



# DOCK TALK

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-- David Latter --

Farewell to one of the hottest, driest summers on Healey Lake. The water level was at a new low, in my experience, but an inch here or there did not impact water sports.

Some concern was expressed that the leaks in the dam may have contributed to the low water levels, but it was mostly evaporation and no rain. Rains in late August gave us a small recovery in the depth of the water.

The executive have sent a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) asking for a more timely professional inspection of the dam in 2019. The letter included pictures of the leaking face of the dam from 2016 and 2018. The 2014 MNR inspection was conducted in January. We have asked that the 5 year annual inspection scheduled for 2019 is done in July or August when the dam has stopped running and leaks will be visible, facilitating a accurate assessment.

The goal is to determine if the dam needs immediate attention and if so, what will be done. We can then set a schedule for replacement or a major long term upgrade.

There were some breeches of the fire ban. Thanks to the individuals who did what they could to try and solve the problem locally. That didn't work but Gary Joice, the by-law officer was able to gather enough evidence to lay charges.

The Archipelago has been very helpful in initiating a clean-up of the trailer parking lot beside the tennis court. From now on only trailers with a water proof identification tag will be permitted to remain on this lot for more than a short period of time.

If cottagers have a trailer in this lot, they must tag it by the end of October. **After that date all untagged trailers and boats will be removed.** The brush along the perimeter will be cleaned out and the surface will be regraded.

An assessment of the speed of vehicular traffic along Healey Lake Road was conducted this summer. The average speed was nearly 80 km/h, 30 km/h over the legal limit. One individual was clocked at 150 km/h. Needless-to-say the OPP traffic division will be paying closer attention to our road and will surely raising a lot of money if drivers don't slow down at least 10-15 km/h as they head in.

We had a very successful Regatta this year. The weather cooperated (vs 15° C and rainy in 2017), the competition was keen, the food sold out and the beer stayed cold.

This is the one big event on the lake and we would like to thank Michelle Burandt and George Youngberg and their many volunteer helpers for a superb job – especially Mike Szymanski for organizing & running the Beer Garden. Plans are already underway for 2019 to introduce new events and make the beer tent area larger and more comfortable.

Missy Mandel a new cottager on Healey Lake has volunteered to work with Andy Zeltkals to organize a photo contest - details to follow in the next Dock Talk.

The Facebook page, sponsored by the Association has been taken down. Association sites need to be monitored and vetted on a daily basis and time constraints of the individuals involved prevented the HLPOA from providing the proper monitoring of the site.

Jim Dunkley has taken over from Stephanie Joiner as Vice President on the Executive with two new committee members; Dan McLeod in charge of water testing and Brad Phillips replaces Richard Martin on Cottage Watch. I would like to thank both Stephanie and Richard for their contributions to making the Association work effectively and their constructive input at our meetings.

If there are any issues on particular concerns that need the attention of the Executive, please email me at [dlatter@bellnet.ca](mailto:dlatter@bellnet.ca) or call my cell at 416 407-4965.

*David Latter*

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## HEALEY LAKE GOLF TOURNAMENT

-- Joe Bamford --

### A SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL EVENT!

A great time was had by all who attended this year's Healey Lake Golf Tournament. Where else could you have a pontoon boat pick you up and drop at your dock or relax on a bus ride to and from Healey Lake listening to Canada's band "The Tragically Hip" on the bus ride back.



Participants enjoyed 18 holes of play on a beautiful golf course and all participants win a prize for playing.

*Offering our greatest appreciation to all sponsors!*

See you in 2019 for another incredible experience!

*Joe Bamford*



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## HEALEY LAKE TENNIS CLUB

-- John Green --

While the good weather lasted on and off into the fall, the nets have now been stored away for the winter. By this spring, we'll be ready for another season!

We're hoping to continue the momentum with an even better turn-out in 2019, and are looking to secure enough memberships and court booking fees to cover maintenance.

*A BIG Thank You goes out to to Mariners Cove for once again looking after the court bookings in 2018.*

As always we are looking for volunteers to cut grass, participate in general clean up, etc...if interested, send an email to [jmcreeen@gmail.com](mailto:jmcreeen@gmail.com)

Thank-you,

*John Green*



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# Invasive Phragmites

-- CONTRIBUTED --

## What Ontario is Doing

To prevent the further spread and introduction of this unwanted invader in the province, Ontario has regulated invasive Phragmites as restricted under the Invasive Species Act. For more information on the Invasive Species Act and Regulations visit [www.ontario.ca/invasionON](http://www.ontario.ca/invasionON).

## Background

Invasive Phragmites (European Common Reed) is an invasive plant causing damage to Ontario's biodiversity, wetlands and beaches. Invasive Phragmites is a perennial grass that has been damaging ecosystems in Ontario for decades. It is not clear how it was transported to North America from its native home in Eurasia.

Invasive Phragmites is an aggressive plant that spreads quickly and out-competes native species for water and nutrients. It releases toxins from its roots into the soil to hinder the growth of and kill surrounding plants. While it prefers areas of standing water, its roots can grow to extreme lengths, allowing it to survive in relatively dry areas.

## Impacts of Invasive Phragmites

- Crowds out native vegetation, thus resulting in decreased plant biodiversity.
- Generally provides poor habitat and food supplies for wildlife, including several Species at Risk.
- Grows very quickly thereby causing lower water levels as water is transpired faster than it would be with native vegetation.
- Increases fire hazards as stands are composed of a high percentage of dead stalks.
- Can affect agriculture, cause road safety hazard and impact recreational activities such as swimming, boating and angling.



## How to Identify Invasive Phragmites

One factor making the identification of invasive Phragmites difficult is the existence of a closely related native subspecies. Generally, native Phragmites does not grow as tall as the invasive plant and does not out-compete other

native species. A number of characteristics of the plant can be useful in distinguishing between the native variety and invasive Phragmites. The following information can help in identifying invasive Phragmites.

### Invasive Phragmites:

- Grows in stands that can be extremely dense with as many as 200 stems per square metre.
- Can grow so densely that it crowds out other species.
- Can reach heights of up to 5 metres (15 feet).
- Has stems that are tan or beige in colour with blue-green leaves and large, dense seedheads.

### Native Phragmites:

- Grows in stands that are usually not as dense as the invasive plant;
- Well-established stands are frequently mixed with other plants; and
- Usually has more reddish-brown stems, yellow-green leaves and smaller, sparser seedheads.

## What You Can Do

Learn how to identify invasive Phragmites and how to avoid accidentally spreading it through its root fragments and seeds. This is especially important if you are planning to do work in an area which contains invasive Phragmites.

Learn how to effectively manage Phragmites on your property. The guide to Best Management Practices for Phragmites describes the most effective and environmentally safe control practices for this species.

Never buy or plant invasive Phragmites. It is against the law to buy, sell, trade or purposely grow invasive Phragmites.

Stay on designated trails and keep pets on a leash. Leaving trails or entering areas containing invasive Phragmites can encourage the spread of this plant.

When leaving an area containing invasive Phragmites, inspect, clean and remove mud, seeds and plant parts from clothing, pets (and horses), vehicles (including bicycles and ATVs), and equipment such as mowers and tools.

Do not compost invasive Phragmites in your backyard composter. Both seeds and rhizomes (horizontal plant stems growing underground) can survive and grow in compost, unless high enough temperatures are reached to kill the reproducing structures. Contact your local municipality to determine if plant material can be brought to their composting facility. Ontario composting facilities monitor the compost process and meet provincially regulated temperature requirements.

If you've seen invasive Phragmites or other invasive species in the wild, please contact the toll free Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711, or visit EDDMapS Ontario at: <http://www.eddmaps.org/Ontario/> to report a sighting.

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Hi, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Tyler Slade and my family has been on Crane Lake since 1973. I reside all year round at on South Crane Lake Rd, at my family's cottage.

In 2012, while helping rebuild the family cottage, I had the opportunity to watch a man take down two huge trees. I was absolutely fascinated by this event. I knew then, that was what I wanted to do as a career! In 2013, I started working in Muskoka for a tree service company and learned everything I could about becoming an arborist. The more I did, the more I loved every aspect of arboriculture. I have worked full time for 5 years now in the Muskoka, Simcoe County and Parry Sound Districts. I also attended and graduated with Honours from Humber College and now, I have my own company.

I would appreciate an opportunity to give you a free quote regarding any of these services,

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With the warm weather finally here, my season is starting up and my team and I are eager to get busy.

Please feel free to call, text or email me for a free estimate, or even just an opinion.

Sincerely

Tyler Slade

**Show me this letter for the Healey Lake Friends & Family discount.**

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## COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

-- Grant Walker | Ward 6 --

### Transfer Station Update

Barriers have been installed at the transfer station to create better traffic flow at busy periods and to help attendants give better service. Plans are to include hard surfacing the area next year. You may now recycle batteries at the transfer station.

### Traffic Survey

A traffic survey has been conducted on Healey Lake Road due to speed concerns. Cyclists have advised they use it a lot because of the quality of the road. Unfortunately it is tempting to exceed the speed limit which is set according to road width, sight lines (rise & fall) and curves.

The survey counted 15,000 vehicle trips in both directions and 13,000 were in the 85th percentile at a speed of around 84 km/h in a 50 km/h zone. The obvious concern is that most drivers are exceeding the limit and this knowledge has been forwarded to the OPP.

**Please slow down, enjoy the drive and give your blood pressure (and others on the road) a break.**

### Community Resources

A reminder that the township contracts The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve for environmental services and you are welcome to contact them direct at [www.gbbr.ca](http://www.gbbr.ca) the township office or me [grant@olresources.ca](mailto:grant@olresources.ca) if you have any concerns or questions.

The township financially supports the Parry Sound and Mactier Libraries allowing you to use all the programs available.

A motion to remove private docks from township property has been passed. A new township dock will be installed in Kapikog Bay after the private docks have been removed.

Now that the busiest part of summer has passed, staff will renew efforts to clean up the trailer parking area. Your association, the staff and myself have put a lot of time into dealing with this problem but with limited cooperation. This month we will try to remove everything we feel is junk, and will notify everyone by; association e-mail, posted signs at the lot, via the township web site and in the Parry Sound North Star - that anything unclaimed through the township office within 30 days will be disposed of. Then the area will be cleaned up and updated instructions for use will be posted.

### 9-1-1 Services

Last June Council had the privilege of meeting with representatives from the Ontario Provincial Police, Parry Sound Emergency Management Services and Northern 911 to discuss the realities of living in a rural community and to ensure that Archipelago ratepayers are better prepared should an emergency occur. Each agency reported on their responsibilities, capabilities, process and procedures when a 911 call is received from within the Township.

### Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

Police emergencies are redirected to the West Parry Sound OPP detachment.

The West Parry Sound Ontario Provincial Police would like to remind everyone that dialing 9-1-1 is for emergencies ONLY and offer some tips to avoid unnecessary calls:

- 1) Lock mobile phones or place them on "stand-by" by using the keypad lock feature. If your mobile has a 9-1-1 auto-dial feature, you may be able to disable it. Check the user manual to see if your phone has the ability;
- 2) Don't program 9-1-1 into your speed dial. It only takes a second to dial 9-1-1;
- 3) Do not place your cell phone in a position where keys can accidentally dial. Use a case or holster to protect it when you put it away;
- 4) Do not let children play with a household phone or old cell phones. If a phone has a battery in it, even if it is out of minutes or does not have a contract or service, it can still dial 9-1-1.

To report non-emergencies, please call the OPP toll free at 1-888-310-1122 or file a police report online through the Citizen Self Reporting tool at;

<https://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=132>



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## COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

-- Grant Walker - Ward 6 --

### Parry Sound Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

If your emergency location can only be accessed by water, be sure to tell the operator. EMS do not have any boats, and coordinate most of their responses with OPP, if they are available. However, you may become part of their response plans if and when possible. You may be responsible to transport the patient yourself to meet the ambulance at a mutually agreed upon location. If you are unable to transport the patient or they are not stable enough to transport, you must relay this information to the operator. EMS will call in Ornge Air Ambulance Service or coordinate with the OPP Marine Unit for transportation from your location. This may not always be possible, so you must be prepared.

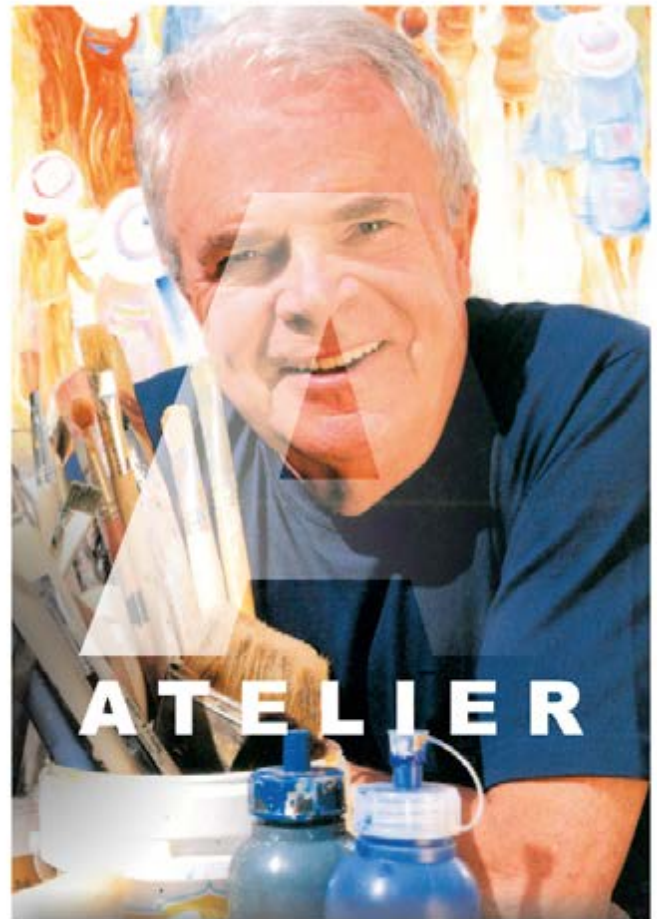
Please be aware that the Township of The Archipelago DOES NOT provide for the delivery of fire protection services. The Township undertakes fire prevention and public education, ensuring that all citizens are aware and informed. See our website or call Maryann Weaver, Clerk (Assistant to the Fire Marshal) for more information.

Fire calls placed through 911 service will be redirected to Northern 911 who act as dispatcher for the Township of The Archipelago. Northern 911's response is dependent on the type and location of the emergency.

To report a forest fire, call the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) 310-FIRE (310-3473). No area code needed. Leave a message if you get an answering machine. They will need to speak to YOU and require you to provide more details. The operator will prefer to speak with a first-hand witness to gather important information - remember they are trying to assess and coordinate a response (probably by air) and details are important.

*Grant Walker*

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me at +1 705 720 4422 or home/cottage at +1 705 739 3675 [grant@olresources.ca](mailto:grant@olresources.ca)



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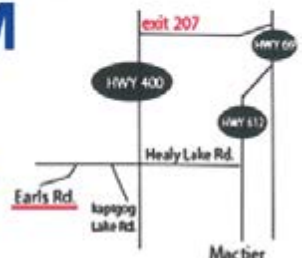
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## THE LOONS

-- Nancy Gilchrist --

Well another summer has ended and in my travels over the summer I unfortunately saw only a few adult loons on our lake. I did however hear from a number of people in other parts of our lake of many sightings of loons and also loons with their young. Thanks to Debbie Latter, Dan MacLeod and others who either emailed me or told me personally when they had a young loon sighting to report on Healey Lake. From what I can gather from those that connected with me, we had at least 2 loon families both with 2 young (one pair in Pine Bay and the other closer to the Marina). The fact that we have loons on our lake and that they are successful in producing their young is significant as this shows the health of our lake and that the loons are continuing to return to our lake each spring.



*Image courtesy of Missy Mandel Photography*

It will soon be time for the loons to be heading south for the winter. During September, group feeding is 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 meters before it gains considerable amount of open water for a long take off. A loon may also get stranded on a pond that is too small and if this happens this loon will most likely die as it will not be able to take off and continue on its migration south.

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 in the wintering grounds in the Gulf of Mexico. The Common Loon is flightless for a few weeks after molting as all of its wing feathers molt at the same time which makes it impossible for them to fly at this time. All loons have greyish feathers in the winter time (they lose their distinctive black and white checker markings and white necklace over the winter months).

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 the late winter before returning to their northern nesting grounds in the spring. The dull winter coat is replaced by their beautiful black and white 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, generally those between 5 and 50 ha 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, or 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 is anywhere between 15 and 30 years.

Have a great winter and see you all at the lake next year!

Nancy

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## HLPOA Website

-- Dave Duggan --

### The HLPOA Website is Celebrating 10 Years!

(and they said it couldn't be done)

In early 2008, after owning my Healey Lake cottage for a year, the Association was looking for someone to create a website. The website would help reduce the cost of postage for mail outs, and it would provide a good resource for cottagers. While I was not a programmer, I knew enough to be able to manage the process, so I put my hand up to volunteer. Working alongside then HLPOA President Dan MacLeod, we launched the website ([www.healeylake.org](http://www.healeylake.org)) in the summer of 2008. We had some early challenges, mainly with the webcams, but overall it was well received by members on the lake. More recently, last summer, we re-vamped the website to update the look but keep much of the functionality the same. In the last month, we added a section for the Annual General Meeting notes and our lake photographer, Andy Zeltkals, has also provided us with a few new pictures for the website. We anticipate adding an 'About Us' section to highlight some history on the lake.

In case you did not know, some interesting items we have on the website:

- Detailed map of the lake with cottage numbers (Navigation Tab)
- A collection of pictures and YouTube videos (Community Tab)
- Links to the marinas on the lake plus paid advertisers (Businesses Tab)
- International Space Station flies over the lake (Resources Tab)
- Transfer Station hours (Resources Tab)

The website will continue to evolve. If you have suggestions for improvements, please contact Dave Latter or myself ([davejduggan@me.com](mailto:davejduggan@me.com)).

*Dave Duggan*

(324 Healey Lake Water)

While Healey Lake no longer has a formal presence on social media sites, it's still great to share all of your Healey Lake adventures with family, friends and guests alike.

When posting, be sure to use the hashtag #healeylake



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## 5 Cool Facts About Skinks

-- Ontario Parks --

If you've ever seen a Five-lined Skink, you know just how cute they are!



The Five-lined Skink, which looks a bit like a salamander, is the only lizard species native to Ontario. And while researchers continue to study skinks, we still don't know very much about what they do on a day-to-day basis, particularly from September to May when they're hibernating.

Here are five cool things we DO know about Five-lined Skinks, courtesy of Alistair MacKenzie, Resource Management Supervisor at Pinery Provincial Park.

### 1) **Where they live**

In Ontario, you'll find Five-lined Skinks in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region and along the Lake Erie shoreline. They live under rocks, fallen trees and leaves.

### 2) **Skinks are solitary**

Like frogs, they travel through life alone, getting together only when it's time to mate in May and June. The female lays up to a dozen eggs in a nest she makes under rocks or logs. But that's as maternal as she gets! When the little skinks hatch about a month later, they're on their own to forage for food and avoid predators.

### 3) **Skinks add a splash of colour**

Skinks start off life with a bright metallic blue tail and dark body with five light-coloured stripes that run from their snout to their tail.

As they age, their tail and body fades to a more uniform brown-grey. They grow to about 20 cm in length.



### 4) **Skinks are diurnal (active during the day)**

Skinks spend their time looking for crickets, flies, grubs, worms and spiders to eat and sunning themselves on rocks or tree limbs when they need to warm up. They have keen senses of sight and smell, and can move very quickly, which helps them catch their prey.

### 5) **Skinks are nifty escape artists**

They have many natural enemies, including foxes, raccoons, snakes and birds of prey, BUT if a predator catches a skink by the tail, the tail will break off and thrash about! This distracts the predator, allowing the skink to escape. The tail will re-grow over time, but never as long as it was.

### **Skinks are an endangered species in Ontario**

Both Five-lined Skink populations in Ontario have declined dramatically to the point where they are now protected by the Endangered Species Act.



Habitat loss is one reason, but five-lined skinks are also threatened by motorists and people who collect them for the pet trade.

If you have information about poaching, please report it to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Tips Line.

### **Here's how you can help**

Skinks are shy, but they're friendly, and they need our help to survive.

#### **You can:**

- ✓ respect their habitat by not removing trees and fallen wood or cutting tall grass on your property
- ✓ stay alert and reduce your speed when driving a car or bicycle in areas where you know they live
- ✓ become a volunteer citizen scientist and help contribute to what we know about five-lined skinks by reporting where and when you see them.

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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

-- Sharon Tosswill --

Hello everyone – I hope you all enjoyed a great time at the lake this summer! And for all those winter cottagers, here's to a great one for you as well.

Membership for the 2018 season has closed.

If you would like to have cottage watch this winter and have not paid please do so (as the deadline was Thanksgiving) so the correct numbers can be given to Brad who has taken over Cottage Watch from Richard.

Click the button below or click visit: [www.healeylake.org](http://www.healeylake.org)



Cottagers paying via PayPal must send their completed membership forms. Send signed forms to Sharon.

Membership Rates for 2019 are projected to be;

Cottage Owner: \$40.00

Associate Member: \$20.00

Please email question or inquiries to Sharon Tosswill:

[Sharon\\_tosswill@hotmail.com](mailto:Sharon_tosswill@hotmail.com)

## THE LAST WORD

-- Ron Hutzul --

I'm quite frankly horribly disappointed that it's necessary to include this public notice once AGAIN, but this boat owners complete lack of consideration for fellow Healey Lakers in the use of shared resources must somehow be addressed. Let's work together to hold everyone accountable so we can ALL enjoy the shared resources provided by the HLPOA.

**The owner of this boat CONTINUES to use the shared public dock for personal boat docking.**



## "THE LAKE-ED CHEF"

-- Ron Hutzul --

### GORDON RAMSAY'S SHEPHERD PIE

Cook Time: 90 minutes – serves 4-6

#### INGREDIENTS

##### The Filling:

- ☐ Olive Oil (2 Tbsp)
- ☐ Ground Lamb or Beef (about 1.5 lbs)
- ☐ 1 Large Carrot (grated)
- ☐ 1 Large Onion (grated)
- ☐ 1 cup of frozen peas
- ☐ Fresh Rosemary
- ☐ Fresh Thyme
- ☐ Minced Garlic
- ☐ Salt & Pepper
- ☐ Worcestershire Sauce (several splashes)
- ☐ Tomato Puree or Paste (no more than a small can)
- ☐ Red Wine (several glugs)
- ☐ Chicken Stock (1/4 cup)

##### The Mash:

- ☐ Golden Potatoes (about 1.5 lbs)
- ☐ Heavy Cream (1/4 cup)
- ☐ Butter (3 1/2 Tbsp)
- ☐ Salt
- ☐ Pepper
- ☐ Egg Yolks (2)
- ☐ Parmesan Cheese (1/4 cup, minimum)

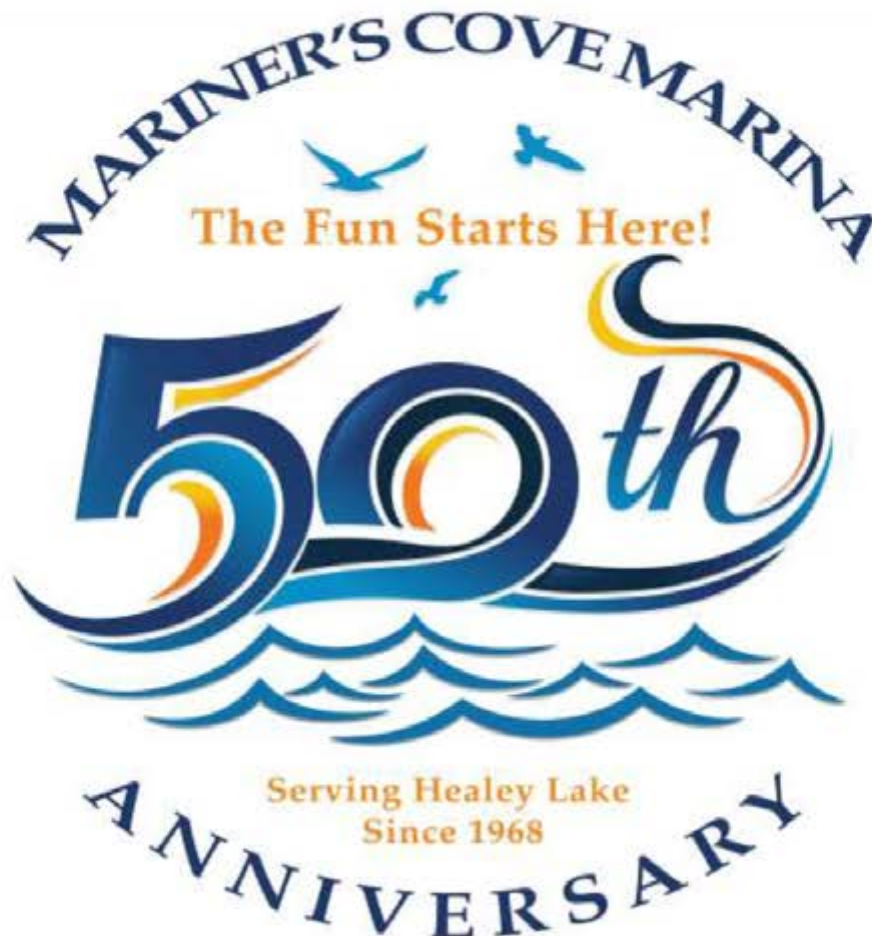
#### DIRECTIONS

1. **Prep Work:** Mince the garlic, separate herbs from the stems, separate Egg Yolks, peel and slice potatoes into even pieces
2. **Cooking Potatoes:** Boil salted water, then add potatoes and set a timer for 15 minutes - start on the filling. When cooked, strain and mash with ingredients from above and keep warm.
3. **Cooking Filling:** Pour Olive Oil into a large, pre-heated pan, then add meat. Stir meat until nice and brown, and broken into very small pieces. Add Rosemary, Thyme, and Garlic, then stir some more. Quickly add carrot, onion, and frozen peas, stir a little longer and the idea at this point is to get everything to an even consistency. Add Worcestershire Sauce, stir, add Tomato Puree, stir, add Red Wine and sweat down for a minute or two. Add chicken stock and cook for 3-5 more minutes.
4. **Final Instructions:** Scoop meat mixture into a deep casserole or other oven safe dish and spoon the mash over the top. Spread the mash over the top of the mix with the bottom of the spoon (then make peaks with the tines of a fork that will brown up beautifully) and sprinkle generously with Parmesan cheese over the top. Place dish in the oven at 400 degrees for 18-20 minutes to brown the potatoes and set the pie. Serve it up and watch people melt!

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