation in a survey regarding the shoreline research that was done, we once again rose to the challenge and were awarded another grant for yet another shoreline restoration. Congratulations and thank you for showing we are an engaged group of property owners. This grant is \$2250 for one property owner to re-naturalize giving someone a great start and the opportunity to truly

become a "shoreline hero". This is where it all sort of falls apart, and becomes an incredible disappointment to me. When offered to over 300 people, a grand total of 2 members of our association asked to be considered for this project.

Congratulations to the winners of our Shoreline Hero Grant: Steve and Carla Stewart. (Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering to help with the work on this site).

All I ask is that every member of the association think about this and consider the future of our lake and the dedication of this executive. We all work very hard, and we need all of our Boshkung population to join with us to make our efforts a success for everyone's future.

I work with an incredible group of volunteers and in the past year we have been very fortunate to have a few members of our association step up to help us move forward with various lake events. I welcome them with open arms and thank them immensely for their time and dedication to this great association, and lake. Please as you read this informer, think about all of the work and effort that goes into it and every aspect of your association, WE CANNOT DO IT ALONE.



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Financial Report

Donations

At our annual meeting the members authorized your executive to donate up to \$2000.00 of your money to community causes in the Haliburton County. At our fall executive meeting we discussed many worthy causes that we could donate too. We decided that we would like to make larger donations to groups who are in need and we could have a positive effect on their ability to serve the community.

Once again we are supporting the “Food for Kids” program which provides more than 4000 healthy snacks and breakfasts each week for students in Haliburton County. We know that well nourished children can learn better, attend school more often and learn healthy eating habits. We supported the “Food for Kids” program with a \$1000.00 donation. For more information visit their website www.foodforkids.ca

After much discussion we decided that we should support the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation once again and we gave a \$1000.00 donation to the Hospital Foundation. We are very fortunate to have two health care facilities in the county and they have many capital campaigns to upgrade their equipment

and facilities. Please see their website for the current fundraising. www.hhhs.ca/foundation/why-give

FINANCIAL POSITION

Boshkung Lake Property Owners Association continues to run all of our events at a break even or small profit except for the regatta which we and our sponsors pay for. We have entered 2017 in a very healthy financial position and a full financial report will be provided at the AGM.



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No Lobster-or-Steak Dinner This Year!

We offer up a big round of “clacking of lobster claws” applause to the organizers who committed their time and hard work to making this popular fund-raising event such a success over these past many years: **Tom Steele, Andy Sykes, and Sue Yallop, your achievements** in front of and behind the scenes as the annual dinner grew in vogue,

are very much appreciated! Many volunteers have worked alongside the organizers to help the minutiae of a large group dinner run smoothly – kudos to them too!

Thanks as well, to **Boshkung Brewery**, who donated the beer for last year’s dinner!

This event could make a return to our lake if a strong organizing committee would come forward. If you are interested and able to make this contribution to your lake association, please contact president Sue Yallop to discuss.



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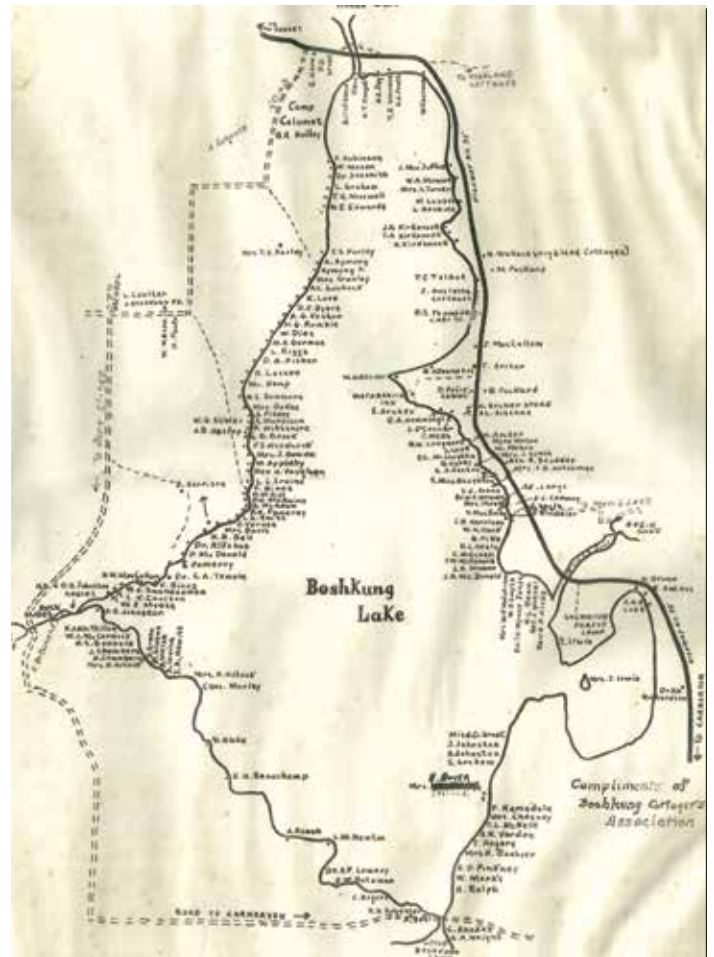
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Map-Dating Game Deduction

Last year's Informer featured a centrefold of a decades-old map of Boshkung Lake naming the property owners of that year. But what year? We sent out the challenge and discussions ensued around many cottage tables and campfires.

Here's your executive's best estimation: On the map, the property that we now know as "the Homestead", the name is shown as A. Thompson. Later in the Informer, the article about the Homestead dates the ownership by the Thompsons as "about 1956-1967". Cottagers who emailed me with their ideas were unanimous in suggesting the earlier dates; so, we deduce that the map was printed in 1956 or 1957!





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Boshkung Golf Tournament 2016



Our scheduled date of Sat. Aug. 13th was rained out with a thunderstorm, but nearly all golfers adjusted and a good turnout appeared for the next morning, Sunday.

We welcomed new faces, and the team of Allen Scott, Andrew Scott, Art Steed, and Trevor Littlejohns golfed their way to first prize and the trophy! We hope to meet their challenge

when they return next summer after spreading the word through Donarvon of a fun golf day for all Boshkung cottagers.

Precision prizes were won by Maureen Murray and Allen Scott for Closest to the Pin, and by Anne Manning's friend for Closest to the Line.

In the "back-at-the-clubhouse" challenge game of Pantihose Bowling (which involved a tennis ball, pantihose, a line-up of weighted water bottles, and a clock), John Moritsugu posted the lowest time.

Blairhampton as usual played host with a delicious lunch and the golf course we know so well. They were very obliging about the adjustments needed due to weather.

A special thank you to all the merchants and businesses who were very generous with prizes and every team went home with a prize as well as good memories. We couldn't do this without you.

Save the date for our 2017 tournament on Sat. Aug 19th. Let's all try to recruit new golfers to join us!



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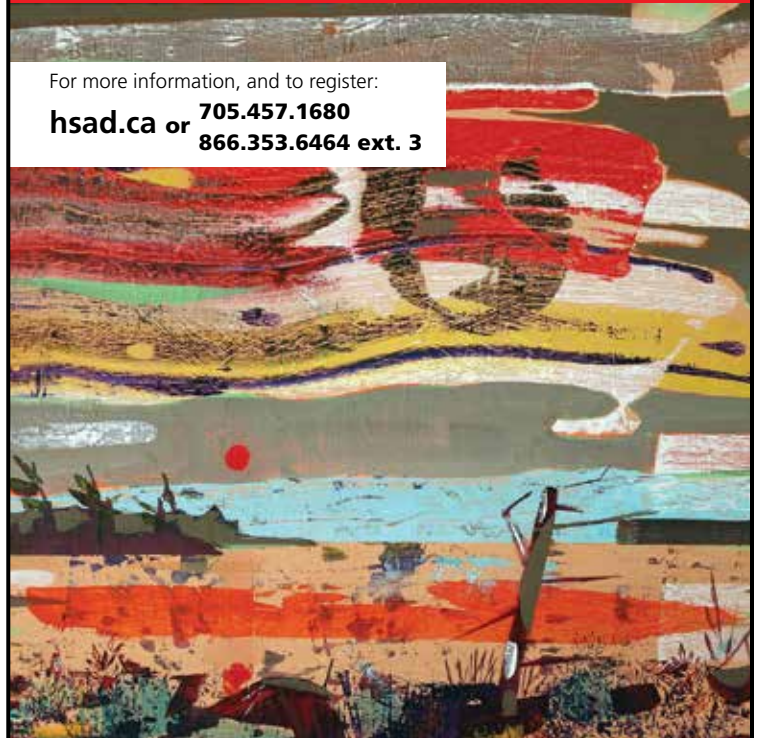
So whether you are enrolling for the first time, or you come back every year, we have courses for your interests, abilities and talent.

The Haliburton School of Art + Design is a wonderful place to learn, grow and create and we hope you can take some time for yourself this summer to explore fresh possibilities.

Sunset Honeymoon Bay by Rod Prouse

For more information, and to register:

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By Carol Moffatt

Algonquin Highlands enjoys an exceptional financial position as well as a common-sense Council. We have great staff that provides excellent advice. Overall growth and progress continue in infrastructure, asset and fleet management, programming and community partnerships.

The Township had a bit of a roller coaster year around the office addition and the two well problems, but otherwise the Township remains successful and responsive.

The overall highlight for Algonquin Highlands has to be the completion of the airport project, with the MNRF base opening, an aviation mechanic moving in, a development plan in the works and our victory in the Todd Bros. lawsuit. In Dorset we transitioned the landfill to a Transfer Station, including solar compactors and we also built a new Public Works garage. We've applied for FIT solar installations for municipal buildings such as the new airport hangars and the new PW garage both of which we purpose-built for that reason.

We made continued investments in all three community centres, built a new Township website, and installed webcams at the airport and the Dorset Tower and invested in a municipal broadband initiative.

Volunteerism is high and the new Culture and Environment committees are up and running.

We've been able to purchase new vehicles and equipment in the fire, public works and building departments. We've seen success in the downloaded septic program and the Trails department is busier than ever. Our fire services are well-trained and staffed by some pretty amazing people.

The biggest and most frustrating issue has to be high speed. The recent CRTC hearings where high speed was deemed a basic service is admirable progress, but it remains to be seen how that will roll out - and if it's affordable. The logistical application of high speed in sparsely populated areas like ours will be a challenge; and I believe there will be some difficult days ahead around the installation of cell towers because fibre-to-home is too costly for the telecom companies.

It's important that we stay resilient in a continually shifting landscape. Big impact issues that will need our continued attention include aging infrastructure; increasing costs such as electricity, fuel and policing; and Joint & Several Liability. It remains to be seen what

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the rural, small community impact will be from the implementation of legislative initiatives such as the Eastern Ontario Growth Plan, Cap and Trade, the new Waste-Free Ontario Act (Bill 151) and the provincial Hauled Sewage review.

We need to stay attentive to changing weather patterns in terms of what the impacts are – right here, today, in Haliburton County. What do wetter springs, drier summers and more snowy winters mean for infrastructure management, land use planning, emergency measures, lake health and, of course, everything that's connected to water levels? These are all integral pieces of our lifestyle and economy. We're already seeing undesirable changes so we're probably going to have to make some difficult - and likely unpopular - decisions around some of this.

Overall, it's been another good year in Algonquin Highlands and we're going into 2017 with enthusiasm and confidence. I'm grateful to work with such a solid team; so, within that framework the primary goals are continued progressive, collaborative decision-making, and ensuring we stay adaptable.

Feel free to contact your local Ward 2 (Stanhope) Councillors Liz Danielsen and Lisa Barry any time. You can find their contact info, as well as sign up to receive News and Notices about municipal business, at www.algonquinhighlands.ca.

You can follow local items of interest on my social media channels: "Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt" on Facebook and "@Reeve_C_Moffatt" on Twitter. 



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In Memory of Rita Dies

Rita Dies passed away Jan 7th at the age of 87. She has been a Boshkung cottager for over 6 decades, since she married Doug Dies, whose family has been on Boshkung Lake since 1948. Rita was very active as a volunteer and a host. She enjoyed gardening at home and at the cottage. She was energetic, playing tennis into her 80s, and bridge with the Boshkung bridge group. Rita will be missed by her family and friends.



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Fisherman's Corner

By George Oelkuch

Fishing is one of the few sports one can partake in throughout all four seasons. We are so fortunate here on Boshkung Lake to have such a diversity of fish species to enjoy catching from the dock, the boat, or through the ice.

For a real treat enjoy a day of ice fishing, peering down through the clear water hoping to pull a Lake Trout or Walleye up through the hole. Later once the ice is out in the spring, Lake Trout can be found feeding in shallow water making them easier to catch. Remember that Boshkung and many local lakes have slot or size limits for Lake Trout that are kept. This maintains prime breeding fish ensuring future fish stocks. Check the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations provided by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

As the season progresses, you will have a chance to catch Pike, Walleye, Muskie, Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, as well as Pan fish like Rock Bass and Perch. A veritable smorgasbord of fish!

If you don't normally fish but want to give it a try, Family Fishing Week is the first week of July when a license is not needed. This is a chance for great fun spending time with the whole family. The same rules apply during the week as if you had a conservation type license. During the regular season those under 18 or over 65 do not require a license.

Practice catch and release if you can, especially with the larger fish as they produce the big fish of the future. This also provides opportunity for others to enjoy catching them while ensuring sustainable fishing. Take a quick picture and put the fish back in the water, handling as little as possible.

I'm frequently asked about fish caught, usually Smallmouth Bass, that have tiny black spots that looks like pepper on the fish. This is actually a parasite commonly

called black spot. If you do keep one to eat know that cooking the fish kills any parasite and humans are not at risk.

If you happen to see me in the Barry Cullen Bassboat fishing on the lake please come over to say hello. We can share some fish tales!



FISHING SEASONS

Lake Trout

January 1 – September 30

Walleye

January 1 – March 15 then 3rd Saturday in May – Dec 31

Northern Pike

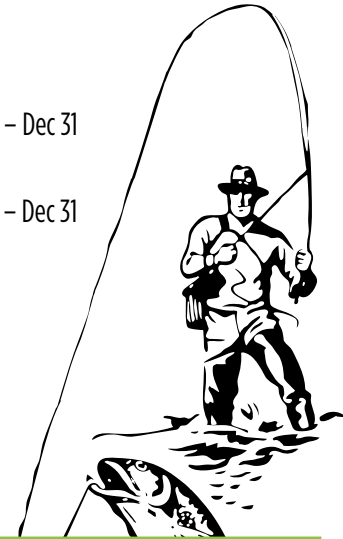
January 1 – March 31 then 3rd Saturday in May – Dec 31

Muskie

1st Saturday in June – December 31

Large and Smallmouth Bass

4th Saturday in June – November 30



ICE IN & OUT



Four Generations at the Cottage!

Once you get to Boshkung, you want to stay. And stay for decades. Last year we invited you to send in your photos celebrating 4 generations at the cottage. We were able to spotlight "Great-Grandparent, Grandparent(s), Parent(s), and Child(ren)" of the families Archer, Heaton, Pawson, and Woods.



This year we present 4 generations of the Canham family (L to R): Ron, Chris, Marcus, and Tyler!

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Algonquin Highlands EVENTS

April 21	Evening of Wine, Words, Music & Art
May 6	Dorset Pitch In Community Clean Up
May 20 & July 1	Swim Program Registration
May 27-28	Pancake Breakfast Fly In/ Drive In – Airport
June 23-24	Young Eagles Day – Airport. Rain Day: Jun. 25
Wed.'s July/Aug.	Oxtongue Lake Summer Speaker Series
Wed.'s July/Aug.	Dorset Family Movie Nights
July/Aug.	Dorset Day Camp
July 1	Heritage Day, Dorset Heritage Museum; Community Garage Sale
July 1	Oxtongue Lake Canada Day
July 8	Dorset Kids Fish Derby
July 15	Stanhope Heritage Day
July 22-23	Ultralight & Homebuilt Aircraft Fly in/ Drive In Breakfast – Airport
Aug. 6	Dorset Arts, Crafts & Antiques Show
Sept./Oct.	Dorset Scarecrow Contest
Sept. 2	Dorset Community Garage Sale
Sept. 30	Fall Colours Fly In/ Drive In – Airport. Rain Day: Oct. 1
Oct. 7	Dorset Thanksgiving Arts, Crafts & Antiques Show
Nov. 26	Dorset Community Christmas Tree Lighting, Meet & Greet Dinner
Dec. 1	Oxtongue Lake Community Christmas Tree Lighting

Visit the Parks & Recreation Activity Calendars at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

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Carnarvon • June 16 – October 6 • Fridays • 12-4pm
Minden • May 20 – October 7 • Saturdays • 10am-2pm

#MyHaliburtonHighlands EVENTS

June 10th, 2017: **Haliburton County Fair**, Minden Fair Grounds

June 17th to September 2nd: **Artisan Market** • Saturdays • 10am-2pm, behind the Township of Minden Hills Administration office on Milne Street

June 2nd to 4th: 2017 39th Annual **Haliburton Home and Cottage Show**
Over 150 exhibitors, Admission \$3 for adults/children under 12 free. Free parking.

June 17th: **Haliburton Highlands Food & Beverage Showcase** • A food and beverage experience of Haliburton Highlands Culinary Scene and Fundraiser
11am to 4pm • Wintergreen Pancake Barn, 3323 Gelert Rd, Minden

July 1st: Come and celebrate **Canada's 150th birthday** in communities throughout #MyHaliburtonHighlands

July 13th-16th: **Minden Hills Bluegrass Festival** • The Minden Hills Bluegrass Festival features award-winning artists from across Canada, drawing audiences from around the globe.

July 20th: **Haliburton School of Art + Design Performance** – Rita Chiarelli (free)

July 21st -23rd: **Haliburton Art and Craft Festival** • Featuring 125 artists and artisans from across the Province, in Head Lake Park, Haliburton

September 21st-24th: **Hike Haliburton Festival** • The Festival goes beyond just ‘traditional hiking’; heavily integrating the arts, culture, heritage and foodie experiences to truly showcase the area.

September 30th: **ColourFest** • Experience fall at Head Lake Park in Haliburton. Shop the farmer's market, enter a scarecrow building contest, go for a horse drawn wagon ride and eat some delicious food.

Sept. 30th to Oct. 1st & Oct. 7th & 8th: **Haliburton County Studio Tour**
Join us for the 2 weekends of fine arts & crafts, set amongst the beautiful fall colours of the Haliburton Highlands.

Highlands Summer Festival: The Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, 5358 Cty Rd 21, Haliburton, ON

Proof: July 17th-21th & 26th-28th; shows at 8pm

Jake's Gift: July 23rd (2:30 matinee), 24th - 25th, shows at 8pm

Hilda's Yard: July 31st, Aug 1st - 4th, 9th - 11th, shows at 8pm

Three Men in a Boat: August 6th (2:30 matinee), 7th & 8th, shows at 8pm

For more events visit [#myhaliburtonhighlands](https://twitter.com/myhaliburtonhighlands)

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2016 Boshkung Lake Photo Contest

We are pleased to present our TOP 12 and the winners for the 2016 contest. Your photographic talents and artists' eyes have made the narrowing and final selection so challenging! Congratulations to all of our entrants!



1ST PLACE:
"Fall Sunset Over Boshkung Lake"
– Carol Charlebois



2ND PLACE:
"End of Summer Aurora"
– Steve Kinsley



"Peace on Boshkung" – Melissa Flemming AND "Autumn Reflections on Boshkung" – Helen Brown



3RD PLACES:



2015 Photo Contest Winner,
Aynsley Robinson, with her
prize paddle!

Honourable Mentions:



"Rainy Day at the Lake" – Bob Fisher



"Morning on Echo Bay" – Jean Ward



"Happy Friday" – Ulli Canham



"Hello Moon" – Carolyn Hillar



"Loving Life" – Carolyn Hillar



"Wintery Sunset" – Steve Kinsley



"That Fish Tickles Going Down" – Steve Kinsley



"It Was A Dark and Stormy Night" – Bob Fisher

Ethanol Stoves: A Cautionary Tale

Peggy Anderson

My sister-in-law, Judy, was definitely a lake person! As a child she spent summers at her family cottage on Four Mile Lake, the same cottage she and my brother, Jim, bought and lovingly refurbished for themselves this past winter. As well as her passion for her own cottage, Judy had a connection with our lake. She would come up to Boshkung to do the Studio Tour with the gals, to celebrate Thanksgiving with extended family, or to christen a new ski boat, hiking to the Lookout each time. Once, Judy and Jim arrived at our cottage in work-boots with chainsaws, tents and their two young sons in tow, to help clean up in the aftermath of the tornado in 2006.

“I want to teach my boys that this is what family does.” Judith said. “We help each other out when times are tough.”

What a crew we had that week: eating all out melting freezer food, camping out, up and down with the sun, drinking generator perked coffee!

On another summer evening without power, at a cottage near her own, Judith was seriously injured in an explosion from an Ethanol Stove. It is Judy’s story I tell here, from the heart, and with a hope that by telling her story I might help prevent another disaster.

At our cottage the night before the Golf Tournament in August, at about 10:30 p.m. all our lights flickered sporadically, then went off for good. We went to bed early. The same power outage hit the Four Mile Lake area, but for Judith, that outage had very different consequences.

On August 13 after dinner, Judith, Jim and family went to visit with cottage friends. Jim and the men played cards inside while Judith and the women moved outside to the gazebo where they sat relaxing together around a table. When the power went out their only source of light was a small table-top ethanol stove. They were not interested in the heat it produced as the outside temperature was thirty-four degrees, and felt like forty! Over time the stove light faded to nothing and disappeared. They all discussed what to do. Should they refuel the stove? Would that be safe? After ten minutes or more they decided they needed the light, so the owner fetched the ethanol fuel container. At first, as she poured fuel into the stove, all seemed fine. Then like a flame thrower, an exploding jet of fire and fuel erupted, shooting away from the fuel source, striking everything in its path. The owner, her daughter and Judith’s son felt a glancing blow. But the full source of the flame struck Judith, burning off her clothes, her unprotected skin offering little resistance.

Among the guests present were several medically trained



professionals. Immediately they rushed to help Judith. They poured lake water on her to put out the flames. Didn’t work. Ethanol and water can mix yet still burn with a flame so clear you cannot see it, even in the dark. Only when they wrapped Judith in towels could they be certain they had extinguished the fire. Judith had sustained burns to 47% of her body. Despite the very best of care she would have a poor chance of survival.

For years now Ethanol Burners or Stoves (terms I will use in this story to include anything from small tabletop bowls to lamps to full sized “outdoor room” fireplaces) have been sold without safety features and regulations in place to protect the consumer. Ethanol stoves are being sold by numerous well-known home decorating and camping retailers in North America and beyond. Many of us have them. We use them, blissfully unaware of their inherent dangers when, in fact, for years these Ethanol fireplaces have seriously disfigured, maimed or killed numerous people around the world; over 250 cases from the States, Australia, England.

SAFETY BAY WOMAN RECEIVES SERIOUS BURNS TO FACE AND UPPER BODY AFTER ETHANOL BURNER EXPLOSION – October 28 2016 (Coast FM 97.3)

TWO CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL AFTER ETHANOL BURNER EXPLOSION – Grand Falls - Windsor June 17 2015 (CBC News)

AREA MAN DISFIGURED IN ETHANOL BURNER EXPLOSION – CTV News (October 2016)

DENTIST DR. JUDITH BUYS DIES SUDDENLY – Peterborough Examiner (August 17, 2016)

www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com August 17, 2016

Yes, my sister-in-law, Judith Buys McGorman, died as a

Yes, my sister-in-law, Judith Buys McGorman, died as a result of her injuries three days after the ethanol explosion I've described above. She was beautiful, talented, successful; a beloved wife and proud mother of two fine sons. She was 55.

Close to home and far away peoples' lives have been changed because of unsafe Ethanol Stoves. **What** makes these Ethanol Burners in particular so dangerous? There are three reasons:

- one lies in the **nature of ethanol fuel itself;**
- one lies in the **design of the Ethanol Burners;**
- and the third in **the design of the fuel containers.**

First, ethanol - a liquid not a gas - is far more dangerous than gasoline. It is an extremely volatile substance which vapourizes at a low temperature. (58°F or 14.4°C) and will ignite on contact with any heat source in its vicinity. Because its vapour burns with an invisible flame it is difficult to tell by looking if a stove is hot/burning or cold/off.

Also, when the ethanol liquid is poured, as happens in fueling or re-fueling ethanol stoves, the vapour can form a dense, invisible and flammable cloud that, if ignited by any source, can act as a wick spreading to the fuel in the container. This causes the phenomenon known as "flame jetting." This jet can blast out for many feet beyond the source, acting much like a flame thrower. It is this jet of flame that is basis for many of the injuries caused by Ethanol Stove accidents and what, in retrospect, we know hit Judith. www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-z039Zt7R0

The second danger involved in using Ethanol Burners comes from the design of the stoves themselves. At present, stoves are being manufactured for aesthetics with no thought to safety engineering. They have no mechanism to



extinguish the flame i.e. to ensure the stove is off.

Finally, the fuel container: at present fuel storage containers used by most companies are inherently unsafe and poorly labelled at best. As already mentioned the fuel is volatile and vapourizes at a low temperature becoming susceptible to ignition from any heat source in its vicinity. High risks involved with the fuel, for example its flame jetting properties, are rarely spelled out on the bottle itself. As we now understand the re-fueling of an Ethanol Burner is hazardous, even deadly.

How can Ethanol Stoves be made safe? Clearly, manufacturers need to be regulated to ensure that safety features are added to both the Ethanol burners and the fuel containers used to deliver ethanol. For example, each ethanol fuel container could be equipped with a flame arrester, a 5 cent plastic stopper on the top of each fuel bottle to prevent ignition. See: www.youtube.com/watch?v=AS5WDA7mAvw

Also stoves must have a way to extinguish the flame perhaps with a well engineered flame cover for the burning chamber to ensure that the stove is off. Safety Rules regarding the use of burners in general and the re-lighting of any Ethanol devices in particular should be clear and emphatic. Remember that to date there are NO regulations regarding the safe manufacture, use and labelling of ethanol devices and the fuel which they burn!

Meanwhile though, what can we do to protect ourselves? Look to see if you have ethanol burners or fuel at your home or cottage. Talk to friends and family about their dangers. Do not keep half used bottles of fuel stored away. Take to a hazardous waste facility. If you own an Ethanol fueled burner of any kind see if it has safety devices on it and if not, just do not use. Do not purchase a new Ethanol Stove big or small at this time. View the YouTube sites provided here to see just what you are up against. www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-z039Zt7R0

Currently, most Ethanol stoves marketed to us as consumers are not safe. Hopefully, submissions past and pending from The Fire Marshall and concerned parties to Health Canada will result in the drafting and implementation of regulations around these dangerous products.

As my brother, Jim, has written in his submission: "if companies are to continue to sell products of this type, we must insist on appropriate safety engineering. Some simple regulations would go a long way to prevent further needless injuries and to make our world a safer place."

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Magical Mystery Tours in the Highlands

By *Barrie Martin*

We are rock hounds getting dirty but we don't care. With spade and hammer we are searching for hidden treasures at the Schickler Mineral Occurrence on the Mumford Road. After a few minutes of digging, a crystal of red apatite reveals itself – a glossy six sided specimen 4 inches in length and 1 inch in diameter - a keeper, to be sure. We are sitting in a trench where apatite was mined in the early 1900's as a source of phosphate for use in fertilizer. The search for more apatite, and calcite, fluorite scapolite continues – it can get addictive. This unique adventure has been designated as an Ontario Signature Experience. The geology of the area makes it a popular destination for mineral collecting for adults and families, beginners and experienced collectors. Haliburton rocks!

Beyond the joys of cottaging and lakeside living there is a world of art, heritage and nature to discover. When you get your needed and deserved fix of sun and relaxation consider stepping out to explore and experience the adventure, art and culinary offerings of this vibrant community we call the Haliburton Highlands.

Our backyard is a vast area of scenic landscapes, natural and cultural wonders, fine folk, warm hospitality, and amazing experiences. Barrie Martin, experience broker and owner/operator of Yours Outdoors, loves to share his passion for and knowledge of the Haliburton Highlands. He works with local individuals, businesses, and organizations to create a wide range of fun and educational experiences that will help you explore your own back yard in all seasons.

“These are not your typical sightseeing tours”, says Barrie Martin, “We attempt to engage all of the senses. You will feel, listen, touch, see, and smell the Haliburton Highlands. Foraging, collecting and tasting wild edibles; blowing glass to create a scotch glass, and learning how to ice climb are examples of experiences we offer.”

More examples:

We meet an 18th Century fur trader dressed in full Hudson Bay garb who leads us on snowshoes along a creek to a log cabin – a trading post. Inside we hear the stories of the fur trade, touch an amazing collection of authentic trade artifacts; feast upon a lunch of bannock, baked beans, wild rice, venison sausage and hot buttered rum toddies; and marvel at the smoke and fire of a flintlock rifle.

The best way to explore the art of the Highlands is on a bicycle. Art is everywhere. We cycle the back roads

to visit studios for some quality time with one-of-a-kind artists, explore cool natural and cultural features and art attractions along the way, and treat ourselves to a scrumptious lunch set on a beach, a garden, or historical home. A sag wagon follows us should there be equipment malfunctions or purchased pieces of art to be transported. You can “pedal your arts’ on 12, 35, or 65 km routes.

So if you are looking for more, there are many awesome authentic adventures awaiting you beyond your doorstep year round in the Haliburton Highlands.

For more information see www.yoursoutdoors or call Barrie at 705-754-3436 or 705-457-7557. For even more experiences visit www.adventurehaliburton.com or www.myhaliburtonhighlands.com

Author Barrie Martin is the creator and operator of Yours Outdoors.

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Highlands
Land Trust

The **Haliburton Highlands Land Trust** is a non-profit, non-governmental, environmental charity, dedicated to protecting the land we love for future generations. We do this in three ways:

1. *Acquiring, managing and protecting lands of ecological or cultural significance*
2. *Providing educational programs to engage the public with the natural world, and*
3. *Conducting research projects to help us determine where best to place our efforts in the future*

SOME OF OUR PROJECTS

- **The Turtle Project** (Turtle Road Mortality Mitigation Project) is in its third and final year.
- There was a large “**Citizen Science**” component to this study. Our volunteer Turtle Monitors contributed over 4200 hours to this project. Training and equipment was provided. No experience was necessary.
- We monitored three selected sites, every day in May and June, during the morning and early evening hours, and **recorded all turtle sightings**.
- This was the last year of the study, which tested a unique, “made-in-Haliburton” design meant to **keep turtles off roads**, while still providing them access to other areas of their habitat via a road underpass. The project has gained attention from around the province and beyond.
- We also host **Discovery Days** which teach everyone about our natural world.

SOME EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE LAST SUMMER:

- **Wild Leeks, Wild Edibles** took place Saturday May 7th at Abbey Gardens, with wild epicurean Carolyn Langdon.
- Then on June 11, we hosted a **Shoreline Naturalization and Wetland Walk**, where participants learned how to naturalize their shoreline.
- Just in time for Father’s Day on June 18th 10:00-12:00 at the Fish Hatchery, was a **Family Fly-Tying and casting Workshop for beginners**.
- **Butterfly Hunters** gathered at Ritchie Falls on July 4th

and Naturalist Thom Lambert led the group in search of butterflies.

- Saturday August 20th featured our **tour of the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary** for sick, injured or abandoned animals.
- Saturday September 24th, **Logging History in Haliburton County** was part of Hike Haliburton where folks got to see a man-made wooden trough, built in the late 1800’s – this is the last of its kind!
- And finally, Saturday Oct. 1st, 10:00-12:00 was **Meet Our Moose** where folks learned everything about our largest member of the deer family. It took place at Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Preserve.

OUR EVENTS

- We also held the first annual **Wild About Nature Golf Tournament** this summer at Pinestone Resort, as well as our Wild About Nature Gala on October 23rd.

We are volunteer-led, and member-driven. Our members and donors are vital to providing programming.

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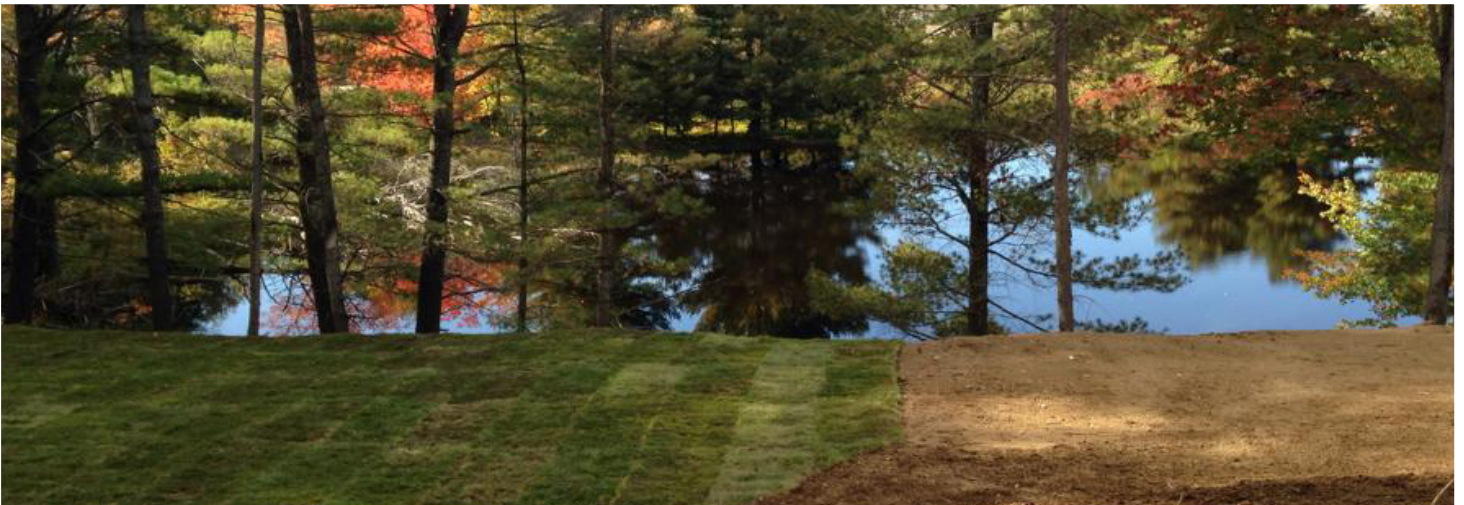
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Septic systems rely on natural bacteria to treat wastewater. Harsh chemicals used in many drain cleaners kill the essential bacteria needed by septic systems.

Chemical drain cleaners are among the most dangerous of all cleaning products to human health. Most contain corrosive ingredients such as sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide (lye) and sodium hypochlorite (bleach) that can permanently burn eyes and skin. Some can be fatal if ingested.

They can also harm our lakes by harming the beneficial bacteria in our septic systems. In a study by Gross (1987), a lab study found significant decreases in concentrations of bacteria at very low Drano concentrations. Just 0.1 mg of Drano per liter of septic tank effluent reduced the concentration of bacteria tenfold; 1.3 mg is enough to kill most bacteria, and at 3 mg/L they are destroyed. Three mg/L corresponds to 11.3 grams in a 1,000-gallon septic tank. Also, there was a slight decrease in pH at higher concentrations of Drano. This amount could possibly be used by a homeowner in a short time period when unclogging a drain. It will take the bacteria population 48 hours to recover to its original concentration following the addition of the Drano.

During those 48 hours every drop of water into your septic system means a drop of untreated water out of the system into the water table and into your lake!

ALTERNATIVES THAT WON'T HARM YOUR FAMILY OR LAKE

Prevent drains from becoming blocked in the first place by having really good and inexpensive metal or plastic drain screens in all drains from sinks, showers, tubs, laundry, etc. Large food scraps, along with fat, oils and grease should be collected and disposed of with the solid waste or composted when possible, and not dumped down the drain.

Keep your drains clean – once a month mix one scoop (one Tbsp.) of *Eco Ethic Septic Treatment* in a ½ litre of warm water and pour down each of your drains at bed time. Note- *Eco Ethic Septic Treatment* can be purchased locally at *Organic Times* in Minden and Northern Expressions in Haliburton

Use a non-toxic alternative to open a drain – pour 1/2 cup salt and 1/2 cup baking soda down your clogged drain. Then pour 6 cups of boiling water after it. Allow to sit overnight and then flush with hot water.

Mechanical methods – The most likely spot for a sink drain to clog is about 6 inches below the drain opening in the trap. If a clog occurs, many times the plumbing under a sink can be removed and manually cleaned. In other instances a plunger may also help to clear the obstruction or a drain auger or snake is used to manually remove the material causing the slow or blocked drain. If the blockage isn't near enough to the sink to reach with a snake, look for other places to gain entry to the pipe. There should be clean-out ports that can be unscrewed to gain access to pipes for auguring. If it's a tough hair or scale-type clog, it may be worth it to call in a professional with better equipment to handle those types of blockages.

Adapted by the C.H.A from an article by Sara Heger, Ph.D., who is an engineer, researcher and instructor in the Onsite Sewage Treatment Program in the Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota

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Shelley Schell 2017



It's a big year for Haliburton School of Art + Design – 50 years! Tens of thousands of people have come to the area to attend courses, significantly impacting the cultural, social and economic fabric of the Haliburton Highlands. In return, the Highlands have charmed those creative visitors, inspiring returns to the school and,

in many instances, the purchase of cottages and homes.

In a great story from pre-cell phone days, a student came in to the micro-summer school office at the high school, asking to borrow the telephone. The ensuing conversation, privy to all in the tiny room, clearly indicated that she was instructing her husband on substantial financial arrangements. Unbeknownst to him, she'd spontaneously bought a cottage that morning. Hailing from Montreal, she attended summer school and enjoyed her cottage for many years. She'd succumbed to the charm of the Highlands.

Closer to the heart of the Boshkung Lake community, **Ted Charlebois** and **Andrea Pawson** have both been students at Haliburton School of Art + Design; each enjoying a very different experience.

Ted, on the lake for 46 years as a cottager and another 12 as a full-time resident, has taken Stone Carving and Timber Framing. Subsequently, he's incorporated some timber frame design into many of his construction projects. Interestingly, when asked about creativity he responded that he wouldn't consider himself a creative person. In spite of that perception, he attended an art school and it continues to influence his life. Sometimes creativity's influence can be a bit sly.

Ted noted, "I was impressed with the instructors at the college and the quality of the people that they attracted to the courses."

Andrea grew up on Boshkung and regularly returns to its peace and quiet from her Toronto home. As part of four generations of family friendships that have been forged

over the years, she loves the sense of community at the lake.

Andrea definitely considers herself a creative person. Her educational pursuits, entrepreneurial spirit, and personal interests are all characterized by her artistic inclinations. She took her first course at Haliburton School of Art + Design as a child almost 20 years ago, returning to the Kids' Pottery course three more times. Following graduation from LaSalle College's Fashion Program, Andrea came back to HSAD, achieving certificates in Fibre Arts and Jewellery.

"I loved the freedom that I had in trying new methods and looking at how different techniques can be applied. The school gave me permission and the freedom to push further in my creativity. I'm less inclined to follow the rules now!"

When asked what they most enjoy about being on Boshkung, both Ted and Andrea referenced the sense of community and the friendships that lake-living has inspired over the years. Special bonds have formed and been strengthened through shared experiences and the passage of time. Interestingly, the same thing happens at Haliburton School of Art + Design. Grandparents bring grandchildren, doctors and other professionals take a break from high pressure careers, artists develop their practices, and hobbyists dabble. Together, they create a community.

Painting, folk music, timber framing, glassblowing, photography, guitar building, quilting, jewellery, pottery, iron sculpture, writing, choral singing, bird carving, and much more; with over 300 courses to choose from there's something for everyone at Haliburton School of Art + Design. For many, the Haliburton Highlands has become a *creative home*.



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Hit the Hiking Trails!

Luke Woods

When it's so beautiful at the lake, it's difficult to motivate yourself to explore other parts of the Highlands. But it's worth it!

Hiking Trails of the Algonquin Highlands

is a map-trail guide available at the Township Office on North Shore Road. To help you stir from the dock, check out these "photos and a memory" by

Luke Woods, at the *Circuit of 5 Viewpoints Hike*, whose map can be found on page 8 of the guide-booklet:

"Thanksgiving Saturday was a warm Fall day (15 degrees) and the clouds, though ominous, were uniform and beautiful. We encountered half of a family of 4: a mother and young daughter were alone waiting for the father. She informed us that he had backtracked to find a mitten lost by the infant. We kept moving towards viewpoint # 5. Soon after, we ran into the rest of the family – the dog and father who had given up empty handed. Five minutes further along we found a small hand-knitted mitten in the middle of the trail. What to do? We quickly scooped up the mitten and ran back down the trail to the parking lot to return the mitten. Luckily, the family had not yet departed! After this stutter start, we made it to lookout #5, where a drone pilot was testing out his new toy and taking pictures from the sky down onto the viewpoint. Perhaps no other pictures have been taken from that viewpoint before. Our photos are from a hiker's perspective!"

The *Circuit of 5 Viewpoints Hike* comprises a 5 kilometre loop of "classic Canadian shield country with 5 spectacular panoramic viewpoints." It is "particularly popular in the fall months." Its rating is **moderate**.

But not only worth the impetus to leave the dock for a couple of hours in the fall, this hike is great in the summer too.

Angela Moritsugu and Jonathan Hutchinson checked out the views on the August long weekend last summer.



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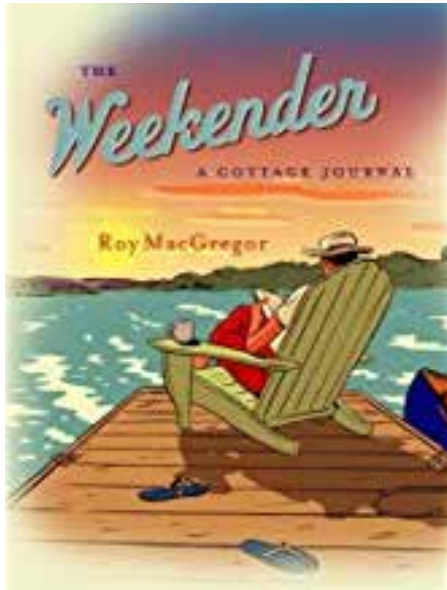
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“The Weekender: A Cottage Journal” by Roy MacGregor

Review by Ann Hilborn



The challenge of preserving and protecting our natural environment is a sacred cause for most who have both personally experienced and developed a love for the natural world. This is the belief that has motivated Parks Canada to offer free passes to our national parks to all Canadians during 2017 in honour of

our country’s 150th birthday. It is hoped that Canadians will take advantage of this opportunity to discover or rediscover one of the areas that makes our country so special. For those unable to travel to one of these locales, cottage life often is, at worst, the next best option. And for many, a preferred one.

While Canada is a vast land of overwhelming beauty, the

majority of its residents live in towns and cities. For many it is the cottage that bridges the gap between these two realms—between urban life and the world outside.

In his book, *The Weekender: A Cottage Journal*, Roy MacGregor defines the cottage broadly:

It doesn't matter whether we call it cottage or camp, whether it is owned or rented or borrowed, whether it is one of the \$9.5 million monstrosities of the Muskoka lakes, a simple banged-up trailer on the banks of a northern river or a park campsite you need to book months in advance. They are all equal in the state of mind they produce. For those of us fortunate enough to have access to such a place, whether by ownership, by invitation or by booking ahead, it is where we summer and virtually by definition, the place we treasure most.

As a long-time cottager, most of my favourite memories spring from the precious time spent in Haliburton. It is a place where families and friends gather, where city concerns fade into the distance and magical moments evolve. It is where we can connect to what matters most. No one appreciates summers more than Canadians. For most, it is stolen time, time that passes far too quickly, and time we treasure away from every day demands. MacGregor creates a mosaic, painting a tapestry of the

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reasons why we never want summer to end. He suggests that, if we could, we would suspend time and live eternally at the cottage.

Mind you, it always amazes me that when the blahs of winter predominate how soon we forget the mosquitoes, black flies, mice, power outages, broken water lines, challenging septic systems, putting in the dock, taking an early season swim in the frigid lake water, shovelling snow off the roof and the traffic encountered on both Friday and Sunday evenings. MacGregor has fun extrapolating on the frustrations cottagers face. One certainly can relate to his anecdotes so enthusiastically explained.

Yet, the magic of cottage life always manages to far outweigh what are reduced to minor frustrations. We simply yearn to return to the cottage.

For some, that means in more than a single season. The book, which has been written sequentially, takes us through an entire year of varied experiences. Appealing to our pioneer spirit, the author includes anecdotes of cottage life during the winter months. He reflects:

It is a time so quiet, so special, so different that it has always

astonished me how few cottagers make the effort to go in.

The concept I found most interesting is that of the ‘Cottage of the Mind.’ In rebuttal to people who say that they would never own a cottage since it can only be enjoyed for a limited time each year, MacGregor explains how he uses his cottage:

Mine is on my computer, a screen saver that I can change as the mood fits: the view from the deck, a long shot down the lake, a sweeping twilight photograph of the small bay we are on. My cottage is there and always in my imagination whenever required. I think about it while shovelling the driveway, I visit it when I’m in traffic. It is what we use to get away, even when physically we cannot get away.

It is indeed fitting that MacGregor with his love of the cottage and his ability to articulate the Canadian obsession with cottage life is a contributor to *Cottage Life*, Canada’s ‘go-to source for cottagers’, and an Officer in the Order of Canada.

The Weekender: A Cottage Journal is a book that can be read and reread. It might even inspire you to start your own cottage journal or perhaps choose a new screen saver.



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Bees, Wasps, Hornets – The Sting on Pollinators and Pests

By Eco-Choice Pest Control

The summer of 2016 was a brutal one for wasps. They thrived with all the hot, dry weather and their colonies exploded. Typically, we treat wasp nests in August, and maybe a bit into September, but last year the calls started in May and lasted all the way to November! This led to a lot of discussion about the difference between bees and wasps, which are beneficial and how to keep them off (or on) the property.

Let's start by clarifying that bees and wasps are not the same thing – they're about as different as a chihuahua and a great dane.

There are about 400 species of bee native to Ontario, though the honeybee is not included. There are no honeybees native to North America, they have all been brought here from Europe or other parts of the world. Most beekeepers in Canada rear some sort of European honeybee, ourselves



Honeybees have a fuzzy body and a dark gold colour on their thorax, or middle body segment.



Bumblebees are very fuzzy and contrast bright yellow and black on their bodies. Some have a rust-coloured patch on their back.

included – we have bees from Italy and Austria. We are likely the only exterminators who also keep bees... we'll never claim to 'bee' normal, but I digress. All native bees, along with the introduced honeybees, are beneficial pollinators and have fuzz or hair. The native species tend to pollinate one particular plant which they evolved with. For example squash bees

pollinate only, you guessed it, squash plants. Honeybees were introduced because they are much broader in their nectar sourcing and thus pollinate many different kinds of plants.

Bumblebees are in between honeybees and wasps on the evolutionary "tree". Like honeybees, bumblebees live in colonies but unlike honeybees, they do not produce any appreciable amount of honey. Also unlike honeybees and other bees, they can deliver multiple stings. They are beneficial pollinators and will visit a variety of plant species. Many of

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the blossoms visited by bumblebees cannot be utilized by honeybees and the first person to email us and tell us why that is, will WIN a package of wasp deterrents!

Wasps, commonly misidentified as hornets, can vary in colour but are bald with little to no hair or fuzz. They can excavate a nest in the ground or build a nest out of various materials, but they never create wax like honeybees do. They tend to be very protective of their nests which can make them aggressive. Wasps are mostly predatory and carnivorous but adults will consume small amounts of nectar. They do not pollinate and do not lose their stinger so can sting multiple times without harm to themselves. This results in more venom passed to the victim, which is why wasp stings hurt so much more than bee stings and most allergies are related to a species of wasp instead of bees. All of this combined to make wasps enemy #1 in Haliburton County last summer, with 4-5 wasp nests to treat every day in July and August.

Keeping wasps away is tricky. The deterrents that look like paper nests are supposed to work if they are installed early in the spring before wasps start building their nests. If wasps have already started building a nest, they will not stop. Of course, the deterrents won't stop ground nesters or other types of wasps. Traps can be purchased or made to capture adult wasps and will slowly minimize the population. When making a lure for wasps, mix 1 part water to 3 parts sugar and add a small amount of vinegar so as not to attract bees to the trap.

Conversely, many residents are interested in attracting bees and other beneficial pollinators to their property. This is usually a matter of planting nectar-rich plants that blossom at

different times throughout the year. We have compiled a list of pollinator friendly plants with bloom times and would be happy to share, just send us an email.

Bee health is of vital importance with the prevalence of colony collapse disorder and its multiple causes. The ecological service provided by honeybees and other pollinators is unparalleled by human means and preserving the beneficial species' is a responsibility we all share. Minimizing pesticides and agricultural chemicals is a huge step, but backyard beekeepers and gardeners can go a long way. Make sure the plants you purchase are not genetically modified and do not contain neonicotinoids ... yes, there are plants sold as pollinator plants with harmful chemicals embedded right into the plant material.

Since wasps are not beneficial pollinators, you don't have to feel guilty about eradicating their colonies from your property. Just make sure you can do so without getting stung. We are based out of Minden, so we're right around the corner and happy to help with any wasp or pest problems you don't want to take on. Besides, we have all the protective bee equipment already!

Article by:  ECO-CHOICE
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2016 Regatta Report

Karen and Rick Day (Lot 74)

The gods of weather smiled down on our Regatta again last summer. Attendance was up slightly (400+) and our venue at the Buttermilk Falls Resort was perfect, as usual.

A big heartfelt thank you again to all of our volunteers and sponsors and the Endo Networks team. Special mention to our Regatta event co-ordinators June Dies Keys and Andrew Fleming, and of course to Sue Yallop and our Directors. Sue reminds me to send special thanks to Peter Day for saving our bacon at the 11th hour by making our unique Ribbons at Endo when there was a mix-up by our regular supplier, and also to all those welcome and wonderful teenagers who stepped up to help with everything, especially the event results. If you have any suggestions for next year or would like to volunteer or donate prizes for the raffle, please send an email to our Regatta Committee at regattafun@endonetworks.com. We especially need fresh blood for the kids' games!

M.C. Billy reports the wolf howl contest was more popular than the loon call! So everybody needs to practise up their howls and tremolos for this summer's Regatta, once again at beautiful Buttermilk Falls Resort on Saturday, August 5th from 11- 4 p.m. Mark your calendars now!



Lucky kids having fun at the regatta



Around the regatta





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- How many seconds are there in a whole year? Twelve: January Second, February Second, March Second,
- "Whatever happened in Vegas" – never happened
- Bonus question for the kids: Name a day of the week that starts with "Y" and ends with "Y" (Answer: YesterdaY)



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If I missed anybody, please let me know!

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Cottage Games – The Indoor Edition

By Vicki Woods

We all love to spend as much time as possible outdoors at, on, or beside the lake. But sometimes the snow is too soft and deep for tobogganing, or too icy for cross-country skiing, or the lake ice too precarious or the winds too bitter for a walk. In a different season, the mosquitoes per square inch of air space may be too dense, especially as the sun sets in June or July. Or perhaps it's just pouring, and pouring, and still pouring. Or, believe it or not, maybe you need a break from all that sun! It's time to look in the drawers and on all the shelves and bring out the games! Here are some of the ones that get a lot of table time at our cottage:

Scenario 1: We've been chased inside by the mosquitoes, our beach dinner just finished in time, and we've an hour and a half until the mozzies go to bed and we can exit to toast our desserts over the bonfire. So, with everyone gathered around the table, out come the cards and tokens for a game of "31" and the challenge is on to stay in the game since first, then second, and third, eliminated have to start on all those dishes! This game is suitable for lots of players of varied ages.

[simple outline of the game: the dealer passes out 3 cards to each player. With the object to count as close to or right on 31 in the same suit, each player in turn draws a card from the centre pile and discards one onto the discard pile. Once attaining 31, you immediately lay down your hand and win the round. The player with the lowest score forfeits a "life" (penny, acorn, button....), one of 3. Once losing all 3 "lives", a player has one more chance before heading to the kitchen sink! A player can also choose to "knock" instead of drawing a card. Other players then have one more chance before all hands are revealed. If there is a tie for lowest score, both players lose a "life". The knocker wins a tie for lowest score and does not lose a "life"; however, if the knocker has the lowest score 2 "lives" are lost! Google "how to play 31" if you'd like more detailed rules.]

Scenario 2: My Dad has earned the right to not be in the dinner dishes duty group, and if you don't mind losing, you might be lucky enough to get the cribbage challenge rather than the tea towel. For cribbage you need a deck of cards, a crib board and 2, 3, or 4 players. Skill and tactics are important, but the luck of the cards dealt is an equalizing factor. Usually, My Dad retains the crown as the King of Cribbage at our cottage, no matter who challenges. He has skill, tactics, and luck in his back pocket!



[Standard crib boards are readily available, but there are many beautifully crafted boards of varying sizes and themes. Variations on the game are Double Cribbage, and CribbGolf - this latter is a particular favourite of mine because it's the only time I've ever, or will ever, beat John at golf!]

Scenario 3: It's beautiful enough to be outside, but too much direct sun at the peak time of day should be avoided: a game in the shade at the picnic table is just the thing. "1s and 5s" only needs 6 die, a pencil and paper for the score, and a tray with sides to roll the dice on so that vigorous rollers don't send the dice into the sand.

[simple outline of the game: 1s are worth 100, 5s are worth 50. 3 of a kind rolled in one throw are worth that many 100, e.g. three 4s are worth 400, but 3 ones gain you 1000; 3 pairs, 2 sets of 3-of-a-kind, or a straight, rolled at once, all rate 1500. At your turn, roll the 6 die. Re-roll the non-counting die. If you roll, and there are no counting dice, you bust and pass the die to the next player. If you have enough self-control to stop while still counting, record your score and pass the die along. First to 5000, wins.]

Scenario 4: You're looking forward to family and friends time at the cottage, but you have to get there first. Instead of individual movies in the back seat of the car, or all the passengers intent on their phones, play a game of "bulls and crosses" to start your together time en route. It's like "mastermind" but with words (letter sequences) instead of colours. I used to play this game with students in my French classes so feel free to try it in whatever languages you know! The advanced level of the game is all memory

based; with younger players, or brains that are already in relax mode, you can keep a written list of the guesses to help the next guesser.

[simple outline of the game: One person thinks of a word of 4 different letters. A correct letter in the correct position is scored a “bull” (bulls eye); a correct letter but in the incorrect position is scored a “cross”. The player who determines the right word, begins the next round.

Example: the word is PART. A guess of PEAR earns 1 bull (for the P), and 2 crosses (for the A and R). TRIP would earn 3 crosses. And so on.....

The level of difficulty can be reduced by saying which letters have earned the scores but try the challenge of figuring that out just through how the guesses of the group are scored!

Scenario 5: A thunder-stormy night at the cottage. 3 generations all packed in together. We love to play “Name-Droppers”. It’s another low-equipment game – just a big bowl, lots of small papers, and some kind of one minute timer – and everyone can play.

[simple outline of the game: Each player writes 5 names (or 10...) on the bits of paper and tosses them into the bowl. Names can be those of people known from sports, politics, literature, movies, cartoons, family, media, etc. Divide into 2 or 3 teams. The first player has the bowl nearby, and has one minute to provide clues (verbal and with actions if desired) to his/her team to get them to deduce as many names as possible in one minute. DING! Save those names to the side for tallying at the end, and pass the bowl to team 2. Play round and round until all the names have been guessed then tally up the teams’ scores.]

Same scenario, here’s another multi-generational team game. We found a beanbag ensemble in the attic of our old garage near the lake. My Mom made a new set of beanbags (which we’ve only had to replace once after a mouse found them one winter), and my brother invented “extreme ultimate beanbags”!

[I’m sure no-one needs an outline of this long-standing game, but to the simple tosses toward the holed board, add in some of these different throws: non-dominant hand, under a raised leg, the loo-oong toss, football hike, foot toss, from the loft balcony.....Cheer on your teammates’ successes!]

No matter the scenario, games are a great way to connect digital-less-ly. If you like word plays, such as in Boggle and Scrabble, then check out Upwords, a multi-level

version of the latter. Balderdash and Things, Apples to Apples and Anomia, are all laughter-producing games in a box. If a tactile component appeals to you, there’s Mancala, Rumikub (also called Rummy-O or Tile Rummy), and Mexican Train Dominoes. Crokinole Boards, the mass-produced as well as home-made versions, can often be found tucked away in a cottage nook or cranny. Great tournament fun for a group, and with care you can avoid a bruised fingernail!

With a regular deck of cards and 4 people, you can play Euchre. For the same number or more players explore the variety of International or Hearts. Using its special card deck, try 5 Crowns (but, fair warning, my Dad is royalty at this game too: still has skill, tactics, and the luck of the cards in his back pocket!)

What are the favourites at your cottage? Do you enjoy some of the same games that we do? Do you have new ones that you’d recommend?

Drop a line to vickiwoods1@gmail.com to let us know your top games and we’ll follow up with a Boshkung Games List in the Informer’s next edition!



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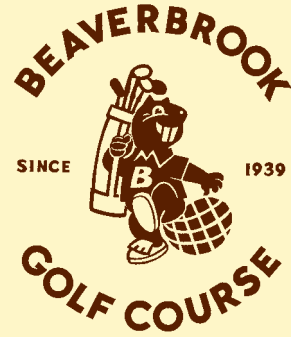


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Track My Plow Portal Now Available In Ontario!

Article by : Doug Rumble

Have you ever noticed the weather station and camera at the south end of Boshkung , just adjacent to the Little Boshkung Lake boat launch?

If you have great, this is actually a Ontario Ministry of Transportation Partner tower that allow the public who access the web site to track in the winter (starting in November to April) where snow plows are currently located and see their past route .

The benefit to us at who cottage or live on the lake is also a real time video camera that shows the current road conditions of Highway 118 and the ability to view the current weather conditions at the south end of the lake.

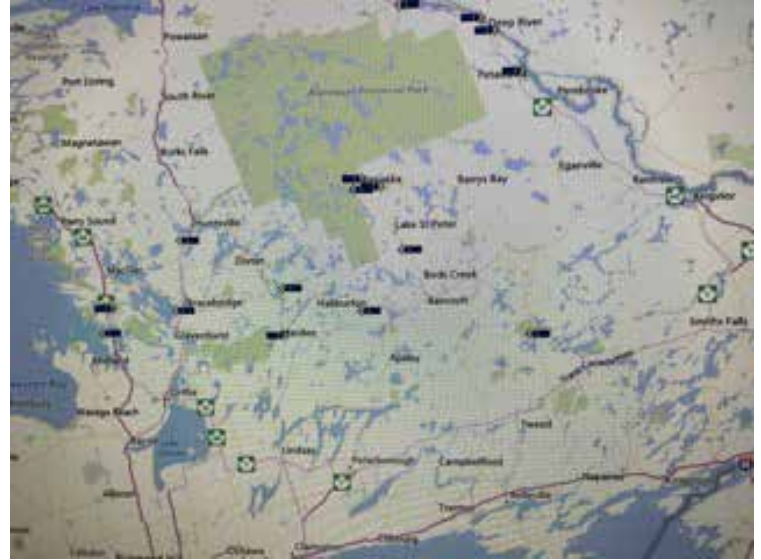
Also on the site you have the functionality of overlaying the current weather radar map and the twitter feeds from the OPP on any accidents or road closures of provincial highways in Ontario.

This is a great tool for all of us to use if you are considering travelling to the cottage over the winter months. Not only can you view the road camera at the south end of Boshkung Lake but you can also view many different strategically placed cameras all over the province


depending on where you plan to travel.

The web site is: Trackmyplow.com

Please go ahead and check it out while operational over the winter months for real time provincial highway information!



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