



Pike Lake Post

The Post's 31st Year, Summer 2025

PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY JUNE 21

COFFEE AND REGISTRATION AT 8:30

MEETING 9:00 – 11:00

STANLEYVILLE HALL, STANLEY RD.

BETWEEN STANLEYVILLE RD. AND NARROW LOCKS RD.

- *Meet Your Neighbours*
- Elect Your PLCA Board Members
- State of the Lake Steering Committee
- Eurasian Millfoil with Ken Waller, Sharbot Lake Property Owners' Association
- Contribute Your Ideas
- Pike Lake Ball Caps for sale

The draft 2024 AGM minutes, Agenda for the 2025 AGM, and the proposed 2025 Budget will be posted on the PLCA website www.plca.ca by May 30.

LET'S CELEBRATE PIKE LAKE!



BOATILLA & BBQ

SATURDAY JULY 5, 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 Ball Caps for sale

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 6

BOAT-IN



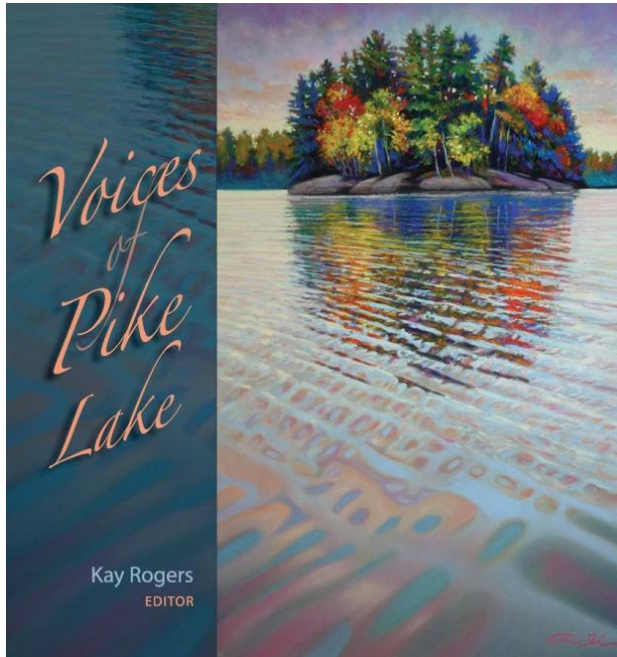
The Fowle & Sibbit families invite you to the
13th annual boat-in movie night.

Join your neighbours for this family event at sundown **Saturday July 26**. Look for the big screen on the boat house on Route 17A, Donnelly Bay.

THE PIKE LAKE ICE CREAM BOAT



may be coming your way!



Back in 2003, when a committee was formed to develop a lake stewardship plan, someone suggested we should have a history of Pike Lake. “Oh,” said Cathy Cameron, “Kay [Rogers] will do that. She likes history”. Kay undertook said project (with the proceeds from the book sales directed to the PLCA). Kay approached her Pike Lake neighbour, award-winning artist **Aili Kurtis**, to ask if she could use one of Aili’s paintings for the book cover. Aili enthusiastically permitted us to use *Island Reflections*. The result: *Voices of Pike Lake*, a true community endeavour with over **40 contributors**.

About 15 years ago, when Kay was on the PLCA Board, she, once again, approached **Aili**. This time the quest was a logo for the PLCA. The result: this playful image of a pike.

Readers interested in Aili’s paintings are invited to visit Studio 87 Fine Art Gallery in Perth or visit <https://ailikurtis.fineartstudioonline.com/>

Aili is not alone contributing to the Pike Lake community. Over 40 people contributed to *Voices of Pike Lake*; 40 to 50 Pike Lakers volunteer for PLCA events and initiatives every year. And, as an association, the PLCA makes an annual donation to the Drummond/North Elmsley Tay Valley Fire Department. This year, the PLCA also made a donation to the Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital Foundation toward the purchase of an MRI Machine. See Bev McParland’s article on page 10.



Nancy Johnson, PLCA Treasurer, making the donation to the Drummond/ North Elmsley Tay Valley Fire Department and to the Hospital Foundation.



GET ON BOARD – LITERALLY!

Have you ever thought about joining the Pike Lake Community Association Board? Well, now's your chance to dive in and make a splash!

We're looking for passionate, community-minded Pike Lakers to join the Board – and yes, that could be you! Or maybe you know someone who'd be perfect for it?

If you or someone you know is

- Excited about helping keep Pike Lake healthy and beautiful
- Into building community and making new lake-loving friends
- Looking to get even more out of their Pike Lake experience

... then we want to hear from you!

Curious about what each Board position involves? Check out the PLCA policy manual at www.pikelake.ca/governance or reach out to the nominations crew at info@pikelake.ca. They'd love to chat!

Important Dates and Details

- Nomination Deadline: Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at noon
- Each nominee needs two nominators (who are PLCA members in good standing)
- Nominators and nominees must have their 2025 PLCA membership fees paid by the deadline
- Nomination forms must be signed by both nominators and nominees – but you can submit separate forms if needed!

Election Time

- Elections will be held at the AGM on Saturday, June 21, 2025
- All candidates will get 2 minutes to wow the crowd before voting begins
- To vote, you just need to have paid your 2025 PLCA fees before the AGM starts

Be a part of something special. The PLCA has been around since 1967, working to protect and preserve the lake we all love. Join the tradition, bring your energy, and help shape the future of Pike Lake!

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
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.



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PLCA BOARD

This year, the arrival of spring was met with particular appreciation following a notably harsh winter in Eastern Ontario. March, true to the old saying, departed with the strength of a lion – making the return of warmer days all the more welcome.

We were pleased to welcome several new members to the Board this year. Their fresh perspectives, combined with the experience of returning members, have sparked thoughtful discussions about our priorities for events, programs, and community initiatives in the year ahead. We're excited to continue offering the events you've come to enjoy, and we're also planning to reprise a surprise giveaway that was especially well-received last year.

Unfortunately, Pike Lake has not been immune to the spread of invasive species. Both Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Milfoil have been positively identified in the lake over the past couple of years. In response, among other things, we've invited a guest speaker to this year's Annual General Meeting who brings first-hand experience in attempting to manage Eurasian Milfoil in Sharbot Lake. We look forward to learning from his insights.

A major initiative for the Board this year is the launch of a new steering committee tasked with planning, coordinating, and overseeing an update to the State of the Lake Report. This will be a long-term project requiring broad participation from the Pike Lake community. We believe this work is timely and essential, and we hope many of you will consider lending your support.

On the topic of community involvement: every two years, the leadership team for the Pike Lake Association is elected by its members. This is one of those years. If you have the time, energy, and passion to contribute, we encourage you to contact the nominations committee and consider standing for election. Your involvement helps keep our community strong and vibrant.

Enjoy your summer and hope to see you at the AGM, the Boatilla, the Boat-in-Movie, and on the lake.

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 <https://www.pikelake.ca/membership>
- Send an e-transfer for \$30 to info@pikelake.ca



YOUR 2024-2025 PLCA BOARD

President	Lois Johnson
Vice-President	David Scott
Secretary	Susan Niles
Treasurer	Nancy Johnson
Communications	Kathy Noxon
Lake Steward	Alexandra Hincke
Membership	Ian Forsyth
Director at Large	Scott Malcolm

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 BALL CAPS

Back by popular demand, these embroidered navy blue ball caps with our Pike Lake Logo on the front and a Maple Leaf on the back will be for sale at the AGM as well as the Boatilla and BBQ. Cost \$30.



SIGNS OF SPRING

Signs spring has arrived on Pike Lake

- The ice has gone out – Sunday April 6 this year
- Buffleheads on the lake in what seems like seconds after the ice goes out
- The chorus of spring peepers in the evening
- The first loon pair swims by – Wednesday April 9 this year
- The dogwoods turn red and the trees bud ... and, a little later, the trilliums bloom



The PLCA wishes to thank to Gerry Greenslade for being Pike Lake's official reporter for the ice-out date for over a decade. Thanks to Gerry and his predecessors Donna Moodie and Sylvester McNamee, the PLCA has data going back to 1963. The trend line is clear: the ice is going out earlier.

This is consistent with the Canadian ice phenology data records dating back to 1900 which shows a strong trend line for the ice to melt earlier than before – a clear indication of climate change. The PLCA contributes the ice out data to IceWatch, one of several citizen science programs. Ice events – the freeze and thaw dates of lakes and rivers – help scientists monitor the effects of climate change on Canadian ecosystems. For more information, google www.naturewatch.ca/icewatch

TWO OF THE ICE-CREAM BOATS ON PIKE LAKE IN THE SUMMER OF 2024



STARLIGHT THEATRE

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

Sitting on the dock is a great place to watch the night sky. All you need are your naked eyes. Indeed, experts suggest that us one of the best ways to become familiar with the stars and galaxies. You can graduate to binoculars later.

The first thing to explore is the moon. After all, it's Earth's celestial buddy. Ask your kids if they can see the lighter splotches on the moon – then explain that those are the moon's mountain ranges and highlands, which are filled with humongous, city-sized craters.

Then, find the **visible planets**: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. To tell them apart, look at the colours: Jupiter is the brightest, Saturn is usually golden-yellow, and Mars is orange-red.

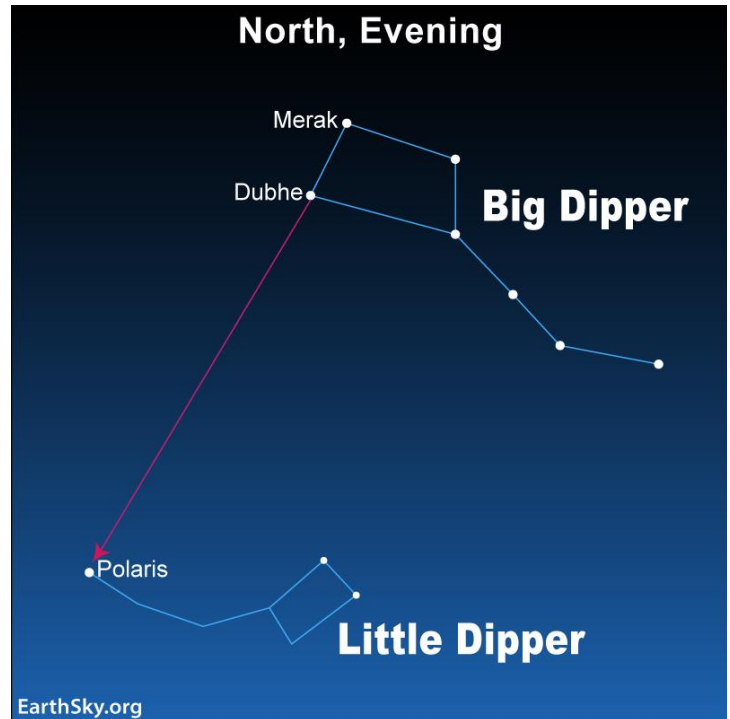
After that, start looking for the **constellations**, which can vary in visibility depending on the season. The simplest ones to find are:

- The Big Dipper (Ursa Major): This is usually the easiest to find, as it looks like a giant ladle in the sky.
- Polaris (a.k.a. The North Star): If you follow the invisible line formed by the two farthest stars in the Big Dipper's saucer, it will point to the North Star.
- The Little Dipper (Ursa Minor): The North Star is the top star in the handle of the Little Dipper. Just follow the stars down to see the curved handle and cup.

Keep an eye out for man-made space inhabitants like the International Space Station and large satellites, both of which appear as small, moving stars.

Amazing Facts about the Sky

- Since the light from stars takes millions of years to reach Earth, seeing a star means you are looking millions of years back in time.
- There are approximately 200-400 billion stars in our Milky Way Galaxy alone.
- Each galaxy – and there are estimated to be more than 100 billion of them – contains hundreds of billions of stars
- In all, the total number of stars in the universe is possibly as high as 300 sextillion, or 300,000,000,000,000,000,000,000!



- Stars do not actually "twinkle." The twinkling appearance is only the Earth's atmosphere deflecting the light that reaches our eyes.
- When you're looking at a star, you're seeing something that's about 20 quadrillion miles away.
- There is no sound in space.
- Venus rotates so slowly that one day there is about a year on Earth time.
- There may be a planet made out of diamonds. According to research from Yale University, a rocky planet about 40 light-years away from us may have a surface made of graphite and diamond.
- Some scientists believe the moon may once have been a piece of Earth that tore off when an object smashed into our planet long, long ago.

Source: <https://tinybeans.com/look-up-tips-for-an-awesome-night-of-stargazing/>

As you get more interested, you may wish to borrow or purchase *Exploring the Night Sky* by Canadian Amateur Astronomer Terrence Dickinson – a user friendly guide ideal for kids of all ages.

Dickenson was also the author of *NightWatch: A Practical Guide to Viewing the Universe*, described by the Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society as the essential star-watching guide for amateur astronomers of all levels of experience.

UPDATING THE STATE OF PIKE LAKE AND ITS WATERSHED REPORT

Over the past 15 years, we have become increasingly aware that the climate of our planet is changing and that changes to the natural environment are occurring. On a personal level, we are observing changes in Pike Lake and its surrounding watershed.

With this in mind, the Board decided we should update our understanding of the current state of Pike Lake. As a first step, our Vice-President, Dave Scott, has initiated a Steering Committee that will oversee the development and delivery of an updated Lake Plan, building on the excellent work that was undertaken to produce the 2010 *Report on the State of the Lake and Its Watershed* and the 2011 *Keeping Pike Lake Healthy, Our Lake Stewardship Action Plan*.

The Steering Committee is seeking volunteers from the Pike Lake community to participate in the design and delivery of the project, establishing the range of data and observations that need to be collected, analyzed, interpreted, and summarized in the new report. From there, we will consider what practical actions we can take to keep Pike Lake healthy.

The perspectives of the broad Pike Lake community are fundamental to the success of this project. To initiate engagement with our community, an on-line survey will be used to begin to gather perspectives, concerns, and ideas from our community. An overview of the project will be presented at the 2025 Annual General Meeting, followed by an opportunity for discussion and additional input from members.



Let's recycle our fishing line at the boat launch or the Trailer Park.

TOP 6 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO LOVE YOUR LAKE

1. Embrace an imperfect property Reducing the amount of lawn care products you use will minimize excess nutrients in the water. This supports clearer lakes, lower risk of harmful algae blooms and improved overall water quality for swimming, boating and fishing.

2. Go wild for wildflowers Planting native flowers along your shoreline or simply as a pop of colour in your gardens can do wonders for lakes. Native plants have deeper roots that help fight erosion, aerate the soil, filter storm water, and reduce runoff. They also offer vital food sources for pollinators and other wildlife.

3. Pick up pet poop Pet poop left on waterfront lawns can be easily washed into the nearby water, contributing to higher E.Coli levels and encouraging more weeds and harmful algae.



4. Drain the rain Stormwater runoff washes chemicals, sediment and excess nutrients into our lakes. Consider installing sustainable drainage features such as rain barrels to store rainwater. Other simple solutions include redirecting your downspout to a garden or natural area and adding natural log steps to any steep pathways.

5. Buff up your shoreline buffer Building a robust shoreline buffer of native shrubs, trees and plants will help reduce erosion and filter contaminants. RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program offers generous grants to develop a custom plan that preserves your water access and views while improving your shoreline.

6. Be septic savvy Septic systems can be a source of contamination in lakes and rivers if they're not maintained properly. Leaking septic systems can also be dangerous for the health of your family and neighbours. Be sure to only use septic-safe cleaners and chemicals, and schedule inspections and pump-outs every three to five years to keep your septic working properly.

Source: Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.
<https://www.rvca.ca/stewardship-grants/stewardship-resources>

PIKE LAKE FAMILY WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Kelly Aelong created and submitted the word puzzle

R	D	I	H	L	A	W	R	E	F	P	F	S	N	G	P	K	E	A	G
D	K	R	Y	G	U	M	I	F	P	A	C	I	B	C	P	H	A	T	Y
E	R	I	S	L	A	N	D	K	L	J	P	O	S	N	G	R	F	I	T
P	L	G	K	D	I	E	R	T	C	E	C	Z	S	H	Y	B	N	U	P
I	K	E	S	N	J	K	A	Y	A	K	Z	A	E	D	I	J	T	R	A
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BOATILLA
BOATS
CANOE
COTTAGE
FISHING

ISLAND
KAYAK
LAKE
MOSQUITO
PADDLEBOARD
PARTY

PIKE
PLCA
SNAKE
TURTLES
WATER

SUMMER STORIES:

TWO NOVELS INSPIRED BY PIKE LAKE

By Alyssa Delle Palme

As a former radio personality, I have packed away my microphone, but my passion for storytelling and my deep love for cottage life inspired me to write my debut novel, *Summer at Pine Lake*. It was published by Evernight Teen in 2023 and is a coming-of-age story about the magic and angst of first love, meaningful friendships, grief, and those nostalgic lazy days of summer. All the beauty of Pike Lake – the whimsical call of the loon and warm July breezes are woven throughout the story.

My late grandfather, Jonathan Evans, was originally from British Columbia and purchased our cottage on Pike Lake in the 1960s because the moss covered rockface on our property reminded him of his home province. He died when I was a young, but I continued to spend every summer of my childhood at the cottage with my grandmother, June. *Summer at Pine Lake* is a work of fiction, but it was inspired by the summers I spent with her swimming in the lake, paddling in our old green canoe and running barefoot through the pine trees.

Since trading the mic for the muse, I've become the voice of romance in Ontario's cottage country. My second novel, *Signing Off for the Summer*, is scheduled to be released by Evernight Publishing on June 6th, 2025. The story is about an overwhelmed radio journalist who withdraws from her toxic workplace, a bad relationship, and city life and escapes to her family's cottage for the summer where she rediscovers her voice and the magic of falling in love. The sun-warmed docks, sweet smelling cedars, and evenings gathered around the campfire stargazing and watching fireflies –everything I love about Pike Lake – has found their way into my novel.

Wherever you read this summer – porch swing, Muskoka chair, on the dock, or in a hammock – I have a story waiting for you! My teen and adult books are available online and are sold and in local bookstores in Perth and Ottawa. If you'd like a signed copy, North Folk Café on Gore Street is hosting a launch party on Saturday, August 23rd at 1:30PM.



PIKE LAKE SUPPORTS MRI CAMPAIGN – JOIN US!

by Bev McParland

As someone who has enjoyed many years at Pike Lake, I've come to truly appreciate the importance of having quality healthcare close by. Whether it's for life's little mishaps or something more serious – like when I needed surgery for a fractured bone – the care at the Perth and Smiths Falls hospitals has always been there when it mattered most.

That's why the Pike Lake Community Association's donation to the MRI campaign is so meaningful. Unlike other hospital expenses, medical equipment like an MRI machine isn't covered by government funding – every dollar must come from donors.

Having access to up-to-date technology not only improves care for our community but also helps attract skilled healthcare professionals to our hospitals.

Thanks to the generosity of so many, the MRI campaign has already reached a significant milestone of \$3.3m. But we're not quite there yet. If you're able, I encourage you to consider making a contribution this year – every gift, no matter the size, brings us closer to our goal. Learn more at www.psfdhfoundation.com.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS OF THE PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

- Our Board Members: Ian Forsyth, Alexandra Hincke, Lois Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Scott Malcolm, Susan Niles, Kathy Noxon, and David Scott
- All who delivered the 2024 *Pike Lake Post*: Susan Cook, Ian Forsyth, Dorothy Forsyth, Naomi Fowlie, Alexander Hincke, Lois Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Scott Malcolm, Susan Niles, Chris Noxon, and Marty Van Gaal
- The 2025 Pike Lake Calendar Committee: Tracy Armstrong, Maureen McDonald and Jim Tasker
- All who helped with the AGM: Allison Bone, Ian Forsyth, Lois Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Susan Niles, Chris Noxon, and Kathy Noxon plus Jen Sinclair for the paddle decorations for attendees
- The hazard buoys team: Rob Greer, John Murphy, Greg Nyman, Mike Shore, and Craig Sinclair
- Nadia Daskalova for reviewing the 2024 financial records
- Jen Sinclair and Kathy Noxon, our Facebook Administrators
- Lois Johnson and Jim Tasker, our Webmasters
- The Fowlie and Sibbit families for hosting the annual Boat-in Movie Night
- Our "Lake Loonies": all those who submitted data on the loon pairs and baby chicks to the Lake Loon Survey
- Gerry Greenslade for determining the ice out date
- Boatilla and Barbecue: John and Brenda Duguid, Ian Forsyth, Naomi Fowlie, Adrienne Fowlie-Laroque, Lois Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Terry Kimmel, Jane Lindsay, Susan Niles, Kathy Noxon, Craig Sinclair, and Jen Sinclair plus The Hour Glass (Perth coffee shop) and The Cove Inn, Westport, for donating gift certificates
- Ice Cream Boats: Sandy Alexander, Ian Buchanan, Linden Davidson, Alexandra Hincke, Nancy Johnson, Suzanne Forget, Kent Fowlie, Sylvain Larocque, Scott Malcolm, Ron Menard, Chris Noxon and Shelby, Craig Sinclair, and Jen Sinclair plus Barnabe's Your Independent Grocer for donating frozen treats
- Alison Bone for producing the fall newsletter
- Steering Committee for Updating the *State of the Lake Report*: David Scott, Chair, Sandy Alexander, Cathryn Bjerkelund, Susan Cook, Adrienne Fowlie-Larocque, James Griffin, Sue Hardy, Alexander Hincke, Lois Johnson, Anne McCaskill, Scott Malcolm, Megan Palmer, Paul Swift, and Brian Weitzman
- Kay Rogers, with support from Cathy Cameron, for producing the *Pike Lake Post*
- Kelly Aelong, Alyssa Della Palme and Bev McParland for their submissions to this year's *Post*
- Those whose photos are in this year's *Post*: Phil Cartright, Lois Johnson, and Jen Sinclair.

BOATILLA AND BBQ 2024





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