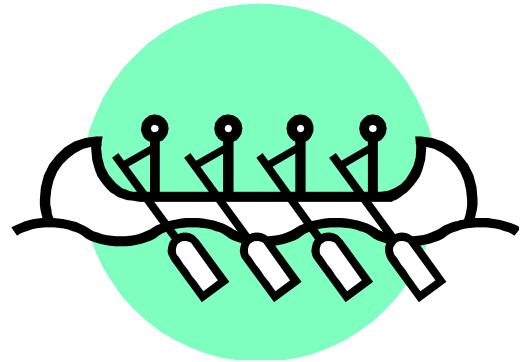




Pike Lake Post

20th Anniversary Edition Summer 2014

Let's Celebrate Pike Lake!



BOATILLA & BBQ

SATURDAY JUNE 28, 11 – 2

We'll gather at the "Westport" end of Pike Lake near Donna Moodie's / Pike Lake Route 13

The Boatilla starts 11 am

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 maps & tee-shirts for sale



– Your PLCA will provide the food –

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

We hope to see you & your guests there!

If the weather is foul, the Boatilla will take place on Sunday June 29

Pike Lake Community Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY JULY 5

Coffee & Registration at 9
Meeting 9:30 – 11:30

The Old Burgess Township Hall
Narrows Locks Road

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

Meet Your Neighbours

Starlight Theatre explore dark skies with Robert Dick, Royal Astronomical Society

Next Steps for the Official Plan Update & other Tay Valley Township initiatives, Keith Kerr, Reeve

Love Your Lake Program Barb King, Centre for Sustainable Watersheds

Elect Your Board Members for 2014-2016

Contribute Your Ideas

Purchase your new Map &/or Tee-Shirt

All Pike Lakers Welcome!

Keep up-to-date about Pike Lake at
www.pikelake.ca

See photos of our 2013 Let's Celebrate Boatilla & BBQ on pages 10 – 11

NEWS FROM YOUR PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

NOMINATIONS FOR YOUR PLCA BOARD FOR 2014 – 2016

Working to keep Pike Lake healthy for all!

President Terry Kimmel, Rte. 9

Vice-President John Duguid, Country Lane

Past President Kay Rogers, Rte. 11

Secretary Sandy Alexander, Rte. 7

Treasurer Anne Ruggles, Rte. 16

Membership Doug Sinclair, Rte. 1

Lake Steward Adrienne Fowlie Larocque, Rte. 17A

Communications Mark Godby, Rte. 9

At large Jack Anderson, Rte. 1

At large Kristine Martin, Rte. 11

At large Trisha Paul Carson, Grants Creek

Additional nominations can be made at the July 5th AGM

2013 – 2014 ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Received the 2013 Outstanding Achievement Award from the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association; see page 12
- ✓ Provided input to Tay Valley Township's Official Plan Update; see pages 6-7
- ✓ Updated & produced a new map of Pike Lake; see page 12
- ✓ Over 125 people attended *Let's Celebrate Pike Lake Boatilla & BBQ* on the rain day; see photos pages 10-11
- ✓ Participated in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey; see page 4
- ✓ Enlarged a second existing walleye spawning bed
- ✓ Undertook water quality testing & analysis through RVCA's Watershed Watch Program

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS OF THE PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY!

The PLCA wishes to extend its appreciation to Sandy Campbell, Lorne Hooper, Gord McCallum, & Denise Poley for their many contributions to the Pike Lake community as members of the PLCA Board. Big thank you to

- ✓ All who helped make our 2013 *Let's Celebrate Pike Lake Boatilla & BBQ* a big success
 - Brenda & John Duguid, our hosts, & Brenda for baking the Canada Day cakes
 - Mathew & Steven Duguid for helping with the boats
 - Victor Konrad, Duncan McDowell & Nick Mulder, our BBQ'ers
 - Audrey Cook, Donna Moodie, & Pat Shore, our judges
 - Gerry Greenslade, Peter Liddington, Graham Sibthorpe, & Doug Sinclair, our photographers
 - Freda Godby, our general helper extraordinaire
 - Members of the Board
- ✓ Audrey Cook & Freda Godby for looking after refreshments at the 2013 Annual General Meeting
- ✓ Mike Carson, Terry Kimmel, Denny Poley, Kay Rogers, & Anne Ruggles for their work on our new map of Pike Lake plus all those who provided corrections
- ✓ Adrienne Fowlie Larocque, Lorne Hooper, Gord McCallum, Trisha Paul Carson, & Anne Ruggles for their report on Tay Valley Township's Official Plan Update Issue Papers
- ✓ Ric Cormier for reviewing the Association's 2013 financial records
- ✓ Lisa Campbell, Mark Campbell, Adrienne Fowlie Larocque, Trudy Hladun, & Gord McCallum, for counting the number of loons & loon chicks as part of the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey
- ✓ Donna Moodie for permitting us to have the rock for the walleye spawning bed delivered to her home
- ✓ Barry McParland & Dave Moodie for their hard work spreading 50 tonnes of clean river rock to enhance our second walleye spawning bed on the windward side of an island at the west end of Pike Lake
- ✓ Jack Anderson & Pat Shore for taking the RVCA staff out on the lake to take water samples
- ✓ Cathy Cameron, Aili Kurtis, Nick Mulder, & members of the Board for delivering the 2013 *Pike Lake Post*
- ✓ Cheryl Fosberry & Ozay Mehmet for their submissions to the 2014 *Pike Lake Post*
- ✓ Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) & Tay Valley Township for their ongoing support

NEWS FROM YOUR PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2013

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Balance January 1, 2013 | 13,976.14 |
| Income | |
| Memberships* | 2,000.00 |
| Book Sales | 621.22 |
| T-shirt sales | 205.00 |
| MNR (walleye spawning beds) | 3,920.50 |
| Boatilla & BBQ | 335.00 |
| Donations | 20.00 |
| Interest on GICs | <u>107.82</u> |
| | 7,209.54 |
| Expenses | |
| Walleye spawning beds | 3,588.40 |
| FOCA membership | 336.25 |
| Canadian Loons Survey | 35.00 |
| Fire department donation | 100.00 |
| Boatilla & BBQ | 593.36 |
| Annual general meeting | 58.99 |
| Pike Lake Post | 306.23 |
| Bank Charges | 36.00 |
| Book expenses | <u>67.14</u> |
| | 5,121.37 |
| Balance December 31, 2013 | 16,064.41 |
| (includes a \$10,000 GIC redeemable Sept. 25, 2014) | |
| Discrepancy | 0.10 |

* Memberships include \$340 for 2014, \$220 for 2015 & \$20 for 2016

DID YOU KNOW?

The Pike Lake Community Association was formed in the early 1960's when a group of men who had been shoring up the old stone dam at Grants Creek approached the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to have a new dam constructed. MNR required that a lake association be formed for this request to be met. As a result, Sylvester McNamee, Walter McNamee, Lenny McGlade, Norbert (Nork) O'Reilly & a few others formed the lake association with Nork as President. The new dam was built in 1970 along with the public access as stipulated by MNR.

Bill Nasi produced the first Cottagers Map in 1989.

This map showed all the roads & properties as well as a list of all the people who owned properties on Pike Lake at that time.

Rob Bone published the first edition of the *Pike Lake Post* in 1994.

This was a popular initiative; editions of the *Post* were either mailed or hand-delivered by volunteers twice a year.

In 2014, the Properties on Pike Lake include

- ✓ 57 permanent homes
- ✓ 165 cottages
- ✓ the trailer park where 50 families cottage

Where are we from? The overwhelming majority of cottagers live in Ottawa (including Gloucester, Kanata, Nepean, & Orleans), Perth & other communities within about an hour's drive of Pike Lake. A dozen live in the US, primarily the State of New York plus Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, & Pennsylvania. A few are from La Belle Province; a couple are from Alberta; one from British Columbia; & one resides in Thailand.

The ice went off Pike Lake on April 25 this year.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS OCTOBER 27, 2014

If you live own a cottage on Pike Lake & a home in another municipality, you may vote in each municipality's election. More info can be found at www.tayvalleytwp.ca www.twprideaulakes.on.ca www.mah.gov.on.ca



Photo by Gerry Greenslade

YOUR INPUT WELCOME YEAR-ROUND

The PLCA welcomes your comments, suggestions & questions. Speak to a Board Member, e-mail us at info@pikelake.ca, or write us at Pike Lake Community Association, RR3 Perth, Ont. K7H 3C5

THE COMMON LOON, ONTARIO'S PROVINCIAL BIRD

What's that sound?

Listen. That eerie sound you hear is not a ghost haunting Pike Lake. It's the call of the common loon. These birds come to Ontario's lakes in the summer to breed & raise their young.

Loon are built for living on the water

Loons are made for living on the water. They can dive to depths of over 200 feet. Their torpedo-like body is streamlined for swimming underwater. The legs of a loon are set far back on its body to work like oars with its large webbed feet. The body color, dark on top & light on the bottom makes loons less visible to fish as they swim. Some scientists think the loon's red eyes help it see better underwater.

Because the loon's legs are so far back on its body & because its body is so long, loons have trouble lifting-off the water to fly. Have you ever seen a loon "running" across a lake? A loon has to run across the water for up to ¼ kilometre beating its wings in order to get enough lift to fly. This need for a long runway means that loons need a certain size lake in order to take off. You'll rarely find a loon in lakes smaller than 9 or 10 acres.

The loon dance means back off

When disturbed, the loon folds its wings against its body & swims upright in what is called a penguin dance. With its wings tucked against its body it looks kind of like a penguin. This dance is done when the loon is trying to scare enemies away from its chicks. "Dancing" like this takes a lot of energy so it's important that you keep your distance from loons. If you get too close to a loon, its chicks or nest, the loon will think you're its enemy & start the penguin dance. If you don't leave the area, the loon can dance until it's exhausted & dies.

The loon has another dance that it does when it wants to chase away other birds. It splashes the water with its wings & kicks its feet so quickly that it is actually walking on water.

Loon nests & baby hitchhikers

Loons are fast in the water, but have trouble walking on land. They don't spend much time on land, except to nest. Their nests are made of weeds & grass & are usually located on islands where they have good view of their territory & are protected from the wind. A loon may use the same nest year after year. Generally, two olive-brown eggs are laid, sometimes three eggs.

Ravens, gulls, skunks, mink & raccoons like to eat the eggs. Both male & female loons take turns sitting on the eggs. The eggs hatch in about one month. Soon after birth the chicks are in the water swimming with their parents. Swimming in the cold water is hard on the chicks, so from time to time they hitch a ride on their parent's back. This also protects them from predators like snapping turtles.



Photo by
Gord
McCallum

Loon count

In 1981, Bird Studies Canada started a special study to learn about the health of the loon population in Ontario. In 1989, this program was expanded all across Canada & given the name *Canadian Lakes Loon Survey*. Each summer, hundreds of volunteers spend time observing loons. They do this in June to look for loon pairs on the lake, once in July to look for newly hatched chicks, & once in August to count the number of young that survive. This information is used to keep track of the survival of loon chicks over time. It also helps scientists monitor the health of both the loon population & the health of our lakes.

The Pike Lake Community Association joined the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey last year. Now, there are volunteers on our lake counting the number of loon pairs & chicks every summer. Last summer, our volunteers counted four loon pairs & three chicks. Unfortunately, two chicks died after boaters in sea-does circled the babies for a long time. For baby chicks that would be like having a big warship circling you when you are swimming.

Sometimes people threaten loons

Unfortunately, people threaten loons in a number of ways. People can threaten loons when they get too close – even in their canoe or kayak – so give them lots of space. Wake from motor boats also threatens loons. Loons can be poisoned by accidentally eating lead fishing lures that are left in lakes. They are also threatened by mercury & other forms of pollution.

Loon Lore

First Nations have many stories about loons. In some legends the loon is a bird of magical powers, in others a messenger or a symbol of power. You might like to read *The Loon's Necklace* by Elizabeth Cleaver, a wonderful story about how the loon got its distinctive neck band.

Sources www.biokids.com; www.eek!.crittercorner.com & www.canadiangeographic.com

LAKE STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY SHORELINE IS HEALTHY?

Shorelines are one of the most unique places on earth - they are among the most ecologically productive places providing rearing areas for approximately 90% of all lake life. Healthy shorelines help filter pollutants, protect against erosion, provide habitat for fish & wildlife, & maintain – hopefully improve – water quality. They also protect our property values. But how do we know if our shorelines are healthy?

Following a presentation at the Pike Lake Community Association 2013 Annual General Meeting, members voted in favour of asking the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds to undertake a shoreline survey of Pike Lake to answer that question.

What is *Love Your Lake*?

Love Your Lake is a shoreline evaluation program that can be transferred to any shoreline community across the country. Lakes participating in the *Love Your Lake* program are assessed on a property-by-property basis using a standardized assessment protocol & datasheet. After every shoreline property on a lake is assessed from a boat, each shoreline landowner receives access to a confidential individualized property report consisting of information on the state of their unique shoreline & suggested voluntary actions for shoreline improvement.

What about my privacy?

The Centre for Sustainable Watersheds will mail a letter to each property owner on Pike Lake in mid-June with information about the *Love Your Lake* program. The letter will explain that

- staff from the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds will carry out a shoreline survey from the water this summer (likely mid July); the survey will include photos of the shoreline around the lake
- the staff match the shoreline & an individual's property by using the townships' parcel mapping & assessment numbers set up on field computers; if there is an error with the parcel mapping, there will be a matching error
- the information will be used to produce a personalized, confidential report for each property owner
- the report for individual property owners is only seen by that property owner; it is not shared with any other agency, municipality or organization, including the Pike Lake Community Association
- when the reports are produced, likely next spring, the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds will mail a note to property owners with an individualized confidential code to access their report online through the *Love Your Lake* website or to obtain a printed copy of the report for their property

- the report for individual property owners will provide an assessment of the health of that property owner's shoreline & suggestions on what actions, if any, that property owner may wish to undertake to strengthen the health of their shoreline
- property owners have the option to opt out of the survey by contacting the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds by e-mail, phone or letter; in such cases, the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds will not produce a report on that individual's property.

The Centre for Sustainable Watersheds will provide the Pike Lake Community Association with a report containing a general analysis on the health of the shoreline around Pike Lake. This report will be useful to guide our community lake stewardship efforts. The Pike Lake Community Association will post the report on our website www.pikelake.ca & provide a synopsis in the 2015 *Pike Lake Post*.



*Photo by
Gord
McCallum*

Program History

Love Your Lake has been developed by the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds & the Canadian Wildlife Federation with funding support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Rogers Foundation, TD Canada Trust, & the Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada – Recreational Fisheries Conservation Program, & with regional support from partners across Ontario including the Renfrew County Stewardship Council, Bonnechere River Watershed Project, Muskoka Watershed Council, the City of Greater Sudbury, & Lakeland Alliance.

Love Your Lake is a modified & updated version of a scientific protocol developed by MAPLE (Mutual Association for the Protection of Lake Environments) in the 1980s. More information on the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, including the *Love Your Lake* program can be found at www.watersheds.ca

LAKE STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS

INPUT TO TAY VALLEY TOWNSHIP'S OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE

The PLCA used *Keeping Pike Lake Healthy, Our Lake Stewardship Handbook* as its guide in writing the following letter in February 2014 to Reeve Keith Kerr & Council regarding Tay Valley Township's Official Plan Update.

"... We would like to preface our input by noting **that the three priority areas identified by Pike Lakers through the Lake Planning Process were (1) protecting water quality, (2) conservation & protection of the natural environment, & (3) development pressures.** Our 2011 plan, *Keeping Pike Lake Healthy: Our Lake Stewardship Handbook with Practical How-Tos*, emerged from this process. This document articulates the **vision of Pike Lakers which is to "protect & improve the water quality, natural environment, & tranquility of the Pike Lake watershed for present & future generations."** There is a strong alignment between the PLCA's vision for Pike Lake & Tay Valley Township's vision for the Township as a whole with its emphasis on environmental sustainability.

Tay Valley Township is characterized by 26 lakes, five rivers & numerous creeks, extensive woodlands, wetlands, & agricultural land. **We recommend that the Township include a policy statement that recognizes the incalculable economic & recreational value of its natural environment** – including of course the Pike Lake Watershed – in the Official Plan Update.

While the **Pike Lake Watershed** is not home to woodlands or wetlands that fall under the Ministry of Natural Resources' technical definition of "significant", it **is home to both woodlands & wetlands which are locally significant.** The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) has identified four cornerstones for a healthy watershed: (1) maintaining & enhancing forest cover as appropriate, (2) protecting wetlands, (3) protecting & enhancing riparian zones (waterfront buffers) as appropriate, & (4) protecting water quality. These are consistent with the vision outlined in *Keeping Pike Lake Healthy* which calls for healthy water, healthy big trees, natural shoreline, & protected wetlands. Hence, **we recommend that the Township include a policy statement that recognizes the importance of these cornerstones for healthy watersheds.**

With respect to **waterfront buffers**, the PLCA agrees that healthy shorelines & waterfront buffers play an important role in protecting water quality. **We recommend that the Township maintain its current policy of encouraging such buffers.** In cases where a lake is showing a downward trend in water quality or shoreline integrity, regulatory action may be required. However, unless the quality of the natural environment is shown to be degrading, we are of the opinion that additional regulation is not required for existing properties on Pike Lake. The PLCA will continue to promote waterfront buffers through public education; e.g., promoting the RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program & participating in the Love Your Lake Program.

Although we do not believe that waterfront buffer regulations are required for existing properties on Pike Lake, we do see the need to maintain the existing requirements through site plan control agreements for new development & for major redevelopment projects on existing properties.

As outlined in *Keeping Pike Lake Healthy*, **we strongly encourage the Township to make use of site reviews, lake capacity assessments & other tools when assessing potential developments or changes that could affect the health of the Pike Lake Watershed**, e.g., subdivisions, second-tier/back lot development, rezoning, or changes to the Stanleyville Waste Transfer Depot. Prior to approving any such development, we request that the Township consult with the PLCA as well as property owners.

We endorse the policy statement & proposed bylaw to protect Dark Skies. The proposed approach is consistent with the dark skies section in *Keeping Pike Lake Healthy*. We are of the view that waterfront property owners should be aware that lighting may adversely affect their neighbour's enjoyment of the night sky as well as habitat & life patterns of nocturnal creatures. We will endeavour to educate Pike Lakers about protecting the dark sky through the *Pike Lake Post*, our community newsletter, & through our website. We encourage the Township to have a copy of the bylaw & its rationale available at the Township office & posted on its website.

LAKE STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS

“Healthy water, with no negative impacts from run-off” forms part of the vision for the Pike Lake Watershed outlined in *Keeping Pike Lake Healthy*. In light of the fact that there are creeks that flow into the Pike Lake Watershed which can be impacted by run-off, **we recommend that the Township require the implementation of storm water management strategies that reduce the impact of increased runoff & storm water pollution.** The creeks which flow into Pike Lake include Cameron Creek which runs across the Scotch Line west of Pike Lake Route 13 & Troy’s Creek which crosses the Stanleyville Road near the Waste Transfer Station.

As discussed at the October 2013 meeting of lake associations with Ms. Reeve, we recommend that the Official Plan Update include a policy to the following effect: The PLCA prepared a lake stewardship action plan in 2011 in cooperation with the Township, RVCA, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment & other community partners. **When considering development proposals in the Pike Lake Watershed, Council shall consider the planning recommendations & policies contained in the PLCA plan, *Keeping Pike Lake Healthy*, which are consistent with the policies of the Township Official Plan.**

On the issue of climate change, & in light of the increase in numbers of weather events the Township has identified with their subsequent associated needs (e.g. the need to increase the size of culverts to accommodate run-off & for additional monies for sanding icy roads, etc.), **we recommend that the Township develop a climate change action plan to address these issues...**”

Next Steps There will be a Public Meeting at 7 pm Tuesday June 17, 2014, to review changes suggested throughout the consultation process. The Township intends to submit the updated Official Plan to the County of Lanark in July & anticipates that the County will approve the updated plan by December 2014. For more info, google www.tayvalleytwp.ca

SEPTIC INSPECTIONS ON PIKE LAKE

In 2012, Tay Valley Township enacted a by-law establishing mandatory sewage system maintenance inspection on seven lakes, including Pike Lake, while maintaining the voluntary system on all other waterfront properties.

Of the 24 properties on Pike Lake inspected in 2012 & 2013

- ✓ No concerns were identified on 5 properties
- ✓ Remedial work was required on 13
- ✓ Replacement of the septic tank was required on 5
- ✓ More information was required on 1

In his 2013 report, Eric Kolsmith, the Septic Inspector, noted that under the voluntary program an average of 2% of the property owners needed to replace their septic tank while under the mandatory program 10% of the property owners needed to replace their tank.

The properties inspected are those that either have a septic permit that is 10 years or older, or does not have permit information, or has not been re-inspected in the past 10 years. It will take another two years to complete the inspections on the seven lakes. Malfunctioning systems can have both human health & environmental impacts beyond the property on which it is located.

For info can be found at www.RVCASepcticSmart



The cost to replace a septic tank is approximately \$3,000.

If the septic bed also needs to be replaced, the costs can increase to over \$30,000.

LAKE STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS

DON'T FORGET THE TOWEL

Cher has an outdoor shower. Many homes around the world have outdoor showers. Who knew so many people enjoyed bathing alfresco?

More & more cottages have an outdoor shower. It's cheaper than a second bathroom. You can wash after a swim or after finishing a particularly dirty task. It is also easier to maintain than its indoor counterpart. What's more, it doesn't pollute the lake. You could even argue that, with fresh air & a view of the sky & trees above, you'll be communing with nature.

You will need a permit for a greywater system &, depending on the design, a plumbing permit as well. The Ontario Building Code classifies greywater as sanitary sewage & therefore must be treated to protect the environment & human health.

Your outdoor shower can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. Google [www.cottagelife](http://www.cottagelife.com) for a design by Wayne Lennox. A solid plan, a couple of weekends, & basic construction techniques are all you need to get wet in the wild.



GOOD NEWS FROM SPECIAL WATER STUDY

Following completion of a special study, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) concluded that there is no concern about heavy metals at Site D in Donnelly Bay off Pike Lake Route 17, & that the Stanleyville Waste Transfer Station (former waste site) is not the source of the high concentrations of phosphorous & nitrogen at Site D.

A few years ago, Pike Lakers expressed concerns about the high concentrations of nutrients at Site D & questioned whether there may be excessive concentrations of heavy metals flowing from the creek that runs from the Stanleyville Waste Transfer Station into Pike Lake. In response to these concerns, the Pike Lake Community Association requested that the RVCA undertake a special study in cooperation with Tay Valley Township & the PLCA.

The study, undertaken from 2011-2013, analyzed water samples taken from Site D, a comparison wetland site & one other site on the lake. Samples were also taken at several locations along the creek, & the culvert crossing the Stanleyville Road near the Waste Transfer Station. The full report can be found at www.pikelake.ca

STARLIGHT THEATRE

The heavens above have been a source of beauty, awe & inspiration to all of humankind since people first raised their eyes to gaze at the night sky.



Sitting on the dock can be a great place to watch the night sky. All you need are your naked eyes. Indeed, experts suggest that's one of the best ways to become familiar with the stars & the galaxies. As you get more interested, you may wish to borrow or buy *Exploring the Night Sky* by Terrence Dickinson – a user-friendly guide ideal for kids of all ages. For other sources of information google [www.starlight_theatre](http://www.starlight_theatre.com)

Walking with your feet as your eyes on a night hike – feel everything near you with them. Let your other senses guide you – touching for objects close by, smelling for orientation, hearing for awareness. Your eyes will see more as they adapt to night; you may be tempted to use your flashlight, but only turn it on if you want to see something up close. What do you hear? smell? touch? Is there any wildlife in the area; can you tell what birds, reptiles, bugs & other creatures are near?

Sometimes excess light spoils our ability to enjoy being outside when it's dark. That's the kind of light that is where it is not needed or wanted. This unwanted light appears in the sky causing sky glow, shines into your yard reducing your privacy & causing "light trespass", & it shines into your eyes causing glare. This light doesn't help visibility; it's wasted light. This "light pollution" also interferes with the habitat & life patterns of nocturnal creatures that live in & near Pike Lake.

This is a simple problem to fix: make sure your outdoor light fixtures have a shield cover such the light points to the ground, use the lowest wattage practical, & only turn on outdoor lights when they are absolutely necessary.

You will be amazed at all you see & feel when out at night under the heavens above.

SUBMISSIONS FROM PIKE LAKERS

THE VOICE OF THE LOON

Ozay Mehmet

Some things, like seasons, never change – like the voice of the loon – it is the same amazing shrill, just like forty summers ago when we acquired our cottage on Pike Lake. Forty years on, the loons are still here, part of our treasured family’s heritage, just like our three sons’ childhood days here, learning to swim & fish, catching glimpses of the fox, deer...



Photo by Gord McCallum

Many things, of course, are different. In the Fall of 1974, County Road 10 was a dusty & winding road. The region around Pike Lake & the farms were poor. Farmers parcelled off lots to sell to urbanites escaping the city.

What were the most significant changes in those 40 years? The concepts of “cottage”, “privacy” & “ownership” have undergone the most radical change.

In the 1970’s, “cottage” had a meaning closer to pioneering & homesteading – simple living space, likely with no electricity or plumbing – most definitely an out-house & a maybe a well. After the ‘80’s, “cottages” increasingly became the palatial abodes of urban living, complete with dish-washers, TVs & now internet.

Privacy then was a prized aim – one came to the cottage to escape urban living. Pike Lake was full of fish – pike, walleye & bass – & the boats were fishing boats unlike the speed boats, water skiing & other noisy innovations of today.

But, surely the most fundamental change must be stewardship. In this Green-ing world of ours, we cottage-owners are co-owners, more aptly trustees, of Mother Nature. With so many new environmental threats, the flora & fauna have come to be fragile & we are urged to exercise “stewardship” lest our actions damage the eco-system of our beautiful lake!

The last word, or rather the sound, must belong to the loon family on the Lake. Loons mate for life & raise their young together, day in, day out. Last summer, right off our point, we watched for days & weeks, a family, initially with three babies, then sadly reduced to just one because some pleasure-seeking sea-doo-ers kept circling & terrorizing the baby loons until stress & fear killed two of them.

The precarious life of the loon on lakes like ours is but one small sign in the grand cycle of Mother Nature as she reminds us all of the eternal truth about our lake: “I am in charge here but I need a little help from cottagers & users: So, please be kind to the loons & to Me.”



Photo by Cheryl Fosberry

BOAT IN MOVIE

The Fowle & Sibbit families invite you to our third annual family boat in movie night at sundown Sunday, August 3. Look for the big screen on the blue boat house on Route 17A.

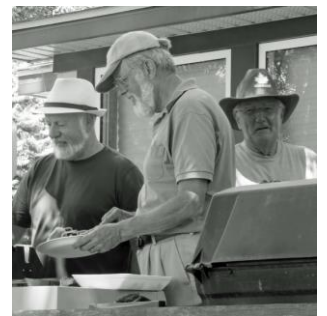
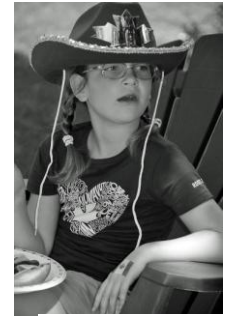
YOUR SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!

The PLCA invites Pike Lakers to submit tall tales, photos, poems, & stories for the 2015 *Pike Lake Post*. Speak to a Board Member, e-mail us at info@pikelake.ca, or write us at Pike Lake Community Association, RR3 Perth, Ont. K7H 3C5

LET'S CELEBRATE PIKE LAKE



Best Decorated Boat Winner



BOATILLA & BBQ 2013



KUDOS TO THE PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY

Pike Lake received the 2013 Outstanding Achievement Award from the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA). This Award recognizes the many initiatives undertaken by members of the Pike Lake Community Association to protect & improve the health of Pike Lake, often by working with government departments & agencies as well as with other like-minded community organizations.

For example, in 2011 members of the Pike Lake Community Association unanimously voted in favour of asking Tay Valley Township to implement mandatory septic inspections on Pike Lake noting that malfunctioning sewage systems can have significant negative impacts on both human health & the environment. Using the *Pike Lake Stewardship Handbook* as its guide, the Association recently provided input to Tay Valley Township's Official Plan Update.

The Award also recognized the responsible boating guide prepared by the Association in response to concerns about the impact of boat wake on shoreline erosion, loon nests & the safety of swimmers. This article was picked up by a number of lake associations & was adapted for both the FOCA website & *Boats and Places* magazine.

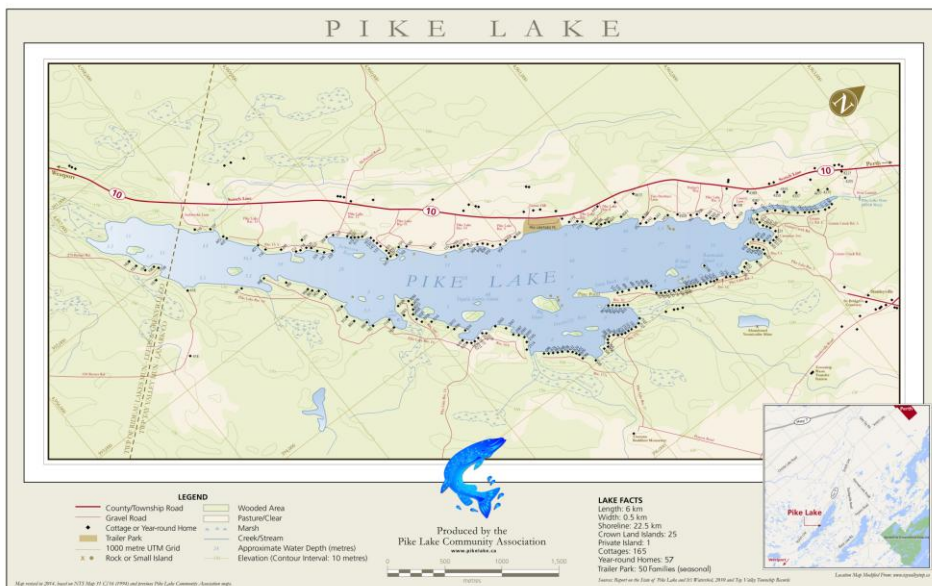
In addition, the Award acknowledged other Pike Lake Community Association initiatives including the enhancement of existing walleye spawning beds with a \$4,000 grant from MNR; involvement with the *Canadian Lakes Loon Survey*, a program initiated by Bird Studies Canada to monitor the survival of loon chicks over time; participation in the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds' *Love Your Lake Program*; & annual water quality testing under the RVCA's *Watershed Watch Program*.



Terry Rees, Executive Director, FOCA, Cathy Cameron & Kay Rogers of Pike Lake, & Tracy Logan, FOCA

Terry Kimmel, President of the Pike Lake Community Association, commented "This Award belongs to the Pike Lake community. While it recognizes the efforts of a great many Association members over the period 2009 – 2013 we can't forget the invaluable efforts of Pike Lakers since the Association was created in the 1960s."

As a region, we should be proud that, of the over 500 lake associations across Ontario, three lake associations in our area have received the Outstanding Achievement Award since it was established 17 years ago: the Greater Bobs & Crowe Lakes Association, the Otty Lake Association & the Pike Lake Community Association. Taken together, this speaks to the importance that Pike Lake & our sister lake associations place on protecting & improving the health of our lakes for the enjoyment of present & future generations.



UPDATED PIKE LAKE MAP

- IN COLOUR -

Available at the Boatilla & the AGM as well as from Board Members.

Maps measuring 18 x 24 inches \$10

Maps measuring 24 x 36 inches \$20