



PRESIDENT'S REPORT - SPRING 2014

Well, how is your winter going so far, now that we are nearing the end of it? It has been like living in a snow globe up here at Kapikog; the ground is blanketed by a meter of compressed snow. Compressed because we have had over four meters of the white stuff fall out of the sky. Maybe fall is the wrong word to use, it was more like driven and forced to the ground by strong winds. Trees were literally plastered with snow from whichever direction the wind blew. It didn't matter, snow came from all directions this winter, a plasterer would be proud to have seen this handy work applied so evenly to the trees by the winds. The lake froze shut near the end of November and the snows arrived shortly thereafter, creating unsafe travel conditions on the lake which really didn't change until new year's and even then large pockets of slush remained under the snow, as many snowmobilers can attest to.

The deep snow caused some cottagers concern over the snow load on their roofs and a number of contractors have been busy all around the region alleviating some of their fears by shovelling roofs. The municipal road crew too has been kept busy removing snow off the roadways and winging it back on a few occasions to allow for easier removal of any new snow that may fall. Prior to the the winging back of the snow banks the road system looked like a bobsled run with high steep banks, it was quite a sight. The parking lot at the landing has seen a considerable decrease in useable parking space due to the huge amounts of stockpiled snow. The intersection of Kapikog North and Kapikog Road has also been cleared back making this hidden intersection much safer and allowing for



some parking space for individuals who use Little Kapikog for ice fishing. The road crews have done an excellent job in my opinion to ensure that we have roadways safe for travel and are to be complemented. The Municipal crews also keep the Healey Lake Transfer Station clear for access. It has been transformed into what looks like an isolated snow laden village, with deep snows sitting on the roofs of the various containers, quite impressive!

Due to the great amount of snow and slush no attempt was made to construct a curling sheet on the ice this winter. Therefore, the Kapikog Kurling Klub was placed in limbo for this year and hopefully conditions will be better next year so that once more the cries of HURRY, HURRY HARD will be heard over the laughter of the competitors. However, there was another winter sport venue created on the lake by Terry Trueman at his property. He spent many hours constructing a toboggan run with steep walls



like the Olympic luge and bobsled runs for a thrilling fast run down the hill. The venue was well used on the Family Day Weekend. The lake was busy with people skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling as well as ice fishermen, all enjoying magnificent winter weather, cold, clear blue skies and no wind. The municipal parking lot and the H&H lot were jam packed all weekend long. The Family Day weekend allowed a fishing licence-free weekend for those who wanted to try ice fishing.

This summer in July there will be complete week of licence-free fishing available see ontariofamilyfishing.com for information. This weekend also saw the OFSC snowmobile trails opened free of charge to

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Remember these dates!

Next year get a headstart on summer at the
Wine and Cheese Party...Sunday May 18th 2014...2:00pm

Annual General Meeting...Saturday August 16th 2014...10:00am

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those who applied for a free permit on line. As in past winters we saw kick sleds on the lake but this winter we saw a new vehicle, a hovercraft. One of these locally built machines was seen on several occasions flying down the lake just hovering over the surface. It was quite a sight. The Mercer Report will air a segment on these machines on CBC on Feb 25th and 28th. You may have to wait for reruns. Rick operated one of these machines on Georgian Bay in the Parry Sound area have a look.

On the few days that we didn't have snow we saw clear beautiful skies but with bitterly cold temperatures. There were a couple of mornings that registered -38°C on our thermometer. BRRRRR! Thank goodness we have a good warm wood burning stove to keep inside temperatures pleasant. Yet neither the snow nor the cold prevented us from venturing outside to enjoy the wonderful landscape. Each time I go out, I marvel at the wild creatures that live in this harsh climate. So far this winter we have seen deer, red fox, fisher, mink, weasel, red and grey squirrels, and chipmunks as well as variety of birds from small chickadees to large wild turkeys, all trying to survive a winter of deep snow and cold temperatures. Winter is harsh for these creatures. Some will starve, others will become prey to predators, yet each individual population will make it through the winter to bring new offspring into the world in the spring.

In my wanderings through the forest around the lake I have observed a disturbing change in the way people find their way through the forests. Others have also brought this change to my attention and expressed concerns. It is accepted that many enjoy the modern mechanized modes of travel, ATVs in the summer and snow machines in the winter, and that is great! However, it appears that some individuals are marking trails with bright orange paint to find their way about, rather than just leaving their tracks behind. These markings are an eyesore and an affront to the natural landscape that we all share and own, either as Crown land or Municipal allowances. The municipality has a policy on the erection of signs (any kind) on the allowances, and unpatented land surrounding Kapikog Lake falls within that policy. Marking a trail on Crown land implies a form of tenure and is illegal

under the Public Lands Act. With modern GPS technology there is no excuse to mark up the natural landscape with paint to facilitate travel. Tree marking with paint is a management tool used by MNR and forestry companies when selecting individual trees for harvest or marking off a set area for timber harvesting, people should not be marking up the forest with paint just so that they can find their way about.

Now it is the spring that we look forward to, even though Wiarton Willie predicted another six weeks of winter which we are well into! We see it in the lengthening of the days, the height of the sun in the southern skies and the activities of the birds around our feeder. We know there will be an end to this "old fashioned winter" and it will be filed in our memory banks that we can turn to in the future and say "Remember when?". Terms like arctic vortex, Alberta clipper, Colorado lows, blizzards and lake effect snow will be part of that bank and hopefully remain there as the seasons change. Spring is the beginning of a new cottaging season and we wonder what it will bring. Will we have to deal with washed out roads, snow damage to our structures or just with regular spring maintenance issues as we open up for another year at the cottage? We will have to wait and see. I am sure that most of you will be faced with one challenge or another as you open up. In any case welcome back to Kapikog Lake I hope you will have a wonderful season!

As the 2014 cottage season approaches I would like to remind members that annual dues of \$40.00 are now due. Past or overdue payments for 2013 can also still be paid. We operate on a very tight budget and every membership that is not paid up affects our ability to serve all of us. Payment can be made by mailing a cheque to Kapikog Lake Cottagers Association, Box 167, MacTier, Ontario PoC 1Ho or in person at our spring kick-off wine and cheese at H&H Resort on Sunday May 18 2014 between 2:00 and 4:00pm. We look forward to welcoming you back to the lake for another great season at that time and also to welcome Linda and Roy Wise and family as new residents on the lake. As you can see we have a number of sponsors to our newsletter, we hope that you consider using their services or frequent their facilities for some of your necessities. We appreciate their support.

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Kapikog Trails and Trail Markings

Dave Underhill

Cottage life on and around Kapikog Lake is far more than just great water views and boating. For many of us the pleasure also lies in the Crown Land that surrounds the lake and our cottages. Perhaps it's something we just don't think about but until we get a European or American visitor who asks us who owns the unoccupied land around the lake. We usually simply reply "Why it's Crown Land". The question then follows "What on earth is that?" and is perhaps followed with "When will it be developed". By the time we fully explain what we mean by Crown Land and further explaining that it can't be developed and belongs to us all, we start to realise through the eyes of our visitors that this is a somewhat unique concept and we should cherish this gift we share.

Like many cottagers who share our wonderful Lake and surrounding Crown Land, I value and enjoy travelling in the bush as well as on the lake. As an islander I am fortunate to have all the crown land that surrounds the lake to choose where to hike. Not being able to walk out and into the bush from my back door means I can and do head off on many different trails. As someone who loves to go on long distance hikes these wonderful trails over the crown land are a great place to develop skills and fitness and to see and enjoy nature's treasures. I have frequently flushed a deer, usually when

I am not paying attention, and my heart pumps as they explode in front of me, or stumbled over a bear as she is sleeping curled up with her cubs on the sunny side of a log I was about to step over. There are also those secret places you find in your ramblings that I love to return to: The two trees south west of Jupiter Lake where a wind-blown branch fallen from one tree got trapped horizontally between the two trunks and has become a living part of both trees; so that these two trees are now one.

Ten years ago these trails were for the most part game paths, hunting trails and portage routes that meandered through the bush. But of late, with the development of snow machines and ATV's, many of these old trails and newer ones have become enlarged and far more obvious in the bush. I have noticed that the (other) large mammals seem to enjoy using these "super highways" through the bush too where, if you look carefully, you will see deer, bear and the occasional moose track. However what I am not in favour of is the increased frequency of trails marked with red tape or, even worse, fluorescent spray paint. Surely this is like spraying graffiti on an artwork! It is totally unnecessary and I believe we should remove the red ribbon from the trails and indeed use a neutral paint to cover the graffiti. (See the President's Report...Ed)






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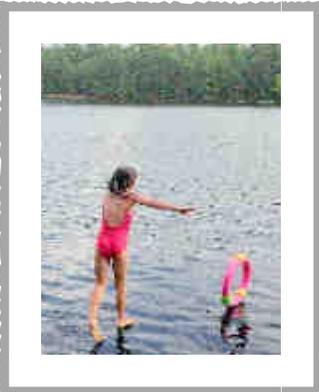
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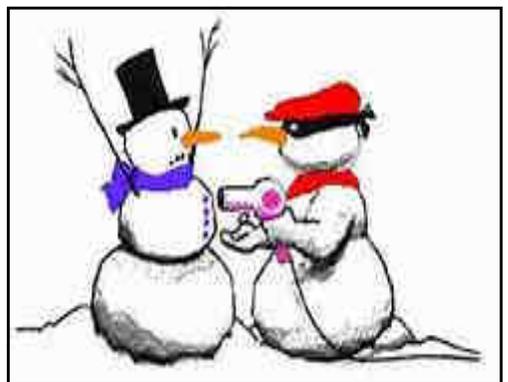
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Protecting Your Environment



"Awesome....summer ...cottage...lake...kids. What a great combination! And, did we mention walking on water? Kids think they can do anything without help ." say Al and Anna Mae Moore as granddaughter Lauren Bruce demonstrates.

While looking out at a winter that doesn't seem to want to depart, we thought you would be entertained by this photo and its comment which missed our Autumn issue.





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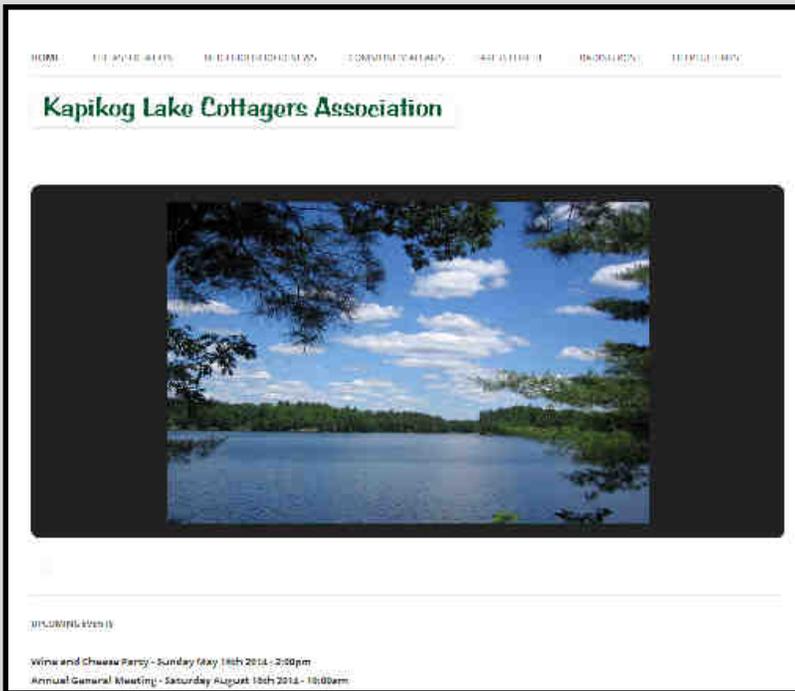
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The team of Lesley Browne and Shawn Benjamin has developed a fresh new format, both more interesting and useful for you. They would appreciate your comments, suggestions and participation in keeping the site active and timely.

Do check it out...Same address as usual (www.kapikoglake.com for those who may not have visited yet) ...Improved navigation...New, more functional Trading Post which provides for item pictures...A gallery for your photographs...Lots of other information and links to make your life at The Lake more interesting.

Use the convenient email links on the site for contact and prompt response.

Sundog Over Kapikog

Gerry H

On one of the coldest days of the year in the calm skies over Kapikog Lake a marvellous sundog halo was visible to those who ventured out. Even though it was cold, there was no wind and it was a great day to be outdoors especially considering all the dark sombre snowy days we have had this winter. The sundog made the day that much more special.

Sundogs are a natural phenomenon that occurs in the atmosphere and may appear as a coloured patch on both sides of the sun or as a complete halo around the sun. The sun's rays passing through the ice crystals are refracted to an

angle of 22° or greater creating the sundogs on either side of the sun or as complete halo in the spectral colours. The latter was the case on January 22nd this year

and produced the pictured halo, interestingly, with an aircraft's contrail in the foreground. Refracted light from ice crystals in high or cold cirrus clouds or in very cold



weather and when the sun is not high cause sun dogs. They are red on the side nearest the sun, like rainbows because red light is refracted less, and vary further out through oranges to blue in colour and finally at its outer edge to white. The colours are never distinct and they overlap making all the colours muted. These sun dogs can appear during any time of the year. So keep your eye on the daytime sky when you are out and about and perhaps

you too will see this natural phenomenon! But be careful, you should never look directly at the sun by eye or through a camera view finder (digital displays are safe).

Meet Your Neighbours - *Vulpes vulpes*

The red fox, a fur bearing predatory mammal, has been a common sight around Kapikog Lake this winter. Now that they are in their breeding season they are quite vocal and leave their telltale scent scattered throughout the bush. The males (dogs) are territorial at this time of year and will defend the territory in which he has found a female (vixen) from encroachment of other males. The young (kits) are born approximately 52 days after breeding. The dog stays with the vixen to rear the kits (average litter has 6 kits) until autumn when the family disperses.

Red foxes are 60-90cm long (excluding the tail) and weigh from 2 to 7 kilograms. They have reddish fur with a white throat and chest and a white tip on the tail, the belly is usually greyish-white. In spring and summer vixens may appear to have scruffy coats while nursing the kits. She pulls out her own fur to make a nest for her litter. Foxes have keen senses of smell and hearing as well as excellent eyesight, features that it must have to allow for its survival. A typical home range for a pair can vary from 3 to 8 square kilometres.

A red fox is an omnivore; it eats both plant and animal

matter. They however prefer animal matter such as small rodents, frogs, insects, birds and snakes. Their preferred plant foods includes acorns, grasses and berries.

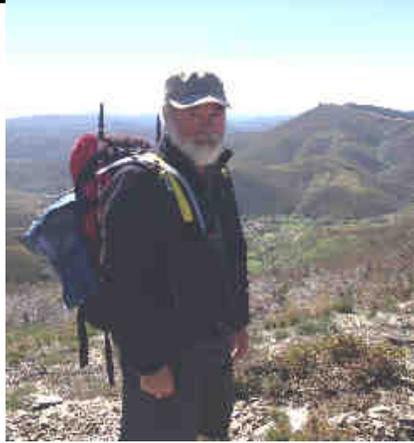
Foxes are predators but they can also be prey to such creatures as wolves, coyotes, hawks, owls, dogs and of course man. They can also be carriers of three common wildlife diseases: rabies, distemper and mange. Animals with these diseases can exhibit symptoms such as staggering, disorientation, paralysis of hind limbs and loss of fear of humans. Rabies and distemper are viral diseases so it is important that if you bring pets to the area that they be immunized for their protection. Mange is caused by mites and is the most common disease of foxes which can cause significant mortality within their populations. It can be transmitted to humans and pets so it is prudent to give foxes their space, symptoms of the disease includes an itching red rash.



Source Red Fox Ecology OMNR

From Kapikog to the Camino

David Underhill Ematee Island

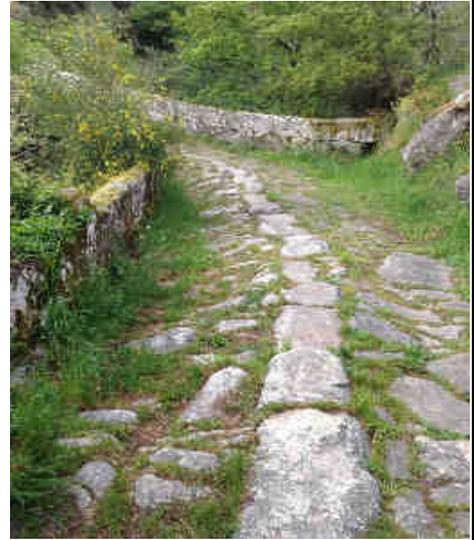


I am a walker, hiker and pilgrim. Each year I can be found walking the roads and trails around Kapikog Lake usually with a red pack on my back and two hiking poles.

In the fall and also possibly in the spring I leave and go to South West France or Southern Spain and walk one of the ancient pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compestella in the north west. These routes are 800 to 1100km and the journey is known as El Camino de Santiago - "The Way".

The Camino routes have simple hostels for a night's sleep. All you need is a sleeping bag, a couple of changes of clothes and a little food. My partner Marilyn joined me for the first two Caminos but I am drawn to keep walking. I recommend it to you.

If you are interested in knowing more, come over to Ematee Island Lot 14 for a chat. There is also a possibility of a slide presentation at some time this summer, perhaps over a glass or two of Spanish wine...Check Current Events on the website.



Vivienne's Adventures

.....Who'll blink first?

What have we here?.....



Chris Hughes

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Enjoying the Winter

Gerry Haarmeyer

These clear cold days and nights are also a magical time of year. They afford an endless opportunity to enjoy our Canadian winters. During the day when our grandson is here we take full advantage of the elements. He loves to walk and enjoys playing with the dogs in the snow, we hike the trails we have set in the bush and sometimes wander out onto the lake. Giggling and laughter are the order of the day when the dogs Casey (our daughter's dog) and Sandie play with Thomas, they cavort in the deep snows, on the trails and slide down whatever hill they may be standing on top of. No thought as to the cold and no desire to come in. But when we do come indoors the aroma of Oma's (grandma's) fresh home made soup and hot chocolate often await us and it is then time to sit down and enjoy!



enchanted when the skies are clear. The milky way over head blows your mind . It is so brilliant and sparkling and fully envelops you when there is no noise of any kind. It is simply awesome! There is enough light from the stars and planets overhead to create shadows and this is amplified when there is a moon out. Thomas our grandson just loves these cast "moon shadows" and often describes the patterns on the ground. There is no need for a flash light, nature provides all the light that is needed. We do carry lights however just in case a snowmobiler may be on the trays so that we can make ourselves visible.

Often times we go back out on the trails after dark to hike through the bush once more. This is especially



As I stated earlier this is a magical time of year especially for me as a grandfather (Opa), when I can see the natural winter wonders of the area through my grandson's eyes and share the experience with him. It brings me back to a time when our daughter and son were young children and loved the outdoors , a love that continues today. To see this love continued in Thomas is very special and satisfying to me. I hope that sometime in the future that he can reflect on his time in the bush chasing dogs and moon shadows with me and have it bring a smile to his face!

A Neighbourly Request

One of the island cottagers Don Brenner and his wife Kim want to have their septic tank pumped this spring and are looking for other islanders who may want to do the same and to then approach a company that has barging and septic tank pumping capabilities as a group rather than as individuals. As you may be aware, cottaging on an island is far different from being on the mainland with road access, and having your septic tank pumped is just one of them.

So if you are on an island and are considering on having your septic tank pumped this year contact Don or Kim at kinetic_don@bellnet.ca .

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Wildlife Management
What to do if You Find a Sick, Injured or Orphaned Wild Animal

If you see what you think may be sick, injured or orphaned wildlife, don't remove it from its natural habitat. The bird or animal may not need assistance and you could actually do more harm attempting to help.

Where an animal is in need of help, it requires specialized care to recover and return to the wild. You cannot keep wildlife in captivity without approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources in the Southern Region, however, a person may possess a wild animal for up to 24 hours to transport it to a wildlife rehabilitator or veterinarian.

Determining if Wildlife is Orphaned

Some species leave their offspring alone temporarily, especially during the day. For example, deer and cottontail rabbits spend much of the day away from their well-camouflaged offspring to minimize the chance of predators finding them.

To determine if young wildlife is truly orphaned, check the animal periodically for 24 to 48 hours to see if it is still around. Keep your distance. Keep cats and dogs away from the area inhabited by the young animal. The adult may not return if it is noisy or if predators or people are close by.

Figuring out what to do

Contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources office for help in assessing the situation and on what action you should take.

- visit ontario.ca/mnr/offices to contact your local district office
- call 1-800-667-1940 - Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- [view a list of wildlife rehabilitators](#) who have agreed to have their contact information included on the ministry's website.

If you must handle the animal, take care to minimize the risk of injury to yourself and to the animal. Wear protective clothing and equipment, such as leather gloves, to avoid bites or scratches and wash your hands well after handling the animal.

Signs of injury or illness

- Blood, wounds or swelling on the body
- Body covered in fleas
- Unusual or uneven loss of fur or feathers
- Moose with substantial hair loss or with visible [winter ticks](#)
- Difficult or raspy breathing or sneezing
- A dangling leg or wing
- Closed eyes and head tucked under wing

See the new website's Useful Links page for a direct link to this and much more interesting information.

President's Report (Continued from page 2)

Over the winter three very talented individuals reworked our Kapikog Lake Cottagers Association Website and did a magnificent job. As you can see in the article about the new site we are excited about rolling it out. Our gratitude and thanks go to Lesley Brown, Shawn Benjamin and Bud Hooper! Please feel free to access it and use it to its utmost potential. It is after all your site.

Opening up your place for the season has many challenges not the least of which is reviewing all safety procedures that you may have in place for things like fire evacuation plans and drills, safe boating and swimming procedures, which plants and animals to avoid when travelling about the woods just to name a few. Also please be cognizant of your neighbours with regards to things such as boat wakes, noise and smoke among others. We share this lovely piece of geography and we would all like to enjoy it to its utmost so please consider others in all your activities.

Gerry Haarmeyer
 Association President
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