



# PIKE LAKE POST

Summer 2011

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

**Saturday July 30**

**2 – 5**

**190 Pike Lake Route 11**

### ***Voices of Pike Lake***

**Book Launch & Sale**

***Plus an exhibit of***

- ✓ Paintings of Pike Lake by Aili Kurtis
- ✓ Photos by Pike Lake's Gerry Greenslade & Gord McCallum
- ✓ Weavings by Pike Lake's Mary Donnelly
- ✓ *Voices of Pike Lake* wine to order courtesy of Pike Lake's John Anderson & Stoney Ridge Winery
- ✓ *Voices of Pike Lake* coffee mugs

Sales will be by cheque or cash

Wine orders by cheque, cash, or credit card

– A percent of the sales will go to the PLCA –

Car or boat pooling is recommended

***Hope to see you there!***



*Blue Flag Iris. Photo by Gord McCallum*

## **THE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY JULY 16**

**COFFEE & REGISTRATION AT 9 AM**

**MEETING FROM 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

**THE OLD BURGESS TOWNSHIP HALL**

Narrows Lock Road

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

- ✓ Discuss what new activities you would like your association to organize; e.g. RVCA bio-blightz program for kids, flotilla & picnic or ...
- ✓ Learn how RVCA programs can benefit you
- ✓ Provide your input to a new constitution (draft attached)
- ✓ Elect your Board Members
- ✓ Learn about public consultations for Tay Valley's Strategic Plan

***... Consider joining the team!***

## **WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

Yes, the PLCA has a new, user-friendly web-site — [www.pikelake.ca](http://www.pikelake.ca)

- ✓ Info about the PLCA & updates
- ✓ Links to useful sites
- ✓ Notices of special events
- ✓ Contact info including PLCA Board Members
- ✓ Resources for better living in the Pike Lake Watershed
- ✓ Recreational info

## PLANTS & SHRUBS AT COST

Native plants & shrubs are available at cost for your shoreline, & they won't block the view!



This program provides a visit by an experienced biologist with the know-how to consult with you, order the plants you need, & provide extra muscle for the planting. Best of all, the program has grants of up to \$1,000 for shoreline planting.

Moreover, a well-vegetated shoreline is one of the best ways to keep Pike Lake clean & healthy.

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



Painted Turtle. Photo by Gord McCallum

## WATER QUALITY RESULTS 2010

### Adrienne Fowlie, Lake Steward

We now have 10 years of data (2001-2010) from the Watershed Watch Program managed by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The 2010 results were much the same as 2009 & are similar to the previous five years. There has been a moderate decreasing trend in both nitrogen & phosphorus levels over the past 10 years & we are still showing no signs of invasive species (zebra mussels or spiny water flea). Complete results for 2001-2004 are available at [www.pikelake.ca](http://www.pikelake.ca). Results for 2005-2010 will be posted in the near future.

For the first few years of the program, eight locations around the lake were sampled several times each year. A revised sampling schedule was implemented in 2008: once every five years, all eight sites are sampled, & in the other four years, four locations are sampled three times a year. This summer is the first year of our third Watershed Watch five-year sampling cycle. All eight locations will be sampled this year!

We are looking for volunteers to help the RVCA complete the sampling. Please contact Adrienne Fowlie, Lake Steward, if you are able to help: 613-325-3767 or [adriennefowlie@hotmail.com](mailto:adriennefowlie@hotmail.com).

## ANOTHER FISH STORY



Photo by Bette Walker of Vynl Henge, Pike Lake

This Sailfin is the only one ever caught in Canada. It was landed by Roldan (Roly) Hawkins of Ottawa and Pike Lake, & Glenn Walker of Grand Bend, Ontario in August 2006. The two fishermen released this beautiful fish unharmed back into Pike Lake & request that, should it be caught again, all care be given to protect it from harm. Thank you, & good fishin'.

The PLCA invites other Pike Lakers to submit their tall tales, photos, poems, & stories for the 2012 edition of the *Pike Lake Post*.





## ***ROMANTIC PERTH–WESTPORT STAGE* — One of the stories in *VOICES OF PIKE LAKE***

**This story was first published in the *Perth Courier*, August 3, 1934.**

The mail stage between Perth & Westport used to be an institution until the government started the rural mail service for the benefit of the farmers. The Perth–Westport mail, which ran from Perth to Westport “over the mountain,” a distance of twenty-five miles, had a stage route which had a romantic touch to it. It was like the old stage routes in the level country in the Ottawa district years ago.

There was a spice of danger in a trip from Perth to Westport. The road ran up & down some pretty bad hills. It had sharp turns & one who travelled that way never knew when an upset might take place from the high coach. Even those who travel that road today [1934] in a low seated motor car find a thrill in the route. Today there is a gravel road & any half-decent motor car can make the trip without incident. But, some sixty years ago [1870's], when the mail coach started running, things were different. One did not know whether the stage would get through. The road was very often bad in places & the stage was often delayed by weather or bad conditions.

The Perth–Westport mail stage in the early days made the trip twice a week, Monday & Thursday. It made the return trip each mail day. When the stage left Westport & started up the long steep hill to the mountain top, the passengers sometimes had to get out & help push. The stage, as a rule, carried about six passengers.

Stage day used to be a big day on the mountain top. The farmers always left their work & came down to the roadside at stage time to see the stage go by & pass greetings with Andy Hobin, the stage driver. If the stage was not late, Andy would always stop a minute & tell the latest news in Westport or Perth as the case may be. Farmers in those early days were news hungry & the mountain people being isolated were particularly hungry. The mountain farmers always went to their gates on mail day to “see who was traveling” as well as to hear the news. It was something to be able to tell that Pat Monahan had gone down to Perth or that Mike Sheehan had gone to Westport.

In winter, the Perth–Westport stage often had a hard time. Sometimes a blizzard would come up & the stage would have to stop & both driver & passengers would have to put up at farmhouses. J.B. McNamee says his father often accommodated as many as six people with lodging & meals for a day or two.



### ***VOICES OF PIKE LAKE***

***More than 40 folks contributed to this community initiative!***

*Voices* starts with the geography & geology, the flora & fauna, the dam, & the Great Fire of 1870. A member of the Algonquin community, provides insights about the lives of the First Nations who lived by Pike Lake. The history of settlement sets the stage for stories about the 8 settler families (Donnellys, McNamees, O'Neils, Bennetts, McShanes, Kerrs, McParlands, & Byrnes) followed by stories of life around Pike Lake in the 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries: home, work, school, community, & roads. The Allure of Pike Lake section includes 25 memories by Pike Lakers. Plus, there are some 150 illustrations.

Claudia Smith, *Gypsies, Preachers & Big White Bears*, General Store Publishing House, Burnstown, Ont. 1998, p. 79.



## THE PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The PLCA is a not-for-profit volunteer based association of people who share a key common interest – the enjoyment of Pike Lake.

Members of the PLCA elected a full slate of Board members at last year's AGM — the first such election in a number of years. This provided a catalyst for a discussion of the mandate of the PLCA (why have an association?), what people get from being members the constitution, & our goals as your Board.

### Goals for 2010 - 2011, i.e. by the July 2011 AGM

- ✓ Complete & distribute the Pike Lake Stewardship Action Plan
  - *Keeping Pike Lake Healthy, A Handbook with Practical How-To's* enclosed
- ✓ Complete two lake stewardship actions
  - Signs on the lake & a couple of islands
    - *Signs promoting safe boating in an area with kids swimming & signs promoting responsible camping on two Crown-owned islands will be put up this summer*
  - Progress report of the issues surrounding the high levels of phosphorous & nitrogen, & other compounds at the Stanleyville waste site & the implications, if any, for Pike Lake
    - *To be completed*
- ✓ Promote the RVCA shoreline planting program
  - *Ongoing*
- ✓ Obtain approval of an updated constitution
  - Proposed updated constitution attached
    - *On the agenda for the AGM*
- ✓ Increase the membership for 2011 from the current 96 to over 100 members
  - *Please complete & return the enclosed membership form*
- ✓ Launch a new user-friendly web site
  - Check out [www.pikelake.ca](http://www.pikelake.ca)
- ✓ Identify people to serve as road reps; i.e. to distribute the *Pike Lake Post*
  - *Several identified*
- ✓ Organize the launch of *Voices of Pike Lake*
  - *Let's Celebrate Pike Lake* event July 30

#### **Voices of Pike Lake**

Purchase or pick up your copy at the launch. If you can't join us at the launch, you can pick up your copy of *Voices of Pike Lake* from Donna Moodie (613-267-3283). For further info, contact Kay Rogers at 613-326-0363.



Morning Mist. Painting by Aili Kurtis

## WE ALL BENEFIT

The Pike Lake community vision is to protect & improve the water quality, natural environment, & tranquility of Pike Lake & its watershed for the enjoyment of present & future generations.

This vision guides the work of the Board whose members:

- ✓ Track the health of the lake by working with the RVCA Watershed Watch Program to collect & analyze water samples
- ✓ Inform members of the Pike Lake community about actions they can take as individuals to contribute objectives of the community
- ✓ Work with the Townships of Tay Valley & Rideau Lakes to protect the quality of the lake & surrounding environment.
- ✓ Work with Ministries of the Environment, Natural Resources, & Health, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority & other governmental agencies & lake associations, as appropriate, to protect & improve the water quality & enhance the natural environment & tranquility of Pike Lake & its watershed
- ✓ Communicate to members through the *Pike Lake Post*, [www.pikelake.ca](http://www.pikelake.ca), the AGM, & e-mail
- ✓ Promote safe recreational activities on Pike Lake
- ✓ Foster a strong sense of community



## CURRENT PLCA BOARD MEMBERS

**President,** Kay Rogers, Rte 11  
**Vice-President,** Terry Kimmel, Rte 9  
**Secretary,** Naomi Fowlie, Rte 17A  
**Treasurer,** Mandy Bjerkland, Rte 16  
**Membership,** Orest Roscoe, Rte 1  
**Lake Steward,** Adrienne Fowlie, Rte 17A  
**Communications,** Denny Poley, Rte 16C  
**At large,** Audrey Cook, Rte 16A  
**At large,** John Duguid, Country Lane  
**At large,** Anne Ruggles, Rte 16

## KEEPING THE FAMILY IN THE FAMILY COTTAGE WORKSHOP

*Get the answers you need  
to make the right decisions for future generations*

**Sunday, August 28th, 2011 (1:30-3:30pm)**

Farrell Hall, 186 Gore St. East, Perth

**Feature Speaker** Peter Lillico, Estate Planning Lawyer, author, & *Cottage Life* writer

**Free event** Donations to support FOCA welcome.

**For more information & to register, contact:**  
[info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca) 705-749-3622

**Sponsor** Trantor & Associates Inc., Certified Financial Planners

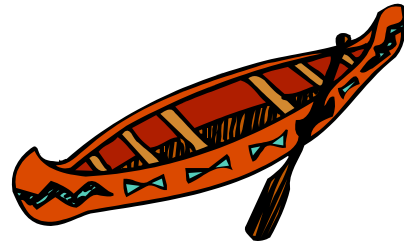
**Hosted by** The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) & the Lake Networking Group (the PLCA is a member of the Lake Networking Group)

## PLCA CONSTITUTION

☹ *Good Grief! A new lake association constitution. How Canadian is that?* ☺ Yes, but a constitution talks about the purpose of an organization; that's why it's important. ☺ *OK, I guess that makes sense. You really think I should read it?* ☺ It's your organization, & you know what? I bet it won't be as boring as you think. Also, the Board members would like to know if you have any comments or concerns before the AGM. ☺ *OK, I'll read it.*

## THE DAM MANAGER & THE CANOE OR WHY JOIN THE PLCA

This is the parable of the MNR official who controls the dam at the outlet of Pike Lake & the cottagers who lost their canoe. Our hero, the dam manager, found said red canoe at the dam this spring & promptly contacted the PLCA with the hope the owners could be notified. The PLCA issued an all-points e-mail regarding the rescued canoe. Meanwhile, the owners were bereft thinking they had lost their treasured canoe.



Fortunately, the owners of said treasured canoe are members of the PLCA & have provided their e-mail address. The treasured red canoe & its owners have been reunited.

I leave it to you, dear reader, to discern the moral of the story.



Chickadee. Photo by Gerry Greenslade





## FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2010

Mandy Bjerklund, Treasurer

**Opening Balance January 1, 2010**      4,431.72

### REVENUE

Memberships*	2,345.00	
Donations for Book	3,000.00	
Book Orders	1,650.00	
State of the Lake Grant	1,044.58	
Sale of PLCA Maps	20.00	
Bank Interest	4.36	
A penny for good luck	0.01	
	<b>8,063.95</b>	8,063.95
		<b>12,495.67</b>

### EXPENSES

Book Pub. Advance	1,050.00	
FOCA	483.00	
Donation to Fire Dept.	100.00	
Pike Lake Post	382.89	
State of the Lake Report	1,044.58	
Cheques returned by bank	240.00	
Misc. (stamps, envelopes)	52.12	
Bank charges	1.50	
	<b>3,354.09</b>	3,354.09
<b>Closing Balance Dec. 31, 2010</b>		<b>9,141.58</b>

\*Memberships include \$270 for 2011 & \$175 for 2012

## GREEN SLIME

The RVCA invites all of us to let Sarah MacLeod know about green slime sightings on Pike Lake. Send a photo plus the date, location, size, & any other observations to [sarah.macleod@rvca.ca](mailto:sarah.macleod@rvca.ca); phone 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1109.

If possible, collect a sample of the slime in a bottle & keep it in the fridge until Sarah can pick it up, or drop it off at the nearest lock station with your contact information & collections data (date, location, size).

The RVCA & Parks Canada are collaborating on a study on the extent & types of green algae in eastern Ontario, & hope to use this information to better understand its impact on the local environment.



Snapping Turtle hatchling. *Photo by Cathy Cameron*

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE

- Largest freshwater turtle in Canada
- Adults are usually 20.3-36 cm in carapace [shell] length & weigh between 4.5-16 kg
- In Ontario, females do not breed until they are 17-19 years old
- Females build nests in May or June in gravel, sand, soil, or mulch
- Females lay 20-40 eggs which resemble ping-pong balls
- Eggs hatch in the fall; hatchlings are 2-3 cm in length
- The temperature of the egg within the nest determines the gender of a hatchling
- Snapping turtles rarely leave the water. They swim away from danger or people when in the water
- On land, the snapping turtle is vulnerable & therefore may become aggressive
- They hibernate in the muddy bottom of a wetland, under logs or under overhanging banks of ponds, streams or lakes
- They are omnivorous, often scavenging for food; the main staples are fish, invertebrates & plants

*Source: Toronto Zoo website*

**TAY VALLEY TOWNSHIP** is inviting your input to a Strategic Plan on the future of Tay Valley. Public consultations will be held this summer. For more info, go to [www.tayvalleytwp.ca](http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca)

