



## NEWSLETTER

December 2023

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# President's Message



Greetings neighbours,

As we head into the Christmas season, I want to give you a few updates on what the Hudson Lakes Association has been up to since our last newsletter. At our July AGM we said goodbye to our longtime Treasurer and Director Rosemarie Breunig. After countless years of HLA service, Rosemarie has stepped away from the HLA for a much-deserved retirement. I want to thank Rosemarie for her dedication. We are so grateful for your work! On that note, I would like to welcome Bill Booth to the HLA as a Director. Bill has been our Webmaster for numerous years now, so it was a natural fit for him to join the board.

In September at the Hudson Township council meeting, Hutchison Environmental presented the [Lakes Capacity Study](#) that was done over the past months. This Lakes Capacity Study will be used to inform upcoming changes to the Zoning By-Laws and Municipal Plan that the township of Hudson is working on. Some key highlights and recommendations from this Lakes Capacity Study included:

- Upper Twin, Fairy & Bartle are all at or beyond capacity for new lot development.
- Fairy, Upper Twin and Lower Twin had elevated nutrient levels, in particular phosphorus.
- It was encouraged that septic systems be inspected and pumped at minimum every 5 years.
- It is also recommended that septic systems that are not up to date be repaired/ replaced to meet requirements and not contribute to elevated nutrient levels in the lakes.
- That water quality monitoring continue to occur on all four lakes.
- Encourage natural shorelines and limit future shoreline development.

We have not heard any dates as of yet for the upcoming Zoning Bylaw/Official Plan public forum meeting but we will announce it on our website and Facebook page when a date is scheduled.

The HLA also recently sent a letter to the Township of Hudson and Council expressing our interest in increased accessibility to Council meetings through a virtual option and making meeting agendas accessible to residents prior to Council meetings. We are also hoping to have a Councillor join the HLA as a Liaison to improve communication between the HLA and council.

With the shorter days and more darkness in the mornings and evenings, you may have noticed that both the mailbox shelter, and the beautiful sign are lit up as you pass by. Thank you to our HLA volunteers for installing the solar lights and ensuring that our recent projects can be appreciated both day and night.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the recent passing of one of our lake's residents. On November 6, Lori Blair (Girard) of Twin Lakes passed away at the age of 52 surrounded by loved ones. Lori was a colleague of mine for many years at ECCS, a friend, a neighbour and a truly beautiful soul! Lori will be missed by anyone and everyone who knew her as her smile and laugh radiated joy. We love and miss you, Lori!

In closing I want to wish everyone a very blessed Christmas. May Christ's hope, peace, joy and love fill your hearts all season long!

Sincerely,

Sarah Desmarais

**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**  
Stephanie Hawkins  
Twin Lakes

**Director**  
Dana McLean  
Fairy Lake

**Director**  
Bill Booth  
Twin Lakes

**Director**  
Laurie Wigle  
Fairy Lake

# BEAUTIFICATION OF OUR LAKES

Over the last few years, the HLA has worked hard to beautify our area with the replacement of the mailbox shelter and more recently a new map sign. It is our goal to continue to improve our area and we are looking for ideas for our next project. If you have any suggestions or ideas, we would love to hear from you! Please email the President, Sarah Desmarais at [president@hudsonlakes.ca](mailto:president@hudsonlakes.ca) Thanks!!!



## CHIMNEY SAFETY

It's winter and time for fires... wood stove, fireplace and bonfires... and with proper planning NOT chimney fires!

When was the last time your chimney was cleaned? Creosote is a dangerous byproduct of the incomplete combustion of burning wood and other fossil fuels. It begins as a flaky deposit and progresses to a tar like substance. Creosote is both toxic and flammable!

How do you get rid of creosote in your chimney? Hiring a professional is the best solution, particularly if you have not been cleaning your chimney regularly. There are also DIY methods such as creosote sweeping logs or even better, chimney brushes or sweeps. However, remember that creosote is toxic so if you tackle cleaning your chimney yourself take precautions to protect yourself by wearing a mask and gloves.

Finally, you can also reduce the buildup of creosote by burning dry seasoned wood as it provides better combustion and produces less creosote! Stay warm this winter and burn safely!

~ Hudson Township Fire Department

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

**RAMSAY**  
LAW OFFICE

# TREASURER'S REPORT – July 2022 to July 25, 2023

Bank Balance \$10,358.81

## Year in Review

Service Charges	\$73.80 (\$6.15/month)
Shelter	\$ 602.87 (final costs to complete project)
Insurance	\$1212.84
FOCA membership	\$ 385.00
New Sign	\$1631.86
<u>Sign Costs:</u>	
Sign itself	\$1576.35
Lumber	\$ 555.51
Less Sale of Old Sign	<u>-\$ 500.00</u>
	\$1631.86

## Fundraising Summary:

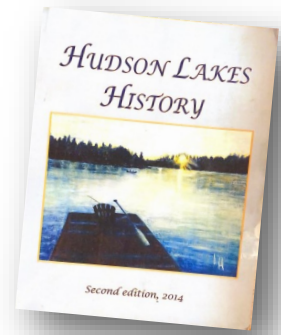
\$4644.00 (money raised through donations and fundraising for mail shelter project)

\$1961.09 (cost to build shelter)

\$1631.86 (cost for new sign)

\$3592.95 Total expenditures

**\$1051.05 remaining from fundraising efforts.**



Hudson Lakes History books are available to purchase at the Hudson Library for \$30.

## THE RED FOX

**The Red Fox** (cross fox and silver fox), *Vulpes vulpes*

The red fox is the most abundant fox species found across Canada, the rest of the northern hemisphere, and it is also the most populous fox in the Hudson Lakes area. Most red foxes can be identified by the red fur across their face, back, sides and tail. While their trunk, chin and belly are grayish white. They have black “socks” on their feet, black tipped ears and a white tipped tail. The red fox has a bushy tail that is used for balance and to wrap around their bodies for warmth in the winter. The red fox likes open areas in woodlands, brushy fields, and both rural and suburban neighbourhoods. It preys mainly on small rodents and hares, but will also eat bird eggs, plants and berries. Red foxes have excellent hearing and night vision, which make them excellent hunters.

What many people do not realize is that not all red foxes are red. Colour morphs are not uncommon in the red fox and include the cross fox, named for the black stripes across its back and shoulders, and the silver fox which has solid black fur tipped with white. Although they may vary in colour and appearance these foxes are all the same species, *Vulpes vulpes*. Over the past year both colour morphs have shown up in our area. Next time you see a strangely coloured fox in the Hudson Lakes area, it is not as uncommon as you may think.

~ Mike Anderson



(Images from Canadian Geographic)

# REGATTA 2023—WINNERS!

## BOAT PARADE

*Most Humorous* - Gibson's - 40th Birthday

*Most Original* - McKnight/Thano's - Moana

*Smallest* - Scott's - How to Train Your Dragon

*Current Events* - Grant's & Gervais' - Barbie

*Best Overall* - Duke's - Ice Cream

## HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

*Winners* - George Catt & Liam Smith

## FISHING DERBY

*Winners* - Caitlin Taillon & Darian Gervais

## VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

*Winners* - Leslie Gervais, Deric Gervais, Steve Wickens and J.C. Kirk

## Top Kids by Age Category:

### **5 & under**

Eleni Thanos & Logan Taillon

### **6 & 7**

Emma Bobor & Bowen Legein

### **8 & 9**

Olivia Breunig & Francis MacDougall

### **10 & 11**

Sydney Catt & Jacek Hawn

### **12 & 13**

Alyssa Hawn

### **14 +**

Karianne Rivard & Ryan Grant

## Best Overall Competitors

### **13 & Under**

Sydney Catt & Jacek Hawn

## 4 PERSON CANOE RACE

Scott Reeves, Ella Beasley, Georgia Simpson & Colin Watkins

## TWO PERSON TRIATHLON

Caitlin Taillon & Kay Linger

## MINI-MARATHON

Lisa MacDougall

## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

### **17 & Under**

*Nature* - Reegan Abbott

*Activities* - Jorja Catt

### **18 +**

*Nature* - Bill Booth

*Activities* - Larissa McKnight

## TIK TOK CONTEST

*Best Pet* - Eleni Thanos

*Best Family* - Gervais Family

*Funniest* - Andreeanne & Gabrielle Gauthier

*Best Dance* - Mila Salmond

## PRESERVES CONTEST

*1st* - Anne-Marie Taillon, tied for

*2nd* - Sydney Catt & Tricia Hosking

## BEST FOREST THEMED DISH

*1st* - MacDougall Family

*2nd* - Andreeanne Gauthier

*3rd* - Tricia Hosking

## BAKED GOOD CONTEST

*1st* - Tricia Hosking

*2nd* - Anne-Marie Taillon

*3rd* - Andreeanne Gauthier

## COLOURING CONTEST

### **3 & Under**

*1st* - Alec MacDougall

*2nd* - Zoe Thanos

### **4 to 6**

*1st* - Elodie MacDougall & Tye Hawkins

*2nd* - Logan Taillon

*3rd* - Eleni Thanos

### **7 to 9**

*1st* - Ivy Hawkins &

Noah MacDougall

*2nd* - Emma Bobor, Chloe Wilson

& Olivia Breunig

*3rd* - Chloe Bobor & Olivia Taillon

### **10 to 14**

*1st* - Sydney Catt

## ARTS/CRAFTS CONTEST

### **3 and Under**

*1st* - Jemma Hawn

*2nd* - Zoe Thanos

*3rd* - Emmy Salmond

### **4 to 6**

*1st* - Eleni Thanos

*2nd* - Mila Salmond

*3rd* - Tye Hawkins & Logan Taillon

### **7 to 9**

*1st* - Olivia Taillon

*2nd* - Marika Hawn

*3rd* - Ivy Hawkins, Chloe Wilson &

Jayla Hawn

### **10 to 14**

*1st* - Lexi Ethier

*2nd* - Sydney Catt

*3rd* - Alyssa Hawn,

Jacek Hawn, Jayden

Hawn & Makenna

Hawn

### **15 +**

*1st* - Emily Hawn





~ Jorja Catt



~ Reegan Abbot



# REGATTA 2023 PHOTOGRAPHY WINNERS!



~ Larrisa McKnight



~ Bill Booth

## REGATTA UPDATE

I am thrilled to report that this year's **74th Annual Hudson Lakes Regatta** was an incredible success! The weekend was filled with fun and a remarkable turnout from both the local community and visitors from afar. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the generous sponsors and hardworking volunteers who dedicate their time and resources to make this event possible year after year.

The participation in the volleyball tournament, and all the water and lawn races were outstanding, showcasing the true spirit of friendly competition. But that was not all! We were delighted to bring back the beloved craft table, where participants of all ages displayed their creativity. Additionally, the entries for the photography, art, and baking competitions were simply impressive, capturing the beauty and local flavours of the Hudson Lakes.

The boat parade floats were undoubtedly the highlight of the morning, creating a delightful atmosphere and setting the tone for the rest of the event. Families went above and beyond to craft jaw-dropping floats that brought joy to all who cheered from their docks.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that preparations for the **75th Anniversary of the Hudson Lakes Regatta** will begin early. As we approach this significant milestone, we need dedicated volunteers to join our organizing committee. Your contributions will help us create an unforgettable experience and continue the legacy of this cherished event.

I look forward to hearing from those who are eager to be part of history and make next year's Regatta a standout year. **August 3 – 4, 2024 save the date and plan to be there!!!**

Warm regards,  
Chelsie McKnight



Life is...

better at the lake.



## CHINESE MYSTERY SNAIL

As many of you are aware, we recently discovered Chinese Mystery Snails in Twin Lakes. They were first spotted a few years ago and we thought they were just very large snails, however, their numbers were increasing so rapidly that we felt we should look into it further. Doing some research, I landed on the Chinese Mystery Snail as it has a very distinctive “trap door”. I contacted the invasive species hotline and sent in photos and videos. They analyzed this information and then reported to the Ministry of Natural Resources who verified that they were indeed the Chinese Mystery Snail and an invasive species. You can find the information for our snails on EDDMapS. All invasive species are mapped on that site.

It has a very distinctive “trap door”.

These snails are easily identifiable from our native snails in that they are very large up to 6.5 cm. When you lift the snail out of the water, it has a hard shell portion that closes onto itself, hiding the snail inside of the shell. They also can have up to 7 large whorls (spirals) where our native snails do not. These snails feed on organic material and plankton at the bottom of still or slow-moving water bodies, such as lakes, ponds, and ditches. They tend to live in shallow water less than 3 meters in depth. In areas where it is an established invasive species, it out-competes native freshwater snails and can reproduce to very high densities. Female snails can live up to five years, reproducing each year, and may produce up to 130 offspring at a time.

Some of the dangers associated with these snails is that they become so populous that they can clog water intake pipes. They also carry a parasite that can infect fish and other marine life including waterfowl. They will out compete the native snail species disrupting the food chain.

We applied for a license to remove the snails. Because they are considered an aquatic species we were not permitted to remove them for the purpose of destroying them without a permit. We were granted the permit which is good until September of 2024. Many Lakes people volunteered to have their name on the permit so they could remove the snails from their shorelines. This year we will have a few organized outings to remove them from common areas such as the narrows, the creek area and other crown land spots. The snails can be removed and brought to the landfill. We encourage everyone to remove them as quickly as you can due to the rate in which they reproduce.

If you have any questions you can reach me at 705-961-3143 or susijohanson@gmail.com.

~ Susi Johanson

## Old Fashioned Oatmeal Cookies

Jane Reeves Recipe

### **Ingredients:**

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup margarine	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter
1 cup brown sugar	1 tsp of baking soda dissolved in 4 tbsp of hot water
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour	2 cups oatmeal

### **Directions:**

Beat the margarine, butter and brown sugar together. Add the baking soda dissolved in water. Stir in the flour and oatmeal. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes.

### **Date Filling**

#### **Ingredients:**

1 lbs. dates (pitted and chopped)  
1 cup white sugar  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups water

#### **Directions:**

Simmer in pot on stove until soft and spreadable. Cool-store in fridge. Spread between two cookies and enjoy!



**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.**

Image from Google search: Pinterest



**RSVP by  
Dec 11th**

*Come and see  
Santa*

**Sunday  
December 17th  
2pm-4pm**

RSVP [gauthierc@live.ca](mailto:gauthierc@live.ca) with child's name and age

**HOSTED BY HUDSON TWP  
RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

**New Year's Eve  
Peter & Eileen Ramsay  
memorial fireworks  
at 8 p.m.  
out front of Ramsay cottage!**



HUDSON LAKES ASSOCIATION

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

