

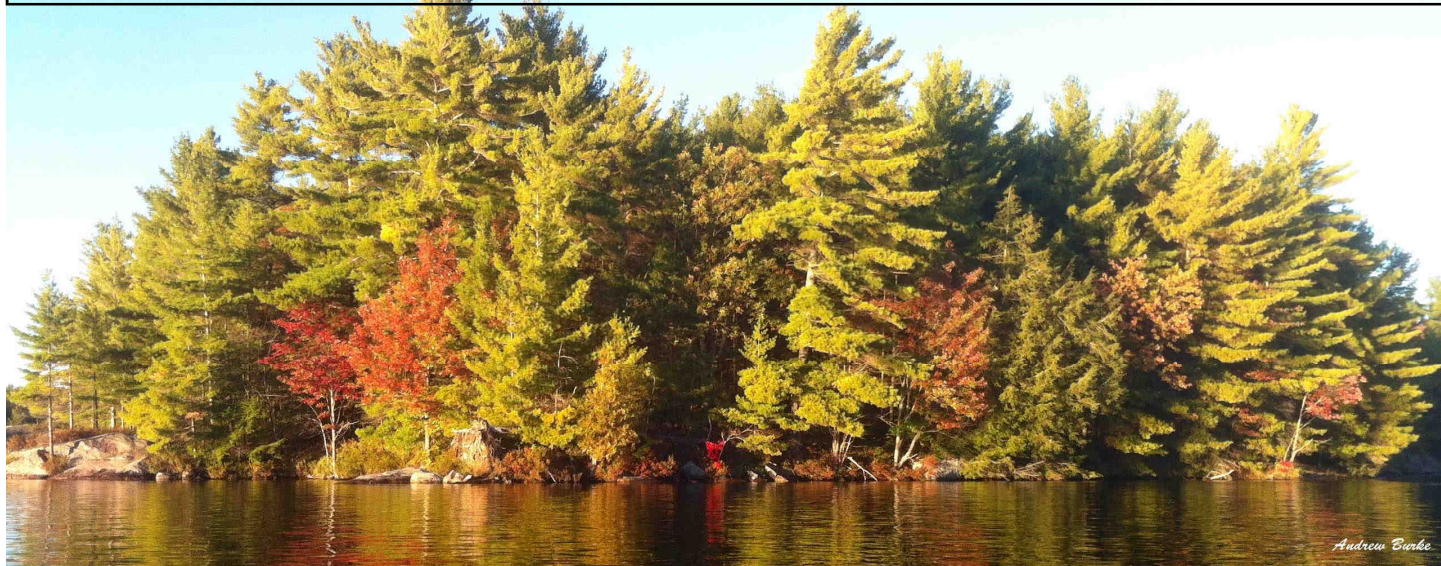
Kapikog Lake Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2014

Kapikog Lake Cottagers Association

Box 167, MacTier, Ontario P0C 1H0



PRESIDENT'S REPORT - AUTUMN 2014

Another summer cottage season has come to an end. I hope yours was a memorable one in spite of the wet rainy weather that was so prevalent this year! The rain just continued to come too, not just the odd shower but major heavy rainfalls. Roads as a consequence have suffered: Healey Lake Road was washed out as was Kapikog South Road and vehicular traffic was affected. Small rivulets formed on many hills and washed finer gravel particles off the road surface creating some ruts, driveways were washed away and many sandy shoreline beaches ended up in the lake. In addition strong winds broke branches, downed trees and in some instances knocked down electric feeder lines to some of the cottages along the lake. The good news was that we did not see a summer drawdown of water on Kapikog Lake; in fact water has flowed over the dam all summer long and at present there is at least 10cm of water flowing over the dam feeding Healey Lake and then Georgian Bay.

This abundance of precipitation in both rainfall and last winter's snowfall has in fact raised the Georgian Bay water level by approximately 90 cm or 36 inches since 2012 according to an article in the Parry Sound North Star this week. Now, it remains to be seen how the winter season is going to affect us in the way of precipitation. Will we see major snow falls like last winter, giving us a great sledding season? Who knows, there is already snow in the forecast!

We shall wait and see.

Cottages have been closed up, docks pulled in, floating docks moored and in most instances boats have been pulled from the lake suggesting that activity around the lake is coming to stop. However, islanders are still going back and forth on the water and construction is going on at various sites, thus some work does continue around the lake. How much longer this will go on remains to be seen, freeze up will come but not before we see large flocks of mergansers and golden eye ducks stop on the lake on their migration south. Once these birds have left, ice starts to make its way from along shallow shoreline areas across the lake and then on a still, clear, cold night the lake will freeze over. The loons will be gone. Winter sets in!

Our annual general meeting on Aug 16th was once again plagued by a major rain storm which affected attendance and put a damper on an excellent presentation by Kim Wendt, a Conservation Reserve Technician with The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. She spoke about Conservation Reserves in general as well as The Moon River Conservation Reserve which abuts Kapikog lake at the west end. Grant Walker, our councilor, spoke about the Healey Lake Transfer Site access review and the possibility of improving the visibility at the intersection of Kapikog

(Continued on page 2)

Remember these dates!

Next year get a headstart on summer at the
Wine and Cheese Party...Sunday May 17th 2015...2:00pm

Annual General Meeting...Saturday August 15th 2015...10:00am

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President's Report (Continued from page 1)

Lake and Kapikog South Roads. He also addressed the municipality's official plan review that is ongoing this year.

During the business portion of the meeting I also spoke to the Archipelago's Official plan review; Holly Christie and I attended a meeting in Parry Sound concerning the official plan on behalf of your Association, at which the timelines and process for input was presented. Various cottage associations voiced some of their positions on how the plan affects them. We received a copy of the plan and shall review it from the standpoint of what we believe to be in the Association's best interest. Each individual ratepayer however should also review the official plan and comment on it if they feel so inclined.

I also indicated that the Association had been in contact with the forestry section of Hydro One and were informed that brush clearing the Hydro right of ways would commence next year followed by dangerous-tree cutting the following year. Hopefully this will come to fruition; the rights of way are overgrown and electrical arcing can often be seen as branches touch the wires during stormy weather.

The Kapikog Lake Cottage Roster was updated and prepared by Sandra Jones this year and we thank her for her work on this! We hope that you have found this document useful.

Although 2014 has not been a busy year for the Association we have tried to stay aware of the issues in the area and keep you up to date on any major weather events that could have an impact on your properties. I had previously mentioned that we are heading towards our 50th anniversary date as a community, with the land auctions for cottage lots being held back in 1966. I had asked for some ideas on how we could celebrate this as an Association but to date have not received any suggestions. Perhaps it is not important but if you feel that it may be give us some of your thoughts!

The municipal election have been held and Grant Walker has been re elected in our ward for another Term. Congratulations Grant!

It is Halloween as I write this, but there will be few if any trick or treaters around the lake. It is raining again and the rain is expected to turn to snow this evening making the rounds for trick or treaters treacherous. The snow won't stay yet but as indicated earlier we may be at the start of another great sledding season. Trail passes have been on sale for some time and I am sure that those who have purchased them are awaiting the winter with great anticipation. Either way, whether you ride the trails or the lakes, caution should be the name of the game. Be courteous to others, don't access the lakes over someone else's private

property, wear your safety gear and operate your sleds safely. Be aware of ice conditions before you venture out on the lakes, especially since we have such high waters, currents may be different than in the past and thus different ice conditions may occur. Be safe!

As the year winds down I would like to draw your attention to the following dates for our annual wine and cheese at H&H Sunday May 17 2015 and Annual General Meeting on Saturday August 15 2015. The latter event will be an important one as it is an election year for our Association. A new slate of officers will have to be elected so please consider letting your name stand for office.

Also, as the year winds down I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and an enjoyable, safe holiday season on behalf of your Association's executive. We shall see you back at the lake in 2015. Meanwhile be healthy and safe!

Gerry Haarmeyer
Association President
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Councillor's Report

The township vehicles and boats have been equipped with locators as our employees are out on the water alone in the summer in all kinds of weather and on our back roads at night plowing in poor weather conditions.

McDougall Township has acquired a new state of the art asphalt repair system which we will rent this fall to do repairs before winter. Some of our neighbors will be renting the new sweeper that runs off a 3/4 ton truck which we acquired this summer. The agreement for sharing services and employees with Carling Township, while each retains their own service levels, programs and independence, is working well and saving money. It has lead to other municipalities communicating on how to cooperate to avoid duplication and save money. At a meeting with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing the Minister was most interested in how it was set up and how well it is working.

The first public meeting of the five year review of our official plan has been held. You can find information on our web site and I encourage you to participate as it sets the direction in which our municipality will move and it is supported by the bylaws we live by. There will be more meetings over the next year and all people, groups and associations are asked for input.

The new agreement with the Georgian Bay Biosphere is in place and they will be looking after both the water and forest testing programs. They are also developing a educational fun day program to be held with cooperation from the associations. Ted Thompson, a long time employee of the township now retired, will be working with them during the summer months. Phosphorus testing is also coming on stream.

Now the government has a majority, they are pushing ahead with the increased O.P.P. costs. A new formula reduces the cost somewhat but it is still very high and will result in a large tax increase. Seguin Township and the Archipelago are still exploring the cost of local service, with Carling Township showing some interest in contracting for service. We were paying approximately \$120,000 a year for service. Next we were told it would increase to approximately \$1,200,000, a 10-fold increase. Now as far as I can see the formula will work out to approximately \$650,000, still far too much for the services we get. Keep tuned. By my next report I will have more accurate figures along with the amount of service each municipality in our area requires and gets.

A little bit of history...Your President has already mentioned the Lake's forthcoming 50th anniversary in his re-



port. At a recent association executive meeting during discussion about membership, volunteers, new residents and new generations I had gone on about how the associations were responsible for the formation of the township and our ability to self-determine the fate of the beautiful area we are so fortunate to enjoy. I was asked to summarize those comments for you which, nostalgic to some, should also interest more recent members of the Kapiokog community:

When most of the settlement took place on Healey and Kapiokog Lakes there were a few poor roads, and no hydro or communications. When you ran out of friends and relatives to help and your children were still too small, you turned to neighbours and helped each other, leading to many close life long friendships.

In turn and for the same reasons associations were formed and more goals set and achieved. In the seventies, surrounding municipalities were looking at the huge unorganized area and thinking what they could do with all the extra potential tax revenue if they could just absorb all or some of what is now The Township of The Archipelago. Luckily the area had some far sighted people and strong active associations to back them up and after much work, meetings and some say a little skullduggery, the Province of Ontario was convinced to create the Township.

In the beginning the associations had very hands-on control of the fledgling municipality which was good considering most of the residents came from literally all over the world (certainly Ontario). The associations represent different neighbourhoods with the same objectives but some differences in how to get there. Council still relies on associations for their valuable input. In many ways the Archipelago is a progressive leader in the West Parry Sound area and in the eyes of the Province. Many look to us for good roads, effective waste management on mainland and off shore, shared services, GIS management, protection of water and forests, septic management, planning etc. All this in saying everyone (new or old) should look at your association and the rich heritage it has passed on to you and make the effort to keep it healthy and vibrant. From personal experience I know you'll make great new friends and add another dimension of fun to your lake life.

I hope we can all enjoy a great fall after the summer we have had as well as a pleasant, snowy winter without some of the extremes of last year.

Please contact me if I can be of any help

Grant Walker Councillor Ward 6
Call: 705-720-2244 or Email: grant@olresources.ca



Meet Your Neighbours - *Odocoileus virginianus*

A common sight around Kapikog Lake, the white-tailed deer is an easy recognizable animal that we all admire when we see them.

The white-tailed deer has a white underside, a white throat patch, and white rings around its eyes but perhaps its most striking feature is the white underside of its brown tail (hence its name) that is often raised as the deer dashes away from what it perceives as a dangerous situation. Full grown deer can exceed a metre in height at the shoulder and weigh up to 110kg with exceptional animals as much as 200kg. Males are known as bucks and females as does. Males carry antlers which develop each spring as soft velvety tissue and harden into the bone structures that we are all familiar with; the antlers drop off each fall or early winter. Antlers appear bulbous and distended under the velvet but as the velvet dries during the summer the buck will rub its antlers on small trees and brush to reveal the hard, bony, forward pointing antlers which indicate the relative health and virility of the buck to other deer. To



other bucks antler size also indicates dominance.

Deer in the area breed in November; this time period is known as the rut. Does do not have antlers. Does carry their fetus through the winter and fawns are born in late May and early June. It is not uncommon to see wobbly-legged spotted fawns around the lake in the spring. If conditions are favourable, deer populations can almost double within a year. The winter

of 2014 was not favourable, largely because of deep snow which inhibited forage.

During the spring and summer deer change from a greyish brown colour to reddish. They eat a variety of leafy material from woody plants and grasses, it may also include fiddleheads and blueberries. As the summer turns into fall and leafy material disappears deer switch their diet to woody branches and buds that are within their reach. Acorns are a favourite autumn food.

(Continued on page 6)



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2014 Annual General Meeting

A small group of indomitable members met on the mid-August Saturday, in spite of lowering rain, and traded jibes based on past AGM weather about the possible influence of our resident "Rainmaker". Our official visiting guest was Kim Wendt of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry but more about that later.



President Gerry Haarmeyer summarized the years affairs: A majority, but not all, of our residents support the Association by membership; good water level due to the generous (!) snowfall last winter and spring rains; and on-going matters with both Ontario Hydro and the Archipelago. A financial report confirmed that all was well fiscally. Grant Walker, our Councillor, reviewed township matters and the Official Plan status, noting again the particular success of the Healey-Kapikog transfer station and some road improvement plans.



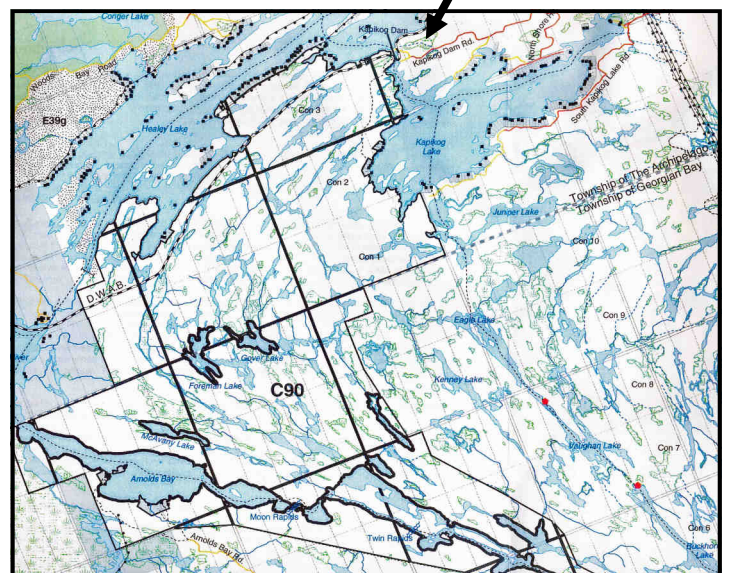
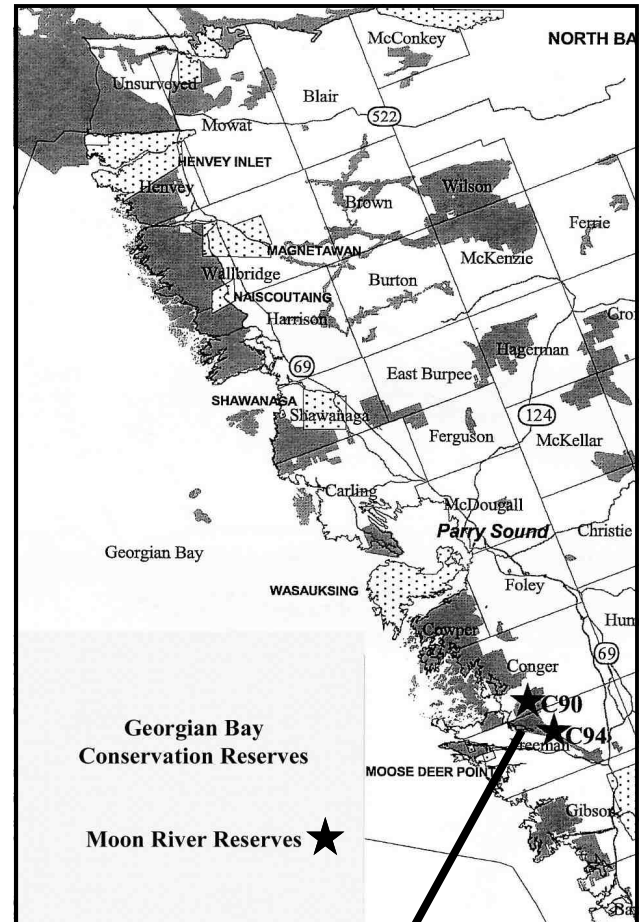
Then Kim stepped up to bat and it started to rain. On and off at first but then...seriously. Our valiant speaker moved to the partial protection of the lower H&H storage building. Rainer Cuma sorted out the electrical connections for sound and computer, and the rest of us stood either partially under the doorway or sharing an umbrella with a generous neighbour.

The topic was the Moon River Conservation Reserve which abuts the west end of Kapikog Lake. And is one of some 56 such reserves carved out of Crown land within the Georgian Bay Littoral Biosphere Reserve, designated by UNESCO in 2004, stretching along the east coast of Georgian Bay from Port Severn to the Key River and including our 'largest fresh-water archipelago in the world'. The general purpose of this program is to permanently protect ecosystems representative of all of Ontario's significant elements of natural and cultural heritage, maintaining biodiversity and providing opportunity for compatible, ecologically sustainable recreation and research. It originated as *Ontario's Living Legacy*, and a land use strategy to preserve some land areas which were ecologically unique, sensitive to disturbance and very picturesque but of little commercial use with no significant mineralization or commercial forest resources.

Like many similar locations throughout the Archipelago, we treasure our lake, part of the former wilderness, now

populated for both permanent and seasonal occupation, and recognize that we must exercise considerable care to maintain the attractive qualities of its waters, flora and fauna. The Conservation Reserve program complements this by necessary legislation, conservation planning, proactive liaison with interested local groups as well as coordination with the Provincial Parks program to preserve the larger part of our heritage.

More information can be found in the **Statement of Conservation Interest** published in March 2005 by the Ministry of Natural Resources - Parry Sound District.



Meet Your Neighbours (Continued from page 4)

Whitetails occur across much of North America and we are near the northern extremity of their range which means that they are faced with hard winters. Deer tend to gather in areas known as deer yards for the winter and we on Kapikog are on the edge of the Healey Lake deer yard. These are traditional areas where deer congregate each winter and they may travel long distances to get there. These so called yards are vast areas that offer some relief from sweep snows and browse (branches and twigs) for the deer to feed on during the harsh winter. When snows get deeper than 40cm on the ground it becomes increasingly difficult for deer to move about and as a result correspondingly difficult to get to food. Consequently deer start to draw on body fat reserves for survival, but as this energy resource is depleted it becomes less likely that the deer will survive the winter.

After many mild winters and an expanding deer herd in the immediate vicinity of Healey and Kapikog Lake we were faced with a very tough winter last year as noted above. Food became difficult to get and as a consequence we had a major die off of deer. This phenomena is not uncommon in deer herds across North America; it has been very well documented and herds will rebound given the right conditions .

Source: Hinterland Who's Who
Text by Gerry Haarmeyer



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