



Pike Lake Post

The Post's 29th Year, Summer 2023

LET'S CELEBRATE PIKE LAKE!



BOATILLA & BBQ

SATURDAY JULY 1, 11-2

The Boatilla starts at 11 am at the west end of Pike Lake. We'll canoe, kayak, or slowly motor down Pike Lake gathering others along the way.

We'll arrive at 101 Country Lane for a BBQ

- ✓ Prize for the best decorated boat
- ✓ Kids activities
- ✓ Pike Lake 2024 Calendars for sale
- ✓ Pike Lake Maps available for free

Your PLCA will provide the food
Cost: \$5 per person; children under 12 free



We hope to see you and your guests there!
Rain date Sunday July 2

PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY JUNE 24

COFFEE AND REGISTRATION AT 8:15

MEETING 9:00 – 11:00

STANLEYVILLE HALL, STANLEY RD.

BETWEEN STANLEYVILLE RD. AND NARROW LOCKS RD.

- Meet Your Neighbours
- Presentation by RVCA
- Board Reports
- Elect Your Board for 2023-24
- Contribute Your Ideas for PLCA projects
- Pike Lake Maps and 2024 Calendars

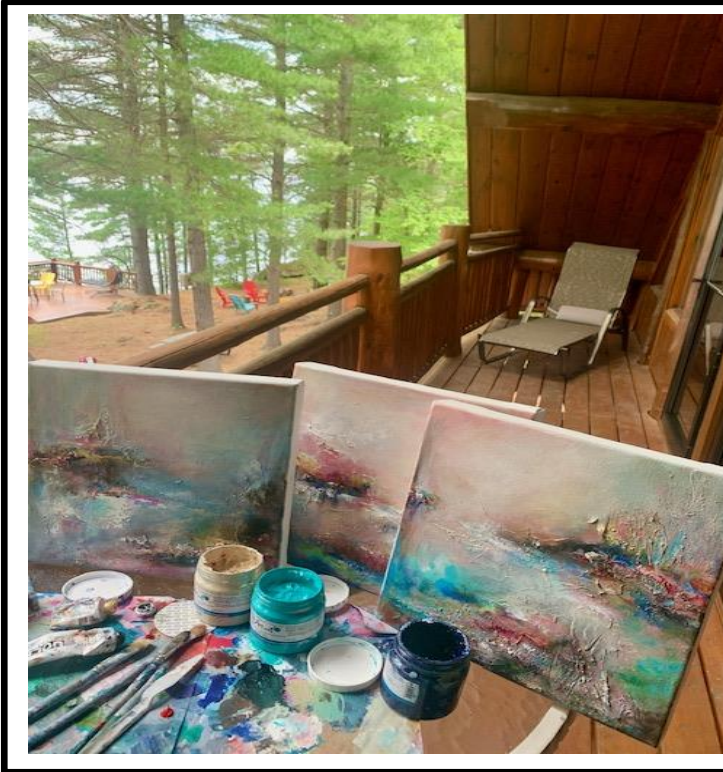
The Draft 2022 AGM minutes, 2022 Reports, and the proposed 2023 Budget will be posted on the PLCA website www.plca.ca by June 3.

BOAT-IN



The Fowlie and Sibbit families invite you to the 11th annual boat-in movie night. Join your neighbours for this family event at sundown **Saturday August 5** (rain date Sunday August 6). Look for the big screen on the boat house on Route 17A, Donnelly Bay.

YOUR SUBMISSIONS



CREATIVITY UNDER THE PINES

Tracy Armstrong

We came to Pike Lake for the first time during Covid. My husband wanted an escape; I was unsure. The more we looked at cottages, the more my hesitation faded.

One night, I dreamt of a canopy of pine trees welcoming our family, nurturing us, showering us with a feeling of peace and calm. The moment we drove down the curved driveway to the top of the small hill overlooking the property, I saw the lofty pines and the log cabin and knew immediately that this was the place for us.

Being surrounded by these pine trees overlooking the lake has fueled my creativity in ways I could never have imagined on our first visit.

You'll often find me looking up at the pines, watching the branches wave across the blue sky and the birds flitting through the trees. I enjoy sitting on our deck taking in the shifting clouds or how the colours dance across the sky at sunset. Being truly present really allows me to see the lines, patterns, textures, and hues.

Often after I've finished a painting I step back and realize that it was influenced by our walk to the pond or the colour of last night's sunset or the moss on the rocks by the stream.

I am so grateful to fill my creative cup with these days at the lake, days which allow me to translate that beauty with paint and create what I love: nature simplified to dream-like moments.

The pine tree dream was ironic because that's actually how my artistic journey began, with a split second glimpse on our honeymoon in 1995. I witnessed a man painting by the ocean in Greece surrounded by brilliant blue water, white sand and rough jagged rocks. That's a story for another day, but that first *ah-ha!* moment continues to inspire my creative path to this day.

You can follow my art journey on Instagram @artbytracy or Facebook @artbytracyarmstrong or my website www.artbytracyarmstrong.com



NOMINATE PIKE LAKERS TO THE PLCA BOARD

CONSIDER PUTTING YOUR NAME FORWARD

Contribute to the Lake community by sharing your time and talents, while making some new friends

Are you are interested in

- Furthering our common goal of keeping Pike Lake healthy
- Strengthening our sense of community
- Promoting safe and respectful recreational activities

Would you like to volunteer to be a member of the board, be nominated, or nominate someone else?

For more information, you will find the constitution & policy manual at www.pikelake.ca/governance

- The policy manual outlines the role & responsibilities of Board members.

The Deadline for Nominations is noon Wednesday June 14

- Nominees must be nominated by two members in good standing of the PLCA
- Both nominators and nominees must sign the nomination form; in light of COVID, all three people may sign and submit a separate nomination form
- Both nominators and nominees must have paid their 2023 PLCA membership fees by noon June 12

Elections will take place at the AGM on Saturday June 24

- All candidates will be given the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes prior to the voting for that position
- All PLCA voting members who have paid their 2023 membership fees before the start of the AGM will be eligible to vote

Please don't hesitate to speak to a current Board member or contact us at info@pikelake.ca

*Be part of the Board of the PLCA,
an association that has existed since 1967 to keep Pike Lake healthy for all.*

PLCA MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The association exists to protect and improve the water quality and natural environment of Pike Lake and its surrounding ecosystem.

The objectives of the PLCA are to

1. encourage good water quality in Pike Lake and a healthy surrounding natural environment;
2. foster environmentally responsible use of Pike Lake;
3. promote safe and respectful recreational activities within the lake community;
4. promote a sense of community on Pike Lake; and
5. ensure communication between the Board and Members regarding Board activities and regarding any issues or developments which arise pertinent to the objectives of the Association.



Sunset at the lake
Photo courtesy of Doug Sinclair

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PLCA BOARD

Happy Spring! What a great time of year as everyone who left the lake for the winter returns to open their cottages. As we “spring” into time on the lake, we’d like to give a snapshot of what we’ve been up to. With the help of a few volunteers, we

- ✓ held a Special Meeting in October where PLCA members voted to accept the proposed revisions to the Constitution and the Policy Manual. The current documents can be found at www.pikelake.ca/governance
- ✓ inspired by the presentation at the 2022 AGM by Darren Gibson, Deputy Fire Chief, formed a committee to look into the possibility of portable fire pumps on the lake. More news soon.
- ✓ installed “clean, drain, dry” your boat signs at the public boat launch and trailer park boat launch to reduce the risk of importing invasive species into Pike Lake.
- ✓ initiated a recycle your fishing line program.
- ✓ looked after and repaired a few hazard buoys.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM and the Boatilla. Enjoy your summer!

YOUR 2022-2023 PLCA BOARD

Interim President	Kathy Noxon
Vice-President	Jim Tasker
Secretary	Jen Sinclair
Treasurer	Marty van Gaal
Communications	Kathy Noxon
Lake Steward	Alexandra Hinke
Membership	Ian Forsyth
Director at Large	Allison Bone
Director at Large	Lois Johnson
Director at Large	Susan Niles

YOUR INPUT WELCOME YEAR-ROUND

The PLCA welcomes your comments, suggestions and questions. Speak to a Board Member or e-mail us at info@pikelake.ca

PIKE LAKE CALENDARS FOR 2024

Your Board is putting together a Pike Lake Calendar for 2024 featuring photos by some of the talented photographers on the lake with the outstanding natural beauty as the subject matter. Calendars will be for sale at the AGM and at the Boatilla.



Winter evening

Photo courtesy of Mike Flynn

MEMBERSHIP

Your membership is critical to supporting the initiatives of the PLCA. To renew your membership, or become a member, please submit your completed membership form and annual fee. Simply

- Complete and submit the “Online Membership” application form found at www.pikelake.ca
- Send an e-transfer for \$30 to info@pikelake.ca

Check us out at:
www.pikelake.ca



Pike Lake Community Association

BALD EAGLE

The bald eagle is one of Canada's largest birds of prey and is well-known for its regal appearance and contrasting coloured feathers. AND, in 2019 bald eagles returned to Pike Lake!

Fast Facts

Common name: Bald eagle

Scientific name: *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Type: Bird

Diet: Carnivore

Group name: Aerie or convocation

Weight: 3 to 6.4 kilograms

Wingspan: more than 2 metres

COSEWIC Status: Not at risk

Did you know?

When a bald eagle loses a feather on one wing, it will lose a feather on the other in order to keep its balance.

Physical characteristics and behaviour

The bald eagle isn't actually bald. It gets its name from the word "piebald," which means something that is spotty or patchy. Adult eagles are dark brown, with white feathers covering their heads and tails. They also have hooked yellow beaks, large talons and feet equipped with small spikes, called "spicules," which they use to grasp their prey. Bald eagles are able to spot their prey from very far away, thanks to their super eyesight; they can see four to seven times farther than humans. The wingspan of an adult bald eagle can extend more than two metres, making them Canada's largest bird of prey!

Young eagles are called "eaglets" and have light grey and fluffy feathers when they first hatch. Their feathers then turn dark brown when they're about 12 weeks old and ready to leave the nest. The feathers on their heads and tails won't turn white until they're about four or five years old.

Diet

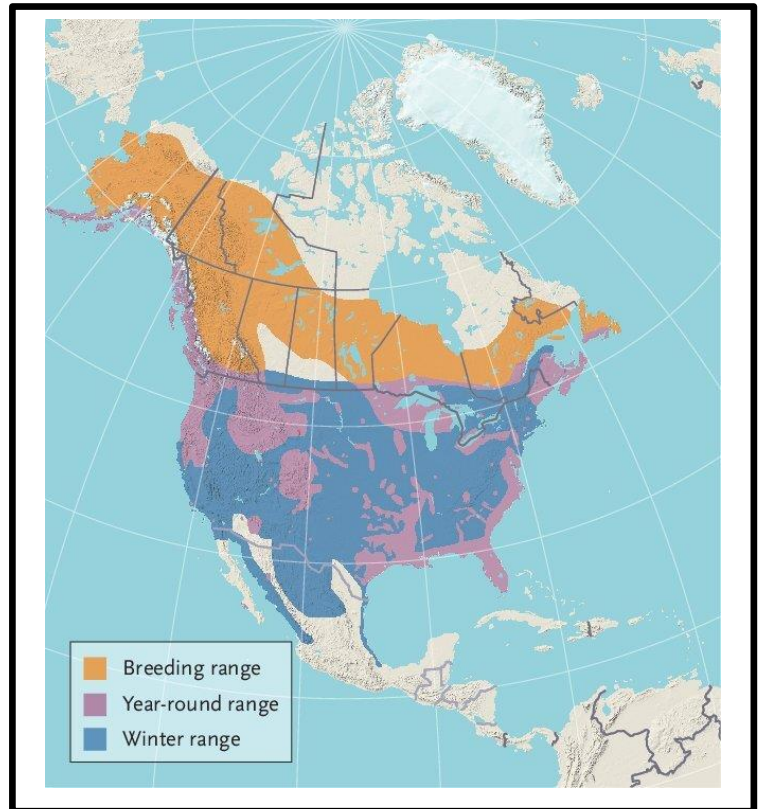
Bald eagles primarily eat fish, and are skilled at swooping down to pluck a meal out of the water with their talons. They will also eat other small animals, including mammals, birds, crustaceans and reptiles.



Habitat and distribution

Bald eagles make their homes in forested areas near large bodies of water. This environment ensures large trees for nesting and good access to fish. Eagles prefer areas that are isolated from humans.

The bald eagle is the only eagle exclusive to North America. They are at the top of the food chain and have very few natural predators. When bald eagle populations dwindle, it's likely because humans have interfered with their natural habitat.



Source: Canadian Geographic Kids

HEALTH OF THE PIKE LAKE SUB-WATERSHED

The four key indicators of the health of a watershed are water quality, forest cover, wetland cover, and shoreline cover. How does Pike Lake stack up?

According to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) 2017 Report on the Tay River Watershed – Pike Lake is part of the Tay River Watershed – the Pike Lake sub-watershed has

- good – but not very good – water quality, the same as it's had since testing started in 2001
- 52.5% forest cover, a percent likely to support most of the potential species found in our sub-watershed
- 19.5% wetland cover, which is a healthy percent. The marvellous marsh at the west end of Pike Lake is the kidneys of our sub-watershed. They help remove pollutants from water, protect us from floods, and store a large amount of carbon. Plus, they are home to common and rare plants and animals.
- 91.5% natural shoreline, comfortably above the guidelines, but with a few pockets needing shrubs.

So, we're looking good – but not very good – on the water quality front. The RVCA cautions that

Care should be taken by property owners and recreational users to ensure that the current level is preserved and steps should be taken to enhance the health of the lake.

IT'S TIME FOR A SHORELINE MAKEOVER!

Ninety per cent of all lake and river life depends on a healthy shoreline to survive.

The RVCA offers a full-service subsidized Shoreline Naturalization Program for waterfront property owners. There's a variety of shrubs, bushes and trees available.

What are the benefits?

- ✓ Reduces water run-off that causes algae blooms and excessive weed growth
- ✓ Significantly reduces shoreline erosion and makes your shoreline more resilient
- ✓ Provides shelter and food for wildlife
- ✓ Supports spawning beds for fish
- ✓ Reduces erosion of your shoreline

Contact Meaghan McDonald

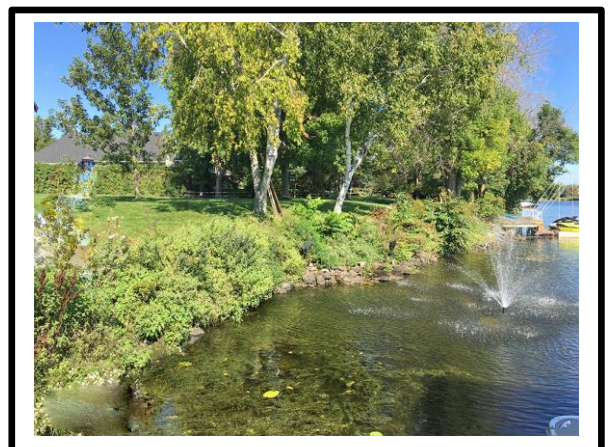
Lake Planning Stewardship Coordinator
at meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca
or 613-692-3571 ext. 1192
for more information or to arrange a no obligation visit.



Aerial view of Pike Lake showing the marsh
photo courtesy of David Taylor



Before and after a shoreline makeover



DISPOSE OF YOUR FISHING LINE

Improperly discarded fishing line can last in the environment for up to 600 years! It is the leading cause of entanglement issues for people, property, and wildlife. At the 2022 PLCA AGM, our Lake Steward, Alexandra Hincke, introduced *Clear Your Gear (CYG)*, a Canadian volunteer-run fishing line disposal and recycling program to try and limit improperly discarded fishing line in our lake environments. You can read more at www.clearyourgear.ca

As part of the questionnaire that was circulated to members earlier this year, members thought this program was worthwhile. So the PLCA Board has acquired two of the recycling receptacles that CYG produces and ships free to organizations such as ours. These receptacles will be at both the public boat launch and the trailer park boat launch by the May long weekend for you to drop off your old fishing line. The PLCA will pass the discarded fishing line along to be recycled.



Wildlife entangled in fishing line
Source www.clearyourgear.ca

BE SEWAGE SMART!

Newcomers to Pike Lake may not realize the importance of being “sewage smart”.

You may have an outdoor privy, a holding tank, a septic system, or another type of sewage system.



Whatever your system, ensure that your system keeps functioning properly. Faulty systems may lead to costly repairs and compromise both water quality and public health.

A well-functioning system will prevent nutrients and bacteria-rich effluent from travelling through soil and rock fractures to surface water bodies, and ground water sources. This, in turn, prevents

- ✓ Contamination of surface water which can cause excessive aquatic plant growth, depletion of oxygen in lakes, and impact the natural habitat for aquatic species.
- ✓ Ground water contamination that can cause illnesses such as *e-coli* which can show up in the lake and in your neighbours' well water.

Here are a few simple steps you can take

- ✓ Pump out your septic tank every 3-5 years.
- ✓ Have an effluent filter installed in the septic tank to reduce the amount of solids entering the leaching bed and prevent clogs.
- ✓ Don't deposit coffee grounds, cooking fats, paper towels, facial tissues, cigarette butts, disposable diapers, and other non-compostable materials in the sink or toilet.
- ✓ Avoid dumping grease down the drain.
- ✓ Don't use household cleaners with phosphates which contribute to algae growth. If you are unsure what's in the product, check the label.

Those of you new to the “joys of septic systems or alternatives” or anyone wanting more information on the subject may wish to google *Home Maintenance for Dummies*, or the 2022 *Septic Smart* booklet.

THE SILVER QUEEN MINE TOUR MURPHY'S POINT PROVINCIAL PARK

During our tour to the Silver Queen Mine, we were introduced to fascinating characters from over a century ago.

Our first chat was with Kate, a young woman hoping to earn twenty-five cents a day hammering and separating Mica at the processing plant up the Rideau River on Dalhousie St. in Ottawa.

As we dipped through the low tunnel to the mining pit, the temperatures dropped. The beams of the tunnel were well-lit so that we could find our way. Here, we saw examples of the minerals, crystals, and veins that once made the Silver Queen Mine such a valuable commodity for those looking to make a living in this part of Ontario.

As we emerged, we discovered Foreman Thompson working on the lanterns. The candle lanterns were protected by thin sheets of mica that were pulled from the mine. Mica is heat-resistant and used, among other things for insulation in electrical products (remember houses in cities like Ottawa started to get electricity in the mid 1880s), as a lubricant for bearings and axels, and in the production of pigments, paints, and inks.

Our tour ended at the miners' bunkhouse where some of the mine staff slept and ate. The two women running the kitchen shared the struggles of feeding the miners.

The Silver Queen Mine at Murphy's Point Provincial Park is the only restored mine offering tours within the Ontario Parks system and is, perhaps the only such example of a small scale mine that the public can visit in the province.

Guided tours, which start across the street from the Lally Homestead and last 1.5 hours, take you into the mine and along the Silver Queen Mine trail. They are offered up to three times a week in July/August and on weekends in the fall. Call the park directly for more information: 613-267-5060

Source Ontario Parks Blog Silver Creek Mine



Photos by Kevin Wagner

**PHYLLIS HEPTON,
A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES OF PIKE LAKE**

“The first time I saw Pike Lake was in the spring of 1938, when Grandpa Bolton and Joe Mahon rented a boat from Sylvester McNamee to try pickerel fishing...I was seventeen at the time.

Two decades later, Everett [Phyllis’ husband], and I, along with our two boys, spent the weekend at the Bolton cottage... On our way home we stopped at Ron Brousseau’s General Store and Post Office at the four corners in Stanleyville. We asked him if he knew anything about the cottage advertised...he had the key if we were interested.

So, we decided to have a look. We drove past the cemetery on Coopers Hill, opened the gate, and proceeded on a one-track road (now Pike Lake Route 1)... came to a cattle crossing, which led to the cottage for sale...

Our old cottage possesses a lifetime of memories for our family ...”

Phyllis passed away peacefully on October 13th, 2022 at the age of 95 years. She spent 64 years at Pike Lake, 21 as a cottager and 43 as a year-round resident. A life of Pike Lake memories indeed!

Phyllis was a member of the Pike Lake Association from the get go – that would be since 1967. She and Everett (died 2014) and their son Joe never missed a Pike Lake social event.

The quote above is an excerpt from *Events as Seen by the Heptons*, a chapter in *Voices of Pike Lake*, edited by Kay Rogers.

The photo below of Phyllis, Joe, and Kay Rogers was taken at last year’s BBQ.



Belted Kingfisher
Photo courtesy of Heather Lindale



Hummingbird at the Feeder
Photo courtesy of Terry Kimmel

VOLUNTEER “LOONIES” NEEDED

We're looking for volunteers, aka “loonies”, to count the number of loon pairs in June, baby chicks in July, and surviving chicks in August. The information is used to track the survival of loon chicks over time. It also helps scientists to monitor the health of both the loon population and the health of our lakes across Canada and regionally.

The PLCA joined the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey in 2013 so we now have 7 years of data (the survey was cancelled for two years because of COVID). We will need at least 10 years of data before we can make any conclusions about loon population trends on Pike Lake.

If you're interested, simply send an e-mail to info@pikelake.ca Our Lake Steward will then contact you to chat about your role. It would be great to have three volunteers to cover different sections of Pike Lake.

For more info on loons, google Birds Canada.



Loon parent and chick
Photo courtesy of Mary Anne van Gaal

ICE-WATCH 2023

Gerry Greenslade reported that, this year, the ice went out on April 12. This data, together with data provided by other citizen scientists from coast to coast, provides scientists with important information about patterns in Canada's climate.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS OF THE PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY

No voluntary association can succeed without the work of countless volunteers. Thank you for all you do.

- Our Board Members: Allison Bone, Ian Forsyth, Alexandra Hincke, Lois Johnson, Susan Niles, Kathy Noxon, Jen Sinclair, Jim Tasker, and Marty van Gaal.
- All who delivered the 2022 *Pike Lake Post*: Susan Cook, Ian Forsyth, Coordinator, Naomi Fowlie, Alex Hinke, Lois Johnson, Chris Noxon, Jim Tasker, and Marty van Gaal
- The hazard buoys team: Rob Greer, John Murphy, Greg Nyman, and Mike Shore
- All who helped with the AGM: Dorothy Forsyth, Naomi Fowlie, and Chris Noxon plus Board members
- Boatilla & BBQ Helpers: Jen Sinclair and Ian Forsyth Coordinators, Brenda Arthur and John Duguid Hosts, Terry Kimmel, Jane Lindsay, Craig Sinclair, Mike Shore, Jen Gannon, and Board Members
- Richard Murphy for reviewing the 2022 financial records
- Jen Sinclair for administering our Facebook page
- Lois Johnson, our webmaster
- The Sibbit and Fowlie families for hosting the Boat-in Movie Night
- Our “Lake Loonie”, Betty Bone who counted loon pairs and chicks
- Jim Tasker for securing and installing the “clean, drain, dry” your boat signs to reduce the risk of importing invasive species into Pike Lake
- ✓ Pike Lake Calendar Committee: Jim Tasker, Sandy Alexander and Jennifer David
- ✓ Fire Pump Committee: Allison Bone, Lois Johnson, Scott Langstaff, Kathy Noxon, and Al Seabrook
- ✓ Gerry Greenslade for determining the ice out date
- ✓ Tracy Armstrong for her article and photographs of her paintings for the 2023 *Pike Lake Post*
- ✓ Kay Rogers, with support from Cathy Cameron, for producing the 2023 *Pike Lake Post*

BOATILLA & BBQ 2022



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