



November 2012

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

## From the President

*Dan MacLeod*

A lot can be said for the extremely sunny summer, however one only had to look at the shoreline to discover what the cost has been: an extremely low waterline. It just goes to show you how fragile Mother Nature can be and is. I would ask all cottagers on Healey Lake to make sure that all aspects of the environment are not endangered. Please be aware of your boat wake as heavy waves can damage the shoreline. Also, the report of our water quality says we have one of the best lakes in the system, I encourage all cottagers to pay attention to what is going into the lake. If the quality goes down, all of us will suffer, not any select few.

This year's bottle drive was success do in part to the generosity of cottagers and our superb volunteers. Regatta 2012 was another huge success through the Beer Tent sales, Food Pavilion and T-shirt sales. I cannot say it enough, without the volunteers these functions which make Healey Lake what it is, would not take place. As I have said before, get involved with a project or two: you will be responsible for providing the association members with a great time and if you are not careful, you may have some fun also. Volunteers are what make things happen.

The 2013 season will be my last as your president. The Executive is actively seeking individuals to step up and fill the positions of Vice President and President for next season. If you have any questions regarding these positions, please call me.

This concludes another end to our glorious summer seasons, I wish all of you safe and healthy Fall and Winter season and will be in touch with you in the Spring.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the HLPOA, please contact me.

E-mail: [danjohnmac@rogers.com](mailto:danjohnmac@rogers.com)

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## In this issue

In Memoriam	2
Healey Lake Tennis	2
Healey Lake Golf Tournament	2
Forest Update	3
Membership	5
Boating Safety Quiz ... a priority for all	6
Winter Driving Tips	6
Park to Park Trails meet diverse recreational needs	7
Environmental Commissioner Reports	10
The Last Word	11
Quiz - answers	12
Thanks to our advertisers	12

## In Memoriam

*Barb Jones*

In August the Healey Lake Community lost another long time cottager, neighbour & friend. Isabel Goodhue passed away this summer. Isabel had been on Healey Lake since the late '60's...many years of enjoying the lake & friends here. She will be missed by her many fellow cottagers. Rest in peace, Isabel.

## Healey Lake Tennis Club News

*John Creen*

Thanks to the many generous people on Healey Lake, we are at approximately 80% of our goal to get the Tennis Club back in operation!

We will continue our fundraising efforts throughout the winter and should be ready to go in the spring.

Contractors have been asked to quote on the work and we are waiting for their numbers.

For those who can help us out with this project, please send donations to

John Creen,  
113 Overdale Ave.  
Dundas, Ont. L9H7H1.  
Email: [jcreeen@cogeco.ca](mailto:jcreeen@cogeco.ca),  
Tel: 416-991-5646.



OR drop off your donation to Peter Hintze at Mariners Cove Marina. Make cheques payable to the Healey Lake Tennis Club.

Thank-you!

## Healey Lake Golf Tournament

*Peter Hintze*

Healey Lakers enjoyed another great Fall golf tournament. The golf went well and the rain held off - thankfully!

And the winners were ...

- John Hynes - Low Gross Men
- Jeff Hynes - Most Honest Golfer
- Peter Hintze - Longest Drive Men
- Joyce Moosang - Ladies closest to the pin
- Janice Phillips - Low Net Ladies
- Janice Phillips - Ladies Most Honest Golfer
- Jancie Phillips - Ladies Longest Drive
- Dave Sporle - Low Net
- Grant Stummer - Mens closest to the pin



Thanks to all who donated prizes:

- Matt Hanley (Tim Hortons)
- Joe Bamford (Haljoe coach)
- Lauroe Timms (Kashi)
- Peter Hintze (Mariners Cove Marina)
- Lisa Ernst (West Muskoka Trail Riders)
- Brian Moosang (Lafarge)
- The Blakes ( Memories of Muskoka)
- John Hynes (Nesbitt Burnes)
- Sergid Frazao (Six Points Plastics)
- Jim Forder (Bayview Chev)
- Jim Lockhurst (Dulux Paints)



# Forest Update

Anne Hayes, Biologist BioForest Technologies Inc.

As property owners have almost certainly noticed, the most striking damage sustained by Township trees this year was a result of the hot, dry weather of 2012. To date, (early October) average precipitation in the Muskoka area in 2012 has been 43% below average. In July alone, average precipitation was 77% below average. Average temperatures to date have been 34% above average.



While trees have the ability to adapt to varying levels of moisture and temperature, prolonged periods of drought and heat can damage them and predispose them to attack by insects and diseases. Young trees in the Township were the first to show symptoms of drought damage. Young eastern white pine throughout the Township had brown, wilted needles in this year's growth. Many young hardwoods growing in shallow soil in the southern part of the Township lost their leaves in July and some of these trees may die. Older trees have deeper root systems and can better withstand drought. However, even older trees displayed yellow and brown wilted leaves and premature leaf-drop. Since the effects of drought stress can continue into subsequent growing seasons, monitoring the status of these stressed trees next spring will be very interesting.

Maples and oaks in the southern part of the Township showed signs of leaf scorch, which occurs when, due to prolonged periods of heat and drying winds, leaves lose more water than root systems can provide. Symptoms of leaf scorch include browning of leaf margins and leaf tissue between the veins, leaf wilt, and premature leaf drop.

Low numbers of beech scale insect have been identified along Healey Lake Road. This tiny insect attacks the stems of beech and looks like tufts of

white felt attached to the bark. While low populations cause little damage to trees, high populations can impact overall tree vigour and growth. In addition, puncture wounds in the bark resulting from beech scale insect feeding can allow fungal spores to infect the tree, the most harmful being beech bark disease (<http://www.exoticpests.gc.ca/es-details/disease/9>). Fortunately, beech bark disease has not yet been observed in the Township.

There appears to be a growing gypsy moth population throughout the Township, including in the Healey Lake area. BioForest trapped gypsy moth in pheromone traps hung at two locations off of Healey Lake Road. While pheromone traps are not practical for controlling insect populations, they are very useful for tracking the spread of existing populations or finding insects in new areas. The mid-summer surveys of 2012 did not reveal any noticeable gypsy moth defoliation on the Township mainland, however, continued monitoring in 2013 will be important.

## Watch For ...

BioForest Technologies Inc. completed three forest health surveys in the Township of the Archipelago in 2012. The first survey was conducted in early June and a Forest Health An update summarizing the results of that survey can be found at <http://www.bioforest.ca/documents/index.cfm?fuseaction=Home&id=10>.

BioForest conducted its second survey in July and its third in September. Please watch for a Forest Health Update summarizing the results of the second two surveys to be posted soon.





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## Membership

Sharon Tosswill

Wow, what a summer! I hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did. We currently have 157 members in the Healey Lake Property Owners Association.

Thank you everyone for your commitment for another year. We are still open for those who have not rejoined as yet.

I want to thank Peter Watkinson of Royal LePage for his membership support for our new members. Have a wonderful winter everyone.

Sharon Tosswill, Membership Secretary  
 2565 Proudfoot Street

Mississauga, Ontario, L5C 2N9

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

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## Boating Safety A Priority For All

According to the Canadian Coast Guard, 200 Canadians die in accidents on the water each year with another 6000 suffering non-fatal injuries. Increased boat traffic, increased speeds and alcohol use are all contributing factors. Virtually all accidents are preventable. Rate your knowledge.

Answers - p.12

Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)?

1. Everyone who operates a power-driven boat in Canada needs proof of competency. T or F
2. Your 15 years old daughter cannot operate a boat with more than a 10 hp motor. T or F
3. Your 15 year old son can operate a personal water craft when you are sitting behind him. T or F
4. Your Pleasure Craft Operator Card is good for life. T or F
5. A Pleasure Craft Operator Card is the only proof of competency available. T or F
6. You must carry your original Pleasure Craft Operator Card on board your boat. T or F
7. If you lose your Operator Card, it is best to contact the course provider for a replacement. T or F
8. There is no horsepower restriction on motors for boat operators 16 years of age or older. T or F
9. A person who does not have a Pleasure Craft Operator Card cannot rent a power-driven boat. T or F
10. Operating a boat at a speed of 10 km within 30m of shore is a recommendation in Ontario, not the law. T or F
11. The minimum safety equipment required on a pleasure craft varies with the type and length of your pleasure craft. T or F
12. Unlike a life jacket a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) may not turn you on your back if you fall into the water. T or F

*Source: Safe Boating Guide - [www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/tp-tp511-menu-487.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/tp-tp511-menu-487.htm)*


*Let's make the lake quieter and safer at [www.whatsupmuskoka.com](http://www.whatsupmuskoka.com) July 12, 2012, p.11*

## Winter Driving Tips

- Make sure your vehicle is ready for winter conditions.
- Clean off ice and snow from windows, roof, trunk, hood, lights and mirrors before starting out.
- Make sure you have enough gas and window washer fluid.
- Allow extra travel time.
- Dress according to the weather. Take extra clothes.
- Let someone know when you are traveling and the route you are planning to take.
- Before leaving, know what weather conditions are likely to be.
- Delay your trip or turn back if the weather is too bad.
- It takes longer to stop when the roads are slippery so leave extra space between you and the car ahead.
- Winter tires in good condition can shorten the distance you need to stop.
- Make sure your lights are on fully when visibility is limited.
- Do not use cruise control on wet, snowy or icy roads.
- Change your driving performance to suit the road and weather conditions.
- Visibility around a working snowplows, salt and sand trucks can be limited. Do not pass around or between these vehicles even though they are likely to be moving more slowly than the traffic. Never pass on the right.
- Remember road salt works poorly when temperatures are below -12°C making it impossible to get bare pavement.

*cont'd p. 11*






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As a cottage owner at 106 Healey Lake I understand the strategies involved in keeping the cottage in the family. Feel free to stop in anytime to discuss your best opportunities.



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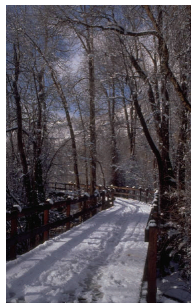
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## Did you know? Park To Park Trails Meet Diverse Recreational Needs

About 1998, the Town of Parry Sound and the Town of Huntsville began what would become a 230 km multi-use trail system that would connect four provincial parks: Kilbear, Ostler, Arrowhead and Algonquin. The non-profit group whose task it was to create this network connected existing municipal and provincial trails using various government funding sources to build the needed infrastructure: bridges, drainage systems, and signage along with other upgrades that were required.

*The Muskokan* reports in an interview with Peter Searle, general manager of the Park to Park Trail Association that there is now a wide variety of users on the trail: cyclists, motorcyclists, equestrians, hikers, ATVers, and in the wintertime sledgers, cross



country skiers, people on snow shoes and occasionally a dog sledder or two.

For non-motorized, using the trails is free while for others a day pass is \$23. Weekly passes and year long passes are also available.

It is important to note that the trail connects but does not run through these provincial parks. ATVs are not allowed in provincial parks nor are they allowed on roadways in certain jurisdictions. The new Stay & Play initiative gives a discount on daily or weekly fees when staying at one of the participating accommodations in the area.

*Source: Off road fun for all. Oct. 2 2012 at CottageCountryNow.ca Click on The Muskokan.  
Also visit [www.parktoparktrail.com](http://www.parktoparktrail.com)*



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## Kids Say The Darndest Things

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping"



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# Environmental Commissioner Reports - 2012

*Losing Touch*, the recent report presented in the Ontario Legislature by Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO), recognizes several deficiencies which are of significant interest to waterfront property owners. Key areas include:

- reinspection of septic systems
- response to low water levels
- crown land management

**Reinspection of septic systems** - Increased amounts of nutrients, in particular phosphorous that come from waste water can drastically alter the quality of lakes and cause aquatic habitats to deteriorate. Nutrient loading results from the use of fertilizers, phosphates and the burning of fossil fuels. Eventually excess amounts of nutrients end up in lakes and streams, posing a threat to the health of the lakes.

The ECO recognizes that new mandatory septic system reinspection program which is targeted primarily to ensuring safe municipal drinking water is important but the report suggests that this programme will not capture the many lakes and streams that are vulnerable to nutrient loading. The programme is targeted to specific regions while in unspecified areas of the province, the decision to inspect septic systems periodically is left up to municipal authorities.

The ECO recommends that the Ontario government include overdeveloped cottage lakes and sensitive watershed within the septic system reinspection programme.

**Response to low water levels** - Despite the abundance of water in the province of Ontario, weather conditions resulting in low water levels are a concern. Climate change is recognized by the ECO as one of several factors that warrants a full review of the *Ontario Low Water Response Plan*.

The commissioner acknowledges that the current plan does take a more proactive approach to preventing low water conditions, but needs to go further in defining minimum water levels needed to preserve functioning of natural ecosystems, protecting them long before a drought occurs.



## Crown Land Planning

The ECO raises concerns that there is an inadequacy of planning tools and resources within the Ministry of Natural Resources for this Ministry to carry out its responsibilities including managing biodiversity, natural heritage and protected areas, resources and forests.

The ECO indicates that the current *Guide for Crown Land Use Planning* promotes exploration as paramount over other land uses such as conservation, recreation or other commercial enterprises.

This report also raises the concern that little progress in being made in facilitating public comment on many dozens of environmental proposals put forth by numerous ministries within the Ontario government every year, hence the report's title *Losing Touch*. Public comment is a requirement laid out in the Environmental Bill of Rights.

*Source: This two - part report in its entirety is available at [www.eco.on.ca](http://www.eco.on.ca).*

## Winter Driving Tips

*cont'd from p.6*

**Echelon** snow plowing - when several snow plows moving in the same direction are staggered in position across all lanes of the highway. It is the safest and most effective way to plow multilane highways.

**Use the two second rule to help you determine how close you are following the vehicle ahead of you.**

**Two second rule:**

- Pick a marker on the road ahead.
- Count one thousand and one, one thousand and two when the rear of the vehicle ahead passes the marker.
- Stop counting when the front of your vehicle reaches the marker. If you reach the marker before counting one thousand and two, you are following too close.
- Remember to double this to four seconds in winter and in bad weather.

For more tips and information about winter driving, go to <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/winter.shtml>

Winter Road Condition reports are available on this web site and at the **Provincial Call Centre**: 1-800-268-4686

*Sources; For your copy of the Winter Driving brochure, go to [www.ontario.ca/winterdriving](http://www.ontario.ca/winterdriving) OPP issues useful winter driving pointers . Muskoka Sun, Nov 2, 2012 at [www.CottageCountryNow.ca](http://www.CottageCountryNow.ca)*



## The Last Word

*Nancy Simpson [rn.simpson@sympatico.ca](mailto:rn.simpson@sympatico.ca)*

It was a summer of memories as the little ones in our family mastered new skills and developed a new awareness of cottage life and all the benefits that entails. Our grandsons, Owen, age 8 & Logan, age 10 have skillfully mastered the new paddleboard despite some very stiff head winds from time to time. Our youngest granddaughter, Ella, age 5, left her water wings behind this summer and stroked quite independently out to the raft just off shore. "Watch me", she yelled and we all did.

And then there was a conversation that I overheard as our 9 year old granddaughter introduced herself to the newest member of the menagerie that she loves to follow – a large frog. "I'm Cate", she said. "I am going to call you Hoppy."

When Grandpa announced the appearance of two garter snakes on our property, it took about 30 seconds for the cottage door to fly open and all to descend, have a closer look and take pictures.

I had my own neat experience this summer although at the time I was not so sure. I was swimming along the shoreline toward our dock and as my left arm came up and over to take a stroke, my hand rested momentarily on a hard, round object. For a minute all I could think of was my hand had touched a head in the water but glancing back there he/she was - a very large turtle and obviously we had just shared some space. As you can imagine, I stroked with great speed over to the dock but as I reflected on this experience, I thought 'how neat' to have shared the water with this creature. This turtle is a regular on our shoreline and I may have mentioned this before but at the urging of Nancy Gilchrist, our resident expert in matters of wildlife, I registered this big guy with the Turtle Tally through the Toronto Zoo. Maybe that is "kinda" like having citizenship.

Anyhow, what more can be said about the delights of Healey Lake. My best to each of you as we put the 2012 edition of *Dock Talk* to bed. Have a wonderful and peaceful holiday season. Merry Christmas.



## Boating Safety Quiz—Answers

1. T - Anyone who operates a motorized pleasure craft must carry proof of competency on board.
2. F - Ages 12-16 with no direct supervision may operate a boat with up to 40 hp. motor.
3. F - Under 16 years of age, regardless of supervision, may not operate a PWC.
4. T - The Pleasure Craft Operator Card is good for life.
5. F - Other forms of proof include having passed a boating safety course in Canada before April 1, 1999; a specified marine certificate – visit this website ([www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca)) for the approved list; or a completed rental boat safety checklist (good only for rental period).
6. T - Your Pleasure Craft Operator card must be carried with you on your boat.
7. T - To replace a lost card, contact the course provider that issued it to request a replacement card.
8. T - No hp restrictions for those 16 years of age or older.
9. F - You may complete the rental boat safety checklist as proof of competency.
10. F - When boating in the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, observe the unposted speed limit of 10km/h (6 mph) within 30 meters (100 ft) from shore—it's the law.
11. T - The safety equipment Canada you are required to carry on board is based on the type and length of your boat.
12. T - A PFD does not generally offer the same level of protection as a lifejacket for turning you on your back to keep your face out of the water so you can breathe.

Source: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/tp-tp511-menu-487.htm>

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