

Dock Talk is a publication of the Healey Lake Property Owners Association (HLPOA)

#### From the President

Dan MacLeod

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable winter season. While the weather co-operated for the most part, I must say that my non - falling off snowmobiling record reached another uneventful year. I would like to welcome new Directors aboard this year with John King who will look after Advertising and Martha Gillan and Angie Reichenbach as Co-Ordinators of the 2011 Regatta. Thank you very much for volunteering.

On April 10, 2011, I witnessed Nature unleashed as a lightening bolt downed a mature Hemlock and a shed. The tree was blown apart, with fragments reaching almost half way into the Main Channel. The shed, still smouldering when I arrived, was levelled with the contents inside all but incinerated. I was impressed at how the Healey Lake information line worked for this situation. My thanks to all who kept the information current and to those who unselfishly used their own transportation to get up to the site and help douse the flames.

We have made a few adjustments to the Website this winter. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.



A few of the items on the 2011 Agenda are:

- 3 sign boards at the Main,
   Foxback and Pine Bay landings showing events and news on
   Healey Lake
- Two volunteers for clean up at the three landings
- Executive Meet and Greet around the lake
- Assess whether to repair or replace the dock at Foxback landing

As always if there are any questions or concerns about your lake and/or the Association, please contact me.

Cell: 41-723-1999;

E-mail: danjohnmac@rogers.com.

#### Mark Your Calendar - 2011

May	HLPOA				
22	Annual Meeting - Healey Lake Lodge				
	10 a.m.				
July 9	Bottle Drive				
[] ———					
July 30	Healey Lake Regatta - Lakeshore Marina				
_ 					
Sept. 4	HLPOA				
Π	Semi-Annual Meeting - Healey Lake Lodge				
	10 a.m.				
_ 	'				

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# Remembering

Irene Pile with Robin Louise

# Memories and Memoriams ... about our beautiful Healey Lake

Last December, **Jack Pile**, a long time cottager of Healey Lake, passed away in Nanaimo due to pancreatic cancer. Jack's interest in the world and his model for living will live on in all of us who knew and loved him.

Jack was born in Winnipeg. Following high school he studied engineering at McGill. This was interrupted when he joined the R.C.A.F in 1942. Jack flew many planes, and finally, the Lancaster Bomber. He was seconded to the R.A.F. and was trained to fly with the Path Finder Squadron just before the war ended. He completed his degree upon his return home to Winnipeg from overseas. In 1950, in Toronto, he began working on the Avro Arrow design team for Orenda Engines. After the Avro Arrow engine design team was abolished in 1959 Jack had a 24 year teaching position at Leaside High School in Toronto. In 1985 Jack and I moved to Nanaimo but continued to spend our summers at the cottage, driving across the country countless times.

Our property at the end of Dollard Bay was researched in April 1955 and it seemed like a good spot for us. Jack had some aerial photos of the area and we had actually chosen the sight before we even visited Healey Lake. We first saw the sight on April 15; the ice had gone out the previous day. We arrived by car as far as Earle's Road. That was the general area, no road then, just a bit of a logging trail. We then dragged (carried) our small car-top boat to the nearby water. The whole family were there: Janice aged 4, Robin Louise aged 2, Snooper our beagle aged 1, and Jack and I. We loved the spot on first sight. The main cottage was built in 1956 and has been added to over the years. In those days there was no electricity, and Jack did all the work using a hand saw.

The building material was delivered to MacTier by train, trucked as close to the lake as possible and floated by barge (built by Jack) to the cottage sight in Dollard Bay.

There are so many milestones. ... at some point, important life stages were all experienced at the cottage. We still refer to the parking lot next to Lakeshore Marina as the 'sawdust pile' (with a double sense). The boating started from there around to the cottage in our little green fibreglass boat powered by the 7.5 hp blue Evinrude. That boat is still at the lake and is the best rowing boat. It was eventually replaced in the job of getting us to the cottage by a 25 hp red-topped, white motor-boat with a proper steering wheel and windscreen. We did a lot of waterskiing behind that one. Jan and I apparently took home a number of winner swimming ribbons from the regatta when we were little. Jeff, Dave and Sean added to the ribbons that Mom still has on the wall placed in a circle, mixed with her banners from Ingolf, her childhood cottage place in the Lake of the Woods. Mom and Dad loved to pick berries. When I was a child we used to go over to the opening of Kapikog Bay to pick blueberries. In those days the rock was covered in scrub and lots of blueberry bushes. Now it is well forested and there are many cottages.

Jack's favourite past time was an early morning swim. We were at Healey Lake all of July last summer and Jack swam every single morning even though he was ill and 90 years of age. Our two daughters and 3 grandsons and families all love Healey Lake, Jan's three boys all had time at the lake during their growing up years.

I believe that Jack's favourite spot on earth was Healey Lake.



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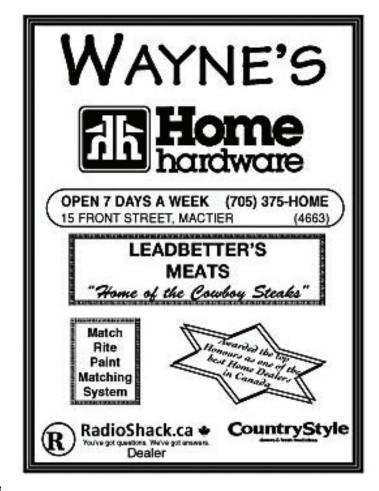
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# **Cottage Watch**

Susan & Peter Arnold

Another beautiful winter has gone by and all the city people are eager to return to the lake. As of mid April, Healey Lake is still frozen and we can't even promise much boating for this year's late Easter weekend end at the end of April 2011. Snowfall started pretty normal at the end of 2010, but the crazy weather changed around New Years and transformed our beautiful scenery from white to ugly and then white again. The thick slush cover on the lake made snowmobiling or any other lake crossings difficult until end of January.

Most of our volunteers agreed to help again, and some new volunteers signed up; everyone did a great job. Don't forget, these are all VOLUNTEERS; they spare their own short time up here to help any neighbour. No one reported serious damages, but some minor ones were detected.

There are some new people on the lake and many don't know about our Association, the membership is a minimal amount and does big things – the cottage-watch program is free. Without it you could return to your cottage in the spring and find a lot of trouble waiting for you. Many thanks to our dedicated patrollers that help our lake community: THANK YOU - we couldn't have done it without you; your involvement was very much appreciated. Have a safe summer!



## **Be Fire Safe**

## In the Spring

Do a home assessment prior to spring fire season to help you prepare for the threat of wildfire.

- Clean dead vegetation out of shrubs and other foundation plantings.
- Connect your garden hose to an outdoor spigot and attach a nozzle. Make sure other firefighting tools like shovels, rakes and buckets are handy.
- Move firewood and lumber piles to at least 10 meters away from your buildings.

And ...

- Check the batteries in all smoke alarms.
- Make sure there is an alarm on each floor and outside sleeping areas.



- Replace alarms that are more than 10 years old.
- A carbon monoxide detector is needed if your cottage has a fireplace, or gas or propane appliances.
- Clean your Bar BQ and any appliances used for heating before use.

Watch the campfire safety video and click on the fire smart fact sheets at foca.on.ca



# **HLPOA** Membership

Sharon Tosswill

Oh boy, you know it's almost cottage time again when the first *Dock Talk* arrives. Just a word of thanks for all those that have forwarded your memberships. It is greatly appreciated. My condolences to families who have lost a loved one over the winter.

We are trying something new this year in that **your receipts are at the marina** where your boat is stored. Please let me know how you like this idea. All others have been mailed out.

Special thanks once more to Peter Wilkinson of Royal LePage Real Estate, Mactier, Curt Coulson of Aim Realty, MacTier and Leo Hintze of ReMax Realty, Parry Sound-Muskoka, who pay for a one year membership for all new cottagers whose places they have listed and sold. We very much appreciate it.

Sharon Tosswill, Membership Secretary

Home Tel: 905-275-6834 Cottage Tel: 705-375-1357

#### Enjoy the benefits of HLPOA membership

- Courtesy lights mark danger spots in the lake
- Provides and maintains fire pumps & ice augers
- Carries out Cottage Watch in the winter FREE!
- Maintains 3 HLPOA docks and parking areas
- Membership Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association
- Represents cottage owners' interest with the Township of the Archipelago
- Regular quality testing of lake water
- Annual August Regatta
- Annual and Semi-annual meeting
- Dock Talk newsletter keeps you up to date.

# Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association

FOCA, in association with Atrens-Counsel Insurance Brokers Ltd., has announced a **NEW** insurance program available to FOCA members at **a preferred rate**—a partnership that works for cottagers.

The program features:

- Best-in-class coverage for cottages and watercraft
- Replacement-cost coverage

Designed for cottage owners, by cottage owners!

Whether you have:

- a cottage you rent for extended periods of time
- an island cottage
- a magnificent log home
- new or vintage watercraft
- a seasonal or second home you maintain while living out of province or in the USA

This program offers solutions that fit.

Atrens-Counsel Insurance Brokers has traditionally provided insurance to cottage associations and now are pleased to offer this exceptional solution as part of FOCA's ongoing efforts to protect its members.

The Healey Lake Property Owners
Association is a FOCA member so as a paid
up member of HLPOA you too can qualify for
the preferred rate ... just another benefit of
membership.



## LOONS ...

# returning to Healey Lake

Nancy Gilchrist

The Healey Lake Cottagers Association is again a member of the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, which is a project of Long Point Bird Observatory, Port Rowan, Ontario. The goal of the CLLS is to help conserve loons and their habitats by understanding our impact on them. More than 1000 volunteers respond via a survey kit assessing factors- such as regulation of water levels on our lakes (important to nesting loons), personal watercraft, human activity near nesting sites, and for some lakes, establishing nesting platforms. The Loon Survey reaches many people with articles on Canada's loons. It focuses on responsible environmental citizenship, water sampling, leg banding, toxicology, and working with government labs and veterinary colleges discovering causes of loon mortality. If anyone has any information they would like to share about the loons on our lake or has any concerns about the loons please feel free to contact me, Nancy Gilchrist at 705-375-2324 in the summer months. The loons are now migrating back to our lakes in the north from their sunny winter in Florida. They will return to their breeding lakes, and usually the lake which they bred from the year before. For loons that are non-breeding (either the young loons or displaced

#### 

breeders) they will also return to lakes in our north.

Loons for the first 2 to 3 years of life spend their time on salt water in the south, however when they do return to the northern lakes most will return to the area where the loon was hatched. Typically the male arrives first and defends the lake from other males who are looking to set up new territories. The female arrives seven to ten days after the male. In northern Canada and in years when ice-out is delayed, males and females may arrive at the same time, but there is no evidence of loons flying to lakes in pairs. Thus, we suspect that loons show greater fidelity to the lakes than they do to their

mates. Having the same mate for many years is a by-product of both sexes returning to the same lakes independently.

The first loons observed in the north are found near inlets and outlets of rivers where lake ice thaws first in mid April. The loons will quickly establish and defend their breeding territories. Courtship and mating are a quiet time and will begin on return to the lake. The pair will swim and make short dives together. Eventually the male will lead the female to a suitable spot on land for mating. The male chooses the nest site. If the loon was successful in the previous year at the nest site they will choose the same site but if they failed at nesting they will choose a new

site. Nests will be built in May and June and take about a week to complete. Researchers have found tree needles, leaves, grass, moss and other vegetation under loon eggs. If material is not handy, loons will lay their eggs directly on the mud or rock. Sometimes clumps of mud

and vegetation are collected from the lake bottom to build their nest. Two olive brown coloured eggs will be laid in the month of June and will be incubated for approximately 28 days before hatching. If the eggs are lost, the pair may renest, often in the same general location. Young loons have difficulty finding a vacant breeding territory. They face one of 3 choices; finding a new territory on a vacant lake, assume a territory that a previous resident vacated or intrude on an occupied territory and attempt to oust the previous resident with a physical contest. The last choice is usually the most popular with the loon population. Lakes where loons were successful in previous years for raising young usually have more territorial intrusions the following year. Even though there are many lakes that have all the characteristics that a loon needs to nest (fish, a nest site on shore and a sheltered place to raise chicks), there are many lakes that remain absent of the loon. Non breeding loons tend to







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# **Councillor's Corner**

Grant Walker, Ward 6

Over the past few years many changes have been made to our waste management, and thanks to your co-operation for making the operation a success in Ward six, this year it will be in effect township wide. For 2011, the hours of operation have been simplified by establishing uniform time periods, where feasible, and reducing the number of seasons to "Summer" (Saturday before Victoria Day to Thanksgiving Day) and "Winter" (Tuesday after Thanksgiving Day to Friday before Victoria Day). These change were based on usage data collected in 2010.

Following is information on the services, usage, and hours of operation for Healey Lake and MacFarlane Street (in Parry Sound for hazardous household waste) sites.

The rebuilt Healey Lake Rd. seems to have survived

Its first winter very well. Enjoy the new road but keep your speed down as I understand there will be some radar in use at different times.

Have a safe, happy and healthy summer; please contact me if you have any questions ...

Tel: Mon - Fri: 705 835 -7550 E-mail: grant@olresources.ca

#### Take note! Waste Disposal

It is mandatory that users present a Waste Disposal Pass (Garbage Card) to the attendant prior to using the Township facilities. If you have lost your card or need an extra one, pick one up at the local site. Household garbage or recyclables must be bagged in clear plastic bags for disposal at the Township facilities. Open recyclables containers are also acceptable.

For more: www.thearchipelago.on.ca - Select residents and click on waste management

#### Healey Lake Transfer Station Hours of Operation - 2011 (updated April 5, 2011)

	Hours of O	peration		
	Summer*	Winter	Exceptions	
Sunday	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	<u>Open</u>	<u>Closed</u>
Monday	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Closed	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.	
Tuesday	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Family Day	New Year's Day Easter Sunday
Wednesday	Closed	Closed	Easter Monday	
Thursday	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Closed	Victoria Day Canada Day <u>when</u> falling on Monday Civic Holiday Canada Day when falling on Monday Civic Holiday	
Friday	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Closed		Canada Day <u>when not</u>
Saturday	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Closed		<u>falling on Monday</u> Christmas Day Boxing Day
			Labour Day	Box.iig Buy
			Thanksgiving Day	

Summer hours commence Saturday before Victoria Day and end on Thanksgiving Day

Note: The Healey Lake Transfer Station will operate on the 2010 Spring Schedule until Saturday before Victoria Day (i.e. Tues 8-4,Fri 9-5 & Sun Noon-8)

Household Hazardous Waste goes to MacFarlane St. Depot Site in Parry Sound

Mon, Wed. & Friday: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm; Sat. 8 am—4 pm; Sunday 12 noon-8 pm

Additional information: Parry Sound Operations 705 746-2101



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#### Did you know?

Transport Canada has implemented new requirements for those who have not yet obtained the POCC (Pleasure Craft Operator's Card). All power boat operators now require an Operator Card, or face a \$250. fine.

If you completed your exam prior to April 15, 2011 your BOATsmart! Card is valid for life. You are NOT required to retake the new 50 question exam.

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MP1110 (02/2006)

#### LOONS ...

returning to Healey Lake (cont'd)

Nancy Gilchrist

investigate suitable lakes and then in the following year challenge those loons who have bred successfully in the previous year.

As I have stated in previous articles the loon does not mate for life and in fact if a new male takes over a territory the female remains and mates with him. The male and female are extremely independent; however the two are almost always together other then when taking turns sitting on the nest.

The female loon is not a passive bird either. When a female loon enters another female's territory both females will "battle" and the male will just watch. The battle between two females is relatively mild compared to a battle between two males. They will chase one another with some wing beating and the one who is not successful will retire to the shore and depart soon after.

The loons will be choosing their nesting site on our lake shortly.

Those cottagers who rent or allow guests or their children to drive their boats—Please remind them of safe boating practices and post rules in the cottage

- 1. Slow your boat where loons next (nests can be flooded by wakes)
- 2. Don't kayak or canoe near nest (slow moving craft may alarm loon and it may abandon nest)
- 3. Steer clear of loons and chicks while boating
- Retrieve fishing line and tackle (loons may become entangled leading to death
- Use lead-free tackle (loons ingest small pebbles to digest food and mistake lead sinders for pebbles. Lead poison! Request lead-free alternatives)

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE for your help in protecting our loons and other wildlife on Healey Lake.

# **Healey Lake Website**

Dave Duggan

The Healey Lake Property Owner's Association `HLPOA' website (<u>www.healeylake.org</u>) has been up and running for a couple of years now. We continue to make minor changes to improve the site and, as always, we welcome any suggestions or comments.

The webcam was up and operational in the Fall of 2010. While we had early success with both the 'instant' webcam picture and the 30 minute delayed



picture, after Christmas the 'instant' picture stopped working due to a constantly changing computer address outside the control of HLPOA. In the last few weeks, we removed the 'instant' picture and changed the delayed picture to a 15 minute schedule.

So, as it stands now, the webcam takes a picture every 15 minutes and uploads that to the site. Hopefully, it is providing cottagers a window into all weather conditions at the lake. Thanks to those who have e-mailed pictures that have been uploaded to the site.

We recently added 2009 and 2010 Regatta pictures to the website and more are coming. We also just recently added a Latest News section at the bottom of the page to try to draw attention to anything that might be relevant to you. Please be sure to check this section regularly. We have all members' e-mails in the website database. From time to time we can email out important items very quickly to the entire lake. This was used in the past to advise cottagers of a dock found and also for a lost dog notification. Please e-mail the website if you are not on this distribution list and we can add you. The website's ability to email out the Dock Talk has been a substantial cost savings for the Association; however, we do make available printed copies for those who require them. Again, just advise the website (under Contact Us tab) if this interests you.

## **The Last Word**

Nancy Simpson

Check the insurance policy! That was my first thought when Dan MacLeod called to say he was standing on our front porch and our cottage seemed to be OK. It was a Sunday afternoon in early April and Dan and others had been attracted by smoke circling up over the Lake. The ice was not out but was unsafe for travel so my understanding is that there are some Healey Lakers who have a hover craft and can travel either on ice or in the water and they were already on the scene. Mother Nature (MN) had given us one of those nerve jarring wake up calls in the form of a lightning strike. A generous portion of a very tall pine tree standing on the neighbouring lot was now about 10 feet from our

neighbouring lot was now about 10 feet from our font porch. The ground around the bottom of the pine tree was littered with what looked like giant match sticks. A beautiful shore line cabin on the neighbouring property was unrecognizable, looking more like the remnants of a camp fire than the structure that had graced the shoreline.

We later learned that the lightning had also damaged the power supply for some in the area. The sound of the strike rattled people more than 2 km from the site.

I could hardly wait to open the front door of the cottage when we finally made our first visit of the season. The phone had been flung across the room as had a clock and a picture but otherwise things seemed to be as we had left them last Fall. Our next move was up to the hydro line to see if our poles were still standing. We had that 'poles down' experience several years ago and it wasn't fun. Apparently MN had taken out the transformer at the back of our property but that had already been replaced.

Well Mother Nature, you have made your point once again. We are powerless when you come calling and we have seen that so many times throughout the world lately. We do respect you but we would just as soon you did not call again.

It's cottage time again. Have a great one!