

Kapikog Lake Newsletter



MARCH 2016

Kapikog Lake Cottagers Association

Box 167, MacTier, Ontario PoC 1H0



Ice-Out April 2013 Gerry

EXECUTIVE REPORT - SPRING 2016

As February comes to a close I think we can all agree it's been a very strange winter. Here's hoping all of our cottagers have had safe and happy adventures this winter – during these months of wild temperature swings –perhaps snowmobiling or wildlife spotting around Kapikog or out on some of Canadas ski slopes or perhaps down in the warmer climes south of the border.

We have a busy summer ahead of us! As you know we are planning the Kapikog Lake 50th Anniversary celebration in August. We plan to add a fun kick-off party aspect for this event tied into the Welcome Wine and Cheese scheduled for May 22nd. Bring your family. Bring your wallet. There will be draw tickets, silent auction items and promotional items on display for pre-ordering as well as Event tickets for sale. One thing I am learning as I get to meet more and more of the lovely cottagers on Kapikog is that they are fun loving, warm, and welcoming... It seems we all love our lake and want to celebrate its rich history with a community party so please be sure to join in.

A small homework note for you, less fun than a party but quite crucial for our continuous power supplies around the lake: Please fill in and respond to the letter you should have received about Hydro One doing Vegetation Maintenance around the lake. We have been asking them for a few years now to get around to this given the frequent power outages around the lake. It would be a shame to miss out on the opportunity to have this work done on your property to prevent potential outages in the future. It's a simple form to complete and a stamped and postage paid envelope was included.

Thanks to all.. looking forward to spring and seeing you on the lake!

Laura Sinclair , Association Chair
sinclairmktg@aol.com

Remember these dates!

Get a headstart on summer at the
Wine and Cheese Party...Sunday May 22nd 2016...2:00pm

And on Saturday August 20th 2016
Annual General Meeting.....10:00am followed by
Kapikog Lake 50th Anniversary Celebrations

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Councillor's Report

As I write this I am reflecting on what a easy winter it has been compared to last year and we are going into the tail end. It's downhill from here but be careful and be safe; spring breakup can bring surprises.

I have had reports that the road systems were well looked after and I'm looking forward to seeing how the spraying and sealing we did last fall has worked.

Met with the minister of the environment last week while attending the Ontario Good Roads Association Conference to express our concern over small municipalities influence in the reorganization being planned for recycling. We are worried that producers will cover their obligations by looking after the large dense areas which will be easier and cheaper than developing programs for small rural and northern municipalities. This could cause us a lot of problems and be very costly.



In the fall we had a workshop on water quality which was well attended.

We will be continuing our water testing program with some changes and adding phosphorus testing. In another part of the newsletter I forwarded information and registration details on a forest workshop we are co-sponsoring with the Georgian Bay Biosphere who we have contracted to provide our environmental services.

The GBBA will be offering a number of programs for adults and children this summer. I

should be able to give a lot of detail on the environmental programs planned for this year in the next newsletter.

As always please contact me if I can help you in any way

Grant Walker Councillor Ward 6

Call: 705-720-2244 or

Email: grant@olresources.ca



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IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING DOCK & BOATHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

If you are planning to construct a dock or boathouse in 2016 there may be delays in issuing building permits and advanced planning may provide a timely transition.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has recently changed its policies regarding the requirement for authorizations under the Public Lands Act, for docks and single storey boathouses that occupy more than 15 square metres of (shadow) area over the Crown lake bed. This includes new docks, expansions of existing docks, seasonal docks and single storey boathouses, including replacement structures. Authorizations will be in the form of a Land Use Permit. In cases where construction includes works conducted on privately owned shore lands, a Work Permit will also be required from the MNRF.

Applications should be made to the Parry Sound District office via normal channels using the Ministry's standard work permit application package. If you have questions about this new process, please send your specific questions to mnr.approval@ontario.ca. For more information, please see the Ministry's website at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-work-permits>.

DOCK AND BOATHOUSE BUILDING PERMITS

A building permit is required for docks and single storey boathouses according to the Ontario Building Code Act, 1992 (OBC). The Public Lands Act is applicable law under Division A, 1.4.1.3. of the OBC and therefore MNRF authorization is required **before** a building permit can be issued to a resident, contractor or agent.

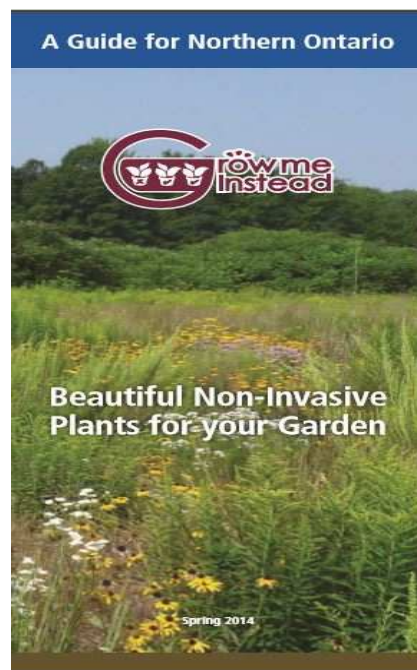
Compliance to the Township of The Archipelago's Comprehensive Zoning By-Law A2000-07, as amended, is also required prior to the issuance of a building permit and can be viewed on the municipal website at www.thearchipelago.on.ca. It is advisable to confirm compliance with the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law **before** seeking MNRF authorization to provide a more seamless building permit process.

If you have any questions as to whether your proposed dock or boathouse construction complies with the Zoning By-Law, please contact the building department at 705-746-4243 extension 317 or email to edycck@thearchipelago.on.ca.

During a recent perusal of the extensive forest health information on the Township's web pages, I rediscovered the

Grow Me Instead Guide

An extremely interesting and comprehensive illustrated booklet which identifies common invasive or undesirable plants and shrubs in our region with recommended alternatives for each.



If you are or should be contemplating such work this year it is recommended as a "must read". You may access it via ToA's Forest Health link or directly for download via

**[ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/
OFHA_Grow_me_instead
_NORTH_for_WEB.pdf](http://ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/OFHA_Grow_me_instead_NORTH_for_WEB.pdf)**

..Editor

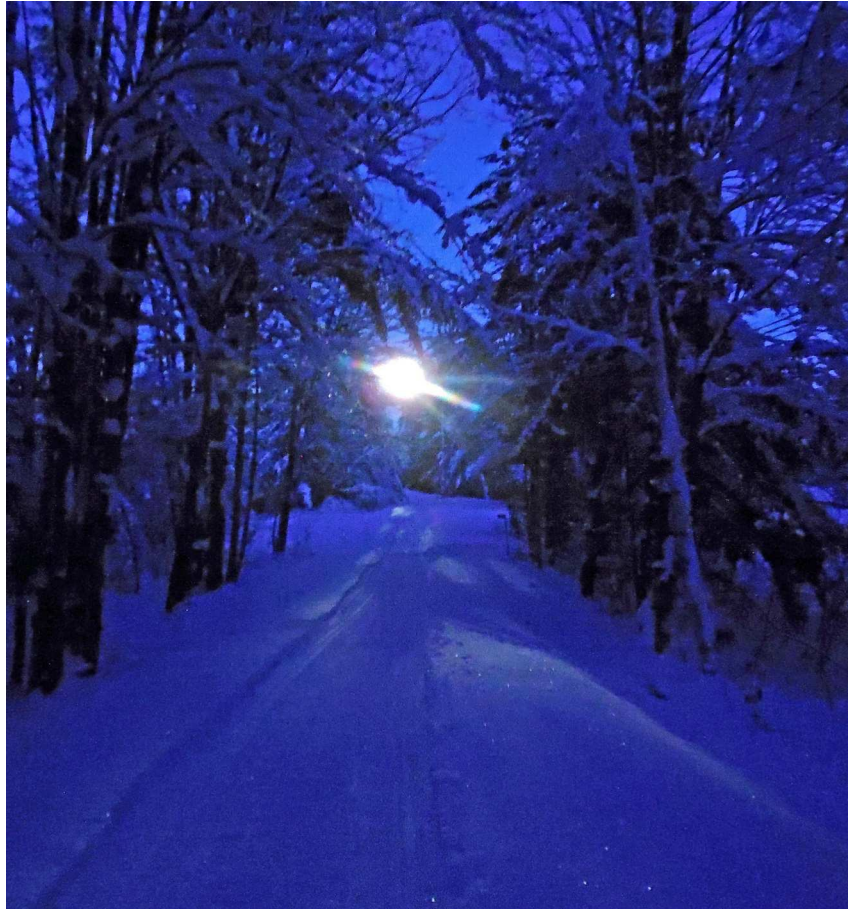
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Picture of the Month

**Full Moon - North Road
23 January 2016**

Gerry Haarmeyer



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Hi, Everyone

2016 looks like an exciting year for cottage sales in our part of paradise. The world economy, as a whole, appears pretty bleak at times, but economists tell us that there is more disposable income than ever before in the history of Canada. Low interest rates make buying very attractive. The U.S. dollar is certain to attract more American buyers and we look forward to making new friends.

I have a very serious buyer looking to buy an island or a mainland property on Kapikog Lake.

If you are contemplating selling, or would like to know what your property is worth, please call me. I offer discreet and personal service with no obligation.

ROYAL LePAGE In Touch Realty Brokerage Inc. has 14 offices with approximately 500 sales staff, serving you from the Niagara region to north of Parry Sound and beyond. Our new Spring catalogue will be going to press in the near future and I would love to feature your property.

Regards, Gary R. Jennings, Broker

Office: 1 800 232-1114
 Mobile: 705 746-6692

Email: garyjennings@royallepage.ca
 Residence: 705 378-2360

A...musing



All the news outlets were abuzz this morning with predictions from various rodents known as groundhogs (*Marmota monax*) as to whether or not the winter would last another six weeks or that we would have an early spring. Our closest well known hog is Wiarton Willie on the Bruce Peninsula but Punxsutawney Phil from the United States gets as much press as Willie with their individual prognostications. Little do they know that we have our own groundhogs around Kapikog Lake. Just ask some of our lake residents that maintain gardens about them. You will find the air filled with rather not so nice things to say about these furry creatures. They have been known to raid gardens, eliminate standing crops and dig unwanted burrows (no mean feat in this country) that can break an ankle if one steps into one of these.

The groundhog is a rodent in the ground squirrel family (*Sciuridae*) under the genus *Marmota* and also goes under the name of woodchuck. Its name stems from an Algonquin name for the animal, *wuchak*, and there is a popular tongue-twister associated with the name:

How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
A woodchuck would chuck all the wood he could if a woodchuck could chuck wood!

But all tongue-twisting aside our resident groundhogs were holed up in their winter burrows. They are true hibernators and I am sure that they did not stir and get up early on February 2nd 2016. Morning temperature at dawn was -4 degrees, not all that cold for mid winter, and the skies were clear. The last quarter to the moon hung mid way at the noon position in the sky as the stars faded and the sun rose on the eastern horizon. Then, there it was, shining blinding rays westward as it peeked over the trees casting long shadows. Thus if our resident lake ground hogs had been out and about they would have seen their shadow and according to legend would have forecast another six weeks of winter. However, they weren't scurrying about so there is always hope that we will have an early spring, legend or not.

...Gerry H.



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Kapikog Lake Golden Anniversary Celebration

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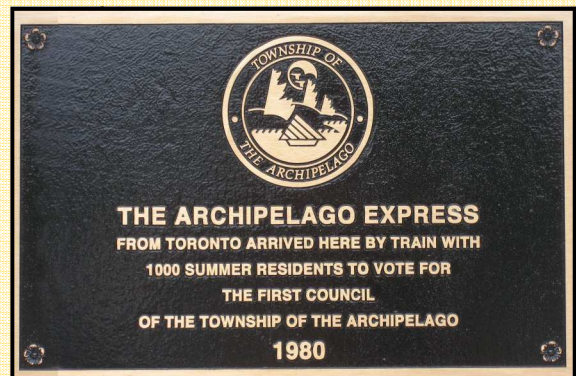
...this was a Kapikog evening's catch for breakfast?



...And navigating the north road in the spring was a challenge?



...We had a Kapilog regatta with contestants on tenterhooks, here jockeying for the best starting position?



...And we finally got 'legit'

Come on up to the Wine & Cheese Party on May 22nd for a preview, a chance to get acquainted with our new executive and some doings leading up to the Anniversary.

Everyone is invited to the Anniversary Celebration of course, but you will require a ticket which may be purchased at the Wine and Cheese event in May or at the site in August...details to come.

Hydro Right-of-Way Maintenance

As all of us around Kapikog Lake are aware, your Association has been after Hydro One for a few years to deal with right of way vegetation maintenance. In the first week of February all property owners on the electrical grid should have received a letter from Hydro One informing us as to their planned work around Kapikog Lake with regard to maintenance this summer.

Electrical Service was established around the lake in 1970, and most cottagers availed themselves of the service. The rights-of-way were cleared of trees and only low vegetation remained. As the years progressed, natural forest succession took place; trees started to grow under the lines and branches from trees bordering the right-of-way grew out over it in search of sunlight. This succession and encroachment created issues with the delivery of power to the residences (mostly during storms and their aftermath), thus around 2001 Hydro forestry crews returned to again clear the encroaching trees and branches and remove trees that posed an imminent threat to power delivery.

Cottagers have been inconvenienced (spoiled fridge and freezer contents) due to power outages caused by trees and tree limbs falling onto the lines and disrupting the delivery of power. People have also complained of arcing blue flames between lines caused by tree limbs resting on the lines and posing a fire threat during a hot dry summer. To be fair to Hydro One, reported power outages have always been dealt with quickly and efficiently. Sending out crews to deal with these outages can't be cheap and we all pay for that in the price we pay for this power and its delivery. Line maintenance is a power loss preventative measure that unfortunately has not been kept up and has resulted in more frequent power outages.

The rights of way are once more grown over with trees that reach into the power lines, and branches have again reached out from trees along it. Many are overhanging and during wind, ice and heavy snow events they lay on the lines creating outage issues that can be addressed by the clearance of the rights-of-way. They need to be cleared again, thus the recent letter from Hydro One to all of us informing us of the scheduled work is good news.

Once the right of way is cleared the power lines will be very distinct and visible through the bush and power outages due to on line conflict with trees and branches much reduced. Nature however will do its thing and will soon start the filling in cycle all over again. It is important that we all respond positively to this action. So if branches from trees on your property are interfering with the lines and have to be removed, recognize the hazard as a weak link in the delivery of electricity to everyone around the lake and that we all benefit from clear unobstructed right of ways. **We encourage you to complete and return the tear off portion of the Hydro One letter.**



Ontario to Expand Black Bear Hunt

Ontario is expanding the spring bear hunting pilot to gather further information to assess concerns voiced by northern communities about human-bear conflicts, and to support economic growth and tourism in the north.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry recently announced an expansion of the Sustainable Black Bear Management program to include:

- Extending the pilot by an additional five years, through 2020
- All 88 wildlife management units that currently have a fall bear hunt
- Non-resident hunters.

Hunters must be licensed. Subject to severe fines and up to one year imprisonment, it will still be illegal to hunt bear cubs and females with cubs. Bait must not be placed within 500 metres of a public building, or residence unless written permission is obtained from the residence's owner, and not within 200 metres of a right of way for public vehicle traffic or a marked public recreational trail.

The pilot period is from May 1 through June 15, starting in 2016 and ending in 2020.

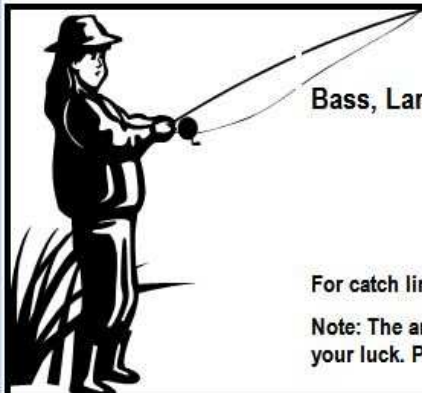
This includes our area. You may notice a few more than usual hunters around.

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Protecting Your Environment



Fishing Calendar - Kapikog Lake 2016

Bass, Large and Smallmouth	4th Saturday in June to November 30
Northern Pike	January 1 to March 31 and 3rd Saturday in May to December 31
Yellow Perch	All year
Crappie	All year
Sunfish	All year

For catch limits and other species in Zone 15 consult the current Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary

Note: The angler is responsible for knowing the law. Consult the regulations before venturing out on the water to try your luck. Printed regulations available from MNR or at www.ontario.ca/fishing.

Meet Your Neighbours - A. Alces Americana

The moose (*Alces alces*) is the largest member of the deer family and occasionally we are lucky enough to see one or two of these magnificent animals wandering around Kapikog Lake. Recent brush clearance (December) along the roads around Kapikog Lake has brought down browse from the tops of trees and left a smorgasbord of desired twigs for the moose's winter diet. Although we have not spotted any moose this winter, the telltale tracks and droppings were visible everywhere. We have been fortunate over the past few years to see both adult moose and calves along the roads. They are massive, majestic animals and a wonder to behold.

Moose typically inhabit boreal and mixed deciduous forests and we are pretty much at the southern extremity of their range in this area, so they are not plentiful. There are many subspecies of moose and the Eastern Moose (*Alces alces americana*) is the subspecies present in this area. This is a fairly small bodied subspecies with females (cows) averaging 270kg (595 pounds) and males (bulls) averaging 365kg (805 pounds) and bulls stand approximately 2m (6.6 feet) at the shoulder. So small is relative!

The moose is a herbivore (plant eater) and it eats both terrestrial and aquatic plants. In the summer it is largely an aquatic plant eater which provides the moose with sodium in its diet. During the late fall and winter the moose switches over to browse and small shoots from willow and birch which are low in sodium. During the winter moose are often drawn to roadways to lick the salt used as a snow and ice melter thus creating a traffic hazard along roads in moose country. A moose weighing 360 kg can eat up to 32 kg (71 lbs) per day. That is a lot of twigs or aquatic vegetation.

Bull moose have antlers and use these to display dominance to other bulls to discourage competition for breeding with cows during the breeding season (rut) in the fall. Sometimes they will fight with rivals to see who will be the dominant bull. The antlers are palmate with tines; size and growth rate are determined by the diet and age of the

bull. After the mating season the antlers are dropped to conserve energy for the winter. Discarded antlers may be eaten by carnivores or rodents as they are full of protein. A new set of antlers will regrow in the spring and it takes three to five months for them to fully develop.

Moose are generally solitary creatures but there is a strong bond between mother and calf. They are rarely found in large groups but several may be in close proximity during the mating season. Mating occurs in late September and October; males are polygamous and will seek several females to breed with. The cow has an eight month gestation period and usually bears one calf in May or June but twins are not unusual. Calves have fur (hair) that is reddish in hue in contrast to the brown appearance of the cow. The calf stays with its mother until just before the next young are born the following spring. The life span of a moose can be between 15-25 years.

Full grown moose have few enemies that prey on them. A pack of wolves however can pose a threat. Wolf packs generally target calves and the elderly but they can and will take healthy adult animals if the opportunity presents itself. Black bear can be a significant predator on moose calves. Moose are hunted by humans as a game species under strict regulated conditions. In this area there is a one week moose hunting season in October each year.

Moose are also subject to various diseases and of course accidents. Moose/vehicle collisions can be a fatal event for both moose and passenger. Adult moose are dark almost black in colour and difficult to see at night. So if you are travelling the roads at night be cautious obey the speed limit and drive with your high beams on where possible. This will maximize the opportunity to avoid a collision with a moose if you should encounter one on or along the road. There are no winners in a moose/vehicle collision!

Gerry Haarmeyer



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