



DOCK TALK

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-- David Latter --

THE 2021 COTTAGE SEASON

Spring came a little earlier than usual to Healey Lake this year. We need some hope that life will be back closer to normal by summer, so this is a good start.

The big question at the moment is whether our American neighbours will be able to cross the border to visit their summer homes on Healey Lake. As the situation now stands, they will almost certainly all be vaccinated with two shots and they will be safer to be around than Ontario residents who will be lucky to have one shot.

It is too soon to make firm plans to help out anyone who is able to cross the border, but it is likely that the current requirement to quarantine for 2 weeks will still be in place. As the picture becomes clearer, and if the border is opened to American cottagers, the Association may be looking for local volunteers to pair up with anyone in quarantine to provide food, drink or any other help needed for the 2 week period. We can keep everyone up to date with our mass email program.

TRAILER STORAGE

The trailer storage area has been cleared and should be ready for new trailers by May. All trailers must have a tag with the name of the owner, home address, phone number and email address. An HLPOA tag system is in place to control who uses the lot. A yellow tag with a number associated with each trailer and owner will be attached to each trailer. The lot is leased and managed by the HLPOA and starting this year, users of the lot must be a member of the association. The \$40 fee is good value for this service and all the other benefits the association provides.

SHARING THE LAKE WISELY

There will be a program on Healey Lake this year to help protect the nesting areas of loons and their chicks. Look for details in the article by Missy Mandel, elsewhere in this edition of Dock Talk. The increased boat traffic seems to have reduced the number of surviving chicks. Here's hoping our combined efforts will result in a bumper crop of new chicks for our lake.

REGATTA

We will make a decision later in May about whether we can hold the Regatta this year. It is unlikely that larger gatherings will be permitted until the vaccination program is widely implemented and the rate of infection drops to manageable numbers. We will keep you posted on these events.

BOTTLE DRIVE

The bottle drive will be conducted Saturday, July 10, 2021. As we did last year, volunteers will be receiving your most welcomed donations on land at the government dock. More details will be provided closer to the event.

WATER MONITORING

We did not receive the required water monitoring kits from the Lake Partner Program for 2020. COVID -19 was the excuse. I have been assured that the kits will be shipped to me in May. This is an important program for not just our lake but all the lakes in Ontario. The data gives a long term picture of the quality of the water in all the lakes and an early warning if the water quality starts to deteriorate.

WEIR DAM

I hesitate to even bring up this project. Nothing has happened in the last year. The Engineer's Report was not available from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the planned initiative to inject a material to plug the dam was delayed again. Maybe this year! We will continue to monitor the weir and share the engineer's report as soon as we can acquire a copy.

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President	1-2
Councillor's Corner	3-4
Georgian Bay Biosphere	11
Feature: Great Blue Heron	14
Loon Update	16

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Association's Constitution requires us to hold an AGM at least once a year. We had hoped to hold the 2020 end of year AGM by Zoom, but costs seemed to outweigh the benefits. We anticipate that we will be able to hold a combined 2020 and 2021 AGM, in person, during the Labour Day long weekend. Watch your email accounts for more details or any changes to the timetable. If there is an issue requiring broad membership input before then, we will advise you by email as we did for input on the hospital donation.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FEES

Please pay your Association fees by mid-May. Payment may be made by cheque and mailed to Sharon Tosswill or directly through PayPal (visit the website healeylake.org for this option). If you pay by Pay Pal, please fill in the application form on the website. Online and offline forms are both available and need to be completed to make sure your information is current.

MEMBER DIRECTORY

We plan to publish another Lake Directory for members only by mid-summer. Members have the option of being included or not included in the Directory by checking the appropriate box on the form. Don't miss out on being included in the upcoming Directory so please join early.

COTTAGE WATCH

I arrived at my cottage to see a Cottage Watch sign attached to the door knob. I was again thankful, as I am sure you are, that there are volunteers on the Lake who have taken the time to check out cottages this winter. Another great benefit of Association membership

If there are any ideas, issues or particular 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

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COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

-- Grant Walker | Ward 6 --

PUBLIC WORKS

This past winter's weather provided its challenges especially in the later period. Reports from ratepayers indicate our staff did its usual fine job. Training in public works is hands on making it difficult to follow COVID -19 rules to keep proper distances. As I said last fall, public works has many responsibilities to look after over a huge area and if the virus got into operations the shallow depth of man power would severely curtail operations.

WELLNESS CENTRE

Interest of a new wellness centre based in Parry Sound for the West Parry Sound District is front and centre. It would contain a pool, gym, exercise area, activity rooms etc. Although residents of the Archipelago would not make as much use of it as other municipalities I have always supported them rather than have these large district projects forced on us by amalgamation.

Capital costs would be covered by a large grant from the federal government plus the municipalities would support by a formula based on permanent population. Capital costs are one time and then the municipalities are left to cover operating costs for ever. Because of this open-ended liability, I'm asking for more thought and research. I'd like to see things like commercial involvement, other public uses like school, medical offices, library, district and upper level government offices, etc. included to spread out costs.

I'd like to hear any ideas you may have. Grant 705 720-2244 (days).

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

This huge project which will help the entire area continues to move ahead and more contacts and support continues. I'm proud of the roll the Archipelago has and continues to play in this important addition to services.

For more visit our website at thearchipelago.on.ca In the top menu, click [Community](#) > [Internet Connectivity](#).

Also see the Connectivity Update on right.

TRAILER PARKING LOT - HEALEY

We have some landscaping to do this season but most of the clean up has been done. A lease has been drawn up, zoning changed to permit the association to erect a small storage building for their regatta equipment.

The lot must be managed. If you want to park a trailer, contact the association or their designate to get an identification tag and remove if you no longer need it.

MAIN DOCK - KAPIKOG

Repairs not completed last fall will be done this spring. Hope you are all well keep up the distance & masks even if you have had your shot. Let's make sure we kill this before we let up.



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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Darlene Jones'.

Wall-2-Wall Painting

info@wall2wallpainting.ca

www.wall2wallpainting.ca

DOCK FLOATATION FOAM

Norm Miller MPP for Muskoka Parry Sound sponsored Bill 228 to ban dock flotation foam. It is a health hazard because with age and wear it breaks down into tiny pieces that pollutes. If you see any around clean it up and take it to the waste site. Make sure if you buy a new dock they are not using the old type flotation.

CONNECTIVITY UPDATE

Internet connectivity is a topic the Township of The Archipelago is actively addressing to support its residents and businesses. Council recognizes the importance of robust and affordable internet access for the community and is active with a number of connectivity interests to facilitate an environment where coverage is available and options for service exist.

CURRENT STATE

Our community is underserved by the current ad hoc networks and their various tower facilities.

Ontario's leading telecom companies continue to focus on investing in urban areas that have high rates of return based on population density and which are more convenient markets to serve.

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COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

-- Grant Walker | Ward 6 --

This situation leaves rural areas to identify and create circumstances that warrant a business case for investment. Senior levels of government have begun to announce a series of funding Initiatives that may shift interests to underserved rural areas but competition for funds is significant and exceeding the amounts available - much of the province and country remains underserved against the standards established by the CRTC.

It has become clear that there is no "cookie-cutter" solution for broadband connectivity in rural Ontario. Recent headlines on the Starlink BETA trial have garnered much attention in cottage country and the new service may prove to be another option available to residents of Ontario.

One thing is certain - that to provide internet access to everyone will require a number of technologies and options. Overall, we are excited about organizations investing in our community and believe consumer choice is important to our residents.

It is the position of Council that we must act now as the catalyst for the creation of a provisioned network for our community and work with ISP's that offer comprehensive, high speed, and cost-effective broadband services to all the segments in our community; namely both part-time and full-time residential, mainland and off-shore, businesses, students, families and seniors.

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

Much has been accomplished to date:

- Acquisition of surplus 270' MNR communication tower in Parry Sound (Tower Hill),
 - Renamed the WPS SMART Tower in recognition of its critical role in broadband infrastructure for all municipalities in the Parry Sound region;
- Council established a Connectivity Ad Hoc Committee
- Utilized modernization funds from the Province to extend an expanding fibre backbone radiating outwards from Parry Sound in a northerly direction (phase 1) in 2021 through the following components:
 - Add 100' tower extension of pre-planned tower at Parry Sound Industrial Park (PSIP)
 - Plan for new tower build in Pointe au Baril.
- Supporting a funding application in the Universal Broadband Fund for a southerly (phase 2) fibre backbone as a potential 2022 project.
- Forming partnerships with various Internet Service Providers (ISPs) both north and south areas of the Township and working in conjunction with other neighbouring municipal projects.

CATALYST FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE BUILD

The Township's goal is to see the necessary infrastructure built to extend fibre-based network assets in Parry Sound outwards, north and south, to our various communities. The challenge is to stimulate internet service providers to take advantage of pure, wholesale bandwidth, and create service to the water-based community as well as mainland through a number of solutions (fibre, microwave, etc.). Through the Connectivity Ad Hoc Committee, next steps will include neighbourhood provisioning plans that aim to identify and utilize resources and assets like the Pointe au Baril Lighthouse, properties owned by the Township or other resources made available for use. It is our hope that this environment will encourage Wireless Internet Providers (WISP's) to invest in our communities and stimulate consumer choice for our residents. The Township is dedicated to working with the private sector, local partners, and innovative thinkers to bring comprehensive, high speed, and cost-effective broadband services to our residents.



GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please contact me at grant@olresources.ca or +1 705 720 2244 days or +1 705 739 3675 nights or weekends.

Grant Walker

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SAFE QUIET LAKES

-- Contributed --

Safe Quiet Lakes is a not-for-profit organization working to expand the conversation about safe and respectful boating. The organization has its origins among the Muskoka Lakes and has built a community of like-minded boaters. They believe that grassroots conversations, education and peer pressure is the best way to bring about change.

A 2017 survey found respondents indicating that boat noise interfered significantly in enjoyment of their area. In the newsletter of April 2021, SQL is reporting that Transport Canada now has an increased awareness of the growing concern of excessive muffler noise on our waterways. This awareness by Transport Canada is in part the result of the advocacy work of the Decibel Coalition.

The Decibel Coalition is a national group of stakeholders who are promoting the enhancement of legislation to include decibel limits with enforcement. The current Canadian legislation is described as weak to the point of being unenforceable. This Coalition, established in 2019 is run by SQL.

The wakes and speed pilot conducted last year has been the impetus for new NO Wake signs that we can display on our docks or boathouses when located in narrow or busy channels. You will already be aware of the SQL's Boaters Code signs displayed on the marinas and in other areas.

Speed – Boaters going too fast close to shore - The only legal speed limit on the books for boats is 10 kph (6mph) within 30 meters (100 feet) of shore. Some boaters are unaware of this law. So how is this enforced? In a word, it is not. Very few lakes post speed signs and enforcement is rare if not non-existent.

Noise – Who knows how many decibels from a boat motor, is acceptable? If you do, please let us know! Boats must have mufflers. This is mandatory, a requirement of Transport Canada. Loud is not illegal but operating an unmuffled boat is. Some boaters can avoid or bypass their muffler by outfitting it with an electronic exhaust diversion system that can release exhaust above the water line and with this comes noise.

Wake – Some boats today have the capability of increasing the size and intensity of the waves they create. When operated too close to shore, the waves erode the shoreline, this important barrier of trees and rocks that protects our properties. Wake destroys biodiversity so necessary for healthy lakes and forests.

Wake also tears boats from their moorings, destroys rafts and water toys and shakes docks from their underpinnings. Large waves threaten swimmers and people in smaller and non-motorized craft such canoes and kayaks as they find themselves tipped into the water.

BOATER'S CODE

Respectful boating guidelines from Safe Quiet Lakes

1. I will never operate my boat beyond the level of my skills.
2. I will be aware of and obey all laws and regulations governing operation of my boat.
3. I will operate my boat with caution and courtesy to others at all times.
4. I will minimize my wake impact on shorelines, docks, structures and people.
5. I will always steer well clear of other boats, swimmers and wildlife.
6. I will set a speed and heading that is safe and comfortable for my passengers and others on the water.
7. I will provide safety instructions and offer appropriate life jackets or PFDs to everyone who travels in my boat.
8. I will carry all equipment necessary to operate my boat safely and within the law.
9. I will not consume drugs and alcohol in my boat or allow my boat to be operated by anyone who is impaired.
10. I understand that boating is a shared experience and I will not create excessive noise or operate my boat in a manner that disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others.

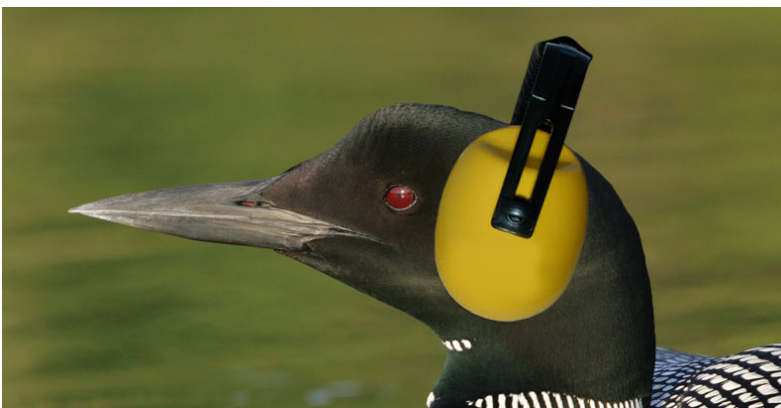
This is not to say that people should not enjoy the fun that these wake boards or surfing can provide. Here are some guidelines:

- ☐ Operate away from other boats,
- ☐ Stay at least 500 meters from shore,
- ☐ Keep the tow boat light – not overloaded with people,
- ☐ Drain water bladders before coming into shore.

If you would like educational materials, please contact Crystal at crystal@safequiet.ca

Go to <https://www.safequiet.ca/> or stay tuned for more updates from this important organization.

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





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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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WASTE DISPOSAL & TRANSFER STATIONS

-- Getting it Right --

FACT CHECK: ACCEPTED ITEMS

Which of the following items are accepted at the Healey Lake Transfer Station?

- ☐ household garbage
- ☐ blue box fibres and containers
- ☐ large household items e.g. furniture, appliances
- ☐ empty & expired 20 lb. propane tanks
- ☐ re-use items
- ☐ construction/demolition materials
- ☐ dock structures, dismantled and cut into manageable sized pieces
- ☐ scrap metal
- ☐ electronic waste
- ☐ single use batteries and cell phones
- ☐ clothing and textiles

Check your answers on the next page

SUMMER HOURS OF OPERATION

Victoria Day Weekend through Thanksgiving Weekend

- **Sunday** 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
- **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday** 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- **Wednesday** Closed
- **Holidays:** Victoria Day, Canada Day, Civic Holiday, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM

WASTE DISPOSAL CARDS

All users of the Township's waste disposal facilities must present a waste disposal card to the attendant. If you are a new owner of property in the Township and require a card, or if you need to replace a card that was misplaced or damaged, you may obtain one at the Township office or alternatively, you can submit a Service Request or contact the Township office at 705-746-4243 Ext. 338. A new waste card can be sent to you by regular mail or picked up at the Township office. Please note that the cards don't have an expiry date.



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On-Line Booking

Considering the current realities, physical distancing will be respected.

References Available Upon Request

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West Parry Sound Health Unit Donation

-- David Latter --

On October 1, 2020, the Healey Lake Property Owners made a \$5,000 donation to the West Parry Sound Health Centre. The funds were the equivalent to what the Association would normally have spent on the summer regatta which was unfortunately, cancelled due to COVID-19.

The Association sought input from the membership at large by sending out a survey in July 2020 asking for a vote on the proposed donation. Our members voted *overwhelmingly in favour* of using Association funds to support this important community resource that serves us all.

I would like to personally thank the Healey Lake Property Association members for their support in making this generous donation to the WPS Health Centre. The Health Centre is a valuable asset to our Healey Lake community and to the entire region.

Your input and support for the donation is very much appreciated by the HLPOA Executive and by the Hospital.

David Latter

President, HLPOA



TRANSFER STATION ANSWERS

If you fill all the boxes, you are correct! All items listed are accepted at the Healey Lake & Woods Bay Transfer Stations. Hours differ at Woods Bay. Visit thearchipelago.on.ca for details and other Township services.



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

GEORGIAN BAY BIOSPHERE

-- Contributed --

MNIDOO GAMII ... SPIRIT OF THE WATER

Designated by UNESCO in 2004, the Georgian Bay Biosphere is one of over 660 biosphere reserves throughout the world and one of 18 in Canada. The eastern coast of Georgian Bay is also known as the "30,000 Islands" and is considered the world's largest freshwater archipelago.

The Georgian Bay Biosphere covers 347,000 hectares of shoreline ecosystem stretching from the Severn River to the French River. It contains over 50 species of animals and plants that are at risk in Canada and Ontario. The Biosphere acknowledges the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and celebrates Indigenous languages within the GBB region.

The Georgian Bay Biosphere organization is a non-profit registered Canadian charity governed by a Board of Directors with administrative offices located in Parry Sound. GBB reports a banner year in their 2019/2020 report. Among these notable and exciting achievements are the following regional projects:

- Support for The Georgian Bay Anishinaabek Youth in building a *wiigwaas jiimaan (birch bark canoe build) in Parry Sound. The young people celebrated and shared their ancestral knowledge and teachings with hundreds of people of all ages. (Fall – 2019)
- An ambitious four-year biodiversity protection project: Using science-based management practices, the knowledge of indigenous people and threat reduction strategies, The Biosphere will work with partners to address over 40 species at risk.
- Coordination of the Integrated Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (ICECAP) project. This project is intended to contribute to area municipalities and First Nations in understanding greenhouse gas emissions, setting targets to reduce them, and implementing plans for action. The Township of the Archipelago is among those who signed on in joining this initiative.

For more details on the important work of the Georgian Bay Biosphere in providing leadership in profiling and sustaining this marvelous part of our world, visit www.gbbr.ca



WHAT PLANTS ARE SUITABLE FOR YOUR COTTAGE?

In preserving the health of Healey Lake, we know that we must not clear or defoliate our shorelines. But there are sometimes spots around the cottage where native plants would enhance the surroundings. Have you ever wondered what is suitable? Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), a member of the poppy family is just one of a long list of suggestions that you will find on the GBB web site.

Even better you can support the GBB when you purchase plants as part of a fundraiser. Order forms and all the details are available at Georgian Bay Biosphere Native Plant Fundraiser.

All orders will be available for pick-up in Parry Sound or Port Severn on June 12, 2021.

Go to <https://www.gbbr.ca/native-plant-fundraiser/>

Upcoming Free Webinars

Mark your calendar now!

- **Problem Plants: Invasive Phragmites & Japanese Knotweed (Webinar)**
May 26 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am
<https://www.gbbr.ca/event/problem-plants-invasive-phragmites-japanese-knotweed/>
- **Native Plant Fundraiser**
May 28 @ 5:00 pm
<https://www.gbbr.ca/event/native-plant-fundraiser/>
- **Septic System Health & You (Webinar)**
June 23 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am
<https://www.gbbr.ca/event/septic-system-health-you/>

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to register, and for more information: www.gbbr.ca/events



SO... WHAT ABOUT THOSE PHRAGMITES

First it is important to recognize that there is an invasive species and a native species of phragmites. The invasive species, a plant from Europe can grow to as high as 15 feet and create a dense wall that will overtake native growth. The invaded wetlands become mostly uninhabitable for many species including turtles. This invader, in addition to threatening biodiversity, damages property and interferes with recreational activities.



One organization that is on the offensive is Georgian Bay Forever (GBF), a registered Canadian charity that is looking out for the health of the Georgian Bay area. This organization in their 2020 report praises the work of 87 volunteers - work that has resulted in major progress managing and minimizing the invasive phragmite species.

Phragmites can be found in the ditches along the highway, in the rocky shoreline of Georgian Bay and also within the Archipelago – in the area of Wood's Bay.



REPORTED SITES

GBF is currently reporting 10 stands in coastal Woods Bay with 5 sites being monitored or in the eradication stage. Five other sites were controlled in 2020 and will likely be in the monitoring stage in 2021. GBF is urging continued mapping of the area to ensure the early detection and management of new invasive growth.

HOW TO HELP

You can help by learning to identify the invasive species, how to handle this invader and by reporting your sightings to georgianbayforever.org.

LEARN MORE

Another useful site in the fight against phragmites is invadingspecies.com

The complete 2020 report, "[Invasive Phragmites Eradication for the Health of our Wetlands](#)" can be accessed via the link above, or found on the Georgian Bay Forever website.

Note: The report on the Township of the Archipelago can be found on page 20

HISTORY CORNER

-- Contributed --

Healey Lake has had a few names over the years – some official, some less so!

1881 – Healeys Lake – the name was likely approved based on well-established map usage (Litho map of free grant districts by John Rogers and S. Penson)

1928 – Healey Lake was considered but rejected by the Geographic Board of Canada. The 's' was likely dropped during this submission because any use of the possessive form was avoided.

1951 – Healey Lake – the name was changed and approved by the Canadian Board on Geographical Names

1958 – Name was changed to Healy Lake – likely a typographical error

1965 – Name Healey Lake was reinstated by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical names

Oh yes and one more – the name Hedley Lake was used for this same feature on a **1939** map.

Source: The History of Healey Lake: Stories Collected by Hans Vos 2004. Ministry of Natural Resources letter, p.3

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



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

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SHARING HEALEY LAKE WISELY WITH ... THE GREAT BLUE HERON

-- Nancy Gilchrist --

As we look forward to returning to Healey Lake for another summer, it is always important to remember that we "share" this land with all the wildlife around us. It is always helpful to learn more about our furry or feathery neighbours and to always observe from afar.

SIGHTING THE GREAT BLUE HERON

I have chosen to write about the Great Blue Heron. You will see this majestic bird in different parts of our lake fishing in the swampy areas or flying high above the lake squawking loudly when disturbed. The Great Blue Heron can live around salt and freshwater environments. They inhabit sheltered, shallow bays and inlets, swamps, shores of lakes and rivers. They are blue gray in colour with a black stripe above each eye extending to the back of the neck as a plume. Their bill is long, large and yellowish and the legs are long and grayish with reddish thighs. They have a deep, raspy call that sounds like "frank" and you will hear it if you startle them. Other sounds that you may hear from the heron are a "goooo" call at the end of one of its courtship displays; an occasional "eee" call when flying and a series of "clucks" when they are foraging.

The Great Blue Heron is the largest heron in North America. It is between 1.3 metres and 1.4 metres tall and the biggest herons are taller than many Grade 3 students. The sexes are much alike in colour and plumage (unlike other birds); however, the males are slightly bigger than the female. Their wingspread can be as large as 1.8 metres and they weigh between 2 kilograms and 3.5 kilograms.

NESTING

During the breeding season their colour is more vibrant. Great Blue Herons nest together in colonies, otherwise known as a 'heronry' and are very sensitive to the effects of human disturbances. Their nesting sites are usually areas away from human activity. They often nest in the tops of trees, rock ledges and as well on the ground and are called "rookeries". Although Great Blue Herons are common and widespread, disturbance during a breeding season may lead to nest failure or colony abandonment. The female Great Blue Heron lays 3 to 7 eggs on a shallow platform made of sticks and twigs and lined with soft material that can be 1.2 meters in diameter. Both male and female will take turns incubating the eggs. Both parents will also regurgitate food for their young. The eggs hatch in about a month and the chicks will first start flying when they are about two months old although they will continue to return to the nest and are fed by the adults for another few weeks. They are not known to be very good housekeepers and their nests often end up cluttered with droppings, leftover food and even dead chicks. The heron pair bonds only last for the nesting season and adults will form new bonds each year. They usually nest in the same spot from year to year. They may even use the same nest year after year.

THE YOUNG BIRDS & THEIR FUTURE

About 70% of their young die in the first year of life. Herons that survive and live in the wild can survive about 15 years. The variable diet allows them to exploit a variety of habitats.

This adaptability also enables them to winter farther north than most herons. The heron can be seen throughout the southern and central regions of Ontario throughout most of the year and will sometimes winter in the most southern parts of our province. The Great Blue fishes both by day and night as they also have very good night vision. They are solitary or small group foragers. Their feeding habit is known as "stand and wait". They either stand motionless or walk slowly and fish. They eat fish, frogs, snakes, small mammals, land insects, other birds and some plants. When herons catch mice, they swallow them whole. They can digest the bones, but not the fur. That gets spit up in pellets, similar to the pellets that an owl would produce. If the bird catches a small fish, it will immediately swallow it; however, if the fish is too large it will take it to shore and kill it by beating it into the ground or jab it continuously with its sharp beak. Then it will pick it apart by biting off bits and pieces. Sometimes they have been known to choke to death on large fish.

IN FLIGHT

When they are in flight, they can fly between 30 and 46 kilometres per hour with slow wing beats. This bird in flight is often mistaken for a Crane however the neck of a Crane is extended straight out ahead of them as they fly and the heron in take off curves their neck backward into their shoulders, forming an S-shape, where it stays until they land.

PRESERVING THE GREAT BLUE HERON

Though not formally listed in the Species At Risk Act, protection of the Great Blue Heron habitat is critical to the survival of this majestic bird in Ontario. Adult Great Blue Herons have very few natural enemies but it is the mortality of their young that is high.

If you are aware of the birds nesting sites please watch from afar. These are beautiful birds and we want to continue to enjoy their beauty on Healey Lake for years to come.

Welcome to another season on Healey Lake. It is always a pleasure to observe all of the wildlife from afar.

Nancy



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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 --

LOON NESTING AREAS ... DO NOT DISTURB

Loons are trying to nest on Healey Lake and it's up to all of us to do our part to help ensure a safe season for them. You may or may not be aware but last year we did not have one chick migrate from our lake. A lake of our size should have at least 2 chicks migrating to be deemed a successful lake.

One new pair had two chicks, and lost both. Intruder loons and inexperience caused the chick losses. Two other experienced pairs, one at the south end and one at the north end of the lake, were not seen swimming with any chicks and it was suspected that predation or nest disturbance was the cause.

HEALEY LAKE LOON STEWARD

We each have a part to play.

As the Healey Lake Loon Steward working with Birds Studies Canada, I track Loon reproductive success by monitoring chick hatchings and survival. The more eyes watching, and the more reports I obtain, the better. I really rely on peoples' sightings to help guide me to nesting areas and nesting behaviours. If you see two loons swimming together in May, and then only one swimming in the same area alone for weeks, it is a sign that there is an active pair in the area. I would love to know this. If you are out kayaking in a quiet bay, and happen to see a loon sitting on a nest, please keep this very quiet and report this to me.

For the first time on our lake, we will have floating signage clearly marking the nesting areas. This initiative will help the success of our breeding loons if we all do our part to stay clear of the area until the signs are removed, indicating the loons are off their nests, and swimming happily with their young.



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As always, I really appreciate the loon sightings. Let's keep our fingers crossed for great success this season!

If you want to help monitor or help with any of the initiatives we put in place, please reach out.

CONTACT INFO

Please consider setting me up as a contact in your address book for easier communication

Missy Mandel

110 Fox Back Road.

Tel: 705 375-5071

Cell: 416 804-5667

missy@missymandel.ca

Missy Mandel

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"THE LAKE-ED CHEF"

-- Adapted for Lake Use by Ron Hutzul --

ROASTED ASPARAGUS WITH PARMESAN AND SOFT-BOILED EGGS

Cook Time: 30 minutes | Serves 4-6

This is an impressive way to prepare spring asparagus! Roasted perfectly until crisp-tender and served with a refreshing tarragon vinaigrette, soft-boiled eggs with freshly shaved Parmesan and a hunk good, crusty baguette.

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE MAIN

- ☐ 2 pounds spring asparagus, trimmed*
- ☐ 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
- ☐ 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ☐ Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- ☐ 4 soft boiled eggs, sliced or halved
- ☐ 1/2 cup shaved parmesan petals

FOR THE VINAIGRETTE

- ☐ 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ☐ 1 1/2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- ☐ 2 tablespoons small diced shallot
- ☐ 1 tablespoon coarse grain mustard
- ☐ 1 teaspoon granulated sugar
- ☐ 1 1/2 tablespoons chopped fresh tarragon
- ☐ Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat grill to med-high heat (or leverage a still hot grill while your grilled meat rests).
2. To make the vinaigrette, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, shallot, mustard and sugar in a small bowl. Once emulsified (mixture should be creamy); stir in tarragon and season with salt & pepper, to taste. Set aside.
3. Place asparagus into shallow dish, drizzle with olive oil, season with minced garlic and salt & pepper to taste.
4. Place on grill, turning and rotating asparagus front to back for 10-12 minutes, or until tender but still firm.
5. Transfer the asparagus to a serving platter and serve immediately, topped with eggs, parmesan and drizzled with vinaigrette.

PRO TIPS

- 1) Choose medium sized stalks – not too large, not too thin – to strike the perfect balance between firmness and flavour.
- 2) Store your asparagus standing in a bowl of fresh water and use it within 2-3 days max.
- 3) Trim your asparagus where a single stem snaps when gently bent – this natural breaking point indicates where the rest of the bunch should be trimmed.



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