

KAPIKOG LAKE COTTAGE OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Kapikog Tracks



Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	1
Councilor's Message	3
EMS	4
Exploring Kapikog	6
Save the Date! Volunteers Needed	10
Bell Internet Project	11
Thank You Volunteers! Mass Notifications	14
Water Testing Program	15



President's Message by Stuart Ferrie

Welcome to the Fall Newsletter. The weather this fall has been amazing, and I hope you have had an opportunity to enjoy it. I saw people swimming in the lake until at least the end of September, and there was lots of yellow and orange colour in the fall leaves. As I write this, it is a rainy November day, but I look forward to the snow and opportunities that winter brings. There are a number of new families on the lake this year, we welcome you to our lake community and to the Association.

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in August, a new Board was elected for your Association as follows:

Stuart Ferrie	President
Terry Forth	Vice President
Cheryl Randall	Treasurer
Andrew Sixt	Secretary
Mark Harsant	Past President

These are volunteer positions, and there are many people who also contribute to the success of the As-

sociation. If you would like to get involved in the Association, please let one of the Board members know, your help will be appreciated. The more volunteers there are, the more we can accomplish together.

Road safety was raised as a concern at the AGM. Our roads are full of twists and turns and it is impossible to know what is beyond the next bend. It could be an oncoming vehicle, a person, a deer, or a new fallen branch or pot hole. Always expect the unexpected, and please slow down and make space for others.

Communication between the Association and its members was also raised as an issue at the AGM. I do not have any final solutions to report at this time, but we are actively investigating ways to enhance the flow of information in both directions.

(Continued on page 3)

GORD WAITES TEAM

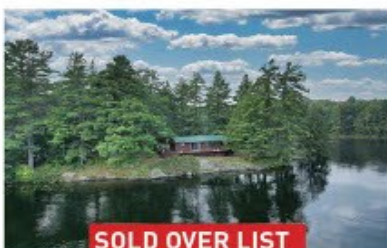
Luxury Muskoka Properties

OUR SALES ON KAPIKOG LAKE



SOLD OVER LIST

Grant's Trail
\$1,195,000*



SOLD OVER LIST

Joyce Lane
\$999,999**



SOLD OVER LIST

Kapikog South Rd
\$899,000*



SOLD OVER LIST

Wawashkosh Island
\$699,000*



SOLD OVER LIST

Wawashkosh Island
\$689,000**



SOLD OVER LIST

Wawashkosh Island
\$659,000*



SOLD OVER LIST

Kapikog South Road
\$569,000*



SOLD OVER LIST

Kapikog South Road
\$499,950*



**YOUR
PROPERTY
HERE!**

*Represented Seller, **Represented Buyer

Considering Selling? **Contact Us.**

GORDWAITES.COM
705-765-1555



Gord Waites*

*Sales Representative



JOHNSTON & DANIEL
A DIVISION OF ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE SERVICES LTD., BROKER/REALTOR

#1 AT JOHNSTON & DANIEL MUSKOKA 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

(Continued from page 1)

Last winter there was a tragedy on the lake as one cottager fell through the ice and lost their life. The winter can be a beautiful time at the lake, but please be especially cautious as winter conditions can be unforgiving. Use care, and be very certain of the strength of the ice before going out on it. It is truly better to be safe than sorry when dealing with a frozen lake. Note that any flowing water, such as streams or the area near a bubbler can have thin ice, even if the rest of the lake seems safe.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Association is planning on continuing with the Welcome Back event on the long weekend in May, re-introducing a child focused event in July, and of course the annual meeting in August. I hope we will have specific dates and times for these events in the Spring newsletter, so you can plan ahead to attend. Until then, please have an excellent Christmas season and I look forward to spring and another cottage season.

Councilor's Message by Dan MacLeod

Kapikog Roads

As a result of a deputation from a group of residents within the Kapikog Lake Neighbourhood, Councillor MacLeod brought forward a Notice of Motion, and Council for the Township of The Archipelago subsequently passed the following resolution in March 2024: Council for the Township of The Archipelago has directed staff to research the history and policies related to seasonal roads maintenance in the Township and to provide an outline of the process and resources required to fully investigate the implications, requirements, feasibility, and associated costs to upgrade North Kapikog Road, Munro Drive, Joyce Lane, South Kapikog Road, and Crane and Blackstone Lake Roads to an acceptable standard for winter maintenance.

As part of the 2024 Work Plan, this work was added to the Development and Environmental Services Department and to the Operations and Facilities Department project lists. The Operations and Facilities Department has prepared preliminary data on the potential capital and operational costs associated with the work and purchases that would be required. Below is an outline of the work and research to be completed for the consideration of Council. The estimated timeline to complete this work and report back to Council is the 3rd quarter of 2025.

Planning Review: - Policy Review (Official Plan, Provincial Policy, Strategic Plan, etc.) - Past Council/Local Decisions (Official Plan Amendments, Planning Applications, etc.) -

Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)/Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) Decisions - Legal Opinions & Court Decisions.

When it comes to roads, this philosophy has resulted limiting the municipal road network and level of service of roads to that which existed. An exemption to that policy is a group of 4 seasonal maintained roads (Kapikog North Road, Munro Drive, Joyce Lane, and Kapikog Dam Road) within Ward 6 and the Kapikog Lake Neighbourhood. In order to provide winter maintenance to these roads, discussion needs to include the relevant costs to upgrade those roads to an acceptable standard and how those costs are distributed.

Operational/Engineering Review: - Road Condition and Improvement Review - Budgetary Construction, Maintenance, and Capital Estimates Financial Review: - Financial Analysis/Cost Distributions - Insurance - Risk & Liability Once the background research has been completed, a joint staff report will be completed and presented to Council for their review and consideration. As indicated, the staff report is anticipated to be completed in the 3rd quarter of 2025.

[After the Township Council reviews the reports, residents will be engaged in further discussions].

(Continued on the next page)

Ambulance Service

Background Information for Residents of Ward 6

First and foremost, our residents should be assured that the Parry Sound District EMS is fully responsible for meeting provincially mandated response times for emergencies to all its residents no matter where they reside.

Almost all emergency response to residents in Ward 6 were/are served by PSD Parry Sound and Humphrey EMS bases year-round.

The PSDEMS Advisory Board met in October and a proposal to expand Humphrey services was accepted.

EMS management deliberately expanded the Humphrey night shift (two ambulances) to 10 months of the year. The budget for 2025 will include two (2) ambulances on the night shift and one (1) ambulance for two (2) months of the year (slow period) to serve the west side of Parry Sound District out of the Humphrey Station.

This increases the budget by \$150k with a significant response improvement. The Humphrey Base is manned 24/7 along with the Parry Sound EMS Base.

Resident Concerns Regarding Mactier EMS Base Closure

It is important to understand that the Mactier EMS Base within the Muskoka District EMS Services did not have

any night shift resources. The PSD EMS bases of Humphrey or Parry Sound responded to all night service calls as well as daytime emergencies.

The issue of train crossings delaying EMS response has been raised as an impediment to timely response from Humphrey EMS base. The PSD EMS has met and exceeded provincially mandated response to critical emergencies. 911 Dispatch determines the closest assets to any emergency and utilizes resources like train schedules, OPP and fire resource availability, and many other factors to determine which asset in the field is available to meet or better emergency response time.

DID YOU KNOW????

- In an emergency dial 911, do not go to one of the EMS bases as they are not all staffed 24/7 !!!!
- 95 medics have an average call volume of 7000 calls annually with the busiest months being July and August.
- PSDEMS has 7 stations strategically located across 9,222 square kms to serve the 42,824 residents of Parry Sound District.

If there are any questions or concerns with the above subject matter or any Township issues, please contact me. You can reach me directly via dmacleod@thearchipelago.ca or +1 647-549-5474.

EMS and Water Access Properties



If you are the owner of a water access cottage, here are some things you will hopefully find helpful. This information was based on feedback from our councillor.

In the event of a medical emergency, you will need to specify a location to meet the EMS staff. The first location that comes to mind is the landing (58 Kapikog Lake Road). If the person can be moved, you will need to get them there. If they cannot be moved, someone will need

to go to the landing to pick up the EMS staff and bring them back to the person. In this scenario, the boat needs to be large enough for transporting two EMS staff, the patient and the boat driver at a minimum. I am told that there should be no issue with the EMS staff being transported on a private boat. Be sure to have lifejackets ready in case they ask for them.



YOUR FULL SERVICE MARINA

YOUR NEIGHBOUR ON HEALEY LAKE

NEW FOR 2024

MirroCraft
Boats

BUILDING THE FINEST BOATS SINCE 1956



**WHAT A PERFECT MATCH,
A MIRROCRAFT BOAT
POWERED BY A
MERCURY OUTBOARD!**

**MERCURY DEALER FOR 50 YEARS,
NOW A MIRROCRAFT BOAT DEALER**

MERCURY
"1 On The Water"



info@marinerscove.ca

705.375.2097





3 REASONS WHY CHOOSING HAUSER'S PHARMACY IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH:

1. **FREE** custom pill packs to keep your meds organized.
2. **SAVE TIME** and let our pharmacists prescribe for minor health conditions, such as Allergies, Bug Bites, UTIs, & Acid Reflux.
3. **STAY HEALTHIER LONGER** by taking advantage of our full-service offerings, including smoking cessation programs and mobility rentals.

Hauser's Pharmacy MacTier Hours

Monday - Friday: 9 - 5
Saturday & Sunday: Closed



1-249-607-0148

www.hausershealthcare.com

**FORGET YOUR MEDS?
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!**

Please add us to your B&B listing if you rent out your place!

Kapikog Exploring by Terry Forth

Whether you're new to the lake or have been here since buying your lot at the Crown land auction in 1966, one thing unites us all: our love for the lake and the activities it inspires.

But how many of us have truly explored the vast wilderness on the other side of our properties? (sorry Islanders, this obviously does not pertain to your specific situation). South of Kapikog Lake lies an expansive stretch of Crown land, extending all the way to where the Moon River meets Highway 400. This unspoiled area is a haven of natural beauty, filled with countless small lakes and marshes, often only separated by beaver dams.

I only discovered this hidden gem when we began spending time at the cottage later in the year, well past bug season. My curiosity was sparked one day as I scanned Google Maps in satellite mode. South of the lake, I noticed several uninhabited bodies of water—and what appeared to be a cabin roof nestled between Eagle and Vaughan Lakes.

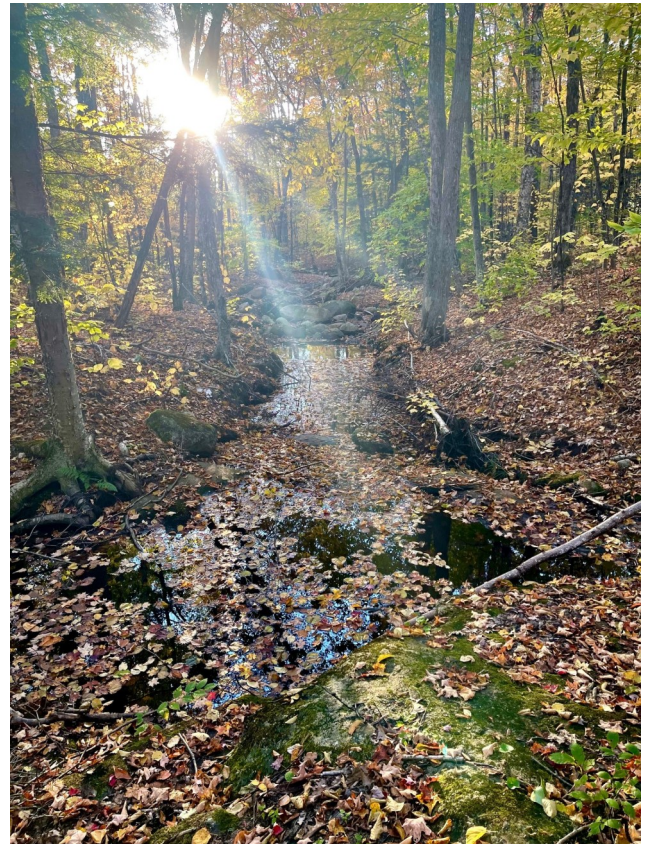
Intrigued, I wondered how a cabin ended up in such a remote spot, with no visible road, trail, or hydro lines. When I finally trekked out there in winter, using snowshoes, I found it was a shared hunting cabin, leased by a group of 12. That discovery marked the beginning of my explorations in this area. Since then, I've spent much of the off-season (between September and early May) hiking through this pristine wilderness.



The beauty here during those months is breathtaking. I've included some photos from a recent hike to inspire you to see it for yourself.

If you go, please follow the hiker's edict: take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Unfortunately, a few have taken to cutting trees for unauthorized ATV trails and leaving litter along the way - both prohibited by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). Thankfully, these instances are rare, and most of this area remains untouched, waiting for you to discover its wonders.



NOTE: please take this suggestion with all due caution that can be associated with hiking in the wilderness, like letting others know where you're going beforehand, having a means of others being able to find your location, in case you find yourself in a state of distress, having a means of finding your way while you're hiking (GPS), a reasonable knowledge and deterrents for bears, snakes, etc. Hopefully, you get the idea that although there is abundant beauty to be enjoyed, there are also the associated risks involved with this activity.

REDS REPAIRS & RENOVATIONS

CALL ME TO DISCUSS YOUR PROJECT NEEDS OR TO SCHEDULE AN
INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION FOR YOUR CUSTOM REQUEST

WATERFRONT

Construction Barging
Barge Deliveries & Removals
EXCAVATION & DEMOLITION



SHOREWALLS

General Construction
LANDSCAPING
Lot Clearing & Mulching

DOCKS & REPAIRS
Skid Steer Services
LANDSCAPING
CUSTOM WELDING



CONTACT:

Adam Smith 705-627-9070
redsrepairsrenos@gmail.com

Save the Date!



Spring Get Together: Your executive is working on booking a location for Sunday, May 18th, 2025; the Sunday of the May long weekend. The date and time are to be confirmed later.

Annual General Meeting for the Association: Tentatively, Saturday, August 16th, 2025 from 10am to Noon.

Volunteers Needed

Your association is dedicated to enhancing our shared Kapikog experience. The restrictions during COVID interrupted the activities of the association. The Association's Board are attempting to build back fun activities for our members and their families.

In order to do this we need volunteers to help organize and run summer events, as well as ideas on what they would like in terms of events. Current ideas include

events for children, tennis/pickle ball tournaments at Healey Lake's courts and perhaps even a friendly tournament involving Kapikog and Healey cottagers.

If you would be willing to help with a fun event or have ideas about what you would like, please contact Stuart by email at stuartklca@gmail.com.



**QUALITY,
INGRAINED.**

LOCATIONS: PORT CARLING, BRACEBRIDGE,
BALA, MACTIER, & HUNTSVILLE

**CUSTOM MANUFACTURING, CUSTOM TIMBERS,
CUSTOM FINISHING, DECK & DOCK MATERIAL,
WINDOWS & DOORS, BUILDING SUPPLIES, &
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES**

FOLLOW: @MUSKOKALUMBER





**SCAN
FOR NEW
WEBSITE**

Bell Internet Project Notice

Your association has been in contact with the various contractors involved in the project, to get updates on their progress.

Mike's Communications has been subcontracted by Bell Canada through Pickard Construction to complete individual fibre optic cable installations (from the hydro pole or green boxes) to houses and cottages on Kapikog Lake.

Mike's Communications is in the process of delivering notices to as many cottages as possible, while they can still drive on the roads. Given that many Kapikog cottagers are now not at their cottages until the spring, Mike's Communications has asked your Association to distribute the letter on the next page to as many residents as possible. The letter provides a general overview of the work that is being completed and contact information for those

interested in learning more and/or having fibre optic brought to their building.

If you are interested in getting internet when it's available or maybe sometime in the future, you are encouraged to contact Mike's Communications to ensure your property is part of their work plan and get any required permission documents signed-off so they can do work on your property. They have requested that you contact them as soon as possible and no later than the end of March.

NOTE: It is your Association's understanding that the installation work from outside of a building to the inside, is done by Bell, after you contact them to sign-up for internet service. We are not aware of when Bell will be accepting service requests.



2 Bickley Country Drive
Huntsville ON P1H 1Y4
(705) 789-6834
info@mikescommunications.ca

November, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of [Mike's Communications](#) to inform you of work we will be completing on Kapikog Lake. Our company has been subcontracted by Bell Canada through Pickard Construction to complete the individual fibre optic cable installations to houses and cottages in the area. In 2023 both Provincial and Federal governments invested approx. \$3.2 billion dollars into the Universal Broadband Fund that aims to bring reliable high-speed internet to underserved communities across Ontario.

You may have seen (or heard of) a door hanger left on your door; if so, and we have not spoken yet, please reach out to us at your earliest convenience. Some properties will have the fibre lines run through the air directly to the building, while others require the service to be buried (if your pre-existing services are buried). For burial work we require permission to bury the fibre. At this point - as the ground is frozen and covered in snow - we will be providing this service in the spring/summer of 2025. We should complete all of the aerial work (hydro pole to hydro pole) within the next few weeks. We do not need to enter your house or cottage, this will be done if or when you wish to activate the fibre system with Bell. **There is no charge for running the fibre lines to your residence (if the work is agreed to while we are working on your particular network-including this coming spring/summer) and there is no obligation to sign up right away with Bell Fibre once it is brought to the house/cottage.**

If you have any questions or wish to have fiber brought to your home, please feel free to reach out via email: info@mikescommunications.ca or phone: 705-571-7890. If you wish to know more about Bell Fibre speed and plan prices you can speak to a Bell representative at 1-844-294-3177 or visit their website at bell.ca/fibreready

Sincerely,

Megan Rae
Network Set-up Liaison

Brad Hutchinson
SALES & SERVICE INC.
SUNSTREAM



BOAT MORE. WORK LESS.

Sunstream Boat Lifts
+ Cover Systems
Ready when you are.

The Premier Choice of Muskoka Cottagers for over 25 years.



Brad Hutchinson Sales & Service Inc.
705-375-3004 | sales@liftguy.ca
liftguy.ca

Thank You Volunteers!



The association cannot function without a skilled and dedicated group of volunteers. On behalf of the Association, the Board of Directors want to express our sincere gratitude to three people who have provided the association with their tireless contributions as volunteers.

Lesley Browne

Lesley originally became involved with the Association when the web site was being developed, back around 2015. Since then, she has provided the maintenance and support needed to keep it operational. Lesley is continuing to be a volunteer for this key role.

Jay Parker

Jay has served two terms on the Association's Board of Directors, ending last summer. Jay has been instrumental in running the May Welcome Back event, water testing program and mass-emails. Leading the task force that developed the Association's new By-Laws to comply with current non-profit legislation was also a key contribution.

Don Brenner

Don has provided regular maintenance of the fire pump systems that have been contributed by the Cottagers Association in the past, to ensure that they're always in good operating condition and receive among other maintenance services, their annual oil changes, etc. He has also initiated a spreadsheet that keeps track of which pumps have had what service done, etc. In light of the 2 severe fires that resulted in both respective cottage dwellings being burnt in their entirety, this service is crucial to our collective peace of mind.

If you happen to see any of these people, please take the time to acknowledge their valuable contributions to the Kapikog community!

Also....

Katrina Krievins

In addition to the Kapikog resident volunteers, a big thank you goes out to Katrina Krievins, a staff member with the Georgian Bay Biosphere. Katrina has provided invaluable help answering questions and providing information on aquatic ecosystem topics to the Association's Water Quality Program coordinator.

Mass Notifications



The Township of The Archipelago has replaced the ENews system with a new notification system. This new system provides notifications about emergencies, weather updates (assume limited to very important warnings) and other essential public safety information. You can receive notifications by email, text message and/or voice call.

Since the ENews system is now shutdown, you can enroll at the link below if interested.

<https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/register-for-mass-notifications>

Water Testing Program Update by Andrew Sixt

Your Association is involved in supporting the Lake Partner Program and Georgian Bay Biosphere staff in their work dedicated to monitoring and reporting on the health of Kapikog.

Since my last article, Stuart Ferrie and I have collected water samples from three locations on Kapikog. These locations are in the eastern part of the lake before the narrows to H&H, South of Ematee Island and at the western end of the lake. In addition, from late April to the end of October, we have been taking water clarity measurements at these same three locations. The samples and measurements are then sent to the Dorset Environmental Science Centre Laboratory for analysis. This information, as well as from other sources, is used by Georgian Bay Biosphere staff to create the Township's Environmental Report.

A new report gets issued in the winter. I'll provide a summary of findings in the spring newsletter. Briefly, I'm not aware of any water quality concerns from Georgian Bay Biosphere staff.

Benthic Monitoring in Kapikog

In the Township Environmental Report, it covers benthic monitoring on Kapikog. In the following text, I'll describe this in more detail, for the biology enthusiasts!

What are Benthic Animals?

Benthic macroinvertebrates are animals without backbones that can be seen with the naked eye that live on, in, or near the bottom of water bodies. Examples include dragonfly nymphs, mayfly nymphs, crayfish, clams, snails, worms and leeches. Since these animals have varying tolerances to changes in the environment in which they live, they are good indicators of the health of a lake. For instance, larval mayflies, dragonflies and caddisflies are examples of animals that are sensitive to pollution and habitat alterations (including the effects of climate change). A healthy lake will support high richness (the number of species) and abundance (the number of individuals). If a lake has low species richness and mainly pollution-tolerant species, the lake could be impaired.

Changes in the species composition and abundance can indicate changes in the ecosystem such as an improvement in water quality, habitat alteration, pollution, and/or the presence of invasive species. In addition, these animals are an important part of the food web of a lake,

providing food for fish and playing a role in decomposing organic matter.

In the picture below are some examples of these animals and their relative sensitivity to pollution.

Highly pollution tolerant – most likely to be found in poor, fair, and good quality water



Chironomidae (Midge Larva)



Hirudinea (Leech)

Semi-pollution tolerant – most likely to be found in fair and good quality water



Anisoptera (Dragonfly Nymph)



Amphipoda (Scud)

Pollution sensitive – most likely to be found in good quality water



Ephemeroptera (Mayfly Nymph)



Trichoptera (Caddisfly Larva)

In 2024, Georgian Bay Biosphere staff found a variety of organisms in Kapikog Lake including both pollution tolerant and pollution sensitive organisms. The fact that pollution sensitive organisms were found in good numbers means that the lake is healthy. If water quality was impaired, the pollution sensitive organisms would not be able to survive, and they would not have been collected during 2024 sampling. The presence of pollution tolerant organisms is not cause for concern; these critters also exist in healthy lakes.

Kapikog Benthic Monitoring

As part of the Township of the Archipelago's Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring, starting in 2018, the Georgian Bay Biosphere scientists have been conducting Benthic monitoring on Kapikog at a location near the shore. The monitoring involves taking numerous scoops of mud on the lake bottom and then putting it in buckets. The picture on the right is at the site on Kapikog.



A staff member then puts some mud in a pan and combs through it, recording the animals they found. The entire process takes four staff members about 6 hours to do and requires very good eyesight!....I had the easy part of this work, providing boat transportation. To the left is a picture of the crew doing their analysis at the landing.

The objective of the benthic monitoring is:

- To document the benthic animal composition.
- Determine if the benthic community is typical for a lake in the Parry Sound – Muskoka region. If a lake is determined to be atypical, additional monitoring may be necessary to try to understand potential causes and/or contributing factors.
- Provide complimentary information to the lake chemistry studies (i.e. total phosphorus, pH, dissolved oxygen, calcium and chloride content).
- Track trends over time and observe any notable shifts in the benthic community away from typical conditions.

Conclusions for Kapikog

Based on the 2023 Township of the Archipelago Environmental Report, the data indicates that Kapikog's benthic community is typical of a lake in the region and supports conclusions from the lake chemistry data, that Kapikog is in a healthy state. We are very fortunate to have such a good resource!

If you would like to read more on this topic, go to <https://stateofthebay.ca/exploring-the-lives-of-the-bugs-in-the-mud/>