



November 2013

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

## From the President

For nine years, Dan MacLeod has steered the Healey Lake Property Association and we are indeed fortunate to have an active Association. Accolades for our retiring President have been compiled in this issue by our new *Dock Talk* associate editor Stephanie Joiner. Welcome Stephanie!

This month marks the end of Dan's term. Think about this vacancy as a 'ship without a captain', or 'a boat without a rudder' but most importantly imagine the void that could be left without a vibrant and active association. The president's chair is empty at the moment, just waiting for a willing, competent leader.

There are other hard working volunteers who are retiring this year: Our thanks to John Laurindo who for the past five years has made sure those warning lights that mark some of the more dangerous spots on the Lake have been maintained. John also made the switch to more environmentally friendly lights during his tenure. He made his usual final check for the season at the end of September and all lights were working. Anyone thinking about volunteering for maintaining the lights can contact John for more information.

Our thanks is also extended to Rob Harris for his service as Vice President and also for procuring the advertising that keeps *Dock Talk* afloat. Chris Moore will be taking on the advertising responsibilities.

Martha Gillan and Angie Reichenbach have been the organizers behind the very popular Healey Lake Regatta. Martha is stepping down and Angie is taking a sabbatical in 2014.



Please consider the role you can play in keeping this beautiful lake and forest vibrant and safe now and for future generations.

Dan MacLeod can be reached at:

[danjohnmac@rogers.com](mailto:danjohnmac@rogers.com)

John Laurindo can be reached at

[john.laurindo@gmail.com](mailto:john.laurindo@gmail.com)

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## In Memoriam

submitted by Barb Jones

### Gitta Al-Basi

This summer the Healey Lake Community lost another long time cottager, neighbour & friend. Gitta Al-Basi passed away in June after a long battle with illness. The Al-Basi family have been on Healey Lake for a long time ... many years of enjoying the lake & friends here. She will be greatly missed by her husband Nathan, daughters Kathrin & Miriam, plus their husbands & children, as well as friends & fellow cottagers. Rest in peace, Gitta.

## Healey Lake Tennis Club

Thanks to the hard work and generous support of many Healey Lakers, we will be playing tennis again. Unfortunately, we've run out of season. Our contractor will have us as #1 on the priority list so we will have the whole years' usage. We're still looking for financial help to purchase basketball and volleyball nets, refurbish the clubhouse etc., so if you can help, please let me know. Have a great winter and make sure you get in shape.

Healey Lake Tennis Club

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## Forest Health Update

Anne Hayes, Biologist, BioForest Inc.

BioForest Technologies Inc. completed three forest health surveys in the Township of the Archipelago in 2013. The first survey was conducted in late May/early June and a Forest Health Update summarizing the results of that survey can be found on our web site. 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.

Property owners may recall that last year at this time, BioForest reported low numbers of beech scale insect 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.

While last year beech bark disease had not yet been observed in the Township, unfortunately this year it has been detected. Beech bark disease has been found at three separate locations in the southern portion of the Township, including two sites along the north side of the Healey Lake Road: one near Massasauga Park Road and the other further west near Cottage Driveway #700.



Cankers on stem of beech tree  
courtesy Ontario Forest  
Research Institute web site



Clusters of red fruiting bodies  
develop in cankers

Beech tree leaves



[www.healeylake.org](http://www.healeylake.org)

Beech bark disease is a fungus that kills woody tissue just under the bark of beech trees, sometimes creating circular cankers. When enough tissue is killed, the tree will show signs of decline and, if girdled, the tree will die. No effective control for beech bark disease is known at this time. Large trees that are under attack by the scale and disease can be further weakened by drought stress and secondary insects and diseases, such as wood borers/beetles and root rot fungi. Compromised trees are prone to breakage in high winds and should be closely monitored if present near buildings.

The impacts of the drought conditions experienced in 2012 continue to be felt throughout the Township, including widespread and severe drought damage to various species of hardwoods in the southern part of the Township. Younger hardwoods suffered the most from the dry-hot conditions, but older hardwoods were also observed to be in varying levels of decline or dead. In many cases, drought stressed trees had also been attacked by a range of secondary wood borers/beetles and fungi that further contributed to their decline.

Large web masses from fall webworm, a late summer pest, were observed on ash, birch, and cherry in the northern and southern portions of the Township. While in some cases foliage can be completely removed, and the tents can be an eye sore, this pest does not pose a serious threat and nests can simply be removed and destroyed.

**With the invaluable help of volunteers who hang pheromone traps for us in the Healey Lake area,** BioForest continues to monitor for hemlock looper. We are happy to report that hemlock looper populations in the Healey Lake area remained low in 2013.

**For all BioForest reports go to:** <http://www.bioforest.ca/documents/index.cfm?fuseaction=Home&id=7>  
Forest Health Update



## Departing Loons

Nancy Gilchrist [nancy.gilchrist@sympatico.ca](mailto:nancy.gilchrist@sympatico.ca).

Well another summer has ended, the humming birds left in the middle of September, cottages are now closed up tight for the winter and our loons will be heading south for another winter.

Since my last article I have had people approach me that we have had quite a bit of loon activity on our lake. Joy in Pine Bay reported that she frequently saw the loon in her morning boat rides. Others reported that they had loon pairs in their bay. No one reported any sightings of loon babies this season.

The loon activity during the fall involves more group gatherings. In September, group feedings are quite common as loons gather on larger lakes while migrating. Our loons will be migrating south sometime in the month of October to the area around the Gulf of Mexico. For the loons to be able to "take off" from any lake, the loon runs along the surface into the wind. The distance needed to gain flight depends on wind speed; in calm times the bird may run as far as several hundred metres before it gains enough speed to take off. Once in the air the loon can travel swiftly. The wings beat quickly to carry the large body and have a high degree of curvature to provide lift.

Migrating Common Loons occasionally land on wet highways or parking lots, mistaking them for rivers and lakes. They become stranded without a considerable amount of open water for a long take off. A loon many also get stranded on a pond that is too small. Young loons must wait until their flight feathers grow and their wings are strong enough which usually doesn't occur until late November.

Loons are usually found in groups on the wintering grounds in the Gulf of Mexico. The common Loon is flightless for a few weeks after molting all of its wing feathers at the same time in mid-winter. All loons have greyish feathers in the winter time (they lose their distinctive black and

white checker markings and white necklace). People in the south don't see the fascination that Canadians have with the loons as they are very bland looking birds and they have no "call" while they reside in the south. Immature birds resemble adult birds in winter plumage however the white feathers of the belly and wing are present all year long. Loons molt again in late winter before returning to nesting grounds in spring. The dull winter coat is replaced by their beautiful black coat.

Next spring, the loons will return in pairs, when the ice starts melting, to their nesting grounds to claim their territory. They are solitary nesters. Small lakes can accommodate one pair of loons. Larger lakes may have more than one pair of breeding loons, with each pair occupying a bay or section of the lake. Until recently, loons were thought to mate for life. Banding studies have shown that loons will sometimes switch mates after a failed nesting attempt even between nestings in the same season.

One other interesting fact to leave you with about our Common Loon is that they are related to the Penguin and their life expectancy may be anywhere between 15 and 30 years. Have a great holiday season and a wonderful winter and see you all next year on the lake.



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## HLPOA Executive Committee 2013-2014

Position	Volunteer
President	Vacant
Past President	Dan MacLeod
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Dave Duggan
Website	Dave Duggan
Finance	Tammy Ross
Secretary	Debbie Latter
Water Testing	Ken Fleming
Fire Safety	Charlie Smith / Bob
Lights	Vacant
Advertising	Chris Moore
Regatta	*Vacant 2014
Cottage Watch	Peter Arnold
Membership	Sharon Tosswill
Welcome Kits	Rosalie Harris
Archivist & Auditor	Dave Pols
Councillor	Grant Walker
Advisors	Bruce & Barbara Jones
Dock Talk	Nancy Simpson / Stephanie Joiner

## Website Changes

*Dave Duggan*

While the Healey Lake web has been up and running since late 2008, we continue to make small changes and modifications as necessary. Below is a summary of important items of note:

- Now any additions to the "Buy & Sell",

*cont'd p.5*



Guestbook", and "Lost and Found". have to be approved before being added to the website. The approval process is to verify that the addition is not SPAM or other unwanted information. This process is a little more involved, so if you request an addition and it does not occur, please use the "Contact Us" tab on the website as a follow-up.

- We continue to add Youtube videos from the lake - please look at a few new ones added recently. If you have any, please let us know.
- Under the "Weather" tab, the default location for Accuweather had somehow changed to Torrance Canada. It has been changed to Mactier. We have added another link for Yahoo Weather.
- The original webcam was purchased in Dec. '08, and it is finally showing its age and we are having some problems with it: we have lost the ability to remotely pan the picture, the camera is acting up and the picture quality has deteriorated. We have purchased two new webcams which are superior in quality and were very inexpensive. One of the new cameras will be replacing the current camera on Charlie Smith's property and this has likely already happened. We are considering a few locations for the second camera at the easterly end of the Lake. If you are interested in housing the new camera, contact Dave for details. The intent is to show ice and water conditions on different areas of the Lake.

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## Membership

Our membership is looking very good at the end of this year. Hope everyone had a great summer. Thanks for the updates from members. Thanks also to Mr. Watkinson for his continued support. We are finalizing this year with 219 members: 205 paid memberships, 6 life members and 8 paid associate members.

Next year, trying to cut costs, I would like to send out receipt information through your email addresses. Those without email will get theirs mailed out as we have been doing. Have a superb winter everyone. See you next spring!

**Sharon Tosswill**, Membership Secretary  
2565 Proudfoot St. Mississauga, Ontario, L5C 2N9  
Tel:(H) 905-275-6834; (C) 705-375-1357

## Councillor's Corner

Grant Walker

### Around the township

Services used by everyone seem to have functioned well this past year. Roads appear to be standing up well and regular maintenance and minor improvements are being provided. This is a result of major upgrading of just about every road in the township over the last few years with the objective of cutting down on continuous repairs. I travel over many other municipal roads to meetings and non compare to the standards of our roads. Every waste site is now on the updated waste system with new equipment to back it up. Those who just came on this year have had to deal with the frustration of change but were helped by what we all learned when ward six started the process and made it work so successfully. Thank you again for everyone's efforts. The Township just received a provincial award for the way we handle electronic waste.

### ATVs

ATVs have been approved to run on roads in ward six and Pointe au Baril only. This was not a unanimous endorsement and several municipalities are looking at reversing their use because of problems so please operate your machines properly and follow all the rules.

### Sunday hunting

Sunday hunting has been approved but I understand it will be the spring before the change goes through the system and it is official.

### Asian Carp

As I'm writing this I just received an e-mail that Asian Carp have been confirmed as breeding in the great lakes system (Sandusky River that flows into the north shore of Lake Erie).

### Provincial involvement

Over the years (the township is only 33 years old) we have come a long way and dealt with many issues of our own. More and more issues are originating from the direction of the province such as the species at risk. The objective is admirable but it is another thing to make it work so property owners do not lose all rights to the use of their properties. Like many things put together at

Queen's Park, I wonder just how much they understand about life outside downtown Toronto. Animals, reptiles etc. are everywhere and you can't stop development if someone sees something, even a nest or den. This is made all the more strange when the majority of the township is crown land and conservation reserves where nothing is allowed. This is the kind of thing the province creates then passes to municipalities to make it happen. Stay tuned!!

### Policing in the township

We are waiting to hear about OPP costs. For many years they have been stable and I think we were getting good value for our money. Last week I attend the community police committee meeting. There was talk of an 8% increase which would be pretty fair but information is floating around now that our costs could go up 10 times which would be crippling. I don't think this will happen, I think the small cities in Ontario who gave up their police departments and contracted with the OPP are pressuring against the high cost to them and the government is looking for ways to transfer cost.

Winter is knocking at the door be careful on the ice, drive safely, have an escape plan in case of heating fire and just get out don't worry about anything else.

See you in the new year or before have a great winter if you want anything call.

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# Muskoka

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# Comfort In A Bowl ... Butternut Squash Soup

made with maple syrup - a cozy compliment to a family meal

## Ingredients

3 ounces (about 6T.) butter  
About 6 cups of butternut squash, peeled,  
seeded and cut in ½ inch pieces  
2 cups of onions, finely chopped  
4 McIntosh apples, peeled and cut into ½  
"slices  
1 C apple juice or fresh cider  
8 cups of vegetable or chicken stock  
1 C of 35% cream  
½ C maple syrup  
1 lime

## Method

Melt the butter in a thick bottomed soup pot  
over medium-high heat. Sauté the onions,  
apples and squash until the onions are  
transparent and squash is slightly softened,

Add the apple juice and reduce the liquid by half.  
Pour in the stock and ¼ C maple syrup and reduce  
heat to medium-low. Cover and allow the mixture  
to simmer until the squash is tender (about  
30 minutes), stirring occasionally. Remove from  
heat and let cool.

Working in batches, puree the soup in a blender or  
food processor. Return the soup to the pot once  
complete. (You can also use an electric stick  
blender in the pot if you have one.) Reheat to  
a simmer.

Heat cream gently in a separate pot and then  
slowly whisk into the soup. Season with salt, fresh  
pepper, lime juice and more maple syrup to taste.  
(Lime juice helps to brighten the rich squash and  
sweet apple flavours.)

Recipe courtesy Deerhurst Inn, Huntsville Ontario

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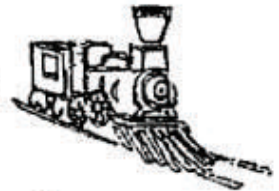
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## **\*Asian Carp**

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four kilograms but can weigh up to  
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# A Thank You To Our President

*"Unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls."*

*~David Thomas*

We've been very fortunate to have Dan MacLeod as our Association President over the past nine years. Words cannot express the appreciation of our residents for the countless hours, patience and genuine good humour with which he helped make our Association a strong and capable force in maintaining and preserving our lake. Please join us all in saying THANKS! and extending a hand when you see him next. Included here are some notes of appreciation and memories from the lake .....

"While my wife Karen and I are relative newcomers to the lake (2006), early on we offered to volunteer for the HLPOA. The association had been trying to start a HLPOA website for some time but had not had much luck. While I am not a computer expert, I figured I could manage the process of creating a website, so I approached HLPOA President Dan MacLeod with the idea and Dan agreed. Since then, both with my involvement in the creating the HLPOA website and more recently as HLPOA treasurer, I have had to work with Dan fairly closely on these projects. Just like in the business world, interactions with people you work with can be varied. My dealings with Dan have always been easy and enjoyable. Every month or two it seemed we had a short 5 minute phone call on one thing or another. Dan could not have made the process any easier – he is and was a pleasure to deal with and usually we had a laugh or two along the way. Over time, I continued to volunteer, mainly due to Dan. While I am sorry to see him leave his post as HLPOA President, I know he has done more than his fair share for the lake.

Thank you very much Dan for all your work for the association. You have accomplished a lot in your volunteer role and, you have been really enjoyable to work with. Time for you to put your feet up and relax!! "

*From Dave Duggan*

"I met 'El Presidente' (Dan Macleod) during the poker run a several years ago when our cottage was one of the check points. During the course of our conversation, Dan noticed our cottage was under renovation and offered to help the next day. True to his word he showed up the next day in the Limo (his boat) and we got a lot done. When Dan took over as President of the association his willingness to help continued.

Dan's list of accomplishments on behalf of the association are too long to list. He would often been seen zooming down the lake in the Limo (his boat) waiving to the cottagers as he was on his way to meet with a Healey Laker who needed to discuss an issue regarding the lake.

Here are just a few examples of what he has helped with or supported during his reign: a new dock in by the dam and the government landings, adding more fire boxes on the lake with Charlie, met with John Laurindo to help make sure we had warning lights on the lake, worked with Dave Duggan to get the web cam up & running along with getting the Doc Talk on the internet, and making sure the regatta always ran smoothly.

Dan has said many times that he couldn't have done all this without the help of the volunteers on the lake.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dan for his years of dedication to the lake and to the Healey Lake Property Owners Association."

*Rob Harris*

"Over the years that we have been involved with the Healey Lake Association, we have worked with many great people, and Dan is no exception. We would like to say thank you for all the years (to say nothing of the blood sweat & tears) he has put in as President. As always the President's shoes are hard to fill, and we hope the Association will find someone willing to step in and carry on this tradition."

*Yours, Barb & Bruce Jones*



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## **Cottage Watch ... a benefit of HLPOA membership**

*Susan & Peter Arnold*

Another great summer has gone, another great winter is approaching. By now we have established a nice group of volunteers for cottage watch patrols. This time of year it is well known, that many cottages are closed up - making them an easy target for break-ins. Monitoring the properties regularly with neighbourhood watch is also a step in awareness, any unusual activities are making the rounds pretty fast in our little lake community. During the winter months 'free' patrols are done on each property with paid membership of our HLPOA, and reports will go to the owner if need be. Thanks to all our volunteers, let's keep up the good work in 2014.

## **The Last Word**

*Nancy Simpson rn.simpson@sympatico.ca*

Once again, I find myself in the enviable position of having lots of people to thank for their contributions to *Dock Talk*. Without you it just wouldn't happen so my sincere thanks to

**Susan Arnold, John Creen, Dave Duggan,  
Peter Hinze, Bill Kreps, Rose Anne Kreps,  
Nancy Gilchrist, Rob Harris, Barb Jones,  
Debbie Latter, Dan MacLeod, Rob Simpson,  
Sharon Tosswill, Grant Walker and  
Anne Hayes, Biologist, BioForest Inc.**

For my family, cottage season has been over for several weeks. I often wonder what it's like to live at the Lake or spend winters there. Eunice McLeod used to tell me that it is magical and I am sure she was right. Stay tuned however because we are anticipating a winter edition of Dock Talk in 2014.

I remember many years ago we donned snow shoes to cross the lake. Our children, about ages 10 & 12 at the time cross country skied in. The clean white snow was piled high around the

cottage and as I recall it took some effort to get the front door unlocked and opened. Despite the snow pants I was wearing, I have never felt as cold a surface as that wooden chair in the kitchen. My Mom melted snow and made Lipton's Chicken Noodle Soup. It's funny how some memories never fade, not even a little bit. At the time, we considered this a great adventure although we were soon retracing our tracks back over to the marina.

We have just received notice for the winter storage of our boat and this is the final signal that the season is over for us. We'll soon be watching the webcams and looking for any sign that spring is just around the corner.

I am delighted and grateful that Stephanie Joiner is now part of the *Dock Talk* team and I look forward to new ideas and content. Until the next time. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*"The people who get on in this  
world are the people who get up  
and look for the circumstances  
they want, and, if they can't  
find them, make them."*

*George Bernard Shaw*



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