



# WIND SWEEP

The Lake Manitou Area Association Newsletter

"Let's keep our lake great"

March 2012

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More important now than ever

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## Editor's Note – "Stewardship" – More important now than ever!

Stewardship is a word that has been part of the public consciousness for some time now and really has been synonymous with the environmental movement as a whole. The connotation of the word has a personal reference. A steward being one who is responsible! In fact, the Lake Manitou Area Association's very beginnings and mandate are rooted in this word - "Stewardship"

Unfortunately, upcoming cutbacks in provincial government budgets threatens to put a halt to all this progress made on the stewardship front by cutting the funding available to organizations like the Manitoulin Stewardship Council and Manitoulin Streams who have lead the way in increasing public awareness and in doing so creating this consciousness on Manitoulin!

So who will be left with the responsibility of trying to carry on protecting our precious waters!

Not that it wasn't our responsibility before (the LMAA has been acting on Lake Manitou's behalf since 1993) but now it will become even more important that we "look after our own back yards"!

Continuing to practice as we have becomes even more important going forward. This is where you, the members of the LMAA, come in.... and yes you have heard this message before. **Promote membership to the LMAA to your neighbors, become more "steward like" in your own lakeside living practices and become proactive in addressing issues you see that will affect the waters of Lake Manitou.** Water is our most important resource!

In fact, here is an easy way that each of you could make a difference! **Cottage Life Magazine** and **FOCA** in celebration of their 25<sup>th</sup>

anniversaries, along with **Boat smart! Canada** have teamed up to offer the **"Make your lake great contest"**.

Between March 23 and July 17, 2012 we are asking that each of you go to the following link

<http://cottagelife.com/45542/contests/foca-make-your-lake-great-contest> and register by clicking the "enter now" button. [Enter Now](#)



**Make your lake great contest!**  
**WIN \$5,000 TOWARDS ANY PHYSICAL LAKE IMPROVEMENT**

Simply answer a couple of questions and you are registered! **The more entrants we can get, the better chance of the LMAA winning.** I will be sending out regular reminders to help prompt those procrastinators out there!

## Musings from Kingfisher Cove by Anne Moffat



After a rainy November which filled the swamps and brought the lake up a bit our mild winter set in. We would have a few really cold days then a period of mild weather would set in, that has been the pattern all winter. In January, Manitou finally froze over and after I went through the ice in the swamp it finally stayed frozen and the snowmobile trail opened. Fishing was sporadic early but it has finally picked up. Paul has caught one trout.

In early winter Paul saw a Snowy Owl but apart from the regular winter birds- Jays' Chickadees, Nuthatches, Doves and Woodpeckers including the Red Breasted one the others were late in arriving. This year we have more Finches, American Goldfinches and Redpolls than we have had in

quite a few years. One of our female pheasants has come back to feed, there were eight turned loose in August.

Mike Thompson had a White winged Crossbill at his feeder, it is a beautiful bird. There are more Ravens around this year also. Two quite often fly over our heads as we walk down the road making all kinds of weird noises. Paul and I wonder if they were warning us of the three huge wolves we saw crossing the ice and coming our way.

The deer have been passing us by and going to the neighbours. It could be that Toby is keeping them away. I hope he keeps them far enough away so that Paul's exotic flowers get a chance to bloom and he gets to see them. We have three dogs now, Pippin the Spaniel, Toby the Airedale, and Fand the three year old grey Wolfhound. We find it very hard to be without one of these gentle beautiful dogs. It is a joy to take the three of them on our walks watching them run all over sniffing at the bunny, coyote, squirrel and mice tracks. There are also deer tracks and they put Partridge up regularly.

The ice is pushing up on shore and it really is scary when it very loudly growls especially when we are out at night. The snow hasn't been too deep because of the mild weather but there has been a lot of ice on the roads making walking treacherous. To compensate for slipping and sliding I have taken up skating again after 12 years. Paul had to buy me new skates because the mice chewed the whole side out of one of my old ones hanging in the garage. I am slowly returning to form and the exercise is getting me ready to hopefully see you on the golf course.

Anne Moffat

## Lake Manitou Phosphorus & Secchi Disk Readings by Michael R. Costigan

Thanks to **Alex Lohead**, our annual phosphorus and secchi disk readings were taken and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment’s “Lake Partner Program”. Follow the link [www.ontario.ca/lakepartner](http://www.ontario.ca/lakepartner) to view the history of Lake Manitou readings. The goal of the Lake Partner Program is to create a valuable, long term data base to evaluate the nutrient status of Ontario’s inland lakes. The program has grown to the point that in 2011, 793 sites were sampled in 491 Ontario lakes.

Total phosphorus concentrations are ideally used to interpret nutrient status since phosphorus is the element that controls the growth of algae in most Ontario lakes. Increases in phosphorus will decrease water clarity by stimulating algal growth. By sampling the total phosphorus each year it is possible to detect a change in the nutrient status of your lake. **Water samples are taken in the two (2) deepest areas of Lake Manitou....the Sandfield Basin and the West Basin annually.**

**Lakes are generally placed into three broad categories with respect to nutrient status.**

Lake Nutrient Status	Total Phosphorus	Secchi Depth
Oligotrophic (few nutrients)	10 micrograms / litre or less	Over 5 metres
Mesotrophic (moderately enriched)	10 – 20 micrograms / litre	3 -5 metres
Eutrophic (enriched –high nutrient)	20 micrograms / litre or more	Less than 3 metres

### Lake Manitou / Windfall Lake Total Phosphorus Readings 2011

		May	June	July	August	September	October
Lake Manitou - West Basin TP Readings 2011	TP1	9	5.8	9.4	8.6	8.8	7
	TP2	9.6	5.8	10.6	10	9.2	7.4
	Avg. TP	9.3	5.8	10	9.3	9	7.2
Lake Manitou - Sandfield Basin TP Readings 2011	TP1	7.6	8	6.4	7.2	8	5.6
	TP2	7.8	6.2	6	8.8	10	5.4
	Avg. TP	7.7	7.1	6.2	8	9	5.5
Windfall Lake - (deep spot) TP Readings 2011	TP1	NA	6.6	6.8	8.8	6.2	229.0 (?)
	TP2	NA	6.0	7.6	6.0	5.4	26.0 (?)
	Avg. TP	NA	6.3	7.2	7.4	5.8	127.5 (?)

- ❖ “?” = contaminated sample
- ❖ NA = sample lost or not taken
- ❖ ug/L = micrograms per litre. A microgram is equivalent to .001 mg/L

**Note: The 2011 Secchi disk readings for both Lake Manitou and Windfall Lakes are unavailable at this time! Hopefully they will be available in time for the next newsletter!**

## “Further Testing for Lake Manitou” - a follow up –by Rob Coulter

Subject to an email I received regarding my submission in the October newsletter, I felt that some things were left unclear. Having both educational and professional familiarity with this subject, I believe it would be worthwhile to expand on what was stated previously in order to clarify the rationale behind this “further testing”. If I may:

1) Lake trout are (obligate) cold water fish, unlike warm water species like bass and perch: Their physiology/metabolism is such that they do well at around 11 degrees C (52 F) or colder. The flip side is that they are unable to tolerate temperatures much higher than that. They can be found in shallower water for about a month after ice-out when the surface waters are still cold, and again in later fall when the surface waters cool off again (out-of-season by then, as they are fall spawners).

2) As the ice-free season progresses, the surface waters are warmed by the sun and mixed (and oxygenated) by the wind, but it only penetrates so far; about 12 meters (40 ft) in Lake Manitou, and the lake becomes thermally stratified into distinct layers. In 'Manitou, the upper layer gets up to about 22 C ( 72 F), and continues to be mixed/oxygenated, but the temperatures would be lethal to lake trout. The deeper layer remains permanently cold, but also receives no new mixing/oxygen during the (typically...) 2-1/2 month midsummer/early fall period when the lake is stratified. Because of their 'cold water' physiology, the lake trout are "stuck down there", and have to make do with whatever "inventory" of oxygen is down there until the lake cools off and re-mixes in the late fall (aka 'fall turnover'). The oxygen "inventory" is more than adequate in truly infertile lakes with low nutrient (mainly phosphorus) loadings, but the more a lake is 'fertilized', the more biomass is generated, and the more oxygen gets consumed when that biomass dies, sinks and gets decomposed by (oxygen-consuming..) bacteria.

From (1), a lake trout would not be found,--East or West basin--, any place above 12M/40ft between latter May and sometime into October. It's not that the West basin is 'too warm' or 'too shallow'. It has the same thermal profile (vertically) as the East basin, has depths to about 40M/135ft, and (very..) roughly two-thirds of it's area has depths of at least 12M/40ft. Lake trout could thrive at-depth in West basin were there enough oxygen, which MOE monitoring has shown there is not.

Differences between the two basins, there are. The West basin has a higher Area: Volume ratio than the East, which translates to higher nutrient-loading, biomass growth and eventual (oxygen-consuming...) decomposition,--per unit of basin volume--, than does the East basin.

The West basin would have somewhat lower (summer time/stratification) oxygen than the East if the only sources of phosphorus/growth/decomposition were a few bears or wolverines taking a dump at the lakeshore. But the perverbial "dump" is no longer 'natural', but predominately the result of human occupancy in the watershed (Aside: "We have met the Enemy, and he is Us" -*Pogo*, cartoon character).

This/any lake has an (finite) "assimilative capacity"; short of which 'Life is Good', and beyond which, well, lake trout can no longer exist. It is *extremely* unlikely that West basin oxygen levels at-depth were always "that" low, but rather has gotten that way from ever-increasing watershed-occupancy and related nutrient loading, which has in fact increased very significantly in our lifetime. You wouldn't know it from the number of boats we see on the lake, but 'Before' (...say mid/late-1950s) and 'After' (now) aerial photos of watershed dwellings would tell a very different story from what meets-the-eye.

The concern, as noted in the LMAA piece, is that still-further "development" could cause the East basin to follow-suit on the West basin, and bye-bye lake trout fishery.

## Treasurer’s Report by Don Payne

<b>LMAA Treasurer and Membership Report for 2012-01-04</b>			
	Number	Value \$	%
Current Registered Members	238	4,760.00	100.0
Current Paid Members	202	4,040.00	84.9
Current Un-paid Members	36	720.00	15.1
New Members (2011)	17		7.1
Email Members	185		77.7
Signs Issued	171		71.8
Signs Issued to Non-payers	23		
Bank Balance		14,092.05	100.0
Cash Available for Use		14,092.05	100.0

Signed: Don Payne

## The Fire Smart Cottage

Most of us enjoy going to the cottage to “get away from it all”! Maintain the same diligence with respect to fire safety at the cottage as you would at home.

**Myth #1 – It won’t happen to me.**

**Reality** - Everyone is at risk! Statistics prove that one in four people will experience a serious fire in their lifetime that will cause major property damage, injury or even death. Senior citizens and children under the age of five are at greatest risk of fire death.

**Myth #2 – Fire spreads slowly and takes a long time to get out of control.**

**Reality** - A small flame can turn into a major fire in less than 30 seconds, and it can take as few as three to five minutes for an entire house to fill with dense, dark smoke and become engulfed in flames.

**Myth #3– You only need a CO (carbon monoxide) alarm/detector if you have gas appliances or gas furnace.**

**Reality – CO is a product of combustion!** You need a CO detector if you have a wood burning fireplace/wood stove as well!

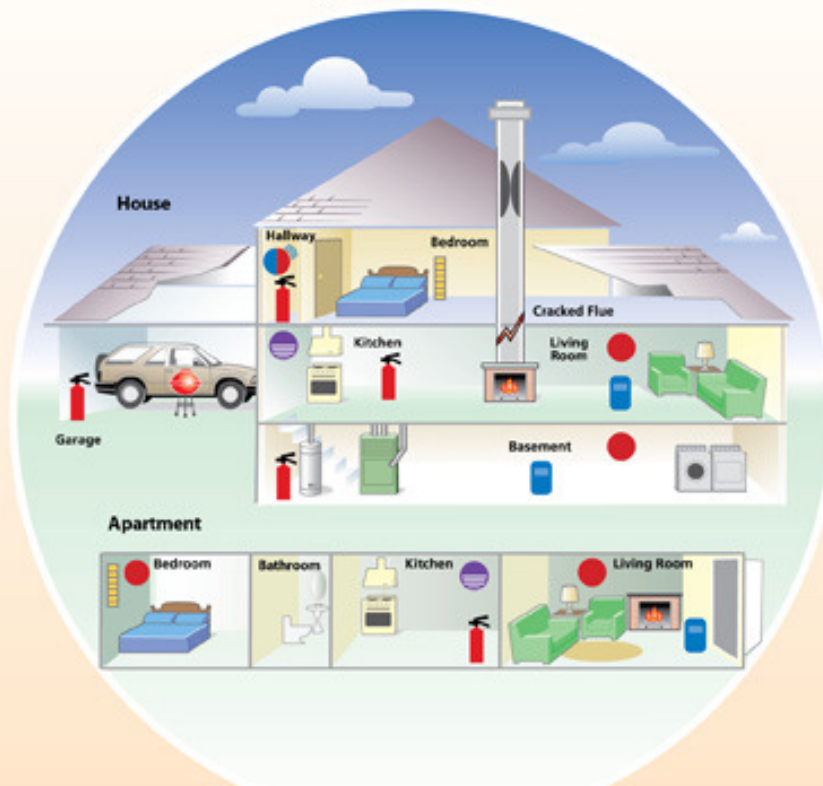
# The Right Safety Choices

## to Protect Your Family Top to Bottom

Make it easy on yourself to ensure your family is safe from fire and carbon monoxide, no matter where you are in your home or cottage. Just consult the legend and illustration below!

- 
**Ionization Smoke Alarms**  
 Install on every level and outside/inside bedrooms if you sleep with doors closed. Your best alarm choice for detecting fast-flaming fires.
- 
**Photoelectric Smoke Alarms**  
 Best near kitchen. Best at detecting slow, smoldering fires. Less nuisance alarms in kitchen areas.
- 
**Carbon Monoxide Alarm**  
 Install on every level and outside sleeping areas. Your only protection from this deadly colourless, odourless and tasteless gas. Digital readout model is your best choice to monitor air quality and be warned before major problems can occur.
- 
**Combination Smoke/CO Alarm with Voice Alert**  
 Good choice for hallways outside sleeping areas. Protects from both fire and CO dangers. Voice alarm shouts “Fire! Fire!” or “Warning – Carbon Monoxide!” Even warns you when batteries get low!
- 
**Safety Ladders (2 storey)**  
 One per bedroom located on upper floor(s). Your best choice to ensure there is a second escape route via a window if stairway is blocked by fire.
- 
**Fire Extinguishers**  
 Escape is always your first priority. But for small and contained fires, having an approved fire extinguisher within reach may allow you to put out flare-ups before they spread. Good choice for garage, kitchen and each level of your home...cars and boats too.

Fire services strongly recommend that both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms be installed to help ensure maximum detection of the various types of fires that can occur within the home.

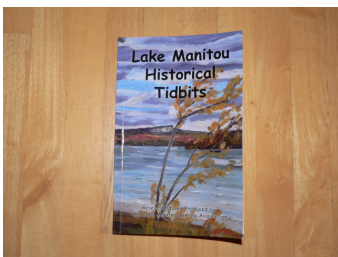


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## Fire Smart Practices

- Treat your cottage as you would your home! **Have both smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, as well as fire extinguishers and test them regularly!**
- **Follow the 10 / 7 Rule! Smoke alarms must be replaced every 10 years and CO alarms every 7 years.** Even though an alarm may sound when you push the test button or replace the batteries, an outdated alarm does not provide the level of protection you need. Sensors weaken and can become obstructed over time.
- **Check expiry dates on alarms as part of your cottage opening ritual.** Remember batteries exposed to cold temperatures lose their power quickly and should be replaced each season.
- **Practice safe grilling.** Position your barbecue or grill away from the cottage, deck, and all traffic and play areas. Use long-handled tools so the chef’s hands and clothing are clear of flames and grease spatters. Clean the grill well each season and periodically after that. Replace worn barbecue parts immediately.
- **Make sure your 911 signs are clearly visible.**
- **Spring is the most dangerous time to conduct any outdoor burning!** Postpone burning until “green up” has taken hold in mid-June. If burning leaves/brush piles must not be more than 2 m in diameter and 2 m in height. Visit [safe@home.ca](mailto:safe@home.ca) or [www.foca.on.ca/firesmart](http://www.foca.on.ca/firesmart) for more information.

## LMAA Stuff



Lake Manitou Historical Tidbits –Our book was so successful last year that we sold all 300 copies before the summer was over. As a result, another 150 copies are being printed this year. So if you haven’t got yours yet, there is still an opportunity. They will be available at the 2012 AGM in July! If you would like to order a copy before that, contact Pat Costigan at [patriciawilliamson@gmail.com](mailto:patriciawilliamson@gmail.com) .

On May 1, 2012, a representative of the LMAA will be making a presentation in opposition to Davis McLay Development slated for Green Bay. We will be lobbying for the sustainability of the Lake Trout Fishery and Water Quality. The increased phosphorous load is making this a problem for the lake and affecting the oxygen levels in the deepest parts of Lake Manitou.

The association is looking for members who have the **expertise** and **interest** is assisting with the development and maintenance of the LMAA website. A website committee is to be proposed at the 2012 AGM and in advance of that, interested parties are asked to forward their names to [mikecostigan@hotmail.com](mailto:mikecostigan@hotmail.com) .

For all those who fly flags at the cottage, coming this summer and new to the LMAA apparel line is an **LMAA flag!** The final details of the design, sizes, pricing, and how to order are currently being finalized and will be made available in the June Newsletter. Plan on getting yours!

## 2012 FOCA Spring AGM



On March 3, 2012 President Mike Costigan, Education Committee member Pat Costigan, Treasurer Don Payne (hidden in the picture), and director Michael R. Costigan attended the FOCA AGM in Toronto...and made the front page! Here is a summary!

We let our hair down a bit, at this year’s event. There was business but also fun and laughter to celebrate FOCA’s 50th Annual General

Meeting. The FOCA business meeting came first, including our new Mission Statement: **To protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario.** Next, there were presentations from FOCA staff and guest speakers on a variety of critical issues and FOCA programs including liability insurance, FireSmart and more. **Pat Foliott** spoke about carbon monoxide safety on behalf of the Hawkins’ Gignac Foundation and Kidde Canada. Visit the FOCA website for more program information.



**Stephen DeVos** of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines spoke about upcoming Mining Act reforms that implicate our members.

Our afternoon guest speaker was **Penny Caldwell**, Editor of Cottage Life Magazine, celebrating “things we love about the cottage,” introduced by **Terry Rees**.



Finally, we announced the launch of a new “**Make your lake great**” contest for a chance to win \$5,000 for your association from

FOCA, Cottage Life and BOATsmart! Canada. Get details and Enter online from March 23 - July 15, 2012.



The final afternoon session was devoted to Environmental and Lake Steward updates. **Crystal Robertson** of the Toronto Zoo’s Adopt-a-Pond program spoke about turtles as an indicator species for “Healthy Water, Healthy Wildlife.” On behalf of the Dorset Environmental Sciences Centre (DESC), members received an update on the **Lake Partner Program**. Thanks to all our sponsors and volunteers who made the day such a success!



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## Asian Carp Update – a summary of February 15, 2012 Manitoulin expositor article by Alicia McCutcheon

Asian carp were imported to the United States to help control algae in the fish ponds in the southern US, but were accidentally introduced into the Mississippi River waterway in the early 1990's due to flooding. There are scientific studies that show Asian carp DNA having already made it into the Great Lakes. Current control efforts for the carp include electric barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, however they are incomplete, costly to maintain, and vulnerable to failure. The electric barriers will not stop all aquatic invasive species and may not stop small Asian carp.

Earlier this month, a report by the Great lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative was released, naming alternatives for physically separating the Great lakes and Mississippi River basins in the hopes of preventing the spread of Asian carp. The report explains that the word 'separation' is defined as "stopping the flow of water by physically placing physical structures at key points in the waterway system."

Mike Wilton, founder of Algonquin Eco Watch and member of the Manitoulin Area Stewardship Council agrees that the best suggestion is to completely restore the natural divide, but worries that the United States Army Corps of Engineers is dragging their feet, looking for more money for further studies.

Michael Toombs, a member of the McGregor Bay Association and a Cincinnati resident also shares these sentiments. "The only solution is to close all of the rivers and canals in the Chicago area and return their flows to their original watersheds so that in the end, besides protecting the Great Lakes watershed, we also protect the Mississippi and its watershed". Mr. Toombs also acknowledges that Asian carp are getting into the Great lakes and says "When there are enough of them and they begin establishing reproducing populations, they will spread over the entire Great Lakes, its shallows, tributary rivers and waterways, like McGregor Bay, and strangle them of their native fish stocks."

The study admits that the cost of separation would be substantial, however, the cost would be spread over 50 years and among different groups within and beyond the Chicago area. The sense of urgency surrounding this problem is surely to remain in the public eye.

## Member Notice Board

- ✚ **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:**  
Don Payne at [payne@interlog.com](mailto:payne@interlog.com) or Michael R. Costigan at [mikecostigan@hotmail.com](mailto:mikecostigan@hotmail.com)
- ✚ A reminder to members that submissions for any newsletter are always welcomed! Send submissions to [mikecostigan@hotmail.com](mailto:mikecostigan@hotmail.com) **Deadline for submissions for June 2012 newsletter is May 24<sup>th</sup> 2012!**
- ✚ Thanks to the Rob Coulter and Anne Moffatt for their contributions to this newsletter!

**LMAA - Directors, Officers, and Project Coordinators**

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<b>Secretary:</b> Effie Williamson Eagle’s Nest Area	459 Sierra Dr Traverse City MI 49685 231-943-8333 <a href="mailto:Litemetals@yahoo.com">Litemetals@yahoo.com</a>	53C L&J Ln One RR2 Manitowaning ON P0P 1N0 705-859-3559
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<b>Director &amp; Lake Steward:</b> Mike Thompson Holiday Haven Area	153 Old Mill Trail Manitowaning ON P0P 1N0 705-859-2423 <a href="mailto:michael_nancy_manitou@hotmail.com">michael_nancy_manitou@hotmail.com</a>	Same
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<b>Director &amp; Newsletter Coordinator:</b> Michael R Costigan Eagle’s Nest Area	4 Nuttal St Cambridge ON N2C 4J3 519-654-7324 <a href="mailto:mikecostigan@hotmail.com">mikecostigan@hotmail.com</a>	91 L&J Ln One RR2 Manitowaning ON P0P 1N0 705-859-2705
<b>Director &amp; Website Coordinator:</b> Marcus Mohr Sandfield-Windfall Lake Rd Area	699 Blue Rd RR1 Mindemoya ON P0P 1T0 705-377-7898 <a href="mailto:mmohr_ca@hotmail.com">mmohr_ca@hotmail.com</a>	517 Frawleys Ln Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
<b>Director:</b> Jim Booth Eagle’s Nest Area	32 Gloucester Court Sudbury ON P3E 5N5 705-673-6684 <a href="mailto:jimbo@vianet.ca">jimbo@vianet.ca</a>	327 Wilton Trail Manitowaning ON P0P 1N0 705-561-5919
<b>Director:</b> John Coulter Rockville Area	3380 Military St Port Huron MI 48060 810-987-7527 <a href="mailto:coulterslanding@comcast.net">coulterslanding@comcast.net</a>	54 Manitou Haven Trail RR1 Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0 705-377-4709
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<b>Education Coordinators:</b> Mary Lohead & Pat Costigan	See above	