



# Pike Lake Post

The Post's 30th Year, Summer 2024

## LET'S CELEBRATE PIKE LAKE!



### Boatilla & BBQ

**SATURDAY JULY 27, 11-2**

The Boatilla starts at 11 am at the west end of Pike Lake. We'll canoe, kayak, or slowly motor down Pike Lake gathering others along the way.

We'll arrive at 101 Country Lane for a BBQ

- ✓ Prize for the best decorated boat
- ✓ Kids activities
- ✓ Pike Lake 2025 Calendars for sale

Your PLCA will provide the food  
Cost: \$5 per person; children under 12 free

We hope to see you and your guests there!  
Rain date Sunday July 28

*The Pike Lake*

*Ice Cream Boat*



may be coming your way!

## PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**SATURDAY JUNE 22**

**COFFEE AND REGISTRATION AT 8:15**

**MEETING 9:00 – 10:30**

**STANLEYVILLE HALL, STANLEY RD.**

BETWEEN STANLEYVILLE RD. AND NARROW LOCKS RD.

- Meet Your Neighbours
- Boat Safety with Sgt. Byron Newell, OPP
- Board Reports
- Contribute Your Ideas for PLCA Projects
- Pike Lake Maps and 2025 Calendars

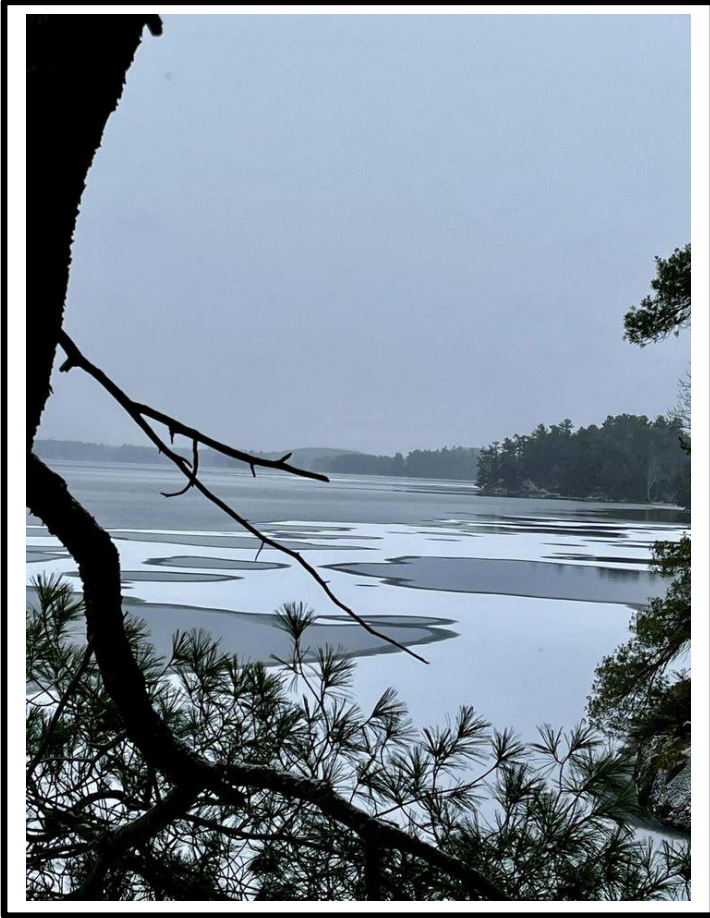
The Draft 2023 AGM minutes, Agenda for the 2024 AGM, and the proposed 2024 Budget will be posted on the PLCA website [www.plca.ca](http://www.plca.ca) by June 1.

## BOAT-IN

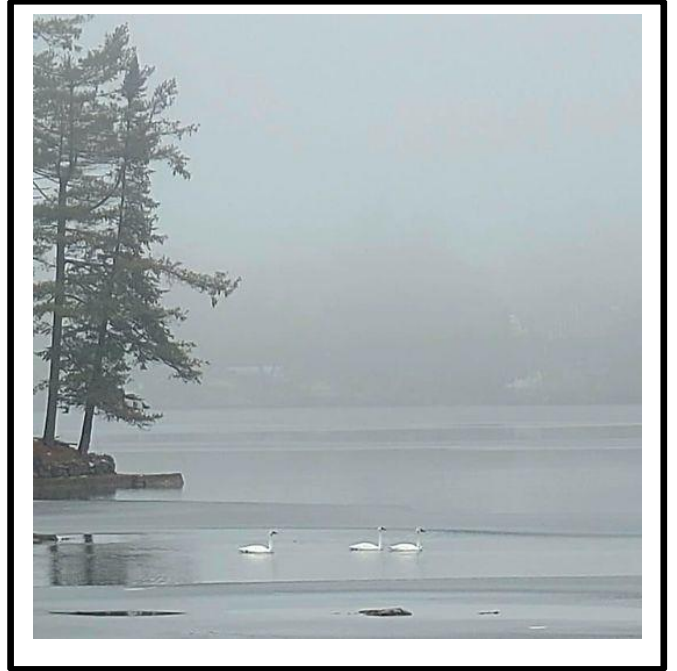


The Fowle and Sibbit families invite you to the 12th annual boat-in movie night. Join your neighbours for this family event at sundown **Saturday August 3** (rain date Sunday August 4). Look for the big screen on the boat house on Route 17A, Donnelly Bay.

## YOUR SUBMISSIONS



Moods of Pike Lake. *Photos courtesy of Tracey Armstrong, Ian Forsyth, and Johanne Lavelee.*



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PLCA BOARD

Another summer is upon us and those who live in the Pike Lake community year-round and seasonal residents alike are no doubt looking forward to the warmer weather and summer activities in and around the lake.

Last summer was challenging with the smoke from the wildfires in northern Quebec providing us with poor air quality for part of the summer, and requiring that we cancel the July 1st weekend Boatilla. This year, the Board decided that having the two in-person events of the Association on back-to-back weekends didn't make sense and many people are entertaining guests on the July 1st long weekend. So, the Boatilla will be held on July 27. We hope to see your family there this year.

Aside from the normal business meeting at our Annual General Meeting on June 22, we will have a presentation from the Ontario Provincial Police on water and boat safety to answer those burning questions you might have such as "can I enjoy my favourite beverage on my giant flamingo floating next to my dock?", or "do I need to have a whistle on my paddle board for safety purposes?"

We hope our communication to you throughout the year has been helpful and of the right frequency, and we welcome your comments and suggestions at any time to our email address at [info@pikelake.ca](mailto:info@pikelake.ca)

As always, the Board would like to express our gratitude on behalf of all members to those many who have contributed in small or large part to the Pike Lake Community Association in the past year. It seems that especially now, time is precious, and we appreciate what you have gifted to us.

Enjoy your summer and hope to see you at the AGM, the Boatilla, the Boat-in-Movie, and on the lake.

## PIKE LAKE CALENDARS FOR 2025

Your Board is putting together a Pike Lake Calendar for 2025 featuring photos by some of the talented photographers on the lake. Calendars will be for sale at the AGM and at the Boatilla.



*This photo of a bald eagle illustrates what will be in the calendar.*

## MEMBERSHIP

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

- Complete and submit the "Online Membership" application form found at [www.pikelake.ca](http://www.pikelake.ca)
- Send an e-transfer for \$30 to [info@pikelake.ca](mailto:info@pikelake.ca)

## YOUR 2023-2024 PLCA BOARD

President	Lois Johnson
Vice-President	Jennifer Sinclair
Secretary	vacant
Treasurer	Nancy Johnson
Communications	Kathy Noxon
Lake Steward	Alexandra Hincke
Membership	Ian Forsyth
Director at Large	Allison Bone
Director at Large	Susan Niles

### HELPFUL APPS TO IDENTIFY PLANTS, BIRDS, AND ANIMALS

Being out in summer is a great opportunity to learn the identify of species of plants, birds, and animals. Here are a few great applications to help you connect with the species around Pike Lake.

**iNATURALIST** *a community for naturalists*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

iNaturalist is an app/website for community based science. It is used to document all living things around the world, and provides a platform for scientists to interact with everyday naturalists such as yourself! When you post an image, the site will provide you with species recommendations to help with your own personal identification, and experts can also work together to confirm your ID. it is a great tool to help you grow your own naturalist skills.



**MERLIN BIRD ID** *identifies bird sounds and calls with sound ID.*

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

Merlin is an incredibly useful app to assist with bird identification. There is a step-by-step identification process based on physical characteristics of the bird you saw, which it then uses to recommend species that are present in your area. There is also an in-the-field audio identification tool that listens to the bird calls around you, and then highlights which birds are calling and when. This is an incredibly useful tool for learning new bird calls, and finding birds that like to hide in the canopy rather than coming out to say “Hi”!

**Seek** *is a family and child-friendly app bound to get outdoorsy kids of all ages excited about nature.*

[https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek\\_app](https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app)

Seek is an app used for in-the-field species identification, and is particularly useful for identifying plants. All you have to do is open the in-app camera, point it at the species you are trying to identify, and Seek will tell you what it thinks it is looking at, right on screen. You can then take a picture of the species to gain some more information, and even post your observation directly to iNaturalist. Seek will also tell you if this is a species you have observed before, so you can start to see trends in common species while challenging yourself to grow your list of unique observations.

*Photos courtesy of Heather Lindale.*



**eBIRD** *a citizen-science project that gathers observations from birders around the world.*

<https://ebird.org/home>

The eBird app and website is a great way to track your birding and provide data for scientists. Hundreds of thousands of birders use this app to update checklists on the go, manage their lifetime bird list, and keep in touch with the birding world. Submission data is public for all users, meaning that you can browse eBird’s maps to explore which birds other people have been seeing near you, and upload your own sightings to share with the community. Data gathered on eBird has been used in numerous scientific studies, and its impact continues to grow.

*Source: Georgian Bay Land Trust Landscript Fall 2023*

## INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive fish, invertebrates, plants, insects and pathogens pose serious threats to water bodies because they impact biodiversity by reducing critical habitat for native species.

### Zebra mussels

Unfortunately, we have had several reports of Pike Lakers finding zebra mussels attached to boats and rafts. Once these mussels colonize a lake, they are here to stay.

#### Quick facts about zebra mussels

- The zebra mussel likely made its way to North America in the ballast water of a ship in the late 1980s. They quickly spread into the Great Lakes and connected waterways, including inland lakes in southern and eastern Ontario.
- A female zebra mussel can produce up to one million eggs each year. Upon hatching, free-floating microscopic larvae (called veligers) are dispersed. After 2-3 weeks they begin forming shells and sink to the bottom of the lake where they attach to any hard surface using their byssal threads, which are sticky fibres they secrete. Zebra mussels can live 2-5 years and grow up to 5 cm in length.
- Zebra mussels are filter feeders – they eat tiny organisms in lake water called phytoplankton. Zebra mussels filter up to one litre of water per day – each! They disrupt the ecosystem by reducing the amount of phytoplankton available for other species, which is harmful to native fish and wildlife. They can clog water intake pipes, disrupt fish spawning grounds, reduce water quality, and cut the feet of swimmers.
- While zebra mussels are here to stay, you can take action to ensure they do not spread further. Clean, drain and dry boats and equipment when moving from one lake to another, and do not release live bait into the lake.



Zebra mussels are 2-4cm long, triangular in shape, sit flat on their underside, and have black or brown with white to yellow zig-zag patterns (although colour patterns can vary).

### Think you spotted an invasive species in Pike Lake?

#### Report it!

The Invasive Species Centre collects data through the Early Detection Distribution Mapping System – EDDMaps for short. It's an international web-based mapping system for documenting invasive species.

It's fast, easy to use, and doesn't require any high-tech gear – a smart phone will do. Simply enter your sightings and upload a photo on their website or via the app. Scan the QR code below with your smartphone camera to get started!



### THE LAKES LOON SURVEY

*Taken from a 2023 talk by Dr. Doug Tozer, Director, Waterbirds and Wetlands, Birds Canada*

The Common Loon has long been associated with peace, wilderness, and a healthy environment. These days, they are also an indicator of environmental trouble, as pairs produce fewer healthy chicks, and the population faces potential decline.

Birds Canada has been conducting the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey since 1981, relying on a team of volunteers on over 700 lakes to survey loons throughout the breeding season, and to collect data that can be used to assess long-term trends. Volunteers record how many 6-week-old chicks each loon pair is able to raise per season (once a chick reaches 6 weeks, its chances of surviving to adulthood are much greater).

This data shows that Common Loon productivity has declined by about 20% since the early 1990s, averaging a decline of 1.4% per year. Thirty years ago, each pair was producing on average 0.6 6-week-olds per year – now that number is 0.45. These Canadian averages have been replicated in a separate 30-year study done in northern Wisconsin.

What are the drivers of these declines? Doug's team has considered over a dozen factors, including: lake area, longitude, fish mercury contamination, pH (acidity) of lake water, shoreline development, boating activity, Bald Eagle and Double-crested Cormorant occurrence, average maximum temperature, and average precipitation.

They've discovered that loons do best on bigger lakes (which have more fish), and that productivity is lower and declining faster in northwest Ontario than in the southeast part of the province. Surprisingly, they have found no overall relationship between shoreline development or boating activity and productivity declines, despite knowing that this can harm loons. There is likewise no negative relationship with Bald Eagle or Cormorant populations.



Loon doing the “dance”.  
*Photo courtesy of Richard Murphy.*

They found the strongest correlations with low productivity when they measured lake acidity and fish mercury contamination. Scientists have long known that acidity is bad for loons. Mercury is a neurotoxin which can make loons sluggish and less motivated to feed and protect their young. Chicks with mercury contamination have weakened immune systems, and don't do as well in conserving energy or avoiding predators.

Doug and his team have come up with what they call the “acid-mercury-climate” hypothesis to explain the recent declines. It goes like this: Lakes have a baseline amount of mercury and acidity from acid rain decades ago. Fossil fuel emissions are increasing this pollution, and raising average lake temperatures. These warmer and more acidic lakes are a perfect breeding ground for acid-loving bacteria, and these bacteria capture mercury from the water. As the bacteria are consumed, mercury enters the food chain, eventually making its way in increasing amounts to the fish that loons eat.

Doug says there are likely other interactions we don't understand yet, and that more factors need to be considered, including: organic pollutants, oil spills on wintering grounds on the Gulf coast, botulism, emaciation syndrome, emerging diseases like avian malaria, and lead poisoning from fishing tackle. Next steps include studying these problems, as well as looking more closely at regional differences, both in breeding and wintering habitats, to identify locations that might be causing trouble.

## WATERSHED REPORT

The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey has been a huge asset in tackling these problems, because of the head start it has given researchers. Loons are long-lived, so the adult population has not yet suffered from the breeding declines in recent years. If we didn't have volunteers monitoring nesting pairs, scientists might not have become aware of the shortage of young until steeper population declines had occurred. For more information on the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, read its 40-year report at [birdscanada.org/loons](http://birdscanada.org/loons).

Source: *Georgian Bay Land Trust Landscript Fall 2023*

### CALLING ALL LOONIES

We're looking for volunteers, aka "Loonies", to count the number of loon pairs in June, baby chicks in July, and surviving chicks in August.

We heard you and have simplified the online form for reporting loon sightings. Use your smartphone's camera app to scan the QR code below. It will take you to the Google Form where you can report loon sightings by answering a few easy questions: where, when, and how many adults/chicks you saw. You can even report the loons you saw last summer.



Loon family below.  
*Photo courtesy of  
Mary Anne van Gaal*



The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) released its *Watershed Conditions Report* in 2023. Pike Lake received top marks on the Water Quality Index score for the years 2013-2021.

The Report also highlighted issues of concern in the Rideau Valley, including increasingly low water conditions. Low water conditions were declared for 9 out of 10 years between 2011-2022 (compared to only one out of 10 years in the previous decade). Climate data indicates that we are experiencing higher temperatures as well in the region; this could compound low water frequency going forward. Other climate change impacts include changing rainfall rates and an increase in extreme storms.

In order to mitigate these effects, where possible, the RVCA conducts hazard mapping and hydrological modelling to better predict future flooding and erosion. As well, continue sampling to track local climate conditions, water levels, and the frequency of flood and drought conditions will help determine trends and inform the development and implementation of new strategies to protect the watershed.

Keeping shorelines healthy helps keep the lake healthy – a natural shoreline 'buffer zone' helps slow flow into the lake and keeps pollutants that could reduce water quality, such as salts, fertilizers and pesticides, out of the lake. When shorelines are cleared of their natural vegetative buffer zone, water temperatures rise, runoff increases, and waterfront residents see a rise in harmful algal blooms, reductions in healthy fish communities, and declining water quality.

RVCA will use the findings from the *Watershed Conditions Report* to develop a comprehensive Watershed Management Strategy to implement targeted monitoring and conservation programs to address specific, and ongoing, areas of concern.

You can access the Watershed Conditions Report at [www.rvca.ca/conditions-report](http://www.rvca.ca/conditions-report).

## BUSY BEAVERS

Beaver dams and lodges are very common on lakes like Pike Lake and streams – they are part of the natural ecosystem. In fact, beavers spend most of their time building dams, like the one at Cedar Bridge Road, and lodges.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry does not manage beaver dams unless they are interfering with a roadway or damaging property. Under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* (FWCA), only the adjacent landowner or a licensed trapper can disturb a beaver dam and that is only if the dam is causing property damage. If there is no property damage, the beaver dam should be left alone, as disturbing the dam without cause is an offense under the FWCA. Examples of damage that would qualify beavers as ‘nuisance’ to property owners in Ontario include flooding or degradation of soil quality or shoreline erosion (which may be a result of removing trees).

On occasion, one can see beavers “swimming laps” on Pike Lake in the evening. If they sense you are there, they’ll slap their tails on the water and disappear.

While they are Canada’s national symbol, we humans can find them something of a nuisance when they decide that “our” trees would be a terrific addition to their home.

### Tips to make your trees uninviting for beavers

- Plant trees and vegetation that beavers don’t like, such as elderberry, ninebark, and twinberry.
- Wrap individual trees in metre-high, galvanized welded wire fencing, hardware cloth or multiple layers of chicken wire.
- Paint tree trunks with a sand and paint mix (120 millilitres of masonry-grade sand per litre of latex paint) to protect trees from beaver



### INDUSTRIOUS, ENDURING, THE 5-CENT COIN

The beaver has a long history as both a commodity and a cultural icon. It has appeared in the heraldic bearings of Québec City and Montréal and even marked Canada’s first postage stamp—the “three-pence beaver”—which was the first stamp in the world to not feature a monarch or head of state. The beaver coin design was created by artist G.E. Kruger-Gray and has been on the Canadian nickel since 1937.

Source: *The Royal Canadian Mint*





## THE PIKE LAKE DAM

On October 12, 2023, Jules Bruehlmann, John Duguid, Lois Johnson, John Murphy and Kay Rogers met with Andrew Graham and Eric Robertson, two local officials (Andrew lives in Stanleyville) with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for the Kemptville/Kingston District.

The dam at the outlet of Pike Lake was originally build in the 1850's to provide a reservoir for the mill operation downstream operated by William Alan.

The dam was rebuilt in 1970 and is now used to maintain a water level suitable for recreational uses on Pike, Crosby and Little Crosby Lakes as well as to fulfill downstream flow requirements.

Eric was asked if the amount of water flowing out of the dam could be adjusted to make the boat launch usable for a longer period of time. Using 2022 data, Eric calculated that the water level would have been one inch higher if this had been done, i.e., it would have been of no real advantage to those taking their boats out for the winter.

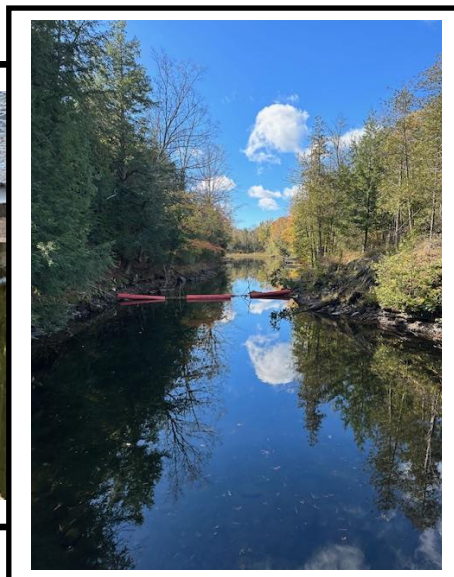
In essence, the water levels and launch were designed for smaller boats than some of those in use today, and adjusting that level for larger boats at the expense of downstream water rights for agriculture is not feasible.

Although target water levels have been established, it should be recognized that Mother Nature plays a big role: very heavy snowfall, extreme rain events, or lack of rain are just a few of the variables that can throw a curve ball into the planned levels.

Pike Lakers are asked to help keep the boat launch tidy by taking out any garbage they find and if it's a large amount to let the PLCA know by e-mailing [info@pikelake.ca](mailto:info@pikelake.ca) and we'll inform Andrew who will get a truck to remove it.

Let's dispel a couple of rumours:

- It is Eric and Andrew who regularly monitor water levels at the dam, not an office in Toronto using electronic sensors.
- The water levels are not lowered to supply water downstream for commercial activities such as the golf course. However, there are two permits, both for agricultural purposes.



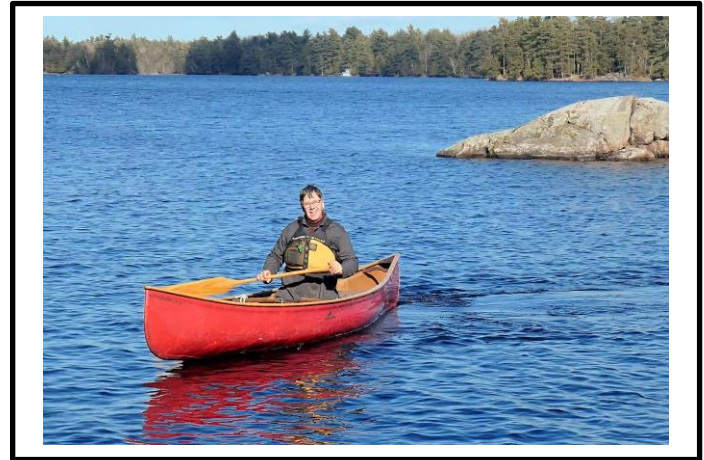
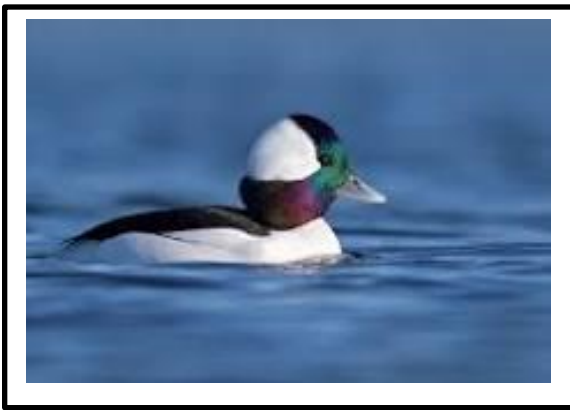
*Photos courtesy of Lois Johnson*

### EARLY ICE-OUT: ONE FOR THE BOOKS

A low snowpack, an abnormally warm February, and a heat wave in early March combined to move Pike Lake's ice out date to the earliest on record: March 18.

Ice-out was followed by

- the immediate arrival of the buffleheads
  - see photo below
- the first canoeist on March 19<sup>th</sup>, and
- the loons returned on March 23.



March 19: first canoeist on Pike Lake.  
*Photo courtesy of Kay Rogers.*

### YOUR INPUT WELCOME YEAR-ROUND

The PLCA welcomes your comments, suggestions and questions. Speak to a Board Member or e-mail us at [info@pikelake.ca](mailto:info@pikelake.ca)

### 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.

- Our Board Members: Allison Bone, Ian Forsyth, Alexandra Hincke, Lois Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Susan Niles, Kathy Noxon, and Jen Sinclair.
- All who delivered the 2023 *Pike Lake Post*: Susan Cook, Dorothy Forsyth, Ian Forsyth, Naomi Fowlie, Alex Hincke, Lois Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Susan Niles, Kathy Noxon, Jim Tasker, and Marty van Gaal
- The hazard buoys team: Rob Greer, Greg Nyman, Craig Sinclair, and Mike Shore
- All who helped with the AGM: Allison Bone, Ian Forsyth, Lois Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Susan Niles, Chris Noxon, and Jen Sinclair
- Richard Murphy for reviewing the 2023 financial records
- Jen Sinclair and Kathy Noxon, our Facebook group
- Lois Johnson and Jim Tasker, our webmasters
- The Sibbit and Fowlie families for hosting the Boat-in Movie Night
- Our "Lake Loonies": Betty Jean Bone, Susan Cook, Lois Johnson and all who reported loon sightings or other birds
- Pike Lake Calendar Committee: Sandy Alexander, Jennifer David, and Jim Tasker,
- Jen Sinclair for the Low Wake Sign Production
- Gerry Greenslade for determining the ice out date
- Kay Rogers, with support from Cathy Cameron, for producing the 2024 *Pike Lake Post*
- Our photographers whose photos are in this year's *Pike Lake Post*: Tracey Armstrong, Mike Flynn, Ian Forsyth, Mary Ellen Hogan, Lois Johnson, Joanne Lavellee, Heather Lindale, Richard Murphy, Kay Rogers, and Mary Anne van Gaal
- Alison Bone and Susan Niles for producing the fall newsletter.

## YOUR SUBMISSIONS



Three of our neighbours: Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, and Fox. *Photos courtesy of Mike Flynn, Mary Anne van Gaal, and Mary Ellen Hogan.*





# OTTA SAUNA

613-614-5123 OTTASAUNA.CA

Barrel Saunas      Birdhouse Saunas  
Indoor Saunas      Townhouse Models

Call, text or visit our website to order yours today

**DROP IN TO VIEW OUR DISPLAY MODELS**



**Madden Compan  
Tree Service**  
Westport, ON



ON-2378A  
ISA TRAQ  
Utility Arborist

**Matthew Madden**  
ISA Certified Arborist  
613-770-0415  
matt@maddentree.ca  
www.maddentree.ca

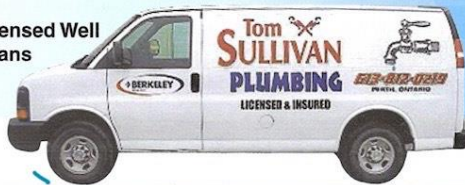
## Tom Sullivan PLUMBING

FULLY LICENSED & INSURED

- Residential & Commercial
- Water Softeners & Treatment Equipment
- Pumps & Pressure Systems
- Renovations & New Construction
- High Pressure Drain Cleaning Equipment
- All Plumbing Repairs & Installations
- Video Sewer Inspections

**613-812-0219**

OME Licensed Well Technicians



584 Stanley Rd., Perth, ON      <http://www.tpservices.ca/>



*We Build to "Code"*

Phone: 613-267-6115      Fax: 613-267-7340  
codeconstruction@hotmail.com



- New Homes
- Roofing
- Siding
- Commercial
- Residential



## DEE'S HANDY HELP

Handyman / Cottage Services

- General Maintenance
- Painting
- Decorating
- Decks
- Wood Trim
- Flooring
- Repairs
- Doors & Windows
- Bath & Kitchen Renovations

Rideau Lakes Area / Westport

**613-353-6766**

