



DOCK TALK

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-- David Latter --

DAM UPDATE

The Association made an application to the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNRF) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) to receive the Engineering reports for 2014 and 2019 for the Healey Lake dam and weir. We have been asking for these for a few years without any success, so had to resort to FOI. An application was also made under FOI for the 2021/2022 Dams Infrastructure Plan.

The Engineer's Report states that the top priority for the west weir dam is the installation of a liner to limit the flow through the wall. There was no timeline in the report for replacement of the dam.

We had a dry spring with lower than normal run-off and little rain. The dam stopped flowing in early June for the first time in my memory but the wet weather of the last three weeks has raised the water level in the lake and water is flowing over the dam once more.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

The Canadian/ U.S. border is still not open for fully vaccinated individuals to move in either direction. This is particularly sad and frustrating for our American neighbours who have been unable to visit their properties for the second year in a row. I personally hope that fully vaccinated individuals will be able to cross the border freely by August, but that is very uncertain at the time of this newsletter.

TRAILER STORAGE AREA

The documentation of the boat trailers using the site by the marinas has been completed. Most of the trailers have been identified by the owner and tagged with a number by the Association. Thanks to those people who have taken the time to tag their equipment.

A notice will soon go out with a description of unidentified trailers and where available, a licence number. If the owners do not claim the trailer, measures will be implemented to remove the trailer from the lot at the owner's cost.

The HLPOA has signed a 10 year lease with the Township and we are now responsible for that site. Use of the trailer park area is now limited to HLPOA members in good standing only. An excellent value for your \$40 Annual membership fee.

If you are a Member and rent your cottage, the renter is welcome to use the trailer area provided they attach their contact information on a waterproof tag along with the name of the Member. Non-members of the association can make arrangements with either of the two marinas for parking their trailers.

No vehicles should be parked in the trailer area other than on a very temporary basis and there is most definitely no overnight parking permitted.

The Township has added gravel to the drive circle and to a pad that will soon support a new storage container. The Association has bought an 8' x 20' refurbished shipping container to make access easier to the equipment for the Regatta which we hope to be able to host next year.

WILDLIFE UPDATES

See separate articles on the Loons and our resident Fox Family in this edition of Dock Talk from Missy Mandel.

There are three loon chicks on the Lake this year. One is in and around the bay for Healey Lake Lodge and the other two on the way to the dam. Please slow all boat traffic near any loon and in particular if there are chicks in the vicinity. This bird is an important part of the lake wildlife.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-- David Latter --

BOTTLE DRIVE

See the full report and photo on the next page.

WATER MONITORING

The water monitoring samples were taken in mid-June and shipped to Dorset for analysis. The results are usually published by next Spring. We will include the results in the April 2022 Dock talk.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The association has a legal obligation to hold an AGM at least once a year. We expect to be able to hold the 2021 AGM, in person, during the Labour Day long weekend. Watch your email accounts for more details or any changes to the timetable.

MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't already done so, please pay your Association fees. Payment may be made by cheque, or PayPal (visit the website for this option). If you pay through Pay Pal, please fill in the online Membership application form on the website. Whether you are a new or a returning member, this will ensure that we have your current contact information [phone number(s), email address(es), property number, mailing address]. If your contact info is not up to date, we have no way of contacting you if there are problems on the lake year round, but especially for the winter Cottage Watch Team to advise you of any issues.

There seems to have been quite a turnover in cottages in recent years. In the past, Real Estate Agents would advise the Association of change overs and in several instances, paid the membership fee for the new Owner's first year.

Regrettably, this doesn't reflect the current practice. If you have a new cottage neighbour, please direct them to Sharon Tosswill, our Membership Coordinator – she can be reached via email at (sharon_tosswill@hotmail.com) or you can simply refer them to the website (www.healeylake.org).

As we are all ultimately moving towards an email/digital world, the Association Executive would like to see an all-electronic membership notification and payment system in place for the 2022 season. Very few people do not use email and we will try to accommodate them.

We are in the process of developing a 2021 Lake Directory for Association Members. There is provision on the Membership Form to indicate whether you want to be included in the Directory. Please renew your memberships as soon as possible so that we can finish the Directory by

mid-August. It will take time for our team to assemble, format print and distribute.

WATER SAFETY

Please ensure you and your guests or renters follow the rules for safe boating and swimming. Accidents and deaths are devastating for all those involved and there have been several drownings in the Muskoka News in recent weeks. Please be considerate of your neighbours when having fun on the water. Try to keep water skiing and tubing to the largest parts of the lake and well away from shorelines. Wave damage to shorelines and to tied boats can be considerable.

If there are any ideas, issues or concerns that need the attention of the Executive, please email me at dlatter@bellnet.ca or call my cell at 416 407-4965.

David Latter



On behalf of Wall-2-Wall Painting, I would like to thank **Healey Laker Cottagers** for being such loyal customers.

It has been my pleasure serving you over the years and as we look forward to more freedoms as the 2021 summer progresses, I would like to say **Thank You** for your continued and ongoing support. I've enjoyed meeting wonderful new people and reconnecting with past clients.

Your support & loyalty has been overwhelming and I hope that am able to continue providing you with interior and exterior painting services for years to come.

Wall-2Wall Painting is committed to providing customers with only the **highest quality service**, delivered through impeccable attention to detail. For those who were a part of the **2021 spring pre-booking special**, please contact me at **(905) 830-8900** so we can discuss details of your cottage painting projects.

Thank You for your business and the ongoing support. I look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Darlene Jones

Wall-2-Wall Painting

info@wall2wallpainting.ca

www.wall2wallpainting.ca

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-- David Latter --

2021 BOTTLE DRIVE

The 2021 Bottle Drive was held on Saturday July 10th at the public landing between the marinas. Fortunately, the weather cooperated, making drop off for boaters and pick up by volunteers a far more pleasant task.

The event has raised \$1,150 which will be put towards a new Regatta storage shed being placed in the trailer park area. The new container will be rodent-free & will certainly provide easier access than the current water based shed.

Some interesting statistics emerge from the bottle drive that reflect Healey Lakers' imbibing preferences. The clear beverage of choice is beer, mainly in cans as we collected over 8,000 cans! While the contributors forever remain anonymous, we have to report that one cottager dropped off more 1500 cans which they claimed was a "group" contribution. A number between 300 and 400 was frequently written on dropped off bags. That's a lot of entertaining and merriment going on at some cottages and the Association thanks you for it. There is also a clear preference for red wine with the ratio of coloured to clear bottles being about 4 to 1. Thanks to all our cottagers and their guests who made it all possible by providing us with their bottle contributions.



Special thanks to the Volunteers who organized, received, sorted, counted over 10,000 bottles and cans. Jaime Belliveau, Jeff Hynes, Mike Szymanski, Rick Kean, Symantha Rush, Debbie & Dave Latter.

Thanks also goes out to Ben & Shelley Ramolla for storing the stash until the Beer Store could pick them up.

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GYPSY MOTH UPDATE

-- Nancy Gilchrist --

You are all aware by looking at our trees on our lake properties that there has been an invasion of a devastating creature this summer. Please keep in mind that this devastation of our forests is a natural part of our forest ecosystem. Also these gypsy moth caterpillars are not the same type of caterpillar as the ones we see in trees in the "silken" like tent. The gypsy moth caterpillar doesn't spin a true tent but forms a "silken mat" on the surface of branches where they congregate.

The gypsy moth caterpillar is the most widespread defoliator of hardwood trees in North America. Every 9-16 years, the caterpillars reach their peak and cause significant damage to trees but these are cyclical cycles. Fortunately this infestation only lasts a few weeks in the early part of the summer.

Despite how much they consume from our forest trees those trees usually recover from the damage they inflict.

After a heavy infestation we typically see a decline in the caterpillar numbers in the following years so the trees that were decimated this year will be back next year. Sometimes those same trees will produce another set of leaves during the same season. If our trees are healthy, they can tolerate 2 or 3 years of very heavy defoliation. The MNR says landowners should allow their trees a chance to recover, and not cut trees just because they've been defoliated by the caterpillars.

Trees are more likely to die if we have a drought concurrent with this time of defoliation.

There is a large gray fly that looks very similar to a house fly with a latin name "sarcophagi aldrichi" but commonly called "the friendly fly" who when landing on people will hang on until you physically brush them off. These flies you DO NOT want to kill as they feed on these gypsy moth caterpillars. These flies actually increase in population in the years that we have an infestation of forest tent caterpillars. They deposit maggots on the caterpillar cocoons and then those maggots burrow and feed on the pupae so it doesn't develop into a moth.

These "friendly" flies are very important for ending a forest tent caterpillar outbreak naturally.



How should you as cottage owners protect your trees from gypsy moth Caterpillars:

- in the spring remove the eggs masses from branches before the eggs hatch
- brush off the caterpillars and cocoons from your cottages, picnic tables and decks with a stiff broom
- you can use a spray of water to knock caterpillars off the trees (your hose with a great spray nozzle will certainly knock them off quickly)

Keep in mind, as a natural control method that birds, rodents and even bears eat gypsy moth caterpillar larvae.



The gypsy moths will start appearing now (in July)



After mating, the female moths will lay several clusters of eggs on the twigs of our surrounding trees. Each cluster contains 150 to 200 eggs that are covered with a sticky substance called "spumaline" which attaches the cluster to the twig and helps protect the eggs until the following spring. If you happen to see some of these clusters you can cut these twigs down to lessen the population that hatches next spring.

Lastly please do not use pesticides to rid your property of these nasty pests. That pesticide will just end up in our lake and be even more harmful to our wildlife and fish!!

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Want to spend your summer days on the water? We carry a wide variety of premium Manitou and Sylvan Pontoon boats, and Scarab Jet Boats. Whether you are looking to cruise, fish, tow, or even party, we are committed to finding you the perfect boat you can enjoy all summer long!



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WHAT'S GOOD FOR TURTLES IS GOOD FOR ROADS

Finding a Win-Win for Species near Roads

By **Tianna Burke**, Conservation Biologist,
Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

A road project in the Township of The Archipelago, resulted in tangible benefits for community, government and the environment. The project has provided a solid demonstration of sustainability practices for road management including numerous ecological, cultural, educational, and financial benefits of collaboration to provide a higher quality strategy for road work that benefits conservation at a comparable cost to conventional road work methods.

Roads are known to have significant effects on the landscapes and habitats they bisect. Over the past couple of decades, research has improved our understanding of how wildlife populations are affected by roads. The development of this field of study known as "road ecology" has highlighted the threats posed for wildlife populations and explored ways that roads can be constructed and maintained to mitigate that harm. Population modelling suggest that many turtle species are in decline because of high annual rates of road mortality. Turtles are especially vulnerable to traffic mortality because of how they grow, survive, and reproduce. For most turtle species, it takes several

IMPROVING EDUCATION & BEST PRACTICES

The following is an excerpt from an article published by the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) in the 2021 Conference Edition of Milestones Magazine.

We are so thankful to have been a part of this partnership said Tianna Burke (pictured above), biologist with Georgian Bay Biosphere. "This type of work was new to the construction team, but they were curious and eager to help out. Together we developed ways to clear the site for eggs and provided encouragement for each individual to feel responsible for the health of the environment around them."

Burke adds that: "completing these upgrades to Skerryvore Community Road in an environmentally responsible manner is not only beneficial to the wildlife we are working to protect, but kept the job on schedule and created a best practice in road work."

Read More: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/jgfei/uyag/>

THROUGH THIS PROJECT THE TEAM

- Determined areas in need of mitigation
- Conducted 94 road surveys in lieu of temporary fencing to monitor and mitigate active SAR and turtles. *289 species and 137 turtle nest observations recorded.*
- Trained construction crew on species at risk including: identification & mitigation during construction.
- Had biologists available for 'immediate' nest recovery or other SAR needs. *Responded to 7 calls.*
- Developed a new way to clear site of turtle nests prior to construction.
- Released 1,014 hatchling turtles from 44 nests located within construction area.
- Fostered a relationship between Shawanaga First Nation community and Township/construction team through turtle release ceremonies.
- Held 8 public turtle release days and 7 turtle hatchery tours for invited guests and project partners to attend
- Provided outreach opportunities to all stakeholders and road users on reptiles
- Installed riprap at wetland crossings for a research opportunity on mitigation design.

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HEALEY LAKE APPAREL

-- Michelle Burandt & George Youngberg--

We wanted to share a quick note about how thankful we are to everyone who purchased their Healey Lake hoodies and tees this year. We really enjoyed both reconnecting with old friends as well as getting to know many new people - some 2nd and 3rd generation cottagers and other brand new lakers experiencing cottage life for the first time.



We had 80 families pre-order over 300 shirts, and the extra gear we ordered pretty much sold out in just a few days. This shows that we all share the same love for our lake and are proud to elevate the spirit of it by wearing the lake's name on our chests. Our thanks goes out to Becky and Gary Schaeffer for helping us with all the folding and organizing!

We are very pleased to announce that this year's swag sale **raised over \$3,000 for the association**, much of which can be put towards making next year's regatta even more sensational than ever!"

This year's logo design was inspired by a winter resident we had on the lake this past year. A majestic moose decided to make the lake's biggest island its home for the winter, and many winter cottagers were fortunate to see it strolling along the island trail throughout the season. As the ice started to thin out in early April the moose attempted a crossing to the mainland, but the ice gave way and our friend the moose fell through and became trapped in the icy water.

Fortunately, a nearby cottager Jay Creen witnessed the potentially tragic incident from the mainland, and quickly reached out to island resident Greg Partchenko, who was able to get close to the moose's location by ATV. The only way for Greg to help the trapped moose was to break up the ice surrounding him, so Greg braved the frigid waters to clear a path to safety for the moose.



Without Greg's heroic efforts our friend the moose would have likely perished. Thank you Greg and Jay for your quick actions to save this beautiful animal!

If you missed out on this year's swag order, fear not. Due to demand, we have ordered some additional hoodies and tees which will be available for purchase at Lakeshore Marina's store, while supplies last.

Wishing everyone a great summer and looking forward to bringing everyone together at next year's regatta.

Michelle Burandt & George Youngberg



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FIRE SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS

-- CONTRIBUTED --

FIREHOUSE BUILDING REJUVENATION

After many years of faithful service, the green Firehouse at the east end of Big Island was leaky, out of square and had a listing dock. Over the last year the building has been almost completely refurbished.

Last fall 2020, Dave McNamara and Brad Phillips cleaned out all the junk that had accumulated over the years. They then lifted and levelled both the building and the dock as well as permanently secured the front garage door, installed a steel entry door with a lock.

In the spring 2021, Dave and Adam McNamara installed the new metal roofing which was generously donated by Theresa McNamara. A wonderful and much appreciated family effort!

After the roof was installed, the main support beam for the front of the dock broke, so Dave McNamara organized a work party consisting of Rick Kean, Peter Morley, Arnie Sperl and "Moose Man" (Greg Partchenko) to install a new 8X8 beam and re-level the dock.

The Firehouse will be given a fresh coat of paint this fall.

This building is home to one of the fire pumps on the lake. The pump is now more safely and quickly accessible.

The HLPOA would like to recognise Brad, Dave, Theresa, Rick, Peter, Arnie and Greg for contributing a considerable number of hours and days to improve and maintain one of the landmarks on the lake. In particular, we are grateful to Brad Phillips and the McNamara's who initiated and organized the improvements.

MUNICIPAL FIRE PREVENTION & BY-LAWS

<http://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/fire-prevention>

FIRE RATINGS

<http://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/fire-rating>

HEALEY LAKE FIRE PROTECTION

The Township of the Archipelago and other nearby municipalities do not provide fire protection of any kind for the Healey Lake area. Although there is a fire station in MacTier, this is operated by the Township of Georgian Bay and cottagers should not expect them to respond to a fire on Healey Lake.

The Healey Lake Property Owners Association does not offer a fire fighting service, however, we have made available 10 gasoline powered, high pressure fire pumps at various locations on the lake. These 10 courtesy pumps may be accessed and used by cottage members or their representatives to assist in fighting fires at their own risk.

Please be aware that the pumps and associated equipment are provided on a best efforts basis and the Association

assumes no responsibility for their reliability or for injuries to anyone using this equipment.

The pumps are stored in boxes that contain the pumps, hoses and a set of operating instructions. The Association usually puts on an annual demonstration of the use of the pumps but Covid rules have prevented us from doing so. These fire pumps may be borrowed by Association members from the end of April to late October when they are removed for winter storage. Three of the pumps are in place year round and the fire boxes include an ice auger.

To the best of our ability, we try to make sure all our pumps are gassed up and ready for use when needed. After a fire pump has been used, it is important to notify Peter Morley at 705-500-3217 or by email at peter.morley@live.com

FIRE PUMP LOCATIONS

Below is a list of the fire pumps currently deployed around Healey Lake – you can reference a map of these locations on the page following this one, or on the HLPOA website.

SEASONAL USE – MID APRIL TO LATE OCTOBER

- 409 Healey Lake Water (P. Hayley)
- 427 Healey Lake Water (A. Gilks)
- HLPOA Fire House on Main Channel
- 80 Healey Lake Water/Kapikog Bay (T. Szambor)
- 437 Healey Lake Rd/Dollard Bay (Jorgensen)
- 63 Earl's Rd (R. Martin)
- 314 Healey Lake Water (D. McNamara)
- 398 Healey Lake Water (G. Partchenko)

YEAR-ROUND USE (FIRE BOX INCLUDES ICE AUGER)

- 139 Healey Lake Water (C. Smith)
- 317 Healey Lake Rd/Mariner's Cove Marina (P. Hintze)

HAVE YOUR FLARES EXPIRED?

If your flares have a manufacture date of 2017 or earlier, they have or will expire this year. Disposing of expired flares has been an ongoing dilemma for boaters across the country. To help boaters dispose of expired flares in a safe and environmentally responsible manner there is a Flare Disposal Day scheduled for August 7th 2021.

Sound Boat Works

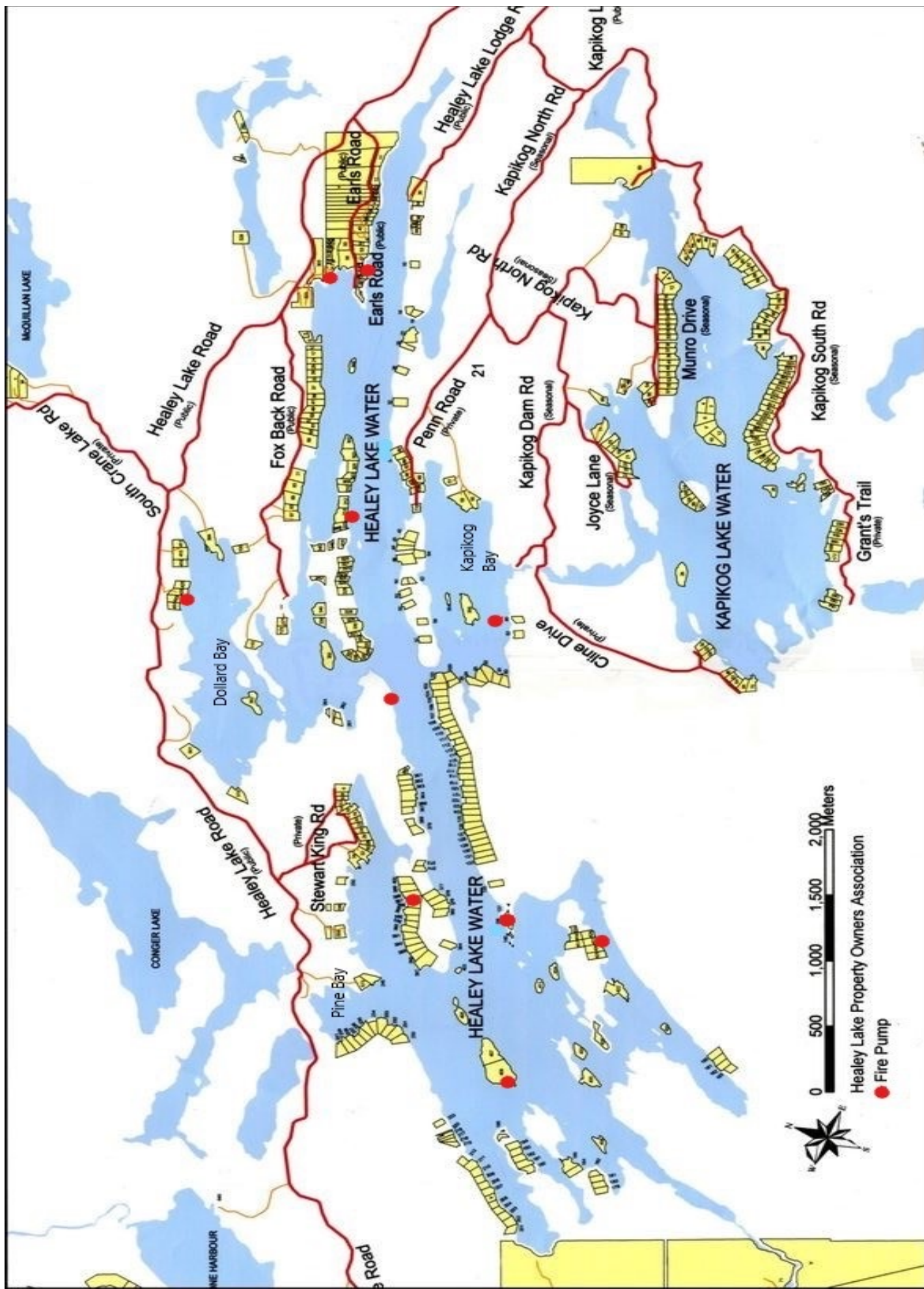
73 Emily Street

Parry Sound, ON

www.soundboatworks.com

Flares are only accepted directly from the recreational boating public. Flares will not be accepted from any companies, organizations, service clubs or municipalities.

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Hi, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Tyler Slade and my family has been Muskoka bound since 1973. I reside all year round on Crane Lake, for the past 6 years.

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 6 years now in Muskoka, Simcoe County and Parry Sound Districts. I also attended and graduated with Honours from Humber College, and now, I have my own company.

While 2018 was MDA's first year, my crew and I were thrilled at the opportunities and successes we had. I am also happy to be giving back to my trade by taking on my first apprentice.

We are looking forward to 2020 and would appreciate an opportunity to give you, a family member or a friend a free quote regarding any of these services,

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My company is fully insured. I am a member of the International Society of Arboriculture, both International Chapter and the Ontario Chapter. I can present Insurance Documents upon request.

With Spring finally here, my season has started up and my team and I are eager to keep 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 Friends of Muskoka discount.

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www.mdatreeservices.com / tyler@mdatreeservices.com

RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

-- Nancy Gilchrist --

For this edition of DockTalk I thought I would write about the Ruby Throated Hummingbird which I am sure many of you enjoy here at your cottage and possibly in your hometown too. There are over 330 species of hummingbirds in both North and South America.

I am amazed at how many interesting facts that I found out when reading up on the Ruby Throated Hummingbird. They are certainly interesting and unusual creatures.

The basics:

- They are about 8.9 cm long (3.5 inches) and weigh about 3.1 grams (0.1 ounces)- less than a nickel
- Their name, hummingbird, comes from the humming noise their wings make as they beat so fast (up to 50 beats per minute)
- Their record wing beat frequency is 53 times per second however during courtship this frequency soars to about 200 times per second. They would fly in perfect arcs, then dive up and down vertically in front on the subject female
- The adult male has a red throat with emerald green back, gray flanks and forked tail
- The adult female is bigger than the male, with emerald green back, white breast and throat and longer bill
- When they drink nectar from a feeder they move their tongue in and out about 13 times per second.
- They are the only birds that can fly backwards
- Their average speed of flight is 40km per hour (or 25 miles an hour) and even faster with the wind at their backs; and during courtship dives they can reach speeds of 65km per hour (40 miles per hour)
- When they are really exerting themselves, their heart races about 1,200 beats per minute. In calmer times that rate drops to 600 beats per minute. In comparison, humans have a resting heart rate of about 72 beats per minute
- They have no sense of smell but have great colour vision to see colourful flowers or bright coloured feeders
- A flock of hummingbirds is referred to as a bouquet, a glittering, a hover, a shimmer or a tune
- These birds have very short legs preventing them from walking or hopping. But then again, this bird can still scratch its head and neck by raising its foot up and over its wings.
- They are the smallest migrating bird who migrate in winter to the Gulf of Mexico (flying directly for 18 to 20 hours)-approx. 1,600 km each year, from their breeding ground in Canada. In order to make the long journey they must double their body weight before they start migrating south

- They don't migrate in flocks like other species and they typically travel alone for over 800 km (500 miles)
- In spring, the male hummingbirds return first and upon arrival establish their territories. The female on her return choose the nesting site. And like other small birds the female constructs their small nest (made from leafy materials and scales bounded by silk from spider webs or tent caterpillar nests and lichens as decorations on the exterior).
- The nest is usually situated on a downward sloping tree branch. Once it is finished the female will then engage in courtship with the male.
- Due to their solitary nature, the male leaves the female right after copulation. There is no bond formed between the pair (a matter of days or weeks); the male does not have anything to do with the nesting or the young
- Most hummingbirds die within their first year, some will live an average of 3 years. The oldest known hummingbird's lifespan was just over 9 years

Their young:

- The hummingbirds minute nest is her refuge when she lays her eggs. A female normally lays two white, bean sized eggs
- The female protects her eggs vigorously from predators and bad weather. She spends a long time incubating them (about 11 to 14 days) and shields them from rain and the sun using green leaves which she has placed over her nest. She only leaves her nest briefly to eat.
- Upon hatching, the young birds are tiny and naked, with short bills and eyes closed. After five days, their eyes open and their feathers begin to show. After a short time, the nestlings can already utter peeps.
- The female also keeps her young warm and feeds them with regurgitated food from her bill. After reaching two weeks to a month of age the young birds depart from their nest although their mother will continue to feed them for several weeks more.
- Also in spring, both adult and young hummingbirds completely shed all of their feathers called molting. They have about 940 feathers in average which is the least number of feathers of any bird

Behaviour

- While defending their territories, both the females and males may engage in fighting.
- They use their speed and the hum of their wings to frighten intruders away

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RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

-- Nancy Gilchrist --

- They also utilize specific flight patterns during their aggressive encounters (ie. one bird may make a speedy horizontal U dash flying side to side around the intruder's ears). The bird may also swing in a vertical direction like the motion of a pendulum. While making their flights, high squeaky notes and the humming sound of their wing are heard. They will not stop intimidating the intruders until they flee
- Hummingbirds to sleep at night find a twig that is sheltered from the wind and rest on that for the night.
- In the cool spring and fall, they can enter a deep sleep like state known as torpor. This allows their body functions to slow down dramatically, metabolism drops by as much as 95 percent and their heart rate and body temperature decline significantly. This allows them to conserve precious energy and survive surprisingly low temperatures.

Food and Feeders for Hummingbirds

- The recipe is 4:1 water to white sugar (ie. 4 cups water to 1 cup sugar) and stir until sugar is dissolved. That's it!!!!
- DO NOT use honey, artificial sweeteners or other sugar substitutes or left-over sugar from last year- they are very fussy. And DO NOT use red food colouring. They do not need their syrup to be anything but the clear water colour. The dye can kill the birds.
- If you are going to be away for a week or more then it is better to boil the water to dissolve the sugar and let cool before putting in feeders (retards mold growth in the feeders if not changed often)
- You can store excess mixture in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. If it goes cloudy discard as it has fermented or molded
- Put feeders up in early to mid April (or as soon as you return to the cottage)

Maintenance of feeders:

- In cool spring or fall weather you may be able to go a week without changing the mix but if it gets cloudy, throw it out
- Summer months clean and refill feeders at least twice weekly in hot weather. You wouldn't feed your house pets, guests or children moldy food, so follow the same policy with your hummingbirds.
- A mild solution of vinegar and water to clean the feeders is good to kill the mold from week to week.
- If two or more feeders are being used, put them where birds at one feeder can't see the other (so there will be less fighting)

- Hang feeders in the shade or a more shaded area; several 8 or 16 oz feeders are better than one or two large ones
- DO NOT use insect spray or pesticides to keep bees and wasps off feeders, these chemicals may be fatal to small hummingbirds. A shallow saucer of 1:1 sugar water in the sun will often lure these insects away from the feeders
- If you go on vacation or miss a week putting out your feeders, don't feel sorry for the birds, they know other food sources for at least a mile in all directions.

Lastly enjoy these tiny beauties of nature. They are so much fun to watch in the yard and return annually to your feeders.

Nancy

YOUR COTTAGE HELPER



Have a project in mind but no time during the precious weekend?

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I am an experienced, enthusiastic, hard-working student planning to summer on Healey Lake!

Email or Text: cottagewingman@gmail.com

On-Line Booking

Considering the current realities, physical distancing will be respected.

References Available Upon Request

Stay Connected: Visit www.healeylake.org for the latest news and updates!



CANOEING

IN THE BACK LAKES

Canoeing is the best way to explore many of the smaller lakes in our area. However few people actually take advantage of the opportunity to canoe into the back lakes easily available to us with a little knowledge and experience. To address this I have created an Airbnb experience called Canoeing in the Back Lakes to offer people an experience which is off the beaten path, yet accessible by canoe.

Starting first thing in the morning from the parking lot at the south end of Kapikog Bay on Healey Lake, we will paddle through a number of lakes and over several easy but unmarked portages. We will reach our destination at Juniper Lake mid-morning, a quiet lake with generally good fishing and no cottages or road access. Here we will engage in a combination of fishing, hiking, photography, and nature study, with the exact mix depending on the conditions and interests of the participants. After lunch at the lake, we will make the return trip, arriving back at our starting point in mid-afternoon. Along the way we will observe and discuss the variety of plant life, changes to the environment over time, and whatever animals present themselves.

My name is Stuart and I have canoed, camped, hiked, and fished in the Muskoka/Parry Sound area for over 50 years. I have now retired and live most of the year on Kapikog Lake and have the opportunity to share this beautiful part of Canada with others.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKING

Visit: www.airbnb.ca/experiences/1460386.

If the link does not take you directly to the experience page, navigate to the 'Experiences' section on the Airbnb site, and search for experiences in the Georgian Bay area. I look forward to meeting you!

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LOON UPDATE

-- Missy Mandel --

I am so happy to report that we have two families of loons this summer. Loons will usually lay two eggs and have two chicks, and very often they will lose one chick. Sibling rivalry is most often the reason for the loss. When I found the pair by the marinas, they had only one chick so I am unsure whether they had two to begin with, or whether they only hatched one. That chick is diving and doing well.



The second pair is down by the dam. They had two chicks in mid June. They unfortunately lost one in mid July. The remaining chick is diving and doing well. The third pair did mate in Little Dollard Bay, but did not drop eggs or nest this summer. It is not uncommon for a pair to go through the mating and nesting ritual and not have chicks. Let's hope 2022 is a better year for this pair.

As the chicks get bigger and start to dive on their own, the parents are a little more vocal. If you hear them vocalizing, it may be that you are getting too close, or that they have lost sight of the chick(s). Give them space and their anxiety should seize.

Thanks once again for all the loon sightings. It really helps with my reporting.

Missy Mandel

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RESPECTING OUR WILDLIFE UPDATE

-- Missy Mandel --

FOXES ON HEALEY LAKE ROAD

We are so lucky to reside in an area so rich in wildlife. Co-existing can have its ups and downs. Foxes will have one litter of kits in early spring, and they will also have multiple dens. If they feel threatened while denning, they will move the kits to another den. Sometimes foxes will den close to human structures because it provides protection from predators.

For whatever reason, the resident red fox moved her kits to a den very close to Healey Lake road by the Marinas. This has been problematic for many reasons. The cars travelling on Healey are most often exceeding the speed limit and one kit has already lost its life.

The vixen travels great distance to hunt, mostly along Healey Lake Road going as far as Kapikog Rd. She does zig zag across the road looking for prey. I have witnessed several near misses, even when cars are going the speed limit.

As the kits get bigger, they will roam and leave the den area. This was the case with the kit that was hit. It was on the other side of the road, either following the vixen as they often do, or just exploring. Road signs have gone up, but may be moved around as the family grows and moves around too.

Please try and be mindful and drive slowly on Healey Lake Road, mostly between Earls Road and past Fox Back Road.

Missy Mandel



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"THE LAKE-ED CHEF"

-- Adapted for Lake Use by Ron Hutzul --

RIBS WITH BOURBON PEACH BBQ SAUCE

Prep Time: 15 Minutes | Cook Time: 2-3 hours | Serves 4-6

Ribs with peach BBQ sauce are super tender and full of bold, sweet and savory flavors. They cook low and slow, (you may choose to smoke or sous vide) but the hands-on part is minimal. These incredible ribs are baked then finished on the grill.

INGREDIENTS

FOR RIBS

- ☐ 2-3 racks quality baby back pork ribs (about 2 pounds/900g)
- ☐ Quality Dry Rub – I Like [Kozlik's Pork Spice Rub](#)

FOR BOURBON PEACH BBQ SAUCE

- ☐ 2 cups diced fresh Ontario peaches (about 4 peaches)
- ☐ 1/3 cup (79ml) Bourbon
- ☐ 1.5 cup (200g) Ketchup
- ☐ 4 tbsp Brown Sugar
- ☐ 4 tbsp Apple Cider Vinegar
- ☐ 1.5 tbsp Onion Powder
- ☐ 1.5 tsp Garlic Powder
- ☐ 2 tbsp Worcestershire Sauce
- ☐ 2 tsp Mustard – I Like [Kozlik's Sweet & Smokey](#)

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 300F/149C.
2. **PREPARE RIBS:** Rinse ribs, Pat dry. Remove the silver skin from the ribs. Cut each rack in half. Line a pan with foil. Generously sprinkle rub on both sides of ribs. Cover entire pan with another piece of foil.
3. **BAKE RIBS:** Place pan in oven and bake for 2-2 ½ hours or until tip of knife slides easily into meat. If your ribs are meatier, you may need up to 3 hrs. (Ribs can be cooled, then refrigerated for up to 2 days at this point in sealed bags or container.)
4. **MAKE SAUCE:** (while ribs are baking) Bring bourbon to boil in a medium saucepan. Stir in rest of ingredients. Bring to boil, then lower to medium heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes until thickened. If not thick enough, uncover and simmer another 5 minutes. If you don't like any chunks in the sauce, hit it with the immersion blender until it reaches the desired state.
5. **GLAZE & FINISH ON GRILL:** Heat Grill to medium high. Brush sauce onto ribs. Grill for 4-6 minutes or until char marks have formed, flipping once. If ribs were cooked earlier and are cold, bring them to room temperature first or add additional grill time. Brush on additional sauce, cut into preferred serving sized pieces and enjoy!



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