

Pike Lake Post

Summer 2019

*Let's celebrate Pike Lake
& keep it healthy for all!*

- *Lake Stewardship*
- *News from the Board*
- *Science for the Family*



- *Photo Memories*
- *Community News*
- *Kids Fishing Derby*
- *Annual Events*

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



*Great Blue Heron
photo by Gerry Greenslade*

LAKE STEWARDSHIP

PIKE LAKE LOON SURVEY

Pike Lake was home to many common loons again last year. Five pairs were reported, & downy chicks were observed in Jamieson Bay & Donnelly Bay

Thanks to our vigilant Pike Lake “loonies”, the PLCA reported the count of both adult loons & chicks to the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey managed by Bird Studies Canada. This information is used to keep track of the survival of loon chicks. It also helps scientists monitor the health of both the loon population & the health of our lakes.

If you would like to be a volunteer “loonie”, please email the PLCA at info@pikelake.ca.

The Loon Survey is one of Canada’s Citizen Science Programs.



Loon family photo by Catby Cameron

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST?

FrogWatch Learn about Canada’s favourite amphibians while helping researchers & zoos monitor the health of frogs population & frog habitat.

MilkweedWatch asks members of the public concerned with the health of monarch butterfly populations by identifying the location of milkweed plants, which are crucial for monarch reproduction in Canada.

PlantWatch The blooming times of Canada’s most easily-recognized plant species help scientists to track changing climate trends & their impacts. If you love to garden or have an eye for flowers, please help PlantWatch & its network of provincial coordinators.

WormWatch Worms might gross some people out, but at WormWatch, we think worms provide an exciting way to teach kids about the importance of soil & the organisms that live in it. And the kids agree with us. If you have a bunch of kids to amuse on a sunny afternoon, get out your shovel & your smartphone & give WormWatch a try.

IceWatch Using dates recorded by Sylvester McNamee & then Donna Moodie, Kay Rogers submitted the date the ice went out on Pike Lake going back to 1963. This data, together with data provided by Canadians from coast to coast to coast, provides important information about patterns in Canada’s climate.

These programs are run by Nature Canada in partnership with Environment & Climate Change Canada.
For more information google www.naturewatch.ca

MAKE OVER YOUR SHORELINE WITH FREE SHORELINE PLANTS

A naturalized shoreline will

- ✓ trap runoff & excess nutrients
- ✓ discourage growth of algae & aquatic plants
- ✓ provide shelter & food for wildlife
- ✓ support spawning beds for fish
- ✓ reduce erosion

Choose among

- ✓ low growing shrubs, e.g. ninebark, honeysuckle
- ✓ tall shrubs, e.g. dogwood, highbush cranberry
- ✓ small trees, e.g. service berry
- ✓ large deciduous & coniferous trees, e.g. oak, pine

... Planting service provided...



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



LAKE STEWARDSHIP

THINK BEFORE YOU CUT WATER WEEDS

Think cutting Eurasian milfoil in front of your cottage will improve the swimming? Think again. “Harvesting” these invasive weeds is like mowing the lawn – they’ll grow back thicker than before.

If you must remove Eurasian milfoil (see photo right), take good care not to leave plant fragments behind in the water – they will root & spread ... in some cases at your neighbours. Dump the plants at least 30 metres (100 feet) from the shore.

Boaters are asked to avoid infested areas & to reduce your speed. Your propeller can break off fragments & spread the pieces to new areas. New plants can grow from small pieces of the plant. Inspect your boat after each use & remove all plant materials.

The Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNRF) has



clear rules about the removal of aquatic invasive species. www.ontario.ca/page/remove-invasive-aquatic-plants.

MNRF also partners with the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH) on the “Invading Species Awareness Program”. Pike Lakers can report sightings & get more information at www.invadingspecies.com

PIKE LAKE WATER QUALITY SUMMARY REPORT 2018

Surface water quality conditions in Pike Lake have been monitored by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority’s (RVCA’s) Watershed Watch Program since 2006 & its predecessor program which began several years earlier.

Nutrient Concentrations Pike Lake nutrient concentrations are generally below the guidelines, with few exceedances. It is possible that occasional problems with nutrient enrichment (i.e. algal blooms or excessive plant growth) may be observed in shallow, sheltered bays such as site D (Donnelly Bay off Route 17).

Efforts such as the diversion of runoff & enhanced shoreline buffers are important to continue to protect & enhance water quality, & reduce future nutrient increases. Nutrient exceedances may be partially attributed to the natural aging of a lake & basin characteristics. All residents can help minimize their impact on the lake by reducing nutrient inputs through practices such as proper maintenance of septic systems, keeping shorelines natural & using phosphate free soaps & detergents. Promotion of sound stewardship & protection around the lake is important to maintain & protect water quality conditions into the future.

Water Clarity Waters in Pike Lake are clear & sufficient sunlight is able to penetrate the water column to support aquatic life & provide sufficient visibility for safe recreational use (boating, swimming).

Water Quality for Fish Habitat Overall the water chemistry data at the deep point describes suitable habitat conditions for warm water fish species such as yellow perch, walleye & pike. There is some evidence that the warming of the water column in the late summer/fall may limit the amount of habitat for some sensitive species. pH conditions are within the range recommended for the protection of aquatic life. Overall, the data indicates a healthy environment for aquatic species.

Bacterial Contamination The results presented indicate that bacterial contamination is not a significant concern in Pike Lake & the water should be safe for recreational use such as swimming & boating.

Source: The summaries are from *RVCA’s Tay River Subwatershed Report, Pike Lake Catchment*

The third paragraph is highlighted to remind all of us, collectively & individually, of our role & responsibility to help keep Pike Lake healthy for future generations.

To read the full report, including the tables, google www.watersheds.rvca.ca

NEWS FROM YOUR PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

YOUR PLCA BOARD FOR 2018 - 2020

Working to keep Pike Lake healthy for all.

President Naomi Fowlie

Vice-President John Murphy

Secretary Lois Johnson

Treasurer Marty van Gaal

Membership John Duguid

Lake Steward Linden Davidson

Communications Kathy Noxon

At Large Cheryl Fosbery, Constitution Committee Chair

At Large Richard Cormier

At Large Suzanne Forget-Davidson

Past President Adrienne Fowlie-Larocque



PROMOTING BOATER SAFETY HAZARD BUOY PROGRAM

Last year, the PLCA placed 18 hazard buoys to mark the location of rocks or shoals on Pike Lake.

Thanks to the input of Pike Lakers, four additional buoys were placed this May.

All hazard buoys are

- ✓ Placed in areas of the lake identified as the most dangerous
- ✓ Yellow in colour
- ✓ Numbered & identified with the letters *info@PLCA.ca*
- ✓ Respect the guidelines set out by Transport Canada & the Canada Shipping Act

Free maps of Pike Lake showing the location of the hazard buoys will be available at the AGM on July 6th.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIONS 2018-2019

- ✓ Placement of 18 hazard buoys plus cleaning & storage
- ✓ Pike Lake maps marked with hazard buoy locations
- ✓ PLCA promotion day at the public boat launch
- ✓ Participated in the Canadian Lake Loons Survey
- ✓ Let's Celebrate Pike Lake BBQ at the BVM Hall in Stanleyville following the Annual General Meeting
- ✓ Entered into discussions with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry to stock Pike Lake with walleye fingerlings (juvenile walleye)
- ✓ Increased memberships in the PLCA

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Constitution Committee continues to work together to clarify the wording in both our Constitution & Policy Manual. The revised editions will be sent to members via www.pikelake.ca in advance of the 2019 AGM where they will be voted upon. The revisions in the documents will be italicized & highlighted for clarification.

ICE-OUT 2019

Pike Lakers Gerry Greenslade & Donna Moodie report that the ice went out on Saturday April 20 this year.

Our records, which date back to 1963, indicate that

- March 21, 2012 is the earliest the ice went out
- May 2, 1972 is the latest the ice went out
- Since 2000, the ice has gone out 3 times in March



Photo by Cathy Cameron



COTTAGE SUCCESSION SEMINAR

**LEARN HOW TO KEEP THE FAMILY
IN THE FAMILY COTTAGE**

Learn how to develop an agreement to secure a lasting & successful succession, avoid family friction & prevent 'For Sale' signs sprouting

Sunday, July 7th, 2019 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Perth Legion Hall, 26 Beckwith St. E, Perth

Feature Speaker Peter Lillico, Estate Planning Lawyer

Cost This event is free to FOCA members (this includes all members of the PLCA) or \$10 at the door for non-members

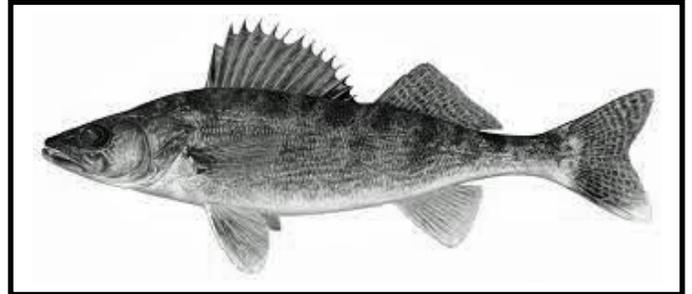
Pre-register to secure your space info@foca.on.ca or 705-749-3822

Event Co-Hosts The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) & the Lake Networking Group

The PLCA is a member of FOCA
& the Lake Networking Group.

**WALLEYE SPAWNING HABITAT
& ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

The PLCA Lake Stewardship program has been working on this project with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNR&F) biology department for several years now. The goal of this project is to enhance the walleye fish population in Pike Lake.



Over the past year, we have met with & continue to communicate with a Ministry Biologist to come up with a plan of action to meet certain Ministry guidelines that would qualify Pike Lake to receive stocking of walleye. Progress has been made. Again this year, a number of volunteers made observations at identified priority shoal locations & have reported on their findings. We have also provided the MNR&F with information they requested, e.g., on the water quality of Pike Lake.

The MNR&F have committed to providing fingerling (juvenile) walleye to be stocked in Pike Lake at their expense if the PLCA meets all their requirements. A presentation will take place at our July 6th Annual General Meeting.

BURNED OUT SNOWMOBILE ON PIKE LAKE

Sometime over the winter, someone left a burnt out snowmobile on Pike Lake off of Route 1. Sadly, the owner didn't remove the wreckage from the lake.

In late March, when Pike Lakers Robin Stout & Dave Scott spotted the burned out wreck, they notified the PLCA. Naomi Fowlie, PLCA President, promptly contacted the OPP & Sean Kennedy at the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry. Sean went out to investigate. He determined that it would be too dangerous to try to retrieve it because the ice was too unstable.

With the help of Jack Anderson, Naomi Fowlie & PLCA VP John Murphy were able to take a good look at the wreck.

Fortunately, the fuel & oil burned off &, hence, did not go into the lake.

The PLCA encourages anyone who sees something of concern on the lake to contact the OPP Lanark County Detachment ASAP as well as info@pikelake.ca Our goal, like yours, is to prevent anything potentially toxic from going into Pike Lake.



BEE THE CHANGE

Do you enjoy eating fresh fruits such as strawberries, blueberries & apples? Are vegetables such as broccoli & asparagus part of your everyday meals?

Without honey bees & other bee species, we can say goodbye to the majority of these fresh & nutritious food options. In fact, if it weren't for bees, about a third of the food we humans consume would no longer be available!

Without the services of bees & other pollinators, our world would look drastically different. Pollinator-dependent plants would be unable to reproduce & spread across the landscape.

Honey bees are super pollinators, meaning that they are very good at helping flowers & plants reproduce. When a honey bee lands on the flower of a plant, pollen from the flower's male reproductive organ (the stamen) will stick to the hairs on the bee's body. The honey bee will then carry that pollen to another flower where it comes in contact with the flower's female reproductive organ (the pistil), thus creating the opportunity for fertilization.



It's a win-win relationship; the bee gets important nutrients from the flower's nectar & pollen, while the flower gets a chance at reproduction.



Here is something you can do to help protect bees & a healthy ecosystem.

Spring is a great time to create a "bee-friendly" garden at your cottage or home. Not only will honey bees reap the rewards of your efforts but so will other pollinators such as butterflies & hummingbirds.

To create a "Bee-friendly" garden

1. Find a good spot! See where you have room for new plants or locations where you could replace old plants. Pick areas that aren't too windy.
2. Select native plants! Pollinators are naturally much more attracted to native/wild plants. Native plants are often low-maintenance since they've adapted to thrive in our region.
3. Plant in groups! Plant in groups of five to seven. When you group colours & flowers together, pollinators find them easier. Plus, bees prefer to pollinate one type of flower at a time. When the flowers are close together, they can pollinate quickly while not using much energy. Win-win.

Did you know?

- Bees like blue, purple, yellow & white flowers the best.
- Butterflies, on the other hand, prefer red, yellow, orange, pink & purple blooms.

A few native plants & bee-friendly perennials

- Wild lupine
- Bottle gentian
- Cup plant
- Dotted mint
- Hoary verbena
- Lance-leaf coreopsis
- Partridge pea
- Prairie ironweed
- Smooth penstemon
- White wild indigo
- Wild bergamot
- Yarrow
- Coneflower, especially purple or yellow coneflower
- Goldenrod, especially showy or stiff goldenrod
- Great blue lobelia
- Lavender hyssop
- Maximilian sunflower
- Purple prairie clover



Photo of coneflower by Gord McCallum

THE RED FOX

Scientific name *Vulpes vulpes*, family *Canidae*
Average weight 3.6 to 6.8 kilograms
Average length 90 to 112 centimetres
Average lifespan 3 to 6 years

Did you know?

Red foxes live around Pike Lake. Have you seen one?

The fox's tail makes up one-third of its total length.

Red foxes are not all red. Other common red fox colours include brown, black & silver. Even foxes that come from the same litter can be different colours!

The red fox, along with the domestic dog, coyotes & wolves, are part of the dog family known as canines or *Canidae*.

Physiology The red fox is a small dog-like mammal, with a sharp-pointed face & a light body build that allows it to be quick on its feet. The red fox is known for its long bushy tail & lustrous rusty or orangish-red fur. The red fox has a dark muzzle & black ears & paws. Its tail-tip, throat & under parts are generally white. While male & female foxes look similar, the male fox is called a dog & is usually slightly larger than the female vixen.

The red fox has a litter of one to ten pups between March & May every year. The young are born blind & aren't able to open their eyes until they're about two weeks old. After one month, fox pups are weaned off their mother's milk & start eating pre-chewed food. After about seven months, young red foxes are able to hunt on their own & leave their parents in search of their own territory. Some foxes have been known to travel up to 250 km to find a suitable home.

Habitats/Behaviours The red fox generally lives on the edges of wooded areas, prairies & farmlands. Foxes only use dens when they are breeding. These dens are usually dug in sand & soil. When building the den, the fox makes sure there is more than one entrance in case of danger. When the red fox is not breeding, it sleeps in the open & keeps warm by wrapping itself with its long bushy tail.

Red foxes are nocturnal, but it's not unusual for them to be spotted during the day. They also have exceptional sight, smell & hearing abilities which makes them excellent hunters. Unlike other mammals, the red fox is able to hear low-frequency sounds which help them hunt small animals, even when they're underground!

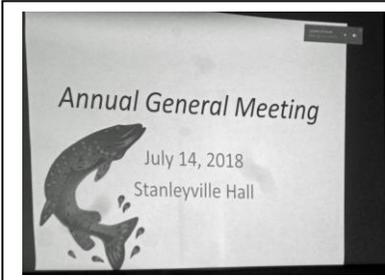
The red fox preys primarily on small animals such as voles, mice, lemmings, hares & rabbits. They also like the taste of chicken & have been called chicken thieves by many farmers. The red fox doesn't just eat meat, though. It also likes to eat plants, fruits & berries. Even when the red fox is not hungry, it will keep hunting & gathering food to store for its next meal.

Range Red foxes are found in all of Canada's provinces & territories, making them one of the country's most wide-spread mammals. In addition to Canada, the red fox can be found in the United States, Europe, Asia, North Africa, & Australia.

Source: www.Canadian Geographic Kids



LET'S CELEBRATE PIKE LAKE



PLCA Board Members for 2018-2020
Marty van Gaal, Lois Johnson, John Duguid, Richard Cormier, Adrienne Fowlie-Larocque, John Murphy, Cheryl Fosbery, Kathy Noxon
Naomi Fowlie to the left of the group photo
Linden Davidson & Suzanne Forget-Davidson to the left



AGM, BBQ & BOAT-IN MOVIE NIGHT 2018



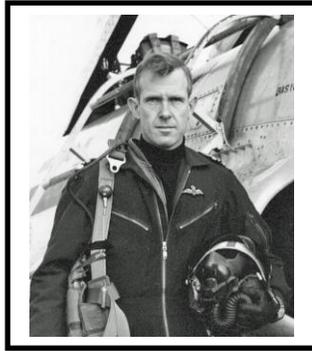
Some 100 Pike Lake kids of all ages & at least one dog arrived in 17 boats to watch E.T. on the Fowlie's boat-house screen.



COMMUNITY NEWS & THANK YOUS

PASSAGES: GLENN COOK

During his flight from Halifax to Ottawa in January 1968, Glenn Cook took a seven minute side-trip – at 400 mph – to check out Pike Lake as a potential site for a cottage. This proved to be the beginning of a 50 year romance with Pike Lake for Glenn & his wife, Audrey.



After retiring from his career as a naval aviator, Glenn's passion for flying continued. Cherished moments ensued as Glenn welcomed family & friends for a flight. He was delighted to demonstrate his aerobatic flying skills including performing impromptu air shows above the lake at the cottage: executing barrel rolls, loop-de-loops & always tipping his wings to signal to Audrey.

One of his great joys was to spend time at the lake with his family, raising the family flag up the flagpole which he had constructed from old parts of a swing set, teaching his granddaughters to drive the boat & later to operate the questionably-intuitive cottage plumbing system.

While Audrey served on the board of the Pike Lake Community Association for over 17 years, Glenn was the behind-the-scenes supporter who could be found flipping burgers when the occasion arose.

In his chapter in *Voices of Pike Lake*, Glenn wrote "Both Audrey & I have enjoyed this special piece of land for many decades." Glenn died in October 2018.

PAUL'S EMPORIUM

A local institution has been closed. Yes, Paul's Emporium at the Stanleyville Waste Site is no more. Please take your reusable items to the Glen Tay Waste Site located behind the Tay Valley Township office on Harper Rd.

CLOSURE OF THE ROAD TO WESTPORT

County Road 10 in the Township of Rideau Lakes will be closed from the west end of Pike Lake to Westport for construction starting April 22, 2019.

Lane closures started on Monday, April 22. Road closure will be from June 10 to July 15. Regular updates will be available at <https://www.municipal511.ca/>.

MOMMA MOUSE & THE BBQ

OR HOW TO KEEP MICE OUT OF THE BBQ OVER THE WINTER

To my great surprise, when I opened the BBQ lid in anticipation of the first BBQ of the season, I saw a pulsating brown box constructed of leaf debris on the warming rack. In seconds, a worried looking momma mouse appeared from the secret door in said box ...

When I told Pike Laker Tim Murphy this story, Tim said, "Ah, we had a mouse family in the BBQ at the hunt camp a few years back. We started to put a stick in the BBQ so the lid couldn't completely close. We haven't seen a mouse since."



THANK YOU TO OVER 45 MEMBERS OF THE PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY!

- ✓ Glenn & Audrey Cook for being home to a RVCA water level recorder since 2011
- ✓ All who delivered the 2018 Pike Lake Post: Jack Anderson, Cathy Cameron, Audrey Cook, Ric Cormier Linden Davidson, John Duguid, Suzanne Forget-Davidson, Cheryl Fosbery, Grant Fowlie, Naomi Fowlie, Mark Godby, Nancy Johnson, Terry Kimmel, Adrienne Fowlie-Larocque, Gord McCallum, Nick Mulder, John Murphy, Trisha Paul-Carson, Bart Poulter, Kay Rogers, Doug Sinclair, & Marty van Gaal
- ✓ All who helped make our 2018 Let's Celebrate Pike Lake BBQ a success: Mary Anne, Julie & Mathew van Gaal for the BBQ & Paige, Fiona & Spencer Mehmet for organizing games for kids with guidance from their father Erin
- ✓ The Constitution Committee: Mark Godby, Kristine Martin, Kathy Noxon, Bart Poutier, & Cheryl Fosbery, chair
- ✓ The Hazard Buoy Committee: Hubert McInnis, Brett Murphy, John Murphy, Peter Noonan, Lee Sumner, & Linden Davidson, chair
- ✓ Sandy Alexander, Betty Bone, Linden Davidson, Bev McParland, & Doug Sinclair, our diligent "Loonies", who counted & tracked loon pairs & chicks
- ✓ The Walleye enhancement project continues thanks to Linden Davidson, John Murphy, Rob Greer, Brian Moffat & several members of the Tisarana Buddhist Monastery
- ✓ The Sibbit & Fowlie families for organizing & hosting the annual boat-in movie night
- ✓ Robin Stout & Dave Scott for reporting the burnt out snowmobile in the middle of Pike Lake off Route 1 & Jack Anderson for driving Naomi Fowlie & John Murphy to locations where they could see the snowmobile
- ✓ Lyle McParland & his sons for cleaning up the garbage & wood left by some of the ice-fishermen
- ✓ Kay Rogers, with support from Cathy Cameron, for producing the 2019 *Pike Lake Post* & the story of *Momma Mouse*

PIKE LAKE KIDS EVENT



KIDS FISHING DERBY & BBQ

SATURDAY AUGUST 3

8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

RAIN OR SHINE



Small fish! Big fish! It does not matter. It's all great fun when the kids take over Pike Lake for a **Kids Fishing Derby on Saturday, August 3 from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm.**

Fishing is to take place either in your boat anywhere on Pike Lake or on your dock. Pre-derby registration & a post-derby BBQ will be held at the Davidson's cottage in Donnelly Bay (300 Pike Lake Route 17B). Look for the "Kids Fishing Derby" sign on the dock.



The purpose of this event is to educate young Pike Lakers about

- the type of fish found in Pike Lake
- things they can do to help maintain a healthy lake & fish population.

The Kids Fishing Derby is open to the children & grandchildren, ages 5 to 15, of PLCA member families only.

No fishing licences are required for children ages 5 to 15. However, adults accompanying children must have a fishing licence.

Please confirm attendance via info@pikelake.ca no later than July 19 & indicate

1. how many children will be participating in the derby & their respective ages
2. how many parents & other guests will be attending the BBQ

The BBQ is free for all registered children. Parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents & family friends of children participating in the derby are welcome. They will be asked to pay \$5 each for the BBQ. Tickets will be sold at the BBQ.

DETAILS

8:30 - 9:00 Registration at the Davidson's cottage

- Each child will be provided with a "fishing catch card", a pencil & a measuring tape

9:00 - 12:00 Fishing Derby (catch & release)

- Kids will be asked to identify the type of fish they caught & the size (in/cm) of each fish on their "fishing catch cards"

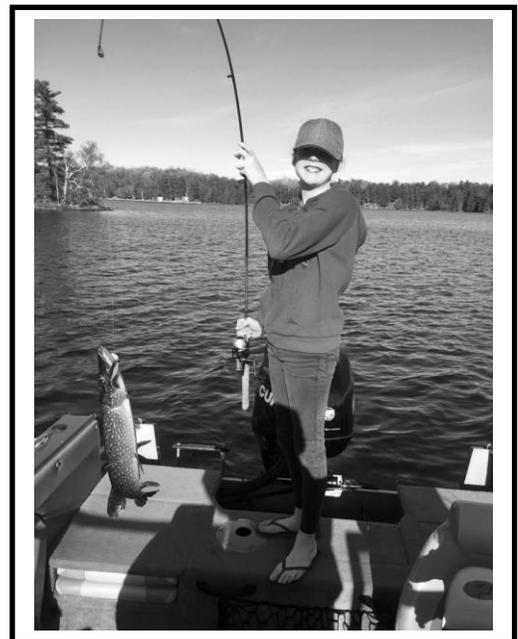
12:00 end of Fishing Derby

- Kids & parents return to the Davidson's cottage for a BBQ

12:15 - 1:30 pm Family BBQ

- Hot dogs, chips & drinks will be served
- Children will have a chance to share what type of fish they caught & their fishing stories
- Pictures will be taken
- Each registered child will receive a participation certificate

A salad or dessert contribution would be appreciated. Please let us know if you will be bringing a food item to share when you confirm your attendance.



**Pike Lake Community Association
Annual General Meeting**

Saturday July 6

Coffee & Registration at 8:00 - 9:00

Meeting 9:00 - 11:30

BVM Hall, Stanleyville

Between Stanleyville Rd & Narrow Locks Rd

- ✓ Meet Your Neighbours
- ✓ Martin Czarski, Watershed Ecologist, RVCA, to speak on the health of Pike Lake
- ✓ President's Report
- ✓ Vote on Clarifications to the Constitution
- ✓ Treasurer's Report & Proposed Budget
- ✓ Lake Steward's Report
- ✓ Tay Valley Township Updates

The following will be posted on the PLCA website by June 21st

- ✓ 2018 AGM draft minutes
- ✓ 2019 AGM agenda
- ✓ 2019 proposed budget
- ✓ Officers reports, including proposed clarifications to the constitution

For more info visit www.pikelake.ca

Boat-in



The Fowlie & Sibbit families invite you to the 8th annual boat-in movie night. Join your neighbours for this family event at sundown **Saturday August 3** (rain date Sunday August 4). Look for the big screen on the boat house on Route 17A.

Let's Celebrate Pike Lake!

BBQ

Saturday July 6

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

following the

AGM

Free

for members

& children

under 14



Kids Fishing Derby

& BBQ

Saturday August 3

8:30 am - 1:30 pm

***See previous page
for details***



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, 24 Sioux Cres., Nepean, ON K2H 7E5