

LOON & TURTLE LAKES NEWSLETTER 2023



President's Comment

2022 is behind us now and a sense of normalcy has returned for activities.

Our association was pleased to host the Annual Summer AGM combined with our first big BBQ event. All indicators tell us it was a complete success, very well attended by our members, their families, and several town administrator personnel.

Entertainment was first class from a local Muskoka band, the food was great and of course, the weather was perfect. Thank you to the many volunteers who donated their time and energy to the day!

Winter 2022/23 was milder in temperature than the previous years with an exceptionally large amount of snow over the Christmas holiday, approximately 40" over a 3-day period.

I'm continually reminded that we all share one of the nicest places to live/vacation when I learn of those who have been coming to Loon and Turtle Lake for three generations.

I look forward to getting to know more of your families, watching them enjoy the beautiful nature surrounding us, and encouraging everyone to foster a warm sense of community here.

Sincerely,

Dan Miller

President

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COTTAGE ASSOCIATION

Fire Safety

The greatest risk to all of us and to our cottage investment and relaxing times at the lake is a forest fire. Throughout the summer, please use your campfire safely and look for and follow all FIRE BAN alerts. These alerts will be posted on our website, www.loonturtle.ca, on the Association notice boards, and by caring and concerned individuals on the lakes Facebook page. If you observe a renter or new cottager ignoring the ban, please politely inform them of the Fire Ban alert.



TELL US YOUR STORY!

- We live on various locations on our lakes and view varying and sometimes different activities on the water
- In the interest of promoting water safety, we would be interested in hearing your stories of what is occurring around our lakes
- If you observe acts of courtesy and respect for others on the water, we would like to hear about it
- If you observe any dangerous acts or near misses, we would like to hear about that as well
- We would like to communicate to others the realities of the events on our two lakes

- Please share your stories by messaging:
tellusyourstory@loonturtle.ca
- We will print the stories in our monthly mailers
- Originators of the stories will remain anonymous

-Your Water Safety Awareness Committee



THE WORLD AROUND US



We recently did our annual winter run up to the cottage to check out how it has fared. I spent some time at our corkboard in the kitchen checking out “Animals That We See”, a list of animals that our youngest daughter started after we bought the cottage 32 years ago. She’s a 40-year-old woman now. The list has about 14 categories of animals, including frogs, types of birds, fish, etc. Apparently, we have 7 types of frogs and toads. I can remember when she was young she was always on the lookout to add to her list...although I’ve never been too sure what a “baby duck loon” is!

Most of what your environmental volunteers do is behind the scene dealing with water science and often somewhat boring. Water testing, part of the Lake Partner Program, isn’t very inspiring but forms part of the pillar of what we need to know to protect water quality. Benthic testing is simply a fancy name for counting a range of bugs in the mud where the water meets the shore. The Love Your Lake, along with the Natural Edge, programs sampled our shorelines to see if they could be improved. Paying attention to hyper-active beavers building their dam higher and higher, rattlesnakes popping up here and there and Canada Geese taking over our lakes, and the resulting E. coli issue...these are all things we pay attention to. Taken individually none of these things solve the question of what Loon and Turtle Lakes will look like 30, or 40 years from now.

But I think there is one thing we all can do to make the future of our precious lakes brighter that has nothing to do with science. Our children and grandchildren hold the key to the future of lakes like Loon and Turtle. When we fire up the imagination of our children and grandchildren and engage them in the process of protecting our lakes, good things will happen. Kids have a fascination with what is in the water and on the land. Every summer, in mid-June, there is one day that we do Benthic testing, conducted by Michael Clarke (mtclarke27@gmail.com) along with a biologist provided by the District. Lots of intrigued adults and children volunteers are needed!

Samples of mud are taken from the water's edge, divided into piles at a convenient dock or cottage, and then the fun starts. What looked like mud is actually a biosphere with a whole world we rarely see. The mud is filled with all kinds of animal life. A careful count is done and entered into a chart. The District analyzes the chart and gets back to us with the results, a healthy biosphere or not. It is a unique learning exercise that has tangible results. Children, especially, will remember this event for the rest of their lives. Get involved, your children will get a better view of the world around us. Our benthic monitoring process this year will be held on the morning of Saturday, June 17th. More details will follow as we get closer to the date.

If you have any ideas on how the LTLCA can engage kids in the environmental process, let me know. In the meantime someone let me know what a “baby duck loon” is!!

Hopefully, you read the note last fall on the advantages of growing white clover rather than non-native grass. Just to reiterate:

- 🌿 White clover is very easy to grow, even in high-traffic areas
- 🌿 It is drought and erosion resistant
- 🌿 It is a great food source for bees and butterflies
- 🌿 It fertilizes itself by fixing nitrogen in the earth
- 🌿 The best thing: only needs to be cut once or twice a season!

A number of cottagers have tried white clover as a replacement for grass and have had great results, even in hard-to-grow areas. Try it, you'll be doing Mother Nature a big favour by replacing your grass with clover.

-Peter Helston

705-687-0124



New Gravenhurst Short-term Rentals By-law

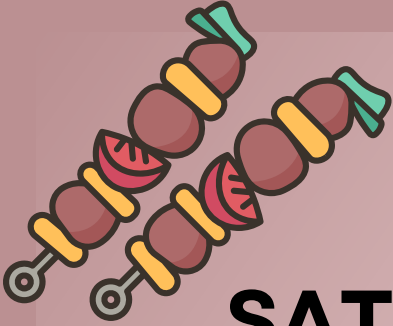
This By-law is now in effect. Any cottage rental of less than 28 consecutive days is covered. Owners will need to complete an online application and pay a fee of \$750 for the 2023 season. The application process includes: a Renters Code of Conduct Form; Responsible Person Consent Form; Site Plan; Photo ID; and, Proof of Ownership. The 'problem areas' specifically targeted and likely to generate a complaint are: noise, off-leash dogs, parking, garbage, and outdoor burning. The full text of the By-law can be found on the town's website and via a link on our website (**loonturtle.ca**).

Your Association Website Needs YOU!

Check out the latest news, contractor reviews, fire bans, and a whole lot more on the website, loonturtle.ca. Your suggestions are always welcome. We're also looking for your best 2023 'summer fun' photos which can be emailed to garyalyon@gmail.com + photo from 2022 photos.



ANNUAL *Summer* BBQ



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023

RAIN DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2023

AGM Meeting: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

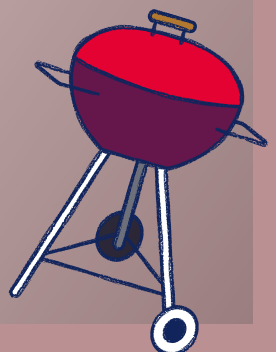
Annual Summer BBQ To Follow

MEET NEW LAKE NEIGHBOURS AND
SOCIALIZE WITH OLD FRIENDS!
YOUR COTTAGE GUESTS ARE WELCOME
TO JOIN YOU IF THEY ARE PRE-
REGISTERED.

RSVP details coming soon.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Please
contact joel@jkwinter.com

Food generously donated by Sobeys.



MEMBERSHIP



The direction of our association has evolved from solely a social organization to also protecting our environment. We must work together for our mutual benefit and remain connected through our monthly emails, newsletters and the Annual General Meeting. These are just some of the initiatives which affect the value of our lakefront homes and the quality of our lives:

- dealing with invasive species
- preserving water quality
- goose mitigation
- shoreline preservation
- preserving the biological condition of our lakes
- septic system awareness
- fire safety
- water safety
- road safety
- spongy moths, rattlesnakes and bears “oh my”



To join or renew your Loon & Turtle Lakes Cottage Association membership, please send a safe and easy -Transfer of \$45 to membership@loonturtle.ca or if you prefer, send a cheque payable to the Loon & Turtle Lakes Cottage Association to: David Caruana, 1275 Maple Ridge Drive, Pickering, ON, L1X 1H4. For more information, please go to our website www.loonturtle.ca.

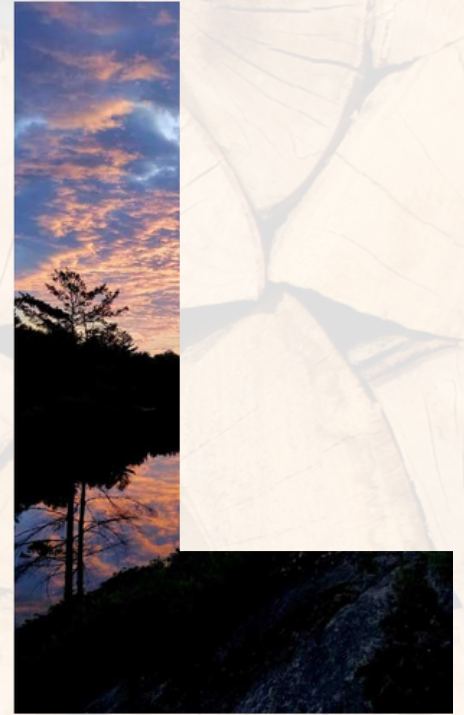
If you would like to support Gravenhurst Against Poverty (GAP), you can do this when renewing your membership. Any renewal payments that we receive in excess of \$45 will be donated to GAP. Or, if you would like to donate directly to GAP and receive a tax receipt, you can do so at: GRAVENHURST AGAINST POVERTY - G.A.P. Home Page.



loonturtle.ca



membership@loonturtle.ca



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***SEE STORE/WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS**

***SOME CONDITIONS APPLY**