

Pike Lake Post

21st Anniversary Edition Summer 2015

Let's Celebrate Pike Lake!



BOATILLA & BBQ **SATURDAY JUNE 27, 11 – 2**

We'll gather at the "Westport" end of Pike Lake near Donna Moodie's / Pike Lake Route 13

The Boatilla starts 11 am

We'll canoe, kayak, or slowly motor down Pike Lake gathering others along the way

We'll arrive at 101 Country Lane for a BBQ

- ✓ Prize for the best decorated boat
- ✓ Kids activities
- ✓ Just for fun, let's talk about creepy crawly bugs
- ✓ Pike Lake maps & teeshirts for sale



 Your PLCA will provide the food – Cost: \$5 per person; children under 12 free

We hope to see you & your guests there!

Rain date Sunday June 28

See photos of our 2014 Let's Celebrate Boatilla & BBQ on pages 10 - 11



Pike Lake Community Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY JULY 4

Coffee & Registration at 8:30 Meeting 9:00 - 11:00

NOTE

NEW LOCATION

Stanleyville Hall

Stanley Rd. Stanleyville

Between Stanleyville Rd & Narrow Locks Rd

Meet Your Neighbours

Tay Valley Township Update, Keith Kerr, Reeve

Election for the positions of Vice-President, Secretary & Treasurer; see page 3

Contribute Your Ideas

Purchase your new Map of Pike Lake

All Pike Lakers Welcome!

Keep up-to-date about Pike Lake at www.pikelake.ca

NEWS FROM YOUR PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION _____

YOUR PLCA BOARD FOR 2014 – 2016

Working to keep Pike Lake healthy for all!

President Terry Kimmel, Rte. 9

Vice-President John Duguid, Country Lane TBC

Secretary Sandy Alexander, Rte. 7 To be confirmed

Treasurer Anne Ruggles, Rte. 16 To be confirmed

Membership Doug Sinclair, Rte. 1

Lake Steward Adrienne Fowlie Larocque, Rte. 17A

Communications Mark Godby, Rte. 9

At large Jack Anderson, Rte. 1

At large Glenn Bond, Rte. 11

At large Kristine Martin, Rte. 11

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, RR3 Perth, ON K7H 3C5

2014 - 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Over 125 people attended our *Let's Celebrate Pike Lake Boatilla & BBQ*; see photos pages 10-11; the PLCA began holding *Let's Celebrate Pike Lake* events in 2011
- ✓ Undertook water quality testing & analysis through RVCA's Watershed Watch Program; water testing began in 2001; see page 6
- ✓ Participated in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey; see page 7; the PLCA joined the Survey in 2012
- ✓ Re-united three docks with their owners
- ✓ Cleaned up garbage on the islands

UPDATED PIKE LAKE MAP IN COLOUR

Available at the Boatilla & the AGM
Or by contacting the PLCA
Maps measuring 18 x 24 inches \$10
Maps measuring 24 x 36 inches \$20



NEWS FROM YOUR PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

CALL FOR RE-ELECTION AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 4

Those of you who attended our 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) are likely to agree that there was a degree of chaos that went on throughout that meeting. The chaos was due to a cramped room, full agenda & a couple of difficult & controversial topics (the Love Your Lake Program & the Township Official Plan). Discussions on these topics led to a lengthy meeting with the election cramped at the end when some folks were anxious to leave. Following the AGM several of our members questioned the election process & the legitimacy of the election of the Vice-President, Treasurer & Secretary.

Our review of the constitution & the advice of a lawyer indicate the election was properly held, but the Board acknowledges there can be a couple of interpretations of the election clauses in question. Therefore, we believe it is in the Association's interest to set the record straight &, at our July 4, 2015 AGM, to re-do the election for the positions of the Vice-President, Treasurer & Secretary. These positions have one year remaining in their two year term.

The three nominees from 2014 have graciously agreed to stand again for the following positions: John Duguid for Vice-President, Sandy Alexander for Secretary, & Anne Ruggles for Treasurer. We are also opening nominations for these positions to the membership.

The individuals nominated for these positions are required to be affirmed in those positions by the membership at the AGM.

A nomination form is enclosed. It is also available at www.pikelake.ca. Nominees must agree to stand for the positions for which they are nominated & there must be **two members** nominating them. The nomination form can be scanned & sent to info@pikelake.ca, mailed to the PLCA at Pike Lake Community Association, RR3 Perth, ON K7H 3C5, taken in person to the PLCA BBQ on June 27th, or delivered to the President before the start of the AGM. No nominations will be taken during the AGM.

This year's AGM is at the Stanleyville Hall with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. & the meeting starting at 9:00 a.m.

A Constitution Review Committee has been formed to clarify & elaborate on the nomination & election process within our constitution. The plan is that the membership will receive copies of the recommended changes/additions for review & input over this next year. A Code of Conduct for the Directors has also been developed.

As you consider what makes sense in our constitution & the Board election, please keep in mind that the Pike Lake Community Association is a not-for-profit, volunteer based association which exists to promote & assist in the protection & enhancement of the natural environment of Pike Lake & its surrounding environment for present & future generations.

NEWS FROM YOUR PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2014

2nd Walleye spawning bed

Balance December 31, 2014

Map printing

Bank Charges

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2014		D
Balance January 1, 2014	16,064.41	✓
Income		
Memberships	2,380.00	✓
Map & T-shirt Sales	415.00	
Boatilla & BBQ	360.00	
Donations	80.00	
Interest on GICs	<u>149.00</u>	
	3,384.08	
		Н
Expenses		
Printing, envelopes & stamps	1,354.50	✓
(Post, Love Your Lake, &		
Autumn Update)		
Annual general meeting	102.35	
Boatilla & BBQ	719.71	✓
FOCA membership 2014	404.50	
FOCA membership 2015	466.25	✓
Canadian Lake Loons Survey	35.00	
Fire department donation	100.00	./

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ On average since 2000, 48% of the 248 Pike Lake property owners are members of the PLCA.
- ✓ A great many people have contributed to the Pike Lake association since it was founded almost half a century ago. In 2010, the association began to formerly recognize people who have made a special contribution to the PLCA.

HONOUR ROLL 2010 - 2014

- ✓ Geoff Mace, 2010, lake steward for 10 years, leader on the development of the 2010 *State of Pike Lake Report*
- ✓ Andrea Klymko, 2010, guided us in the development of the *State of Pike Lake Report*
- ✓ Bart Poulter, 2011, 7 years of tireless service on the lake stewardship planning process & other initiatives
- ✓ Mandy Bjerkland, 2012, treasurer for 18 years
- ✓ Audrey Cook, 2012, board member for 17 years
- ✓ Aili Kurtis, 2012, designed our logo & our signs
- ✓ Orest Roscoe, 2012, membership for 8 years
- Denny Poley, 2013, established the new PLCA website & updated the Pike Lake map

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS OF THE PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY!

269.95

44.16

1,251.30

4,747.72

14,700.77

- ✓ All who helped make our 2014 Let's Celebrate Pike Lake Boatilla & BBQ a big success
 - o Brenda & John Duguid, our hosts, & Brenda for baking the Canada Day cakes
 - o Mathew & Steven Duguid for helping with the boats
 - o Mike Carson, John Hyndman, Duncan McDowell, & Nick Mulder, our BBQ'ers
 - o Audrey Cook, Karen Mehmet & Ozay Mehmet, our judges
 - o Cheryl Fosberry & Peter Liddington, our photographers
 - o Freda Godby & Jane Lindsay, our general helpers extraordinaire
 - O Cathy Cameron, Trisha Paul Carson, Karen Hyndman & members of the Board who all pitched in
- ✓ Marie Foote for looking after refreshments at the 2014 Annual General Meeting
- ✓ Ric Cormier for reviewing the Association's 2014 financial records
- ✓ Betty Jean Bone, Linden Davidson, Adrienne Fowlie Larocque, Freda Godby, Gord McCallum & family, & Doug Sinclair for counting the number of loons & loon chicks as part of the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey
- ✓ Jack Anderson & Pat Shore for taking the RVCA staff out on the lake to take water samples
- ✓ Donna Moodie, Kristine Martin, Nick Mulder & members of the Board for delivering the 2014 Pike Lake Post
- ✓ Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) & Tay Valley Township for their ongoing support

PAT SHORE The PLCA wishes to thank Pat for his many years of service as a board member, a leader in the development of the *State of Pike Lake Report*, & as the main boat driver for the RVCA water quality testing since 2001.

KAY ROGERS The PLCA wishes to thank Kay for spear-heading *Voices of Pike Lake*, for pulling our *Lake*Stewardship Handbook together, for her years of service as a board member, & for undertaking the *Pike Lake Post* since 2010 – which she kindly agreed to do again this year.

GREAT BLUE HERON

Scientific name Ardea herodias

Average weight Just over 2 kg

Average height 1 metre

Average lifespan Most chicks die before their first birthday

Those who survive live about 15 years

Did you know? More than 1,000 great blue herons nest each year

on La Grande Île in Lac Saint-Pierre near Montréal.

Have you see one? Pike Lake is home to Great Blue Herons, Green Herons & the Black-crowned Night Herons

Physiology: the largest heron in North America, the great blue is mostly grayish blue. Some of its body parts are more colourful: its eyes are yellow, its legs are green & its head is white. A black stripe marks each side of its head. A few shaggy black plumes stick out from its back.

The birds' feathers turn brighter during mating season & dingier in winter. Females look like males but are smaller. These herons usually hold their neck in an "S" curve when flying.

Habitats/Behaviours: Water & land are both necessary for this bird. Either salt or fresh water can serve as its fishing grounds, but the birds need islands or woody swamps nearby so they have a place to build their nests.

The birds build one-metre-wide nests out of dry sticks, sometimes lining the bottom with pine needles or moss.

Herons choose a new mate each year. The female lays about three to five eggs, which she sits on at night. The male sits on them during the day. Once the chicks hatch, the parents continue to share duties: mom watches the nest at night & dad takes the day shift.

By about eight weeks old, the young birds start to fly. At 10 weeks, they leave the nest – & their parents – for good.



Map showing breeding range & year-round range

Then they're ready to start acting like adult herons. They stand perfectly still in the water until a tasty morsel passes by. Usually it's a fish, but sometimes a heron will eat other water life, or even another bird.

When they see something — wham! The heron lunges with its body & neck. If it nabs the prey, the bird usually tries to swallow it in one gulp, sometimes choking in the process.

Range: Great blues are Canada's most widespread heron, from the Maritimes to British Columbia. There are probably tens of thousands in the country, although west coast populations may be at risk due to the area's growing human population.

Most head south once water begins to freeze. Some fly as far south as Mexico or Cuba. In parts of British Columbia & the Maritimes, some remain all winter. These birds are also common through most of the United States & Mexico.

Source: Canadian Geographic Kids www.canadiangeographic.ca/kids

WATER QUALITY TESTING & THE HEALTH OF PIKE LAKE

Annual testing for the quality of water on the lake is rather like having your blood work done. It is an easy & inexpensive way to monitor key health indicators at a given point in time & to track changes over time.

When the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) started its Watershed Watch Program in 2001, the Pike Lake association was an enthusiastic supporter. The data from testing in 2001 resulted in a "D" grade for Pike Lake – a wake-up call to give serious attention to the health of Pike Lake.

Pike Lakers were not the only ones concerned about water quality. A few years earlier, a group of citizens formed the Tay River Round Table. This group, together with the Town of Perth, Tay Valley Township & other municipalities, with funding from the RVCA, & technical support from a number of federal & provincial government ministries & the district health unit, began the research & consultative process that resulted in the *Tay River Watershed Management Plan* in 2002. The Pike Lake association, along with other lake associations in the Tay River Watershed, was part of this process.

Then, the RVCA received funding from the Trillium Foundation to work with lake associations to develop lake stewardship plans. The process was similar from lake to lake: leadership by the lake association, involvement of municipalities, technical support from government ministries, & community consultations. The rationale for including municipalities in the process was simple: lake stewardship plans are tools which can inform actions by municipalities (which have responsibilities in the areas of land use planning & environmental sustainability), as well as actions by individuals & lake associations.

Pike Lakers voted to take advantage of this opportunity. The lake stewardship research & consultative process, which started in 2005, resulted in the *State of Pike Lake Report* in 2010, and *Keeping Pike Lake Healthy, Our Lake Stewardship Handbook* in 2011. Both documents can be found at www.pikelake.ca

The PLCA has implemented many of the actions in the Lake Stewardship Handbook & continues to provide information in the Pike Lake Post & on our website to inform Pike Lakers about ways we, both individually & as an association, can keep Pike Lake healthy for future generations.

The PLCA is also providing information on emerging issues such as blue-green algae which was found on the Upper Rideau and Mississippi lakes last summer.

In addition to working with lake associations, the RVCA has also undertaken a series of six subwatershed reports: the Middle Rideau River (2009), Jock River (2010), Tay River (2011), Lower Rideau (2012), Kemptville Creek (2013) & the Rideau Lakes (2014). This cycle is starting over again to help the RVCA better understand watershed trends & help focus resource management actions where they are needed the most.

KEEPING PIKE LAKE HEALTHY



OUR LAKE STEWARDSHIP HANDBOOK WITH PRACTICAL HOW-TOS

PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, SUMMER 2011

WATER QUALITY TESTING & THE HEALTH OF PIKE LAKE CONTINUED

In assessing the health of any watershed, scientists examine a number of factors: water quality, forest cover, wetlands & shoreline zone. The following is from the RVCA report on health of the Pike Lake included in the 2011Tay River Subwatershed report:

- ✓ Water Quality: good (on a scale from very poor to very good). Pike Lake has moderate nutrient & high Secchi readings which means it has an increasing chance of depleted oxygen in deep water that may limit some fish populations & abundant aquatic vegetation may occur. Care should be taken by property owners ♂ recreational users to ensure that the current status is preserved ♂ steps should be taken to enhance the health of the lake.
 - o [The water quality testing results for Pike Lake since 2011 have continued to be good.]
- ✓ Forest Cover: experts believe a minimum forest cover of 30% is needed to sustain the natural diversity of plants & animals. Pike Lake's forest cover is a healthy 55%.
- ✓ Wetlands are nature's flood control & water supply reservoirs as well as habitat for many plants & animals. The wetland cover for Pike Lake is 16% which is average for the Tay River Watershed.
- ✓ Naturalized Shoreline Zone is the area where the land meets the water. Well-vegetated shorelines are critically important for protecting water quality, creating healthy aquatic habitats & protecting against erosion. Pike Lake scores well. However, closer examination reveals pockets that would benefit from shoreline naturalization.

For more info, visit RVCA Tay River Subwatershed Report <u>nww.rvca.ca/watershed/subwatershedreporting/tay/tay</u>

NATIVE PLANTS & SHRUBS ARE AVAILABLE AT COST FOR YOUR SHORELINE

The Shoreline Naturalization Program provides a visit by an experienced biologist with the know-how to consult with you, order plants you need, & provide extra muscle for the planting. Contact Andrea Klymko, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, at 613-692-3571 or andrea.klymko@rvca.ca to set up a no-obligation visit.

ANNUAL LOON COUNT

As part of the Canadian Lake Loons Survey, Pike Lake volunteers, aka "loonies", look for loon pairs in June, baby chicks in July, & surviving chicks in August. Last summer the team counted four loon pairs & two baby chicks, all of whom delighted onlookers throughout the summer.

The information they provide 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. However Bird Studies Canada has just published its findings on the global population trends, based on surveys of 4,500 lakes across Canada.

Their report, titled 1981-2012 The Canadian Lake Loon Survey: 32 years of Monitoring Common Loons as Indicators of Ecosystem Health indicates that the average number of loon fledglings produced across Canada has been getting lower & lower over time. According to the report:

"Measured as the annual number of young produced per pair, reproductive success was higher in the west than in the east, decreased over time, was higher on larger lakes than on smaller lakes, & increased as acidity decreased. These patterns were likely linked to acid- or temperature-related exposure to mercury &/or acid-induced reductions in food supply. Our results support further action to reduce emissions of mercury & the harmful components of acid precipitation throughout North America & globally." For more info, visit



Photo by Cathy Cameron

RESEARCH INTO ALGAE & AQUATIC PLANT GROWTH

Thanks to a grant of \$149,500 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), Carleton University, Friends of the Tay Watershed [Pike Lake is part of the Tay Watershed & the PLCA is a member of Friends], Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority & Rideau Valley Conservation Authority are teaming up to learn about what is impacting the health of lakes in Eastern Ontario & to look for new ways to make changes in order to protect our lakes & rivers. The funding is for the period 2014-2016.

They want to better understand what is causing green algae blooms & profuse aquatic plant growth in local lakes & rivers. The partners will conduct research & offer community outreach tools including workshops, fact sheets & best management practice guidance for waterfront stewards & property owners to better understand the ecological changes that are occurring in Eastern Ontario lakes.

The common perception throughout the Mississippi & Rideau watersheds is that aquatic algae growth is increasing. Algae blooms are becoming more frequent – despite little observed change in nutrient concentrations in the lakes. "We want to understand the historic & current health of our Eastern Ontario lakes & rivers," says Mike Yee, RVCA Biology & Water Quality Manager. "If there's a unique cause of excessive algae & plant growth, we want to know what it is. From there, we want to educate watershed residents & provide best management practices on how we can work together to reduce the problem."

Yee acknowledges that aquatic algae & plants are part of the natural ecosystem. They are the first vital links in a natural food chain that all other water creatures rely on including insects, tadpoles, minnows, & small fish right up to top predators like bass, muskie & lake trout.

"Abundant growth occurs when things are out of balance & we start to see cause for concern," says Yee. "When we have too many plants & algae decomposing in our water, it uses up too much oxygen & degrades the aquatic ecosystems. Reduced oxygen can cause fish kills & excessive blooms that are unappealing to water users. The good news is there are things we can all do to help maintain the balance & keep our lakes & rivers healthy & thriving natural environments. Our local watersheds are well known for their lakes & river systems," says Yee. "Our continued enjoyment of these features depends on our careful stewardship."

This two year study will examine how nutrients, zebra mussels & climate change influence algae & aquatic plant

growth in lakes in Eastern Ontario. This will be done by analyzing sediment cores to compare pre-European settlement & current conditions of the lake by looking at historical diatom populations – single celled algae with cell walls of silica – to determine changes in nutrients through time; & using an echo-sounder & camera to analyze aquatic plant cover.

For more info, contact Kaitlin Brady, People, Aquatic Plants & Healthy Lakes Project Coordinator at 613-692-3571 ext. 1154 or kaitlin.brady@rvca.ca.

BLUE GREEN ALGAE ON NEIGHBOURING LAKES

For many in the Rideau Watershed, this study is particularly timely. The blue-green algae blooms on the Upper Rideau last August & Mississippi Lake last September contained toxins that could cause illnesses. Some toxins can attack the liver or nervous system; others simply irritate the skin. The challenges experienced by the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit contacting people in the affected area resulted in lake associations offering to provide names of emergency contact people who would relay the information to the affected people. This suggestion, made by the PLCA at a meeting of the Lake Networking Group (a loose affiliation of over 25 lake associations stretching from Carleton Place to Kingston) was readily accepted by the Health Unit.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment reports that algal blooms are increasing in Ontario including the confirmed incidents of blue-green algal blooms which are harmful to human & animal health. One key factor contributing to the growth of blue-green algae is the amount of available nutrients such as phosphorus & nitrogen. In Ontario, phosphorus tends to be the nutrient that influences the growth of algae. For more info, visit www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/blue-green-algae

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ALGAE?

Avoid using fertilizers on lawns especially those containing phosphorous

- ✓ Keep your septic system clean & well maintained
- ✓ Maintain a naturalized shoreline
- ✓ Use phosphate-free detergents, household cleaners
 & personal care products

PASSAGES

Hepton, Everett John WOI WW II Veteran 214 Squadron, bomber Command 1921 ~ 2014

The Pike Lake community has lost its oldest member & one of its greatest cheerleaders. Everett Hepton died peacefully October 24, 2014 at the age of 93. Everett & his wife, Phyllis, purchased a cottage on Pike Lake Route 1C in 1957 &, in 1979, they retired to their new home on Pike Lake. As they wrote in *Voices of Pike Lake* "our old cottage possesses a lifetime of memories for our family." Everett loved to recount stories of his sons, Vic & Joe, growing up at the cottage & later, stories of his grandchildren & great grandchildren having fun at Pike Lake. One summer, no doubt at Everett's instigation, they had a limerick contest. Lynda McGuirl's limerick captures Everett's love of Pike Lake

There once was a place called Pike Lake
Where people could go for a break,
'Cause the flowers and trees,
The birds and the bees
Were the finest the good Lord could make.







Photos by Gord McCallum

BOAT IN MOVIE NIGHT

The Fowlie & Sibbit families invite you to the fourth annual boat-in movie night. Join your neighbours for this family-friendly event, sundown on Saturday August 1st (rain date Sunday August 2). Look for the big screen on the blue boat house on Route 17A.

ICE-OUT

Gerry Greenslade & Donna Moodie report that the ice went out on Pike Lake Saturday April 18 this year.

YOUR SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!

The PLCA invites Pike Lakers to submit tall tales, photos, poems, & stories for the 2016 *Pike Lake Post*. Speak to a Board Member, e-mail us at info@pikelake.ca, or write us at Pike Lake Community Association, RR3 Perth, Ont. K7H 3C5

LET'S CELEBRATE PIKE LAKE_

Best Decorated Boat Winner





























My first time seeing the Milky Way!

Dam city lights...

When my dad would trick ski and come out of the water backwards with his suit down he gave us a full moon Candice Fosbery-brian

coming up to the cottage

Mathew Arthur

my cousin and I had my first wipeout and it was my first time double tubing so I was holding on really tight so when I fell I puilled the tube handle in with me!

Emily

My grade & grad trip from
Glen Tay Rublic School was
to this cottage

Brender

Me tool grad to gheet!



Hood planes landing - Wayne Rosted concest - Moodie's Moune - Seaguells caught by casting hook my dads it hut - skating wills floating docks - canoeing - and soaping a plant sheet on the dock so they arrange therivey would state into the late to get him to step back year Coats

Singing and admiring the sunset in front of the compline on -

Katie Lindale

Watching the kidsperphone

The beach when they were

babies/toddless -> swim ->
waterski -> reftwars:

Building a hew lottage in 1967 - hefping my Dad, resthis soul, to have something that was spectacular and still being enjoyed in Good Charles

Midnight quitar sing alongs with the neighbour

The biggest fish we ever cought was a gull!

when I learnd How to wakeboard.

I indrig Our property On the Cake - 1980 a Bulding in 1981. Blome

WE SAW A RAFT OF SEVEN(!) LOONS ALL TOWETHER IN FRONT OF OUR COTTAGE. IT WAS MAGNIFICENT.

> MARK RODEY FREDA GODBY

My favorite memory is when my dad brings fireworks

Katherine Brian

On the deck of our 1th generation cottage, surrounded by Friends and Family.

Advience Lorolque



What can Isan?
We have her on its Lake
for 57 years
Just Encles, Physle, for 7 Vice
Inour we are 13 in number
lucyone enjoying it great

Spending every summer here since I was in dapers & now bringing my son, tenry, here (1)

Daniel not count the morning