

# KENNEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION

Spring Newsletter

May 2011

## **A Word from the President...**

Welcome to spring, everyone! It took a long time to arrive, but once again the docks and boats are going in. Those of us who reside full-time on Kennebec Lake are delighted to welcome back all of our neighbours, both snowbirds and seasonal cottagers alike.

I would like to bring you up to date regarding the progress of the McIntosh Perry development proposed for the former Baker property on the south shore, east of the bridge. The KLA was invited to participate in the pre-consult meeting in late December, where the developers shared their plans with Township and County staff representatives. At this meeting, we indicated that our position involved minimizing the impacts to the lake and to its residents. The developer has submitted the application and all accompanying documentation to the County of Frontenac, the principal subdivision approval authority. We are in receipt of this material and are reviewing it.

A public information meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, May 21, at the Kennebec Hall in Arden, where the developers will outline their proposals and provide people with the chance to see the plans in detail. We have been e-mailing KLA members to make them aware of the meeting. Being held from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, it is an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers directly from McIntosh Perry personnel. The Township meeting to receive comments regarding the proposal is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14.

Many of us have watched in dismay as the hamlet of Arden declined badly over recent years. There is no longer a store, and much of the community is in a state of disrepair. (See **Arden Revitalization Update** on right). Those involved in this grassroots undertaking hope to effect some much-needed improvements to the area. Certainly the challenge is great, but so is the opportunity. Progress will depend on the extent to which all of us are prepared to be supportive and willing to commit to do what we can. Read about it, talk to friends and neighbours, come out to the next public meeting, and think about getting involved.

Good luck to those opening up for the season, and I look forward to seeing you all again.

Terry Kennedy

## **Lake Stewardship in Action**

Bernie and Noreen Dertinger and Jamie French checked the beaver baffle in early spring and found the water in Beaver Creek a foot higher than the dam. In hip waders, Jamie removed debris from the top end of the baffle; walleye could still get through on the unobstructed downstream end.

Another effort was made to observe walleye spawning this year. They spawn at water temperatures from 6°C to 10°C. (We observed them spawn about April 10, 2009, when water temperature was 7°C; we were too late in 2010 — water temperatures were already above 11°C on April 5.) On March 23, with water temperatures at 1°C, Beaver Creek was mostly ice-free, while people were still ice-fishing on the lake. By April 4, the creek water temperature had risen to 4°C, and Terry Trojek measured 8°C on April 8. Peter Smiley, Bernie and Noreen took up position late at night at Beaver Creek and observed about half a dozen walleye spawning. Later that night, Chris Sobanski and the Dertingers did not sight walleye at Upper Crooked Creek. Peter and Gloria checked Beaver Creek on April 12, but no walleye were seen.

On April 22, Peter and Gloria Smiley checked the new loon platforms and found “the one near shore at the far west end...was piled with grasses and sticks about 2 feet higher above what Gray and Peter put on it last fall with a nice little hollow in the middle, and... muskrat scat at the ‘doorway.’” The second platform “was piled high also...with a couple of clam shells left behind.” They removed all the excess material, leaving the platforms once again ready for the loons.

## **Arden Revitalization Update**

by Judy Kennedy

As reported in the 2010-2011 Winter News, 70 people, motivated by Dorothy Proctor and Glen Matson, met in November to generate ideas on how to build on the enthusiasm created by the new roads and sidewalks in our hamlet. Sixty people turned out for another meeting in February, where Adrian O’Connell summarized actions to date, Glen Matson presented a slide show of suggested trail, road and bridge improvements, and Terry Kennedy and Gary Smith facilitated input. Six priority groups were set up: maps and signage; cleanup; coffee shop/tea room/store; grants/funding; youth involvement; and public works. Each group will send a representative to the next meeting of the start-up committee to form a steering committee and appoint a chair, secretary and treasurer.

The Revitalization Project has received a private donation, an Arden Seniors donation, two months’ profit from the Treasure Trunk and money from posters by Judith Versavel and Sarah Hale.

At the mayor’s request, Glen Matson and Terry Kennedy presented ideas at Central Frontenac meeting in March. Glen, Terry and Gary suggested projects to public works manager Mike Richardson in January.

*Watch for the next public meeting where YOU can join us to help spruce up our special community.*

## KLA Executive 2011

<i>President:</i> Terry Kennedy	335-3606
<i>Past President:</i> Jack Nicolson	335-2845
<i>Vice-President:</i> Doug Harvey	425-0316
<i>Vice-President:</i> Judy Kennedy	335-3606
<i>Secretary:</i> Gloria Smiley	335-2188
<i>Treasurer:</i> Mike Wise	335-2409
<i>Lake Steward:</i> Jamie French	335-3553

### Newsletter Team

*Editor/Design/Input:* Aileen Merriam  
*Text Editors:* Charlotte DuChene, Judy Kennedy  
*Reproduction:* Judy Kennedy  
*Thanks to contributors of articles and illustrations and to those who collate and distribute the newsletter.*

**Website:** [www.kennebeclake.ca](http://www.kennebeclake.ca)

*Webmaster:* Noreen Dertinger

*Email:* [webmaster@kennebeclake.ca](mailto:webmaster@kennebeclake.ca)

## Municipal Updates

Central Frontenac Township is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael McGovern as the new Treasurer and Jeremy Neven as the new Building Inspector. If you require their services, please call 613-279-2935, or visit the newly redesigned Township website: [www.centralfrontenac.com](http://www.centralfrontenac.com).

### Trash Talk

E-waste is now accepted at no charge during regular hours of operation (Monday, Friday and Saturday mornings and Tuesday and Sunday afternoons) at the Oso District landfill site, southeast of Sharbot Lake at 1122 Wemp Road (off Crow Lake Road). The Olden landfill site off Highway 7 is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

The once-a-year free load can be dropped off from May 14 to October 16; the attendant will require your signature.

Household Hazardous Waste Day is being planned once again this year on July 23. Watch for details.

## THE ARTS

### Arden Artisans 4th Annual Garden Party/Open House

July 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Five artisans' studios in or near Arden will open their doors to the public and offer visitors the opportunity to explore different types of art media. Each studio includes the work of other artists as well. Meet the artists, linger in inspiring gardens and enjoy light refreshments.

### Bon Echo Art Exhibition and Sale

July 22, 23, 24

This exhibition features original art by 45 artists on the theme of Canadian Nature, Wildlife and Countryside. There will be a barbecue, entertainment and live music, as well as lots of kids' activities. <http://BonEchoFriends.ca>.

## Recreation Clubs and Activities

Kennebec Community Centre

### Arden Seniors "Happy Gang"

First Tuesday each month, 11 a.m.

Jack Patterson, 335-3469.

**Glee Club**, Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Helen Praskey, 335-2486.

New voices are encouraged to join.

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

Diane Nicolson, 335-2845.

**Fit 'n Fun**, Tuesday, 9 a.m. (until the end of June).

Gloria Smiley, 335-2188.

**Tai Chi**, Beginners, 9:15 a.m., veterans at 10.

Helen Praskey, 335-2486.

**TOPS**, Wednesday, 6:30 pm.

Helen Hoogsteen, 335-2700.

Sharbot Lake High School

**Volleyball**, Monday, 7 p.m.

Rick Greenstreet, 279-1962.

## Public Library

Borrow books, CDs, books on CD, downloadable books and magazines from any of the 17 branches in the Kingston Frontenac Public Library system, or order books via the Internet ([www.kfpl.ca](http://www.kfpl.ca)) to be delivered to your preferred branch.

Arden Branch (335-2570): Tuesday 2 to 6 p.m., Thursday 5 to 8 p.m., Friday (July and August only) 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mountain Grove Branch (335-5360): Tuesday 2 to 5 p.m., Wednesday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Friday (except July and August) 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

## Take Note

Kennebec Lake Association AGM will be held August 13.

Estate planning lawyer Peter Lillico will present a Keeping the Family in the Family Cottage Workshop on August 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. Location to be announced.

Gypsy Moth Traps are available through Jack and Diane Nicolson at 335-2845. Please order by June 15.

## Drinking Water Testing

It is recommended that you test your drinking water, especially in the spring. The Kingston Regional Health Laboratory tests drinking water for free. Pick up sample bottles at your local Health Unit. Samples are accepted at the following times:

**Sharbot Lake:** 279-2151, Tuesday, 8:30 to 11 a.m.

**Cloyne:** 336-8989, Wednesday, 8:30 to 11 a.m.

**Kingston:** 549-1232, Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m. till noon.

For faster results, deliver directly to the **Public Health Lab** (548-6630) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 181 Barrie St., Kingston.

## Refreshing Pickerel Spawning Beds

by Judy Kennedy

Two years ago, the KLA received a Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program grant to refresh the spawning bed off Kennedy Point with grapefruit-sized round rock. The clean rocks allow the pickerel eggs to slide down between them, instead of sticking to the algae and silt coating the bottom, protecting the eggs from predators until they hatch.



Rocks on ice over the spawning shoal

In February 2010, a group of KLA volunteers had spread rock on the ice to sink to the bottom in spring. After the snow melted on land, we discovered we still had a lot of rock. Last fall, Jamie and Cindy French, Bernie Dertinger, Peter and Gloria Smiley, Mauri and Sarah Hines and Guenter Nitsche sorted, cleaned and moved this rock to the top of Kennedy's boat ramp.

This past February, a motley crew again assembled to move rock onto ice. Bernie and Noreen Dertinger, John DuChene, Terry Trojek, Stu Duncan, Lindy Rowe, Doug and Tina Harvey, Al Laverty,

Terry and Judy Kennedy and Jeff Matson with his four-wheeler spread 5 to 6 tons of rock on the south side of Rock Island. Canteen girls Audree Tomkins, Rene Kirk and Susan Laverty kept the coffee, soup and sandwiches coming.



Photos: Noreen Dertinger

Special thanks to all who helped to make this project go smoothly. The pickerel also thank you.

## BEE NICE

by Charlotte DuChene

**Did you know** that one in every three bites of human food depends on pollinators? About 75% of all flowering plants require pollinators — bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, birds and bats — for fertilization. And in the wild, pollinators help to sustain biological diversity; with an increase in biodiversity comes more wildlife food sources.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable drop-off in animal pollinators and a corresponding decline in seed and fruit production both on farms and in natural ecosystems. Studies show that habitat loss, forest fragmentation due to development, exposure to pesticides, malnutrition and disease and the introduction of non-native species are all factors that weaken the pollinator-plant relationship.

In cities, groups are cultivating gardens in schoolyards and even former garbage dumps, planting wildflowers, native grasses, shrubs and trees and creating vital oases among buildings and concrete. Out here in the "wilds," probably the best way to attract bees and butterflies is to — wait for it — do nothing. With native trees and plants surrounding us, the less disturbance we create, the better for pollinators. Native plants have evolved closely with native insects and are well-suited to meet their needs.

We all enjoy our colourful gardens in the summer, though. In gardens or containers, plant nectar- and pollen-rich flowers (as many native varieties as possible) in a range of colours, shapes and sizes. Different pollinators prefer different plant types: hummingbirds prefer red, orange and purple/red tubular flowers, like cardinal flower, beebalm and nasturtium; bees tend to be attracted to clusters of tiny flowers, like daisies and butterfly weed; light-coloured flowers that open at night, such as evening primrose, attract moths; and butterflies enjoy flat-topped clusters, like milkweed and brown-eyed Susans. Aromatic herbs — catnip, coriander, parsley, rosemary, thyme — are also alluring.

Also, of course, you know that pesticides harm not only pests but also pollinators; and herbicides kill "weeds" that are important to their food mix.

So do what you can to help protect our pollinators.



Source: The Portico, University of Guelph Magazine, Summer 2010.

## BURN BANS

by Charlotte DuChene

Are you planning to have a few family campfires this summer? Before striking any matches, visit the home page on the Central Frontenac website to see if a **burn ban** is in effect. The website also has a link to the informative **Fire Smart Manual** and the **Burn Bylaw**, which tells you when, what and where you can burn.

**According to the Burn Bylaw, fire permits are required before any controlled burning, with the exception of barbecues, from April 1 to October 1.** Campfire permits for the season are \$2, and incinerator permits \$5; and a three-day permit for land clearing is \$2. See website below for permit availability. Outdoor fires are not permitted during high winds or extremely dry conditions or when smoke is a nuisance to neighbouring properties.

Fires can get out of control so easily. So read up on fire safety in our woodland and also learn about the burn regulations of the township. [www.centralfrontenac.com](http://www.centralfrontenac.com).

## ***Please Don't Light Up My Life***

by Judy Kennedy

We all probably view our places at the lake as “sanctuaries” — places to relax in peaceful surroundings. While the environment and its pollutants have been a world issue for many years, one obvious form of environmental and economic waste is the abuse of light. Recently, more environmental organizations have turned their attention to excessive lighting.

*Light pollution*, a term that refers to the general overlighting of the world's skies, is the larger issue. *Light trespassing*, more relevant to us at the lake, refers to light that infringes on our own personal darkness and ability to appreciate the night sky. This article will concentrate on light trespassing.

Studies have shown that excessive light at night has a negative biological effect on animals and humans. “Changing light patterns can disrupt an ecosystem's balance. In water environments, daily cycles for organisms such as zooplankton are controlled by light, while others, such as fish, are attracted or repelled by it. Further studies have shown that moths, fireflies, salamanders, frogs, songbirds and other wildlife are affected when artificial nighttime lighting influences navigation, predator-prey relationships, foraging behaviour, reproduction, mating and other biological and ecological characteristics.” (FOCA)

For humans, a clear cottage night sky with millions of stars, rather than glaring city lights, can have an incredibly calming effect. What can we do to reduce light trespass on our environment and that of our neighbours?

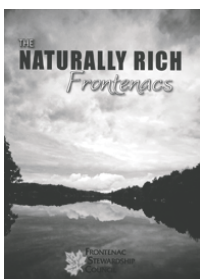
- Reduce wattage in outside lights, and turn them on only when needed.
- Use dimmers on as many lights as possible and full lighting only when necessary. Too much light actually causes a loss of visibility due to glare.
- Install lights that focus light downwards as opposed to upwards or outwards.
- Use solar lights where possible, but do not overload your property. Keep lights for safety and aesthetics to a minimum.
- Check to see if the lighting outside your cottage is excessive, and reduce accordingly.
- Never leave outdoor lights, especially spotlights, on timers that stay on dusk to dawn.
- Talk to your neighbours regarding lighting, and ask if yours is unobtrusive enough.
- Attend a night sky workshop and bring your children. Education increases awareness and conviction.
- If you are a boater, check your lighting for glare from the water, as excessive light reflects off the water and may reduce visibility of buoys, docks and other navigational hazards.

Light trespass is a serious issue. Some areas have bylaws to reduce excessive lighting. Common sense, consideration and good stewardship should prevail. So please don't light up my life or that of your neighbours to the point of light trespass. We live in one of the darkest areas of Ontario, where the stars are spectacularly visible. Let's keep it that way.

(Sources: *Cottage Life* magazine Apr/May 92, Sept/Oct 02, Apr 08; Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association fact sheet on night skies; Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Night Sky Conservation 2011.)

Some websites to explore:

International Dark Sky Association, [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org); Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) Light Pollution Abatement Program, [www.rasc.ca/lpa/index.shtml](http://www.rasc.ca/lpa/index.shtml); Fatal Light Awareness Program, [www.flap.org](http://www.flap.org); Shoreline Booklet downloadable from IDA [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/humanimpact/lighting.pdf](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/humanimpact/lighting.pdf)



## ***The Naturally Rich Frontenacs***

by Judy Kennedy

You are familiar with Algonquin Park, Muskoka, Haliburton Highlands and other popular escape locations. Relax. It's not necessary to travel that far when we live or cottage in “The Naturally Rich Frontenacs.”

The Frontenac Stewardship Council has recently released a wonderful 47-page publication produced in partnership with the Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation and the County of Frontenac.

A must-read for all of us around the lake, this publication features local farms, artists, businesses, areas with good stewardship projects in forestry, fishing, hunting and endangered species and general information about this amazing area of Eastern Ontario. This collection of articles with beautiful photography and detailed information highlights ongoing stewardship by others as well as ways in which to get involved and be a part of preserving this richly diverse territory.

The Frontenac Stewardship Council was chaired at the time by our own resident, Dr. Gray Merriam, whose expertise in landscape ecology and overall extensive knowledge of the Frontenacs have been the inspiration for this booklet. Local talent and Bell Line Road resident Meghan Balogh designed the booklet and did most of the photography. Local writers, artists, newspaper editors and project managers have all contributed to not only informing us but also personalizing the articles so that you will recognize the people, places and events mentioned.

Well done, Gray, and thank you to all involved. Copies may be obtained, free of charge, at 613-335-3589.

**4** *No Frontenac County resident should be without one.*



## Unravelling the Marvels of the Night Sky

by Noreen Dertinger and Dora Hunter

Last summer Terence (Terry) Dickinson, a leading amateur astronomer and editor of *SkyNews* magazine, spoke in Arden about night skies. The week before, from the Henderson Road bridge, he took photos of the Milky Way over Kennebec Lake which show that our area is still a great place for viewing the night sky.

Terry showed slides illustrating how light pollution increasingly interferes with the ability to view the night sky from major urban centres. Sources of light pollution include street lights and excessive lighting from buildings that illuminate the

Starry Night over Kennebec Lake—photo by Terence Dickinson 2010

sky. If the trend continues, viewing the beauty of the night sky will become a thing of the past. The state of Arizona has outlawed the kinds of lights that contribute to light pollution.

Following the presentation, we went outdoors to look through Terry's telescope. Coping with a bright moon and scudding clouds, he managed to take us on a guided tour of our night sky. He pointed out that nearly all we could see was in our own Milky Way Galaxy. The Milky Way is a great concentration of stars seen by us on Earth as though we were looking from the edge of a plate along the plane of the plate. He explained that the great dark patches, or nebulae, were collections of dust and gas that blocked our view of the stars beyond. With the moon at first quarter, we had a spectacular view of its rugged, crater-riddled surface. The "dark" part of the moon, thanks to reflected light from Earth, was dimly lit. We saw the Summer Triangle based on three bright stars, each found in a different constellation: Vega in Lyra, Altair in Aquila, and Deneb in Cygnus. He showed how to use stars in the Big Dipper to find the North Star and Arcturus in Bootes. We also found M31, the Great Galaxy in Andromeda, the most distant object seen with the naked eye, by lining up stars in the constellations Andromeda and Cassiopeia. We saw Epsilon Lyra go from being a single star to a double star with binoculars to a quadruple star with his telescope. While the amateur astronomer can, with binoculars alone, see many of the special features of the sky, with his telescope, Terry was able to open even more new worlds.

Two of Dickinson's books, *Exploring the Night Sky* and *Exploring the Sky by Day*, will interest beginning sky watchers of all ages. Some of his other books, such as *NightWatch* and *The Universe and Beyond*, will allow readers to explore further. For more details about these books and to see Terry's photos, visit our website ([www.kennebeclake.ca](http://www.kennebeclake.ca)).

**"At night make me one with the darkness; in the morning make me one with the light"—Wendell Berry, 1980**



### **LAKELAND Journeys into the Soul of Canada — Allan Casey**

by Bernie Dertinger

While we all love our lakeside retreats dearly, we often take them for granted. Unless great care is taken, previously pristine lakes can decline into nothing more than lakeside versions of suburbia, or worse.

Allan Casey grew up at Emma Lake in Saskatchewan; his parents built one of the first cottages in 1960. Years later, more than 3,000 weekend retreats and residences crowd the small lake. The natural beauty of a clean, unspoiled lake has been replaced by manicured lawns and vinyl siding.

Natural lakes still exist, but one has to go farther afield to find them. And when we do, there is always the danger that we will degrade them as other "colonized" lakes have been. To quote the author: "I was aware that stewardship of something beautiful and precious, this little silver square of land, has passed into my keeping for the wink of time that is one life. By the time my children had kids of their own, it seemed impossible the lake would have anything left to give." So he examines with great skill, deep understanding and passion how many Canadians relate to their lakes and what we can do so that our children may enjoy them as much as we do.

Casey doesn't make it easy to look at ourselves in the mirror. But the vast majority of his readers will be glad they did. He manages to appeal not only to our rational self but also to our emotions, and he does so in a writing style that makes one hate to put down the book unfinished. No wonder he won the Governor General's award for it.

*Lakeland* easily qualifies as the premiere resource book on cottage ownership. But you don't have to be a cottage owner to enjoy reading it. It appeals to anyone with that mystical yearning for a closer relationship with the wonders of nature. *Lakeland* is a must read for anyone with some sort of a relationship with a Canadian lake.

# A Cloud of Bats



Bats are fascinating flying mammals with forelimbs developed as wings. Other mammals such as flying squirrels can glide for short distances, but only bats can truly fly.

Around Kennebec we can see many bats at dusk swooping over the lake and river and through the trees. The Little and Big Brown Bats are the ones most likely to be found in or near our homes. The rest spend most of their time in the forest, roosting during the day in trees, shrubs and rock crevices. Eight species of bats occur in this area; all echolocate to find food.

Their names and some information about them are given below. More information can be found on the internet. See, for example, [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org).

**Little Brown Bat** Myotis lucifugus 5-9 grams, wingspan 22-27 cm

Prefers to hibernate in caves or abandoned mines; will roost in trees and sometimes houses

**Big Brown Bat** Eptesicus fuscus 12-48 gm, wingspan 32-39 cm

Primarily in forested areas; hibernates in caves; the most likely bat to roost and hibernate in houses or barns

**Hoary Bat** Lasiurus cinereus 19-35 g wingspan 38-41 cm

Our largest bat; inhabits open areas near forests and urban area; rest and raise young in tree canopy; migrates south for winter

**Eastern Red Bat** Lasiurus borealis 7-15 g wingspan 29-33 cm

Live in or near forested areas close to open grassy areas; roosts in foliage; migrates south for winter

**Silver-haired Bat** Lasionycteris noctivagans 7-18 g, wingspan 28-30 cm

Primarily in forest habitat; can adapt to peopled locales; migrates in winter to southern part of range

**Northern Long-eared Bat** Myotis septentrionalis 5-10 grams, wingspan 23-25 cm

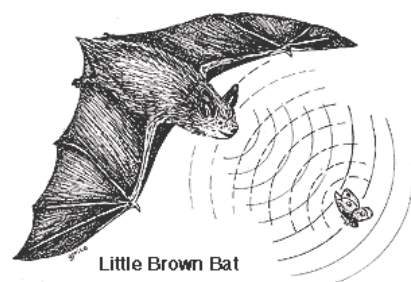
Primarily in coniferous forests; hibernates in caves or abandoned mines; roosts in tree cavities

**Eastern Small-footed Bat** Myotis leibii 4-8 grams, wingspan 21-25 cm

Our smallest bat; generally found in deciduous, mixed or hemlock forests, sometimes open farmland; generally roost in rock bluffs or on the ground under rocks and in crevices

**Tricoloured Bat** (formerly Eastern Pipistrelle) Perimyotis subflavus 5-6 g, wingspan 19-22 cm

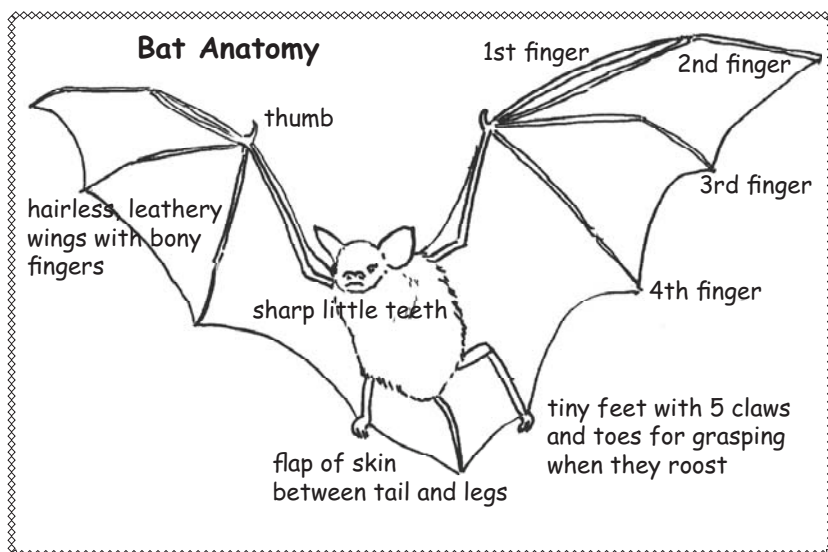
Shrubby areas, edge habitats, open forests near water; hibernates in caves or mines



## Bits About Bats

Most bats have one litter with 1 young per year; Big Brown Bats here usually have twins. The Red Bat can have up to four babies. Bat babies can weigh more than 25% of the mothers weight. The babies gain weight rapidly while nursing and some can be flying within 3 weeks of birth.

Bats play an important role in controlling insect populations. They consume from 50 to over 100% of their body weight in insects each night. When nursing young, a little brown bat needs to consume her body weight every day (equivalent to about 5,000 mosquitoes). During feeding maneuvers, the tail and wing membranes are used to capture and restrain prey.



Wind turbines create a drop in air pressure near the blades. Bats that fly too close "drown" from the bursting of blood vessels in their lungs.

White nose syndrome, a condition that has killed more than a million bats in the northeastern United States, was first identified in New York state in 2006. In 2010, WNS was confirmed in bats from the following areas in Ontario: Bancroft-Minden, Kirkland Lake, Flesherton, Faraday, Belleville and Renfrew County. WNS mostly attacks bats that hibernate in caves and abandoned mines.

by Aileen Merriam