

KENNEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION

Summer/Fall Newsletter

August 2006

A Word from the President...

It's hard to believe that by the time you read this, the summer will be more than half over. I hope you have had many chances to enjoy our beautiful Lake and its surroundings and have plans for many more activities before the colder weather.

My comments in this letter centre mainly around the work of the Lake Management Planning Committee chaired by John DuChene of Blue Heron Ridge. John has recently retired as General Manager of the Ottonabee Conservation Authority in Peterborough and is therefore an ideal person to shepherd this Committee.

The Committee's goal is to develop a long range plan for managing, preserving and enhancing the resources of Kennebec Lake and its watershed. An additional goal is to have the Lake Management Plan become a secondary part of the Official Plan for Central Frontenac.

Quinte Conservation is our partner in our lake management planning efforts. Julie Schulenburg from Quinte has provided the group with in kind expertise, data collection and analysis, financial help for events and education.

Special thanks to John and his Committee, to Aileen Merriam and the Lake Stewardship Committee for their input, and to Cathy MacMunn of Central Frontenac for her counsel. More details of this important endeavor appear in this newsletter on page 2.

In closing I want to thank all of the Executive for a great year. Remember the Annual General Meeting on August 26. The format will be somewhat different this year with interesting exhibits about the lake. I hope to see you there.

Terry Kennedy

KENNEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

KENNEBEC COMMUNITY HALL
ARDEN

SATURDAY AUGUST 26 2006

**10 a.m. Exhibits and coffee
Talk to Committee Members,
See the informative displays
and share your ideas.**

**Children - see the frogs and
turtles exhibit**

11 a.m. Annual Business Meeting

**12 noon until 1 p.m. Lunch
(corn, hotdogs, sausages)**

!! NOTE NEW LOCATION !!

Kennebec Lake on the Web www.kennebeclake.ca

by Noreen Dertinger

Our web site, developed last year by a volunteer KLA Member-at-Large, is still growing and evolving. It aims to help us learn more about our lake and about waterfront living in general and thus, through a shared stewardship role, make living here more enjoyable for all. Recently a new area for stewardship was "taken live" to the web. You can find interesting and informative articles by Gray Merriam, and other relevant materials. You can record your sightings of loon pairs and chicks via the website and by mid-August you should be able to record frog and toad sightings.

Since 2005, current issues of the KLA newsletter have been available via the web. Back issues can be viewed in PDF format. Upcoming Kennebec Lake activities are regularly posted to the web site.

To learn about the association's current plans and how you can participate, please visit www.kennebeclake.ca.

If you have materials of interest, or other links, that you would like to see added to KLA web pages, please contact the webmaster, Noreen Dertinger, at webmaster@kennebeclake.ca of (613) 821-0682.

Kennebec Lake Management Planning Project - Partnering for Success

The Kennebec Lake Association has been promoting the wise use and management of the lake and its watershed for many years. Efforts have ranged from promoting, through brochures and newsletters, the protection of native shoreline vegetation and associated decaying matter to participating in Ontario's Lake Partners program. Data from the latter help detect "changes in the nutrient status and/or water clarity of the lake due to the impacts of shoreline development, climate change and other stresses".

Although good management practices are evident around the lake and the lands and streams that drain into it, KLA has agreed that a little more formal approach to widening and sustaining these practices would be beneficial. Thus, we have created a lake management planning "pilot project" involving technical participation from Quinte Conservation and ongoing land-use planning liaison with Central Frontenac.

Because of limited physical, human and financial resources, progress will be gradual, but inclusive. First will be to grow support for the lake planning process within the community and to continue to collect information about the lake and its watershed. Support will be sought through outreach to gain understanding from all of you who care about the quality of the lake and surrounding lands. There is a lot of existing information about the lake and its users, including the results of past community visioning exercises, survey results and technical records regarding land-uses and water quality. But this information will need to be updated, organized and analyzed.

We anticipate these initial steps will take at least the next year. Once commitment for the process has been extended and a solid information base has been established and understood, then the process of developing specific lake management actions can follow. This will involve identifying issues and concerns, establishing a clear vision for the future and exploring alternative actions that can be taken by individuals (landowners/visitors), the municipality (under the Planning Act), and by other area organizations (e.g. Conservation Authority, Stewardship Councils, Ministries of Natural Resources and of Health, Frontenac Environmental Partnership).

KLA, with support from its partners, wants to contribute to maintaining the valued qualities of the lake and surrounding area for residents and visitors of today and tomorrow. We believe that by working in partnership we can achieve this goal.

by John DuChene

WHAT DO YOU GET FOR YOUR \$20 KLA MEMBERSHIP FEE?

by Judy Kennedy

On the local level, your \$20 goes toward supporting association work and activities such as:

- a) all of the Lake Management Planning Committee's work (see article above)
- b) all Lake Stewardship Committee work in monitoring many aspects of the lake, both physical and biological, such as phosphorus, rainfall and lake level, loons, frogs and "bugs in the mud" which **keep us aware** of the lake environment; providing information about the lake and encouraging stewardship through workshops and the newsletter; and building loon platforms, etc.
- c) long-term monitoring and analysis of tax deliberations of Central Frontenac Council; informing Council of budget concerns and needs of our Association; and updating information about taxes in the newsletter
- d) ensuring that the Central Frontenac Official Plan reflects the priorities of KLA with regards to environmental integrity and local development
- e) insurance coverage for all Lake Association activities
- f) writing, producing and distributing two newsletters per year (soon to be three) to keep you informed about the lake, its watershed and your association; development and ongoing maintenance of our website kennebeclake.ca
- g) maintaining membership and contacts in various cottage association networks and related groups, such as the Friends of the Salmon River
- h) ordering and picking up KLA clothing to promote pride in our lake
- i) the Annual General Meeting and barbeque

On a provincial level, your membership fee:

- a) pays our membership in the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA - www.foca.on.ca). FOCA is the voice for cottage and lake associations. Its staff and volunteers research and act on many provincial issues, such as:
 - i) taxation of waterfront property
 - ii) private roads maintained and/or owned by cottagers and other waterfront dwellers
 - iii) water quality
 - iv) environmental education
- b) helps to facilitate our official partnership with Quinte Conservation. While this partnership itself is free, costs are incurred in boat usage for data collection, postage, paper, telephone and other costs.

Your volunteer Executive works year-round for the association and the lake. We think your \$20 is well spent and the work it supports is beneficial to lake residents and the environment in which we are privileged to live.

A Lesson from the sharp-shinned Hawks

by Bea Heissler

Most of us have been confronted with the dilemma of wildlife in need. Perhaps a young bird has fallen out of its nest, an animal has been injured, or babies have been orphaned and cannot care for themselves. Fortunately there are wildlife rehabilitators that have the knowledge, patience and connections to help these creatures get back on their feet. Sometimes, however, we are too quick in our reaction, eager to pick up these apparently helpless creatures and seek help for them rather than step back and watch.

One such incident happened along the waterfront of the Salmon River in the summer of 2005. My daughter, Maya, was camping with a friend along the magnificent shoreline to the south where Kennebec Lake merges with the Salmon River. It was a particularly stormy night.

When the winds died down in the morning, the incessant screech of a Sharp-shinned Hawk pierced the air as it flew in and out among the trees and along the river bank. Her nest in the branches of a white pine had fallen apart and the young were nowhere to be seen. She was getting no response from the ground. One could only imagine the worst. With the pine so close to the river, it was very possible that the young had landed in the water and drowned.

And then, like an unexpected miracle, Maya came across three fluffy, big-eyed babies huddled together between two large rocks. Mother was screaming in the distance while her three offspring stood silently and stoically waiting for her to find them. They had landed a distance from their nesting site and it was likely as difficult for her to find them as it would be for us to find a needle in a haystack.

For a full day, they sat there and waited when finally she came, hopping down to them, branch by branch, to offer them the flesh she gleaned from her prey. They were incapable of flight and couldn't jump up onto the branches above them. Mother wasn't able to offer them protection on the ground, only the food they needed to survive. With their fluffy, light-coloured plumage contrasted against the darker colours of the forest floor, one may have expected them to fall prey to weasel, fox or other predator.

Week by week we looked for them. With the mother staying close to the original site, it indicated that at least one of them survived. No heron or raven could fly past without being tormented by her. They'd squawk in terror as she dove at them over and over again.

And then, to our delight, we saw the trio, sitting high up in a pine tree, no longer large and fluffy but as streamlined and agile as their mother, learning from her how to hunt and survive.

One can imagine how things would have gone had we tried to pick them up and take them into the care of humans. Teaching them to catch songbirds would not have been our style. There is certainly a time and place for taking animals under our "wings"; clearly this wasn't one of them.

The Sharp-shinned Hawk is one of three species of Accipiters in this area. Their short rounded wings and long tails make them capable of swift flight and maneuverability. This small hawk has been a "Species of Concern" as its numbers have declined steadily in Southern Ontario due to habitat loss, hunting and pesticide use. It lives in woodlands and thickets where it nests and hunts smaller birds. It is because of its preference for small birds that pesticide use is of major concern. Small birds feed on insects which, if sprayed with pesticides, results in the transfer of the poisons through the food chain to finally accumulate in the bodies of their predators.

It is rare to find a breeding pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks. We count ourselves fortunate.

Bea Heissler recently retired as Outdoor Education Coordinator with the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board and now operates Natural Themes, a native plant nursery near Frankford, Ontario



Revisiting "Bass Futures in Kennebec Lake?"

In the spring newsletter we stated that it was illegal to cast toward the shore before the bass season opened on the last weekend in June. This note is in response to a letter seeking clarification; thanks to the writer for his concerns.

The Ministry of Natural Resources regulations state: "...It is illegal to attempt to catch fish for which the season is closed, even if you are going to release them. ..." So, strictly speaking, it would not be illegal to cast toward shore during June when fishing in appropriate places for another species of fish which IS in season. The problem arises when anglers cast over bass nests and disturb the guard bass, leaving the eggs or fry vulnerable to waiting predators. It is quite possible that a Conservation Officer would interpret the actions of these anglers as illegally attempting to catch bass out of season..

Unfortunately, this spring we have had several reports of boats with anglers casting towards shore, in shallow water where bass are known to nest. This is very short-sighted and will eventually affect bass stocks in the lake.

ANGLERS - Please help ensure a future for bass fishing in Kennebec Lake by respecting the needs of nesting bass.

RESORT OWNERS - Please help your clients to avoid bass spawning areas. It makes good business sense.

* Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary - Ontario - 2005-2006

Aileen Merriam

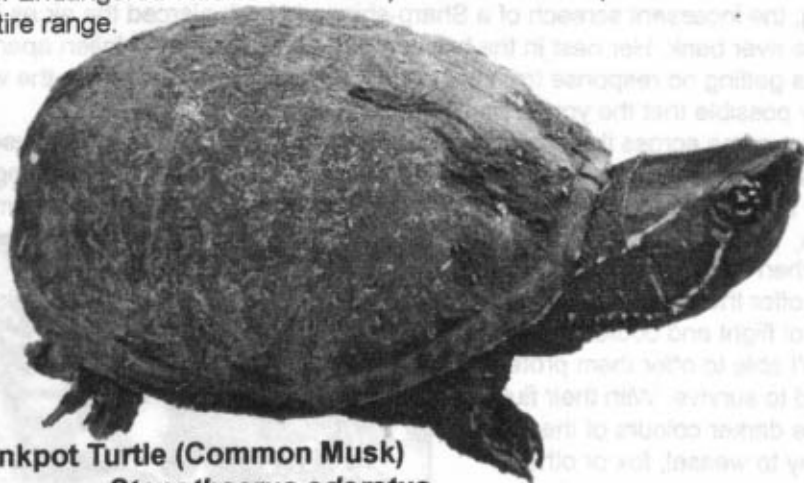
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Kennebec Lake Home to a Rare Turtle

by Noreen Dertinger

Kennebec Lake and its surrounding area are home to a variety of different species of turtles, including the Snapping Turtle and Midland Painted Turtle. (For pictures and information of other turtles you may see around here, refer to your 2004 Summer/Fall KLA Newsletter - or go to www.kennebeclake.ca)

Over the past few years that we have been cottaging on the lake, we have been fortunate to see and/or photograph some of these turtles in action. I was unable to identify this one, so we sent a photo to the Toronto Zoo via their "PondWatch" web site. The Zoo's reptile expert Dave Ireland was kind enough to identify it as a Musk Turtle, aka Stinkpot Turtle. This turtle is rarely seen and the Ministry of Natural Resources and COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) have listed this species as one of Special Concern. It is therefore protected in its entire range.



Stinkpot Turtle (Common Musk)
Stenothaerus odoratus

The Stinkpot Turtle is very small - the shell is only 8.5 to 12 cm. long. It can be identified by the narrow domed shape of its carapace (upper shell) that is narrower than the shells of other Ontario species of turtles. Another characteristic is the two light stripes on each side of the head. The front part of the plastron (under shell) is moveable, which allows this turtle to close its shell partially. Unique to this turtle, some of the scutes of the plastron are not in contact - they are separated by skin.

If you spot one of these turtles, please treat it with respect and leave it be.

Reference: The ROM Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Ontario by Ross D. MacCulloch, 2002. ISBN0-7710-7651-7

The Stinkpot or Musk Turtle comes by its name from its tendency to leave a musky smell if handled. Although it rarely leaves the water, the turtle shown in the photo was seen on land and may have been a female heading inland to lay its eggs. The Stinkpot Turtle generally lays two to five eggs and unlike the leathery eggs of other Ontario reptile species, its eggs are hard-shelled and elongated. The female may dig a hole in the sand for its eggs but the preferred location is a muskrat house. Stinkpot Turtles live on aquatic insects, crustaceans, mollusks and carrion.

!! Attention All Boaters !!

The new provincial bill regarding boat operation has now passed third reading in the Legislature and could be law by the time this newsletter reaches you. With one exception, all rules of the road have always applied to water vehicles as well. In the past, if found impaired and operating a boat, you faced a possible conviction and fine. Under this new bill, an impaired boat operator, if convicted, could lose his or her motor vehicle licence as well as receive a fine.

Remember also that if you are operating a motorized boat 4 metres long or less, you must now have your boat operator's card. If your motorized boat is over 4 metres, you still have until 15 September 2009 to get your card.

Property Taxes - 2006 Update

by Mike Wise

By the end of their deliberations, councillors settled on a 2006 budget that increased township taxes on the average property by 8.8%. Combined with the county tax and the education levy, the average property tax increase is 5.7%. Your increase will be more or less, depending on how your MPAC assessed value compares to the Central Frontenac average of 16.25%. If you were among the lucky few with an increase less than 10%, your taxes went down.

What's ahead? The township's contribution to work on Road 38, planned for later this year, will be funded partially from reserves (about \$700,000), the balance of about \$1.3 million being funded by a loan, repayable from future taxes.

The township's infrastructure needs attention, as evident from the current fire halls debate and can be expected to require a significant cash input in the coming years.

It is apparent from budget debates in recent years that better long-term planning is needed, starting with a rigorous assessment of the condition of the township's infrastructure and major equipment resources. Future capital spending could then be projected and the budget established within the context of longer term objectives.

******* Friends of the Salmon River A G M *******

28 August 2006 - 7 p.m. - Tamworth Library

Enjoy a short slide talk by author/photographer Michael Runtz - view displays about FSR activities - join to help FSR protect the Salmon River!!

If you are a Friend, come and elect your Directors for 2006-2007

Editor/Design/Input: Aileen Merriam

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Thanks to: contributors of articles/
volunteers who collate and distribute

KENNEBEC LAKE

Embroidered Clothing Order Form

*T-shirt sizing.
T's run small
increase size by
one size for youth
and adult



Adult T's

10oz, 100% cotton T
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL \$11.00
 XXL \$14.00
 Colours: R Red
 HG Heather Grey
 FG Forest Green

Youth T's

10oz, 100% cotton T
 Sizes: S(6/8), M(10/12),
 L(14/16) \$10.00
 Colours: R Red
 HG Heather Grey
 FG Forest Green

Quantity	Colour	Size	Total (\$)
Youth			



Marshland 1/4 Zip Sweat Shirt

55/45 Blend
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL \$34.00
 XXL \$36.00
 Colours: R Red
 HG Heather Grey
 B Black
 N Navy

Quantity	Colour	Size	Total (\$)



Adult Golf Shirt

Light weight 65/35 Blend
 Sizes XS-4XL \$24.00
 Colours: R Red
 FG Forest Green
 B Black
 N Navy

Golf Shirt Sizing

size	Actual Chest size	size	Actual Chest size
XS	34	XL	46
S	36	2XL	48-50
M	38-40	3XL	52
L	42-44	4XL	54-56

Quantity	Colour	Size	Total (\$)

Ball Caps \$12.00
 Navy Peak, Taupe Crown



Quantity	Total (\$)



Lined Fleece Vest

Zipped Slash Pockets
 Sizes XS-3XL \$42.00
 Colours: R Red
 FG Forest Green
 B Black
 N Navy
 Bk Bark (Tan)

All applicable taxes included in posted prices.

NAME: _____