

KENNEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

Welcome Back Cottagers

Consistently warm spring weather still appears to be proving somewhat elusive, but at least conditions have progressed to the point that the ice came off the lake around its customary time and the first boats have begun to make an appearance. Trilliums are beginning to poke through, and those dreaded blackflies are poised for their annual attacks.

We full-time Kennebecers are happy to see the return of friends and neighbours, both snowbirds and those urbanites who have been eagerly looking forward to opening up the cottage once again.

Water levels have rebounded from last year's severe drought conditions to more normal levels for this time of year. The summer of 2016 certainly brought its challenges. When commenting about last year's extraordinarily dry conditions, Terry Murphy, General Manager of Quinte Conservation, observed that Conservation Authorities had plenty of experience in managing water excess and creating flood plans, but managing drought conditions was a new situation for which no one had any plans. Certainly we all hope that weather patterns this year will be less stressful on both surface water and groundwater in our watershed without having things go too far the other way, with all of our recent spring rainfall.

Tick Talk: Last week I attended a public information session in Napanee intended to provide information on Lyme Disease and the increasing presence of the blacklegged, or deer, tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) in this area. Our region of eastern Ontario has seen the rapid encroachment of these pests to the point where we are now the most infested part of Canada. This means that our pets and ourselves are at heightened risk of experiencing bites from these parasites and potentially being exposed to Lyme Disease.

Spring and fall are the two periods in which ticks are most active, and we need to be vigilant. We should inspect pets after they have been outdoors, and we should do the same for ourselves after working or walking in grassy or wooded areas. We should all learn what these ticks look like, how to remove them and appropriate follow-up with a doctor or a veterinarian. Information is available from many sources; three very helpful ones are:

Public Health Ontario (ontario.ca/lyme)

Government of Canada Public Health (canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease)

Ontario Veterinary Medicine Association (ovma.org/assets/1/6/Ticks_Lyme_Disease.pdf)

May you all enjoy a wonderful 2017 cottage season. See you at the July holiday weekend flotilla and barbecue!

— Terry Kennedy

Septic System Care and Maintenance

In February, the Township committee charged with developing recommendations toward the adoption of a program for Central Frontenac delivered its report to Council. Proposed in the report was the incorporation of a five-year pump-out cycle in accordance with current best practices for system maintenance. As a means of promoting efficiencies and minimizing costs, it was recommended that the septic pumpers and haulers be utilized to assess system performance at the time of pumping out.

Property owners would receive a report for their system, and the Township would be able to begin the development of a data base for the municipality through the receipt of a duplicate report from the pumper/hauler.

Council passed the recommendations of the committee, sparking reaction from some residents and a series of letters to the editor, both pro and con, in

the *Frontenac News*. As a result, Council rescinded its approval and is now seeking further information.

The original working committee has been asked to elaborate on some of its data, and a second group has been tasked with determining funding sources.

Council has agreed to hold public consultation meetings so that residents will have the opportunity to become fully informed, and has also committed to schedule these sessions to permit cottagers to be better involved.

The Kennebec Lake Association believes in good practices of septic system maintenance, and at an Annual General Meeting, members unanimously endorsed the concept of a septic system re-assessment program as part of protecting our lake and its watershed.

Stay tuned ... more information to come!

— T.K.

Disinfecting a Well

by Gloria Smiley

When a well water supply has been tested and is found to be “Unsafe for Drinking,” conduct a visual inspection of your well to identify the reason. Start with a close look at your well. The area around it should be free of any potential contaminant sources, such as pets, lawn care products or gardens. Once you are satisfied that the area around your well is okay, take a close look at the well itself. Make sure that the cap and the sealant around the well casing isn’t cracked or damaged. If it is, you need to replace it right away.

If the source of the problem can’t be detected, consult a licensed well contractor to identify the source of the problem and eliminate it. You can save yourself a lot of money by doing this rather than buying a home treatment device that may be expensive to buy, install and maintain. And it may not eliminate the source of your trouble.

Source: www.healthunit.org/water.

If you are able to eliminate the source of contamination yourself, the following disinfection procedure can be used to destroy bacteria in the well and piping system.

- Mix household bleach (5% available chlorine) with water, and pour directly into well. Amount of household bleach required depends on the size of your well. A chart showing this information can be found at www.healthunit.org/water.
- Drain water heater, and remove or bypass any carbon filter.
- Open all taps one at a time, and let water run.
- Turn off taps when a bleach odour is noticed, and let stand for 12 hours.
- Drain the water system to remove all chlorinated water. Avoid draining this water into the septic tank; use a garden hose.
- Resample 48 hours later. If satisfactory, take two more samples one week apart to ensure water remains satisfactory. Do not drink the water without boiling it until test results show the water is safe to drink.
- Continue to sample water on a regular basis.

Attention! Well disinfection is used to determine if the contamination is continuing. If “Unsafe for Drinking” results are still obtained after disinfection, contact the Health Unit’s Health Protection Department.

2017 Amnesty Load

From Saturday, May 13, to Sunday, September 10, Amnesty Load will run for 17 weeks to eliminate congestion at the waste sites. Property owners in Central Frontenac may dispose of a **single load** of household refuse at no charge at the following waste sites: 1094 Olden Park Road (Olden District), 1122 Wemp Road (Oso District).

The waste site attendant will require a signature to confirm ownership/residency to qualify for this program. Only one disposal opportunity exists per residential unit. Details: www.centralfrontenac.com/Waste.html.

**Please note that any clear bags are accepted during Amnesty Loads

Boating Safety and the Cost of Non-Compliance

Who should have a Pleasure Craft Operator Card?

All boaters operating powered watercraft — even an electric trolling motor — must have an Operator Card and carry the card and identification with them in the boat. Many online and in-class accredited course providers are available (see Sources).

Common offences and fines

- Failure to carry a Proof of Competency: \$250
- No serial numbers on hull: \$125
- Not enough approved life jackets on-board: \$200 per missing or improper life jacket or PFD
- Violation of age and horsepower restrictions: \$250
- Speeding in excess of 10 km/h within 30m of shore: \$125 to \$500
- Careless operation of a boat: \$250
- Absence of any piece of safety equipment: sound

signalling device, watertight flashlight, heaving line, paddle, anchor: \$125; no bailer: \$175

- Water-skiing towing offences: \$125. Towing someone without a spotter, not having a seat for the person being towed, and towing from one hour after sunset until sunrise. The rules apply to any kind of towing (tubing, etc.).

Alcohol is a factor in 65% of boat-related accidents in Canada. The fine for boating with open liquor on-board is \$200. Boating while impaired is an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, with \$1,000 for the first fine. Ontario boaters convicted of operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs may also have their driver’s licence (motor vehicle) suspended for a minimum of one year.

Sources: Transport Canada, www.boaterexam.com and www.safetyafloat.ca.

Loons of Kennebec Lake Annual Survey and Responding to Loons in Distress

by Noreen Dertinger

Spring has sprung, and with it comes the time to enjoy the loons visiting Kennebec Lake. Their distinctive black and white plumage and calls make them relatively easy to spot. Somehow, life around a lake would not seem complete without the presence of loons. News of a loon nest with young evokes excitement in many. While we have had loon hatchlings in recent years, none is known to have fledged.

Kennebec Lake participates in a loon monitoring program, and people of all ages are invited to help us do that. Here is what we need to know:

The date and approximate time (am/pm is sufficient).

Where on the lake did you spot the loons?

Was the loon alone or was there a pair?

Were any young accompanying the adults (loons have a maximum of 2 chicks)?

Sightings can be sent to kennebeclakeinfo@kennebeclake.ca or submitted via the "contact us" page at www.kennebeclake.ca.

On occasion, I have received an email inquiring about how to deal with a loon in distress. Behaviours that loons exhibit when they are distressed include an "almost crazy laughing call" and/or doing a frenzied "dance" on the water. Such behaviour does not always mean that their distress is due to injury. They may be reacting to humans being too close, predators or other factors.

I reached out to some experts on the matter and was advised that the best thing to do is wait until the loon comes to shore. In an article on handling injured birds, the late Kit Chubb (a bird enthusiast from Verona, ON) had the following thought about injured loons: "If it can be caught or picked up in shallow water or on a beach, it is very ill and probably gives no argument [sic]. If it is found on a road, it may be quite feisty and healthy. Cover the head and take it immediately to the nearest lake or river. If travelling any distance, keep loon cool, especially its feet, which do most of the thermoregulation."

Loons in distress represent a difficult situation with limited help available. If an injured loon is found, it may be necessary to contact a rehabilitation centre that can treat it. At this time, I have not been able to locate a local (close to Kennebec Lake) rehabilitation centre treating loons. The best way to find a rehabber is to Google "Ontario Wildlife Rehabilitators" or "Canadian Wildlife Rehabilitators." The following article also offers some information about the handling of loons:

http://static.ow.ly/docs/COLO%20landing%20aug%2004%20kit%20chubb_2AOE.pdf

Snapping Turtle Hunting Banned

by Noreen Dertinger

As of April 1, 2017, the trapping and hunting of snapping turtles is officially banned. The Ministry of Natural Resources has amended its regulations after several months of public consultation on the issue. A strong public response favouring the ending of the snapping turtle hunt in Ontario was reported.

Previously, it was legal for Ontario residents with fishing licences to kill up to two snapping turtles a day in the summer months. There was no annual limit on the number they could kill. The main nesting season runs from early to mid-summer.

Snapping turtles are known to live as long as 90 years and possibly well over 100. It takes about 15 to 20 years for them to reach maturity and begin reproducing. We hope that this hunting ban will make a difference in sustaining the species.

Turtles of all types may be spotted crossing roads, in areas with lakes and streams, to reach their nesting sites from May to as late as October. If you spot a snapping or other turtle, you can report your sighting to the Toronto Zoo Adopt-A-Pond at this link:

www.torontozoo.com/Adoptapond/turtletally.asp.

CANADA 150 Events in Arden

- May 20** Victoria Day Fireworks at the park, dusk
May 21 Missionary Rebecca Mills, 6:30pm
May 27 Firefighter display outside hall, 2:30pm
Firefighter dinner at the hall, 5pm
- Jun 1** Kids Klub Karnival at the park, 5 to 7pm
Jun 17 Firefighters breakfast at the hall, 8am
Wagon rides, Matson & Sons, park, 1pm
Legion washer toss tourney, park, 1pm
Frontenac Blades, park, 1pm
United Church yard sale, 8am, and
barbecue, 11am
Wesleyan Church roast beef dinner, 5pm
- Jun 18 Breakfast at the Legion, 8am
Gospel Sing, Clearview, Friends
of the Gospel, park, 1pm
- Jun 24 Historical Society Strawberry Social, hall,
with historical display and a village
tour by wagon, including The Matson
Mile and Pike's Peak, 1 to 3pm
- July 1** Canada Day Flotilla: Kennebec, Long
and Horseshoe Lakes, 11am
- July 8 Arden's Open Mic, 5pm
- July 22 Arden Artisans' and guests and
Blueberry Café, 10am
- Aug 7** Memorial Pig Roast, 5pm
- Aug 11 An evening with the Arden Glee Club
and Ardenaires, 7pm
- Aug 12 Breakfast at Legion, 8am
Frontenac Blades at the park, 1pm
Wagon rides by Matson & Sons, 1pm
Shred Kelly Band at hall, 6pm
Save the date: KLA AGM
- Aug 13 Worship service at the Cenotaph
and Cadet Parade, 11am
- Aug 19 Historical Society Annual Bake
and Veg/Preserve Sale, 8am
- Watch for details of the Grand Opening of the
Kennebec Heritage Garden in late August.

Market Madness

Fresh, local food

The Learning Curve: Sue Cole and her business, The Learning Curve, will again be selling fresh, organic vegetables this summer. Starting May 23 in Arden, pick up fresh produce Tuesdays and Fridays from 1 to 5 p.m. in the tent next to the Arden Batik and every Saturday in Sharbot Lake at the Farmers' Market. [Facebook.com/LearningCurveGardens](https://www.facebook.com/LearningCurveGardens).

Several farmers' markets are within an hour's drive. Along with fresh vegetables, they offer products from home-based crafters, bakers, canners, gardeners, cooks, artists and, most important, farmers.

Perth Farmers' Market: Located at Crystal Palace. Open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. from May to October. In July and August, a smaller market is also open from 2 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays. Check out the Market Café and watch for live entertainment. www.perthfarmersmarket.ca.

Sharbot Lake Farmers' Market: Open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday at the Sharbot Lake beach from May to October. www.sharbotlakefarmersmarket.ca.

Frontenac Farmers' Market: The farmers' market in Verona is open every Saturday, May 13 to October 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. www.frontenacfarmersmarket.ca.

Napanee Hometown Market: Come to the bi-weekly market beginning on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Market Square in downtown Napanee all summer long until Thanksgiving. For upcoming community events at the market, visit the website: www.greaternapanee.com.

Arden Artisans Garden Party & Blueberry Café.

This open studio event on July 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. showcases the creativity and versatility of Arden's artisans and their guest artists: pottery, garden art, photography, ironwork, batik, paintings, jewellery, wood turning, fibre art and more. Wear your fanciest hat and revel in the fun. The Kennebec Community Centre will offer food, music and guest artists. 613-335-2073. www.ardenbatik.com or www.galleryonbay.com.

KLA Canada Day / 4th of July Flotilla & BBQ 2017

Attention all Kennebec Lakers, family and friends. Help celebrate Canada's 150th on Saturday, July 1, for what will be the KLA's sixth annual Canada Day/4th of July Flotilla and BBQ. We have traditionally had 25 to 30 watercraft in the flotilla, with 70 to 75 people attending the BBQ. Our goal this year is 50 decorated boats and watercraft and 100+ people for the BBQ.

So bring out the red and white, and let's celebrate Canada and Independence Days in style. Mark your calendars now. Further information will be sent out once your planning committee has finalized all the details. Rain date will be Sunday, July 2.

— Gord Brown

KLA Winter Fun Day 2017

This was the sixth annual event, which again was held on the ice near the boat launch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; for the first time, fireworks followed at 7 p.m. This year's event was advertised and organized as a Canada 150 celebration.

The weather gods were looking down on us this year, with 6 degrees C, clear, sunny skies and a slight westerly breeze; and the weather held into the evening with star-filled skies for the fireworks. Approximately 75 people attended throughout the day, and 25 to 30 participated in the fireworks display at night. The only down side to the spectacular weather was that the rink turned into a swimming pool by mid-afternoon. The fireworks were a new addition this year, thanks to Sheila and Doc Maiorino, as was the ice-fishing arranged by Jean and Del Garcia. Both of these activities were extremely popular.

Thanks go to Wanda Harrison for securing the Canada 150 buttons, mugs and a banner, complements of the Central Frontenac Canada 150 Committee, and for advertising our Winter Fun Day in the *Frontenac News* and on Facebook. An extra special thanks to the numerous volunteers who helped organize and pull off this event: Carrie, Karen, Jamie, Mauri, Cindy, Judy, Jean, Sheila, Doc, Cliff, Del and Terry.

— Gord Brown



Friends of Arden

The FOA has a few spring/summer projects this year: Two 25-foot flagpoles with flags have been purchased: one for the Arden sign out by Hwy. 7 and one for the Heritage Garden at the millpond in the village.

Canada 150 tulips were planted last fall and have come up looking very strong this spring.

FOA, together with the Historical Society and the Rec Committee, will be working on the Heritage Garden throughout the summer. Official opening is hoped for late August. The garden will be a quiet place to sit and will contain historical information about Arden as well as plaques honouring the original founders and those who have made significant contributions to this settlement. Local families wishing to remember a loved one may also contribute a plaque.

The Matson family will be clearing a better path to the lookout at the top of the "Matson Mile" so that hikers will have better access to this lovely view.

A village cleanup and trimming is also planned for late spring. As always, if you wish to help the FOA crew, please contact me at 613-335-3606.

— Judy Kennedy

The family of **Peggy Breithaupt** has invited all her friends to a gathering to celebrate her life. Peggy enjoyed the cottage she built on Kennebec Lake for many years before becoming a full-time resident. Over the years, she contributed in many ways to this community. The memorial will be held in the casual setting of Kennebec Hall in Arden on Sunday, July 2, from 2 to 5. All are welcome.

Calendar Photo Submissions

This is a final call for Kennebec Lake-related photo submissions for the 2018 calendar. If you missed the previous submission deadline for photos to be considered, you have a little bit of time left. We will accept initial submissions of photos at a low resolution; a high-resolution version will be required if we choose your photo. Photos need to have a minimum resolution of 2300 pixels on the long edge; and they should not be too light or dark in colour. Please include a short description of the photo.

Photos can be sent via our "contact us" page at <http://kennebeclake.ca/contact> or to kennebeclake-info@kennebeclake.ca. Deadline is June 9, 2017.

— Noreen Dertinger

Dandelions to the Rescue

Dandelion blossoms can be an important source of food for bees and other pollinators, especially in early spring, before other plants are in bloom.

All of our pollinators are under stress right

now, largely due to neonicotinoid pesticides, and they will thank you for leaving any source of pollen or nectar at this time of year.



Bee-lieve me!

— Aileen Merriam

NATURE NOTES

SOUNDS OF NATURE AT THE LAKE

by Aileen Merriam

Sound plays an important part in our enjoyment of life on the waterfront.

Whip-poor-will
Caprimulgus vociferus



"I love the time in early evening after the sun has set and the chorus of whip-poor-wills starts across the lake and continues on into the dark. It is a restful sound and, I guess, is the initial communication between these members of the nighthawk family before they start their hunt for food..."

"The drumming of a grouse in the early morning is comforting, knowing at least one male is attempting to contact a female to procreate the species..."

"The noise from an approaching thunderstorm with the hiss of rain on the lake is a wonder of nature, comforting in some ways, frightening in others..."

"The sounds of waves breaking on the shore are pleasant and relaxing at any time, during storms or just a quiet lapping in the still of morning or evening."

The sounds of nature and the quiet of the countryside are among the reasons that we value spending time away from urban noise and busy-ness. Some of us are lucky to be able to appreciate nature's soundscape through all the seasons. What sounds of nature do you enjoy most?

Sound is also an important part of the lives of birds, amphibians, insects and other creatures.

Many of the sounds we enjoy also signal the breeding season for birds and amphibians. Right now, both chorus frogs and spring peepers are singing in the marsh just upriver. A little later, different frogs will sound forth, ending in summer with the deeper tones of green frogs and bullfrogs.

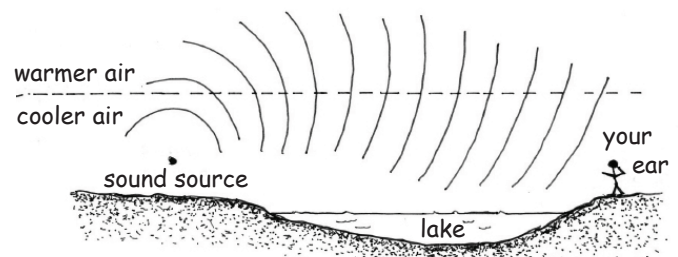
The variety of sounds made by frogs and toads in spring are part of their courtship and mating rituals. Males make sounds to tell females where they are and that they are ready to mate. Most frogs use an air sac located under their mouth to produce mating calls. Air from the lungs inflates the sac, which resonates to produce the mating call.

Birds also sing in spring to attract mates and to declare and defend a territory. Some bird species have been shown to react negatively to loud, man-made sounds, to the point of not nesting in former habitat. There are fewer songbird calls this spring. Researchers say that songbird populations have declined more than 50% from their former numbers.

Sound Over Water

In some atmospheric conditions, sound is amplified and travels farther over water. Your quiet conversation on the dock in the early morning may be heard on the other side of the lake! And your evening peace can be disturbed by loud parties across the water.

Sound waves travel faster in warm air than in cool. When conditions are right, cooler near the water and warmer higher up, the speed of sound also increases with height. The part of a sound wave closest to the ground moves slower than the part of the wave travelling in the warmer air. The result is, the wave changes direction and bends downwards. The downward refraction of the sound means less is lost up into the air, and more of it ends up in your ears!



Sound Bites...

- Sound waves enter our ears and are converted to electrical signals. The signals travel to the brain via the auditory nerve.
- Pleasant, natural sounds make us feel calm and safe, while annoying sounds can do the opposite.
- Examples of sound wave speeds: at 15.5 °C, 341 metres/second; at 30° C, 349 metres/second.

What is the future of natural sounds around us?

If we enjoy natural soundscapes, how can we ensure that they will remain pleasant and enjoyable in the future?

One way is not to bring the city to the country. Listen to the beauty around us and don't make needless noise. Another is to make sound part of what is considered when looking at "lake capacity."

Quotes: Tony Downs

Illustrations: Aileen Merriam