

Pike Lake Post

Our 26th Year, Summer 2020

Let's Celebrate Pike Lake!



Stay Healthy!

COVID-19 is affecting people across Canada & across the world. It is unsettling for all of us. Many of us worry about family members or friends who are front line workers. Sadly, some of us have lost a family member or friend. The PLCA Board wishes all Pike Lakers a safe & healthy summer.

For up-to-date info on Covid-19 in this area google The Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit at <https://healthunit.org/>

Annual Events Cancelled The Boatilla & BBQ, & the Boat-in Movie Night have been cancelled due to Covid-19. Both events will return better than ever in 2021!

Your Membership is critical to supporting the initiatives of the Association. To renew your membership, or to become a member, please submit your completed membership form & annual fee.

The easiest way to do this is to

1. Complete & submit the "Online Membership" application form found at www.pikelake.ca
2. Send an e-Transfer for \$30 to info@pikelake.ca

OR

Mail the completed membership form & your cheque to: Pike Lake Community Association
c/o 24 Sioux Crescent, Ottawa, ON K2H 7E5

Pike Lake Community Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

has been **CANCELLED** due to Covid-19

The following will be posted on the PLCA website www.pikelake.ca by June 21st

- ✓ President's Report
- ✓ Treasurer's Report
- ✓ Proposed Budget for 2020
- ✓ Lake Steward's Report
- ✓ Membership Survey Report
- ✓ Internet & Cell Phone Survey Report
- ✓ 2019 AGM draft Minutes

In light of the cancellation of the AGM, & hence elections to the Board, the current Board has agreed to extend its term for one more year.

- We're looking for a volunteer to serve as Secretary for 2020-2021. Please e-mail info@pikelake.ca if you're interested or wish more info.

Your Vote is Needed to extend our mandate & to approve our annual operating budget for this year. All voting members will be contacted by the beginning of July with info on voting procedures.

YOUR INPUT WELCOME YEAR-ROUND

The PLCA welcomes your comments, suggestions & questions. Speak to a Board Member, e-mail us at info@pikelake.ca, or write us at Pike Lake Community Association, c/o 24 Sioux Cres., Ottawa, ON K2H 7E5

YOUR PLCA BOARD FOR 2019 - 2020

Working to keep Pike Lake healthy for all.

President Naomi Fowlie

Vice-President John Murphy

Secretary Lois Johnson

Treasurer Marty van Gaal

Membership John Duguid

Lake Steward Linden Davidson

Communications Kathy Noxon

At Large Richard Cormier

At Large Suzanne Forget-Davidson

Past President Adrienne Fowlie-Larocque

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIONS 2019-2020

- Launched a new website www.pikelake.ca
- Completed an internet & cell-phone coverage survey, an important step toward improving service
- Accepted advertising in the *Post* by local businesses
- Completed a walleye survey, the last of MNR&F's requirements to stock walleye fingerlings
- Established a Facebook Page
- Undertook a membership research survey
- Hosted the *Let's Celebrate* Pike Lake BBQ
- Placed 22 hazard buoys in Pike Lake
- Participated in the Canadian Lakes Loons Survey
- Provided ice-out data to Ice Watch

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE

We trust you will find it more visually appealing, & easier to navigate. And, it has a members' only section.



Check it out & keep returning for updates & news from around the lake. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. Simply e-mail info@pikelake.ca

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

To join, you must be a paid up member of the PLCA.

- If have a Facebook account, please send your request directly to the "Pike Lake Community Association" Facebook page.
- If do not have a Facebook account & want to transfer your access to a family member, partner or friend, please send the name of your "appointee" to info@pikelake.ca so that your "appointee" will be allowed access.



Bald eagle born on Big Island, Pike Lake last summer. This is the first bald eagle born on Pike Lake in living memory.

Photo by Richard Murphy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The PLCA has a great deal to be proud of. By working together, Board members & volunteers, have expanded our profile & provided wanted services to our members.

The PLCA has a **new website**. It boasts several key features: easy to navigate, straightforward to manage, & attractive in design. There is now a members' only section. Here you will find documents of interest to members which pertain to the running of the PLCA. Check out www.pikelake.ca

Increased cell & internet service is of importance to the PLCA membership & the community at large. The article on cell & internet service on p.9 will tell you more about our work on this issue.

The PLCA has provided the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNR&F) with all the reports requested to stock Pike Lake with **walleye fingerlings**. The MNR&F has a report ready to present to the PLCA Board. We'll provide you with an update in the near future.

A focus of the Board was to **increase membership** to encourage community involvement with the work of the association. As a critical first step, the Board asked members to complete a survey to determine if the PLCA is meeting the expectations of its membership. The results are very positive. This tells us we're on the right track. We'll post the report by June 21st.

To increase & facilitate communication among members year round, the Board established a **Facebook Page**, which is turning out to be very popular.

The Board made the decision to ask **local businesses to advertise** in the *Pike Lake Post*, something we've not done before. We encourage you to support these businesses.

Over the years members have added a donation when submitting their membership. This year, several people came forward to donate monies to enhance specific existing projects. On behalf of the PLCA, thank you.

No voluntary association can succeed without the work of **countless volunteers**. Thank you for all you do.

Your organization is financially sound, progressive & looking forward to continuing to work on your behalf.

Naomi Fowlie,
President
Pike Lake Community Association



CONSIDER BEING A BOARD MEMBER

Contribute to the Pike Lake community by sharing your time & talents, while making some new friends.

Elections will take place at the AGM in July 2021. We hope you will consider putting your name forward to be a member of the Board for 2021-2023.

The General Duties of the Board of Directors

- Attend & participate in Board Meetings
- Attend the AGM & any Special Meetings
- Represent the Association at meetings & events
- Chair or be a member of a Standing or Special Committee of the Board
- Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board
- Abide by the Code of Conduct

For more information please don't hesitate to speak to a current Board member or contact us at info@pikelake.ca

You will find the constitution & policy manual at www.pikelake.ca/governance. The policy manual outlines the role & responsibilities of Board members & the Code of Conduct.

Be part of the Board of the PLCA, an association that has existed since 1967 to keep Pike Lake healthy for all.



The Official Mascot of 2020.
Washes its hands frequently.
Always wears a masque.
Rearrange the letters in racoon: it spells CORONA!

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ON PAGES 6-7

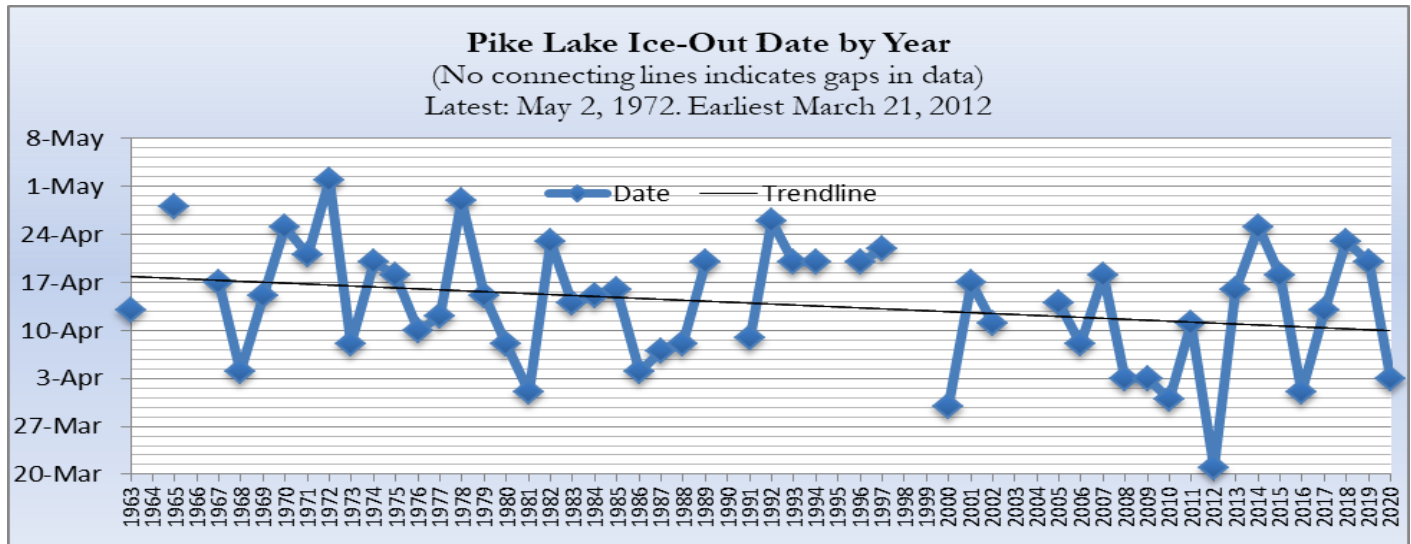
1. Pileated Woodpecker
2. Red Fox
3. Newly hatched Snapping Turtle
4. Two-tailed Swallowtail Butterfly
5. Smallmouth Bass
6. White-tailed Deer
7. Tree Frog

ICE WATCH

Using dates recorded by Sylvester McNamee &, later, Donna Moodie & Gerry Greenslade, the PLCA submitted the dates the ice went out on Pike Lake from 1963 to present as well as data on 8 years the ice formed. This data, together with data provided by other citizen scientists from coast to coast to coast, provides important information about patterns in Canada's climate. Tracking & analyzing these "ice-on" & "ice-out" events is known as ice phenology.

- Canadian ice phenology records on ice-on dating back to 1900 shows a strong trend line for the ice to form later in the year.
- The data also shows that freshwater ice is melting earlier than before.

Donna Moodie & Gerry Greenslade report that the ice went out on April 3rd this year.



For more info, google

www.naturewatch.ca/icewatch/wpcontent/uploads/sites/4/2014/09/changes_in_lake_ice_signal_a_changing_climate.pdf

CANADIAN LAKES LOONS SURVEY

Again last year, PLCA "loonies" reported 5 loon pairs on the lake, 2 of which had 2 hatchlings. Sadly, one chick was taken from the Donnelly Bay pair by a bald eagle that has taken up residence on Big Island. The 2 chicks from the pair in the bay at Cedar Bridge Creek survived the summer.

- The eagle pair also had a hatchling which survived the summer.

Loon survey data is used to keep track of the survival of loon chicks over time. It also helps scientists monitor the health of both the loon population & the health of our lakes.

- We will need at least 10 years of data before we can make any conclusions about loon population trends on Pike Lake.

In the period from 1981-2012, some 3,200 citizen volunteers monitored loons on 4,500 lakes across Canada. Based on this information, Bird Studies Canada found that the average number of loon fledglings produced has been getting lower over time.



Adult loon with chicks. Photo by Gerry Greenslade

For more info on loons, google

www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/canadian-lakes-loon-survey/

Due to Covid 19, the Loon Survey has been cancelled for 2020. However, we will endeavour to track loons on Pike Lake.

WALLEYE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Three years ago, the PLCA approached the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNR&F) to discuss enhancing the walleye population in Pike Lake.

MNR&F asked the PLCA to submit a number of reports to determine if the conditions were appropriate for stocking walleye fingerlings. We have

- Conducted Spring Walleye Spawning Observations at the priority shoal locations over 2 years
- Provided water chemistry data on Pike Lake
- Provided information on the Septic Re-Inspection Program on Pike Lake
- Developed a program to assess angling pressure & fish harvesting in Pike Lake; 25 participants completed the Volunteer Angler Diary Survey
- Prepared a communications plan to promote & encourage the legal harvest of the Walleye's (larval/juvenile stage) predator/competitor fish species (i.e. Bass, Black Crappie & all sunfish species)

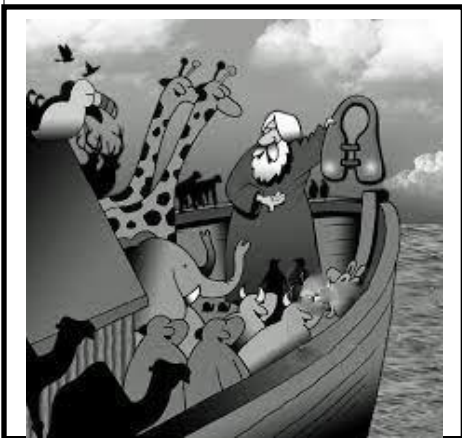
The MNR&F has a report ready to present to the PLCA Board. Stay tuned.

Photo of Jake Baldry by Ted Howe



WEAR YOUR WHISTLE

Consider attaching your whistle to your lifejacket so you can signal for help in an emergency. The Canadian Red Cross recommends the pealess Fox 40 whistle because it has a loud high pitched sound & doesn't get jammed by dirt, saliva or water, like whistles with a small ball inside the chamber. They're also great to carry when you go for a walk.



*Remember,
life jackets float.
You don't.*

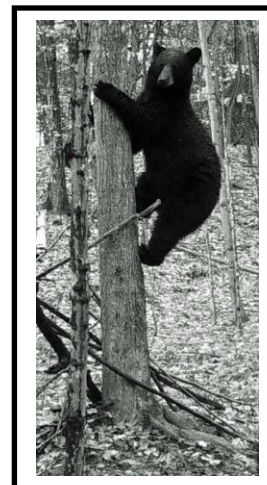
BEAR SIGHTINGS

Numerous adult bear & bear cub sightings have been reported by Pike Lakers as well as local hunters.

Please share this info with your neighbours.

Consider carrying bear bells when you go for a walk.

Photo by Linden Davidson



For tips on how you can be Bear Wise, read *Don't Invite Bears to the Cottage* at www.pikelake.ca/lake-life

WATCH YOUR WAKE TO PROTECT LOON CHICKS

Boat wake can drown loon nests & loon chicks. It can also cause erosion, especially in narrow boating areas.

Remember to reduce your speed to less than 10 km/h within 30 metres of any shore.

For more info google www.pikelake.ca/lake-life



HAZARD BUOYS

Every spring, the PLCA places 22 hazard buoys in Pike Lake to mark the location of rocks or shoals.

MEET A FEW OF OUR PIKE LAKE NEIGHBOURS

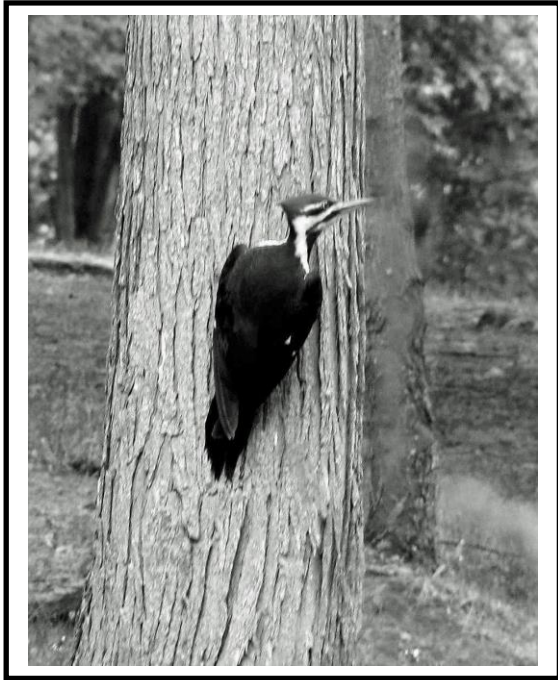


Photo by Linda McGuirl

Hey Kids

Did you know that
Pike Lake is home to

- 6 species of amphibians, frogs are an example
- 88 species of birds, chickadees for instance
- 21 species of fish like walleye, also known as pickerel
- 32 species of mammals, such as chipmunks
- 8 species of reptiles, turtles for example

Can you name
the animals in
these photos?

I'll put the answers
on page 3.

Your friend,
Pat Pike

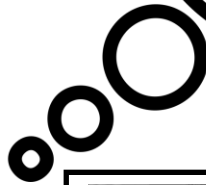


Photo by Cathy Cameron

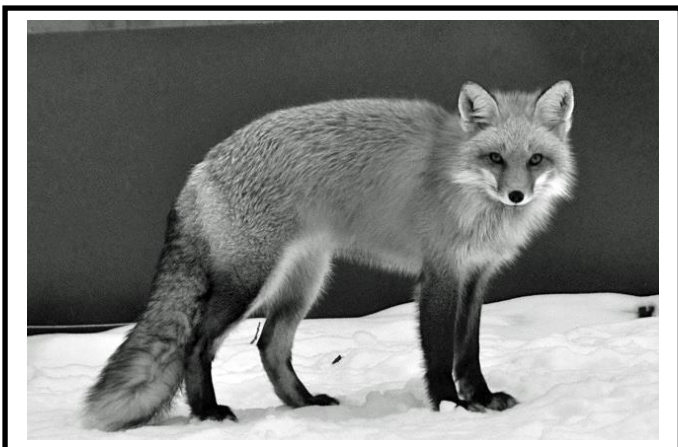
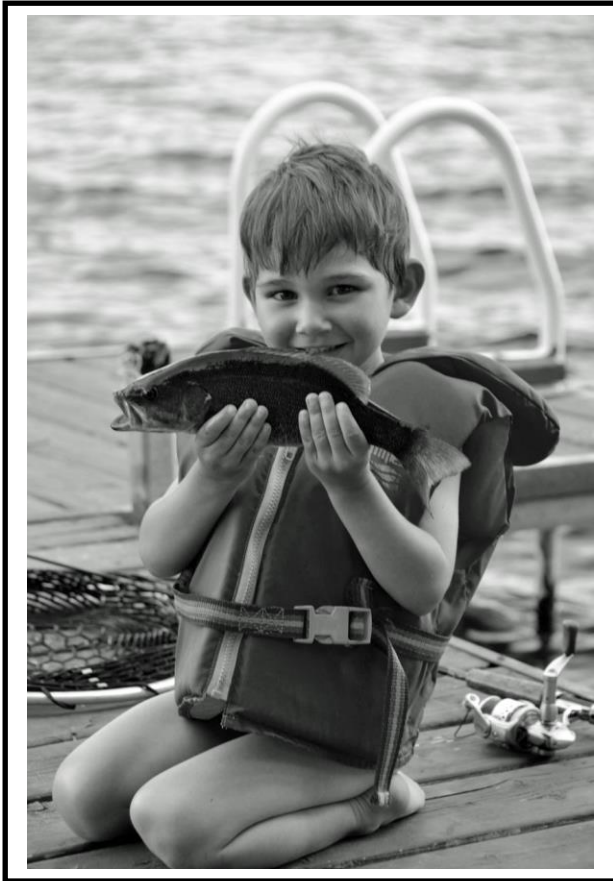


Photo by Richard Murphy



Photo by Marguerite Anderson



What kind of fish did Grayson catch?
Photo by Richard Murphy



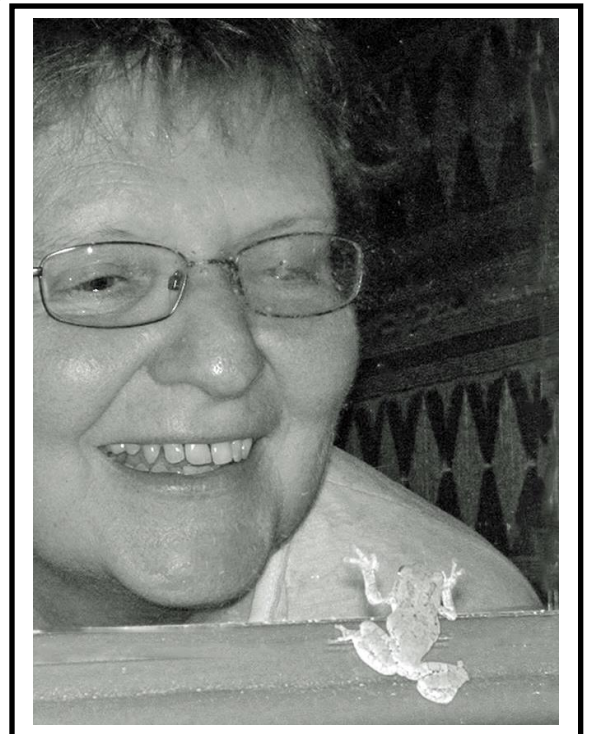
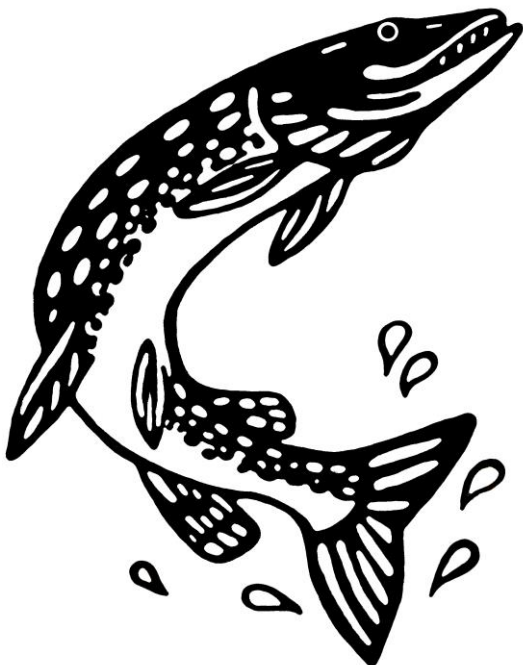
Photo by Gerry Greenslade

If you could talk to one of the animals imagine the stories it could tell you!

Would you like to write a story or tell a story in pictures & post it on our face book page so we could all read it?

I hope you will because I love stories.

Your friend, Pat Pike



Who is Kay talking to?

ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF PIKE LAKE

BE WELL WISE & SEPTIC SMART

Tips to maintain & extend the life of your septic system

- Test your well water for bacteria at least three times a year – spring, summer & fall – this is a free service
- Have your septic tank pumped on a regular basis
 - Every 3-5 years
- Check & clean your effluent filter every year; if you don't have an effluent filter, consider adding one
- Divert surface water away from your leaching bed
- Conserve water to reduce the amount of wastewater that must be treated
- Repair leaky plumbing fixtures
- Consider replacing inefficient toilets with low-flush models
- Spread the number of loads of laundry throughout the week



For more info on how you can be *Well Wise & Septic Smart*, google www.pikelake.ca/links

PIKE LAKE'S HEALTH

In examining the health of any watershed, scientists examine a number of factors including forest cover, wetlands, water quality, & shoreline cover.

Pike Lake's **forest cover** is a healthy 55.5%.

The **wetland cover** for Pike Lake is 16% which is the average level for the Tay Watershed.

Pike Lake's **water quality** is generally good.

- The PLCA has worked with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's (RVCA's) Watershed Watch Program since it was established in 2006.

Shoreline cover The RVCA reports that pockets of Pike Lake would benefit from shoreline naturalization to protect the lake's health.

To enhance your shoreline with subsidized plants, contact

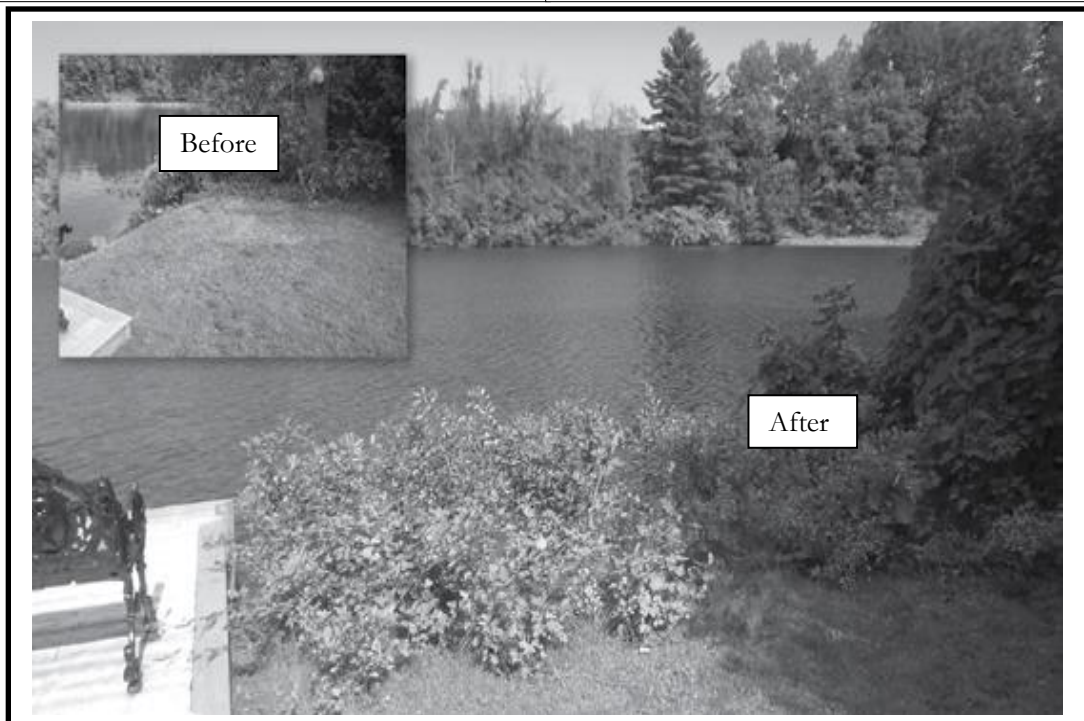
Meaghan McDonald

Lake Planning Shoreline Stewardship Coordinator

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca or 613-692-3571 ext. 1192

Note: this is an annual program so if you've missed this year, there's next year.



BENEFITS OF LINKING WITH OTHERS

PIKE LAKE IS
A MEMBER OF



FOCA offers **discounts to PLCA members**

- Cottage Life magazine \$24.95 (1 year)
- Separett Waterless Toilets 5% discount, Canadian ECO Products
- Action First Aid 18% discount on Phillips Home Defibrillators (AEDs)
- DockinaBox 10% discount on dock frame systems or boat lifts
- Canadian Canoe Museum 30% off any membership
- National Observer 50% off subscriptions
- Exclusive access to CottageFirst, the first cottage group insurance program

Pike Lakers have attended the **Cottage Succession / Keeping the Family in the Family Cottage** workshops held in Perth every few years.

- For more info, including a link to the Cottage Succession booklet, google www.pikelake.ca/links

FOCA has successfully represented waterfront property owners on a number of issues over the years. e.g.

- FOCA secured municipal voting rights for waterfront property owners in their cottage ridings
- FOCA, along with the PLCA & others, successfully argued for land owners rights to stop mining claims on lake front properties
 - A decade ago, cottagers on Black, Long & Otty lakes had their land staked for mining

Founded in 1963, FOCA is a not-for-profit association responsible for promoting thriving & sustainable waterfronts across Ontario.

- Over 500 lake associations, representing 50,000 member families across Ontario are members of FOCA.

For more info, google www.foca.on.ca



Island. Photo by Gord McCallum

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CELL & INTERNET SERVICE

In response to concerns raised by Pike Lakers, the PLCA undertook a survey to identify areas on Pike Lake that have good, adequate or no cell phone or internet service coverage. Proof of interest is found in the overwhelming response to the survey.

- We sent out 130 surveys; 84 Pike Lakers, representing 72 properties, responded.

The results of survey indicate inadequate levels of cellular phone & internet services in & around Pike Lake. A sampling of comments received:

- *I have limited access & irregular cell phone service which is extremely frustrating for work. I have a booster but only it helps marginally*
- *We retain a rotary dial, party line for 911 emergency purposes due to issues with cell service*
- *Extremely inconsistent, texts may come in eventually but unable to send texts*
- *Internet is expensive & speed slow*
- *Cellular phones can only be used in certain locations mostly outside of the cottage & for short periods of time.*

A fuller report will be posted on the PLCA website by June 21st. www.pikelake.ca/lakelife



With the goal of improved cell phone & internet service coverage around Pike Lake, the PLCA will be sent the results to Tay Valley Township, the Township of Rideau Lakes, the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) & other key players.

- The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus created EORN to advance improved rural connectivity as key to a stronger future for rural eastern Ontario communities.

With \$152m in new monies announced in 2019, plus money from private sponsors, EORN is working to improve cell coverage in eastern Ontario. For more info about EORN, visit: www.eorn.ca

The PLCA appreciates the support of the Christie Lake Association which offered to let us use their survey & host our survey through their site & thereby cut down on our set-up time & cost.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER

The PLCA was formed after a group of men who had been shoring up the dam on Grants Creek approached the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to have a new dam constructed.

- MNR required that a lake association be in place for this request to be met & so our lake association was formed on July 2, 1967.
- The new dam was built in 1970 along with public access as stipulated by MNR.

Bill Nasi produced the first Cottagers Map in 1989.

Rob Bone published the first edition of the *Pike Lake Post* in 1994.

Assisted the townships finalize road names & PIN numbers on PL, part of establishing the 911 emergency system in this area in 2004.

Prompted by a D water quality grade in 2001, Pike Lakers started working on a lake stewardship plan.

- *Our Lake Stewardship Handbook* was published & distributed to all properties on Pike Lake in 2011.

Mandatory Septic Inspections began in 2012.

Aili Kurtis designed our pike logo in 2012.

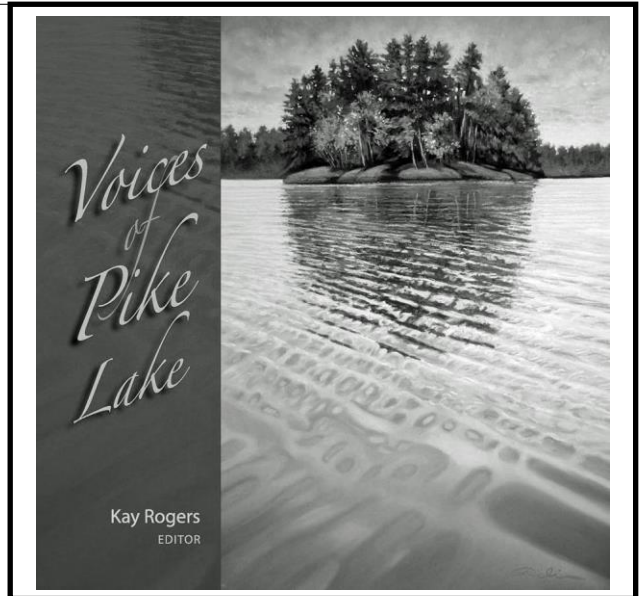


Denny Poley created our first website in 2012 & updated the Pike Lake map in 2014.

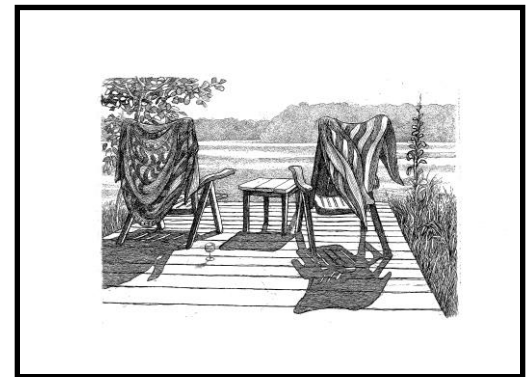
The PLCA received the FOCA Outstanding Achievement Award (2013) in recognition of our initiatives to protect the health of PL

The PLCA joined the Canadian Lake Loons Survey in 2015.

The PLCA started placing 18 (now 22) hazard buoys in 2018.



Over 40 Pike Lakers contributed to *Voices of Pike Lake*, published in 2011.



12 families who've been cottaging on Pike Lake for 50 years or more received a **Legacy Cottage** plaque in 2017 featuring this etching by local artist, Franc van Oort.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS OF THE PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY!

- All who delivered the 2019 *Pike Lake Post*: Jack Anderson, Cathy Cameron, Ric Cormier, John Duguid, Grant Fowlie, Naomi Fowlie, Mark Godby, Lois Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Terry Kimmel, Adrienne Fowlie-Larocque, Gord McCallum, Nick Mulder, John Murphy, Trisha Paul-Carson, Bart Poulter, Kay Rogers, Robin Stout, & Marty van Gaal
- Richard Murphy for reviewing the PLCA financial records
- Naomi Fowlie, Kathy Noxon & Fiona Mehmet for delivering the Cellular Phone & Internet Coverage Survey
- Linden Davidson, Rob Geer, Hubert McInnis, John Murphy, Peter Noonan, & Lee Sumner for putting in & taking out 22 hazard buoys
- Jen Sinclair, Kathy Noxon, Naomi Fowlie, & Suzanne Forget for setting up our Facebook page
- Lois Johnson for developing our new website
- Matthew, Julie & Mary Anne van Gaal who helped make our 2019 Let's Celebrate Pike Lake BBQ a success
- The Sibbit & Fowlie families for organizing & hosting the annual boat-in movie night
- Donna Moodie & Gerry Greenslade for providing the ice-out dates
- Linden Davidson & John Murphy for continuing to work on the Walleye Enhancement Project plus the 25 fishers who completed the walleye survey
- Gerry Greenslade, Sheila Howe & Richard Murphy for submitting new photos to our PLCA photo album
- Kay Rogers, with support from Cathy Cameron, for producing the 2020 *Pike Lake Post*
- All who have generously made financial donations to support the PLCA

LET'S CELEBRATE PIKE LAKE OR PIKE LAKERS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

Our PLCA has been hosting social gatherings from the get go.



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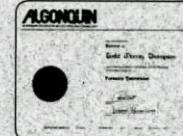
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