



President's Message



Hi Everybody. It certainly seems like we had some of the nicest weather I can remember in September and October. Despite all of the sunshine there was plenty of rain as well and water levels are quite high on the lakes with many of our docks nearly submerged.

At the Lakes Association we are busy working to get Hudson Council to have us more involved in the planning process to create a new Official Plan and a new Zoning By-Law. These are both critical documents in the overall functioning of our beautiful township and especially our lakes area. These documents can be used to maintain the status quo or to plan for a different future – the health of the lakes very much depend on the controls placed in the plan and zoning by-law. At the November council meeting I expressed that we wanted to be better informed about the process and although council may make the final decision about the plan the Hudson Lakes residents are very interested in the process.

We'd like to have your input on the future of the Lakes area. The last major survey was done when the Lakes Plan was being developed – it's time for another. A survey is being prepared to be sent out in December on issues relating to the planning process and other issues of interest. This furthers our goals of informing our members and working on issues that matter to them.

Have a great rest of the Fall season and I hope to see as many of you as possible at our annual fireworks, which will be more spectacular than usual because we will be combining the Ramsay Family Fireworks with the Regatta Fireworks provided by the Grant family. See you at 8:00 p.m. New Year's Eve!

Bill Ramsay

President

Bill Ramsay
Twin Lakes

Past President

Sarah Desmarais
Fairy Lake

Vice President

Chelsie McKnight
Twin Lakes

Treasurer

Laurie McLean
Fairy Lake

Secretary

Renee Catt
Fairy Lake

Director

Mike Anderson
Bartle Lake

Director

Jim Brookfield
Twin Lakes

Director

Dave Grant
Twin Lakes

Director

Bill Booth
Twin Lakes

Director

Gail Ross
Twin Lakes

DEADLINE TO RSVP DEC 1

Santa is Coming

ho ho ho

DEC 8TH 2-4PM

HUDSON TWP REC COMMITTEE PRESENTS

Afternoon with Santa

RSVP GAUTHIERC@LIVE.CA WITH CHILD'S NAME AND AGE

HUDSON HALL
278011 MILBERTA RD

FOOD BANK DONATIONS WELCOMED

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Annual Ramsay Family and this year joined by Regatta (Grant Family) Fireworks!

New Year's Eve, 8 p.m.
Ramsay Cottage

(photo by Nancy Pedersen 2022)

The board members would like to acknowledge Ramsay Law Office for covering the cost of QuickBooks for the Hudson Lakes Association.



HARVESTING WOOD FOR PERSONAL USE?

Here's What You Need to Know!

You may harvest wood from
Crown land for:

- campfires and home heating
- small building projects and landscaping
- hobbies, arts and crafts
- a Christmas tree

You may collect up to 10 cubic metres or 4 full stacked cords of downed wood – you may not cut down the tree.

You may cut one Christmas tree to a max of 2.5m tall.

You may transplant up to 5 trees up to 1.4m tall.

You may cut branches of no more than 7.5cm from standing trees where this will not kill the tree.

You may collect firewood for a campfire when camping on Crown land. This wood cannot be sold.

No heavy equipment or harvesting in water.

No harvesting in active forest operations.

You cannot take wood off the piles of forestry operators waiting to be transported to a mill.

No material is to be left on the road or roadside.

If you wish to cut more wood, you will need a permit which can be obtained from Service Ontario.

~Bill Ramsay

NATURE'S CELESTIAL LIGHT SHOW

As winter blankets the northern hemisphere, adventurers and dreamers alike turn their gazes skyward in anticipation of one of nature's most breathtaking spectacles: the Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis. This mesmerizing dance of colours has captivated humanity for centuries, offering a glimpse into the magic of our planet's atmosphere.

The incredible phenomenon occurs when charged particles from the sun collide with the gasses in Earth's atmosphere, creating radiant displays of green, pink, purple, and blue. While the season for witnessing the Northern Lights peaks from September to March, the best opportunities are often found in locations with clear, dark skies, which is why our lakes area allows for such stunning auroral displays. To increase your chances of spotting the auroras, keep an eye on solar activity forecasts from the Weather Network app for alerts and information about upcoming magnetic storms which result in Northern lights.



Many cultures have myths and stories surrounding the Northern Lights. In Norse mythology, the lights were thought to be the reflections of the Valkyries, guiding fallen warriors to Valhalla. In Inuit traditions, the lights represented the spirits of ancestors, dancing in the sky. The Algonquin believed the lights were created by Nanabozho, the Earth's Creator, who lit a fire to show his people he was still thinking of them. Meanwhile, the people of Scotland call the lights "The Mirrie Dancers" or "Merry Dancers". They believe the lights are a celestial battle, with the colours symbolizing clashing swords and warrior cries.

As you plan your winter escapades, don't forget the wonders of our universe waiting to be explored. Whether you seek adventure or peace, the Northern Lights are a reminder of the beauty that exists beyond our daily lives.

Wishing you all clear skies and spectacular views!

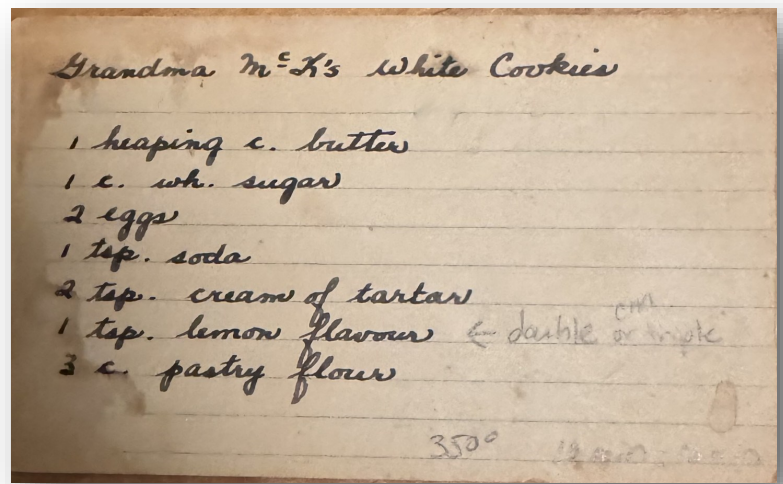
~Sarah Desmarais

GRANDMA M^CK'S WHITE COOKIES

Another little treat from Betty McKnight's recipe box; here is a recipe that belonged to my great-great grandmother Mary (Wickens) McKnight. Mary spent time at Twin Lakes in the summer at the same property my dad now owns. These are easy and lemony refreshing cookies to add to your holiday cookie assortment.

Ingredients:

1 cup butter
1 cup white sugar
3 cups pastry flour
2 eggs
2 tsp. Cream of tartar
2 tsp. Lemon flavour



Instructions for White Cookies

1. Preheat Oven: Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C). Line baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Cream Butter and Sugar: In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy (about 2-3 minutes).
3. Add Eggs and Flavouring: Beat in the eggs, one at a time, ensuring each is fully incorporated. Add the lemon flavour and mix until smooth.
4. Combine Dry Ingredients: In a separate bowl, whisk together the pastry flour, baking soda, and cream of tartar. Gradually add this mixture to the butter mixture, mixing just until combined.
5. Shape Cookies: Roll small spoonfuls of dough into balls (about 1 inch in diameter). Place them on the prepared baking sheets, spacing about 2 inches apart to allow for spreading.
6. Bake: Bake for 8-10 minutes or until the edges are just lightly golden. Do not over-bake; these cookies should remain soft and light in colour.
7. Cool and Serve: Allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheets for a few minutes before transferring them to a wire rack to cool completely.

Enjoy these delightful cookies with a taste of history!

~ Chelsie McKnight

WHAT THE FOAM!?!

Picture this, it's a beautiful Fall day, there's a breeze blowing over the surface of the lake, some waves... and FOAM!!! WHAT IS THAT??? Is someone's laundry soap escaping their septic? Did someone soap down and wash their vehicle too close to the water?

Although all these things are possible, the most likely cause of the shoreline foam is naturally occurring phosphates. Naturally occurring foam can be off-white or have a brown tint with uniform small bubbles. There may also be a fishy or earthy smell.

Plant decomposition, waterfowl waste and run-off from sedimentary rock are natural contributors to phosphates in our lakes. Leaves and lawn clippings are a major source of phosphorous when washed into lakes. Decomposition of plants and animals can cause the release of organic compounds which lessen the surface tension of water and result in foam.

Other sources of phosphorous which can enter lakes include fertilizer, poor septic, and insufficient natural shoreline, which results in more runoff and less natural filtering. Bright white or coloured foam with varying sized bubbles and possibly a sweet scent could be an indicator of a spill or overflow from a septic.

Phosphorous counts are monitored in our lakes through the Lake Partners program. Results are available at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/map-lake-partner>

~Dana McLean

75TH HUDSON LAKES REGETTA RESULTS

Due to a tragic accident that curtailed the activities on Sunday, only events that were completed are listed. Please continue to keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

BOAT PARADE

- Most Humorous** - Grant Family - Coleman Cooler
- Most Original** - Graydon Family - Groovy Graydons
- Smallest** - Scott Family - Unicorn
- Current Events** - Hearn Family - 75th Anniversary
- Best Overall** - McKnight Family - Twin Bits
- Honourable Mentions** - Grant Family - Olympics; Maga Family - Loons; Eclipse and Duke Family - Flintstones

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Winners - Cameron Olsen, Braden Olsen, Owen Norris and Ryan Miller

FISHING DERBY

Winner - Brady Krieger

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

- 17 & Under**
 - Nature** - Sydney Catt
 - Activities** - Samantha Silhan
- 18 +**
 - Nature** - Penny Demarell
 - Activities** - Glenn Scott



TOP CHEF CHALLENGE

- Preserves:** David Valencik
- Baked Good:** Tricia Hosking
- 'Celebration Dish':** Tricia Hosking

COLOURING CONTEST

- 3 & Under** - Jasper Gagné
- 4 to 6** - Emma Sandor
- 7 to 9** - Ivy Hawkins
- 10 to 14** - Sage Trussell-Whitely

ARTS/CRAFTS CONTEST

- 3 and Under** - Emmy Salmond
- 4 to 6** - Fiona Scott
- 7 to 9** - Lily Maga
- 10 to 14** - Landyn Belanger
- 15 +** - Alicia Valencik





~ Samantha Silhan



~ Penny Demarell



REGATTA 2024 PHOTOGRAPHY WINNERS!



~ Glenn Scott



~ Sydney Catt

BOAT PARADE (PHOTOS BY BILL BOOTH)



Best Overall



Most Humorous



Most Original



Smallest Float



Current Events

The HLA Board of Directors is looking to update the HLA website.



This is a volunteer position. If you would like to support us in our internet presence, please submit a website proposal to the HLA Secretary by January 15, 2025 at secretary@hudsonlakes.ca

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

If you spend enough time in the lakes area, you are bound to eventually have a wildlife encounter or two that raises the hair on the back of your neck. As a wildlife biologist, I've spent my fair share of time in the forest, and I have had a few such encounters over the years. Managing the situation can turn a scary moment into a rewarding one, you just need to understand a few basics about wild animals.

Wild animals will generally use a fight or flight response, with flight being their preferred choice by far. Fighting is risky behaviour and generally more energy intensive, so animals will generally avoid this if possible. When an animal feels that it can't escape a perceived danger or feels cornered, most (even a mouse) will get ready to fight for survival. When you see an animal looking straight at you and its ears are lowered, it's a good time to get yourself out of there.

In most cases, when you encounter a wild animal, you should keep a safe distance. If the animal shows signs of aggression, give them more space by backing away while making noises and making yourself look large.

Bears: Black bears are indeed the athletes of the forest. They are incredibly strong for their size and are walking stomachs. When the berries are in season, they feed up to 23 hours a day to double their weight before hibernation. Bears have a nose that is 7-10 times better than a bloodhound, hearing that is twice as sensitive as ours, however, they are nearsighted and can only see well up close. This is why a bear will often stand on its hind legs when looking at you – it helps them see a little better; this is not a sign of aggression. Bears are also timid animals that tend to avoid confrontation and will generally climb a tree for safety and simply wait until the threat is gone. Bears and canines (wolves and dogs) do not get along and in the wild generally avoid one another. Walking by yourself in bear country generally has very little risk and is not something I ever concern myself with, however things change when you have a dog with you. Most dogs will instinctively chase a bear. If the bear thinks it can get the upper hand on the dog it will chase it to move the threat out of the area. Dogs almost always run back to their owner when threatened and there's nothing quite like having a bear hot on Rover's tail when he runs back to you. Keeping your dog on a leash in the forest is a safety precaution I recommend.

Moose: Arguably far more dangerous than a bear is a cow moose with a newborn calf. Any cow moose I have come across will stand over their newborn, drop their ears and prepare to defend their calf. Her front hooves can be deadly and have been known to kill animals such as wolves and bears. If you do come across a cow and calf, it's a good time to back out of the area. I did have the misfortune of mistakenly coming between a cow moose and her twin calves who were unable to follow their mom across the wetland. Aside from lowering her ears, she charged several times across the wetland, smashing the water with her hooves. Once I realized what was going on, I backed out of the area until they could reunite. This was not a fun situation to be in.

Owls: Owls, particularly the larger species such as the Great Horned or Barred are stealthy hunters that are mostly nocturnal, but they will hunt in daylight hours when the opportunity presents itself. Their natural prey includes small rodents and rabbits (varying hare). However, they have been known to take the odd cat or small dog. Again, it's good to keep pets on a leash when walking in the forest. To keep yourself safe, consider removing any pom-poms from your hat. This may seem like strange advice but a fellow biologist friend of mine made the Timmins news a few years back when a Great Horned owl mistook his pompom for a rabbit. He ended up in the hospital for stitches. Of note, owls are virtually silent flyers, so it is unlikely that you will hear it coming.

Others: Other animals that you may have reservation about sharing your space within the forest include wolves, foxes, lynx, otters, beavers and so on. Although these animals typically want nothing to do with humans, on occasion they may be a little curious and stick around for a closer look. Again, back away, make yourself look big and make some noise. Rest assured that you are not likely on their dinner menu.

Rabies Carriers: Rabies is a deadly virus that affects the central nervous system and is typically spread through the saliva of a carrier, generally through a bite. The disease can be transmitted to you or your pets. Typical carriers of rabies include bats, foxes, skunks and racoons. If you encounter one of these animals, alive or dead, seek medical advice from a doctor. There is an effective vaccination protocol if you are diagnosed early. Once rabies affects the central nervous system and symptoms appear, it is always fatal. Common symptoms of a rabid animal could include: a loss of fear of humans, partial paralysis starting at the hind limbs, abnormal facial expressions, extremely agitated and aggressive behaviour, gnawing or biting their own limbs, and attacking other animals or objects. Although animal to human transmission has been rare in Ontario, the first fatal incident since 1967 occurred in the Timiskaming District this past summer when a person was thought to have been bitten by a bat while sleeping.

We are very fortunate to live in and share an area in which we can do so many recreational activities that also has an abundance of beautiful wildlife. For many of us it is part of the allure of the Hudson Lakes area, but we need to remember that wild animals are just that, wild. Give them their space and acknowledge that we are visitors in their habitat as much as they are in ours. With a little knowledge and respect, we can all get along.

~Mike Anderson

Merry Christmas

from all of us at HLA. We hope you have a very happy Holiday and we wish you all the best for the New Year.



HUDSON LAKES ASSOCIATION

BOX 160, 18 ARMSTRONG STREET
NEW LISKEARD, ON P0J 1P0

