



PRESIDENT'S REPORT - SPRING 2013

Warton Willie forecast an early spring on groundhog day February 2nd but up till now I'd say he was out in left field. Since his forecast we have had a real mixed bag of weather, some rain, lots of snow and some bone chilling temperatures. Great snowmobiling for the last three weeks but up until then conditions for our sleds were not great. Local snowmobile trails were closed and we had limited use of our snow machines; in fact we drove our vehicle into our place until well past mid January. With the fluctuating weather, ice conditions were and in some places are still unsafe for travel. On Healey Lake a couple of weekends ago two sleds went into the water below the Kapikog Lake dam and the people involved were extremely lucky to survive their ordeal. Aftermath pictured below.



This past weekend a snowmobiler lost his life by driving into open water on the Muskoka River near Lake of Bays. Snowmobiling is a great activity and a wonderful way to get around but I can not emphasize enough that these machines have to be handled with extreme care and respect for their power. Each year we see people taking unnecessary risks around the dam and using excessive speeds on the trails and lakes which may result in major injuries or possible loss of life. If you are a sledder, respect the machine's power, the weather conditions and be aware that there are others in the area who choose to walk, snowshoe or cross country ski to get about. We all use the same areas and on our snow covered roads and trails a speeding sled can create a nasty situation in a hurry.

The family day weekend has just passed, the weather was great, there was lots of activity on the lake and the staff of H&H were kept hopping. We witnessed cross country skiers, snowshoers, walkers and snowmobilers all weekend long. Some people chose to ice fish on both Kapikog and Little Kapikog Lakes and some of us even tried our skills at jug curling (see article). On a previous weekend there was helicopter activity around the lake originating from the Moyle cottage (see article) on a lovely clear Saturday afternoon.

Construction has been ongoing at a number of locations on the lake, with material being transported over the ice by snowmobile and various forms of toboggans. As well, an ice road has been constructed to one of the islands at the west end of the lake since some heavy material and equipment needed to be brought there for dock construction. All in all it has been a busy winter on and about the lake.

For the people that reside here year round their bird feeders have been frequented by the usual birds: chickadees, blue jays, red polls, nut hatches, hairy and downy wood peckers as well as the occasional mourning dove and pileated woodpecker. A flock of a dozen or so wild turkeys have also taken up residency around the lake and wander from feeding station to station (see pg.4 photo). It truly is amazing to see these big birds take off straight up from the ground to treetop level and then fly on to their next destination. A female red breasted woodpecker has also been around all winter. This bird's range has been expanding in recent years and this is the first winter that we have seen this species here. In the late fall we also saw cardinals which was unusual. Bald eagles are now regularly seen flying in the vicinity and are amazing to watch. The ever present raven is also a wonder to behold and hear. Its vocabulary is very broad and it is nice to see them.

The winter is pretty difficult for all animals and we frequently see red squirrels at the feeder. Occasionally we see a red fox although we hear them a lot and see their tracks in the snow, they tend to be shy of people. Wolves are heard on occasion but seldom seen. There has been

(Continued on page 2)

Remember these dates!

Put this on your calendar now and celebrate the 24th at the lake
Wine and Cheese Party...Sunday May 19th 2013...2:00pm

Annual General Meeting...Saturday August 17th 2013...10:00am

Inside Tracks

An Unusual Birthday Present.....Page 3
Kapikog Kurling Klub.....Page 4
Pirates on the Lake.....Page 6
and Another Winter Activity.....Page 7

(Continued from page 1)

little evidence of deer and moose this winter, although I suspect the Healey Lake deer yard is well populated.

But winter is drawing to a close, the days are getting longer and there is an increased warmth in the sun's rays. Our thoughts are moving towards the open water and summer season with its associated activities. Lisa Ferguson has kindly supplied us with an article on a fun activity with her kids. She also brings forward a disturbing message with regards to garbage left behind by users of the landscape around the lake. It is indeed disconcerting to see the lack of respect some people have for the land. We all see it along our roadways, scattered litter, junk left behind at camp sites an unacceptable state of affairs for most of us. How do we get to those inconsiderate individuals who leave their mess behind for someone to clean up, those individuals who throw litter out of their vehicles because they don't want to keep it for disposal at the next gas station or even their own home? They are inconsiderate of others, have no respect for the landscape and are poor stewards of our precious planet that we all share! If you encounter such a situation take note and do not hesitate to report this abuse to authorities.

Your association will be starting the year off as usual with our annual wine and cheese at H&H on Sunday of the May long weekend from two till four in the afternoon. We hope that you will participate! It is an excellent opportunity to mix with neighbours, share stories and meet your executive. Annual dues for 2013 can be paid and we will also have a limited number of Kapikog books and maps available for sale. Hopefully, the upcoming season will bring good weather and memorable days for all of you. We all treasure this lovely area and we are the stewards of it, for ourselves and future cottagers. We are entrusted to pass this landscape on to future generations so we have to ensure that we look after the environs properly. Respect the landscape, don't abuse it. This without saying also includes the lake itself.

The lake is why we are here ! It provides us with countless opportunities for all sorts of recreation as well as water for domestic consumption. Extreme caution should be used when filling fuel tanks for our vessels, gasoline/oil spills are easily prevented. Don't use the lake as your personal bath tub! Use your showers and tubs to lather up and rinse before you hit the lake for that enjoyable swim. This allows for proper treatment of the waste water through your septic system. Also, remember that you are not alone on the water, look out for others who may be out there with you. I remind people of the 30 meter shoreline boat speed limit of 10km/hr all along our shoreline unless heading straight out from shore onto the open lake. This regulation is in place to protect the lake's shoreline and structures along the shore as well as moored boats from damage that can be caused by the wake created by vessels. It also allows for a relatively safe swimming area as most swimmers stay within such a zone. If however, you are adventurous and like to swim out in the open lake it is wise to be accompanied by a companion in a

boat in case of an emergency. At the very least you should be towing a highly visible marker or dinghy so that you will be visible to boaters.

Fire, as always, is a threat and as you are aware there is no fire department in this municipality. We have to rely on each other in case of such an emergency. First off, make sure that you have working smoke alarms in your buildings that give you a heads up if such an unfortunate incident starts. Secondly, be aware of where the fire pumps are located around the lake in case you need them and know how to use them. Again I challenge you to get together with a couple of your neighbours, get a pump out and set it up and run it. See how much time it takes and be familiar with all aspects of its operation. Then return it to the proper storage area immediately after you use it. All we ask is that you restore the articles as you found them and replace the fuel that you used with fresh unmixed gasoline. If there is an issue with any of the equipment let us know. Last summer was extremely dry and the threat of forest fire was extreme. If we encounter such a situation again this year I would ask that you not use the pumps for training at that time. They may be required for the real thing! Also in case of a forest fire MNR should be contacted immediately at 1-705-457-2107.

In closing I would like to dedicate this newsletter to Tony Klein who was a dear friend to all Kapikog Lake cottagers. Tony passed away late this past fall. He, along with his wife Ruth, son Leo, daughter Dianne and son in law Andy have been on the lake many years as operators and owners of H&H Resort. We have all shared many experiences with the family and Tony was the elder. Unfortunately his last few years were not spent in good health. Tony was a dedicated, hard working, loving man. He adored his two grandchildren Dylan and Tristan. He was devoted to Ruth, the love of his life! Tony always had a smile and a kind word for us, his sense of humour was just great All of us share his loss with the family and extend our deepest condolences on behalf of all of the Kapikog Lake Community.

Gerry Haarmeyer Association President
705-375-5618 gjsoutdoors@surenet.net

Something you need that a neighbour may be about to throw out...or something with a still useful life that you are about to toss?



Ads are free for residents
on the Trading Post page of **YOUR** website. Just use the email link on the corner of the page; we will format and post your ad promptly.

Just Dropping In . . . on the Moyles

On Saturday February 9th, we had some surprise guests arrive at our son Kieran's seventh birthday party, held at the cottage. They arrived in a very interesting style, via helicopter, landing just beyond our dock!



Our friend, Pierre, and three co-pilots had flown in from Midland arriving in approximately half an hour. What a great way to beat the traffic!

What a great day, just not sure how we can top it for next year.



The pilot was gracious enough to take everyone who wanted to go up for a quick ride and, as you can see, we certainly got a different perspective of our lake.

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For Your Information

Hydro One was in on Tuesday February 26th to change hydro meters at a number of properties on Kapikog Lake. A large tracked vehicle was used to access properties over our snow covered road system. It may be prudent to check your meter when you return to the lake in the spring and compare readings with recent or comparable bills.

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Gerry Haarmeyer tells us that sometime on New Year's day, his son Robert said what a great idea it would be to create a skating rink on the ice of the lake so that when he and his family came down during the winter there would be a place to do some natural ice skating. Great thought! He and son Thomas started to clear an area on the lake for this endeavour, just a small area 75 by 30 feet. Once the area was cleared it of course needed to be flooded, so out came the

hole for a bucket and thus our labours began. An actual bucket brigade of two was set up to distribute the water over the cleared surface one pail at a time. Seventy or so pails later we stood back and admired our endeavours and were quite pleased with ourselves. It was cold and the thin skin of deposited water quickly froze. It look amazing and promising for skating and perhaps a jug curling sheet for a possible jug curling spiel later in the winter with neighbours on the lake,. You know, build it and they will come!



ice auger and our fire pump. It was a cold blustery day, the appropriate hole was drilled, the intake hose installed on the pump, the hose hooked up and the pump primed. Time to start the pump, it wouldn't fire, pulled the spark plug tried some more but no no avail, thus to plan B. Disconnected the pump, rolled up the hose and pulled the primer hose and brought them into the basement to thaw out. Back to the power auger with which I enlarged the

And, come it did, snow that is! Being in the lee of Georgian Bay from time to time we get fairly major snowfalls which is great if you don't have to move it. Did I mention that our son and grandson left on the 2nd. of January. Thus my wife Anke and I became the labour pool by default , kids and grandkids don't you love them! Thus during the following two weeks it was shovel and flood shovel and flood, with the one break due to rain. The rink looked great from time to time, but no skating occurred! Reflectors and red lights were mounted on the ever increasing heights of the snowbanks to warn snowmobilers of the change in the surface pattern of the



Chief Icemaker

lake with this mound of snow. Three weeks later Robert, Melanie and Thomas reappeared ready to skate and do their thing on the waiting rink. Hurray the rink was going to get used!

(Continued on page 5)

Kids Fun Day
Ages 3 - 11
Saturday June 29th

Please call Susan Harsant
 to pre-register
 (705) 375-2809 or (905) 264-3688
 or Email: sharsant@rogers.com

Weather Forecast: Sunny, warm and peaceful



Chris Hughes

Hi Neighbour! Nice of you to invite me to lunch.

(Continued from page 4)

The weather on the other hand had a different idea. The temperature rose, and it rained buckets. It deposited more water in that one day than what we had placed on the rink in two weeks. This of course melted the existing snow and created a cold water pool on the ice, good for adventurous ducks only. As the weekend progressed the rain switched to a heavy wet snow and the whole area became a quagmire of slush. Trying to clear this twenty two hundred square foot non flavoured slushy proved to be a bit much. So, the rink was abandoned! But, nature being nature the winter conditions disappeared once again and the snow all but disappeared under the deluge of rain, the temperature rose to +10°, thunder was even heard. Then a flash freeze and voilà we had an excellent skating rink.

Opportunities abounded and Thomas and his Aunt Pauline and the two dogs Casey and Sandie had a blast for three days. Thomas is just learning to skate and he enjoyed every moment with his Aunt who is an excellent skater. He had a great tutor. Skating under the stars at -18°, daytime sliding and skating sessions were all embraced on the ice with laughter, giggles, screams and falls. All too soon these memory making days were at an end Aunt Pauline had to return to work and Thomas had to go home.

Shortly after their departure the snows returned with a vengeance and it kept coming. Now, snow can weigh anywhere from 7 to 20 pounds per cubic foot depending on the water content of the falling snow, and more than a foot (30cm) fell on the rink and lake. With an area of 787 acres or 34 million square feet the resultant added weight on the lake's surface amounted to between 240 and 680 million pounds or a few hundred thousand tons! A whole lot in either case! This added weight on the ice surface forces water out from under the ice through cracks and seeps onto it creating slush under the snow surface. So our rink was now covered with some 8 to 30 tons of the stuff. What to do? Never ones to give up, Anke and I brought out our fire pump and hose. The equipment was set up and started and we literally blew away this snow/slush so that only water remained on the original ice surface.

What we needed now was cold weather to tighten everything up again...well, that didn't happen. We got more snow instead and another slush layer formed which of course had to be removed. Rather than bringing out the fire pump and associated equipment I turned to a snow scoop and pushed and grunted for a couple of hours to get rid of the slush/snow/ice on the rink surface. On completion of this task I took stock of what we had: A twenty two hundred square foot pool of two inch deep water on the ice surface just waiting to freeze solid. Absolutely fantastic, family Day Weekend was only a few days away and things should be just fine for skating. But, we got more wet snow and warm weather and more slush/ice. What a dilemma !



Then on the eve of the family day weekend the temperature dropped to -18° and things started to tighten up on the rink. Saturday morning there was a new ice surface over the rink area but it was not frozen down to the old ice yet so no skating. The forecast was for a cold sunny day so hopefully it would continue to make ice. Make ice it did; over saturday night the temperature dropped to -26° and everything froze tight on the rink surface area. So, Sunday morning a quick scrape of a light snow dusting, a bucket brigade flood and by 10am we were almost set to go. Quickly manufactured a large compass to etch a curling house on the ice, Anke mixed some food colouring and water then we proceeded to paint the rings on the ice, brought the jugs down to the rink and got ready for a fun spiel with our neighbours. Kapikog's first (annual) jug spiel was about to happen.



Carol Dickie and Rainer Cuma
Winners of the first Annual Kapikog Jugspiel

Although uptake was slow I am convinced that on a future weekend perhaps during the March break an actual friendly spiel will be held. The word has also spread among the kids that there is an ice surface available for skating and they will be bringing their skates next time they are up.

The venue has been built and, like in the movie "The field of Dreams", we hope that participants will come if given the right weather conditions.

Pirates Discover Unexpected Treasure on Kapikog Shore

Lisa Ferguson

Having children at the cottage for a long stretch of time sometimes requires more involved activity planning than just weekend staples of swimming, fishing and bon-fires. We recently established a new tradition to add excitement to our family's stay on Kapikog by selecting one special day in the summer to embark on a pirate adventure.

Now 7 and 5 respectively, Katie and Ty have been giving their best "Argghs" and "YoHoHos" for three years. Last summer was no exception. Breaking out the costume box, the kids select their eye patches, hats, bandanas, and of course, swords and hooks. After a few battles are fought and someone lays claim to be captain, the supplies are loaded onto the ship and we prepare to embark on our journey.



Once aboard, the skull and cross bones flag gets hoisted and off the pirates go for their journey to Treasure Island. (aka a peninsula at the west end of the lake). Of course no pirate ship is complete without its bounty. Each year, our little swashbucklers select something new to be added to the golden chest we have buried on the land we set sail to find. Coins from other countries, letters and special trinkets can all be found in that chest. Each year, they dig it up, add a new treasure and then find a worthy hiding place until the next summer.



This past August we secured our ship on the south side of the peninsula. With snacks and swords in hand, we made our way through the forest to the familiar spot where we plan our pirate picnic every summer. As we came through the woods to the edge of the clearing, we all stopped in silence.

This was not the treasure we had hoped to find. "What happened Mom?", my first pirate asked. "Ewwwww!!",



cried our little captain in disgust. What we had discovered was a great teaching moment for our children. It was a chance to explain the importance of respecting the land and preserving the beauty of nature for others. Thoughtless campers had soiled our magical place, leaving piles of garbage strewn across the land. From leftover food and cases of beer to broken furniture and bottles, it was a sad and disappointing sight to see.

Undaunted, our pirate adventures will go on. There will be more treasure buried with others to be discovered, more battles to be fought and songs to be sung. My only regret is that their Popi Charlie won't be there on the dock waiting for his little pirates to return home any longer.

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The Winter Ice Road



A new road was built on Kapikog Lake this winter to facilitate the transport of materials to a construction site on Berndt's Island. Ice roads are not uncommon in Canada's north where they may be the only road access to remote communities or resource extraction sites. These roads are of short duration and allow for the transport and delivery of equipment and supplies. When operational they are used to their fullest potential because of their limited life span. Nature controls how long these roads last, if in fact they can be established at all.

Such a road on Kapikog lake is a rarity but we have had others. Ice on the lake is ploughed bare to allow the cold to penetrate the ice to increase thickness and thus



strength and the weight it can support. The process can be accelerated by drilling holes through the ice and allowing water to flow over the surface and permitting it to freeze. This however, is only done when the weather is extremely cold, otherwise the road would be a slushy mess. These types of roads are generally marked with tree boughs on the banks along the side of the road.

This road was used to haul in construction material and equipment. We saw snowploughs, trucks, snow machines and a tractor on the road at one time or another. But like any other roadway used by vehicles, sometimes we see mechanical breakdowns and on the morning of February 27th a snow machine was hauled (towed) off the ice road by a pick up truck.



Shortly the construction will be completed and the weather will warm up and the road will disappear. But for a brief period of time, like the ice roads in the arctic, the Kapikog ice road served as an important transportation route.




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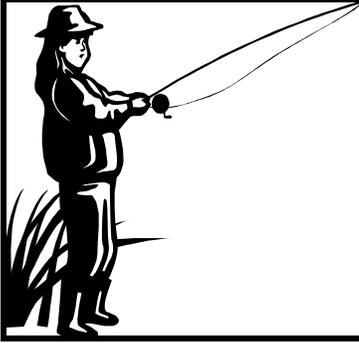
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Fishing Calendar - Kapikog Lake 2013

Bass, Large and Smallmouth	June 22 to November 30
Northern Pike	January 1 to March 31 & May 18 to December 31
Yellow Perch	All year
Crappie	All year
Sunfish	All year

For catch limits and other species in Zone 15 consult the 2013 Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary

Note: The angler is responsible for knowing the law. Consult the regulations before venturing out on the water to try your luck. Available printed from MNR or at www.ontario.ca/fishing.



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Hi, Everyone:

Our new Spring catalogue is going to press very shortly for the Cottage Life Show at the International Center in Toronto, Ontario. If you are considering selling your cottage, island or waterfront property, I want to hear from you.

The Cottage Life Show, April 5 – 7, 2013, is a great way to promote your property to thousands of potential Buyers.

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Please give me a call, I love to talk about Real Estate and we are always here to help.

Regards,
Gary R. Jennings
Broker