



# DOG AND CRANBERRY LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

## Name Our Newsletter

Now that we are officially the Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association and we are exploring the idea of creating a newsletter more than once per year, it's high time we came up with something other than *Annual Newsletter* to call our publication. This is where you come in!

The "Name Our Newsletter" contest starts now and will go until Wednesday July 14<sup>th</sup>. We will announce the winning name at the AGM on the 17<sup>th</sup>!



***The winner will receive one of our beautiful DCLA ceramic mugs.***

Here are some names of a couple of other lake association newsletters, just to get you thinking:

*Drift Words, Captain Otty's Log*  
....and here is one offered by a Board Member; *Heron's Herald; the Newsletter of the DCLA*

Please email your suggestions to: [dogandcranberrylakes@gmail.com](mailto:dogandcranberrylakes@gmail.com)

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## Welcome Cranberry Lake!

In 1985, the Dog Lake Cottagers Association was founded and incorporated by a small group of lake residents whose primary concerns were good fishing and water quality. Many hard working and dedicated residents helped the Dog Lake Association to grow, thrive and tackle a variety of issues over the years. Relationships were forged with the Township, various Ministries and our local Conservation Authority.

About two years ago the DLA started exploring the idea of welcoming the residents of Cranberry Lake to join us. Our Treasurer, Bruce Jackson, a Cranberry Lake resident, had already been a member and on our Board of Directors for years. One particular Cranberry Lake resident, Manuel Stevens, expressed great interest in joining the DLA and made a strong case for Cranberry Lake being included in the name of the lake association.

By unanimous vote at our virtual AGM in July 2020, the Dog Lake Association became the Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association: the DCLA. We are now geographically connected to the Rideau Canal as a Lake Association and we are all stronger for this collaboration.

Cranberry Lake residents have already made valuable contributions to our volunteer base, our operations and to our voice. Welcome Cranberry Lake Residents – we look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together!◇

# ***DCLA VIRTUAL AGM Saturday, July 17 10am***



President's Message  
Daryl Neve

## **Table of Contents**

President's Message	2
DCLA Project Updates	3
Melody Lodge	6
Water Quality Report	7
Serenity Bay Resort	8
Letterboxing	8
Membership & Social Report	9
Volunteering with the DCLA	10
Guided Hikes	11
Paradise Forbidden	12
Year of the Trees	13
Loons on our Lakes	15
Getting through COVID	16
Lake Planning Report	17
Fishy Maze Game	18
Lake Wordsearch	19
Board of Directors	20
DCLA Merchandise	20
Supporting Environmental Stewardship	

## **A Sense of Place**

After a year of writing about the “business” of the DCLA, I want to share a story about what a wonderful group of people we have working for you on this Board of Directors, and what a spectacular place we live in.

I saw a moose here one morning. Yup. I know it was a moose. He had a squarish head... and a rack. He was wading through the bay while I was sitting on our dock, enjoying a coffee. He came from around Applejack point, and was wading towards our neighbour's place on his way to feast on the water lilies in MacFarlane Bay, I imagine. We regularly share tales of wildlife sightings with our neighbours these days, while walking the laneways and cottage roads. Everyone will talk about pileated woodpeckers, beavers, otters, even dogfish. But does anyone really believe that I saw a moose? They might, here's why:



We've been told to stay at home. This is a pretty easy order to follow for those of us

who live here on a lake... on a lake in Eastern Ontario... within a world biosphere reserve... along the shores of a world-renowned heritage canal system ... within a wildlife corridor known as the “A2A”. You know the A2A? The A2A is this rocky ridge, densely covered in vegetation, that stretches from the peaks of the Adirondack Park in New York state to the rugged boreal terrain of Algonquin Provincial Park. I recently read that: *The region's animals regularly travel between these two great parks. Interestingly, in the late 1990s, researchers tracked a female moose as it travelled from the heart of the Adirondacks across the Frontenac Arch, crossing the St. Lawrence River through the Thousand Islands, across TILT's Crooked Creek Preserve, and into Algonquin Provincial Park. This moose came to be known as Alice, and her story has helped bring awareness to and understanding of the existence of the A2A wildlife corridor.*” No, it wasn't Alice I saw. Perhaps it was one of her male offspring... swimming right by our house! What a spectacular place to live!

Just as the A2A corridor makes a strong connection for wildlife, your Board of Directors is strengthening connections within our social landscape, to give us a better “sense of place” and a stronger voice within it. We have been collaborating more closely with other lake associations along the Rideau Canal, in response to the new draft management plan; with representatives within our township, as a part of their new advisory committee; with other lakeshore residents across eastern Ontario, through our common concerns about aggressive fishing derbies, boat wakes that beat up our shorelines, invasive species that may out compete our native wildlife and increased human development that may threaten our cultural heritage. We are hoping that through a Lake Stewardship Plan we can

bring out a strong sense of place which will help preserve our lakeside environment for future generations. We live in the midst of such a unique and beautiful landscape, which connects us with so much wildlife and with so many warm and caring, like-minded people. It is truly something to celebrate, to cultivate and to preserve. The dedicated members, who are serving as your Board, are working hard to make that happen!

And did I tell you...? I actually, really, honestly saw a moose here one morning!◊



Winner Wildlife; ‘Showing My True Colours’  
Photo Taken By: Liz Baer

## DCLA Project Updates

*Reported by Daryl Neve  
On behalf of your Board of Directors*

We have a number of projects on the go as this newsletter goes to print!

### Nutrient Budget Study (NBS)

We have set aside most of the \$10 000 raised from members and other neighbourhood contributions, expecting that we will need it to support the most recent grant application to secure the majority of the \$46,000 - \$60,000 needed for this project. At the time of this newsletter an application is being made by Queen’s University research staff for a Community NSERC grant.



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Scenery; 'Sunrise on Dog Lake'  
Photo Taken By: Bill Meggs

## Love Your Lake Shoreline Program

In response to the outpouring of financial support for the NBS and shoreline naturalization we have signed on to the Love Your Lake Program, sponsored by Watersheds Canada and the Ontario



Wildlife Federation. Trained staff will survey every landowner's property individually, using an established protocol to produce free, confidential recommendations for shoreline stabilization, water quality improvement and wildlife conservation.

Our contributions to make this program happen include;

- \$500 from our "Lake Health Action Fund"
- in-kind support of a boat and driver for doing the surveys
- the cost of one mailing/delivery of information to every landowner on the lakes

Cranberry Lake is scheduled to be surveyed this August with results available in 2022. Dog Lake is scheduled to be surveyed in the summer of 2022 with results in 2023.

## Natural Edge Program

Very recently, we were invited to partner with Watersheds



Canada (WC) for part of an Ontario Community

Environment Fund

Grant (OCEF) to support landowners who are committed to naturalizing their shorelines. We have responded to a number of landowners (on our lakes) who have already asked for help and advice from our association and/or WC in this regard, to offer them the opportunity to participate. Each landowner will contribute \$250 to their own project while WC will do a site visit, soil sampling, produce a planting guide and recommendations for the owner's approval, as well as source, purchase, deliver all materials needed and guide the planting process. Opportunities to volunteer for this program are still available.

## Incorporation and Name Change

With the guidance of Queen's Business Law, Pro-bono Services, we are in the process of officially changing our name to the Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association and forming a provincial not for profit corporation as such.

## Floating Treatment Wetlands (FTWs)

Our Water Quality Committee was awarded a \$2500 grant from the South Frontenac Community Grant program for the implementation of 3 FTWs this summer. (this was Shirley French's recommendation in the Water Quality presentation she delivered in October 2020). The money will cover construction, planting, launching, maintenance, costs of lab analysis and educational materials for this project.





*Pete, Ken and Dave hard at work building the first Floating Water Treatment Platform*

Sourcing of materials and some preliminary upland construction is taking place while we wait for the appropriate permits from Parks Canada.

## Canadian Lakes Loon Survey

The first step to protecting the welfare and continued existence of this iconic creature on our lakes is to become more educated about its situation here. We have signed on with Bird's Canada to be a part of their program for monitoring and logging data on the loons. We have mapped out the lake into 9 sections for observation and are currently looking for members who would be willing and able to do three on-lake observations each season.



*Common Loon*

## Future Fundraising Opportunities

We plan to apply for grants from the following organizations, over the next few years, in order to help our association, its membership and neighbours respond to the results of the Love Your Lake program, findings of the Nutrient Budget Study and results of the first season of Floating Treatment Wetlands on our lakes.

- South Frontenac Lake Ecosystem Grant program
- Ontario Wildlife Federation
- Ontario Community Environment Fund
- NSERC

We have a few other ideas for fundraising, which may be even more fun than a bottle drive and perhaps equally as exciting as our recent on-line auction!

## Development of a Lake Stewardship Plan

A lake stewardship plan is the outcome of a process in which property owners, government, and business operators work together to develop and implement actions to conserve and improve the natural, historic and social qualities of life on our two lakes. A successful lake stewardship plan is based on sound science and community consensus around a common vision of the future, guiding principles and actions required to achieve the vision.

Our association would like to embark upon a multi-year process to prepare such a plan for our two lakes. This plan would represent a culmination of a progressive development of our association from a cottager's association to an organization with a focus on water quality, environmental conservation and

action by our members, other stakeholders and governments (municipal, provincial and federal) to protect and enhance the quality of our environment.

## Safer Quieter Lakes

In response to the concerns of residents and our general concern for the welfare of our shorelines and wildlife, we are communicating with the organization, “Safe Quiet Lakes”, which originated in the Muskokas. We wish to help boaters understand the impact of their wakes and learn about how to better manage them.

Stay tuned as these projects unfold!!

## Melody Lodge has New Owners!

by Richard Hodgins and Shawn Ryan

We would like to introduce ourselves to our neighbours in the area! Me, Richard Hodgins, and my business partner, Shawn Ryan, are the new proud owners of the Melody Lodge Resort.



*Shawn and Family Out for a Ride*

We fell in love with the area and the property when we first visited it this spring and have big plans to return the Melody to

its former glory. We are also curious about its heritage since we know it was one of the first buildings on Cranberry Lake in the 1920s, so if anybody has old pictures or stories about the lodge, we would be anxious to hear and see them!



*Richard and Family on Vacation*

We are hard at work already, renovating the cottages and cleaning up the whole site. We plan to have Premium Gas available at all times and will be bringing back Ice Cream which we keep hearing was a big hit back in the day.

We welcome all suggestions in terms of how we can improve the area, or any additional services and products you would like to see us offer. This will be a family run business and you will see both of our families hard at work. My fiancé Amélie will be there along with our kids Thomas and Nolhan. Shawn's partner Michelle, along with Connor and baby Mila will be there too. We look forward to hearing from all of you and meeting neighbours in person. If you are boating by, feel free to pull into our docks, fill up your tank and have a chat.

**Thank You!💎**

# Water Quality Committee Report

by Janet Brown



2020 proved to be a slow year for meetings and get togethers. However, there were a few happenings and some initiatives in which we participated.

**Research:** We continue to work with the Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority (CRCA) on research projects for our lakes. With the help of Holly Evans at CRCA and Geof Hall at Queen's University, we are putting in an application for funding for a Nutrient Budget Study of Dog and Cranberry Lakes. We were part of an application with The Land Between for funding but the application was not successful. DCLA members raised over \$10,000 in 2020 which will allow us to invest in research projects for our lakes.

**Water Testing:** We have been doing monthly water testing in three areas; around St Helena Island, at the bridge into Crane's Nest Lake and in Millburn Bay. We took water samples for phosphorus levels and we tested for water clarity and recorded the water temperature from May until October. The Lake Partners Program that was suspended due to Covid during 2020 is now up and running for 2021. You can check for results on the Lake Partner's or FOCA's website.

**Blue Green Algae:** There were several reports of blue green algae blooms in late

August and into the fall. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP) took a sample from one of the blooms on August 24, 2020 and it tested positive for toxins. We continue to encourage residents to take a picture and report any blooms to the MOECP.

**Welcome Package:** The committee created a welcome package for new residents on the lake and new members to our lake association. It includes information about the area as well as the Lake Protection Workbook from the CRCA that outlines how we can enhance and improve our shorelines and water quality.

**South Frontenac Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee (SFLEAC):** This is a new committee formed by South Frontenac to advise the council on lake ecosystem issues. The members of the committee come from many lake associations in the area, along with a few council members and staff from South Frontenac. The township has set aside \$30,000 per year for restoration and remediation projects. The grant program is not up and running yet but the committee is working on it. Thank you to water quality committee members; Carol Allmendinger, Laura Taguchi Stevens and Julian Kreho.♦



Winner Flora: *Dutchman's Breaches*  
Photo Taken By: *Leanne Briscoe*

## Welcome to the Touchbourne Family!

by Kevin & Melissa Touchbourne,  
Serenity Bay Resort



Hello! We are Kevin and Melissa Touchbourne, the new owners of "Serenity Bay Resort" on Carrying Place Road. As most of the people on Carrying Place Road know, Loonie Tunes Lodge was abandoned the past couple of years after the previous owner (Jack Sterner) passed away. We happened to be friends with one of Jack's children and were fortunate enough to privately purchase the property in July 2020.

Being local, young and ambitious - we jumped right in and began cleaning up the property - renovating two of the three, year-round cottages with the help of our six children (aged 7 to 15). We spent the summer there, enabling us to work diligently, finish by September, and start hosting guests through the fall and winter via Airbnb. We have since managed to further tidy and landscape the grounds, adding a beach volleyball court as well as outdoor games and finally, begin our 'current project'... renovating the 3rd cottage.

It's been a challenge bringing to life this "forgotten property", especially during a pandemic. However, it's been a challenge we have thoroughly enjoyed. The neighbours have all been so welcoming and kind... always eager to see the progress we make,

share memories of the previous owner and shower us with encouragement. We are so thankful to be part of such a caring community!

If you're in the area, stop in and say hello!♦

[www.visitserenitybay.ca](http://www.visitserenitybay.ca)

[www.facebook.com/SBRLUXURLAKESIDERE NTALS](https://www.facebook.com/SBRLUXURLAKESIDERE NTALS)

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## Letterboxing 101

by Kari Galasso

If you like walking outdoors, exploring new places, and finding treasures, you'll enjoy Letterboxing! Most of you will have heard of Geocaching! Letterboxing is lower tech geocaching. Instead of using GPS coordinates to find the spot you're looking for, you'll be using clues provided by the person (letterboxer) who has hidden the Letterbox. Instead of finding a little treasure that you can take home, you'll find a stamp and a stamp pad that you can put into your letterboxing journal. There will also be a notebook in which you can put your stamp, your trail name and the date on which you visited. There are Letterboxes hidden all over North America and there are lots and lots around Kingston and area!



### *Contents of a letterbox!*

For your enjoyment, the DCLA has placed 4 letterboxes around Dog and Cranberry Lakes. Get yourself a 'trail name' a small journal or notebook, a stamp that reflects your trail name and a stamp pad. Go to [letterboxing.org](http://letterboxing.org) and search for the following four letterbox names:



1. **Treasure Island,**
2. **Paw Island,**
3. **Around the Milburn Pond, and**
4. **Underneath at Upper Brewers.**

Letterboxing is a great activity anytime but is especially appropriate these days. We hope you'll give it a try! If you have any questions, or would like to place a letterbox yourself, please feel free to send us an email. Have fun!◊

## Membership and Social Committee; a report on our 2020-2021 Year

*by Kari Galasso*



Your DCLA Membership and Social Committee is pleased to report that, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we were able to accomplish many of our plans and goals. Here are a few highlights from our activities over the year:

**June:** *Garden Tour:* Thanks again to Russell and Dale Stoness who have worked with their landscape, the sun, the shade and the shoreline for 26 years, to create gardens that celebrate native plants, animals and birds.



*Beautiful shade garden!*



*Dale in her stunning sun garden!*

**July:** *AGM:* We held our AGM virtually this year and were very pleased to have a unanimous decision to welcome Cranberry Lake to our association and officially become the Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association.

**September:** *Member Survey:* We conducted an online survey and were pleased to have had 43 members provide their responses which have informed all of our activities this year! Thanks for your input!

**October:** *Guided Hikes, Water Quality Presentation & Website Enhancement:* See Carol's article about the hikes on Page 11! Water Quality continues to be the top concern of our members. We were very pleased to be able to offer an outstanding virtual presentation by one of our members, Shirley French, entitled: [Improving Water Quality & Understanding Our Limitations](#) which has led to a number of initiatives. Thanks to our interim Website Committee, made up entirely of Cranberry Lake residents, we now have a more comprehensive, navigable and current website, a well-functioning administration system plus a brand new Facebook group!

**November:** *iNaturalist Presentation:* Two Nature Conservancy of Canada staff

members, Meghan and Ali, conducted a very informative webinar for us about the use of the iNaturalist app. This is a terrific app that can help you identify things in nature while also contributing to citizen scientist efforts. A recording of this presentation is on our [website](#).

**January:** *Photo Contest:* As winter settled in and the pandemic kept people from travelling, we introduced a photo contest that brought in some breathtaking pictures from around our lakes. The judges had difficult decisions to make in the categories of: Activities, Scenery and Wildlife. Click [here](#) to see all the entries for the Winter 2021 Photo Contest.

**February:** *Letterboxing:* We brought this wonderful outdoor, treasure hunting activity to our lakes! It's a great family activity. Go to the article in this newsletter to learn more about letterboxing and how it works.

**Ongoing:** We were pleased to bring to you for purchase; water resistant maps of our lakes, bat houses, native trees and shrubs and our first ever DCLA merchandise! As this newsletter goes to 'print' we have just finished our Spring 2021 Photo Contest, annual Membership Renewal Drive, distribution of all the seedlings and merchandise, and zoom presentation about Loons took place on Tuesday June 29, 2021 and an outdoor event at the Upper Brewers Locks on August 29, 2021. We will have Hunter McGill, the President of the Friends of the Rideau, speaking about the History of the Rideau Canal.

I would like to thank Carol and Teresa for their commitment and contribution to this committee; you are both great to work with!! Our small but mighty committee is proud of what we've accomplished and has lots of plans for events, activities and

educational opportunities for our members and the community.◊



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Scenery; *Spring Awakenings*  
Photo Taken by: *Liz Baer*

## Volunteering with the DCLA

by Kari Galasso

There are all kinds of ways to get involved and help support the efforts of your lake association. We are always happy to welcome people to be part of the Board of Directors but there are also small committees, project groups and many solo tasks you can complete on your own. Before we tell you about these, however, we'd like to thank all the people who have made a contribution over the past year. We accomplished a lot with your help!!

Dave, Robyn, Rob, Mel, Dale, Russell, David, MacKenzie, Mark, Steve, Morley, Janice, Dave, Shirley, Gina, Paul, Laura, Julian, Pete, Ken, Carol, Teresa, Bruce and Elinor.

Here are some ways in which you can get involved:

- Monthly water sample taking on Cranberry Lake from May to October
- Special event planning and implementation
- Become a Road Steward in your neighbourhood
- Help manage the membership system
- SAR (Species at Risk) initiatives
- Invasive Species Initiatives
- Loon Surveying

And if you are so inclined, we are looking for a Secretary and a Wildlife Chair for the Board of Directors.

To find out more or to volunteer, please phone Kari at 613-328-9079 or email us at [dogandcranberrylakes@gmail.com](mailto:dogandcranberrylakes@gmail.com).

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## Guided Hikes Around Milburn Pond



*by Carol Allmendinger*

On October 3rd, 2020, DCLA Member and former DLA Board Member, Dieter Rohde, guided two hikes on the Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC) Milburn Creek Property in Battersea, part of the Frontenac Arch. A total of 17 DCLA members were treated on a beautiful autumn day to an informative 3km hike along the creek and wetland and through rich forests of hardwood and conifers. Since Covid rules were in place everyone was safely spaced with stops now and then to hear some of the history of the area and the property with lessons on the types of trees and features such as its granite and limestone and biodiversity, as well. The lower dam is managed by Ducks Unlimited. Some of the species on the property include trumpeter swans, snapping turtles, watersnakes, black ratsnakes to name just a few, and a range of other waterfowl and birds.



*2pm hikers checking out the Burm*

Many of the hikers were new to our membership from Cranberry Lake and it was an excellent opportunity to meet some new neighbours at a safe distance. To learn more about the property, you can reach out to the contact person at the NCC:

[Amanda.tracey@natureconservancy.ca](mailto:Amanda.tracey@natureconservancy.ca)



*11am hikers enjoying the fall colours!*

Thank you to the people in the community, who help with maintenance of this special property! And thanks to Dieter Rohde, our wonderful tour guide!◇

## Paradise forbidden, but not lost: A brief family history and perspective of cottage life in Ontario during COVID

*by Andrew Olander*



My Grandfather, William Burgess (Bill) first came to Dog Lake in the late 1940s as the guest of some good friends. Although a Scotsman, Bill was born in Toronto and was a dual citizen of the U.S and Canada. In 1953, Bill purchased Rabbit Island which, at the time, had an existing rustic unfinished four-room cabin. The seasons were a mix of family time and fishing weekends combined with those essential projects that improved the property over the years.

In 1964, Rabbit Island was connected to hydro and this meant that the wood stove was no longer essential for heat. A screen porch was added and before long was enclosed and received its first set of windows. In the winter of 1984, the conditions were right and a truck with a well drilling rig drove over the ice and the island would have well water from then on. From the age of five I have spent every summer of my life on Dog Lake, with the exception of 2020, and possibly 2021! As a child I would fish with Bill and tag along

when he would visit with folks on the lake. In 1987, Bill retired and spent his summers on Dog Lake and winters in South FL. In the early 1990s I moved to Ft. Myers FL, but always returned to Dog Lake in the summer. The summer nights on the lake were wonderful; the warm breeze, the sound of the loons and the moonlight shimmering on the water. In 1998, Bill decided it was best for him and Doris to remain in FL. I knew I had to continue the Dog Lake tradition. I also had to maintain the island, which was, and remains a lot of work, but is a labor of love.

Over the years I have observed many changes on the lake, but the thing that resonates with me is the lake's natural beauty and the wonderful people that reside there and share it with me. Island living is a very unique and 'special' experience. Following a severe thunder storm with downed trees and a loss of power, or on a cold, windy, and rainy October night when the boat stalls in the middle of the lake, it is also "special" but in a different way. If it were not for our amazing community, I would not feel as connected to Dog Lake.

On several occasions over the years, I have made calls for help, once or twice requiring my neighbours to get out of bed and tow me to shore. Just as many times I have received those calls and responded to help others. I enjoy attending social gatherings on the lake, and have been known to host a few as well. During the winter months, I visit the lake to take in its beauty and peacefulness, as well as to catch up with my friends. We often ice fish and many of the neighbours come out and join us. It becomes more of a social event because, despite our efforts, we don't always catch fish.



So, enter the era of COVID. The one constant in my life; my island, is off limits. My interactions with my friends on Dog Lake, are limited to Zoom calls. My cottage is in desperate need of general maintenance, including paint and stain to keep it from deteriorating. We all look forward to getting through the pandemic and a return to normal life.



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winter Activity: *Fishing Huts in the Distance*  
Photo Taken By: *Lucie Lefebvre*

As I write this in May 2021, I am vaccinated, as are many of my friends and neighbours, and it seems that the months ahead of us will be better than those in the rear-view mirror. I want my boys (Logan and Liam) to have the same experiences I did growing up on the lake, and look forward to doing so as soon as we are able. Perhaps most of all, I miss my extended family, Bill and Linda Meggs, their two daughters (Laura and Angela) and son-in-law (Dave). We go fishing, assist each other with projects, and often enjoy a whisky together. Our families and friends gather for meals, whether a cookout on the deck on Rabbit Island or a shore dinner cooked on an open fire at the Meggs'.

My last trip to the lake, prior to the onset of the pandemic, was in February 2020. We enjoyed a couple days of ice fishing and visited with many of the neighbours. Initially during the lockdowns, I would speak with Bill and Linda every Friday evening. As the

months passed, we moved to every other week or so, but regardless I have remained connected to the lake!♦

## The Year of the Trees

by Gina Bearne



Since we moved to Cranberry Lake five years ago I have been promising myself that I would catalogue the trees on our 2.25 acres of land. For a British

immigrant of twelve years, I'm surprisingly good at recognizing birds, animals and wildflowers despite an English country childhood in a very different ecological environment. But I don't feel I know my Ontario trees quite so well and I am amazed by the diversity I see around us. I am embracing 2021 as *the year of the trees*!

### i-naturalist; a useful tool

In December 2020, the DCLA offered a helpful webinar on how to use [i-naturalist](#). I felt that this was a tool that could provide me with a way to discover and identify our trees.

As the deep cold of winter began to wane, I thought I'd start by looking at some of our evergreens. In all honesty, I'm finding it a lot harder than I imagined to arrive at definitive identifications. Who knew that there are so many different varieties of Pine, Spruce, Fir, and Cedar?! And the same is true of the deciduous trees. One of the issues I have found is that, to have confidence in your classification of a tree, it is helpful to be able to bring together observations from the different stages of the annual cycle.

Unfortunately, **i-naturalist** doesn't facilitate this. So, I have created a spreadsheet

where I can record flower, leaf, seed, bark, and overall shape of tree as well as seasonal shifts. Although **i-naturalist** can point me in the right direction or occasionally confirm something I'm already reasonably sure about, I may have to turn to books and additional online resources. What I really need, once we have a little more freedom to interact, is a local expert. Are there any volunteers out there, I wonder?

## Seeing anew



If my ability to catalogue our trees is, still somewhat limited, my awareness has shifted significantly.

I have become conscious that, in an area where water is all around us - constantly changing, taking our breath away on a daily basis - it is easy to relegate the incredible beauty of the woods to a supporting role. Yet looking at our photos it struck me that, if the lake is the backdrop to our lives, the trees provide the framing.

Never, until this year's slow sidle into Spring, have I realized quite how beautiful is the flowering of the trees! It's easy to be uplifted by the obvious blossoming of Cherry trees, Magnolia or Serviceberry. But, perhaps because so much of the action takes place far above our heads, I think we miss the delicate beauty of the blooms of Maple and Basswood, Oak and Elm, Willow and Birch; tiny explosions of colour, curled catkins, soft Pussy-Willow puffs!



We are barely into the growing months of the year and already there is a deepening intimacy in my relationship with trees that will only increase with the shifting seasons. I can't wait to make the connections between flower, fruit and leaf, to witness the greening with newly heightened senses, then later the florid fullness of Fall. I'm reminded that, when we choose to focus in a specific direction, there is invariably a richness to be discovered that will never wholly be lost.

## Stewardship

As we moved to this beautiful place, I was startled by the unexpected strength of a sense not of ownership but of stewardship of the land; of a deep love and great desire to do right by it and by all the beings with which we share it. This sense of responsibility underpins my life here. There are many ways in which we try to put this into action, including supplementary planting of native species, particularly those supportive to pollinators and wildlife. As part of this, we have tried to make sure we plant at least a few trees and shrubs each year. After less than stellar attempts amid last year's uncertainties, we have big plans for 2021. We will be adding to an

existing grove of White Pine with seedlings courtesy of the DCLA 2021 Spring Tree Sale.

Having struggled for the last few years to find a relatively local source for a wide range of native plants, I was like a kid in a candy shop when I discovered Natural Themes Native Plant Nursery in Frankford.

I am writing this on Earth Day 2021. At a time when many of us have moments when we feel as if it is difficult to breathe, how apt it seems to focus on appreciating the trees that are often described as Earth's lungs. A friend recently asked what the motivation is to plant trees knowing you will never see them reach maturity. There are so many good, practical ecological reasons. More than that, I think that every tree you plant is a statement of hope, of belief in a future and an act of love for the planet and future generations.♦



## Loons on Our Lakes

by Sue McDonald



One of the great pleasures of living on or near a lake is the iconic call of the loon in

summer. Loons are synonymous with Canada's northern wilderness and are the Provincial bird of Ontario. Half the breeding population in North America is found in Ontario- **97,000 pairs!**

They nest on large lakes with clear water and prefer bays, points of land and islands for their nests. Nests are close to the water, with the favoured sites being those completely surrounded by water to avoid land predators such as raccoons, weasels and skunks. They return to the same breeding area each year.



They normally lay 1-3 eggs that are 3-4 inches long, oval in shape and olive green to brown with brown spots. The incubation period is in May or early June for 26-29 days. Like most waterfowl if their nest or eggs are disturbed they may abandon the nest. Chicks can swim right away but spend time on their parent's back to rest, conserve heat and avoid predators such as gulls, ravens, crows and pike.

Loons may show aggression towards other waterfowl in breeding season and they have been known to attack them and even fatally attack other loons.

Loons feed on fish and other prey found under water. They sleep on the water, turning their necks to fold their head down



to rest. They are fast flyers and agile swimmers who can stay underwater for a full minute and dive to depths of 80 meters.

### **Loons may live up to 25 years.**

In the last several years there has been a noticeable decline in chick production across Canada. The **Canada Loon Survey** has done a study that looked at data from the last four decades. The decline was found to be due to a complex interplay between damage caused by acid rain, mercury in fish and climate change.

The results of the Survey recommend the following:

- Reduce human impact on lakes as much as possible
- Keep shorelines as wild as possible
- Reduce boat speed and increase distance of boats from nests
- Keep lakes free of pollutants and garbage

The haunting cry of a loon is an enduring sign of summer and the health of our lake environment.

Working together we can support their environment and ensure that future generations are able to experience the joy their presence brings us.♦



### **Getting Through COVID as 'Mericans'**

by Susan Keefe and Bob Volpe

While having to deal with COVID in our own lives in the US, we were really stuck when it came to being blocked from crossing the

border to get to our cottage on Dog Lake. From the beginning of the pandemic until the writing of this note in mid-May, it has been a challenge to manage what were typically routine activities when things were



Activities 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "Kayak Serenity:  
Photo Taken By: Gay Chamberlain

normal. What has really made the difference in maintaining a reasonable degree of normalcy is the support provided by so many of our wonderful, caring Canadian friends and neighbours.

When the border closed early last year, things changed dramatically. We had to shift from being residents and property managers from May to October and renting out the cottage for a few weeks, to being absentee landlords renting our place for most of the summer (exclusively to Canadians).

Neighbours and friends took over full responsibility for property management. Fortunately, we had a long-standing relationship and friendship with Dave Fortune, who became our property manager. An acquaintance of Dave's, Phoenix Smith, did the cleaning and prepping between renters, and Lynn Blasko of Lynnscape, in Inverary, did her TLC gardening. Several friends and neighbours sent us names of Canadians who became our new renters.



Dave settled our boats in for the winter and tended our electric ice breaker. He also was able to take advantage of our absence to tear out and replace a rotted-out floor in one of the bedrooms and oversee the excavation and installation of a new driveway triggered by the relocation of Christel Lane. Six to eight of our neighbours and friends regularly walked out to our place on Christel Lane and regularly sent us reports on the condition of things. We received photos of the trees suffering beaver damage, blooming Trillium in our woods, and creeping Phlox in our gardens. Still other reports were encouraging, and senders were able to enjoy a nice view of the lake on a warm day from the deck of our boathouse with a tasty refreshment. Zoom was a real boost to our morale. We had several sessions with many of our neighbours and friends during the lockdowns. It was great to socialize with people without masks! We hope that this summer will bring the border reopening and return us to our beloved Christel Lane and Dog Lake friends and neighbours. A "Thank You" celebration is in the planning stages!♦

## Report from the Chair of the Lake Planning Committee

by Manuel Stevens



We are working on a number of fronts to achieve our mission of "Providing

stewardship of the lakes and surrounding environment for present and future generations". One of our priorities is our input to the Rideau Canal Management Plan. As both Dog and Cranberry Lakes form part of the Rideau Canal our association has a stake in how the Canal is being managed.

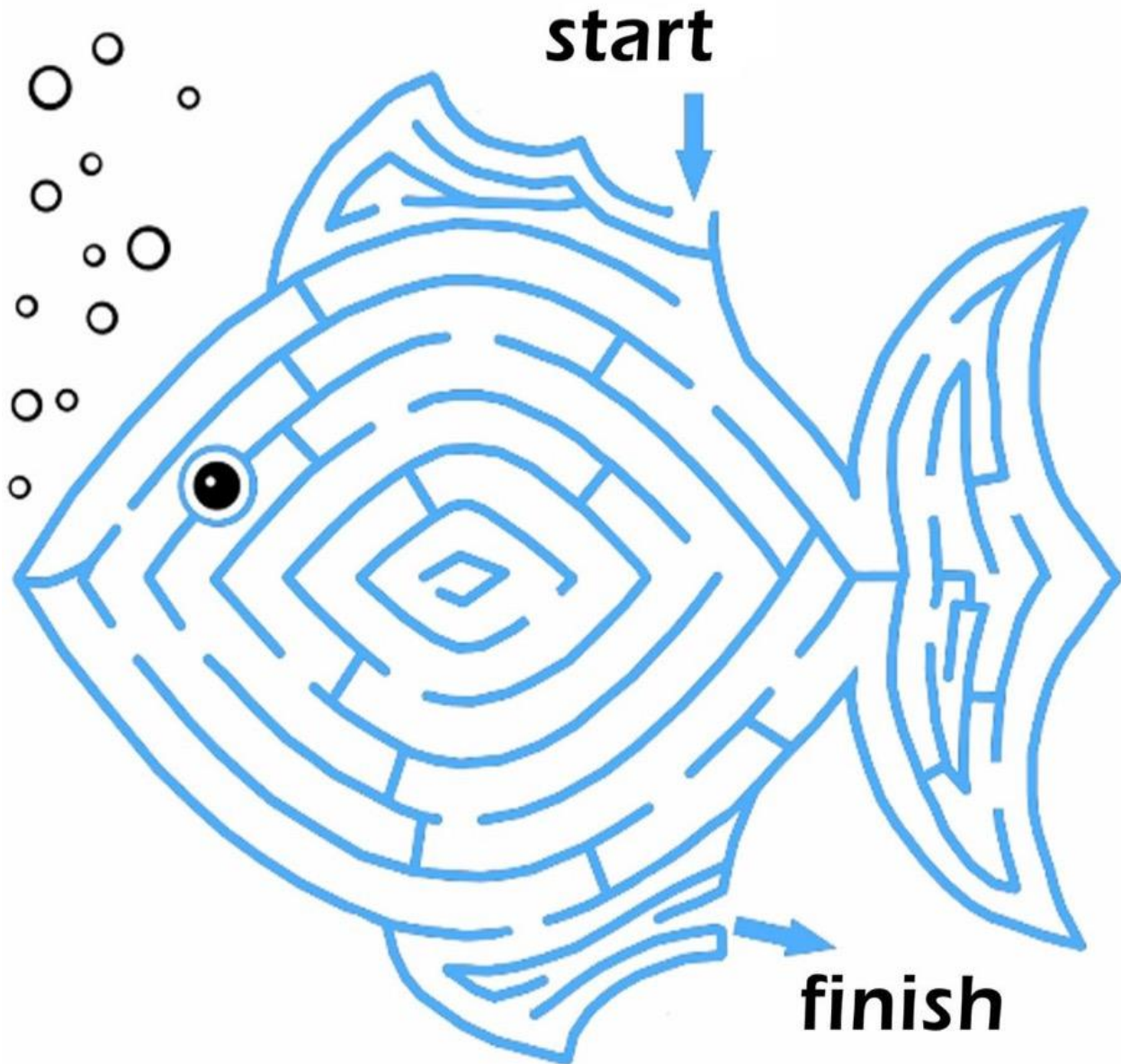
We reviewed the draft Rideau Canal Management Plan and while generally supportive of the plan we noted many areas where the plan could be improved to offer better protection to the environment. We, the Lake Planning Committee will lead the process of preparing a lake stewardship plan for our two lakes. We will be commencing the process with a survey of our membership and a discussion paper to obtain your views on a vision of the future of our lakes. Related to these two activities is the establishment of working relations with the various government agencies and the two municipalities adjacent to our lakes. While they are highly supportive of our efforts and are willing to work with us to achieve our mission, building and maintaining these relationships is imperative to ensure we have a voice in activities that will impact on our lakes.♦



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Wildlife: *Garter Snake*  
Photo Taken By: *Leanne Briscoe*

# The fishy maze game

Find the correct way from start to finish.



## The Lake Wordsearch

Z	U	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	B	S	J	S	B	U	B	D
Z	Q	B	D	D	V	O	R	K	U	H	G	U	E	Q	D	B	G
I	B	W	O	M	S	J	A	C	A	N	O	E	N	T	P	N	O
S	O	A	O	T	Z	O	D	I	A	C	W	M	I	N	S	R	B
L	A	T	A	B	T	F	L	A	G	E	L	V	P	W	Y	K	W
A	T	E	C	E	C	E	L	I	F	E	J	A	C	K	E	T	I
N	W	R	H	A	Y	J	R	Q	E	R	O	S	I	O	N	Y	K
D	A	S	B	V	K	D	F	G	T	H	K	W	N	E	S	T	R
B	V	K	J	E	C	O	N	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	O	N	R
F	E	I	L	R	M	R	P	Z	C	T	E	J	C	P	I	X	T
T	S	T	M	Y	L	Z	V	Q	T	T	U	R	T	L	E	W	S
K	B	L	U	E	J	A	Y	Z	B	A	S	S	W	A	N	L	C

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

BASS  
BEAVER  
BLUEJAY  
BOAT  
CANOE  
CONSERVATION  
EROSION

FLAG  
ISLAND  
JETSKI  
LIFEJACKET  
NEST  
OTTER  
SUNNY

SWAN  
SWIMMING  
TURTLE  
WATERSKI  
WAVES  
ZODIAC

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### Baseball Caps - \$20

Cotton twill hats with embroidered logo. Choose from three colours stone (shown), blue or grey.



### Ceramic Mugs - \$8 each or 4 for \$25

Retro granite design, large, white with navy blue DCLA logo, (15 ounces)



### Small Journals - \$6 each or two for \$10

3.5" x 5.5" suede, leatherette notebook, orange with one colour navy blue DCLA logo



### Bookmarks - 2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10

Full colour DCLA logo and photos of Dog and Cranberry Lakes

To order, please send an email to [merchandise@dogandcranberrylakes.ca](mailto:merchandise@dogandcranberrylakes.ca) with the product name, how many of each item and colour (for baseball caps)

Payments are accepted by e-transfer: [dogandcranberrylakes@gmail.com](mailto:dogandcranberrylakes@gmail.com) or by credit card via our website:

<https://www.dogandcranberrylakes.ca/payments/pay?id=2948328524>

***Thank you for joining and supporting the DCLA!***  
***We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on Sat. July 17<sup>th</sup>!***