

# KENNEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2013



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2013  
Kennebec Community Hall, Arden**

9:30 a.m.: Have a coffee, look over the informative displays, and talk to committee members.

10:30 a.m.: Business meeting.

12:15 to 1:15 p.m.: Lunch, with sandwiches, fruit, squares, drinks. Adults \$6, Children \$4.

Share your ideas on topics such as:  
Updates on the McIntosh Perry Development  
Kennebec Lake Stewardship Plan  
Septic System Re-inspection  
Arden Revitalization

## 2014 Kennebec Lake Calendars

Noreen Dertinger has once again produced a beautiful Kennebec Lake Calendar that will be available for purchase (\$10) at the AGM on August 10 on a first-come-first-serve basis. Enjoy a wide selection of nature photography.

Copies of the calendar can be reserved by emailing [webmaster@kennebeclake.ca](mailto:webmaster@kennebeclake.ca).

## Kennebec Lake Stewardship Plan

If you were at the lake for the long weekend in May, you should have received our new Lake Stewardship Plan along with the spring newsletter.

If you haven't got yours yet, you may pick up your free copy of the lake plan at the AGM on August 10. Don't miss out!

Order forms will be available at the AGM to order your **Kennebec Clothing** for delivery by Thanksgiving. We must have 24 items before an order can be placed.

## Come Together Now

by Terry Kennedy

For all of us, the "cottage" is highly treasured as part of our lives. We each care deeply about our cottage, the lake and continued enjoyment of this source of so much pleasure to ourselves and our families. It is precisely because cottage time can seem so brief and precious that we might come to jealously guard our time there, and attendance at a meeting might not make it onto the family radar.

For any lake association, however, the **Annual General Meeting** represents an occasion of high importance. It is the only real opportunity for property owners to come together — meet face to face — to hear news regarding issues of potential impact and to share information.

This year's Kennebec Lake Association AGM promises to be an interesting one, with several items of importance to us all. Mark Snider from McIntosh Perry will be bringing the latest word about the Kennebec Shores Waterfront Community and will have a display showing the plans. Also speaking will be Jeremy Neven, the Chief Building Official for Central Frontenac, who will comment and field questions on anything from building permits to septic systems.

There will also be updates about the new Safe Properties Bylaw (replacing the old bylaw), as well as the progress of the working group looking at septic system re-inspection programs, and much more.

Please set aside the morning of Saturday, August 10, to share ideas and values and to ensure that, as an Association, we agree on our priorities and directions.

## Events and Activities

### Summer Softball for Adults

Come on out and play softball Wednesdays and Sundays at 6:30 p.m. at the Arden Park Ball Diamond. Contact Gord Brown, 335-4843.

### Cloyne Showcase Arts & Crafts Show & Sale

August 10 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m) and August 11 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

### Parham Fair: August 23 to 25. A true country fair!

### Arden United Church Auction & Consignment Auction

(10% commission). August 24, 10 a.m., Kennebec Community Hall.

### Inroads Studio Tour

August 31 to September 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Take in the finer arts and crafts in Frontenac and Lanark Counties. [www.inroadstour.ca](http://www.inroadstour.ca).

# What You Don't Know About Cottage Insurance Could Hurt You

by Judy Kennedy

A précis of the article in *Cottage Life Magazine* (April 2011) by Philip Preville

Philip Preville raises some questions and gives advice regarding insurance coverage for cottages:

- If you rent out your cottage, do you have insurance to cover users other than yourself?
- Do you check for weak trees near your cottage that could fall in high winds? The top cause of loss is wind!
- Is your policy up to date or decades old? Repair costs only go up.
- Do you check for raccoon and other animal access before closing for winter? There are "Named Perils Policies."
- Are all waterlines completely drained and shut off at closing? This is the second most common claim.

- Does someone check your roof for winter snow load?
- Cottage policies are often higher than home policies because risks are higher due to absenteeism and multiple buildings.
- If you do not have your laneway plowed in winter, fire equipment cannot get to your cottage, thereby possibly negating fire coverage. Check with your insurer.
- Review your policy routinely. If you have permanent residents nearby, it is always a good idea to arrange for them to check your cottage on a regular basis.

(For the full article, visit [www.cottagelife.com](http://www.cottagelife.com) and search "insurance.")

**FYI: To report occurrences around the lake that do not warrant a 911 emergency response, call 888-310-1122.**

## Out of the Pan and Into the Fire

A clarification about the application of the Burning Bylaw

Bylaw No. 2009-293 applies to all open-air burning, including **campfires**, incinerators and brush burning, but **does not apply to small, contained fires for the purpose of cooking** or outdoor wood furnaces.

The Township fire chief explained that a distinction must be made between a "campfire" and a "fire for the purpose of cooking." A campfire is associated with a recreational activity. A small, contained fire (smaller than 2 feet by 2 feet in area and 2 feet in flame height) "for the purpose of cooking" is specific to cooking food or boiling water and is not confined to 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

For example, a person camping or at the cottage may construct a small fire to cook a meal. In this case, the bylaw would not apply. However, where the principal use of a fire is not for cooking but for recreation, then the term "campfire" would be used and the bylaw would apply.

That is not to say a person can't use a campfire for cooking purposes (e.g., marshmallows, hotdogs, etc.), but in such instances, this "cooking" would be considered a secondary or incidental use of the fire.

by John DuChene

## Loon Survey/Citizen Scientists

For years, Kennebec Lake residents have helped to observe loons and contributed their observations to the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey. At present, your sightings can be reported to KLA's webmaster, Noreen Dertinger.

Bird Studies Canada (BSC) recently published a report analyzing results from the Loon Survey, summarizing patterns in Common Loon reproductive success across Canada between 1992 and 2010. BSC reports: "Measured as the annual number of young produced per pair, reproductive success was higher in western Canada than in the east; decreased over time; was higher on larger lakes than on smaller lakes; and increased as acidity decreased. These patterns were likely linked to mercury pollution and acid precipitation. Our findings support further action to reduce emissions of mercury and the harmful components of acid precipitation."

Other threats to loons are lead shot or lead fishing tackle that loons pick up from lake bottoms and discarded fishing lines. Remember, a fish line caused the death of one of our loon chicks a few years ago.

Data for this BSC report came mainly from "citizen scientists" contributing to programs to monitor wildlife as indicators of environmental stress. Visit the BSC website ([www.bsc-eoc.org](http://www.bsc-eoc.org)) for more information.

by Aileen Merriam

## Kennebec & District Historical Society

Did you know that Arden had a gold rush? Or why part of the Henderson area was called Dead Creek? A group of interested residents of Kennebec Ward formed a local historical society in 2007 (incorporated under the umbrella of the Ontario Historical Society) and meet almost every month to share stories and explore the best way to preserve and share the area's history. We are collecting and organizing stories, documents, photos and small artefacts to make them available to historians and the public. One of our long-term hopes is to have a small museum. We hold open houses and fundraising projects and are pursuing various grants. Membership is \$5 per year.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (with variations in the winter) at the Kennebec Community Hall. Our meeting and display room is in the old Kennebec Township Office. Each month, there is a subject to begin the discussions, and sometimes a speaker with knowledge of a local topic. Everyone is welcome to come, learn more about our history and help preserve our heritage.

by Sarah Hale

## At First Flush

### Voluntary Septic Re-inspection Program for KLA

by John DuChene

Property owners around the lake should have received and hopefully responded to a recent letter sent out by the Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office about an opportunity to participate in a “voluntary” and “free” re-inspection of their septic tanks and associated tile beds.

The letter and application were self-explanatory and useful in defining the importance of having a properly functioning system. Kennebec Lake represents **the critical piece of shared nature** that we all highly value. The water quality associated with this important resource, however, is vulnerable to **unwanted and unnecessary contaminants** that can migrate to feeder streams and the lake from poorly operating systems. Added nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) contribute to enhanced aquatic plant growth, causing reduced oxygen levels, which is bad for our fishery and can reduce other recreational pursuits over parts of the lake.

The need for property owners to have a properly functioning septic system has been a priority identified by the Kennebec Lake Association for several years (see KLA Stewardship Plan 2012), and now that the Building Code Act offers the opportunity for local municipalities to develop a locally tailored program, including mandatory re-inspections, the KLA Executive Committee has committed to work with other area lake associations and the Township in exploring how best to introduce a new long-term approach to deal with this issue.

Although it may be too late for you to participate in this year’s program (the submission deadline for the program is August 7), there should be future opportunities for you next year and beyond. It’s your property, your septic system, your responsibility.

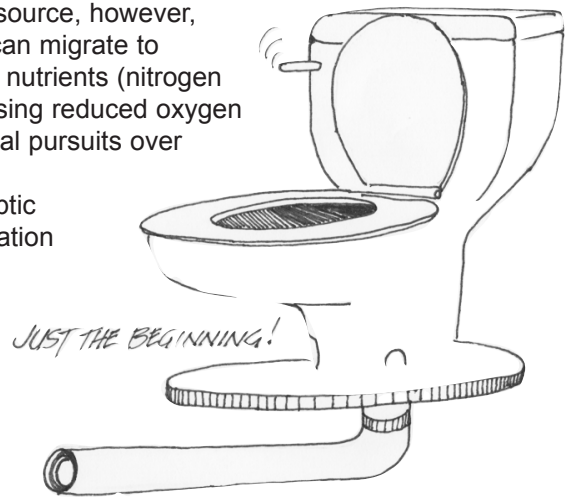


Illustration by John DuChene

## What Makes Your Garden Grow?

by Gray Merriam

The same things that make your algae grow.

Nitrogen and phosphorus are vital nutrients. Without them, no living thing would grow. No corn, beans, algae or sunfish. But too much of either phosphorus or nitrogen will cause too much growth. That is how algae grow into bothersome “blooms.”

As long as there is enough phosphorus, the amount of nitrogen will control the growth of algae. As long as there is enough nitrogen, the amount of phosphorus can control the growth. It’s called the Law of the Minimum. The vital nutrient that is present in the lowest amount, relative to the requirement of the algae, will control the growth.

We generally focus our lake stewardship efforts on phosphorus, but if the amount of phosphorus in the water is sufficient, adding nitrogen to the lake will increase the growth of algae.

Nitrogen can get into the lake more easily than phosphorus, because many chemical forms of nitrogen are very soluble in water. That makes it easy for nitrogen to seep wherever water can move. Anywhere near the lake, seeping water is headed into the lake, carrying its load of nitrogen with it.

We can easily increase that load of nitrogen if our septic system is poorly maintained and not working well. The phosphorus reading from the lake won’t show any change, but the algae will grow much faster. They can double their mass in a few hours.

Algae increase most rapidly when fed nitrates. Nitrates ( $\text{NO}_3$ ) come from lawn and garden fertilizer, but they also come from your septic leachate. They leave the septic system as nitrites ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) but are rapidly oxidized by the lake water into nitrates — candy for algae.

## Canada Day Flotilla

by Gord Brown

We had great exuberance and decorations on about 17 watercraft, including three kayaks. Boats came from the east and west ends of Kennebec Lake, meeting at the bridge on Henderson Road. Cottagers along the way cheered us on, and some joined in as we passed. The high water this year made it difficult for some boats to get under the bridge or, in some cases, to get boats in at all.

While we all had a great time, a barbecue after the flotilla would really complete the festivities. For next year, we will be trying to get a location central to east and west cottagers where we can tie up or beach our boats, have a burger or hotdog and get better acquainted. So mark July 1 on your 2014 KLA Calendars — buy one at the AGM — and come out and join the flotilla fun!

# NATURE NOTES

## The Quiet Amphibians

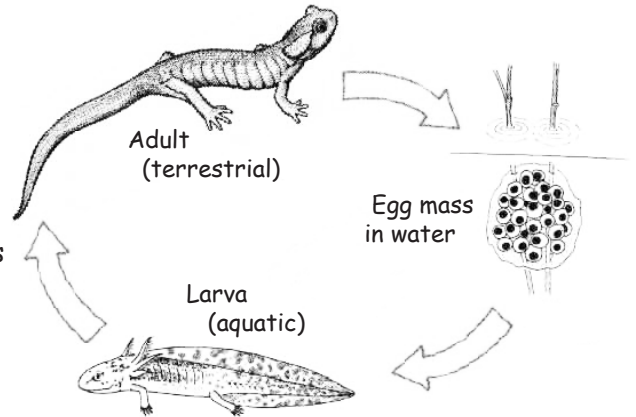
We all enjoy the singing amphibians—the frogs and toads who loudly entertain us throughout the spring and into the early summer. But there are other amphibians that we never hear from. These are the salamanders who quietly go about their lives, mostly hidden from our view. In mating season, scent, not song, helps them find mates.

Seven species share the streams, ponds, mossy woods and wetlands in our area of Central Frontenac.

### Life Cycles

Salamanders, like frogs, usually spend part of their lives in and near water. In a typical life cycle, the male deposits a packet of sperm in the water which the female picks up. Her eggs are laid in the water, and hatch there into a larval stage with feathery gills on either side of the neck. They breathe through gills and through the skin. When fully grown, the larvae change (metamorphose) into the adult form, lose their gills, develop lungs and become terrestrial. As adults, they return to the water again to find mates and lay eggs.

Around Kennebec Lake, three species of salamanders follow this life history. These are: Spotted Salamander, Ambystoma maculatum; Blue-spotted Salamander, Ambystoma laterale; and Northern Two-lined Salamander, Eurycea bislineata.



Spotted Salamander

Another of our salamander species, the Four-toed Salamander, Hemidactylium scutatum, mates, lays eggs and broods them on land very near the water. When the larvae hatch, they make their way into the water and live there until grown and ready to metamorphose into terrestrial adults.

The Red-spotted Newt, Notophthalmus viridescens, lives an even more diverse, complicated life. When the larvae, which hatched from eggs in the water, have completed their growth, they change into juveniles called "red eft." Orange, with black-ringed red spots, the small red efts can spend several years in deciduous and coniferous forests. In wet weather they can be found scampering over the forest floor in search of small creatures for food. However, like most other salamanders on land, they are usually hidden in moist environments, such as under rotting logs or leaf litter. When red efts are fully grown, they metamorphose again into an aquatic adult form that is larger and dark olive-green. These aquatic adults can live for many years.

One of our salamanders, the Redback, Plethodon cinereus, spends its entire life on land, and it does not have lungs! So the skin, through which it gets its oxygen, must never dry out. In contrast, another local salamander, the Mudpuppy, Necturus maculosus, lives entirely in the water. It retains its gills throughout its life.

### Kennebec Story

Early this summer Gord Wright, with the help of a neighbour, was moving a tree trunk cut down by the power company a few years earlier. A large chunk of the bark fell off, and to his surprise he found a beautiful Blue-spotted Salamander. It had been living in the moist space under the loose bark! Gord carefully placed the little creature into another moist environment on his property.

Moral of the story? Make sure that you leave places suitable for salamanders on your property. You, too, may one day get a pleasant surprise.

Blue-spotted Salamander on hand



### Did you know?

- All salamanders need moist environments when they are on land—they absorb much of the oxygen they need through the skin.
- We need to conserve all types of wetlands to ensure salamander survival.
- Salamanders also need other habitats, such as forests, to complete their life cycles.

by Aileen Merriam