

Pike Lake Post

Our 27th Year, Summer 2021

Let's Celebrate Pike Lake!

Boat-in



The Fowlie & Sibbit families invite you to the 9th annual boat-in movie night. Join your neighbours for this family event at sundown **Saturday July 31** (rain date Sunday August 1). Look for the big screen on the boat house on Route 17A.

Your Membership is critical to supporting the initiatives of the Association. To renew your membership, or to become a member, please submit your completed membership form & annual fee.

The easiest way to do this is to

- Complete & submit the "Online Membership" application form found at www.pikelake.ca &
- Send an e-Transfer for \$30 to info@pikelake.ca

OR

Mail the completed membership form & your cheque to: Pike Lake Community Association
c/o 24 Sioux Crescent, Ottawa, ON K2H 7E5

COVID-19 continues to be unsettling for all of us. The PLCA Board wishes all Pike Lakers a safe & healthy summer. For up-to-date info on COVID-19 in this area google The Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit at <https://healthunit.org/>

FIRE BAN For the latest 24-hour Fire Ban info, contact the Fire Department Admin Office at 613-267-2596 & listen to the automated message.

Pike Lake Community Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY JUNE 22, 7-9 PM

VIA ZOOM

- Presentation about the walleye enhancement project by a ministry fisheries official
- Board Reports
- Elect Your Board Members

Information on how to participate in the AGM as well as the following will be posted on the PLCA website by June 2nd.

- Agenda for the 2021 AGM
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Proposed Budget for 2021
- Lake Steward's Report
- 2019 AGM draft Minutes

Google www.pikelake.ca

Your Input Welcome Year-Round

The PLCA welcomes your comments, suggestions & questions. Speak to a Board Member, e-mail us at info@pikelake.ca, or write us at Pike Lake Community Association, c/o 24 Sioux Cres., Ottawa, ON K2H 7E5

NEWS FROM YOUR PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The events of the past year have not dampened the enthusiasm of the Pike Lake Community Association.

Our **membership** has increased to 115 members representing some 105 properties on Pike Lake. According to the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association, that is about average for lakes our size.

The new website & Facebook sites engaged Pike Lakers & attracted others wanting to be part of our community.

Members identified **increased cell phone & internet services** as an area of importance. In February, WTC Communications approached the PLCA to ask if members would support their application for funding from the Government of Canada's Universal Broadband Fund. Seventeen Pike Lakers wrote letters of support. In March, Rogers Communications was awarded the contract to improve the coverage & capacity of cell networks in Eastern Ontario. This is a \$300 million public-private partnership.

Gypsy moths returned in 2020. The caterpillars' voracious appetites took a toll on trees. People took action scraping egg masses off trees from last August to today. Groups got together to arrange for aerial spraying this year. For more info, read the enclosed brochure or google

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-insects/>

Advertising on the back page of the *Post* has been a success with all advertisers returning this year.

Serving as your President has been an energizing experience. I worked with people who brought skills, experience & sage advice to meetings. I met people I would normally not have had the opportunity to meet & learned from them. Fishing as a child was fun, but now I know the intricacies of walleye spawning. The cellular/internet project got me involved in an important issue to Pike Lakers. I knew little about Facebook; today it is a key communications tool for me. As I look back over the past three years, it has been an amazing experience.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you as President of the PLCA.

Naomi Fowlie



YOUR PLCA BOARD FOR 2020-2021

President Naomi Fowlie

Vice-President John Murphy

Interim Secretary Jen Sinclair

Treasurer Marty van Gaal

Membership Coordinator John Duguid

Interim Lake Steward Alexandra Hincke

Communications Coordinator Kathy Noxon

Past President Adrienne Fowlie-Larocque

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIONS 2020-2021

- Provided information on how to diminish the gypsy moth population
- Increased membership by 15%
- Kept our website www.pikelake.ca up-to-date
- Placed 22 hazard buoys in Pike Lake
- Provided ice-out data to Ice Watch
- Accepted advertising in the *Post* by local businesses
- Some 80 Pike Lakers are participating in our Facebook Page

NEWS FROM YOUR PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

LET'S NOMINATE PIKE LAKERS TO THE BOARD

CONSIDER PUTTING YOUR NAME FORWARD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD

Contribute to the Pike Lake community by sharing your time & talents, while making some new friends

Are you are interested in

- Furthering our common goal of keeping Pike Lake healthy
- Strengthening our sense of community
- Promoting safe & respectful recreational activities

Would you like to volunteer to be a member of the board, be nominated, or nominate someone else?

For more information, you will find the constitution & policy manual at www.pikelake.ca/governance.

- The policy manual outlines the role & responsibilities of Board members.

The Deadline for Nominations is noon Saturday June 12

- Nominees must be nominated by two members in good standing of the PLCA
- Both nominators & nominees must sign the nomination form; in light of COVID, all three people may sign & submit a separate nomination form
- Both nominators & nominees must have paid their 2021 PLCA membership fees by noon June 12

Elections will take place at the AGM on Tuesday June 22

- All candidates will be given the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes prior to the voting for that position
- All PLCA voting members who have paid their 2021 membership fees will be eligible to vote

Please don't hesitate to speak to a current Board member or contact us at info@pikelake.ca

*Be part of the Board of the PLCA,
an association that has existed since 1967 to keep Pike Lake healthy for all.*



White-Tailed Deer on Pike Lake this winter; photo courtesy of John Duguid

ICE WATCH

Gerry Greenslade reports that the ice went off Pike Lake on March 31st this year, making this the fourth year the ice has gone off in March this century. Indeed, it was a short ice year with the ice not going on the lake until January 20th. Our data shows that

- From 1963 to 1999, the ice went out, on average, on April 16
- From 2000 to 2021, the ice went out, on average, on April 9

This is consistent with Canadian ice phenology data records dating back to 1900 which shows a strong trend line for the ice to melt earlier than before. For more info, google www.naturewatch.ca/icewatch



Ice on Pike Lake; photo courtesy of Cathy Cameron

VOLUNTEER "LOONIES" NEEDED TO COUNT LOON PAIRS & CHICKS ON PIKE LAKE

We're looking for Pike Lake volunteers, aka "loonies", to count the number of loon pairs in June, baby chicks in July & surviving chicks in August. The information is used to track the survival of loon chicks over time. It also helps scientists to monitor the health of both the loon population & the health of our lakes across Canada & regionally.

- The PLCA joined the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey in 2013 so we now have 7 years of data (the survey was cancelled last year because of COVID). We will need at least 10 years of data before we can make any conclusions about loon population trends on Pike Lake.

If you're interested in being a citizen scientist, simply send an e-mail to info@pikelake.ca Our Lake Steward will then contact you to chat about your role. For more info on loons, google www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/canadian-lakes-loon-survey/

Loon with chick; photo courtesy of Richard Murphy



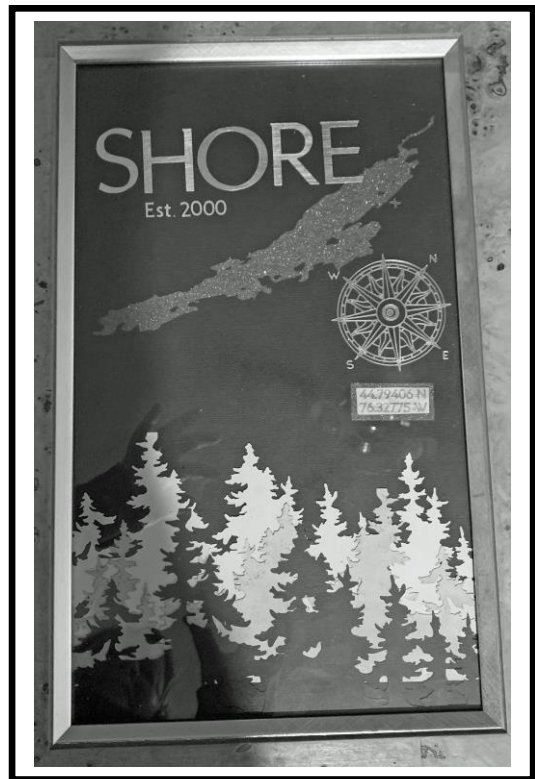
GETTING CRAFTY AT PIKE LAKE BY JEN SINCLAIR

There is something about being at the lake that makes me feel inspired to get crafty. Could be the fresh air & the wind in the trees. Could be the time away from the pace of life in the city.

Years ago, I would haul up large, heavy bins of scrapbooking materials & photos to the cottage to work on scrapbook pages. More often than not, when the kids were finally asleep after a day of tubing & swimming & after a glass of wine, not too much would actually get done. But there was definitely something therapeutic about spending the evenings trying to capture the fun of cottaging on those scrapbook pages. More recently, I have turned to online photobook publishing sites to create albums to look back & remember summer fun of years gone by. And when I look at all the beautiful photos taken on & around Pike Lake which have been uploaded onto our PLCA Facebook page, I am thinking we should consider making a PLCA 2022 yearly calendar.

Last fall, I purchased a Cricut machine which cuts paper, vinyl, leather & even thin wood in amazingly precise ways to create all manner of crafts. After seeing what a few friends had done, I was inspired to create a few personalized signs for the cottage. We have plenty of wood scraps around from various construction projects & my goal is to use as much as I can to save the wood from the fire pit.

Using my new machine, I recently made a sign for the bathroom. Our septic system appreciates the "gentle reminder" about what is ok & what is not ok to flush. I think the message is more effective, & more civilized, when beautiful fonts are used. I've also cut out digital images of the outline of our beautiful lake from Google Maps to create family signs (see picture). I had been looking for signs like these to purchase, but I find that the shops in Westport don't have much merchandise specific to our lake.



Family Cottage Sign made by Jen Sinclair

My husband wears his "Pike Lake" baseball cap with pride - one purchased from a shop in Westport years ago. Now, I have plans to make "Pike Lake" apparel for our family this year. We have been on the lake since my parents built a cottage here in the early 70s. You could say that our love for the lake runs deep through three generations of Shores. Two of my parent's grandchildren have tattoos with the coordinates of the cottage.

Another project that I have in mind for this year is to create, using my Cricut & vinyl, replacement decals for our faded Princecraft pontoon boat. I have also seen what you can do with vinyl lettering to create fun & unique boat names with permanent outdoor vinyl.

Once we can get back to gathering in groups, I'd love to have a dockside gathering of like-minded crafters once or twice over the summer to brainstorm ideas for more lake-themed craft projects.

HOW TO PREVENT WASPS FROM NESTING AROUND YOUR STRUCTURE


By JODY GREEN PHD, ENTOMOLOGY

INTRODUCTION BY KELLY AELONG

Two springs ago, we noticed some massive wasps flying around & started wondering if we had a problem on our hands at the cottage. I reached out to my sister, Jody, who is an entomologist, for advice. We monitored the property & removed about 6 nest starters & queens before any colonies could be started. As a result, we hardly noticed wasps at all last summer!


I learned a lot about the different common wasp types & their lifecycle which is fascinating. I thought other Pike Lakers might be interested in this information as well to add to their spring to-do list. My sister put together this really cool infographic that pretty much summarizes everything you need to know.

Wasps have black or brown bodies with yellow or white markings




Bee


- When compared to bees, wasps are shiny and hairless
- Both adult bees and wasps feed on nectar from flowers
- Bees feed their larvae pollen, while wasps feed their larvae insects like caterpillars




Wasp




Paper wasp



Yellowjacket



Bald-faced hornet






Yellowjacket

Wasps are social insects that build nests in sheltered areas

- Fertilized queens become active in spring after overwintering in a protected area
- A single queen looks for a place to build a paper nest
- Nests start small, but by late summer may have hundreds of workers that will sting to defend the nest
- Wasps have annual colonies, so all nests are abandoned before winter

Paper wasps or umbrella wasps

- Nest is a single tier of open cells suspended by a stalk
- Usually constructed under eaves, around window and door frames, deck railings, fencing, picnic tables, inside bird houses, electrical boxes, playground structures, and dense vegetation





Yellowjackets and hornets

- Nests consists of several tiers of cells enclosed in a paper envelope
- Nests may be:
 - Underground in an abandoned rodent burrow
 - Hidden in a wall void, hollow tree or space
 - An aerial nest under eaves or protected overhang or suspended from tree branches



Scout your property early in the spring

- Get out and walk around your buildings and look up
- Watch for a wasps returning to the same spot
- Screen and seal up openings into buildings
- Knock down any early nests
- Use fly swatter to kill female wasp
- Inspect weekly and repeat



Paper wasp



Yellowjacket



Yellowjacket

Prevent stings by managing food and trash

- Keep food and beverages covered when dining outdoors
- Yellowjackets like meat early in the season and sweets later in the summer
- Use tight-fitting lids for outdoor garbage
- Dress appropriately for yardwork (i.e. gloves, boots, long-sleeves)

Treating a nest with labelled wasp spray

- Read and follow instructions on pesticide label
- Treat after dark or early morning when workers are in nest
- Wear protective clothing
- Use red flashlight because wasps cannot see red
- Treat the nest and leave area



Paper wasp



Yellowjacket

When to call a professional

- If the nest is in a high-traffic area or inaccessible
- If it is late in the season and the nest is very large
- If there are humans with life-threatening allergies

RECREATION ON PIKE LAKE

KAYAKING: FUN FOR ALL AGES BY JOHN MURPHY

You can tackle it head on, be aggressive & paddle up a storm, or sit back & enjoy the tranquility & the beauty of nature. Kayaking is a great sport that can be enjoyed by all.

The Inuit invented the kayak, the "hunter's boat", for hunting & transportation about 2,000 years ago. They used driftwood or whalebone to make a light frame which they covered with seal or other animal skins made watertight by whale fat. Today, the kayak has evolved into a variety of types depending on their intended use.

If you're thinking of making the plunge, think about what you wish to use it for. Is it to paddle the rapids on one of our nearby white water rivers? Is it to go on an extended trip on Georgian Bay? Or, is it to use on Pike Lake?

There are three basic types that are suitable for Pike Lake. One is termed a recreational kayak, the second a light touring kayak & the third a sit on top kayak. The recreational & light touring kayakers are "sit inside" kayakers with a cockpit which means that the paddler sits with his/her hips & legs inside the hull. As the name suggests, with the sit on top kayak, the paddler sits in an open area on top of the kayak.

Recreational kayakers tend to be wide, very stable & the cockpits are usually spacious & easy to enter & exit. These are excellent for beginners & great choices for cottagers taking the occasional paddle or for a relaxing fishing excursion. Light touring kayakers are longer, sleeker & designed to be faster. They are able to slice through the wind & waves. They also track better than the recreational kayak, in part because of their shape & size &, in part, because they have a rudder. They are suitable for those who wish to go for more frequent & longer outings. Watertight storage compartments are usually provided for your gear for the day. Some come equipped with good lumbar support seatbacks which really help the older kayakers. The sit on top kayak is great fun for people of all ages, sizes & fitness levels who just want to have a bit of fun for a short while.



John & his daughter, Erin, enjoy their recreational kayakers on Pike Lake; photo courtesy of John Murphy

RECREATION ON PIKE LAKE



Raffi keeps track of everything from the rear hatch in her light touring kayak

Raffi relaxing on her sit on top kayak

Photos courtesy of Kay Rogers

Kayaking in open calm water looks so easy because it is! Like everything else in life, a little bit of knowledge can go a long way. If you are just starting out, it is always better to go with an experienced kayaker so he/she can show you the way. The first struggle might be getting in & out of the kayak. Now, how hard can that be, you ask? Well, let's just say it can be tricky & tippy but don't let that stop you because kayaking is just too much fun. Pike Lake is an excellent lake for kayaking with its many islands & streams to explore. Once you have become more comfortable kayaking, you might want to navigate Cedar Creek Marsh, duck under Cedar Creek Bridge & head to Little & Big Crosby Lakes.

If you're tempted, you may wish to check out an outfitter that sells a variety of kayaks. Some have nearby water access where you can try them out before deciding which one is right for you. You will be amazed what you'll learn. Consider buying a kayaking life jacket which is far more comfortable to wear when paddling a kayak, or a canoe for that matter.

Remember, a kayak is a boat so you will need a personal flotation device aka a properly fitting life jacket & a whistle such as the Fox 40 pealess whistle which can be attached to your life jacket. You will also want a floating rope to use as a painter or bow line tied to the bow end of the kayak. It should be roughly the length of the kayak. Those paddling "sit inside" kayaks are also required to carry a bailer or bilge pump. To be well informed on safety requirements, read Transport Canada's Safe Boating Guide. Google: https://tc.canada.ca/sites/default/files/migrated/tp_511e.pdf Have fun & keep safe!

Have you seen me at Pike Lake?

RACCOON

Scientific Name *Procyon lotor*

Average weight 5 - 12 kg, max. 22 - 26 kg

Life expectancy average 5 years

Did you know? The raccoon's English name comes from the Algonquian word *arukan*, meaning "he who scratches with his hand."



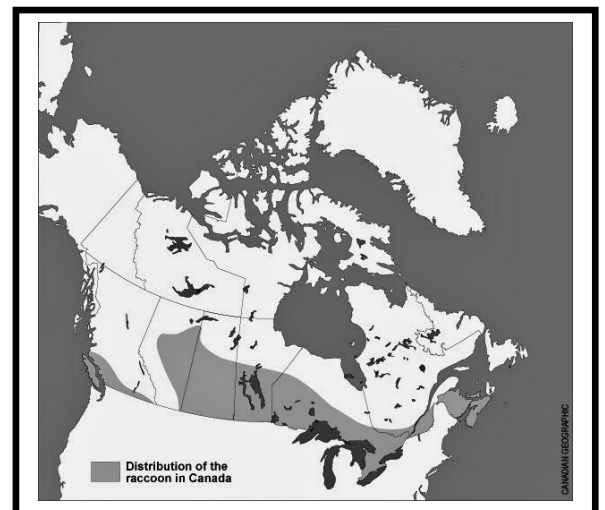
Physiology The raccoon's mischievous black mask is what people remember most about the furry scavenger. In addition to the band running from one side of its face to the other, the raccoon has a big, bushy tail with an average of five to 10 alternating black & brown rings. Its body is normally grey in colour, but can vary from albino to black or brown. The raccoon also has an annual moult when, beginning in the spring, it sheds its fur for about three months. Male raccoons are normally 25 percent larger than females & raccoons in northern latitudes tend to be heavier than their southern relatives.

Habitats/Behaviours The raccoon can live in a wide range of habitats, requiring only a source of water, food, & a protected area for denning in order to survive. The habitats best suited for it are hardwood swamps, floodplain forests, fresh & saltwater marshes, & both cultivated & abandoned farmland. It is also found in cities all over the country.

The raccoon is thought to have the habit of washing food with its front paws, as suggested by its species name, *Lotor*. Because captive raccoons have been seen performing this same type of "washing" action, it has been suggested that the behaviour is innate.

The raccoon is a strong swimmer, but only when forced to swim. It is known more for its climbing abilities. It is capable of making a variety of sounds, including whistling, shrieking, chattering, clicking its teeth, snarling & growling.

Range In Canada, the raccoon is found in northern Alberta, southern B.C. & Saskatchewan, central Saskatchewan, Manitoba & Ontario, southern Quebec & the Maritimes. In agricultural regions of eastern North America, its range is between one & four square kilometres. In prairie habitat, however, it has areas up to 50 square kilometres, & urban raccoons normally occupy less than 0.1 square kilometres. Raccoon ranges can overlap & there is very little evidence that they are territorial.



Source: *Canadian Geographic Kids*

THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS OF THE PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY!

- No voluntary association can succeed without the work of countless volunteers. Thank you for all you do.
- A sincere thank you to all those who extended their term on the PLCA Board for 2020-2021 with the support of members.
 - All who delivered the 2020 *Pike Lake Post*: Linden Davidson, Suzanne Davidson-Forget, John Duguid, Naomi & Grant Fowlie, Lois Johnson, Helen & John Murphy, Martin van Gaal
 - Richard Murphy for reviewing the 2020 PLCA financial records
 - Linden Davidson, Rob Greer, Hubert McInnis, John Murphy, Peter Noonan & Lee Sumner for putting in & taking out 22 hazard buoys
 - Suzanne Forget-Davidson for undertaking the first Fall newsletter
 - Jen Sinclair & Kathy Noxon for monitoring our Facebook page
 - Kelly Aelong & her sister, Jody Green, for the infographic about wasps
 - John Murphy for the article about kayaking
 - Cathy Cameron, John Duguid, Gord McCallum, John Murphy, Richard Murphy & Kay Rogers for their photos
 - Gerry Greenslade for providing the ice-out date
 - Lois Johnson for keeping our website up-to-date
 - Kay Rogers, with support from Cathy Cameron, for producing the 2021 *Pike Lake Post*
 - Linden Davidson for five years dedication to the walleye enhancement project & the for creating the hazard buoy program
 - All who have generously made financial donations to support the PLCA

A special thank you to Adrienne Fowlie-Laroque for over 17 years of dedication to the PLCA & our lake community. Adrienne has been a stalwart contributor since we started working on our State of the Lake Report in 2004. The value of Adrienne's contributions cannot be underestimated.



Kayaking into Cedar Creek Marsh; photo courtesy of Gord McCallum


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