

KENNEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2014
Kennebec Community Centre, Arden**

9:30 a.m.: Have a cold drink, 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 \$5, Children \$2.

Share your ideas on topics such as:
Kennebec Lake Stewardship Plan
Septic System Re-inspection
Arden Revitalization
Any new lake concerns

2015 Kennebec Lake Calendars

We have created a 2015 edition of the Kennebec Lake calendar. It contains beautiful photography as well as informative captions. A preview can be viewed by going to www.kennebeclake.ca and from the main menu choosing the Kennebec Lake 2015 link, and then click on the image. This will allow you to browse through the calendar's photos.

A limited number of copies of the calendar will be for sale (\$10 per copy) at the KLA AGM on August 9. In the past, the calendar has sold out quickly. To avoid disappointment, you can reserve copy(ies) for pickup at the AGM by emailing kennebeclakeinfo@gmail.com. If you are unable to attend the AGM, you may make alternative arrangements. Payment is required at pickup.

— Noreen Dertinger

Collective Commitment

by Terry Kennedy

Our local municipal government, the Township of Central Frontenac, is the agency with the responsibility and authority to enact bylaws and establish regulations toward their enforcement. Collectively, these rules and regulations can have a significant impact on all of us who own property here, and that is why the KLA has consistently worked to maintain a close working relationship with Council and staff.

Council schedules one of its regular meetings every year in each of the four districts in the municipality; the Kennebec District meeting was held in Arden on Tuesday, July 8. At this meeting, the KLA joined with the local Seniors, the Recreation Committee, a budding Arden Youth Group, the Kennebec and District Historical Society, and the Friends of Arden to make presentations to Council regarding the make-up and needs of each group. Along with the assistance of the local firefighters in providing a meal and the attendance of some 50 active local residents, we hope these presentations have ensured that the interests of our community are better understood and more readily supported at the township level.

Speaking of support, the Annual General Meeting is on Saturday, August 9, at the Kennebec Community Centre in Arden. I encourage everyone to take the time to attend. It is only through a healthy commitment from all that the KLA can be a strong advocate for the interests of its members and for the continued well-being of the lake. So come on out, see what your Executive has been doing on your behalf, and help to determine where we go from here!

Kennebec Lake Website rebuilt

Over the past several months, the Kennebec Lake website (www.kennebeclake.ca) has been completely rebuilt. The main goal was to make it more secure as well as more user-friendly; it is now also mobile device-friendly. A significantly expanded newsletter section (24 years' worth plus subject and content indexes of the articles), the lake plan, the lake plan background document and more are now available for public access. At the time of writing, an online photo gallery is under construction. When complete, it will have pictures that members and their families and friends have submitted.

The website is continuously evolving. We are looking for input. To provide feedback about the new site or to submit other content for consideration, please email kennebeclakeinfo@gmail.com.

FYI: Due to the onerous provisions of the new Canada Anti Spam Legislation, we have had to suspend emailing to members until further notice. We are working with FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers) and other interested parties to develop a suitable solution. Until this issue is resolved, we will continue to communicate with you by snail mail. Newsletters, other information and notices of interest will continue to be posted on our website.

Community Day North of 7

by Gray Merriam

If you live in or love the countryside “north of 7,” you will want to come out to the Community Hall in Cloyne on Saturday, September 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. About 25 groups and individuals will be available to answer your questions and listen to your stories about this land, its natural riches and the natural processes that make it what it is.

The KLA, the Friends of the Salmon, and Frontenac County will be among the contributing groups whose interests will range from dark skies and sounds of ecosystems to snakes, salamanders and land trusts. The Frontenac Stewardship Foundation will organize the day, and the Ontario Woodlot Association will present a chainsaw workshop and a walk in the woods showing how to boost the value of private forests.

The land north of 7 is naturally much richer than most other settled parts of Ontario. But it is marginalized politically and by conventional planning, because there are so few towns and villages. Unfortunately, naturally rich, wild areas are not valued as highly as urban features.

North of 7 is lakeland and a wetland complex that controls Kennebec Lake and the Salmon River. The region is a mosaic of those wetlands and forests, attractive to vacationers, and it is home to a lot of folks. Community Day will encourage people on the land to engage with the richness of that land and enhance the relationship of the community to that rich landscape. It will provide information to help us understand how to keep it naturally rich. Understanding will enable us to work toward our social and economic goals in ways that safeguard the rich lands where we live. And perhaps all of us can gain insights into better ways of evaluating, planning and managing the most basic wealth of all — the land.

Recreation Clubs and Activities

Kennebec Community Centre

Line Dancing: Monday, 9:30 a.m.

Contact Diane Nicolson, 335-2845.

Fit 'n Fun: Tuesday, 9 a.m. (Sept. 16 to Dec. 2).

Contact Gloria Smiley, 335-2188.

Arden Seniors Happy Gang: 1st Tuesday each month, 11 a.m. Contact Jack Patterson, 335-3469.

Glee Club: Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Contact Helen Praskey, 335-2486.

Euchre: Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Contact the Nicolsons, 335-2845.

Tai Chi: Wednesday, beginners 9:15 a.m., veterans 10 a.m. Contact Helen Praskey, 335-2486.

Children's Story Time: Thursday, 5 p.m.

Contact Connie, 335-2958.

Arden Ball Park in Recreation Park

Seniors' Softball: Sunday and Wednesday, 6:30-8 p.m.

Contact Gord Brown, 335-4843 or gord.brown53@gmail.com for details.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 9: KLA Annual General Meeting at the Kennebec Community Centre. Displays at 9:30 a.m. Business meeting at 10:30 a.m. Lunch follows.

Saturday, August 16: United Church Auction at the Kennebec Community Centre. Breakfast 9 a.m. (peameal on a bun), Auction 10 a.m.

Saturday, August 30, to Monday, September 1: 22nd Inroads Studio Tour, featuring 13 local artisans in Frontenac and Lanark Counties, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Contact Judith Versavel, 335-2032.

Saturday, August 30, to Monday, September 1: Sundance Studio Tour, in Maberly behind Fall River Restaurant, features 40 artisans. Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, September 6: Community Day North of 7 at the Community Hall in Cloyne, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Gray Merriam, 335-3589.

Municipal Elections: October 27, 2014

Cottage owners and residents are all entitled to vote in this October's municipal election. As long as you are a Canadian citizen, over 18 years of age and a resident of or own property in the municipality, you can vote — even if you are not here on election day.

You will receive a PIN number in the mail. You may vote via the telephone or the Internet from anywhere in the world. For further instructions and to find out if you are on the voting list, go to the township website www.centralfrontenac.com and click on the link www.voterlookup.ca.

The KLA is putting together a series of questions for local candidates, and their responses will be on our website well before the election. We encourage you to read the responses and cast your votes in October.

Currently running for mayor is incumbent Janet Gutowski and Councillor of Oso District, Frances Smith.

In Kennebec District, running for the two councillor seats are incumbents Tom Dewey and Jeff Matson and former councillor Logan Murray. — Judy Kennedy

KLA Executive 2013-2014

Chair: Terry Kennedy

Secretary: Margo Arseneau

Treasurer: Roy Beechey

Executive Members: Cliff Anderson, Gord Brown, Bernie Dertinger, Noreen Dertinger, John DuChene, Sandra Dunham, Jamie French, Judy Kennedy, Jack Nicolson, Gloria Smiley, Peter Smiley, Terry Trojek

Newsletter Team

Charlotte DuChene, Judy Kennedy, Aileen Merriam and Gloria Smiley

Thanks to contributors of articles and illustrations and to those who collate and distribute the newsletter.

Website: www.kennebeclake.ca

Noreen Dertinger: kennebeclakeinfo@gmail.com

The Magic of Loons: Icon of Canada's Lakes

By Noreen Dertinger (volunteer Bird Studies Canada Loon Survey participant for Kennebec Lake)

Photo by Noreen Dertinger

The distinctive, penetrating, though not unpleasant call of the loon is the defining feature of a Canadian lake. Loons are magical; their call enchants us, their long dives fascinate us, and when we make small talk at a get-together, more often than not we talk about loons. "Did you hear them last night?" "Is lonesome Charlie around?" "Have you seen the chick yet?" We probably care more about our loons than we realize.

For many years, loons did not raise chicks on Kennebec Lake, and we blamed increased human activity for that. KLA volunteers built log-based nesting platforms and positioned them in what was considered suitable habitat. No luck. At long last, in 2009, after about a 12-year "loon chick drought," there was a breeding pair on the lake — not on one of the by-then-rotting nesting platforms but on a small, grassy mound in the bay at the mouth of the Salmon River. Loon enthusiasts were heartened to learn that a loon chick had been successfully hatched. It fledged. Observers hoped that this was not a fluke and that loons would continue to nest on Kennebec Lake in the future. To that end, KLA volunteers built a couple of fancier and hopefully longer-lasting nesting platforms of foam, plastic pipe and wood, one each for the east and west basins of the lake.



Since then, nests have been spotted, although the loons spurned the artificial nesting platforms. A loon chick was hatched in 2010 in the east end

of the lake. Sadly, that chick is thought to have perished from injuries after ingesting fishing tackle. In 2011 and 2012, chicks were hatched in the east end of the lake (two chicks, only one survived) as well as the Salmon River arm (one chick). It is thought that one or both fledged. No loon nests or chicks were reported on our lake in 2013.

This year, loon nests were spotted in the east end and in the Salmon River arm of Kennebec Lake. At the time of writing (July 16, 2014), no sign of the east-end loon parents or a chick had been seen in recent days. There is also no evidence of the chick having hatched yet. The 28-day incubation time should be just about over. We can hope that it will hatch and tour the lake with its parents. The Salmon River chick has hatched and is currently accompanied by its parents. We hope that it will survive to fledge and does not die due to human-made causes.

The growing number of loon nest sightings on Kennebec Lake has increased the awareness of lake residents about the magic of loons in general, and the interest in the fate of the chicks is universal. Here are some things you can do to help them survive:

- If you see a loon's nest, whether or not it is occupied by a loon, please do not investigate the nesting site very closely. The photos of the nesting loon accompanying this article and a later one of an egg (see the "Loon" photo gallery at www.kennebeclake.ca) were taken using the zoom capabilities of the camera.
- If you are near a loon and it gives its laughing or "tremolo" call, please back off. The laughing/tremolo call is a distress call. You could be too close to a nest or chick(s).
- Watch your wake when boating. It can swamp loons, the nest and their chick(s).
- Use fishing lures that do not have barbs. That way, if one gets caught in a loon's beak, it has a chance of shaking the lure loose.
- Use non-toxic fishing tackle. It helps all wildlife and the environment too.
- Keep your shoreline natural.

Kennebec Lake participates in the Bird Studies Canada Loon Survey. Report sightings to kennebeclakeinfo@gmail.com so all residents can learn about those beautiful birds and the progress of the chicks.

Sources: Bird Studies Canada loon brochure <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/organization/images/news/cllsbrochure.pdf>.

See also the item Loon Chick in the Subject index found in the newsletter section of www.kennebeclake.ca to find previous articles about loons on Kennebec Lake.

KLA Canada Day/ 4th of July Flotilla & BBQ

Article and photo by Gord Brown

On Sunday, June 29, and for the third summer in a row, Kennebec Lake was a sea of red and white as lake members decorated their watercraft and themselves and paraded in the KLA-sponsored flotilla. We are grateful to Judy and the late Dave Eardley and son Chris, 50-plus-year property owners on the lake, for starting this tradition in 2012; and over the past three years, interest and participation have grown.

Property owners on the east basin paddled and motored to the bridge to meet with vessels from the west basin, and then the entire flotilla of 20 or so boats and kayaks returned to the east end of the lake to enjoy a barbecue on Judy and Terry Kennedy's wonderful property at the "Kennedy Compound." Jeff Matson and Donnie Scott of the Arden Volunteer Firefighters were chefs for the day and served up burgers and dogs to more than 60 Kennebec Lakers. We thank them for their gracious participation and work.

Although it wasn't supposed to happen that way, Judy and Terry worked like beavers in the week and days leading up to the event, trimming trees, raking beaches, getting the dock installed, washing windows, cutting grass, situating the porta-potty and installing solar-heated running water, setting up tables and chairs, and otherwise preparing the compound for visitors. Thanks also to Karen, Margo, Gloria, Peter, Jamie and Terry T, members of our organizing committee, and to all who participated in the event.

Watch for details next spring regarding KLA Flotilla 2015.



Conserve and Enjoy Our Waterways

by Gloria Smiley

Become an environmental champion

Leave no trace: Dispose of your garbage in an appropriate location onshore to keep the waterways clean and beautiful.

Practise common courtesies: Be aware of the activities around your boat, and respect both the people and the wildlife with whom you share the water. Keep the noise down.

Know your wake: Be aware of the effect of your boat's wake on the shoreline, on smaller boats and paddle craft, on swimmers and on marine wildlife. It could mean life or death.

Practise safe boating:

- Be sure required safety gear and recommended gear are in good condition, working properly and readily accessible. (A fine can be levied for each missing or malfunctioning item.)
- Be sure that there are enough life jackets of the correct size for each passenger and that all are in good condition. Encourage passengers to wear them.
- Ensure there is a means of communication on-board.
- Have all appropriate documentation for your vessel (Pleasure Craft Operator Card, registration, proof of insurance, licences, etc.)
- Be sure the load on your boat (gear and passengers) is well distributed.
- Check that you have sufficient fuel for your return trip and a comfortable reserve.
- When towing skiers, wake boarders or a tube with riders behind your vessel, you must have a spotter on-board so that the driver can concentrate on what is ahead; also have a spot in the boat for the person(s) being towed in case of an emergency. (*Hence a seadoo must have 3 seats in order to tow.*)

Practise safe fuelling: Take care when refuelling a motorized boat. Spilled fuel in the water can have a devastating impact on the marine environment and water quality.

Reduce the spread of invasive species:

- Don't dump your bait. It is against the law. Invading species, such as Round Goby, Rusty Crayfish, Rudd and Eurasian Ruffe, threaten Ontario's lakes and fisheries.
- Always clean your boat before introducing it to a new waterway, using environmentally friendly marine detergent.

Watermark

Film by Edward Burtynsky and Jennifer Baichwal

Reviewed by Noreen Dertinger

If you are concerned about water, *Watermark* is a must-see video. It is the culmination of a three-part project about water by Edward Burtynsky. The other two parts are a book called *Water*, which contains water-related photography and essays, and a travelling photo exhibition. The 90-minute documentary has stunning footage in which Burtynsky has set out to illustrate the impact of humans on water and vice versa. Burtynsky and his colleagues have gathered material from 10 countries, including Asia, Canada and the United States, to which viewers might not otherwise have easy access. The images, commentary and interviews form a poignant message about the issues contributing to the human-made contamination and depletion of water.

Some reasons people of all ages should consider seeing *Watermark* include:

- Learning surprising facts about how agricultural uses impact water;
- Seeing first-hand some of the issues contributing to the global water crisis;
- Learning about the impacts of our water-related activities on the environment;
- Seeing how people in various parts of the world interact with water for pleasure and religious purposes;
- Learning about what scientists can learn about water quality through the ages from the study of ice cores.

The bottom line: Access to clean water is a worldwide concern. We are all responsible for the wise management of our precious water resources and our impact on the environment. If we do not take action together, we are at risk of depleting water fit for human use faster than commonly anticipated.

Watermark is being shown on some TV channels (check your listings) and is available on DVD. Some of the public library networks also have *Watermark*. A detailed educational guide for use in schools and in the community is available online. For a more detailed review of *Watermark* and related links, visit www.kennebeclake.ca →Reviews->Films.

Past and Present

by Judy Kennedy

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. The more things change, the more they stay the same. Rural life, particularly around Kennebec Lake and all of Central Frontenac, tends to see certain issues become topics of frequent discussion and complaint at the township level.

A common source of aggravation tends to be the condition of the roads, especially potholes. Other social and economic issues include encouraging more businesses to locate here, more facilities for young people, better signage (mainly for tourists), reclaiming or re-creating a sense of identity in Arden, and the lack of local jobs, preventing young people from staying here.

Here are a couple of quotes from the *Kingston Whig-Standard* from July 20, 1973.

"Improved roads and small industry were needs expressed by residents of Arden.... A survey of residents indicated other needs, such as 'adequate fire protection, street signs, medical centre, shopping facilities and a larger community centre.'"

"Regrettably, Arden, like many other small communities, is losing its identity."

Interesting how similar the concerns of 1973 are to those of today. Realistically, in our rural setting, roads can be expected to continue to be an issue. So, too, will be the issues of job availability, recreation facilities, maintaining a sense of identity and access to shopping. Basically, our needs haven't changed a great deal, but the cost of fulfilling them is on a steady rise. Given that local economic resources are limited, the challenges facing our decision makers will not get any easier. I suspect the decision makers in 1973 felt the same way.

Friends of Arden

by Judy Kennedy

Once again, the FOA are having a busy time of things. The group applied for a Federal Gas Tax grant from the County this spring to replace the footbridge at the south entrance to the ballpark in Arden. The plan was to build a new covered bridge beside the old one, and then remove the original. Unfortunately, spring flooding beat us to the removal. The old bridge was condemned and had to be torn down in June. We are still waiting to hear about the grant.

Also removed from the park are the old tennis courts and wire fence — a great improvement.

Other projects this summer include extensive tree trimming around the village to improve sightlines and aesthetics; re-painting the steps and ramp at the community centre; touch-up painting at the cenotaph; more stream cleanout; and the erection of a permanent base and flagpole opposite the millpond that will double as a holder for the village Christmas tree in December.

We are also running a short contest, collecting suggestions for a message on the back of the large red Arden sign near Highway 7. The winning submission will receive \$100. See posters around the village and send in your choices.

In May, the FOA lost its founder, Dorothy Proctor, at age 94. She will be remembered along with other Ardenites in a planned memorial park opposite the millpond. It is hoped that long-standing families will honour Arden's dedicated citizens with some type of plaque or similar remembrance to the one that will honour Dorothy.

Anyone wishing to help out with projects should contact Terry Kennedy at 335-3606.

NATURE NOTES

Monarchs and Milkweeds

We know summer is here when we see the bright orange and black monarch butterflies flit through our yards. But how they got there and where they spend the rest of the year is a fascinating story. And the milkweeds they depend upon are equally interesting.

The Monarchs

The monarch butterfly, like many insects, has a four-stage life cycle. Unlike most insects, monarchs also have four generations every year.

In February and March, last year's fourth generation, after overwintering quietly in a special area in the mountains of Mexico, becomes active. They mate, then fly north in search of milkweed plants on which to lay eggs. They will probably not find them until, in March or April, they reach Texas! Adults sip nectar from many different plants. Milkweed is the only plant the larvae will eat—without milkweed, there can be no monarchs.

In about 4 days, the **eggs** hatch into **larvae**, which eat milkweed leaves and grow. After about 2 weeks, a full-grown larva attaches itself to the plant and turns into a **chrysalis (pupa)**. Inside the chrysalis it takes about 10 days to completely change its body to emerge as a beautiful **adult** butterfly. This is the first generation of the year. These new adults, which will live only 4 to 6 weeks, fly farther north to mate and, in May and June, lay more eggs on a new population of milkweed plants.

The life cycle is repeated, producing the second generation of adults which fly even farther north. Their eggs, which hatch in July and August, become the third generation. Second and third generation adults also have a short lifespan, dying within weeks of laying the eggs that will produce the fourth generation.

Then something very remarkable happens. The fourth generation adults, born in September and October, start to fly south. These small, beautiful creatures will fly all the way from Canada to Mexico, to the same trees in the same place where their forebears spent the previous winter. We do not know how these butterflies, four generations removed from the previous overwintering monarchs, know how to find the winter sanctuary. They will live more than 6 months before becoming active again, mating and flying north.



The Milkweeds

Here in northern Frontenac County, we have three common species of milkweed, all of which can provide food for monarch larvae.

Common milkweed: *Asclepias syriaca*

Like its name, a very common plant of fields and roadsides. The flower clusters are rose-purple and grow near the top of the stalk. Leaves are wide, elliptical and opposite each other along the stalk.

Swamp milkweed: *Asclepias incarnata*

Flowers rose-purple, leaves much narrower than those of common milkweed. Usually grows in wet areas such as along stream banks.

Butterfly milkweed: *Asclepias tuberosa*

Flowers bright orange, sometimes yellow, leaves narrow. Likes sunny, open fields.



Monarch on
Butterfly weed

Milkweed flowers

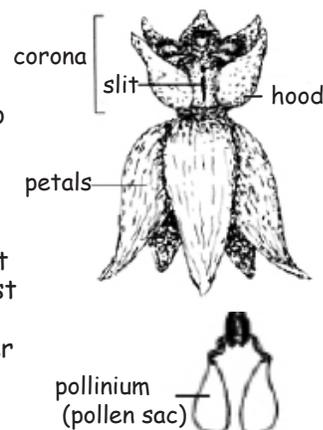
Milkweed flowers are beautiful and have a strong, sweet scent. Flowers occur in large clusters at the top of the plant. We can enjoy them at a distance, but they deserve a much closer look.

Examine an individual flower. The **petals** are folded down. The five small **hoods** of the **corona** contain the nectar.

Between the hoods are slits opening into a **stigma** chamber (female).

Milkweed pollination is complex. Rare in plants, milkweeds package their **pollen** (male) in small sacs. Two sacs, called **pollinia**, are attached together, inside a slit in the **corona**.

The **pollen** cannot escape unless an insect's leg enters the slit and becomes hooked to the pollinia. That same leg, with pollinia attached, must then be flown off to another, unrelated, milkweed flower and enter a slit in that flower, thus carrying the pollen to the stigma.



by Aileen Merriam