



# Pike Lake Post

Summer 2012

OUR NEW LOGO!



*Let's Celebrate Pike Lake!*

## **BOATILLA & BBQ**

**SATURDAY JUNE 30, 11 – 2**

*Meet at the "Westport" end of Pike Lake near  
Donna Moodie's / Road 13*

*Boatilla starts when the bugle sounds at 11 am*

*Canoe, kayak, or slowly motor down Pike Lake  
gathering others along the way*

*Arrive at 101 Country Lane for a BBQ  
- The PLCA is providing the food -*

*Plus*

- ✓ *Face painting*
- ✓ *Pike Lake tee-shirts for sale*
- ✓ *Prize for the best decorated boat*



*Cost: \$5 per person; children under 12 free*

***Hope to see you & your guests there!***

*If the weather is foul, the Boatilla will take place  
on Sunday July 1*

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY JULY 14, 9 – 11:30**

The Old Burgess Township Hall

Narrows Locks Road

2 km south of County Rd. 10 (Scotch Line)

*Learn about current status of:*

- ✓ Ticks & Lyme disease from Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health, Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit
- ✓ Mandatory septic inspections by-law from Reeve Keith Kerr
- ✓ Water Quality from Sarah Macleod, RVCA, & Adrienne Fowlie-Larocque, Pike Lake Steward

*Elect your Board Members for 2012-2014*

Sale: Pike Lake tee-shirts \$15  
Voices of Pike Lake \$30

***Consider getting involved!***

CHECK OUT THE PLCA AT

[www.pikelakeassociation.ca](http://www.pikelakeassociation.ca)

*See photos of our 2011 Let's Celebrate event on pages 10-11*

# NEWS FROM YOUR PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## 2011 - 2012 ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Members voted unanimously in favour of mandatory septic inspections on Pike Lake at the 2011 AGM
- ✓ Number of people took advantage of the RVCA Shoreline Naturalization Program
- ✓ Water quality testing & analysis undertaken through RVCA's Watershed Watch Program
- ✓ Applied for an MNR grant for walleye spawning beds
- ✓ Created a new logo
- ✓ 250-300 people attended our 2011 "Let's Celebrate Pike Lake" Book Launch event
- ✓ Published *Voices of Pike Lake* with a net profit of \$5,825
- ✓ Lake stewardship signs approved by MNR & Transport Canada
  - New sign at the boat launch
  - Tent symbol on the big island where camping is permitted; no camping signs for islands MNR advises are too small for healthy camping
  - Slow signs in area of John Collins' cottage on Route 16C (paid for by John)
- ✓ Re-usable signs for the
  - Annual General Meeting
  - *Let's Celebrate Pike Lake* event
- ✓ Updated Constitution approved at the 2011 AGM

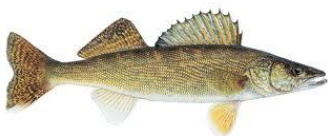
## PLCA APPLIED FOR A \$4,000 GRANT FROM MNR

The PLCA applied for a \$4,000 grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) Community Fisheries & Wildlife Involvement Program to rehabilitate existing walleye spawning beds on Pike Lake. This grant, together with donations from the PLCA & individuals, is expected to cover the cost of the clean river rock required.

Dave Moodie, Barry McParland, Glen Bond, John Anderson, Robert Jones & Eric Mingelinckx are some of the Pike Lakers who offered to do the "heavy lifting". Next winter – if we get the grant - they will put the rock out on the ice at the appropriate locations. Come spring, when the ice goes out, the rock will fall to the lake bottom.

The research shows that by enlarging / supplementing the beds where the walleye normally spawn the females tend to lay more eggs & proportionately more fish survive.

Those who would like to help with the work or make a donation are encouraged to contact Terry Kimmel at [terrykimmel@sympatico.ca](mailto:terrykimmel@sympatico.ca) or 613-295-7283. Thanks to Barry McParland for suggesting this project.



## CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION FOR 2012 - 2014

*Nominations at the AGM welcome!*

**Past President** Kay Rogers, Rte 11

**President** Terry Kimmel, Rte 9

**Vice-President** Naomi Fowlie, Rte 17A

**Secretary** Sandy Campbell, Rte 16

**Treasurer** Anne Ruggles, Rte 16

**Membership** John Anderson, Rte 1

**Lake Steward** Adrienne Fowlie-Larocque, Rte 17A

**Communications** Denny Poley, Rte 16C

**At large** John Duguid, Country Lane

**At large** Gord McCallum, Grant's Creek

**At large** Bill Sibbet, Rte 17A

## THANK YOU!

The PLCA wishes to extend its deep appreciation to Mandy Bjerkland, Treasurer, Audrey Cook, Member at Large, & Orest Roscoe, Membership, for their many years of service to Pike Lake & the Pike Lake community.

Big thank you to Aili Kurtis for designing our new logo, our signs, our letterhead & our fridge magnets.

Thanks to

- ✓ Jeff Hochstadter for selling the Pike Lake mugs, tee-shirts & fridge magnets to the PLCA at cost
- ✓ Pat Shore for taking the RVCA staff out to do water sampling
- ✓ Aili Kurtis, Gord McCallum, Nick Mulder, & Bart Poulter for helping deliver the *Pike Lake Post*.
- ✓ All who helped at our 2011 *Let's Celebrate Pike Lake* event
- ✓ RVCA & Tay Valley Township for their ongoing support
- ✓ MNR for the \$100 towards the cost of the sign at the boat launch
- ✓ Kristine Martin & Cathy Cameron for their input on the sign at the boat launch & the *Post*

**WEBSITE & FINANCIAL REVIEW HELPERS NEEDED**

Please contact Kay Rogers at 613-326-0363 or  
cameronrogers@xplornet.ca

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2011**

**Opening Balance Jan. 1, 2011** **9,141.58**

<b>Income</b>	1,700.00
Memberships	14,823.20
Book Sales	2,080.00
Mug sales	150.00
Tee-Shirt Sales	317.00
Commissions	700.60
Friends of the Tay Watershed	100.00
Ministry of Natural Resources	140.00
Donations	<u>18.04</u>
Bank Interest	<b>20,028.84</b>

20,028.84  
**29,170.42**

<b>Expenses</b>	11,660.37
Book Publishing	608.96
<i>Let's Celebrate</i> Book Launch	581.41
Pike Lake Post, Constitution etc.	700.60
Lake Stewardship Handbook	197.87
AGM: printing & refreshments	870.58
Mugs	223.54
Tee-shirts	356.25
FOCA	100.00
Donation to the Fire Department	34.78
Cheques & Bank Charges	20.00
Postage	<u>40.00</u>
Returned Cheque	<b>15,394.56</b>

15,394.56  
**13,775.86**  
**13,535.86**

**Book Balance**  
**Bank Balance**  
Discrepancy  
Review found all but \$25 (book?)

**Closing Balance Dec. 31, 2011** **13,535.86**

**PIKE LAKE TEE-SHIRTS \$15**



Colour choice:  
sapphire blue  
or white

Tee-shirts for  
men, women  
& children

Variety of  
sizes

Pre-shrunk  
100% cotton

**OUR NEW LOGO!**

The PLCA dates back to the early 1960's. Not surprisingly, it has gone through a variety of changes since then. Established initially to get the dam rebuilt at the outlet of the lake, members have made decisions about issues & held community socials over the years.

About a decade ago, people became concerned about the health of the lake. Hence, the Association's energy went into lake stewardship. During this process, the name changed from the Pike Lake Property Owners Association to the Pike Lake Community Association. The new name proudly reflects the fact that people – old-timers, cottagers & visitors alike – consider Pike Lake “their lake”.

As we enter a new chapter in our history where we focus on both keeping Pike Lake healthy & strengthening our sense of community, it is fitting that we have a new logo that reflects who we are: *Pike Lakers*.



# Pike Lake Crown Land Access Point

Let's keep Pike Lake healthy for all!



Pike Lake Community Association

## PROTECT



Zebra Mussels are NOT in Pike Lake  
Let's keep it that way!

- Empty bait bucket on land, NEVER in the lake
- Drain all water from boat on land, FAR from the lake

## RESPECT



CAMPING permitted only on the large island with the tent symbol  
GPS 44 47'6" N  
76 20'12" W

Kindly bring

- Luggable loo for human waste
- Garbage bag to pack out trash
- Biodegradable soap
- Camp stove

Fires

- Bring local firewood
- Do NOT cut trees
- Soak all fires before leaving

## SHARE



Share our lake with other people and wildlife

- View waterfowl from a distance, give them space to breed and raise their young
- Slow your boat when near land
- Watch for swimmers

NEW SIGN AT THE BOAT LAUNCH

MNR advises that other islands are too small for healthy camping especially “potty practices”

# STATUS REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE PIKE LAKE WATERSHED

The PLCA works with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in monitoring the health of Pike Lake. The 2010 *Report on the State of Pike Lake & Its Watershed* is a foundation document that led to the development of *Our Lake Stewardship Handbook* (copies available on-line & from the PLCA).

In assessing the health of any watershed, scientists examine a number of factors including water quality, forest cover, wetlands, & shoreline cover. The following provides a snapshot of the health of the Pike Lake Watershed in 2011.

## **Water Quality**

Five water quality characteristics have been used to develop a rating of lake water quality. These include:

- Nutrients (total phosphorous & total Keldahl nitrogen) as indicators of excessive nutrient loading which may result in abundant vegetation growth & depleted oxygen
- Dissolved oxygen as an indicator of suitable fish habitat
- pH as an indicator of change from a water body's natural state
- Secchi depth as an indicator of water clarity

Water quality ratings are based on a number of parameters collected over a six year period from 2005-2010. The ratings have been developed using the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Water Quality Index. The index score is based on three tests: the number of parameters at each site that exceed water quality guidelines, the number of times that a parameter exceeds a guideline & the amount by which a parameter exceeds a guideline.

Using this index, Pike Lake received a score of Good.

RVCA's Watershed Watch Program also tests for

- bacteria (*E.Coli*)
- invasive species (zebra mussels, spiny water flea)
- calcium
- benthic invertebrates (the bugs on the bottom)

The moderate nutrient levels & high Secchi readings place Pike Lake in the mesotrophic lake category. This translates to a clear lake which has an increasing chance of depleted oxygen in the deep waters that may limit some fish populations. Abundant aquatic vegetation (macrophytes) may occur but the lake should generally have good aesthetics for recreational use.

Pike Lake is also unique in its water quality as it is one of fewer & fewer water bodies that do not have established zebra mussel populations.

*Care should be taken by property owners & recreational users to ensure that this status is preserved & steps should be taken to enhance the health of the lake.*

## **Forest Cover**

Forests are important parts of a healthy watershed. Runoff from forested land is significantly less in volume & peak flow than runoff from a cleared area. Forests provide habitat for many plants & animals. They also clean the air & reduce erosion along shoreline zones.

Experts believe a minimum forest cover of 30% is needed to sustain the natural diversity of plants & animals in a watershed. Pike Lake's forest cover is a healthy 55.5%.

## **Wetlands**

Wetlands are nature's flood control & water supply reservoirs. Wetlands provide habitat for many common & rare plants & animals as well as recreational opportunities. Wetlands are becoming increasingly valued for the ecological goods & services they provide such as water supply, water regulation, water cleansing, & climate regulation.

Wetlands make up a large part of the overall area of the Tay River Watershed of which Pike Lake is a part. The wetland cover for Pike Lake is 16% which is the average level for the Tay Watershed.

## **Natural Shoreline Zone**

The riparian or shoreline zone is that special area where the land meets the water. Well vegetated shorelines are critically important in protecting water quality & creating healthy aquatic habitats. Well established buffers protect the banks against erosion, improve habitat for fish by shading & cooling the water & provide protection for birds & other wildlife that feed & rear their young near water.

A recommended target is a 30 metre wide riparian buffer on at least 75% of the shoreline's length. Pike Lake scores well with 89.8% riparian cover. *However, closer examination reveals pockets that would benefit from shoreline naturalization.*

*Source: RVCA*

## *LAKE STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS*

### **MANDATORY SEPTIC INSPECTIONS BY-LAW**

On March 13, 2012, Tay Valley Township enacted a by-law establishing a program of mandatory sewage system maintenance inspection on seven lakes in the Township & maintaining the voluntary system on all other waterfront properties.

This by-law recognizes that “malfunctioning on-site sewage systems can have significant negative impacts on both human health & the environment beyond the property on which it is located. Nutrient & bacteria-rich effluent can travel through soil & rock fractures to surface water bodies & ground water sources. Contamination of surface water can cause excessive aquatic plant growth, depletion of oxygen in lakes, & impact the natural habitat for aquatic species. Ground water contamination can cause illness & even death. This makes it crucial that property owners be aware of the location & operation of their septic system. Under the Ontario Building Code it is the property owner’s responsibility to ensure that their sewage system is working properly, not only for their health, but also that of the surrounding community & environment.”

*Source: Tay Valley Township Re-Inspection Program*

The voluntary inspection program, which began on Christie Lake in 2000, has expanded to include all waterfront properties in Tay Valley Township. Since then, some 1,500 properties have been inspected. In general, over 50% of systems are satisfactory, many need to be pumped, a number need to modest repairs, & a few need to be replaced. And, a number of property owners have declined to have their system inspected. Neighbouring townships also have a voluntary inspection program. Drummond North Elmsley has instituted a mandatory system on Otty Lake which is in both DNE & Tay Valley townships.

The mandatory system currently applies to the following lakes, at their request: Adam, Bennett, Bob’s, Farren, Long, Otty, & Pike. In the case of Pike Lake, a motion was passed at our 2011 AGM which noted that there have been instances when unacceptable counts of *E. Coli* have been found in Pike Lake & in the well water of property owners. It will take four years (2012-2015) to complete approximately 340 mandatory inspections on the seven lakes.



## *Be Septic Savvy*

### *A free Workshop*

**Saturday August 18  
8:30 am - noon  
Perth Lions Hall**



*Learn how your septic system works & how to avoid costly repairs*

*See displays of alternative septic systems*

*Learn about voluntary & mandatory septic inspections*

Presentations:

- ✓ **Why we care & what’s being done: a provincial perspective**
- ✓ **What we’ve done & what we’ve learned: a local perspective**
- ✓ **One township’s perspective**
- ✓ **Walk through a septic inspection with a septic inspector**
- ✓ **If I need a new septic system, what are my options?**

**Sponsored by:** Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Otty Lake Association, Pike Lake Community Association, & Tay Valley Township with organizational support from the Lake Networking Group

## LAKE STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS



### NATURALIZED SHORELINES

#### What is a Buffer Zone?

The buffer zone is an area of natural vegetation, fallen trees, washed up logs, & rocks that run along the length of your shoreline. Over the years, many of us have cleared these areas for views to “clean up” the shoreline.

When a shoreline is cleared of native vegetation, it becomes prone to erosion & runoff. The result is degraded fish habitat, poor water quality & increased growth of algae & aquatic weeds.

Native vegetation has deeper roots than lawn grass. Soils are stabilized & plants begin to intercept contaminants migrating toward the lake below the surface & on the ground.

As the natural area becomes more diverse it will begin to attract more birds, butterflies & mammals. The shoreline & the lake will come back to life.

Managing a natural shoreline will improve water quality, wildlife habitat & fish stocks. By protecting the lake you are also protecting your property value.

Generally, when planning your shoreline, a good rule of thumb is to provide 25% for access to the water & leave 75% or more for nature.

#### How Do I Naturalize My Shoreline?

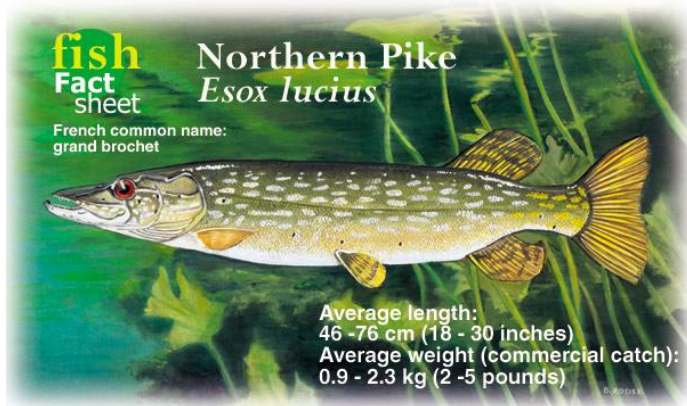
1. Stop mowing this area, allowing natural grasses to grow.
2. Remove invasive (non-native) species in the natural area zone (purple loosestrife, queen anne’s lace, white sweet clover, etc.) to prevent these species from out-competing desirable natives.
3. Plant native shoreline shrubs. Willows, dogwoods, sweet gale, service berries will help stabilize the soils & speed up the process of naturalization. And, they won’t block the view!

#### Plants & Shrubs at Cost

Contact Andrea Klymko, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, at 613-692-3571 or [andreaklymko@rvca.ca](mailto:andreaklymko@rvca.ca) to set up a no-obligation site visit.

Source: RVCA

### NORTHERN PIKE



#### What do they look like?

They can be identified by their single dorsal fin & light-colored spots along their dark body. They are also recognized by scales that cover their entire cheek & the upper half of their gill covers. The sides of northern pike vary from dark shades of green to olive green to brown, with 7 to 9 rows of yellowish, bean-shaped spots. The underside is white to cream-colored.

#### Where in the world do they live?

Northern pike are native to North America & Eurasia. In Canada, they are found in rivers & lakes throughout Quebec, Ontario, the Prairie Provinces, the northeast corner of British Columbia, in the Yukon, Nunavut & Northwest Territories.

#### What kind of habitat do they need?

Northern pike are found in almost every type of freshwater, from cold deep lakes, to warm shallow ponds, to muddy rivers. Because they have a broad range of tolerances for water temperature, clarity & oxygen content they are an especially adaptable species of freshwater fish.

#### How do they reproduce?

Northern pike are considered random spawners not nest builders. Spawning occurs in the shallows when the water temperature reaches 4-7 degrees Celsius (40-45 degrees Fahrenheit). Spawning lasts for 5 to 10 days after which the female leaves. Males remain in the spawning area for several weeks, but do not protect the eggs. At this stage the eggs are vulnerable to predators. The eggs that do survive hatch in about 2 weeks. With their insatiable eating habits young northern pike grow rapidly in both length & weight.

Males become sexually mature at 2-3 years-old & females at 3-4 years-old.

#### How long do they live?

Northern pike can live for 20 years.

#### How do they behave?

Northern pike are aggressive, solitary fish. They are typically lurkers, but are able to attack quickly. Their eyes are highly movable & are able to see in practically any direction. This is extremely important in tracking their prey. They are considered "sprint predators" & usually hide in some type of cover, cocked in an "S" position & ready to strike.



#### What do they eat?

Northern pike are carnivorous fish. Because they are equipped with sharp teeth & very complex skull & jaw structures, they are able to feed on smaller fish, frogs, crayfish, small mammals, & birds.

#### Economic Importance

In most areas of Canada, the northern pike is both a commercial fish & a sport fish. Anglers enjoy pike as they are aggressive fighters. The northern pike is an excellent food fish, which is marketed fresh & frozen.

Source: *Biokids* [www.biokids.umich.edu/critters](http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters) & *Fisheries & Oceans Canada website*

#### How PIKE LAKE GOT ITS NAME

Captain Reuben Sherwood was responsible for surveying much of the townships adjoining Perth. He surveyed this area in March 1812 & gave our lake the name Pike Lake because of the abundance of northern pike in the lake.

While today's anglers tend to fish for small-& bi-mouth bass & walleye (or pickerel as our American Pike Lakers would say), there are still northern pike in the lake along with a number of other fish species.

## *YOUR SUBMISSIONS*

### COONS AT THE COTTAGE

*Everett Hepton &  
his great granddaughter Sarah*

When the sun goes down,  
And the lights go out.  
The kids go to bed  
And the Coons come out.

Dave wakes up say's:  
"Sara I need your help  
Open the door  
And kick those Coons out!"

The Coons said "No,  
We want to stay.  
Wake up the kids,  
It's time to play!"

Dave picked up a stick  
Said "It's time for bed.  
If you don't leave now,  
I'll bonk you on the head!"

The coons were stubborn,  
and said "We want to stay!"  
The Jones family survived  
To see the next day!



### PIKE LAKE PHOTOS

*Pam Stewart*



### SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!

The PLCA invites Pike Lakers to submit tall tales, photos, poems, & stories for the 2013 *Pike Lake Post*. Contact a Board Member or e-mail [info@pikelake.ca](mailto:info@pikelake.ca)



### PIKE LAKER DONATED PRIZE TO GLEN TAY SCHOOL



Dale Poulter, a retired Ottawa teacher, donated the \$5,000 worth of school supplies she won in a national contest sponsored by Sharpie pens & markers to Glen Tay Public School last December.

Dale explained that participants in the online contest were asked to provide the name of the school they would like to see receive the \$5,000 worth of supplies. Although unknown to the staff & students at Glen Tay, Dale chose the school because it was close to Pike Lake where she & her husband Bart have a summer cottage. Poulter, who also won some prizes in the contest, called Glen Tay principal Eric Hardie to tell him the good news.

Students learned of the gift at a regular monthly Kiwanis Club Terrific Kids assembly in December when Dale presented the prize. "The timing was perfect," said Hardie. "Our Terrific Kids Assembly was about the trait of empathy. The Grade 2 students made a presentation about random acts of kindness, & this was the perfect example. Mrs. Poulter was Glen Tay's Santa Claus this year."

"I'm just a regular person who happened to have good luck," said Poulter. *Source: Perth Courier & EMC Dec. 29, 2011*

### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD WINNERS

The new slate of conservation champions were honoured at the 2011 Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala on April 18, 2012.

Kudos to Tay Valley Township, winner in the municipal category, & to Friends of the Tay Watershed, winner in the community category!

The annual conservation awards celebration by the Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley & South Nation River Conservation Authorities is designed to recognize outstanding voluntary contributions to conservation & environmental health in the three watersheds.



"Get Fresh" with a  
Lanark County Farmer!

**Lanark Local Flavour** works to link local farmers to local eaters, expand capacity & access to sustainably produced food, inform the public about food issues, & to celebrate the people who grow our food.

#### Check out the Perth Farmers' Market

- Tay Basin, between Drummond & Gore Streets
- ✓ Saturdays, 8 - 1, Mother's Day to Thanksgiving
  - ✓ Wednesday afternoons, July & August

For more information, visit  
[www.lanarklocalflavour.ca](http://www.lanarklocalflavour.ca)

#### Check out the Swallowtail Farm Store

2610 Scotch Line, just east of the Glen Tay Rd.  
613-264-0809 [swallowtailfarm@storm.ca](mailto:swallowtailfarm@storm.ca)  
[www.swallowtailfarm.ca](http://www.swallowtailfarm.ca)

- ✓ Wednesday - Sunday 10 - 5 & Friday 10 - 8
- ✓ Swallowtail Friday Night Farmers' Market &
  - Take-out wood-fired pizza on Friday evenings; call in your order by 4 p.m.

## *2011 LET'S CELEBRATE PIKE LAKE!*

*They came by car, they came by kayak, they came by motorboat, they came by bike, & they came by shanks pony (foot).*

*Some 250 – 300 people came to “Celebrate Pike Lake” on July 30, 2011!*

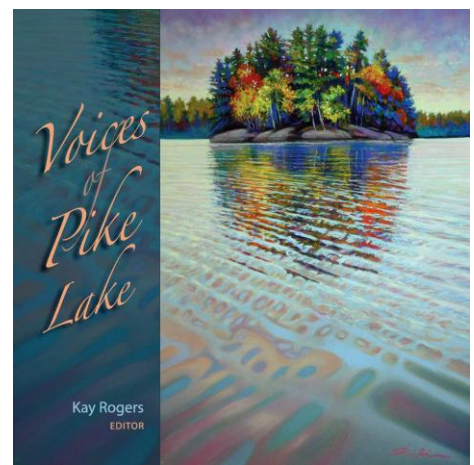




***LOCAL BEST SELLER VOICES OF PIKE LAKE  
NOMINATED FOR ONTARIO HISTORY AWARD***

Friends of the Tay Watershed nominated *Voices of Pike Lake* for the Ontario Historical Society's Fred Landon Award for local history. The nomination notes that "Voices is the product of a community initiative arising from the vision of the Pike Lake Community Association. Over forty people with diverse backgrounds & ages contributed to the book – which results in the great variety of stories & voices ... The Friends of the Tay Watershed particularly endorses *Voices* as it includes the lake association's vision for the future of the lake & elements of what needs to be done to keep Pike Lake & its watershed healthy."

Del Muike, Professor Emeritus, in Carleton University's History Department, wrote a glowing testimonial stating, in part, "... it's the stories – oral traditions for the most part – ... with descendants of those early settlers displaying a wide array of genealogical acumen & a powerful sense of the communal pasts of their families. And the photographs gathered together for the illustration of the experience of living & working & recreation on the lake is wonderfully broad in its reach & well integrated in the text ... it was a very rich & loving community that could produce such clear memories ...



It is the combination of the appreciation for the older settler community & the comparative new-comers for the spirit of the lake that makes *Voices* such a gem... It is an act of love by a successful community that makes the book such a delight ..."

Kay Rogers commented "It is a great honour to have *Voices* nominated for this prestigious award. Kudos to all of you who contributed to *Voices of Pike Lake!* The honour is yours."

Over 700 copies of *Voices of Pike Lake* have been sold, making the book a local best seller. There are fewer than 50 copies left for sale. Contact Kay Rogers at [cameronrogers@xplornet.ca](mailto:cameronrogers@xplornet.ca) or 613-326-0363, or drop by the Book Nook, the Book Worm, Perth Museum, Swallowtail Farm, or the Village Green. Cost \$30. Proceeds from the sale of the book go to the PLCA.



***Voices of Pike Lake Contributors***