

KENNEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION

WINTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012

McIntosh Perry Update

by Terry Kennedy

The McIntosh Perry subdivision planned for the former Baker property has now received draft approval from both the Township and the County. This means that work would usually be expected to begin with items such as laying out the road and the setting out of lots. The granting of final approval is subject to the developer meeting an additional series of conditions, such as the access road construction, installation of basic services and establishment of requirements for septic systems. Two other rather interesting items are the creation of a "landowner stewardship manual" for buyers and the donation of a substantial open area to the Township to be designated as parkland.

There has been an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board launched by an individual regarding the Township and County approval decisions, and this will in all likelihood result in the developer taking more time before commencing work. The KLA, while not a participant in the appeal, will monitor the process and keep people informed.

Property Maintenance Bylaw

As reported at the AGM, the KLA executive, along with other groups in the community, has been working toward having Central Frontenac develop and adopt a bylaw that would begin to address the large number of properties throughout the Township that are in a state of disrepair, neglect or dereliction. The problem has been that the existing bylaw, restricted in scope to those properties that are deemed unsafe, cannot be applied to others that might be "eyesores" but not necessarily dangerous.

The KLA input has suggested that Council adopt a bylaw that allows it to address properties that meet one or more of the following criteria: represent a threat to the environment; are a danger in terms of fire or accident; or impact other people's well-being, economically or personally.

The issue is contentious, and Council is still reluctant to move into an area that is difficult to manage, whether because it can be somewhat subjective or because of a concern for potential negative impacts on those with limited resources.

We will continue to try to work with Council to find solutions that are both fair and in the best interests of our members.

— T.K.

2014 Kennebec Lake Calendars

Thanks to all who purchased 2013 calendars. Once again, they were very popular, and we had to do a reprint to fulfill additional orders. KLA will be producing a 2014 calendar. We invite you to submit your best seasonal photographs, in accordance with the lake's values. Photos need to be of a quality that can be printed 8x10. Send them by May 31, 2013, to webmaster@kennebeclake.ca.

by Noreen Dertinger

Second Annual KLA Winter Fun Day

Saturday, February 16, 11 am to 3 pm
"Rain" date – Sunday, February 17



Join us on the Family Day long weekend for an afternoon of outdoor activities on the lake near the Henderson Road boat launch.

Warm up by the fire, and socialize with a bowl of hot chili and a beverage after a winter skate, snowshoe or game of "pitch or toss."

Lake Stewardship Plan

The adopted Lake Stewardship Plan is now available on the KLA website at www.kennebeclake.ca.

It is hoped that the plan will promote interest within the community and local government to "do the right things" to protect the values held for the lake and watershed: *Water Quality and Air Quality, Peace and Tranquility, Nature and Wildlife* protection and maintenance of our lakeside *Lifestyle*.

Copies of the plan will also be produced and sent to all KLA members with the spring newsletter. The document is concise and user-friendly to encourage understanding and support at all levels.

by John DuChene

Water Levels Fall 2011 to Fall 2012

Thanks to **Guenter Nitsche**, we again have a record of how the water level of Kennebec Lake changes through the seasons. The gauge, courtesy of Quinte Conservation several years ago, is installed just before the lake's water starts moving into the Salmon River and thence downhill all the way to the Bay of Quinte.

As expected, over the past year, there was a considerable difference — 1.35 metres — between the highest level recorded on March 20 to the lowest level recorded on September 2. It is interesting to compare levels from year to year. The low this year was about 10 centimetres lower than in the summer of 2011, but the overall change last year was very similar: 1.36 metres.

by Aileen Merriam

Special Reminder

The Arden Legion is still operating a small store and has greatly expanded its selection to include milk, eggs, butter, ice cream, canned goods, cleaning supplies, some vegetables, paper products, chips, pop, candy, baking supplies and other condiments.

Drop in during Legion hours — open from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily; closed Mondays.

The more we use it, the longer it will be here.

A Word from the Webmaster

by Noreen Dertinger

Although we are heading into the winter season, the Kennebec Lake website is active all year-round. If you have local events (within about 100 km) or stories you would like to see posted on the web, please email them to webmaster@kennebeclake.ca for consideration.

Recreation Clubs and Activities

Kennebec Community Centre

Arden Seniors Happy Gang: 1st Tuesday each month, 11 a.m. Jack Patterson, 335-3469

Euchre: Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Nicolsons, 335-2845, or Ronda Noble, 335-4517

Glee Club: (beginning in April) Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Helen Praskey, 335-2486

Line Dancing: Monday, 9:30 a.m.

Diane Nicolson, 335-2845, or Wanda Harrison 335-3186

Fit 'n Fun: Tuesday, 9 a.m. (April 9 to June 25).

Gloria Smiley, 335-2188

Tai Chi: Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Helen Praskey, 335-2486

TOPS: Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Sharbot Lake High School

Volleyball: Monday, 7 p.m. Rick Greenstreet, 279-1962.

KLA Executive 2012-2013

Co-Chairs: John DuChene 335-3567

Terry Kennedy 335-3606

Treasurer: Roy Beechey 335-4027

Secretary: Gloria Smiley 335-2188

Lake Steward: Jamie French 335-3553

Executive Members: Cliff Anderson, Margo Arseneau,

Gord Brown, Bernie Dertinger, Noreen Dertinger, Judy

Kennedy, Jay Kruger, Jack Nicolson, Peter Smiley,

Terry Trojek

Newsletter Team

Editor/Design/Input: Charlotte DuChene

Text Editors: Aileen Merriam, Judy Kennedy

Thanks to contributors of articles and illustrations and to those who collate and distribute the newsletter.

Website: www.kennebeclake.ca

Noreen Dertinger: webmaster@kennebeclake.ca

Winter Events

Dec. 6-8: Festival of Trees. Oso Hall. It's a Down East Christmas at this year's festival in Sharbot Lake. Enjoy three days of entertainment, beautiful Christmas crafts, decorations and fun.

Dec. 14: Live Nativity/Walk to Bethlehem. Circle Square Ranch. Something new! Take part in the carol singing from 5 to 6 p.m., enjoy dinner from 6 to 7, take a walk to "Bethlehem" and see the outdoor Nativity scene from 7 to 8, then walk back to the dining hall for dessert at 9.

Throughout the evening, you can fill a container with home-baked cookies for a charitable donation. Dinner is optional; you are welcome to arrive at 7 p.m. for the walk. To reserve dinner tickets, please call 613-335-5403 or email arden@csranch.ca.



Dec. 15: Old-Fashioned Christmas Concert. The Kennebec Community Hall hosts all ages of local talent performing vocal and instrumental musical numbers, skits and recitations. The show starts at 7 p.m. Donations to the Food Bank would be appreciated. Contact Diane Nicolson, 335-2845.

Feb. 18: Sharbot Lake Family Fun Day. A full day of fun — skating on the lake, snowshoeing, wagon rides, and more. Hosted by the Oso Recreation Committee.

Feb. 22-24: Central Frontenac Heritage Festival. Weekend-long events throughout the township celebrating Central Frontenac's culture and history. For details: www.centralfrontenac.com (click on Leisure).

Jennie Brown, Easy Rider!

On October 21, 2012, our own Jennie Brown of Kennebec Lake won first prize at the Circle Square Ranch Ride-a-Thon by raising a total of \$305 for the Ranch Camper Scholarships, which are given to as many children as possible to supplement the cost of a week at camp.

Jennie rode her usual horse, named Tank, on a long trail ride through the Ranch woods. Approximately 40 riders participated. For her efforts in raising sponsors, Jennie won a brand-new saddle to use during her private lessons twice a week.

Circle Square Ranch, on Price Road in Arden, is a registered Canadian Christian non-profit. The Arden site, one of nine across Canada, provides an excellent camping, riding, leadership and life skills experience for just under 1,000 children ages 6 to 16 each summer. The camp is funded solely on donations and grants. The directors are Dwayne and Cindy Matson of Arden.

Well done, Jennie! We're proud of you.
by Judy Kennedy



A Brief History of Arden

and those who helped shape our special hamlet

Those fortunate persons who live in Arden or visit it regularly simply know that it is one of the world's special places. Travellers who come upon it for the first time, however, often ask why and how a village happened to grow here, tucked away among the low hills and lakes of what is now called Central Frontenac Township. In fact, there are many (occasionally conflicting) stories of how Arden began, but the following is one version of the history.

The area was named Kennebec Township in 1823, and during the mid-19th century, settlers came up the Salmon River in search of land. Every male settler over 18 years old was promised 100 acres, first on the river, then on Horseshoe Lake, Buck Lake and Bull Lake. Later, lots were created on the shores of Deep Water Lake (now Big Clear Lake) and Cross Lake (now Kennebec Lake).

The first arrivals came by water or on foot, but gradually, people got together and built rough trails for carts. The first industry was logging, and as land was cleared for crops, logs were sent down the river. In the late 1850s, a small community that had developed at the head of Buck Lake moved to the present site of Arden, where mills were already using the water power from Clear Lake Creek. The village was first called Clear Valley, but postmaster David Osborne, who had read and enjoyed the poem "Enoch Arden," chose the name that has lasted to the present day.

As the number of settlers increased, they built schoolhouses, churches and social halls, and they established more businesses. Construction of the railway began in 1882; the station was located one mile west of the village and was called Ardentale. In 1916, Kennebec had a population of approximately 1,500 people, and Arden had seven stores, a bank, three hotels, a doctor, a dentist and its own hydro generating station.

Since that time, travelling and shopping patterns have changed. Highway 7 passed north of the village, the trains stopped coming, and Arden ceased to be a commercial centre. Instead, the village has become the social centre for a diverse population living on the lakes and back roads. Arden still inspires affection and loyalty from those who spend time here ...

(Taken from "Memories of Arden" by Dave Johnston and Sarah Hale, 2008.)
This is the first of a series of small articles in future newsletters that we hope will enhance your understanding of our area and its special history.

Salmon River Bridge Project

by Gord Brown

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) advised local residents of a forthcoming project to replace the Salmon River Bridge just west of the Henderson/Arden Roads/Highway #7 intersection. At a public meeting held on August 2 in Arden, MTO representatives and consultant design team members from Morrison Hershfield of Ottawa provided information on the progress of the project and invited feedback.

The Salmon River Bridge is a two-span reinforced-concrete structure that was built in 1932. The bridge is reaching the end of its service life; differential settlement is occurring with the bridge abutment foundations, and cracks in the concrete deck are allowing road salt to infiltrate, leading to corrosion of the reinforcing steel. Investigations and options analysis by the design team have resulted in a recommendation for replacement of the bridge in 2015/2016.

The KLA submitted formal comments on the project in a letter of September 10, 2012, which include the following recommendations:

- a. Creation of a “flood plain” area under the bridge to allow for the migration of land-dwelling wildlife;
- b. Accommodation of property owners on the river south of the bridge, who have water access only and use an area near the bridge to leave their boats;
- c. Expansion of the project to include the installation of east- and west-bound left-turn lanes on Highway #7, along with realignment of the intersection.

Morrison Hershfield replied to the KLA on behalf of MTO on October 23, generally expressing that every attempt would be made to address items a. and b. above. However, traffic count and accident data collected prior to and subsequent to the August public meeting indicate that the installation of turn lanes is not warranted.

Next Steps: As the preliminary design proceeds, KLA comments will continue to be considered and analyzed. A Transportation Environmental Study Report will be completed and made available for a 30-day public review period. A second public meeting will be held in a few months' time.

(All copies of correspondence and information are available on the KLA website: www.kennebeclake.ca.)

Snow Pea and Cashew Christmas Salad

1 lb (500 g) snow peas
3/4 lb (375 g) mushrooms, cleaned, trimmed and sliced
1 small red pepper, julienned
1 cup (250 mL) salted cashews
2 large garlic cloves, minced
2 Tbsp (25 mL) wine or balsamic vinegar
2 Tbsp (25 mL) lemon juice
3 tsp (15 mL) sugar
1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
3/4 cup (175 mL) salad oil
Salt and pepper to taste

De-string snow peas, blanch in boiling water for 2 minutes, then refresh in cold water and drain. Let dry on paper towel.

Toss snow peas, mushrooms and red pepper in a bowl. In lightly oiled pie plate, toast cashews under broiler about 2 minutes.

Whisk together garlic, vinegar, lemon juice, sugar and salt. Slowly whisk in oil. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Just before serving, add dressing and cashews to salad. Toss well and serve.

Serves 8.

Predicting Effects of Climate Change on Kennebec Fish

At the 11th annual Lake Links Workshop on adapting lakes to climate change, Dr. John Casselman pointed out that warm-water fish — bass, crappies and sunfish — will increase their population 6 times as fast if the water temperature increases 2 degrees Centigrade.

Some of these warm-water fish, such as crappies and sunfish, are important predators of young pickerel. So if you track the water temperature at the lake bottom at moderate depth, where small pickerel live, you could predict what is likely to happen to pickerel reproduction, and you also could predict what will happen to bass numbers.

On the other hand, pike will decrease reproduction about 15 times for 2 degrees temperature rise. Cold-water fish, such as trout and whitefish (not found in our lake), reproduce 20 times less for 3 degrees temperature rise.

It would be good to log the water temperature at average depth, and you can do so. A little data logger, called “Hobo,” which looks like a swollen thumb drive, can be bought for about US\$123, plus a bit more for software to let your computer download the temperature data from the Hobo (www.onsetcomp.com/products/data-loggers/u22-001). An alternative would be to borrow such a data logger from Quinte Conservation and let them download the temperatures.

Climate is changing. We need to adapt to that, and to do so, we need information.

by Gray Merriam

This is the slogan of the SafeGuard Ontario program. Did you realize that about 200,000 break and enters are reported in Canada annually? Also, re-victimization numbers are remarkably high; thieves know that they got away with it the first time and are aware that the stolen items have been replaced.

How can you protect yourselves and your property? SafeGuard Ontario, a community-based crime prevention program designed to “lock criminals out of house and home,” is one of the key initiatives of the OPP. It increases support, reduces re-victimization for break and enters, and engages and empowers citizens to take an active role in helping to prevent crime.

Constable David Blair and Auxiliary Staff Sergeant Dale Visneskie of the OPP addressed our membership at this year’s AGM, providing us with valuable information. The three main components of the SafeGuard program are public awareness and education, partnership with the Auxiliary Policing program (volunteers from the community), and the Operation Identification program. The latter promotes engraving valuables, such as electronic equipment, with your driver’s licence or licence plate number; if found, your stolen property can quickly be identified and returned to you.

SafeGuard is a proactive program that includes a Property Security Review, or assessment, designed to “target-harden” property. You will receive tips for improvement, loan of an engraver to mark equipment, a SafeGuard ON sticker to place in a prominent spot, an information package and a follow-up call. Other programs working in conjunction with this one are Lock It or Lose It (an auto theft prevention program), Cottage Watch and Crime Stoppers.

S/Sgt Visneskie’s suggestions for safeguarding your property include planting flowers at the beginning of your road/drive-way, closing curtains when you are away, storing ladders out of sight, keeping valuables in a safety deposit box, keeping your property well lit with solar and motion-sensitive lights and using deadbolts on all of your entry doors. Make sure you keep your doors, including your garage door, and all windows locked; most common entry points for a break-in are the front door or a main-level window. Also watch for unusual activity in your neighbourhood.

Visit www.OPP.ca for more information.

No Arden Field Naturalists?

by Gray Merriam

Thanks to Environment Canada, there is a substitute that should interest folks around Kennebec Lake. If you visit www.naturewatch.ca, you’ll find ways to participate in several citizen science ventures. You can help produce better field records for understanding climate change at “IceWatch” by providing records of date of freeze-up and date of ice-out. At FrogWatch, PlantWatch and WormWatch, you can make other contributions and learn what others are discovering.

Arden Revitalization

by Terry Kennedy

The Friends of Arden were successful in their application for a grant from the Frontenac County sustainable initiatives fund and were delighted to be awarded the sum of \$10,000. The funds are intended to be used primarily for the design and installation of signage in the area to help promote tourism and attract visitors. This is a part of the overall revitalization process and represents a good beginning for our community.

What Are Our Priorities?

by John DuChene

The KLA Lake Stewardship Plan was presented and adopted at the Annual General Meeting held in August. At the same time, a survey was circulated asking attendees to list in priority the seven recommended areas for action listed in the plan. Fifty-two surveys were returned, and the results were as follows:

- 1 Water Quality Monitoring
- 2 Wildlife Conservation
- 3 Land-Use Planning and Regulations
- 4 Aesthetics (Protection of Visual and Sensory Experiences)
- 5 Safe and Appropriate Boating Practices
- 6 Education/Communication
- 7 Fisheries Management

The survey was conducted to help focus the efforts of the Executive over the next year, recognizing that volunteer time and resources are often limited.

NATURE NOTES

by Aileen Merriam

Silent hunters of the winter night

Owl feathers are soft and fluffy. The ends of flight feathers look frayed. This creates turbulence in flight, and with soft feathers overall, muffles the sound of the owl flying. Silent flight helps the owl surprise its prey and catch its supper.

Owls usually hunt from a perch, tracking and catching mostly small rodents such as mice and voles. They also take small birds and other small prey. Prey is eaten whole and the indigestible bones and feathers are regurgitated in pellets that can be found underneath trees where owls have roosted. Carefully tease a pellet apart and you may find the tiny bones of a mouse.

Owls have excellent vision, though colour-blind, with many more rod cells than cone cells. The rod cells contain the pigment rhodopsin, or "visual purple" that enhances night vision. Owls also have excellent hearing. They can hunt by sound alone, and make instant approach adjustments as they near their prey.

Most owls nest in trees, using cavities, such as old woodpecker holes, or abandoned nests of other birds, such as crows, ravens or hawks. Rarely are nest materials added. The number of eggs laid varies from one to several, averaging about three. Hatchlings are covered in down and incapable of leaving the nest until they grow and develop their flight feathers.

Owls we might see ...

- **Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus*

This large, powerful owl is the most widespread owl in North America and very common in our area. Most of us have heard its distinctive "Whoop, Whoop-whoop-whoop, Whoop, Whoop" call in the night. It can attack prey even larger than itself, such as porcupines and snowshoe hares. It nests early in the year, while it is still winter.

- **Barred Owl** *Strix varia*

If you see a large owl with dark eyes, you have found a Barred Owl. Often hunting in swamps, it takes a variety of prey, including small mammals, snakes, frogs, birds, fish and large insects. Its call "Who cooks for you, who cooks for you-oo" can sometimes turn into a crazy wild duet when two owls interact.

- **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

Harder to detect than our other owls, this owl hunts over marshes and open fields at night and perches quietly during the day. It may use the same winter perch day after day, leaving an accumulation of pellets and droppings below. It feeds mostly on mouse-sized mammals; sometimes on small birds. During the breeding season you may hear its low "Quoo-quoo-quoo" and long "hoos."

Barred Owl



- **Eastern Screech Owl** *Otus asio*

Becoming active at dusk, this little owl hunts a variety of prey, including insects, spiders, crayfish, frogs and small mammals, birds and fish. During daylight it may be seen sitting in the entrance of its day roost tree cavity. Its "song" is described as a tremulous whistle or mournful whinney. Adults may have grey or reddish brown feathers.

- **Northern Saw-whet Owl** *Aegolius acadicus*

Our smallest owl, the Saw-whet eats small rodents, birds and bats, and large insects. It hunts mostly at night from low perches. During breeding season, it repeats a one-note whistle: "too, too, too, too..." or "sch-whet, sch-whet..." sometimes for hours.



Aileen Merriam

Eastern Screech Owl

Did you know?

In winter, the **Great Gray Owl** (*Strix nebulosa*), **Snowy Owl** (*Nyctea scandiaca*), **Northern Hawk Owl** (*Surnia ulula*), or the **Boreal Owl** (*Aegolius funereus*) occasionally visit us. These hunters are usually found far to the north but come south when they cannot find enough food in their northern home ranges.

Want to learn more?

Bird Studies Canada suggests that you check out eBird, an international "citizen scientist" site that lets you record owls you see, and learn where others have found the owls you are interested in.

Launched by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society in 2002, eBird has recently received its 100 millionth record.

eBird Canada is managed by Bird Studies Canada.