



President's Message

Hi everybody and welcome to spring 2025. This past winter was much better for those of us who like to play outside, after a slow start the snow came on strong and people got out to play - there were plenty of human tracks all over the bush. And, then it seemed the snow would never melt. The ice finally was out of all 4 lakes by May 6. I find it kind of interesting that for at least the first 20 days of spring we were in full winter mode in Hudson Township.

One of the more outstanding events for us snowmobilers happened during the first weekend of March. We found a dead wolf in the middle of the trail on the way out to the Lundy Road. According to Trapper Dave it was a lone male wolf who was driven out of the pack by the other wolves. He figured the pack had run him until he was exhausted. Trapper Dave had encountered him while checking the trapline Friday night – the wolf was in the trail and bleeding from cuts on his legs from the crusty snow, still very much alive and quite unfriendly. We found him in the same place on Saturday, no longer alive. Two members of the group gently picked him up off the trail and placed him on the fresh snow to the side. The scavengers had a feast – there were tracks from birds and mammals all over the place by Sunday. We see plenty of tracks in the snow but this was a unique opportunity to see the results of interactions between our forest neighbours.

The Association is watching the Hudson Township Planning process very closely and will update you as we get information. The new plan and zoning by-law are going to shape development around the lakes for at least the next 10 years and possibly longer. When it's time, make your position heard. After trying to do some renovations at the cottage I have run into difficulties with getting a building permit. The problem we face right now is that the Official Plan and the Zoning By-law while striving to protect our lakes fail to have the necessary flexibility to allow minor changes – I think finding a balance between the two is going to be the biggest challenge in the current planning process.

AND – we were approved for a \$3,000 grant from The Temiskaming Foundation to purchase an AED Save Station for around the lakes.

See y'all at the lake.

Bill Ramsay
HLA President



Lynx between Coopers Corner
and Hwy 65. (Mar.28/25)
Photo by Carol Hearn

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THE MALLARD DUCK

The mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) is one of North America's most recognizable ducks and a summer resident of the Hudson Lakes area. Adult males (drakes) show their finest colours during the spring breeding season with their characteristic emerald-green head, its white collar and yellow bill, it has bright orange legs and feet. Like all North American ducks, the drakes are more decorative and more colourful than their drabber female (hen) counterparts. Plumage for males plays an important role in attracting a mate and most birds have very acute colour vision. Adult females are less colourful, with a mottled brown body and dark orange bill, they also sport orange legs and feet but are less vibrant in colour than the males. In flight, mallards can be identified by a white stripe along the speculum on their wings (secondary flight feathers).



Ducks can be divided into two distinct groups, divers (eg. goldeneye, mergansers, ring-necked ducks), which can swim below the surface while in search of food, and dabblers (eg. black ducks, teal, wood ducks), which only tip upside down. Mallards are dabblers, their diet consists mostly of grains and seeds, but they also eat invertebrates such as aquatic insects, snails and worms.

Mallards prefer wetland habitats with a mix of plants both above and below the water surface and can often be seen skirting the perimeter of our lakes in search of food. Dabbling ducks, like the mallard mature in their first year and form a pair bond with a drake while still on their wintering grounds. When the hen flies north, she navigates back to where she was hatched or had nesting success the previous year. The paired drake simply follows her home, this is how genetics get moved around.

In our part of the world nesting season is May/June. The hen initiates her nest by scratching a bowl in the dirt amongst cover of grasses or shrubs and will generally lay one egg each day until her clutch is full (12 eggs). Once the clutch is full, she will line it with feathers and down by pulling them from her underside to develop a brood patch, this allows heat to transfer to the eggs. She then begins incubation, only leaving the nest for an hour or so in the evening to feed and water. While incubation occurs, the drake eventually groups up with some of his buddies and heads north to moult.

After 26 days of incubation, the ducklings hatch and are led to water. Unlike birds, such as robins, ducklings are precocial, meaning they are mobile as soon as they hatch. After 56 days, they are fledged and begin preparing for their long migration south and the whole cycle starts again.

Although ducks of several species are found in and around the lakes area, if you enjoy bird watching, the Hilliardton Marsh should be on your bucket list as a place to visit. This 516-acre wetland is home to over a hundred different species of birds and a great place to bird watch. It's located approximately 30km north of New Liskeard just north of the community of Hilliardton, on highway 569. Access to the newly built interpretive center is opposite Wool Mill Road and there are often exciting activities going on. You can learn more at <https://thehilliardtonmarsh.com/>.

~ Mike Anderson

SAVE STATIONS

Thanks to the Temiskaming Foundation and Agnico Eagle Mines the lives of lake residents and visitors will be that much safer! Temiskaming Foundation has donated \$3,400 and Agnico Eagle \$7,500 for the purchase and installation of two Save Stations.



Save Stations contain an AED in a weather-proof cabinet. One Station is planned for 1114 A Road. The property owner has electricity at

the road and has agreed to host the Station. At this time, a location for the second station has not been chosen. Location should be 'central' and there must be electricity.

Safeguarding the well being of the people around the lakes is important to Hudson Lakes Association and its members. Over the years, there have been a number of medical emergencies involving people around the lakes. The HLA hopes to also include a Naloxone kit and an EpiPen in the cabinets as Cardiac arrest, drug overdose and severe allergies are all emergencies where time is crucial and having these kits could save a life.

A special thanks to Bill Ramsay and Matt Duke for their hard work on the grant submissions!

~ Dana McLean

ESTATE PLANNING IDEAS

I'm going to go over two areas of estate planning. One legal and one practical.

The practical first – dealing with stuff. Many people between 60 and 90 have a lot of stuff. Whether it be left over lumber from old projects to Royal Doulton collections and everything in between. My dear old Mom had collections we didn't even know about. Fortunately, she dealt with them while she was alive rather than leaving my siblings and I to deal with them. She sold her silver at auction in Toronto since none of us wanted it and she had great fun doing so. If you have a valuable collection and none of your heirs want it, take the final step in collecting – sell it. You enjoyed collecting it, now enjoy disposing of it rather than forcing your kids, who never appreciated the finer points of pinecone collecting, to sell your prize collection for likely far less than market value. You're also doing everyone a big favour by getting rid of all of the junk in the garage/basement. If you haven't used it in 15 years, you aren't likely to use it in the next 15 either. I found that all of Dad's 30+ year old boards stored in the rafters just split or broke when I tried to use them. Those old shingles from 2 roofs ago are never going to be used – take them to Ricky (the dump).

On to the legal. You've met with the lawyer just like *Cottage Life* suggests. You've discussed the plan with the family and come to the conclusion that the kids will use the cottage after you've moved on to the great beyond and they can afford to do so. The lawyer drafted a great will with trusts in it and a fabulous succession plan. And then, you go and get dementia at age 75 but live for another 10 years. What happens then? Do you have enough money to keep the cottage going while you have increased health care costs? Who is going to look after the new roof that is needed? Is your spouse, who may or may not be the other parent of your children, going to need to sell the cottage to survive financially? Can you even plan for this? My advice here is make sure you pick the right person to be your attorney for property. You want someone that can see both sides – the kids inheritance versus what you are going to need for your care. Picking your children or your spouse may not be the right choice. There are professionals available through your financial institution or maybe a good friend is a good choice. Your lawyer and financial institution will work together for this plan.

~ Bill Ramsay

RECIPE - REFRIGERATOR PISTACHIO DESSERT

Ingredients:

1 ¼ cups flour
½ cup butter or margarine
½ cup shelled finely chopped pistachios
8 oz pkg cream cheese, softened
1 cup powdered sugar
9 oz Cool Whip topping, thawed
2 pkgs pistachio instant pudding mix
3 cups cold milk

Directions:

Heat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

In a small bowl mix the flour and butter until it is crumbly. Stir in the pistachios; pat the mixture into a greased 13X9 inch baking pan. Bake at for 20 minutes until it is a light golden brown. Remove from the oven and cool.

In a small bowl combine the cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth and creamy. Fold in half the carton of the whipped topping. Then spread over the cooled crust.

In a medium bowl combine the pudding mixes and the milk; beat thoroughly. Then pour the pudding carefully over the cheese layer.

Frost the top with the remaining whipped topping. Refrigerate several hours or overnight. Makes 12 to 15 servings.

Tip: Recipe may be halved; use a 9-inch square baking pan.

~ Contributed by Renee Catt



HUDSON LAKES REGATTA



SAVE THE DATE!



August 2-4, 2025



Planning is underway for the Hudson Lakes Regatta, taking place August 2–4, 2025. As we look ahead, the planning team is approaching this year with care and optimism—honouring the past while thoughtfully shaping the future of this cherished tradition. We welcome community members who wish to contribute ideas or get involved. Please reach out to Chelsie at chelsie.mcknight@gmail.com.

~ Chelsie McKnight



HUDSON LIBRARY

- **OPEN SATURDAYS 11 AM - 1 PM**

We are a lending Library and we are open to one and all.

We have a large selection of both English and French books for all ages.

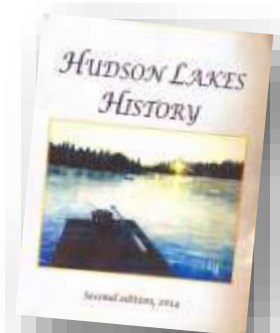
We are always trying to recycle and restock our shelves so drop off your unwanted books any time! We have a drop off box outside the library for books and movies.

We have a large selection of movies (which we rent for .25 cents). Drop by and pick up some movies for those rainy days while at the cottage.

We also have internet service in the parking lot 24/7 and a computer and printer inside the library.

A Big Thank You to our volunteers who work throughout the year!

~ Janet Spencer



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

SNAIL UPDATE

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 ED-MapS. All invasive species are mapped on that site. Some lakes where they have them just recorded their millionth snail removed – so you can see how much work it will take to keep it under control.

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 – they can have 300-400 live offspring in the their lifetime.

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. They can make the water clearer which results in more algae growth which has a negative impact on the lake. Also they tend to cause more swimmers’ itch which we noticed when we had high numbers of snails last year. They will have periodic die offs and lots of them will wash up on shore and can be very smelly.

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 was good until September of 2024. We are in the process of applying for a new permit. 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.

Next Steps:

We will have a meeting to discuss plans to control the snail population. How to identify the snails and how to remove them. We will post information about the date, location and time of the meeting – we need to wait for the snails to appear again this spring.

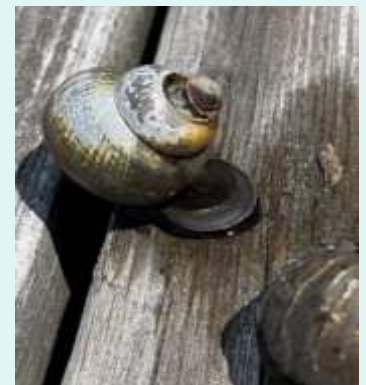
We have to keep track of the number of snails removed, so we will be creating a google document and people can enter the number they collected or send me an email or text and I can update the form for you.

The only way to control these snails at all and prevent them from ruining our enjoyment of the lake is human efforts to control them by removing them. It is truly going to a group effort if we hope to have an impact.

We will send out an email asking if you are willing to have your name on the permit to remove the snails, we are hoping for everyone to participate in some way.

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

~Susi Johanson



TIMISKAMING DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TRAIN FOR REAL-WORLD SEARCH AND RESCUE

A lost hiker, two overdue canoeists, an injured ATV rider—these are just some of the realistic emergencies that could happen in the Hudson Lakes area. To prepare for such situations, a new program at Timiskaming District Secondary School (TDSS) is equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed for real-world Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.



The course, has taken students out to Frere Lake to practice emergency scenarios, and combines classroom learning with hands-on training. In the classroom, students learn about spatial technologies, emergency management systems, and even earn their Transport Canada Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) certification. Taught by Alex Shillinglaw and Thomas McLean, the course immerses students in SAR operations, where they apply their classroom knowledge to realistic emergency situations.

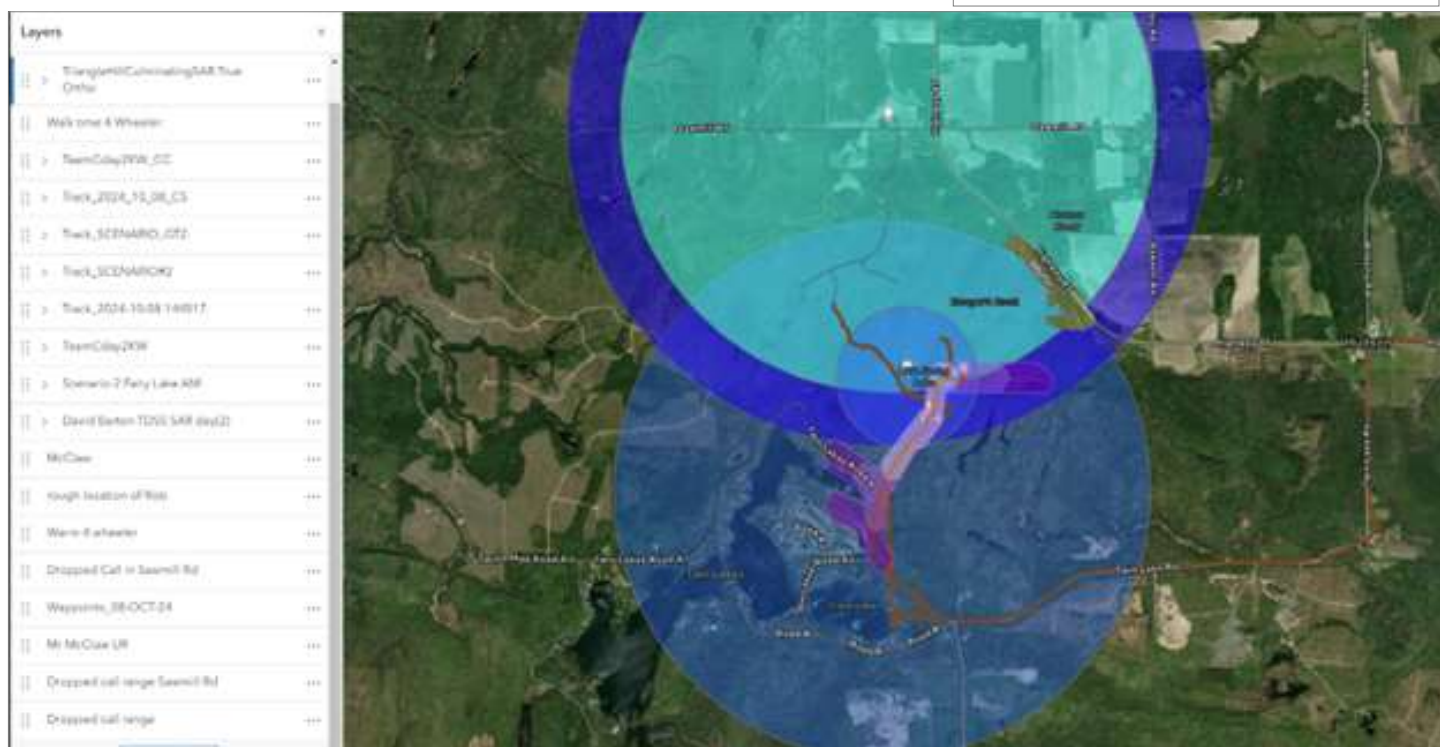
PUTTING THEORY INTO PRACTICE

Students begin by forming an Incident Command System (ICS), where roles are divided based on function. These areas include command, safety, operations, planning, and logistics—key elements in any successful SAR operation. A typical Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) starts with a briefing that provides background on the missing individual(s), the forecasted weather, and any clues that could help narrow the search.

One of the critical components of the training is the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and RPAS technology. The planning section works closely with GIS technicians to create detailed maps that track the search progress. Using ArcGIS, an industry-standard mapping software, students analyze data, like the missing person's last known location and potential travel routes. For example, students recently used estimated ATV driving speeds to predict how far a missing rider might have traveled, helping to target search areas more effectively.



Charles Carino and Patrick Nagy taking information from the Communications Center to map a missing hiker's cell.



A map created by TDSS SAR G.I.S. Technicians showing cell phone location buffers, searcher GPS tracks and predictive drive time areas.

CONT'D....

Advanced Technology Meets Hands-On Training

The RPAS section is equipped with a DJI M30T drone capable of capturing both zoom and thermal imagery during searches. This technology allows students to search large areas quickly, with the drone relaying real-time information back to the Incident Command Post. In addition to thermal imaging, the drone can track the movements of ground teams, ensuring better coordination and safety.

The Operations section, which is responsible for carrying out the search tasks, involves students using orienteering skills to navigate through difficult terrain, along with medical and survival techniques to assist injured or lost individuals. The training also covers various search patterns designed to maximize the chances of finding a missing person or discovering important clues.

Although the program is still in its early stages, it has already set the foundation for creating a mission-ready SAR team. Graduates of the program will be able to return to the Timiskaming District after post-secondary education and further hone their skills in real SAR operations, working alongside emergency professionals in the region.



SAR members Brady Richer, Ben Conlin, Charles Carino, Gryphon Trahan, Curtis Shillinglaw, Finn St. Louis, Leo Crossley, and Jasmyn Soucie pose for a photo with the RPAS hovering overhead.



SAR Team Members Kayla Williamson, Tessa-Lee Polson and Brady Richer prepare a safety line during a mock scenario at Triangle Hill in Hudson Township.



OPP ERT member Ray Fortin mentors TDSS SAR student Allison Morrow on using ropes to hoist an injured hiker up a steep sandbank on the Triangle Hill hiking trail.



TDSS SAR Team members Kayla Williamson, Tessa-Lee Polson, Brady Richer, and Gryphon Trahan provide the force required to hoist the injured hiker up the steep sandbank on Triangle Hill, while Hunter Champagne and Ben Conlin control the RPAS nearby.

CONT'D....



TDSS Healthcare teams up with TDSS SAR to offer medical assistance on increasingly complex scenarios near Pike Lake.

Acknowledgments

The students of Timiskaming District Secondary School's SAR program would like to extend their thanks to several key partners and community supporters from the Hudson Lakes area. Special recognition goes to the Township of Hudson municipal office and Fire Department, Dana and Laurie McLean, Jim Brookfield, Camp Temiskaming, and Kara and Curtis Johnston for their support of the program.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the residents of Hudson Township, who generously supported the SAR program at the Pike Lake Fun Day BBQ fundraiser in August.



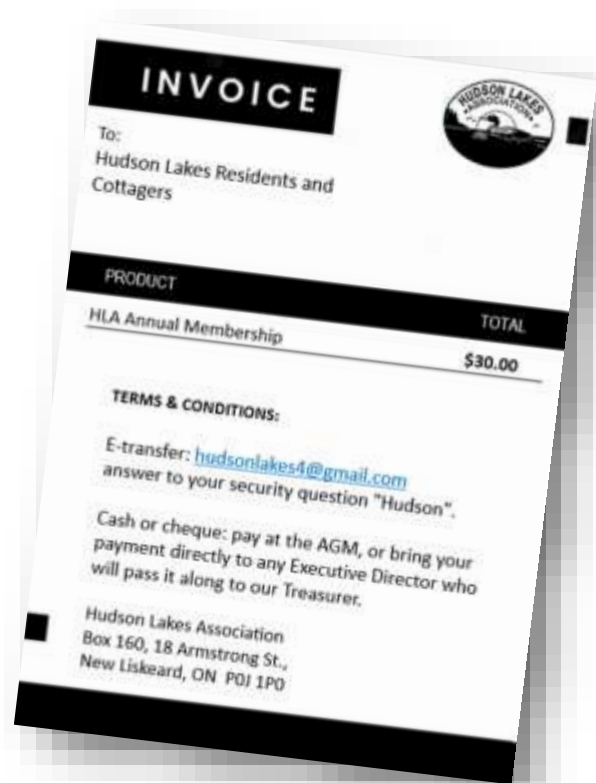
Scan this QR Code to check some additional videos and pictures.

HUDSON LAKES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES

- \$30 annual fee.
- Dues cover January through December.
- Voting at the GM requires paid up dues.
- See [Membership](#) on the Hudson Lakes website for details.

REMINDER SAVE THE DATE

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, July 30, 2025 - 7PM
Hudson Hall



WHAT'S UP IN HUDSON

First up, taxes. Yes, your property taxes will increase again this year BUT only as much as was necessary to keep up with inflation. Council reviewed cost of living/consumer price index and budgetary needs and decided on an increase of 2.51%. This translates to an average increase of about \$47 for the year.

Staff continue to work on the Official Plan. It's taking time due to the numerous changes and it is unlikely the public meeting will happen until 2026.

Recreation: This year the arena was staffed by volunteers for open, close, clean and ice work. The system worked well but was time consuming with the need to have someone open and close the door. The committee has applied for a grant to install a timed door lock as well as have the floor painted to create Pickle Ball and basketball courts.

On May 24, the Recreation committee is organizing a Yard Sale. It's a Bring Your Own Table event and participants pocket all their profits! The space is free!

Hudson Lions are also busy! Their Annual Spaghetti Dinner was well received as well as delicious! May 5 was the Senior's Dinner. The meal is by invite to Hudson Seniors 65+. If that's you, reach out to Lion, Gwen Welch, to be added to the invitation list.

As part of the Hudson Lion's 40th Charter year, the club is holding a Jam Fest June 14 at the Hudson arena from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local community artists will entertain you, Hudson Volunteer Fire will feed you – for a price and entry donations and proceeds from the Silent Auction will go to Kerns Public School breakfast programs.

One of the biggest things on the Township Meeting agenda right now is Wind Turbines. Two different companies, EDP and Horizons are proposing 30 wind turbines/green energy to be erected in Hudson and Kerns Townships. The companies are asking for a Resolution of support for green energy as part of the grant process they apply for to build same. The grant process closes October 2025, and thus far Council has deferred any decision until we get more information and feedback from residents.

~ Dana McLean



Happy May Long Weekend



Informally the beginning of summer
at Hudson Lakes!



HUDSON LAKES ASSOCIATION

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



RAMSAY
LAW OFFICE