

THE INFORMER

SPRING 2024



BLPOA Directors and Officers July 2023 - July 2024

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EVENTS

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Liz Brouillette	Golf / Family Day	ejbrouillette@gmail.com

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Scott Blyth	Data Management	scott.blyth@me.com
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BLPOA 2024 Area Reps

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2	26-46	Paul Dies	416-458-8771	paul.dies@sympatico.ca
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19	217-228	Meg Baker	as above	
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11	309-319	Dave Northcote	as above	
10	322-353	Shawna Graham	647-990-5643	shawna_graham@hotmail.com
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8	373-381	Andrew Sykes	705-489-1282	sykes.lakehouse@gmail.com
20	400-480	Linda Ray	705-489-4113	2lindaray@gmail.com

BLPOA Executive Letter – 2024

Greetings fellow Boshkungers...

Another year is complete. And it was again a great year on Boshkung Lake. We got back to our normal, or mostly normal activities. The Annual Meeting's guest speaker, Ted Spence from CEWF (Coalition of Equitable Water Flow), had a fascinating presentation which can be found on our website blpoa.ca. The rise and fall of our lakes is always an interesting and sometimes controversial topic, but Ted Spence put it into terms we could all understand. Thank you Ted!

We tried for a special dinner in July, but pricing just got out of reach. We will try again with some new ideas in 2024. Stay tuned for information about The Boshkung Summer Sizzle!

The Regatta was a huge success under the leadership of Jennifer Murdison. Thank you to Jenn for her wonderful organizing and to all the volunteers who helped ensure that success. The generosity of Stephen and Megan Orr at Buttermill Falls resort was also a critical part of that successful day!

The golf tournament was held on a perfect day and provided fun for 43 participants. Read the golf Tournament Report a few pages from now to learn the exciting final result.

Again this year we send our heart-felt appreciation to Emily Lewis of Emilew Designs for the great Boshkung clothing and swag she creates, with all sales proceeds supporting BLPOA.

At this time, the County is still working through the STR (Short Term Rental Bylaw) with the focus to bring control to rental properties – noise, pollution, safety, aggravation, traffic, etc. There should be regulations completed soon, to introduce to all participants this spring.

The big topic for 2023 was the closure of the Minden Hospital and the opening of an Urgent Care Clinic in its location. As we all know, healthcare staffing issues continue to be front and center, not just for Haliburton Hospital, but as a Canada wide phenomenon that may not be solved in the short term. I guess all we can do is hope that we all stay healthy!

One last subject is BLPOA Board membership. We do hope some of you will consider becoming a member. It is not a lot of time commitment. And, it is fun. We are striving to have the roles of President and Vice President rotate in 2 year stints so that people can make a contribution in those positions then move on. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering in any capacity for the Board or for a BLPOA activity. A big thank you to all the members of the BLPOA Board for their ongoing support of our Lake Association.

On that note, have a great 2024 and see you at the lake. We will wave to you from the deck or our boathouse roof.

~ Tom

ASSOCIATION EVENTS 2024

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday July 6 2024
Coffee & Muffins: 9:00 • Meeting: 9:30

BOSHKUNG SUMMER SIZZLE

Saturday July 20 2024
5:00pm – 10:00pm
Stanhope Firefighters' Community Hall Parking Lot
Check out the promotion in the Informer p. 4 and on our website blpoa.ca
Contact: Joanne Turner
joanne@joanneturner.ca • 604-626-6278



REGATTA

Saturday August 3 2024
Buttermilk Falls Resort
11:00am – 4:00pm
If you would like to volunteer please contact Jenn Murdison • jmurdison@outlook.com



GOLF/FAMILY DAY

Saturday August 17 2024
Sign up available at the Annual Meeting.
Check the website blpoa.ca for info
Contact: Liz Brouillette
ejbrouillette@gmail.com



COVER PHOTO

On this year's cover, photographer Luke Jensen takes us dockside in the evening to experience a stunning Boshkung sky – thank you, Luke!





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 (4 MUGS FOR \$50)
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Saturday, July 20, 2024 • 5-10pm
 Stanhope Firefighters' Community Hall Parking Lot

Celebrate Summer on Boshkung Lake with your family, neighbours and new friends across the lake at this outdoor party with something for everyone.

Boshkung Smokehouse & Craft Beer will kindly serve up barbeque favourites for meat lovers and vegetarians alike.

Adults \$30
Kids (12 & under) \$15
INCLUDES MAIN COURSE, SIDES & DESSERT
 Craft beer, cider, wine and non-alcoholic drinks available for purchase
Advance Online Ticket Purchases
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eventbrite.ca/e/boshkung-summer-sizzle-tickets-814398135747

Plus Live Music from the 80's to today's hits!

* Advance ticket sales only. Tickets will be NOT be available for sale at the event.
 * The event will be held inside the hall if weather does not allow for an outdoor event.



Treasurer's Report 2023

We continue to be in a healthy cash position. This gives us the flexibility to address issues that may affect the safety of our lake, and our current and future enjoyment of the lake.

Our main source of revenue continues to be you, our members, through the payment of your membership dues. Thank you. Our special thanks to the dynamic duo of Julia and Emily Lewis, whose tireless and ongoing commitment to the Association through the solicitation of and collection of advertising revenues, and the design and sales of various swag, respectively, contributed approximately \$9,800 to our coffers.

Our primary expenditures for the year, in order, were donations, the printing and mailing costs for the Informer, insurance premiums, and support of the Regatta. This is consistent with prior years.

During our Annual General Meeting in July, members of the BLPOA proposed and approved \$6,000 in donations (the same as in 2022) to our community. The Board allocated the funds to the following 6 charities:

- Food For Kids Haliburton** - \$1,250. The mission of the organization is to ensure all children and youth have access to healthy, nutritious, safe, and personally acceptable food in a non-stigmatized environment that is universally accessible to optimize their health and learning at school. For more information visit their website, www.foodforkids.ca.
- Minden Community Food Centre (MCFC)** - \$1,250. The MCFC serves the community by providing food, cooking classes, clothing, toys, books, medical equipment,

school supplies and other household goods for those who are in need. For more information visit their website, www.mindencommunityfoodcentre.ca

3. **Supportive Initiative for Residents in the County of Haliburton (SIRCH)** - \$1,000. SIRCH supports several social enterprises, community-based programs and offers free vocational training through the efforts of their staff and volunteers. For more information visit their website, www.sirch.on.ca.

4. **Places for People** - \$1,000. The organization creates and manages quality affordable rental housing in Haliburton County fostering an environment in which the tenants can thrive. For more information visit their website, www.placesforpeople.ca.

5. **The Heat Bank Haliburton County** - \$1,000. The organization is a community initiative with a mission to increase the supply of and ease of access to emergency firewood and heat for vulnerable residents of Haliburton County. For more information visit their website, www.centralfoodnetwork.org/heat-bank.html.

6. **Algonquin Highlands Fire Services (AHFS)** - \$500. AHFS is dedicated to protecting life, property and the environment through education, prevention, and emergency response. AHFS operates three stations - Station 60 in Dorset, Station 70 in Oxtongue Lake, and Station 80 on North Shore Road. For more information visit their website, www.algonquinhighlands.ca/our-community/fire-services/www.hhhs.ca/volunteers/auxiliaries.

A Winter Sport Where the Ice is Always Thick Enough!

Winter 2023-2024 has left us wondering what depth of snow and ice cover we can hope for next winter. Well, here's a winter activity that you can consider for your friends and family that does not rely on snowfall:

The Minden Curling Club has sheets of ice that are available to rent for a few hours of fun between post-Thanksgiving October until the end of March.

For 2 hours of ice time, it's \$80; or if a Minden Curling Club member is part of your group, just \$50. (John Sexton and Tracy Gualberto of Echo Bay are members.) You can bring your own appetizers and snacks - there's even a full kitchen - and the bar is open.

To arrange your curling entertainment, contact John Sexton 905-868-5906.



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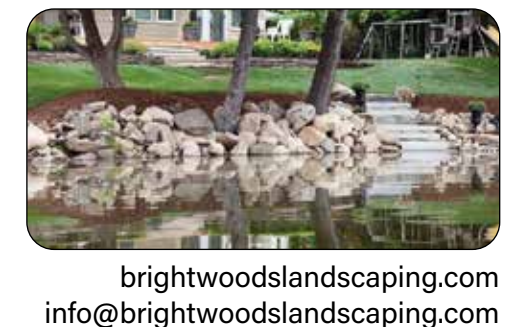
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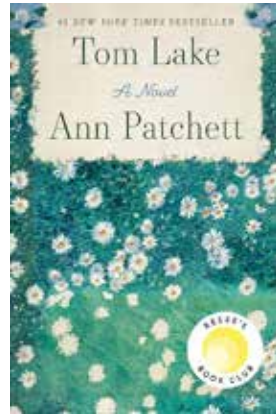
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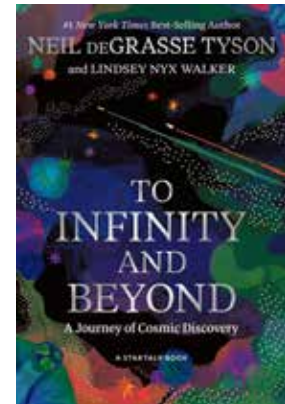
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TOM LAKE BY ANN PATCHETT

To her 3 grown daughters, Lara is a mother and a farmer's wife. But in her youth, she was an actress who had a whirlwind summer romance with the now famous actor Peter Duke. When Lara's daughters return to the cherry orchard in the spring of 2020, they beg their mother to tell them of the life she lived before they were born, especially the parts that involved Peter Duke. Tom Lake flips between the compelling family dynamics that come from unexpectedly spending months together and the magic of young love and unexpected opportunities. This book is delightful in any form, but extra special on audiobook, with Meryl Streep narrating.



~ Mikaela Charlebois



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND – A JOURNEY OF COSMIC DISCOVERY BY NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

We have plenty of stargazers on our lake, who love to look up into the night sky, far from the light pollution of towns and cities. That curiosity about the observable stars and planets led me to pick this book up recently.

This is a very readable book. The concepts are explained in a way that makes them understandable. Although, I confess to glossing over a few of the more recent theories, when I realized that my brain just wasn't grasping them. I enjoyed learning more about earth's atmosphere and how rockets are able to escape it, satellites and space junk, the planets and galaxies, and even whether time travel is possible.

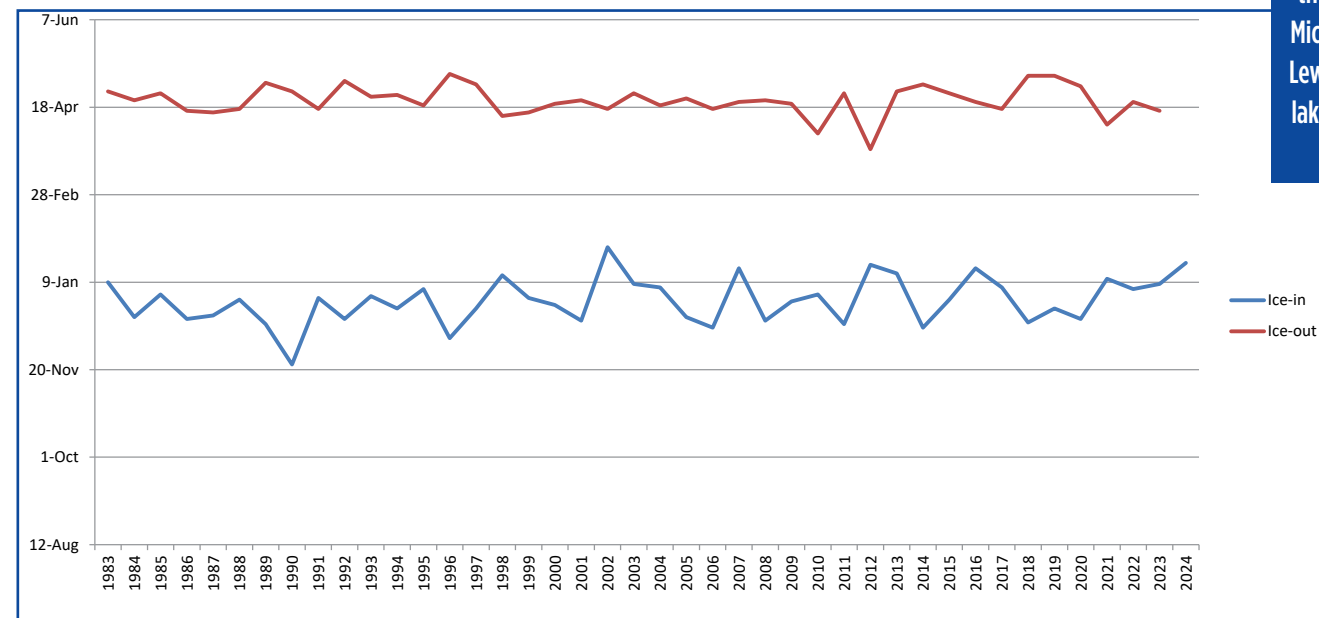
As well as being an astrophysicist, on staff with the Hayden Planetarium, Degraesse Tyson is a prolific author and has appeared on countless TV programs and documentaries. He's perhaps best known by most of us from his 2 guest appearances on The Big Bang Theory.

The book is full of fun facts about many of our favorite science fiction films, and how scientifically accurate they are. Of course, Back to the Future is included! You don't have to wait for summer to contemplate the stars, or to read this fascinating book. You can even read it for free, by checking it out of your local library.

~ Helen Brown



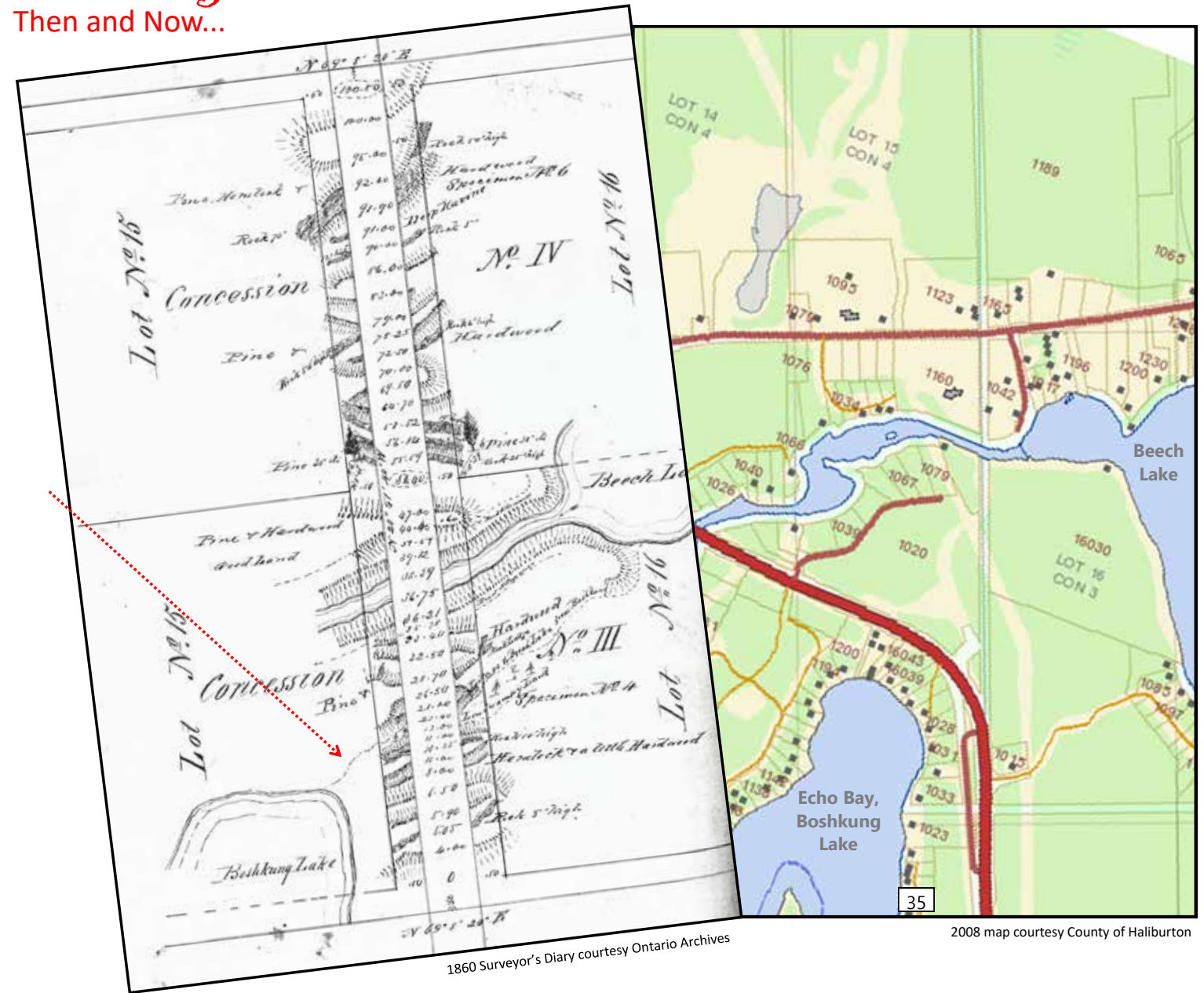
Ice out April 16, 2023 ... Ice in January 20, 2024



Thanks to Scott Blyth for the creative work and to Michele Bromley and Julia Lewis for their eyes on the lake to provide this year's data for the graph!

Boshkung to Beech

Then and Now...



1860 Surveyor's Diary courtesy Ontario Archives

2008 map courtesy County of Haliburton

The image on the left is a page from the 1860 surveyor's sketch showing the Beech River from Beech Bay into Echo Bay.

In preparation for the settlement of "Upper Canada", surveyors not only laid out 100-acre lots, they noted where bluffs, tree species, rivers, swamps and lakes were significant. It was gruelling work!

Note how Part of Lot 15 is identified as "Good Land"; and part of Lot 16 near the portage is identified as "Low Swampy Land".

Most noteworthy is the **red dotted line** showing the portage between Echo Bay and Beech Bay. Algonquin Highlands was used extensively as seasonal hunting grounds by First Nations, and today is part of the 1923 Williams Treaties.

The second map showing the same area is from the County's Community GIS system showing lots, roads and buildings.

For First Nations, portages were vital links between lakes that allowed easy passage. Today, portages technically remain permission- and payment-free for travelling through and while most still exist, some are disputed. It's always best to check.

The First Nations name for Beech Lake was Sawamishi; and Boshkung has variably been Buskank, Bushcong, Bosking, Boskung and now Boshkung.

To learn a wee bit more about First Nations lake names, visit the Stanhope Museum's Heritage Mapping Project at www.heritagemapsalgonquin.com



BLPOA WEBSITE

blpoa.ca

Our website is a great success! It's regularly updated with new information about Boshkung Lake. At blpoa.ca you'll find information about upcoming events, lake health, cottaging history, Boshkung merch, beautiful photos and so much more. Let us know what you'd like to see on the site -- we'd love to hear your ideas!

DO YOU RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS FROM BLPOA?

Or does your lake information come from reading an Informer found in the cottage magazine basket on a rainy day?

If your parent or grandparent is a Boshkung property owner, you can participate in the care and life of our lake. By receiving BLPOA emails you will keep up with information on BLPOA events and our lake's health.

Contact us at blpoa1@gmail.com to join our list!

THE BOSHKUNG BOOK

In 1999, the Boshkung Millennium Group from the Boshkung Lake Property Owners Association, decided to capture the memories of the lake.

The stories weave together to create a tapestry that holds a true love for nature and the lake.

Now, over two decades later, with no more copies available, BLPOA has responded to requests from newcomers to the lake and from expanding families, by re-printing BOSHKUNG.

You can have a copy for its production cost of \$40.00. To order yours, please contact Vicki Woods at vickiwoods1@gmail.com or 416-459-5645.



The Generations Gather at the Cottage

Melissa Flemming says, "I'd like to take a moment to recognize the bond that 'cousins' have. Growing up our family had the most incredible bond with our cousins. Each summer we could not WAIT for the last day of school so we could drive to the cottage to spend our summer in the water at the Matabanick with our cousins. This bond has continued to the next generation of cousins to be reunited each summer on the shores of Boshkung Lake at the Matabanick. A tradition that we know will carry on with these boys, the 5th generation of (Archer descendant) Boshkung boys from the Matabanick: Dawson & Dallas Flemming and Marc & Luka Padovan."



Ron, Chris, Marcus and Tyler Canham, on one of Ron's last trips to the cottage summer 2023.



It's not all play at the cottage. Here are 3 generations of Woods splitting wood: Murray & Carly, and John (Moritsugu)

All ages of St Johns take Grandpa Guppy (see his story in last year's Informer) to the zip line on the north shore of Hall's Lake at Elvin Johnson Park 1221 Old Mill Rd.

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Boshkung Lake Regatta - August 3, 2024

As we gear up for another exciting Boshkung Lake Regatta, I want to thank everyone who joined us last summer and helped make the event a success. The 80's theme brought a wave of nostalgia, and it was awesome to see everyone rocking their neon and getting into the spirit.

The winners of the photo contest were Julia Dies and Caitlin Johnston, who captured the essence of the 80s on Boshkung Lake with the perfect image featuring their father/uncle Gary Dies.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors and the dedication of our hardworking volunteers.

- Buttermilk Falls Resort • The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House
- The Mill Pond Restaurant • Emilew Designs
- The Keys, Jensens, Pawsons, Fisher and Sargants (and many more)
- BLPOA (and all of their amazing families)

Your contributions truly make a difference, and we are so grateful for your ongoing commitment to the Boshkung Lake community.

Speaking of volunteers, a big round of applause for the energetic kids from around the lake who pitched in with setup and water events. If you have a high school student in need of volunteer hours, we invite them to join us for this summer's event. They can reach out directly through the BLPOA website.

We also encourage you to reach out and share your thoughts and ideas on how we can improve this year's event. We look forward to welcoming you back for the 2024 Boshkung Lake Regatta on August 3, 2024.

Thanks,

Jennifer & Andrew Murdison



Regatta Results 2023

4 & Under Boat Race

BOYS

1. Nate Murdison
2. Pierson Toth
3. Ace Dies

GIRLS

1. Zoe Current
2. Maeve Allott
3. Rory Castley MacDonald and Leila Ann Lythgoe

4 & Under Ball Toss

BOYS

1. William Thompson
2. August Allott
3. Ace Dies

GIRLS

1. Zoe Current
2. Maeve Allott
3. Leila Ann Lythgoe

4 & Under Pickup Sticks

BOYS

1. William Thompson
2. Ace Dies
3. August Allott

GIRLS

1. Maeve Allott
2. Zoe Current
3. Rory Castley MacDonald

5-7 10 Yard Swim

BOYS

1. Austin Lucas Yallop and Gryphon Crawford
2. Palmer Toth and Tatum Misurka
3. Oliver Robertson and Henry Best

GIRLS

1. Alice Gerrits and Payton Bremaud
2. Juliette Murdison
3. Natalie Philip

5-7 Ball Toss

BOYS

1. Palmer Toth
2. Dallas Flemming
3. Oliver Robertson

GIRLS

1. Brynn McDonald
2. Alice Gerrits
3. Ivy Feuerherdt

5-7 Underwater Swim

BOYS

1. Oliver Robertson
2. Tatum Misurka
3. Clive Caton

GIRLS

1. Anna Sykes
2. Juliette Murdison
3. Payton Bremaud

8-10 25 Yard Swim

BOYS

1. Luka Padovan
2. Holden Bremaud and Declan McGregor
3. Harrison Gerrits and Marc Padovan and Archie Lewis

GIRLS

1. Charlie Kozak
2. Emma Fleming
3. Julianna Day

8-10 Frisbee Toss

BOYS

1. Wyatt Strype
2. Declan McGregor
3. Luc Bastien

GIRLS

1. Olivia Nielson
2. Hazel Feuerherdt
3. Sophie Sykes

11-13 Underwater Swim

BOYS

1. Xavier Feuerherdt
2. Sean Fleming
3. Benji Jasso

GIRLS

1. Julia Niemy
2. Ava Williams
3. Grace Williams

11-13 Frisbee Toss

BOYS

1. Sean Fleming
2. Xavier Feuerherdt
3. Nathan Foster and Bryce Thornton

GIRLS

1. Maddie Littlejohn
2. Julia Niemy
3. Ava Hampton

14-16 25 Yard Swim

BOYS

1. Matthew O'Connor Yeung
2. Matthew Robertson

GIRLS

1. Shaylin Connolly
2. Avery Wallace
3. Ryah Thornton

14-16 Underwater Swim

BOYS

1. Matthew O'Connor Yeung
2. Brayden Boyle
3. Matthew Robertson and Nate Fleming

GIRLS

1. Ryah Thornton
2. Maggie Finnimore
3. Julia Di Rosa

14-16 Frisbee Toss

BOYS

1. Matthew Robertson
2. Camden Blake
3. Colton Wallace

GIRLS

1. Maggie Finnimore
2. Shaylin Connolly
3. Avery Wallace

12 & Under Tube Relay

1. Grace Williams, Xavier Feuerherdt, Harrison Gerrits, Hazel Feuerherdt
2. Andrew Murdison, Emma Fleming, Atley Misurka, Clive Caton
3. Sasha Day, Declan McGregor, Annie Bastien, Remy Bastien

13 & Over Tube Relay

1. Steve Yallop, Cole Hicks, Satine Klassen, Sundra Choi
2. Brayden Boyle, Cole Nip, Ava Williams, Alessia Pitado
3. Lucas Jensen, Alex Pawson, Shaylin Connolly, Kent Wallace

29 & Under Nail Hammering

1. Maddie Littlejohn
2. Avery Wallace
3. Charlie Kozak

30 & Over Nail Hammering

1. Amanda Robertson
2. Andrea Pawson



Forest Stewardship: Everyone's Business

By Juliana Vantellingen, PhD, RPF in Training, Managed Forest Plan Approver

One of the great appeals of living in the Haliburton Highlands is being surrounded by nature. No small part of our area's beauty is the number of trees, many of which live on our own properties. In addition to being beautiful, trees also provide many important benefits, or ecosystem services. Trees provide shade, absorb rainwater to prevent flooding, sequester carbon, and provide food and shelter for wildlife. Studies have even found that trees boost our physical and mental health. We can all practice stewardship of our trees, protecting and caring for them to ensure that they are providing these benefits for years to come. No matter how many trees are on your property, there are some activities that can be easily undertaken to keep the larger forest landscape healthy and resilient, able to handle any stress that may come its way.

Here are some steps that any landowner can take to practice great stewardship of the trees in their care:

1. Get to know your trees! When you can identify the species of trees on your property, you can learn more about their characteristics. If you only have a few trees, it's easy to identify each tree but on a larger property it might be more practical to identify the dominant species. Common trees in this area are sugar maple, American beech, yellow birch, eastern hemlock, eastern white pine, or eastern white cedar.



Some great free resources include Forest Ontario's Tree Bee, or Natural Resources Canada's identification keys for Broadleaf Trees or Coniferous Trees. Easier yet, it's now possible to use Google Lens or your iPhone's photo app to identify many plants based upon a picture, and there are also a variety of apps that can do the same.

2. Be aware of current issues such as pests and diseases that can threaten trees and keep an eye on the health of the trees on your property. Some current concerns include:

- Beech bark disease is a fungal disease affecting American beech trees that unfortunately kills them within years of being infected. It's important to identify beech trees that have beech bark disease from a safety perspective. As the disease progresses the trees will begin to drop large dead branches, especially on windy days. Learn more about beech bark disease at ontario.ca/page/beech-bark-disease.
- Hemlock woolly adelgid is a small aphid-like insect that kills eastern hemlock trees by feeding on their water and nutrients. They have so far only been found in parts of southern Ontario, but it's worth knowing about the spread of the insects through the province and watching for signs on your own hemlock trees in

the coming years. Learn more about hemlock woolly adelgid at invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/hemlock-woolly-adelgid.

• Invasive plant species are plants that are typically not native to Ontario and grow so quickly that they outcompete and disrupt the native vegetation. Learn to recognize the common invasive plant species and if you see them on your property, work to eradicate them as quickly as possible. If you're a gardener, it's also important to be aware if a plant can spread out of your control before planting it in your garden. Check out this resource from the Ontario Invasive Plant Council for more.

3. Always purchase firewood locally. Dead wood can act as a host for a variety of tree diseases and invasive forest pests that have potential to kill trees. Transporting wood from one area to another can introduce these diseases and forest pests to entirely new areas, contributing to their spread. Emerald ash borer, as an example, is an insect pest that tunnels under ash tree bark and slowly kills the trees. Their larvae can remain in the wood after the adult insects have moved on, the tree has died, and will eventually hatch from the wood itself. Emerald ash borer is found in many urban areas of Ontario but is so far very rare in the Haliburton Highlands. This is why it's very important to never buy firewood in an urban area such as Toronto or Ottawa and then bring it to the cottage.

4. If you have the space to plant new trees, keep diversity in mind! A forest with a high number of species is a more resilient forest. Most insects or diseases target one type of tree, so having a diverse set of trees ensures that not all trees will be affected by an outbreak. Take stock of the species you already have and try to plant a new native species to complement your existing forest. If you are interested in wildlife, trees that produce a nut or fruit such as red oaks or black cherries are very beneficial for animals.

Start by thinking about the space you have to plant – how much light is there? What is the soil like? How much space is there for a tree to grow? Look for trees that can grow in hardiness Zone 4 or lower, so that the trees can cope with our cold winters. The My Tree app from Natural Resources Canada is an excellent resource to match a tree with your growing conditions. Local garden centres can also help.

Though these steps may seem to be small, they all contribute to keeping our beautiful forest strong, healthy, and resilient.

Though these steps may seem to be small, they all contribute to keeping our beautiful forest strong, healthy, and resilient.

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Special Events

CARLY WOODS AND KYLE KIRKWOOD'S WEDDING

This year we shared our June 17th wedding date with a few others around the lake. We celebrated on our little patch on Boshkung with a Friday Night Soup Shirt BBQ (soup shirts being a family name for fun, funky patterned shirts, a la Hawaiian shirt), a Saturday morning group run/bike and sauna, Saturday afternoon ceremony followed by Hawaiian Ping Pong played into the wee hours. Our goal was an event that felt like a cottage weekend with a wedding snuck in and I think we succeeded!



HEATHER HORTON AND LUKE JENSEN'S WEDDING

We were married on June 17, 2023 at Buttermilk Falls Resort. Boshkung Lake is where we met, fell in love, got engaged, and have spent many happy moments in between; so it was important for us to get married there too.

We had a beautiful day surrounded by so much love. Attached are a few pictures of our lakeside ceremony, portrait at Buttermilk Falls, the Jensen family who have a cottage on Mason Lane, and, fitting for a cottage wedding, our post-ceremony boat ride. All photos are by Heather Prosser Photography.



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ABOUT THE PAINTING

Sunset on Boshkung

Painting inspired by a photo posted to Friends of Boshkung FB page by The Homestead Cottages

20x30 - Acrylic on canvas



ABOUT THE ARTIST

I am a mostly self taught artist and have been happily taking summer courses at the college for the past couple of summers. I started this journey with the goal of updating the dated art in most of our cottages. From there I seemed to have been taken over by the need to create and share my art to a broader audience. My confidence in what I produce has been growing, helped along I'm sure by the courses and kind feedback of many of our guests and others. I have recently completed my first commissioned piece and am considering starting to sell my paintings.

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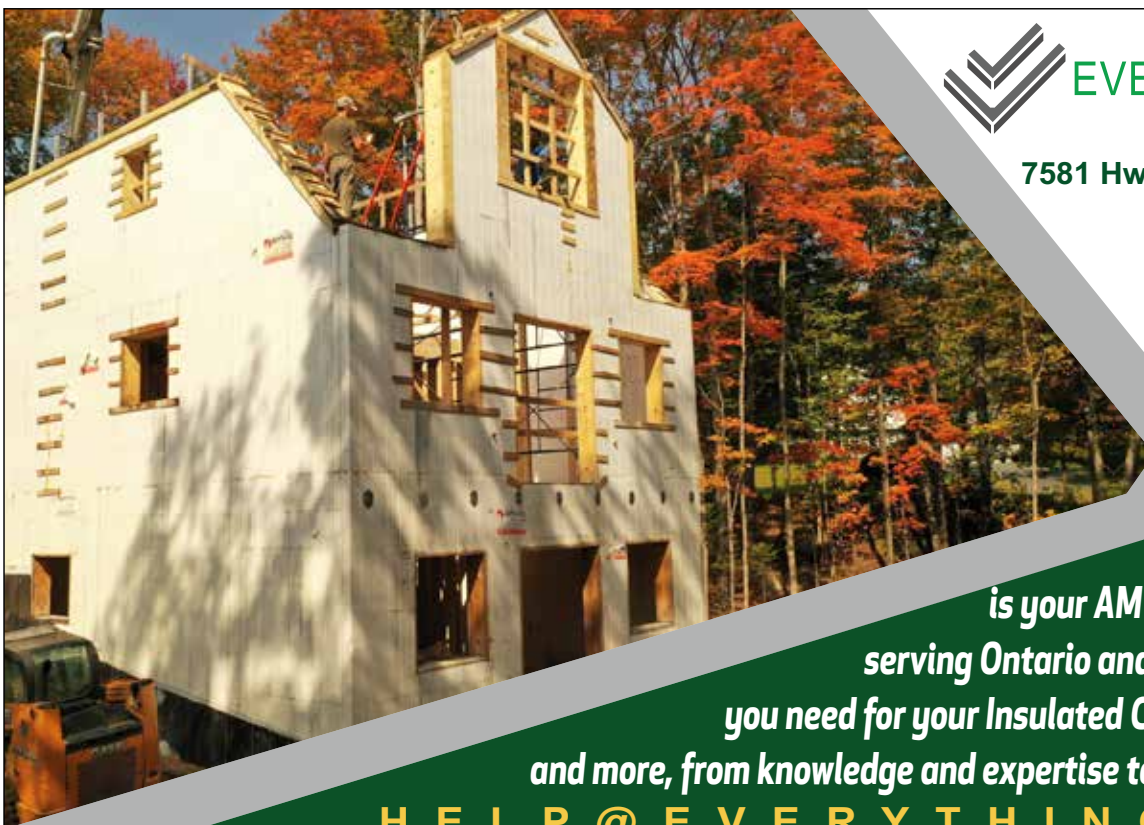
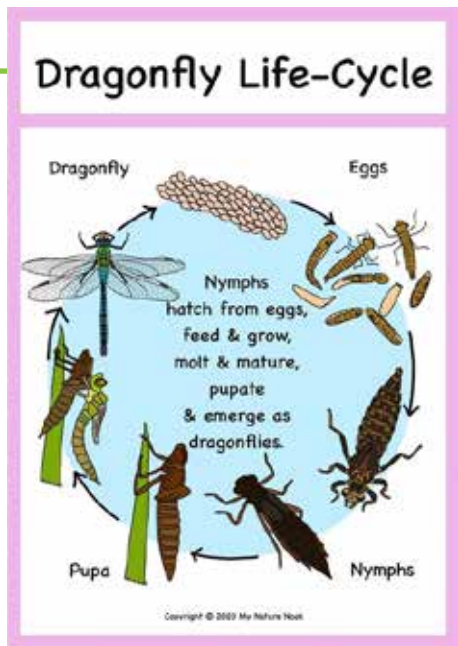
As cottagers, we all love dragonflies for their ability to zip around, at speeds of upwards of 55 km per hour, hunting for insects and making outdoor life more comfortable. They are able to fly forward and backward, hover in mid-flight and even rotate 360 degrees in one place.

In Ontario there are about 130 species of dragonflies. The dragonfly family includes both dragonflies and damselflies. While similar, dragonflies have a stout body and damselflies, a slender body. When sitting, a dragonfly's wings are extended on either side of its body, while a damselfly folds up its wings and holds them above their body.

Adult female dragonflies will hover over water and dip their abdomens into the water to release their eggs. The eggs hatch into larvae. The larvae will molt between 6 to 15 times feeding on aquatic invertebrates, larvae and tiny fish. Dragonfly larvae have gills to survive underwater. They move quickly to catch prey and escape predators, by blasting out pressurized water from the end of their gut and propelling themselves through the water at rapid speeds. A larvae can take 2 to 6 years before conditions are right to turn into an adult. At this point they are called a nymph and crawl out of the water. They find a dry surface to molt out of their skin into a winged adult dragonfly, a process that takes up to 3 hours. An adult dragonfly will live 2 to 8 weeks.

Dragonflies are important to their ecosystems and valuable environmental indicators, as they rely on healthy water ecosystems and food chains.

For the past 26 years, Algonquin Provincial Park naturalist staff have been running an annual dragonfly and damselfly count in the first week in July. As many as 74 species have been identified on count day.



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What's on Your Cottage Walls?



This waterbuck skull was displayed prominently over the stone fireplace when Vicki Woods bought her Boshkung Lake cottage “as is”, with all of the furniture and decorations. The bare bones story is that the former owner acquired it while teaching in Africa about 70 years ago, a long ago time when one could bring such things home in their carry on. Vicki says, “It was in the pre-“google it” era, so we located a book of African animals to find the origin of our skull. It is unmistakably a waterbuck.” When a new cottage was built on the site, Vicki thought she would quietly “disappear” the artifact but, “My kids and nieces and nephews would have none of that.” Instead, they moved it to a more secluded location where it still keeps watch over the property after all these years.

Leslie Haller shares this bit of cottage-wall history: For almost 60 years this 1967 Centennial calendar has been tastefully displayed in the basement of our cottage, slipped in behind

an electrical cable that keeps it in place. It came from Austin's, an Esso station in Minden, owned first by Jack Austin then taken over by his son Bill. The calendar wasn't actually used to keep track of dates, as all of the pages are still intact.

It might be useful again in the year 2034. Notice the tiny thermometer and rain predictor (a weather app ahead of its time?) and the fishing photo, taken far from Haliburton county. Some of us remember the days when we would eagerly jump in the car with Dad when he needed a fill-up, in the hopes of catching a glimpse of the handsome young men that Austin's employed to pump gas.

Do you have a quirky item at your cottage that you can't bear to part with? Something mysterious or nostalgic? Something the kids won't let you throw away, or wish you would throw away? An item that's waiting to discover its purpose? Found objects that have become part of the landscape?

We want your stories and photos! Send them to The Informer at boshkunglakeinformer@gmail.com



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Just Kid'ding Around Boshkung!



Maeve and August Allott sneaking in some extra fresh air before bed (Mikaela Charlebois)



A Boshkung Baby! Shared by Alysha St. John



Dallas discovers the wonder of butterflies (Melissa Flemming)



Nothing beats a "Splash" in the lake! (Janice Guilbault)



Janice Guilbault's photo "Finding the Perfect Stick" shows the joy



Robert Smith captures a beautiful moment of fun on the lily pad



Ace Dies, Sutton Zehr, Rory Castle MacDonald and Max Arnold enjoy snacks with a view (Samantha Castle MacDonald)



Henry Best gets a driving lesson from his grandpa (Gail Best)

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My Summer As A Wildlife Volunteer

Retirement has arrived and brought me to the lake last summer for the first of many prolonged stays.

I was looking for something rewarding to keep me busy, so I decided to look for a volunteering opportunity in the community.

My career involved working with and interacting with many people. I needed something different. "How about working with animals?" I said to myself. So, I found my perfect opportunity, Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary on Duck Lake Road in Minden.

Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary is a volunteer-based, not for profit registered charity in support of wildlife rehabilitation. The centre is where most species of sick, orphaned, and injured wildlife (with the exception of raccoons, due to allergies) are rehabilitated with hopes they can be successfully released back into the wild when they are ready.

Monika Melichar, with the help of her partner Whitebear, operate a busy place!

Their mission and philosophy states, "We believe that every living creature deserves a second chance. At WWS, we work tirelessly to ensure that each of our patients is treated with equal respect and hope for a wild and free life again."

And boy, does she work tirelessly, along with a team of dedicated volunteers.

As the website says, Monika believes in saving wildlife one animal at a time. They come to her by concerned people who call the centre, then either drop off or find volunteer drivers who deliver a variety of some 700 animals per year. Some are orphaned, while many are injured due to some form of human intervention, be it road/window collisions, domestic animal encounters, or accidental removal. No animal is discriminated against due to its ecological "importance"; all are treated with equal respect and care.



Injured mother porcupine with her baby, reunited Mother's Day when baby was also found



Young Fox with mangle



Improving Fox



Healthy Fox



Young baby fisher arrived thin and lethargic, was nursed back to health and released

Let me tell you a little about what I did:

I started my first day on May 22nd, so the season of orphans and injuries was already well into full swing with over 80 animals already in care.

I was not able to participate in the earlier spring training offered in advance of the season since I arrived later, so my first day was a little chaotic to say the least. I did not have any experience, however, I knew the best way to learn was to just watch, listen to instruction, and then dive in and do it, with help from a lead volunteer. I followed her direction and found myself in the middle of a rotation of preparing food & formulas, chopping vegetables or fruit, preparing worms for birds, fetching live mealworms & crickets for feedings every 2-3 hours, cleaning dishes from prepping food, cleaning cages in between and if Monika needed help holding an animal for a small surgery or turtle shell repair, then I did that too.

At the peak of the summer as many as 240 animals were in care, and on their way to graduating through the process of recovery & release. During my days volunteering I either helped in the care of, or got to see many varieties of large & small injured & recovering birds, plus fledglings; plus bats, turtles, baby skunks, foxes, porcupines, squirrels, fawns, and even a litter of orphaned opossums and a baby fisher. I've attached a few photos of some of our patients from this season. Regarding opossums: these misunderstood marsupials clean up our yards and even help fight Lyme disease – a fact from The Nature of Things. To find out more interesting Possum facts, visit www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/features/opossums-misunderstood-marsupials

Of course, there were some poor animals who just couldn't be saved and those were always sad to see.

In some of those cases though, eggs could be saved. Turtles hit by cars, or birds who left a nest of eggs yet to be hatched for instance. Eggs are placed in an incubator to keep warm. The bird eggs were tenderly turned 6 to 7 times

daily until the happy day some of them would hatch.

From eggs to adults I watched the process throughout the summer.

As the animals progress along their path to recovery or adulthood, they are taken from inside to bigger accommodations outside, where volunteers provide daily feedings. Animals were now eating meals on their own and the care became minimal and hands off. Observing their progress from a distance with as little interaction as possible helped the orphaned creatures learn to become wild as nature intended until time for them to be released into the wild.

A proud moment came when my husband and I were able to help round up some of the maturing adults ready to be set free! Working as a team, with Monika as our leader, a few of us managed to capture 7 foxes and 21 ducks in



Blanding's Turtle (endangered species) in need of shell repair



Skunks



One-Eyed Owl



Red baby squirrel, found abandoned, was raised with other babies and released



Young Possums



Barred Owlet, received and transferred to surrogate parents at The Owl Foundation in Vineland, ON

one day. They were ready to face the world! Volunteers took them to their release destinations and once released, the cycle of care was complete and very satisfying to see. We personally took 7 Wood Ducks for release and watched as they found their freedom into the wild.

I am proud to work alongside Monika and the team she has built. I have also been fortunate to make some new friends. I will certainly be returning next season to care for animals who have found themselves helpless without Monika and her team of volunteers.

Check out the Website: www.woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca and don't forget to sign up for Monika's e-newsletter for information on this worthwhile cause.

~ Barb Jones

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The McDonalds at Donarvon



Donarvon is a community of 19 families on the east side of Boshkung. The fifth generation (Ryah and Bryce Thornton, and Brynn McDonald) is enjoying the McDonald cottage on Donarvon (“Don” is from McDonald, “arvon” from Carnarvon) as much as their parents, grandparents and great grandparents have done.

The original 80 acre property was bought by cousins Jim and Bill McDonald from a farmer in 1931. They had been looking to purchase land in the area for several years. (Jim’s wife Norma and their boys had camped on Maple Lake since 1926.) The cousins had spent many weekends driving and paddling around the area. In those days the road, called the Coboconk to Dorset Road, was paved only as far as Fenelon Falls.

Jim worked for the Provincial Telephone Authority at Queen’s Park and had access to area maps. When they discovered land of interest, he would check with the Crown

Lands Department and invariably discovered that it had already been claimed. Word of mouth led them to the farmer’s property which they purchased for \$1300. In addition to the property known as Donarvon, it included land on the east side of what is now highway 35, between the Beech River and North Shore Road.

The property was surveyed and a plan of subdivision registered in 1932. Family and friends purchased a few lots, and others were sold beginning in 1935. Vic McBrien with help from Jim McDonald and sons, Don, Bob and Jack, had constructed some buildings on the lots at the north end starting in 1933, including a cottage for Norma’s parents, the Hillocks. (So while we are five generations at our cottage, we are six generations on Donarvon.)



The McDonald cottage was started in 1934 and completed in 1936. It was a log building because logs were available and free. Ceilings are quite low as they didn’t want to use more logs or labour than necessary. Hydro came along in 1938 (or 39). In 1939 the cottage was damaged by lightning necessitating repairs to doors, windows and floors. In 1953, fire destroyed the sleeping cabin and its contents, including a motor boat hand built by Bob. Bob was an Industrial Arts teacher and was responsible for a lot of the inside

finishing as well as building furniture for the cottage. For many years he was the “go to guy” on the road for advice on projects, fixes, as well as lending tools for those. Among other things, he made toys for the kids, and fastened the tips of small water skis together to simplify learning to ski for the little ones.

In spring 1954, a log addition to the cottage added a large bedroom and brought plumbing inside. A log garage was built at the same time; both constructions by Willard and Charles McPhail.

Donald, wife Helen and daughter Dawn spent summers with the rest of the family at Donarvon until they built a cottage on a lot on the Beech River (part of the 1931 purchase). After the sleeping cabin was destroyed, space was tight at the Donarvon cottage.

In 1977, when Heather (Paul and Ann’s daughter) arrived, a building containing a workshop and sleeping cabin was constructed. Over the years, a number of internal improvements were made to the log cottage and then in 2014, the log cottage was lifted, a crawl space constructed and a large extension added, more than doubling the size.

Donarvon had quite a summer community as many of the originals were teachers or ministers who had summers off. Or Mom and kids would stay at the cottage when Dad had to go back to work and commute on weekends.

Ice was cut from the lake in the winter and stored in an ice house in the bush. It was delivered to the cottagers weekly by Howard Bean, an original resident. For a number of years,

milk was delivered weekly by Kawartha Dairy. Each cottage had a box for milk and mail nailed to a tree along the road. As a number of families did not have a car during the week, those with vehicles took turns picking up mail from Alcorn’s general store in Carnarvon and distributing it.

Paul spent childhood summers there with his grandparents and came to love the lake and its surroundings. For several years in the late 50’s he delivered the Toronto Star 6 days a week.

Norma and Jim spent 14 summers and falls there between Jim’s retirement and his death in 1970.

Heather and Ian (Paul and Ann’s children) spent many summers at Donarvon with their grandparents and great uncle Bob when Paul and Ann went back to work. In addition to water activities, kids had to use their imagination to fill the days. As well as playing with other children, a favourite activity was gathering clay from the bottom of the lake and making things. They would use rocks for creations.



Continued on Next Page...

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The McDonalds at Donarvon ... Continued



Heather and Ian's spouses (Brad and Lauren) spent time in the area when they were growing up. They both have family not far away.

The cottage remains the centre of McDonald/Thornton family summers as it is about equidistant from Kitchener where Ian and his family reside, and Ottawa, home to the rest of us. Paul and Ann (the senior residents) now spend 6 months there every year, and the rest of the family spends holiday time on Donarvon or across the lake.

Inevitably over time, a number of properties changed hands. New arrivals have joined and the community remains vibrant. The original Donarvon sign, made in about 1940 by Bob, and restored by Ryan Reesor, a more recent arrival, can still be seen at the southern end of Donarvon Drive. While no longer hanging over the drive as the supporting structure was removed when Highway 35 was widened, it remains part of the history.



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WILLIAM PRICE DIES

June 8, 1925 – December 28, 2023

William ‘Bill’ Price Dies, married to Beth Joan Dies (née Byers) for 70 years, passed peacefully in the presence of family on December 28, 2023 at the age of 98. Predeceased by his brother Doug (Rita) and parents William and Grace (née Price), he is survived by his wife Joan, children June (Bob), Paul (Nancy), Rob (Leah), and Joanne (Scott), as well as his grandchildren Todd, Devon, Sam, Rachel, Sarah, Evan, Hannah, and Emily, and his great-grandchildren.

Bill grew up in The Beaches and went on to graduate from the University of Guelph’s Agriculture program. He had fond memories from his university days and maintained contact with friends well into his 90s. He and his brother Doug raised their families side by side, with homes beside each other in



Scarborough and cottages beside each other on Boshkung Lake in the Haliburton Highlands. After a few years as a chemical salesman and brewmaster, Bill gave the latter up as he did not want to contribute to substance use but rather wished to shape young minds. He taught at several schools in Scarborough as a chemistry teacher, serving as head of the science department and, in the later stages of his career, as a vice principal. Fondly known as ‘Uncle Bill’ by many of his students, he was deeply involved in student life and took pride in mentoring and tutoring those who needed it.

An involved and competitive athlete, he played a variety of sports including downhill skiing with the Skyloft Ski Club, and tennis with his brother and friends at the cottage well into his 80s. He was a veteran, a dedicated member of his church, served as President of the Boshkung Lake Property Owners’ Association (1985), and was a founding member of the PROBUS Club of Aurora (including a presidency from 2014-2015). As an avid traveler, Bill loved seeing the world and maintained that the most profound personal growth was found in exploring new and unfamiliar places. He was well known for his great sense of humor and keen interest in lifelong learning, making sure he was connected to everyone in person, by phone, mail, email, and even online. He loved nothing more than a good discussion about current affairs and could regularly be found researching new medical and scientific advances to debate with his grandchildren.

His fondest memories and bonds with his family were made at the cottage, where his parents’ and in-laws’ cottages have welcomed five generations so far. Many of his favored friends and family members gathered here over the course of his life, and thanks to his legacy, that meaningful connection will continue to blossom through his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. To his point, Bill spent the last two years of his life reveling in his new role as ‘Great-Papa’, spending hours admiring the growth and development of his great-grandchildren, and connecting with them regularly over video calls.

He left a lasting impression on everyone he met and will be greatly missed by all.



RON CANHAM

Ron passed away on Wednesday January 3 2024, peacefully in the Ajax/Pickering Hospital. Ron was a wonderful husband to Isobel for 71 Years. Father to Craig, Steve and Chris, amazing father-in-law to Ulli. Grandfather to Quin, Marcus, Melissa and her husband Terry. Great Grandfather to Kayla and Tyler.

Ron and Isobel joined the Boshkung community when they purchased their cottage in December 1984, and quickly became part of the group who eventually called themselves “The Usual Suspects”. This group took their friendship and laughter to the tennis court, the golf course, the card table, and gatherings at each other’s cottages.

Ron was a skilled tennis player and he was very competitive. While playing, before he would serve he’d often shout across the net, “This is going to be like one of those plastic bottles you buy at the grocery store it is non-returnable”.

He loved golf. He wasn’t particularly good but he thoroughly enjoyed getting out with the guys. Something which always made his friends laugh was that he had names for all his clubs. The club he used most was a chipper which he used around the green. It was an old club from another era which he called Tom Thumb. When he hit a good chip he would praise Tom and when he hit a bad chip he would scold Tom and tell him that he wouldn’t let him out of the bag again unless he promised to do better.

One day at Blairhampton, after about four holes there was



a torrential downpour. What to do but go indoors and have a beverage or two. With pouring rain outdoors, beer and pickled eggs indoors, Ron’s comment was, “This is what life is all about.” He was just so happy to be with friends having a good time.

He and Isobel also enjoyed playing cards. They would play bridge, pepper, euchre. Any type of card game was fine. It was always so important just to be with friends.

They often hosted an early season party at their cottage. All sorts of really important matters would be discussed like who was playing bridge this year, what nights could

we play. Who was playing golf or tennis or anything.

At this party Ron would always cook some Indian delicacies, recipes learned from his years in India. A favourite was a fiery Mulligatawny soup. It always required the consumption of a little more beer to dampen the fire. Ron was quite a fine cook.

Ron knew his ‘40s and ‘50s music. One of the Usual Suspects once lost a bet with him on a song called “On the Street Where You Live”. The subsequent teasing and debt payment in front of all the other “suspects” had Ron laughing so hard.

This was the type of man Ron was. He loved his family passionately, he loved his friends dearly, and he loved being on Boshkung with the wonderful Isobel.

His friends, and especially his family, will miss him and his laughter.

A Celebration of life for Ron is planned for the spring.



DIES, DOUGLAS

Doug passed peacefully, on August 5, 2023, at the age of 95. When not travelling the world with his wife, Rita, or other family and friends, Doug spent much of his time at his cottage on Boshkung Lake. He instilled his love for the cottage across multiple generations of family. A great athlete and competitive card player, Doug raised both of his boys to be avid boaters and snowmobilers, and inclined to tinker with all kinds of things. Easily approachable and cheerful, he could still bluntly tell it like it is. Doug enjoyed a successful career for 30 years as a student counsellor for the Scarborough Board of Education. Doug will be sadly missed by many. Predeceased by his loving wife, Rita; and his son, Gary; Doug is survived by his oldest son, Stephen (Brenda); daughter-in-law, Joanne; grandchildren, Amanda, Austin, Stephanie, Justin and Julia; and 8 great-grandchildren.



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Golf/Family Day Tournament 2023

Fun was had by all on a perfect day at Gull River Golf Course. Dinner was on the deck at Mulligan's. Gull River is a challenging 9-hole course. We played best ball (scramble) with 43 people of all ages forming 11 teams. Here is the list of winners, although everyone was a winner just for attending:

- Closest to the line – Gayle Feeney
- Longest Drive – Men – Bill Craig
- Longest Drive – Women – Elizabeth Brouillette
- Closest to the Pin (#8) – Colleen Marshall
- Putting Contest – Sarah Legault, Craig Gibson & Vicki Woods – the only ones to putt it in
- Raffle Winner – Rhubarb gift certificate – Carla Stewart
- Raffle Winner – 4 for golf @ Pinestone – Ray Legault
- Raffle Winner – 4 for golf @ Gull River – Lynn Craig

We had a 3-way tie when the best ball tournament was complete. Now what? How about a putt off! So, the Craig Gibson Team, Bob Keys Team & John Moritsugu Team faced the challenge of a 50' putt that had to go in for the win. The Bob Keys Team came out the winner and it was certainly close with John's team second and Craig's team third.

We are looking forward to the 2024 tournament to be held in August 17th. You can sign up as a single, duo, threesome, or team at the AGM on July 6th, or by emailing blpoa1@gmail.com.



As always, the photos captured of your time on Boshkung Lake blew us away. We love seeing your favourite images of the place we all treasure so much. Thank you to each of our fantastic photographers for sharing your special moments with us!



1st Place:

"Evening Fishing"
by Michael Gorveatt



2nd Place:

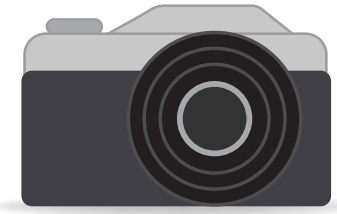
"Our Sunset Putt"
by Nancy Parker



3rd Place:

"Morning Ski"
by Andrew Woermke

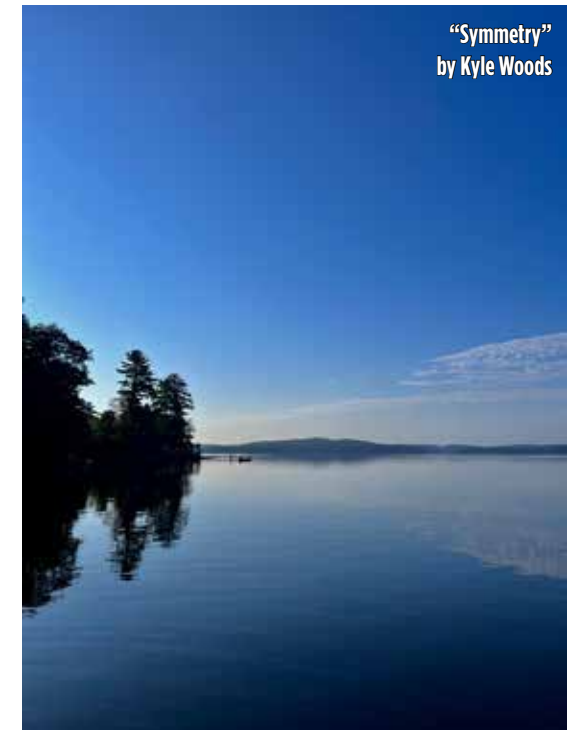
2023 Boshkung Lake Photo Contest



Honourable Mentions:



"Bosh/Kung"
by Leah Dies



"Symmetry"
by Kyle Woods



"Waterskiing"
by Luke Jensen



Congrats to our Photo Contest 2022 Winner Cheryl Richman



WINTER on The Lake



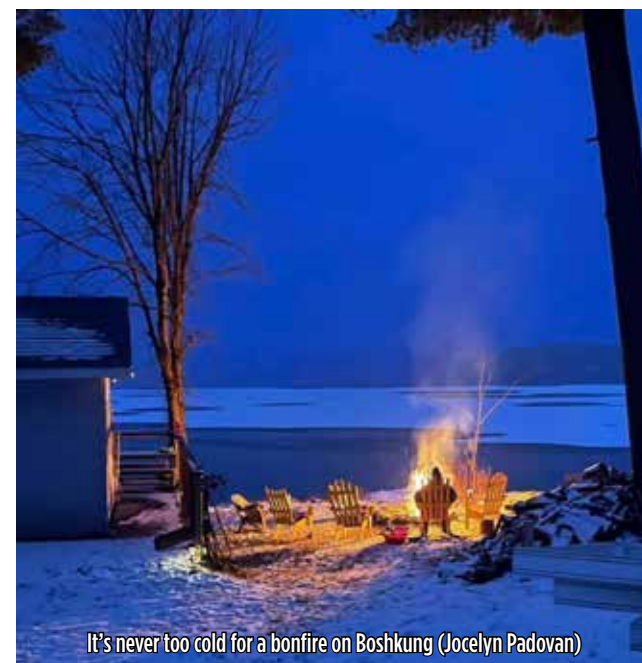
Flynn Copman helps her dad make maple taffy the true Canadian way!



Strong big sister Flynn taking her sister Sadie for a sled ride.



Maeve Allott might be walking to meet up with her friend Ace from the other side of the lake!



It's never too cold for a bonfire on Boshkung (Jocelyn Padovan)



Ace Dies all bundled up ready to conquer frozen Boshkung.



Carol Charlebois taking her grandkids for a winter walk.



Robert Smith shares a beautiful photo of winter on Boshkung.

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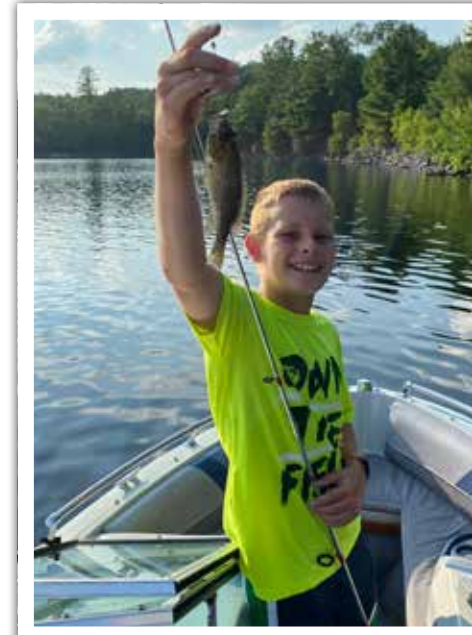
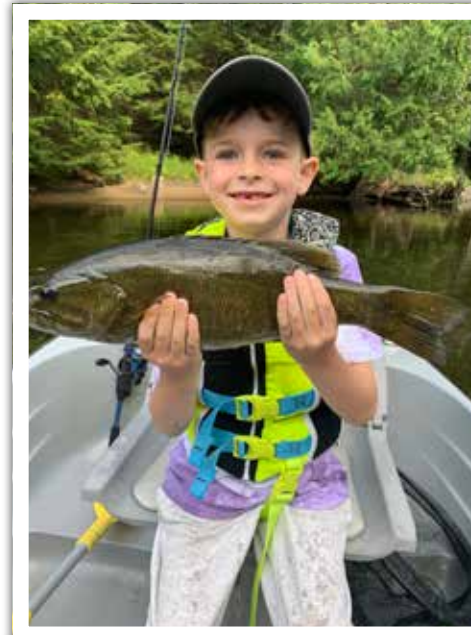
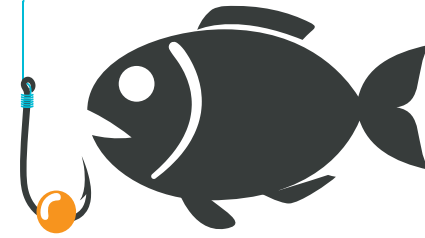
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Fisher's CORNER



Some of Boshkung's amazing Fishers include 6 year old Lachlin whose Smallmouth was caught on Boshkung near the Beech River on August 23, 2023 and Taylor showing off her 1st catch!



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Who's Acting On The Environment In The Highlands?

Great organizations you may want to check out

EH! Environment Haliburton!

Environment Haliburton! (EH!) is a volunteer organization

that encourages initiatives that protect the natural environment, including its physical, biological, and climate aspects. To advance our work, we sponsor educational webinars, write editorials, participate in radio interviews, send delegations to County and Township meetings and more. Help us protect what we love about Haliburton: www.environmenthaliburton.org



With support from our community, our volunteers and our members,

the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is focused on conservation and protection of the natural heritage of Haliburton County. We currently own, manage and protect 5 properties, totaling 1,200 acres of forest, wetlands and open areas with a further 100 acres under a conservation easement agreement. <https://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/> www.highlandscorridor.ca

The Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society (HHGBS) aims to increase options for those who wish to have human remains returned to the earth in a way that will enhance the health and natural beauty of the surrounding environment.



Our Mission is to provide green burial educational opportunities and supportive resource material to the broader Haliburton County community, as well as supporting municipalities, other cemetery operators, and end-of-life service providers moving toward greener burial options across Haliburton County.

<https://www.haliburtongreenburial.ca/>

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Nepahwin Point– A Tale Of Two Families

Houser 1922-1975 • Woods 1975-present ~ Jeff and Liz Woods

(The Houser content is adapted from the book Boshkung Lake Memoirs - Available from the BLPOA)

The story begins in 1915 with a honeymoon canoe trip launched from Lindsay, up through the lakes and rivers, ending on Boshkung Lake. The newlyweds are Wilfred Houser and Helen Kirkconnell.

They camped at Cooper's Point, across the lake from the north east point they later named Nepahwin, an Indigenous word meaning "Place of Peace". Returning in 1916, they made acquisition arrangements and in 1922 the Housers purchased four acres from Leigh and Minnie Sisson on which they built a one-room cottage. As the family grew, the cottage was partitioned off into three rooms; two bedrooms and the living-dining-kitchen area. Over the years other changes and additions were made.

Helen and Wilfred and their children Muriel, Walter, Bertha (Bert), John and Will enjoyed their summers at the cottage. They often made their own activities with the lake and beach as



their playground. All shared fond memories of swimming, fishing, canoeing and exploring Boshkung and the surrounding lakes. Wilfred, an avid gardener, planted fruit trees, vegetable gardens and beautiful flower gardens. Milk and cream would come from the Sisson Farm. Helen would prepare homemade scones, wild raspberry and blueberry pies, fried new potatoes and trout, all cooked to perfection on the old wood stove.

In about 1950, part of the property was sold to Winnifred and Rowland Moddle (now owned by Vicki Woods). In 1975, the remaining property was divided into three parcels and sold to Barbara and John Wilson, Anne and Klaus Dittmar, and Emily and Murray Woods. The three families continue to be cottage neighbours and friends.

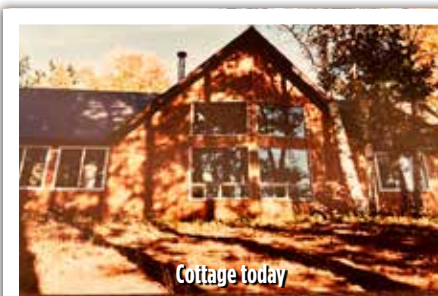
Last summer Steven Puskas (one of Wilfred and Helen's grandsons who now lives in Florida), shared with the Woods family that when people ask him what he misses most from growing up in Canada, he always says "The Cottage Country".

The point parcel purchased by Emily and Murray continues our story.

For the Woods family, Nepahwin is the place that has brought four generations of the family together for almost 50 years.

From the day Murray and Emily Woods purchased the Houser cottage on the point, it became the established core for immediate family, extended family and friend gatherings that continues to this day, almost half a century later.

Murray and Emily's siblings, along with their spouses, delighted in cottage weekends together, all chipping in to help bring Murray and Emily's vision for their "place of peace" to life. And what a vision it was! The transformation included a new cottage at the top of the point, and relocating on the property the old-style centre piece of the Houser cottage, repurposed to include a workshop, two 'bunky' bedrooms and storage.



design was rebuilt and continues to be a favoured spot to BBQ, have a chin wag, and watch storms roll over the point and down the lake.

The projects continued, to include converting part of the boathouse to a sauna, the toolshed to a privy and clothes wash house, constructing a new cabana on the beach, a new tree house over the north side drop off, wooden decks and stone pathways.



Some projects involved demolishing rather than constructing. With three flush toilets available it was clear the outhouse was no longer a preferred destination. There is something very cathartic and downright fun with using a sledge hammer. Right?!?!?

The stairs to the beach were transformed into a breathtaking walking view of the lake and its sandy shore. A sure way to tell how much beach fun has been had, by young and old alike, is how many pail equivalent amounts of sand are swept off the steps at the end of a family weekend together.

Weekends and summers were filled with Emily and Murray's siblings and partners and friends all arriving ready to work hard and play hard. This meant the clinking of glasses, the clanking of hammers and horseshoes, the buzzing of saws, the slapping of paint brushes, the swishing of cards, the splashing of water and the sizzling of food. All wrapped up with laughter and special fun dress up events.

Daughter and sons, Vicki, Doug

The choice of lifting and moving it for \$1000 vs the builder demolishing and taking it away for free was another sage decision by Murray. (recycle and reuse) The old porch

and Jeff carried on the work hard / play hard torch, happily being part of the work crews and fun & games, joined by their friend groups. (most notable tradition is Doug's September 'Woodsie Weekend' that started in 1976 and continues to this day)

Grandchildren first arrived on the scene in the 1980s with the birth of James, Fiona, Luke, Allison, and Sydney. The 1990s brought us Carly, Aidan, and Kyle. The cottage has never looked back.



Outdoor cooking evolved over the years. Beach cooking took a major step forward with the addition of a large steel slab 'griddle' that was added to the open flame fire contained between two logs (1978). Next

came a split oil drum to contain the fire. The constant flow of sourdough pancakes (plus sausages) cooked on the beach for breakfast had found its secure home. Weather could not deter enthusiastic cooks as shown in this 1984 pic.

Today, the wood fire has given way to gas Bbq's on the beach with dinners cooked on the beach being the norm. Weather not behaving has us 'up top' on the porch of the old cottage where a couple of other Bbq's are ready to be put into action. A smoker lies in wait for more ambitious meal creations.

A favorite activity and one that truly extends the seasons, is the sauna down on the point. The first sauna was built into the back of the old boathouse. Replaced, the



Continued on Next Page...

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Nepahwin Point– A Tale Of Two Families

Houser 1922-1975 Woods 1975-present



'new sauna' (circa 1989) is great in all four seasons. The roar of the wood-fired stove and the hot air in the cedar wrapped room makes a jump in the lake (or walk on top

of the frozen one) a magnificent experience. Suddenly, in any kind of weather, in any season, it is great to be outside.

Like Emily and Murray, all members of the Woods clan relish in hosting their friends and extended family at the cottage. "We always do this" is often said with glee, from young and old, as we share our family traditions with cherished guests. (welcome to the cottage rum, saunas, beach games, Hawaiian ping pong, happy hour and dinner on the beach, to name a few) And, we always have a wee job or two on stand-by to ensure our guests feel the "true" cottage experience!

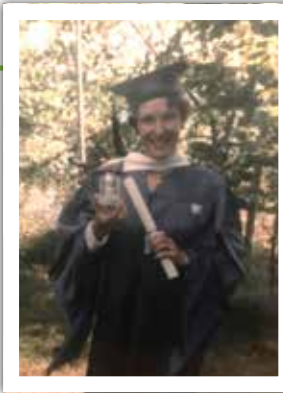


The fact that the cottage has also been a gathering place to celebrate many milestone events is evidence of the special place this holds in all of our hearts. It is our family centre. Over the years these milestone events have included baptisms (James and Fiona Copley, Luke and Carly Woods), weddings (Fiona and Peter, Carly and Kyle), wedding anniversaries, university graduation ceremonies, and birthdays.



James with Luke and Carly and Friends

graduated from UWO in 1985 a cottage ceremony was arranged. 36 years (2021) later and after both graduating university during the Pandemic, a cottage graduation ceremony celebration was held for Aidan and Kyle Woods.



Many significant birthdays have been celebrated at the cottage (most recently Murray turning 90 in 2022). Grandchildren summer birthdays meant Murray would be leading the parade, singing and marching the kids around the property in search of hidden Pinatas. Over the years musical instruments were added and played during the search... ending with the pinata found, put up in the apple tree and poked until it released its goodies for the kids to all gather up and enjoy.

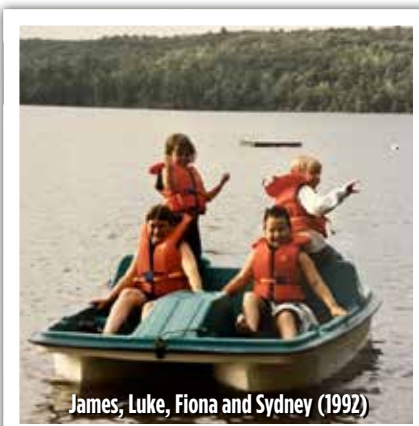


Emily & Murray's 25th wedding anniversary

Of course, no cottage story is complete without mention of fun in and around the water.

An initial canoe and tin boat (putt putt) gave way to paddle boats, sailboats, wind surfers, and ski boats. The latter introducing water skiing, wake boarding and tubing. Fun for all ages!

Swimming off the point has always been a favourite. As well as swimming across the lake. Multiple generations have now made the journey across the lake and back. Carly Woods upped the ante with her swimming of the



James, Luke, Fiona and Sydney (1992)

entire length of the lake in 2008. No one else has picked up that gauntlet.

Emily honoured Wilfred Houser's perennials by nurturing and expanding the garden over the years with her carefully curated selections. Occasionally she waged a battle with chipmunks who delighted in digging up and tunnelling in the garden (images of Wile E. Coyote and the Roadrunner waging battle). The garden burst into colour and transformed throughout the spring, summer and fall as different flower varieties took their turn to lead the floral orchestra. Sadly, Emily died in 2008. The garden will forever be known by us as 'Temma's Garden'. The nickname lovingly used by her grandchildren.



Aidan, Sydney, Carly, Kyle W, Kyle K after swim across the lake (2023)



Four generations in 2023. (Missing James Copley and Jess Hatch, Tarik Elmas)

As the trees on the point grew up, so did the generations of the Woods family. Murray and Emily's children, Vicki, Doug, and Jeff were 21, 20 and 16 years old respectively when the cottage became part of their family fabric. Eight grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and of course, spouses/partners, (pictured here, Vicki and John, Doug and Jan, Jeff and Liz) have joined in to comprise the broader Woods clan. The next generation of great grandchildren has begun with Townes, Rhoads, Flynn and Sadie.

Most of all, it's a place to celebrate family, re-connect, and participate in a shared love and respect for Boshkung Lake, each other, and the blessings bestowed on us.

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Momentum Builds For The Highlands Corridor!



Paul Heaven, 2021. Pitcher Plant

Over the past four years the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) has been developing the concept of the Highlands Corridor as a nature-based solution to building climate change resilience, protecting lands and waters, and maintaining biodiversity. The Highlands Corridor covers approximately 100,000 hectares and connects three provincial parks in Ontario: Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands, Kawartha Highlands, and Silent Lake.

This swath of land is high in biodiversity including 42 identified Species at Risk, 30 provincially significant species and 48 regionally rare species. The HHLT is seeking protection of the 60,000 hectares of unceded crown land within the Highlands Corridor as a Conservation Reserve.

In February 2023, the County of Haliburton passed a resolution of support. MPP Laurie Scott hosted a very successful reception at Queen's Park in June and in August the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks consulted with HHLT Project Biologist, Paul Heaven to gather information about the Highlands Corridor, commending the HHLT on the comprehensiveness of their research, and the establishment of local and provincial support.

Private landowners in the Highlands Corridor have also demonstrated support by joining the Partners in

Conservation (PIC) program. 15 private landowners have joined PIC by enrolling in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program. This program gives a significant tax break to landowners who provide good stewardship of their forested property. Over 1700 hectares of private land has been added, creating an important connectivity component to the crown land within the corridor.

Perched on the southern edge of the Canadian Shield, the corridor is comprised of a combination of forests, lakes, wetlands, and rocky barrens. Protection and maintenance of healthy habitats in the corridor benefits the whole ecosystem, including the lakes we love. You can help be good land and lake stewards by:

- Naturalizing your shoreline
- Maintaining native plant and tree diversity on your property
- Supporting wetland conservation in your area

Is your property in the Highlands Corridor? Visit the Highlands Corridor website at www.highlandscorridor.ca, which includes a map of the corridor and an interesting video outlining the details of the Highlands Corridor project.

Note: The C.H.A. Board has provided a letter of support to the Land Trust for this project.



Paul Heaven, 2022. Turtles basking

Article provided by



Salt Impacts

In early October, 2023 over 100 interested parties including FOCA gathered at the offices of Landscape Ontario to discuss salt issues: from ecological implications to infrastructure decline, safety and liability concerns.

FOCA will continue to support the efforts of our partners in academia, industry, and environmental non-governmental organizations to make the case for action

to reduce the impacts of salt in our precious freshwaters, and of course through our monitoring and tracking of chloride levels via the Lake Partner Program. Learn more about salt impacts on our webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/salt-impacts/>



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- Increase their transpiration – with the potential to reduce the impact of spring flooding
- Be more resistant to blowdown in wind and snow storms and to forest fires, because there is less standing dead wood

HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

One 750 gram yogurt-type container filled with ash will restore the calcium lost in one square metre of land. (That's the same as 4 tonnes per hectare.)

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW TO SPREAD MY OWN ASH?

- Only use clean ash. Do not burn metallic foil, plastic products, pressure-treated wood, construction waste or wood that may contain chemical preservatives, insecticides, glue, nails, staples, other metals or paint.
- Allow your wood ash to cool completely – for several days before using. Hot ash is a real fire risk to homes, property and forests.
- Rake your cold ash to ensure there are no non-ash items.
- Keep your ash dry until you are ready to spread it.
- Wear a mask, gloves and long clothing when spreading ash.
- Spread it in a location that you can keep people and pets away from for a couple of days. Any forested area is good and even property surrounding your trees.
- Only apply ash to each location once. Research suggests that one application, ever, is enough to replace 50 years of calcium depletion caused by acid rain.
- Spring, summer and fall are all good times of year but avoid spreading ash over the snow, on a steep slope, or near surface water.
- No trees on your property? Offer your ash to your neighbours and friends

FUN FACT

If we could spread ash on all the forests in Eastern Canada it would have the same Climate impact as planting 1 billion new trees

Sources – this article is based on years of research by the Friends of the Muskoka Watershed (FOTMW) in cooperation with Trent University. For more info and to support FOTMW visit <https://fotmw.org/>

If you are adding ash and restoring your forest, please let FOTMW know emailing spencer@fotmw.org and let him know!



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Don't Get Yourself into a Lather

There is foam accumulating on the lake? Is this indicative of pollution?

A Mountain Lake cottager asked for help in determining if there was an issue with a nearby establishment. There was evidence of massive foam along the shore. It occurred to CHA that this issue had not been reported on for several years so an update on this phenomenon was in order.

Most lake foam is caused when the surface tension of water is decreased and air is mixed into the water. Organic materials from naturally decaying plants and animals can reduce the surface tension of water, and when the wind blows across it, or waves wash against the shore, bubbles are produced.

Most foam observed in lakes or streams is naturally occurring, and not an indicator of pollution.

To determine if foam is natural or not, collect some of the foamy water in a jar. Shake the jar. Detergents will produce more bubbles; natural foam usually dissipates. Detergent foams feel slippery and usually smell of perfumes. Natural foams often smell like fish or soil.

OILY FILM

Find out if the oily sheen on your water surface is a

naturally occurring biofilm or a sign of petroleum-based pollution by breaking it up with a stick!

Spilled petroleum will separate and quickly swirl back together after the stick is removed.

If the oily sheen disperses naturally when disturbed by the stick, bacteria may be present. Some bacteria rely on manganese and iron, appearing oily, slimy, orange, red, or black as the metals solidify.

During the spring and summer, the clumping of insect skeletal cases may also form dark clouds with an oily sheen in the water.

Sources: from Portland ME Water Resources and [Watersheds Canada](#)



Photo by Lynsey Peever, Mountain Lake, Haliburton

Article provided by



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All Fun and Games...

At the cottage it's all fun and games.....period! Indoors and outdoors, with any number of players – whether tournament style or grudge match and rematch!

Some outdoor beach / yard games that we enjoy playing are Kubb, Golf Ball Bocce, HoleyBoard and Giant Jenga. An online search can bring you lots of background, rules and variations for these games.



the game is very transportable as it fits into a small cardboard box.

GOLF BALL BOCCÉ is bocce played with different coloured golf balls to designate the teams. Since golf balls are not heavy, they are easily thrown by all ages and ideal to

KUBB is an active game that has participants throwing sticks at target blocks (also called soldiers). The number of target blocks on each team's side varies as the game progresses with its ebb and flow until the final throw of the match knocks over the King block to end the game. We play on the beach or on the lawn and



transport to other playing fields. Our set has made numerous trips to Caribbean beaches much to the amusement of friends old and new!

HOLEYBOARD is a washer toss game using four inch washers thrown at a target board that has three holes in it, worth one, three and five points. Playing with three inch washers is a common variation. Our advice: keep your eyes on the washers – if they roll away, they will hide easily in the sand or shallow water!

GIANT JENGA, as the name would suggest, is a jenga game but with large adult sized pieces. It is fun, challenging and social. There is usually sufficient chirping to keep the game extra interesting!

The games people play ... make for a lot of cottage fun! Enjoy!



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