



WIND SWEEP

The Lake Manitou Area Association Newsletter

"Let's keep our lake great"

March 2009

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President's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Bill Dampier for his years of service to the association as a Director and more recently as our newsletter editor. Bill's allegiance to Lake Manitou spans many years. Childhood summers were instrumental in developing Bill's bond to our beloved lake, eventually transpiring into his numerous years of residency on the North shore. His 16 years of involvement in the LMAA was a natural extension of his interest and knowledge of the area and his contributions to furthering the cause of the LMAA are no better seen than in his efforts in putting together the newsletter. No longer a lake resident, Bill continued to produce the newsletter for many years. Recently, I received Bill's letter of resignation, he cited family health issues, time constraints and his lack of connection with Lake Manitou as his reasons for stepping down. Bill is to be commended for his contributions to the association and his involvement will be greatly missed.

While I am on the topic of the newsletter, I would like to inform members that we are going to be making a concerted effort to send the newsletter electronically from here on in. The motivation behind this initiative is threefold. Firstly, the savings the association will see in reduced printing and mailing expenses, it is environmentally friendly, and finally, it lends itself naturally to the website presence that the association hopes to gain in the near future.

We have 131 members email addresses and they have received this newsletter via email. Members who do not have computer access, or whose email addresses have changed will receive the newsletter in hard copy. I would encourage any member who has not registered their email address or needs to update their contact information to do so by simply contacting a director. See the back page of the newsletter for the director nearest you!

By now you will have noticed the new format of the newsletter. We hope that you like it! This is courtesy of our new newsletter coordinator Michael R Costigan. If you have any comments, suggestions or article ideas please feel free to contact him by email at mikecostigan@hotmail.com or by phone @ (519) 654-7324.

Musings from Lake Manitou by Anne Moffatt

Walking the dogs in the woods one day, I realized how fortunate I am .Living year round on Lake Manitou, with every season the sights and sounds change.

Summer-You know this time of the year. Think back or look forward to the hum that is the sound of the cars on the cottage roads, boats, chain saws, birds, and thunder after the lightening strike over the lake, but most of all the children laughing and splashing in the water. The downside, I suppose the goose leavings on the lawn and the mosquito’s drone after the sun goes down.

Fall brings a different hum. There are fewer cars, the crickets, wasps and bees chirp and buzz. The trees change to beautiful colours, and then drop their leaves which crunch and crackle underfoot. Buffleheads, Golden eye and Hooded Mergansers appear on their southward migration along with the humming birds. It is a lonely time when the Loons take their leave. Then comes the sound of shooting as the small game and then big game season begins.

Winter with its snow is next. The hum turns to a roar with the howling winds, the snow plows and blowers and slightly less noisy, the snowmobiles and ATV’s heading out on the trails and to the fish huts spread over the lake. Winter brings a few of our summer neighbours back to try the fishing .This winter, Paul is ahead of Ron in their annual fish count.

Besides the gorgeous sunsets over the lake, colour is mainly white, broken nicely by the cedars and spruce trees where all of a sudden there will be a spot of red as the male cardinal alights. The Blue Jays brighten up the landscape too along with the other winter birds. More colour is added with the arrival of the purple Finches and again many Redpolls. We have one Pine Grosbeak at the feeders also bunnies and Partridge.

There aren't as many deer .I think they are boycotting us because Paul let hunters shoot 3 this fall He thinks that will help save some of his flowers this summer.

The walking is crisp and crunchy underfoot the air is so cold and the snow is very dry. The dogs enjoy snuffling the bunny, deer fox and wolf tracks that abound. Even with that the walks are so still.

Spring. Different sounds again. The ice groans and creaks as it and the snow melt. In the swamps the peepers sing. The winter birds leave; the robins and the humming birds are back. The bald eagles are nesting on the island again, and it is so good to hear the Loons calling again, but the humming you hear now is the black flies. That soon passes and the golf course will soon be open and I hope to see you there soon.

1885 Camping on Lake Manitou (continued) Submitted by Peter Edward

Continued here, the final chapter of the stories and photos associated with camping on Lake Manitou c.1885 as written in the words of Dr. Mary Lee Edward.

One activity was arranged for the boys (my brothers), during haying. They were to drive the horses which pulled the rope that carried the hayfork to the top of the barn, and then the rope was tripped. In the mow, the hay fell off and was put in place by hired men. It required a certain amount of intelligent attention of the farmer, who was a friend of my father and was paid an honorarium for his work. Neighbours helped put the hay in the mow and even the farmer's wife put in a big day of work. The whole thing took days of hard work, often three, and was rather severe. A big feature was that they got off in the middle of the day for dinner. It was better for two boys to work together as they helped each other and watched carefully to see that the ropes, which went around the pulleys as part of the fork machinery, did not become entangled or twisted. One remark the farmer's wife's helper made was, "Wasn't they hogs on butter?" This became a classic.

We all learned to swim. My father used to stand on the pier and throw tin plates in the water for us to retrieve. The water seemed ice cold, and it was really very cold! While we swam the maids got breakfast ready. Sometimes, we had a breakfast of speckled trout or bass, but most often, oatmeal porridge, milk and Mrs. McDonald's bread.

The Irving's, who owned the trading store in Manitowaning, came to Sandfield and camped a short distance up the shore from our camp. They had a small cabin with a good cook stove and used tents for dressing and sleeping. The ladies wore street clothes, not sports outfits, and they also wore what my mother called a reticule, a pouch that hung on a chain from a belt. They were a gay party of men and women and laughed a great deal. Each evening they would have a camp fire and would sing popular songs. It was said that one of the ladies was a wonderful, devoted cook. She made what was called jugged hare, a delicious dinner of wild rabbit which were caught during the course of an evening walk. Mr. Irving enjoyed good food - roast beef and especially, speckled trout. Everyone enjoyed jugged hare and we were often invited for dinner. My father and Mr. Irving went on all day fishing trips in the Manitou River, a beautiful lively stream that ran 14 miles from Sandfield to Lake Huron and was a fisherman's paradise with speckled trout. To get home from these trips, in the evening one of the farmers near Lake Huron brought the fishermen home in his buggy!

In overseeing one of the oil properties of my father, one of my brothers learned the oil industry. One property was more productive than the others and here he learned the actual work in pumping, drilling etcetera. He then went to Persia where the workmen were unaccustomed to working with machinery, and a man who knew the work was much sought after. This work was meticulous and careful. While he was in Persia, World War 1 began and two of my brothers enlisted in the lines. My brother in Persia attempted to leave in order to enlist in Canada, but at the Persian border he was asked where he was going. The officer did not allow him to leave. It was said the oil was too important. I think he himself believed work was preferable to war. Incidentally, he heard on Manitoulin on one of his leaves from the oil business, talk of the soft air which he enjoyed so much and attributed to our happy hours and simple pleasures. He stated that the aroma was not only happiness, but from the balm of the Gilead tree a real fragrance which was found more often in some places than others

and that was indigenous to Persia. "In the spring the time of the singing birds", Solomon felt the exhilaration! My brother, who had lived in Persia, felt the pleasure of this aroma on Manitoulin in places not well defined. It was not just the stimulation of happy thoughts and endearments, but a real fragrance; the balm of the Gilead, an exhilaration and effusion in perfume that surrounded one for a moment. When we went driving one pleasure that was always experienced, but never quite explained, was the exhilaration of certain regions which we connected to the beauty of the scenery and the pleasure of us being together. My brother said it was an aroma, a fragrance, the balm of Gilead!

The End

Ferries of Lake Manitou by Bill Dampier

It is interesting to note that steam ferries once served several communities on Lake Manitou. Tourists, locals and business people alike could take a stage coach from Manitowaning to Vansant's Landing and board a regularly scheduled steam ferry to several locations on Lake Manitou. Advertisements in early issues of the Manitoulin Expositor outlined the schedules for these various ferries. Advertisement examples read as follows.

June 10, 1879 - Steam Ferry on Lake Manitou. The tug "Fairy Queen" will leave Vansant's Landing every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning at 8 a.m., calling at McDonald's Mills (Sandfield), Spikers, Lehman's, Demmie's, and Hannah's Landings returning to Vansant's landing the same day. Fare for round trip \$1; to head of lake, \$0.50. Jno. Hannah's team will leave Manitowaning every Monday and Friday to convey passengers and freight to the Lake to connect with the ferry.

The Ferry Boat "Mary Jane" of Sandfield will leave Silver Bay every Saturday at 7 a.m. for Vansant's landing, thus enabling passengers to connect with steamers Northern Belle and Northern Queen at Manitowaning. On the return trip she will leave Vansant's landing at 8 a.m. Sunday morning. Fare for round trip \$0.25.

Hydro and Herbicide Garlon 4

Derek Malacek, one of our members, made a presentation on behalf of LMAA, to the Manitoulin Municipal Association (MMA) to have them ban the use of Garlon Herbicide for vegetation control around the lake. Derek stated that we must be vigilant to any potentially harmful species or substances introduced to the lake in various ways. Because of the limestone base and soil depth, the concern is that leeching will affect the environment, aquatic life, fish habitat and ground water in our lake. It is our contention that anything added to the land will eventually migrate to the lake. This is true of all lakes on the Manitoulin. Thanks, Derek, for your presentation to the MMA on our behalf.

(This is a synopsis of the article in the Feb. 4/09 Edition of the Manitoulin Expositor)

CAPTR & WRAFT

The Ontario Property Assessment and Tax System: What's Wrong and What Can Be Done?

December 22, 2008

1. The market slowdown and the four year assessment

The recent assessment has created serious concern among Ontario home and cottage owners. It covered a three year period of generally strong real estate markets. The average increase for all residential properties in the province was 20%. Coincidentally, right after the valuation date of January 1, 2008, a slowdown in the volume of sales began, followed in the summer and fall of 2008 with a significant weakening in selling prices in most parts of the province. This has led to a growing concern that most properties are over-assessed. That concern is heightened by the realization that, under changes introduced in 2007 by the Liberal government, the next assessment will not be carried out until the end of 2011 rather than the end of 2008, as previously scheduled.

Does a higher assessment mean higher property taxes? The Finance Minister has said on many occasions and as recently as November 25 in the House, "that an increase in assessment does not mean an increase in property taxes." This is beside the point. **If the assessment increase on your home is up more than the average for your municipality, it will mean a tax increase.**

Let's take an example. Say the average increase for your municipality is 20%, the same as the average for the province. But let's also say the increase for **your home** is 35%. This will mean an assessment-related tax increase. The increase will be $135/120$ or 12.5%. That increase will, under the new four-year cycle, be phased in over the four years, 2009 to 2012, meaning an average annual tax increase due to assessment of 3.1% **to you**.

In addition, you will also have to pay your share of the municipality's spending increase. If that averages 4% a year, it means your total annual increase will be 7.1%.

The example used here of a 35% assessment increase is not extreme. Some 1,000,000 properties in Ontario, or almost one quarter of all properties, have increases greater than 30% in the 2008 assessment.

Further complications

The 20% average municipal increase was selected on purpose because it equals the provincial increase. One third of your tax bill pays for education. If your municipal average is 30% and your own assessment is also up 30%, you won't pick up a bigger share of municipal costs but you will pick up a larger share of the education bill. Also, if you are in an area where there are both lower and upper tier municipalities then your assessment may be average for your lower tier municipality but above average for the upper tier district or county. This will also mean an assessment-related tax increase.

The average assessment increase for your municipality is shown on your assessment notice. If your municipality is part of an upper tier municipality your notice will not show the upper tier average and it then becomes difficult to estimate the tax impact of your assessment increase.

2. What happens when real estate prices drop?

We know that in 1990, when the last major crack in the real estate market occurred, properties that had risen most in value in the late '80's were the ones that dropped most in value in the early '90s. This means that home and cottage owners who get hit with the greatest "assessment-related tax increases" are the same ones whose property values could drop the most as the real estate market softens. This means that they'll be paying higher taxes for four years when in fact their properties are declining in value, at a faster rate than many of their neighbors'.

They will also have to wait until 2012 to find out whether that decline still exists and until 2013 to see whether that results in a drop in their taxes. The corollary to that is that if the market in fact remains soft, in particular in cottage country, there could be a massive shift of tax in 2013 back onto properties off water. Since value declines are reflected immediately, this could lead to a major upheaval in municipalities with a significant waterfront component.

3. What is the Government of Ontario doing about this?

At this point (December 22), nothing. Even Premier McGuinty has admitted that the 2008 property value assessments are now inaccurate, due to market changes since the evaluations were completed. But the Premier and Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan have simply responded by calling on municipal Governments to keep their taxes down in 2009. This, of course, does nothing to address the fluctuations in property values, which are used to determine homeowners' **share** of the taxes. And municipalities can't do a thing about that.

4. What can municipalities do?

If the average increase in assessment for a municipality is 25%, municipalities should, and most in fact do reduce the tax rate correspondingly in order to raise the same dollars. They then increase the rate to cover expected inflationary and other cost increases. They cannot, as the Premier has suggested, deal with the sharp decline in property values that has occurred since the end of 2007. The only way to fairly handle that is by shelving the 2008 assessment and again considering ways of dealing with the volatility that is now more than ever evident in the real estate market.

5. What can you, the homeowner, do?

Write or call your MPP and tell him or her that you think the 2008 assessments should be scrapped. And that the whole system needs to be re-examined. And also, visit the CAPTR or WRAFT websites, and sign [our petition](#): www.captr.org or www.wraft.com

Bob Topp
Chairman, CAPTR

Acid Rain Killing Off Essential Aquatic Life

Canadian Press Nov 28/08

Acid rain, one of the biggest environmental scourges of recent decades, has sapped the calcium from lakes across the Canadian Shield, slowly wiping out tiny creatures that need high doses of the nutrient to survive, new research shows.

A study published in the journal *Science* warns declining numbers of water fleas called daphnia, which are prey for small fish and insects, could spell trouble for other lake life. "We're thinking of them as almost a miner's canary or an alarm bell," said the author of the study, Adam Jeziorski of Queen's University in Kingston. It has been known for some time that some boreal lakes are low on calcium partly because acid rain has leached the nutrient from the soil. However the authors say their study sheds new light on consequences of declining calcium on aquatic life. "I think we're the first to show the biological damage", said John Smol of Queen's University, who holds the Canada research chair in environment change.

Many lake creatures, including crayfish, mollusks and fish have high calcium demands. The study says some species can no longer reproduce once calcium levels dip below a certain threshold. That results in food shortages for other creatures that feed on disappearing species. "The ecological impacts of environmental calcium loss are likely to be both widespread and pronounced" the study says.

Researchers from Queen's and York University in Toronto gathered samples of sediment from 770 lakes across the Canadian Shield, a massive horseshoe shaped slab of bedrock stretching across Eastern Canada up to the Arctic Ocean. These regions were most affected by acid rain during the 1980s. Next, the researchers studied changes in the calcium and pH levels of the lakes from 1980s to the 2000s. They found the calcium levels fell, so too did the number of water fleas in the lakes. "There was a clear decline in the animals that require a lot of calcium versus the ones that don't so much," Jeziorski said.

Acid rain was one of the most prolific environmental issues of the 1980s after forests and fish began dying in Canada and the U.S. For more interesting information visit website below:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/11/081127145141.htm>

submitted by Bill Dampier

Boater License Deadline Fast Approaching

submitted by Don Payne



The Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations require operators of pleasure craft fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes to have proof of competency on board at all times. This proof of competency is required for **ALL** operators, by September 15, 2009.

On April 4, 2009 FOCA and the Canadian Power Squadron team up for a Pleasure Craft Operator Card Course to be held in Whitby, Ontario. This seminar will prepare you for the Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) exam which is administered at the end of the training session.

See the FOCA website www.foca.on.ca for more details or to register www.info@foca.on.ca.

Alternatively, visit one of these websites: www.boaterexam.com or www.powerboatexam.com.

Lake Manitou Phosphorus & Secchi Disk Readings

Manitou Lake Total Phosphorus (TP) concentrations for 2008

LAKE_NAME	STN	Site ID	Site Description	Date	TP1 (ug/L)	TP2 (ug/L)	Average TP (ug/L)
MANITOU LAKE	6451	4	Stn 4, E - Sandfield Bay	21-Jun-08	6.9	6.8	6.9
MANITOU LAKE	6451	4	Stn 4, E - Sandfield Bay	22-Aug-08	7.1	9.4	8.2
MANITOU LAKE	6451	4	Stn 4, E - Sandfield Bay	4-Oct-08	7.5	8.7	8.1
MANITOU LAKE	6451	2	Stn 2, W-Moody Bay	4-Aug-08	7.6	6.9	7.2

Manitou Lake Secchi Transparency (metres) for 2008

LAKE_NAME	STN	Site ID	Date	Secchi (m)
MANITOU LAKE	6451	4	21-Jun-08	5.0
MANITOU LAKE	6451	4	22-Aug-08	6.0
MANITOU LAKE	6451	4	13-Sep-08	6.0
MANITOU LAKE	6451	4	4-Oct-08	6.0
2008 AVERAGE				5.8

Lake Manitou Historical Map

Sales have been going well over the winter. Do you have yours yet? “Don’t wait for spring, do it now!” The association can’t thank John Harvey enough for his leadership on this project! If you want to place an order contact John at thorajohn1@rogers.com or a director near you!

Historical Map Booklet

We have received some historical information from members around the lake but of course we are still looking for more. Do you know how any of these places got their names: The Pallisades? McCauley Bay? Duke’s Bay? McCracken’s Island? If you do, please let us know.

You can forward information to Pat Costigan at pat_costigan@hotmail.com

Manitoulin Streams Acknowledged

Manitoulin Streams has received an International Ecosystem award for their work on stream restoration. This award was presented to Seija Deschenes, Co-coordinator of Manitoulin Streams, on Oct. 22, 2008. Environment Canada & US Environmental Protection Agency hosted the reception in Niagara Falls. Seija & Manitoulin Streams are one of five recipients honoured at the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference. Congratulations

911 Reminder

As part of your routine “season opening” of the cottage, make sure that your 911 signs are clearly visible from all directions. At the same time make sure your smoke alarms have fresh batteries and are in good working order as low winter temperatures can damage delicate circuitry.

Member Notice Board


Death Notices:

Two long time members of LMAA have passed away.


Peggy Edward, wife of Peter Edward, passed away Nov. 10, 2008. Peggy was a charter member of LMAA and has been a very active and supportive member over the years.

Jean Williamson of Mindemoya passed away on Nov. 29, 2008. Jean was a 15 year LMAA member and very active in the Manitoulin Nature Club and the Central Manitoulin Historical Society.

Our sympathies go out to the Edward and Williamson families.

-  If there is any upcoming event on the Manitoulin that you would like to advertise or announce in our June newsletter, please send it to mikecostigan@hotmail.com so that he can publish it. Thanks to Bill Dampier, Peter Edward, Anne Moffat, and Don Payne for their contributions / ideas for this newsletter. We need member input!

-  Notice of 2009 LMAA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Saturday, July 18, 2009 at the Sandfield Schoolhouse at 10 a.m. Hope to see you there.

-  **Please keep your contact information up to date! If you have a change in mailing address or email address please forward to one of the following:**

Pat Costigan at pat_costigan@hotmail.com , Don Payne at payne@interlog.com or Mike Costigan at mikecostigan@hotmail.com

Report of 2008 Fall FOCA Meeting

Representing LMAA at the meeting was: Don Payne, Mary & Alex Lohead, Michael R. Costigan, Pat & P.J. Mike Costigan

Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources, was the keynote speaker on the topic “Protecting the Future”.

She gave some interesting statistics:

- 87% of Ontario’s land mass is Crown Land. The rest of the land mass is Patented land or privately owned land and equals 4%.
- 96% of Ontario’s population lives on this 4% of the land.
- Ontario has boreal forest the size of the Maritime Provinces.
- There are 250 000 fresh water rivers in Ontario.
- The Great Lakes are glacial lakes; they are not spring fed. Note: A glacial lake is a lake with origins in a melted glacier.
- Lake Erie is one of the world’s largest fresh water fisheries.

Ms Cansfield also expressed concern on invasive species and the effect of the Pine Beetle on our forests. Ms Cansfield commended Manitoulin Streams for their work on river restoration on the Manitoulin.

Myles D’Arcy, Senior Vice President of Customer Operations for Hydro gave a talk on what Hydro was doing to improve service in rural areas. We, from LMAA, questioned Hydro’s use of Garlon in the control of vegetation around the lake.

Wayne Atkins, Boating Safety Officer with Transport Canada provided us with the complexities of the Canada Shipping Act 2001 and all its rules and regulations. Most interesting! wayne.atkins@tc.gc.ca

Denis Orendt with Ontario Onsite Waste Waters Association gave a humorous talk on septic systems, privies and the importance of proper maintenance and inspection. A permit & a licensed installer can save you money in the long run. New rules concerning septic re-inspection are gradually coming into Ontario.

Bob Maynard of FOCA Insurance updated us on the changes and concerns in this growing litigious society.

Anna De Sallas, Ministry of the Environment updated us on the Lake Partner Program (Water Sampling) and some of the changes she would like to see. There are now 1200 sites being monitored in Ontario lakes.

Bob Topp from WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation)

1. There are 300 Ontario associations supporting WRAFT.
2. Ontario lakefront property owners pay more taxes than anyplace in the world.
3. Please read the WRAFT Report that is printed in this newsletter.

LMAA – Directors, Officers, Project Coordinators

Title/Position	Winter Address	Summer Address
President: Mike Costigan Silver Bay Road Area	20 Muskoka Court Kitchener, ON N2B3M2 (519) 576-1912 patcostigan@hotmail.com	RR1 Site 15 Comp 3 Mindemoya, ON POP 1S0 (705) 377-6640
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Past President: Peter Edward		
Secretary: Effie Williamson Eagle’s Nest Area	459 Sierra Dr. Traverse City MI 49684 (231) 943-8333 litemetals@aol.com	RR2 Manitowaning, ON POP 1N0 (705) 859-3559
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Director & Lake Steward: Mike Thompson Holiday Haven Area	153 Old Mill Trail Manitowaning, ON POP 1N0 (705) 859-2423 michael_nancy_manitou@hotmail.com	Same
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Director: Jim Rouse Rockville Area	205 Deerwood Dr. Kilburn, ON, KOA 2H0 (613) 839-4309	36 Lake Manitou Trail Mindemoya, ON, POP 1S0 (705) 377-4966
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Education Coordinators:	Mary Lohead & Pat Costigan	See Above