



Newsletter

18 Armstrong St. Box 160, New Liskeard ON P0J 1P0

June 2018

President's Message

I'm sitting here thinking fondly of my weekend at our cottage in the Sudbury area. Although we live on Bartle Lake, we often go to our "camp" for a little R & R. My wife grew up there and has many memories of opening the cottage for the May long weekend, and closing it Thanksgiving weekend. The anticipation of going to the cottage is something that we are very familiar with. It's watching the weather report, packing and repacking as the forecast changes, planning our meals (our grocery store is a bit too far away) and, for my son, it's packing his favourite fishing lure. Now home, my muscles are still sore from putting in the dock, carrying water to the sauna and splitting and piling four cords of firewood. The fishing was horrible and it rained for much of the day Saturday. Predictably, our best weather day was today, the day we left. My kids were a little too tired to travel 'pleasantly' in the back seat - likely from staying up late, eating too much of grandmother's home baking and all of those marshmallows. You see, rules are a bit different at camp... for all of us. This is part of the allure of going to the cottage. Despite everything, we can't wait to return. We all LOVE our camp!

This past winter set in a bit later than normal. We were skating on the lake in late-November but our snow just didn't want to pile up as it was often followed by warm weather and rain. Normally, I'm grooming our ski trails in December but this year not until February. However, the lack of snow allowed for an abundance of ice on the lake. By April, auguring a hole in the lake involved cutting through 3 feet of clear blue ice. Many mornings in April were still below -20 C and the biggest snow storm of the winter cruelly dumped about 8-10" the last weekend of April. I went snowshoeing that day, only to find the tracks of a black bear, that had waded through waste deep snow in search of the green grasses and sweet buds that are supposed to be out by this time of year. Two weeks later, spring came. The ice was gone on Bartle Lake by May 8th (Twin shortly after) and the snow had all but "evaporated" by the weekend of the 12th.

It was a quiet winter for the Hudson Lakes Association. July's AGM saw the "retirement" of outgoing HLA president, Dana McLean. We appreciate all of her hard work over the last few years and look forward to seeing more photos of her travel adventures. Alex Welch continued year two of his forest harvesting operations in the northwest regions of Twin Lakes. This activity is a small part of the Temagami Forest – Forest Management Plan, a 10 year plan outlining where (and how) our crown forests are managed (*the Temagami forest is the only forest in Ontario still managed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and is administered out of North Bay's MNR office.*) Most of the trees removed from this site were mature jack pine (destined for the EACOM mill in Elk Lake to become structured lumber) and trembling aspen/poplar (going to Georgia Pacific in Englehart to be made into oriented strand board). Alex will complete harvesting in our area this coming winter starting after Thanksgiving. Good forest management is an ongoing process on our local crown lands. It maintains the sustainability of this resource, keeps habitat for our local wildlife and fragments a fire-susceptible jack pine forest to help minimize wildfire risk. Interestingly, jack pine forests evolved with forest fire and historically burned every 40-50 years before we got good at putting them out.

As our season starts, I'd like to welcome both returning cottagers and our new owners to our area. A hot dry summer is predicted so please keep abreast of any upcoming fire restrictions and follow any fires bans to help keep our area safe. Have a great and enjoyable summer at the lake!

Mike Anderson

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Ceremonial Artifacts Found on Fairy Lake

Rome was founded in 843 BC, Cleopatra was born around 69 BC... and the artifacts found on the McLean property of Fairy Lake are thought to be from 1000-1500 BC!

On Sunday August 27, 2017 the McLean's declared a work day. There were three stumps to remove, some patio stones to lay and waterproofing to finish. Dana and Laurie were working on the stumps. Dana had noticed she was actually digging in sand not the pit run rock that dominates the property. And then there was the red colour...

Andrew and Leah McLean took over stump removal commenting that his parents were working hard not smart. He commented that the soil colour was like digging in Prince Edward Island. And then he spotted a white rock, about five inches by an inch, oval 'ish' trapped in the roots of one of the stumps. He and Leah extricated the 'rock' and quickly called Dana and Laurie over. The rock looked like a spearhead...but was it... Dana washed it off and tool marks were immediately evident. Leah pulled several 'tools' from under the stump and Andrew found several bi-faces. The family felt they had found something special and wanted to do the right thing. Several phone calls later they found Ryan Primrose – archaeologist. On the phone, Dana told Ryan she thought they had found a couple Native arrowheads. Ryan was on Dawson Point and said he could be there in 30 minutes. Its fair to say even Ryan was surprised at what the McLean's had found and offered to be back the next day to remove stumps and artifacts.

Thus began eight days of mind blowing experience, discovery, sharing and learning.



Ryan's team dug for two days then took some time to return to paying jobs. Apparently, doing the right thing is not funded. No grants or monies were available to Ryan and his team, he or the McLean's would be on the hook for the dig. As well, for Ryan to dig, he had to apply for a permit. Permits come in a number of versions. The McLean's wanted to ensure that allowing a dig would have no financial repercussions now or in the future and that nothing would attach to the property deed. A salvage permit was obtained which allows for the immediate removal of the artifacts. The property was not registered as an archaeological site.

Back to the dig - day one was just pure joy. Ryan's team was blown away by the find. Apparently finding a flake smaller than a dime is a good find for the group. Here, there were MANY artifacts and litres of red ochre. The team, friends, family and neighbours took turns on the shaker boxes finding a treasure trove of artifacts. It was almost competitive there was so much to find, and that was in the black dirt, the stuff the McLean's had dug out and piled off to the side.

The site is thought to be a ceremonial cache. At that time period the area would have been Carolinian forest and several degrees warmer. Fairy Lake is a head water lake and unlike many headwaters which are bogs or swamps – the water here is crystal clear. Also, the McLean's are on a slight rise across from 'Craven Rock'. Craven is a geological feature which would have been the same 3000-3500 years ago. It's a special place to those living on the lake and it was special to the Craven's who gave it to the people of the lake. The hypothesis is the site was a ceremonial offering to the deities of the people thanking them for life and water. The artifacts were probably interred in red ochre in a skin or grass basket and the large 'spearhead' placed on top.

The artifacts themselves were three distinct types: bifaces, tools and red ochre. Bifaces are 'blank or incomplete' forms which would have been fashioned into weapons. They were made of 'chert'. Chert is a sedimentary rock almost entirely of silica. The large 'spear head' was made of quartzite. Ryan will study both to determine their origin but the closest chert is thought to be James Bay lowlands or Ohio. The quartzite may have come from Manitoulin Island.

Ceremonial Artifacts (cont'd)



The 'spear head' is a distinct shape – a turkey tail. It's the feature which helps date the find. Turkey tail forms were made by the 'Red Ochre People' and can be traced back to Ohio/Illinois areas approximately 5000 years ago.

And the red ochre... ochre is a natural clay earth pigment which is a mixture of ferric oxide and varying amounts of clay and sand. It was mixed with bear fat or sturgeon oil to create pictographs. The closest source of red ochre is the Mattawa area.

Both Bear Island First Nation and Temiskaming First Nation attended the dig site. The area is within the historical territories of Temiskaming First Nation and Chief Wayne McKenzie performed a ceremony on September 2 which was

attended by approximately 50 lake residents, three mallards and a bald eagle. It was magical.

The dig was completed September 4th and closed. But Ryan is hoping to return with funding and a team to check surrounding areas and ensure all artifacts have been discovered and removed.

Dana McLean



Regatta 2018

The Regatta is scheduled for Sunday August 5, 2018 – that is the Sunday of the Civic Holiday weekend. As always volunteers are needed to hand out programs and help set up. Let Bill Ramsay (wramsay@ramsaylaw.ca) know if you can help or if you normally help and cannot.

Cottage Technology

Internet

One of the current cottage issues is the slow service from Northern Telephone for its ADSL. Just after Thanksgiving our neighbour's telephone service was being repaired due to beavers dropping trees on their line. We asked them if they could look at the Internet service which was terribly slow. After their visit our service is much more consistent and although not as fast as advertised it is much better. Call Northern Telephone and when they try to put you off with the "It seems to be working at our end," story you can be more insistent and ask for a service call. If the problem is at your end you may have to pay for the service call - you still want the problem fixed.

Just before the beavers attacked my neighbour's phone service we installed Explornet - the satellite based Internet service. It is a bit quirky due to the nature of the connection but is much faster than the Northern Telephone service. The downside is that you are limited to a certain amount of data downloaded before it begins to slow you down. This is not a solution for a busy place with several children using the Internet for watching movies. We are happy with it but if the Northern Telephone service continues to work we will switch back.

Cell Phones

Cellular coverage is spotty all over the lakes area. Some people can get a booster to improve their cellular coverage - if you have service outside but not inside your place is a candidate for the booster. A good whole house booster costs at least \$600 so make sure you can put the antenna somewhere you actually have service. Boosters are available from your cell provider or the Source.

If you have no cell coverage at all you can use your Wi-Fi connection in place of a cell signal. Attached are links for Android and Apple with Telus and Apple with Bell. You will need a newer telephone for this to work.

<https://www.telus.com/en/on/support/article/wifi-calling-explained>

<https://www.telus.com/en/on/support/article/android-wifi-calling-explained>

<https://www.bell.ca/Mobility/Wi-Fi-Calling>

Bill Ramsay

Rec Report

Winter weather was kind to us this year and the ice surface at the arena was available for use on December 16th and was enjoyed until March 26, 2018, with being closed on and off due to mild weather. Thank you to all the workers and volunteers for all your hard work.

We are very happy that the snow has melted and more upgrades can be done at the Pike Lake Park. Plans to create a beach volleyball court are underway! We will also be adding 4 additional slabs for picnic tables as well as improvements to the ball field terrain.

Reminder to please keep your pets on a leash and to clean up after them when visiting the park. Pets are able to enjoy swimming in the boat launch area only.

Crystal Gauthier

Help Us Raise the Roost at Hilliardton Marsh!

The Hilliardton Marsh is a special place for migrating birds. RAISE THE ROOST is a special fundraising campaign to purchase onsite accommodation for summer research and education volunteers who work at the Marsh during the bird migration season.

Have You Visited the Marsh?

It is a great area resource that bands and monitors our bird population and provides public events and educational programs to area residents and visitors. If you haven't visited, come out this summer and join in the fun. Single and family memberships are available. Bird banding really is something to see. I especially love the humming birds and the owls.

More Migration

Birds aren't the only ones migrating to the Marsh. Volunteers are the backbone of all the hard work during the bird migration season at the Hilliardton Marsh. Many of them travel great distances to volunteer their time. Because most of them are students, interns, or field researchers in the early stages of their careers, it is essential that accommodations are provided at or near the Marsh. Until this year that hasn't been a problem, but now a new solution is urgently needed.

The Goal

Phase 1 of RAISE THE ROOST is our spring fundraising campaign to purchase of a 64-foot house trailer that will accommodate 6-8 research volunteers for the migration season. Our fundraising goal for this phase is \$40,000.

Our members have already generously donated \$10,000 toward our goal. Because of this support we will receive a matching donation from the Gosling Foundation – and we will be half way to our goal of \$40,000!

Please Help!

We must deliver a permanent housing solution to the Marsh's dedicated volunteers. You can help by donating to the Raise the Roost Campaign at one of these levels:

- Chickadees - up to \$100
- Blue Jays - up to \$ 500
- Owls - up to \$1000
- Hummingbirds - Over \$1000

Donors will be acknowledged on a sign at the Marsh as well as in our local newspaper and Marsh media publications.

How to Donate

Donations through this campaign are tax deductible and receipts will be provided for donations of \$50 or more. Receipts available on request for donations under \$50.

Donations can be made through our website <http://www.thehilliardtonmarsh.com/fill-the-feeder>, by email lisas.hmrec@gmail.com, or by cheque to:

The Hilliardton Marsh
P.O. Box 2920
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
MEMO: HOUSING PROJECT

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you and your families out at the Marsh this season! For hours of operation and events visit www.thehilliardtonmarsh.com.



Denise Balch

Hudson Lakes Association Financial Report July 27, 2016 to August 2, 2017

Bank Balance - July 27, 2016 \$ 2,633.18

Income

Membership 2016-17	\$	2,160.00
Membership 2017-18		870.00
Donations		530.00
Lake History Books		<u>300.00</u>
	\$	3,860.00

Hudson Lakes History Books		
Cost	\$	4,633.86
Sales to date		<u>4,470.00</u>
Balance	\$	163.86

Expenses

Bank charges	\$	70.80
Membership - FOCA		307.00
Insurance		1,121.04
Newsletter		1,027.58
Donations - firetruck, regatta		145.00
General expenses		238.83
Incorrect deposit (Craven Rock)		<u>50.00</u>
		<u>2,960.25</u>
		<u>899.75</u>
	\$	3,532.93

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Hudson Hall. As always, you will be able to pay your membership dues there for the current year. An invoice for 2018-19 is included with this newsletter. Please fill out the address information and bring or send it with your payment.

This year the Guest Speaker will be Ryan Primrose, the archeologist who worked on the site where the ceremonial artifacts were found (Dana and Laurie McLean's property).

If you know anyone new to the Lakes, please encourage them to come to the meeting and become a member of the Association. Ask any of your new neighbours if they are receiving the newsletters and, if not, to get in touch with Bill Ramsay to add their address to the mailing list.

Hudson Lakes History Books

Yes, there are still lots of copies available. They can be purchased (\$30 each) at Spencer Jewellers, the Hudson Library or from Penny Graydon (705-647-5870).

A Story of Bats

There are many bat enthusiasts in North America. Did you know that October 24-31th was international bat week (@batweek on Facebook) or that April 17th is national bat appreciation day?

Bats often get a bad rap, but they are valuable insectivores, working as pest control agents in forests and agricultural lands, with some species capable of eating half their body weight in insects per day. Their activity saves farmers billions of dollars in pest control services every year and they eat insects like mosquitos that are particularly bothersome to humans and pets.

According to an October 27th, 2017 CBC report on funding for White-nose syndrome (WNS), bats continue to be at risk due to the spread of the disease, which has been sweeping across north America since first affecting north eastern populations in 2006. According to the same report, WNS has now reached Washington state and is threatening to affect bat populations in British Columbia. In it's wake, according to September 2017 statistics from the National Wildlife Health Centre in the U.S. (www.nwhc.usgs.gov), millions of bats in 31 U.S. states and in 5 Canadian provinces have died from the disease.

Those of us who have been living in rural areas, including Twin Lakes, know that there have been significant losses of bats due to WNS. The disease affects hibernating bats, resulting in tell tale white spots on their nose and across their wing span, causing the bats to wake up early from hibernation. With a shortage of insects during their hibernating season they struggle to find food.

Being newcomers to the Twin Lakes area we weren't too familiar with bats although we'd seen them occasionally at our last home near Mount Forest where we had a hobby farm. That changed one Friday evening last September when our 11-year-old cat was athletically jumping in mid air in the family room trying to catch something that was flying around. Her target turned out to be a small bat who was flying between our wall speakers and the ceiling beams. After a few unsuccessful attempts to scoot the bat outside through the sliding doors, we worked with our dinner guest to secure the bat, who we caught in a towel and after a couple of photos for posterity it was released outside into the night. We were very pleased with ourselves. We'd heard that a lot of bats had been lost to WNS and they were scarce. One bat saved gave us a good feeling and we talked about building a bat house in the future.

But that was not the end of the story. A few days later, while sitting at my home office desk, which had been moved below a capped off chimney stack in preparation for renovations, I heard a very quiet scuffling movement above me. On further investigation, you guessed it, the noise turned out to be not just one bat but 10, who had likely made their way over the spring and summer down the chimney stack and were trapped. Just one of the 10 bats in the cap was alive. Luckily, he recovered enough to fly away on his own, but this was not an isolated incident. Since then I've heard similar stories from others who have found bats in their wood burning stoves, not just here at the Twin Lakes.

We were very sad that this happened and we have now done a better job at securing the chimney pipe from the roof so that bats can't climb in and get trapped. To further ease our conscience we also made a bat house and secured it to the outside of the house, near the chimney pipe. This will give our local bats a safe place to take their feed when they are active at night. We were even more pleased after our bat house was finished when we learned from Glen Walton, the previous owner of our place on Fairy Lake, that there have always been a lot of bats around our house. We are confident we now have a safe place for bats who like to hang out close by.

If you have a wood stove, be sure to secure your chimney pipe so that bats can't get inside. If you're interested in doing more by providing a safe place for bats, here are some sites you might like to try. The Bat Management site at www.batmanagement.com has tips on design, construction and placement to make sure bats use your design AND kits for making your own bat house. Or you can order a bat house from Canadian Bathouses located in Thunder Bay at www.canadianbathouses.com. If you are handy enough to try to build your own from scratch, here are a few links from Canada and the U.S.:

www.canadianwoodworking.com/plans-projects/build-a-bat-house
www.eparks.org/wildlife_protection/wildlife_facts/bats/bat_house.asp
www.diynetwork.com/how-to/outdoors/gardening/ho-to-build-a-bat-house
www.nwf.org/home/garden-for-wildlife/cover/build-a-bat-house

Cont'd

A Story of Bats (cont'd)

Whatever you decide to do to help our local bats you should feel good about doing your part to help the local bat population recover and kill off just a few more of the pesky mosquitos we all love to hate.

Denise Balch and Bill Corley, Twin Lakes Road A3

The Recipe Box

Amish Rhubarb Dream Bars

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

For the butter shortbread crust:

2 cups all purpose flour

1 cup sugar

1 cup butter, softened to room temperature

Mix all crust ingredients in a large mixing bowl until well combined. Press into a buttered, 9×13, glass baking dish. Bake in preheated oven for 15 minutes. The crust will still be pale in colour at this point, and that's okay.

While crust is baking, prepare the filling.

Custard filling:

4 large or extra large eggs

2 cups sugar

1/2 cup all purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon salt

4 cups chopped rhubarb, (packed tightly)

Mix eggs, sugar, flour, and salt in a mixing bowl until smooth. Fold in rhubarb. Once crust is done baking, pour filling evenly over hot crust. Smooth surface with a rubber spatula. Bake an additional 40 to 45 minutes, or just until set and lightly golden on top.

Cool in pan on a wire rack. Once cool, gently loosen from sides of pan and cut into squares. Dust with powdered sugar.

Serve. These will keep, covered on your counter top in a cool place, for 3 to 5 days.

Enjoy!

Carol Hearn

So for those who were wondering

Since many people are asking, I'm going to give an update on our building progress at the old "Kidd" property in Jones' Bay on Twin Lakes.

First of all, I've heard some people saying that it's a shame that we will be tearing down Elwood & Helen's cottage. Perhaps that's true, however, the cottage is going on 75 years old, the floor is getting very spongy and there's a lot of maintenance that could be done, but we would still have a 75 yr old cottage. After having frozen water pipes three times last winter, I think it's time. Rather than sink any money into it, we decided to sell our home and build permanently out here, in God's country where I grew up. I'm sure that my parents would agree with the idea. I feel their presence and guidance quite often.

Are we moved in...not yet! We will definitely be in before November this year!! Rome wasn't built in a day, they say, and for anyone who knows Darren, his meticulous ways will only pay off in the end. For the most part, it has been only he and our son Arren doing all the work. This is our third and final house that Darren has built. It's a slab on grade with propane in-floor heat, ICF blocks (insulated concrete forms) right up to the trusses (warm in winter, cool in summer), triple glazed windows, an air-tight wood fireplace and fully wheelchair and handicap accessible. We never know what the future will bring. We have a 3000 watt solar system, not yet hooked up, for back-up for the frequent power outages we get out here. The plan is to go off grid eventually, depending how well this system works.

(cont'd)

So for those who were wondering (cont'd)

I was asked what the challenges of building were. There were a few: Mother Nature doesn't always co-operate; money doesn't go as far as it used to (we figure costs have gone up 100% since our 1992 build); and finally, if you want something done right, do it yourself.

On the positive side, we are getting exactly what we want and we know it will hopefully bring us many years of comfort and joy. If anyone has any questions, feel free to message or call and we can try to answer them.

Carol Hearn

Water Test Results

Although testing was done as usual for our lakes, there are no results posted on the website for 2017. Will keep watch and hopefully we will have something to report in the next newsletter.

Hudson Library Summer Hours

From June 1st to September 30th, the library will be on summer hours. They are:

Mondays 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please note that the Library will be closed on holidays.

Hudson Library News

Last year's Penny Sale was a great success so we are repeating it this year. It should start in June and the winner will be drawn in August. The penny sale cards will still cost just a toonie. Watch the Hudson Lakes Facebook page. We will post something there for when it starts.

The children's craft program will run again this year if we have at least 10 children pre-registered. So if you haven't registered your child/grandchild yet, please contact Judi Graydon at jhgraydon@outlook.com or by phone at 705-647-4239 as soon as possible. If we have enough kids and the program goes ahead, Kelly Graydon has agreed to run it again this year. She always comes up with great creative ideas for the kids

We will also have our annual book sale on the Saturday morning of Regatta weekend. It will start at 9:00 a.m. and run until 2:30.

Save this date!

The AGM will be held on Wednesday, July 25th this year

Hudson Lakes Association

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