

DOCK TALK

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-- DAVID LATTER --

SHIFTING INTO SPRING UPDATE

We finally had a winter that was suitable for prolonged recreational activity. The ice was strong enough and the snow deep enough from mid January to mid-March for snowmobiling on lakes and land. The snow cover was thin by historical standards but was perfect for skiing, snowshoeing and walking.

Greg Partchenko was kind enough to keep the trail on the big island open for travel after each snowfall and Adam Schell, a new owner on the lake, even groomed a lake and ATV trail which provided an outstanding surface for skiing.

The ice was at least 24 inches thick over most of the lake and builders took advantage of the opportunity to take lumber and other building materials to water access cottages by truck and trailer. We had our own version of the TV show, Ice Road Truckers for awhile.

Last fall we had a scene from 401 heavy rescue (TV show) at the end of my driveway. A dump truck overturned into the ditch just before Pine Bay. The road was blocked for over an hour as the truck was winched from the ditch. It took two big rescue tow trucks with 4 cables to inch the dump truck unto 4 wheels and then extract it from the ditch.

See photos right.

An exciting scene unless you were sitting in the cars and bus waiting to get home.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-- DAVID LATTER --

2022 LAKE EVENTS

We expect to be able to hold an in-person Annual General meeting on the Sunday of the May 24 long weekend this spring. Since it is an outdoor event, we also expect to be able to hold the regatta on the Saturday of the August long weekend as is the tradition.

THE BORDER IS OPEN

After a two-year absence, through no fault of their own, I would like to welcome back all our American and International neighbors. Some have had a 50 to 60 year tradition of spending at least some of the summer on the lake, broken by the Covid-19 inspired border closing.

We are glad to have you back. You are all part of the long history of the American summer migration to the Georgian Bay Muskoka area of Ontario.

You will see some changes on and around the lake. There are many rebuilds, Healey Lake Lodge is again a destination and there are a few more permanent residents.

DAM UPDATE

We have found a contact in the Ontario Ministry of the Environment engineering department who has acknowledged our request to start the process to get on the list of dams to be replaced. There has been no progress yet, but we have been promised, by August 2022, for an action plan for bringing the dam up modern standards.

Our Councillor, Dan MacLeod, is working through the township supervisors to help us make our case with other influencers. See Dan's report elsewhere in Dock Talk.

LAKE DIRECTORY

A new edition of the Lake Directory was mailed out in late March. If you did not receive a copy, please email Debbie Latter at debbie.latter@gmail.com and she will make sure you get your copy. It is a long, tedious job putting the directory together and we are indebted to Debbie for taking the initiative and completing the job.

SUPPORT LOCAL PROVIDERS

Including the two Marinas on the lake, we encourage all our members to support the local businesses. They strengthen the economy of the local area and contribute to the enjoyment of the lake by all cottagers.

GET IN TOUCH

If there are any ideas, issues or concerns that need the attention of the Executive, please email me at dlatte@bellnet.ca or call my cell at [+1 416 407-4965](tel:+14164074965).

David Latter

COTTAGE WATCH

I would like to thank Arnie Sperl and his team for completing the cottage watch program again this year. This is a valuable service to our members and provides at least one visit each winter to HLPOA members cottage to check for damage, break ins or other adverse events.

TRANSFER STATION SUMMER SEASON

Victoria Day Weekend through Thanksgiving Day

HEALEY LAKE TRANSFER STATION

(169 HEALEY LAKE RD)

- **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 and Thanksgiving Day 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM

WOODS BAY TRANSFER STATION

(718 HEALEY LAKE RD).

- **Sunday**, 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
- **Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday** 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- **Tuesday, Thursday** Closed
- **Holidays:** Victoria Day, Canada Day, Civic Holiday, Labour Day and Thanksgiving Day 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

During the Summer season, the Township also operates two water-access sites seasonally on Georgian Bay:

- **Devil's Elbow**
- **Sheep Head**

See Link below for additional information

SOUTH ARCHIPELAGO WASTE DISPOSAL PAGE

- <https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/south-archipelago---facilities-and-hours-of-operation>

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COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

-- DAN MACLEOD --

As a person who does not have a snowmobile, I have one comment, come on spring.

I have a few things on the go and wish to comment on:

VESSEL OPERATION RESTRICTION REGULATION

There will be a speed restriction sign posted on Healey Lake between Little Island and Big Island (across the main channel from the Kapikog Bay channel) posting a speed limit of 9 kph.

HEALEY LAKE DAM

In co-operation with the Healey Lake Cottagers Assoc., we have been collecting data and correspondence to present to the Township staff for discussion at the next available Council meeting. I will be requesting Council pass a resolution to direct Township staff to contact the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to discuss this issue further and relay the residents' concerns. I will report their findings as soon as they are become available.

FIREWOOD HARVESTING

As many of you are aware there has been logging across the road from the Healey Lake Transfer Station. It may look unkempt and not natural, however I have learned that the smaller branches do put nutrients back into the ground and the tree trunks do act as a sponge when it rains and will put water back into the forest floor during heat spells. If anyone wants to harvest these felled trees for personal use, you will require a salvage permit. Please contact me and I will email the rules and regulations for this permit.

BELL CANADA TOWER

Internet Connectivity remains a topic of interest for many residents and Council is active with various partners in understanding how our entire township will be covered.

We continue to see service expansion by our existing Internet Service Providers (ISPs) - Ward 6 -has Bell and Lakeside Wireless with various solutions. Bell has just recently circulated a proposal to erect a new tower (52m) between Healey and Kapikog Lakes (adjacent Penn Road) on Crown Land. The proposal has a number of steps to advance through before MNR could provide Bell a site to use. The proposal is to address cellular coverage but will also provide a fixed wireless internet service via the same infrastructure. If the project continues to advance it would not be until 2024 that the proposed tower is built.

STARLINK

News about Starlink continues to grow and the Beta test for the Starlink service is something that dozens of residents are trying. It remains an option for individuals in our township.

The Provincial government continues to work towards full broadband connectivity in Ontario by the end of 2025. They are committing nearly \$4 billion in funding-based opportunities for unserved and underserved communities. The Building Broadband Faster Act (2021) and Getting Ontario Connected Act (2022) coupled with the Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (\$4 billion funding) will produce some big news in the next month about what could be coming in the Archipelago and who will be doing it. The province just closed a big auction to fund internet service enhancement projects across the province and we are awaiting news.

The Township continues with a number of initiatives through its Connectivity Committee and our website page <https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/internet-connectivity> can be a source of news and updates. We strive to be a catalyst for new services. There are efforts associated with bringing much-needed bandwidth to our area and identifying markets that exist and needed service by many underserved residents and businesses.



GET IN TOUCH

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this subject matter, please contact me. You can reach out via email danmacleodward6@gmail.com or by phone at [+1 647-549-5474](tel:+16475495474).

Dan MacLeod

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IN MEMORIAM

-- CONTRIBUTED --

Wayne Reesor Thomas

March 5, 1947 - January 17, 2022

Passed away peacefully at Norfolk General Hospital, Simcoe on Monday, January 17th, 2022 in his 75th year. Wayne was the beloved husband of Elaine Thomas of Simcoe and a loving father and grandfather of four children and eight grandchildren: Mason Thomas of Dain City and his daughter Reese; Adam Thomas of Kitchener and his children Ivy and Farrah; Maggie Gale (Michael) and their children Willa, Winifred and Russell Wayne; and Daniel Cooper of Simcoe and his daughters Elliott and Navy. Wayne will be sadly missed by his two brothers: Mark Thomas (Laurie) of Florida, Greg Thomas (Liz) of Bequia and by all his nieces, nephews and extended family. Wayne left a lasting impression on everyone who crossed his path and will be deeply missed by countless friends and acquaintances. Everyone who knew Wayne will remember him as having a wonderful sense of humour, a generous spirit, always with a story to tell and some pearls of wisdom (Wayneisms) or advice to conquer any of life's puzzling challenges. He was an avid fisherman, golfer, woodworker and never turned down the opportunity to participate in a DIY project. Wayne was a dedicated teacher and held the position of Superintendent of schools for both the Norfolk and Grand Erie District School Boards. He also worked for the Ministry of Education in the Special Education Branch. A celebration of Wayne's life will be announced at a later date. Those wishing to donate in memory of Wayne are asked to consider Stix'n Pix or the Salvation Army - donations may be mailed to the Smith Funeral Chapel. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy for the Thomas family may be shared at www.smithfuneralchapel.com (519) 426-0199



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FOCA UPDATE

-- CONTRIBUTED --

BOAT NOISE LIMITS

The **Decibel Coalition** which is a national coalition that has been working since 2019 to address concerns over excessively loud boats. **Transport Canada** has now launched an online "Let's Talk" web portal on the topic, and is receiving public comments on the issue until May 13, 2022.

You are also encouraged to write your MP(s). Get background, a link to the web portal, talking points for your response, and a link to generate a draft letter to your MP, here: <https://foca.on.ca/boating-overview/>



THE DECIBEL COALITION

Working to create boating decibel limits

WALL 2 WALL PAINTING & SERVICES

It has been my pleasure serving you over the years and as the summer of 2022 approaches, I would like to say **Thank You** for your continued and ongoing support. I've enjoyed meeting many wonderful new people on the lake and reconnecting with my past clients.

Your support & loyalty has been overwhelming and I am excited to be 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 are interested in booking at the **2022 Spring Pre-Booking Special Rate**, 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

info@wall2wallpainting.ca

Wall-2-Wall Painting

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FOCA UPDATE

-- CONTRIBUTED --

FOREST FIRE UPDATES

Ontario's forest fire season began April 1. Although there may still be snow in some areas of the province, Ontario's Outdoor Burning Regulations are now in effect until October 31. **Last year's fire season saw nearly twice as many fires as 2020.** We hope this year will be less damaging. Learn the rules of outdoor burning and pay close attention to local Fire Bans.

Also: help those who are new to cottage country learn the ropes, for the good of all our communities.

Get important links and tips worth sharing, here: <https://foca.on.ca/fire-safety-overview/>

1198

fires in 2021

607

fires in 2020

838

10-year average

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LAKE STEWARDSHIP

-- DOUG THOMPSON --

LAKE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We are planning to start a new committee, this year. We would like to identify and help manage events that impact the environment around Healey Lake and the cottagers' enjoyment of the lake experience.

We are looking for volunteers from around the lake to monitor the boat launches and sensitive areas to help clean up garbage and monitor for anything that may negatively impact water quality or the surrounding forest.

The objective is to monitor the lake environment in a more orderly fashion to try to head off problems before they become serious.

There will be more details provided at the May AGM, but in the meantime if you are interested in learning more or possibly considering volunteering for the committee, please contact Doug Thompson: douglas.john186681@gmail.com.

YOUR COTTAGE HELPER



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On-Line Booking

Considering the current realities, physical distancing will be respected.

References Available Upon Request



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The Red Squirrel

-- NANCY GILCHRIST --

After a long cold winter, I am sure we're all happy to be returning to Healey Lake for another glorious summer! While a lot of us spent this last long cold winter yet again in hibernation, unlike us, the red squirrel keeps busy throughout the winter as they have an abundant source of food all year round.

Red squirrels are about half the size of a grey squirrel and weigh about 5 to 11oz and from nose to tail they measure 25 to 28 cm. Both sexes look alike but in winter their coats lose some of their colour. In summer they are rusty red on top and a grey white on their lower half and have a prominent black stripe along each side. The tail is a red colour on top and yellow grey on the underside. In the winter months the fur becomes much paler and their prominent black stripes disappear.

The female usually begins to reproduce at the age of 1 and can have up to two litters a year. They usually breed in late February/early March and again in July or July. Their nest consists of leaves and are perched on branches close to the trunks of trees or in the cavities of trees. Their principal habitat is the coniferous forest however they also can be found in deciduous forests. After this mating occurs the males are very hostile to one another. There is a gestation period of about 40 days, the young (up to 7 in a litter called kittens) are born blind and naked for the first 27 days and shortly after this they begin to venture away from the nest. The females do not allow the male near their litter once they are born and shortly after they gain their vision, and their fur begins to grow they leave the nest are weaned and then need to forage for food. The red squirrel's food sources are seeds of pine and spruce, nuts, mushrooms, mice, sap, young birds, birds' eggs and a variety of berries. They tend to maintain their habitual feeding spots. In late summer or fall the young leave their "family" nest.

The red squirrel is very active during the day as well as bright moonlit nights. You have most likely heard their "chatter" but they will also "cluck" or "grunt" and can call out warnings to maintain their territory. They are solitary creatures other than during breeding season and will fight to defend their "territory". Their "home range" is usually only 180 m in diameter but they can "protect" an area of approx. 1 to 8 acres. They are agile and can jump about 1.5 m and are also very good swimmers.

The red squirrel is on the "critically endangered" list. They face extinction due to habitat loss, natural predators (birds of prey, foxes, coyotes and fishers) and also illegal hunting so the population of these creatures continues to diminish. Our Ontario government has put conservation efforts into changing the status of these species. However, despite this you can legally trap red squirrels with a trapper's license. Red squirrels are not available to "small-game" hunters as they are listed in Ontario as "furbearer".

They are legally protected, and it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or capture a red squirrel or damage any structures they use for shelters.

There are other threats that cause the red squirrel to have reduced numbers. When the American grey squirrels were introduced into their habitat the grey squirrel carries a "pox" virus which is deadly for them and infects only them.

It is essential that we protect the red squirrel population. Even though they are pesky, stealing many things and causing havoc on your properties, if eliminated there are environmental repercussions. Red squirrels help with the spread of seeds that help to replenish trees and plants. A lot of their winter stores that we see them gathering during the fall when they are scurrying all over the forest ends up replenishing our forests.

There is an old Iroquois folktale that says the Iroquois observed a red squirrel cutting into the bark of a maple tree with its' teeth and later returning to lick the sap. An Iroquois youth after observing this behaviour, decided to use his knife to cut into the bark, discovering the Maple tree's sweet secret.

It is true that red squirrels use their chisel-like teeth to make grooves in the bark of a maple tree. After they make these grooves, they leave the tree and return 24 hours later to lick the sap that remains on the tree.

Other fun facts about our red squirrels:

- 1) They can eat mushroom species that are deadly for us
- 2) They can smell their nut stores even under 4m of snow
- 3) When threatened they make alarm calls to warn other squirrels which vary depending on the predator.
- 4) The female only breeds for one day so when she is ready several males will chase her for a chance to mate.
- 5) Before they store mushrooms, red squirrels have been known to lay them out to dry on tree branches.
- 6) The red squirrel has a big bushy tail for a reason; when it's not being flicked around to intimidate a rival, it's used for balance as the animal jumps from tree to tree.
- 7) Squirrels' front teeth never stop growing!
- 8) Squirrels are known for remembering humans, especially those that give them food or refill their feeder. They tend to have very good memories.
- 9) They are usually very aggressive to one another only to protect their food source. It is usually the adult males who can be extremely aggressive and will win the "battle" defending their territory.

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Manitou



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GYPSY MOTH UPDATE

-- MISSY MANDEL --

Technically named the *Lymantria Dispar Dispar* (LDD) moth, they are more commonly referred to as gypsy moth.

LDD moth damage in 2021 in the Parry Sound district showed moderate to severe defoliation. The ministry is predicting a light to moderate defoliation our area for 2022. The insect's preferred hosts are oak, sugar maple, beech and poplar. Natural predators and pathogens such as virus and fungus are reasons the LDD moth outbreak is collapsing.

Help reduce defoliation of your trees by including egg mass removal in your spring yard clean up efforts. Scour your trees, fence posts, outdoor furniture, buildings, and other hiding places for egg masses. They are fuzzy, tan-coloured clumps are mostly found on the bark of trees. In order to kill the larvae, scrape the sacks into soapy water to soak, and discard in the trash, or burn them. Simply scraping them off will not kill the pests, and they will emerge from the eggs on the ground.

Soon you will start to see the tiny dark caterpillars emerge and begin to feed on new foliage. As they grow they change in appearance over the span of one to two months. By the fourth moult, the pairs of characteristic blue and red dots are visible on their back. At this stage, there is little that can be done as you well remember from last season.



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TRAILER STORAGE

-- UPDATE --

RESERVED USE

Please note the trailer storage area by the Marinas is reserved for members of the HLPOA and those renting from Association members.

IDENTIFICATION TAGS

All trailers must have a tag with the name of the owner, home address, phone number and email address. Trailers that do not have identification by June 1, will be removed from the lot.

If your trailer has the yellow tag from the Association that was attached in 2021, we will be able to identify the owner.

The trailer lot is leased from the Township and is managed and maintained by the HLPOA.

All trailers will be issued a yellow tag if one is not already attached.

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,

Specialty Tree Removals
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Tree Preservation
Cabling and Bracing
Split Aged Firewood

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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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!

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

FOCA UPDATE

-- CONTRIBUTED --

COTTAGE FIRE SAFETY

As many seasonal residents return to their cottages this spring, it's important to consider your plans in the event of a fire as well as your personal fire preparedness.

The Ontario Fire Marshal offers a couple of friendly reminders for everyone: if you didn't check the expiration dates and change the batteries in all smoke (and carbon monoxide) detectors when we changed to Daylight Savings Time, NOW IS THE TIME! Also, check that your fire extinguishers are not expired and ready for action.

Make these checks an essential part of your annual cottage opening routine.

Don't Forget!



Test your smoke alarms **once a month** and **change the batteries** at least **once a year**.



ontario.ca/firemarshal



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BOAT MAINTENANCE TIPS

-- CONTRIBUTED --

6 BOAT MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR SPRING

Boat washed? Check. Safety gear stowed? Check. Spring boat maintenance is usually straightforward, but here are a half-dozen tasks that handy DIYers can do now to prevent ka-ching! later.

1. With your outboard running, check for the tiny "telltale" stream of water coming from the engine-cooling outlet.
2. Inspect the outboard's impeller; replace if worn or damaged.
3. Change the engine oil and filter (if you didn't last fall).
4. Change the water-separating fuel filter, if you have one, or consider installing one.
5. Tighten deck hardware like cleats and railings.
6. Gently wash your canvas top with a mild soap or a specialty marine cleaner (away from the water, of course).

Bonus Tip: Check to see if there's a need to repair or replace a damaged propeller.

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THE LAKED CHEF

-- RON HUTZUL --

SKILLET CHICKEN TETRAZZINI

Prep Time: 5 Minutes | Cook Time: 30 minutes | Serves 4-6

This is a light but satisfying meal that comes together easily and provides a good lift after your list of chores for opening!

INGREDIENTS

- ☐ 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ☐ 12 ounces cremini mushrooms sliced 1/3 inch thick
- ☐ 2 teaspoons salt divided
- ☐ 2 shallots chopped
- ☐ 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- ☐ 1 cup dry white wine
- ☐ 2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
- ☐ 1 tablespoon flour
- ☐ 1 1/2 cups heavy cream at room temperature
- ☐ 1 pound linguine pasta
- ☐ 1 1/2 cups freshly grated parmesan cheese plus more for serving
- ☐ 1 cup frozen peas thawed

DIRECTIONS

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high heat. Add the pasta and cook for 2 minutes LESS than the package directions, about 9 minutes. Drain well reserving 2 cups of pasta water.
2. Heat a large skillet over med-high heat. Add the olive oil, mushrooms and 1/2 teaspoon salt to the pan and cook, stirring occasionally with a wooden spoon until the mushrooms are golden brown, about 8 to 10 minutes.
3. Add the shallots and cook an additional 2 minutes to soften. Crumble in the dried thyme and deglaze with the white wine. Cook stirring often until almost evaporated, about 4 minutes.
4. Sprinkle the flour over the mixture and stir with a wooden spoon to create a paste. Cook for 1 minute stirring often.
5. Whisk in the cream and remaining 1 1/2 teaspoons salt and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium and simmer for 5 minutes.
6. Stir in the chicken and 3/4 cup of reserved pasta water.
7. Add the pasta to the sauce and top the bare pasta with the parmesan cheese. Toss well to coat adding more pasta water as need to maintain the saucy consistency.
8. Stir in the peas to warm through. Serve topped with more parmesan cheese if desired.

I like to serve this with slices of fresh baguette – and a lemony green salad as this dish embodies spring.



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