



# WIND SWEEP

The Lake Manitou Area Association Newsletter

"Let's keep our lake great"

March 2010

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## Editor's Message

I have had the great fortune to have spent the majority of my summers, part or in whole, on Lake Manitou from a very young age. The memories of summers spent are fond and numerous. Weeks spent at my grandparent's cottage in Eagles Nest while making daily treks to Silver Bay Road in my grandfather's Ford Bronco Jeep to work long days on clearing my parent's newly purchased property on Frank Hutchinson's farm; Spending our summers (6 Costigan's) in a 8'x10' sleep cabin with 2 bunk beds (that still stands) so we could spend more time working; Being dragged on a hot July afternoon into a raspberry patch for what seemed to be an eternity....sorry mom; Teenage summers spent contracting my labour services to local farmers along Silver Bay Road; Water skiing for hours on end when Manitou calmed long enough to allow us to get our boat in the water; Evening fishing excursions with Frank Hutchinson catching monster bass along our shoreline; Arriving at the cottage after a late night ferry ride on Labour Day weekend and racing to the dock to witness a northern lights display that is unmatched in my recent memory; My grandmother's plea for us to "linger longer" when we visited...she loved having visitors to her cottage!

Ironically, last summer during a cottage cleaning spree I found an old sign in a box that my grandparents used to have hung on their cottage property (which I now proudly own) that reads "Linger Longer".

This summer I plan on hanging this sign again in their memory, while spending as much time with my family at the cottage as I can. Here's hoping you can "linger longer" on Lake Manitou and build your families summer memories.

Michael R. Costigan

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## Musings from Kingfisher Cove - Lake Manitou by Anne Moffatt

Hi folks--

Where did the winter go? After a windy wavy summer, September was nice. We spent part of it in Saskatchewan visiting our son and family. It rained most of October filling the lake and swamps. It began freezing in December, and Kingfisher Cove, the name we gave our little bay with the consent of our neighbours froze over and stayed frozen. Most of our snow came just after that.

Paul opened our walking trails in December and hasn't had to groom them since.

The woods are full of deer, bunny, fox, mice and squirrel tracks. There are plenty of wolf tracks also, some around our bird feeders as well as lots of sightings on the ice.

I put bird seed out early because a Cardinal brought her baby to the feeder and fed it old seed from last spring. I had never seen that before.

We have the usual compliment of winter birds which disappear regularly when the big Goshawk appears. There is only a small flock of Goldfinches and no Grosbeaks.

A Partridge flew into one of our windows; I tried to revive it but ended up serving it for supper.

It is strange, Twinkle the cat hides from the Goshawk, but stands in the bird feed and defies the 4 deer to come near. They stamp their feet at her then wait until she leaves.

We have up to 6 deer come at a time, 3 are a family and 3 are orphans which the family chases from the feed.

I also saw a huge Fisher, and there have been tracks of Otters on the shore but I haven't seen one as yet.

There have been fish huts all over the lake; they have been moving around to find fish. The fishing has been up and down.

Since Paul's fishing partner Ron has been unable to go fishing, Paul has only been out a few times and has a total of 3 fish so far.

Sadly one of our Lake Manitou pioneers Burk Vanzant passed away this winter. Our condolences to their family.

Thor and I are just back from our walk, it was partly sunny with snow crystals in the air.... rather magical.

The Jays are beginning their clothesline screeching, so spring isn't too far away. Soon the snow will be gone and I will see you on the golf course.

Anne Moffatt

Heron Cottage on Kingfisher cove

## Fishing Licences – Did you Know? by Don Payne

It's an interesting fact that all residents fishing in Ontario need a fishing licence. The regulations however allow that the birth certificate of a resident who is younger than 18 years or who are older 65 is considered to be a licence in the absence of a fishing licence.

This means that qualified people who want to take advantage of this must carry their birth certificate and provide it to a Conservation Officer when asked. Fishing licences and birth certificates are important documents and as such they should be carefully protected.

There are many waterproof, secure carrying pouches available at sporting goods stores today that would be ideal for storing and carrying outdoors documents.

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

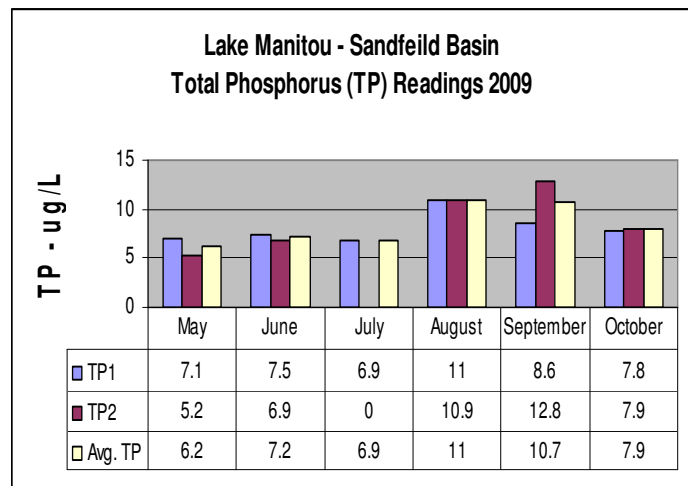
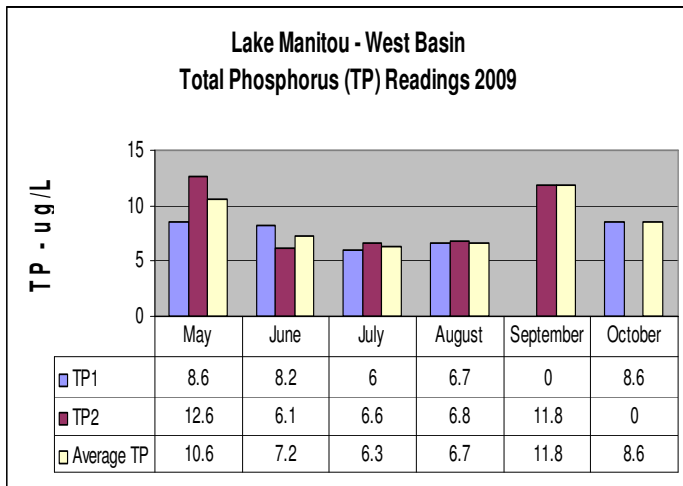
Thanks to LMAA founders Peter Edward and the late John Edward, our annual phosphorus and secchi disk readings have been taken and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment’s “Lake Partner Program” since 1995. Here the samples are analyzed at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC), recorded and then posted on its webpage, [www.ontario.ca/lakepartner](http://www.ontario.ca/lakepartner). 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. A lakes nutrient status will reflect land use changes in the watershed and assist in the efforts to protect inland lakes.

While readings for Lake Manitou are communicated annually in the newsletter, it has been 7 years since a broader view of the annual statistics has been taken. Looking back at 15 years of data that has been collected gives context to what is happening with the lake.

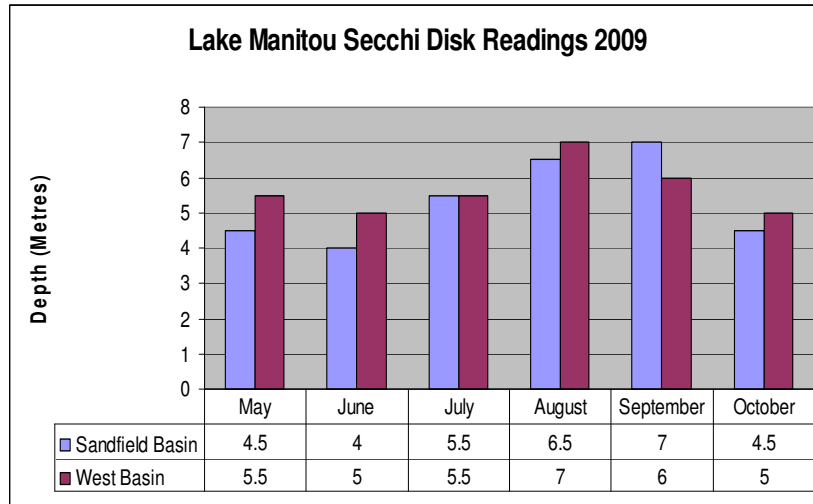
Total phosphorus concentrations are ideally used to interpret nutrient status since phosphorus is the element that controls the growth of algae in most Ontario lakes. Increases in phosphorus will decrease water clarity by stimulating algal growth. By sampling the total phosphorus each year it is possible 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

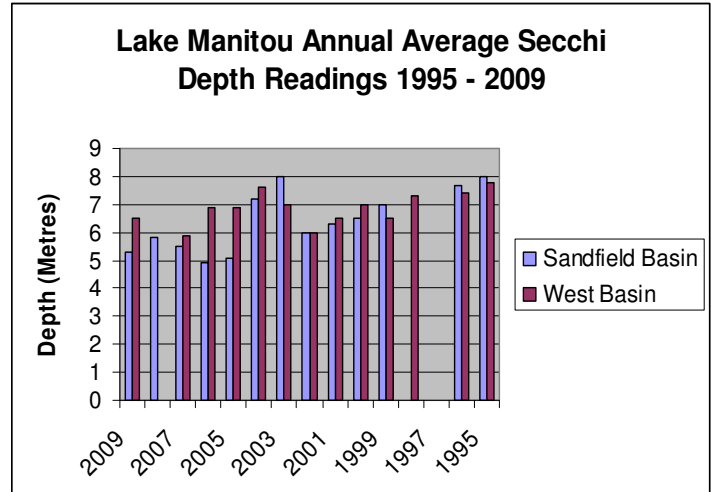
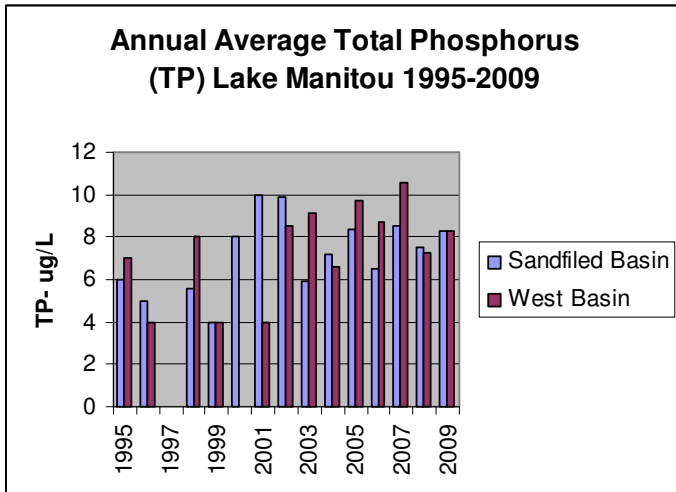


- ❖ “0” = lost or contaminated sample
- ❖ ug/L = micrograms per litre. A microgram is equivalent to .001 mg/L



**Observation:** While there are months where the TP and Secchi depth readings register in the Mesotrophic range, the annual averages for both Basins in 2009 confirm Lake Manitou as an Oligotrophic Lake...high water quality in terms of lake nutrient status!

On a historical note, I have also included are the Annual Average Total Phosphorus (TP) readings and Annual Average Secchi Disk readings for Lake Manitou dating back to 1995. This helps get the larger picture of any changes occurring in Lake Manitou.



- note: no data available for 1997 or secchi depth readings for the Sandfield Basin in 1998

**Observation:**

The data indicates a general trend of increasing phosphorus levels and a resulting decline in secchi depth readings. There are numerous factors that may have a hand in setting this trend. Environmental conditions play a significant roll in the evolution of lake water quality. Did you know that rainfall is one of the largest sources of phosphorus (among other pollutants) to lakes? Rain will pick up naturally occurring contaminants and deposit them in direct precipitation. Similarly, storm water runoff carries land based

pollutants (eg. phosphorus from fertilizer spread on farm fields) via source streams that feed our lake. Waterfront development plays a significant role as well on impacting water quality. Septic systems, even properly functioning ones will allow phosphorus from human waste to migrate to the lake. Improperly functioning (old) systems accelerate the nutrient loading of phosphorus from human waste, dishwasher, and laundry detergents to the lake. Chemical fertilizers used on gardens and lawns will also contribute nutrients through storm water runoff.

While total phosphorus concentrations are the best way to describe the nutrient status of our lake, regular Secchi depths can also help to identify changes in water clarity that are not linked to nutrient status (zebra mussels, climate change, etc.).

Factors (besides phosphorus) that can affect water clarity are dissolved organic carbon (DOC), turbulent water and **invasive species such as zebra mussels**. Therefore secchi disk readings are important to track changes in Lake Manitou that might be occurring that wouldn't be noticed by monitoring TP concentrations alone.

Source: “Take the Plunge”- A Guide to Stewardship of Ontario’s Waters – article by Kathy Prescott pg 10-17

## Manitoulin Streams recognized



Manitoulin Streams was awarded the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) Zone "D" Conservation Club of the Year 2009

plaque. In addition to this the OFAH zone "D" presented Manitoulin Streams with a \$2000.00 cheque. The award was handed out at an OFAH Zone "D" annual general meeting in Sudbury, on Saturday January 16, 2010 in front of a large group of OFAH members from Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, Parry Sound and everywhere in between. Streams vice chairman Ted Williamson accepted the award on behalf of the association.

The Manitoulin Area Stewardship Coordinator Bob Florean and Ted Williamson showed the OFAH crowd a slide show of Manitoulin Streams achievements in 2009. The members were surprised and impressed by the scale and success of the Manitoulin Streams projects.

More recently, Manitoulin Streams was presented the Mary Pickford Trophy at the 82<sup>nd</sup> annual OFAH conference in Mississauga on Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010.



Paul Moffat Manitoulin Streams Chairman (left) and Ted Williamson Vice Chairman (right) displaying the OFAH zone “D” Conservation club of the Year 2009 award.



Ted Williamson Manitoulin Streams Vice Chair,  
OFAH President Rob Hare and Manitoulin  
Streams Project Coordinator Seija Deschenes

The Mary Pickford Trophy is one the OFAH's highest honours. The award recognizes the most outstanding conservation achievements by an Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.) club. The OFAH has over 100, 000 members and is the producer of Ontario Out Of Doors Magazine as well as Angler and Hunter Television. The award was presented by OFAH President Rob Hare. Mr. Hare was quoted as saying "This award recognizes spirit, determination and the deep caring nature of OFAH conservationists in Ontario. Conservation work takes volunteers, donations and most importantly dedication. The LMAA is a proud supporter of Manitoulin Streams and congratulates them on these recent awards

## Rare Wolverine Sighting on Manitoulin Island

Someone who lives on Bidwell Road on Manitoulin Island took these photos. He was very fortunate. You can spend your life in the woods and never see a wolverine. He was lucky enough to not only see one, but to get this photograph.



## Ice Freeze / Thaw History – submitted by Doug & Betty Heis

As you know the other areas of Lake Manitou will mostly be frozen long before the large open area in front of our place. (The Heis cottage faces SE on Maple Lane road in Sandfield Basin) We use the date in and out as we see it here at our cottage. It is interesting to see the same dates several years in a row.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ICE IN</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>ICE OUT</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
1908/1909	Dec 28/08	Latest in 10 years		
1944/1945		As per diary of Clifford Luscombe	March 28/45	Really warm spring (had been lots of snow)
1968/1969			April 26/69	
1969/1970			April 27/70	
1970/1971			April 24/71	
1971/1972	Jan 2/72		May 10/72	
1972/1973	Dec 10/72	As per diary of Clifford Luscombe		
1973/1974			April 22/74	
1975/1976	Dec 20/75		April 18/76	
1976/1977				
1977/1978			May 6/78	
1978/1979	Dec 27/78			
1979/1980			April 24/80	
1980/1981	Dec 16/80		April 18/81	
1981/1982	Jan 5/82		May 4/82	
1982/1983	Jan 11/83	*plus or minus a day	April 26/83	
1983/1984	Jan 14/84	*	April 23/84	
1984/1985	Jan 1/85		April 30/85	
1985/1986	Dec 17/85		April 19/86	
1986/1987	Jan 17/87		April 14/87	
1987/1988	Dec 29/87		April 20/88	
1988/1989	Dec 29/88		April 29/89	
1989/1990	Dec 6/89		April 28/90	
1990/1991	Dec 31/90	Dec 26 & 27 then thaw	April 20/91	
1991/1992	Jan 16/1992		May 4/92	
1992/1993	Jan 1/1993		May 3/93	
1993/1994	Dec 26/93		April 27/94	Warm wind midnight
1994/1995	Jan 24/95	Froze Dec 19 then thawed froze again Dec 31 then thawed again	April 25/95	
1995/1996	Dec 13/95		May 13/96	
1996/1997	Jan 10/97	Frozen other end of Manitou Dec 25	May 2/97	Started moving on April 29 (gone from Big lake & Mindemoya on April 28)
1997/1998	Jan 12/98		April 13/98	
1998/1999	Dec 31/98		April 19/99	Packed in at Sandfield gone the next morning
1999/2000	Jan 5/00	Froze twice & opened up again	March 27/00	Started moving 25th
2000/2001	Dec 23/00		April 22/01	Started moving 21st
2001/2002	Feb 1/02	Just a few holes left	April 19/02	
2002/2003	Jan 3/03		May 1/03	Started moving out Apr 29/30
2003/2004	Jan 8/04		April 19/04	At 6:00 pm
2004/2005	Dec 24/04	4:00 pm	April 19/05	Warm weather through night

2005/2006	Jan 1/06	Morning	April 19/06	Went gently
2006/2007	Jan 20,21/07	Overnight	April 22/07	Went gently 4:00 pm
2007/2008	Jan 14/08	Froze Jan 3; clear on 9 <sup>th</sup> ; froze again on 14 <sup>th</sup> (source Matti)	April 22/08	Again went very gently
2008/2009	Dec 31/08	Info from Matti: lake froze when the sun went down on New Years Eve, it was a cold clear night	April 22/09	
2009/2010	TBD		TBD	

## Norton’s Creek Fish Egg Release by Seija Deschenes



Manitoulin Streams wants to let you know about a unique first time event for us. On Tuesday December 15th, 2009 we will be releasing 5000 eyed brook trout eggs into Norton's Creek which feeds into Lake Manitou.

As you may know Manitoulin Streams has rehabilitated the upper half of Norton's Creek which was devastated by unrestricted livestock access. The creek was at one time a very important spawning area for brook trout. Brook trout are more likely to imprint and return to their natal streams and releasing them at Norton's Creek at the eyed egg development stage will help to ensure they return.

The eyed eggs are put into Scotty incubation boxes which help to ensure their survival. The boxes have small compartments for each egg. Each compartment is equipped with 2 holes one which allows oxygenated water to flow through and another which allows the fish to escape at a certain point in their development. When the eggs hatch the fry will have a yolk sac. With the yolk sac the brook trout are too large to exit but once the sac is absorbed they will be able to fit through the hole and exit the compartment. When they emerge they are free swimming thereby increasing their chance of survival and are less prone to predation.







This is the final stage of the rehabilitation work at Norton's Creek. We are coordinating with the Hill's Lake Hatchery to send the eggs by Purolator and they will arrive by Tuesday December 15th around 10:00-10:30 in Little Current. I will be picking them up and driving them to Bob Hutton's for 11:00am and meeting all the volunteers at his farm house. Some of the members of our partner groups are planning to come out (Little Current Fish and Game Club and LMAA).

Anyone that is interested in helping out for this event can email and let me know if you plan on attending. We will need people to help transfer the eggs into the Scotty box compartments and placing them into the stream.

## Canada Geese - Yet another Invasive Species! – submitted by Don Payne

A couple of years ago, my cottage lakefront was visited by a flock of Canada Geese. They came twice and twice I ran them off. What a mess they left. We set our Scare Crow® on the breakwater and that kept them away. This year they came again and once more the Scare Crow® was set up. Then they visited at 3 a.m. in the morning, moving off the breakwater and onto the front lawn. There were two pairs of adults and 20 goslings. So far we've picked up about 3 cubic feet of goose dung!

In truth, we've been attacked by a new invasive species. Even the City of Sudbury recognized the Canada Goose as being a nuisance in that it has budgeted \$200,000 for the current year (2009) to rid them from many parks and beaches that are found in the City. To be certain the mess the geese leave is repelling, but the big worry is that rain will wash the dung into the lake; the very place we draw our household water from and where we swim.

**What to do?** The internet provided some information on how to manage Canada Geese. That and some additional information follows.

**Timing:** Be prepared to discourage the birds as soon as they arrive – as early as February. The birds are extremely reluctant to move once they have begun moulting their flight feathers in early June.

### Deterrents:

- ✚ Allow the grass along the edge of the water to grow tall – say 1ft/30 cm. Don't mow it down in the Fall as it will be needed in the Spring and early Summer. The goslings cannot fly over it and the adults will lead them elsewhere. Other obstructions are low fences, rock walls, trees, densely spaced brush and hedges. Temporary barriers such as low fences made of string/chord such as Bird-Flash-Tape® or

fluttering stands of shiny Mylar tape or other highly visible material. Branches from trees laid where the birds land may also deter the birds.

- ✚ Scare birds as soon as they arrive. Aside from shouting and clapping your hands you can use such things as noisemakers, strobe lights, recorded distress calls and trained dogs, flashing lights. Vehicles with remote controlled horns and flashing lights may also be effective. The birds may quickly adapt to the disturbance so combine the techniques in various ways. Wildlife professionals may have new technologies to help.
- ✚ A local resort/cabin operator says that he uses a product called Mosquito – Less® with great results. It has a garlic base and he sprays it in the area where the birds land. There are two drawbacks to its use: it is relatively expensive and has to be re-sprayed after each rain.
- ✚ Modify the grass. Canada Geese prefer manicured lawns, so let the grass adjacent the water grow a little longer and plant coarse, tall grasses that are less appealing to geese.

**Caution:** The birds are protected by the Migratory Birds Convention Act and if you wish to do anything physical to the birds you have to get a licence to do so from the Canadian Wildlife Service. You may get a permit to discharge a firearm to scare the geese if all other measures have failed or you may get a permit to oil the eggs to make them sterile.

## More Lake Manitou History by Pat Costigan

**Vanzant's Landing** is named after the Vanzant family, early settlers on the north shore. Henry Vanzant, an American-born farmer, his wife Margaret Yake and their 9 children settled here on the shores of Lake Manitou in 1874. In the days before good roads, Vanzant's Landing was an important point of departure for people travelling to and from points west. At one time there was a stage that ran between Manitowaning and Vanzant's Landing. People could arrive at the dock in Manitowaning, take the stage to the landing, and travel by sailboat or steam tug to points on Lake Manitou. Henry Vanzant even brought the farmers' grist across Lake Manitou by means of his sailboat. By the late 1880s, ferries such as Robert Stapleton's Della S. were carrying settlers and supplies to stops at Lehman's Landing, Sprys, Bassingthwaites, Birch Point, Paul's Point, McDonald's Mills, and Plant's Bay.

According to Mr. Jas. R. Tilston, “Mr. Stapleton had a small steam tug which was used in towing the booms of logs to the sawmill. In the spring of the year the tug was also used to transport Indians with their season's maple sugar, from Silver Bay to Vanzant's Landing. Travelling by boat across Lake Manitou saved many tedious miles of land, as Manitowaning and the Indian Reserve opposite were their destinations.”

Around 1888 Robert Stapleton built a sawmill at Vanzant's Landing that was later replaced by a mill belonging to the Stoddard, Maitland, and Rixon Company of Owen Sound, Ontario.

In August 1895 Dudley Wetmore Smith of Detroit wrote about his trip by sailboat from Vanzant's Landing to Nighswander's Resort (Mountain View Resort). It had taken Dudley 3 days to sail from Windsor to Manitowaning. In his diary he described his trip across Lake Manitou:

“[We] drove out to Lake in aft[afternoon]. Saw Mr. & Mrs. Van Zandt. To bed early. Got started in the morning. Avery [his friend] with his tent and trunk and folding boat, etc. in the double team wagon on our way

to the lake where we arrived at 8.30 and soon were off. We found the wind dead ahead & we had to beat our way up & we sailed & we sailed & the wind was fresh & the sun not too warm & it was a lovely day, but sailing from 9 o'clock in the morning to half past 4 in the aft. to go only 13 miles is a little too much.”  
Vanzant Landing was also known as Manitou Landing.

Sources:

1. A Time to Remember - A History of the Municipality of Assiginack,
2. Exploring Manitoulin by ShelleyJ. Pearen ( p. 171 & 174)
3. From History of Manitoulin – Property of Spring Bay Women’s Institute: Budge’s Settlement – S.S. No. 3 Assiginack by Mr. Jas. R. Tilston, Teacher
4. Dudley Wetmore Smith’s 1895 Diary from the CMHS Museum

## Member Notice Board

### ✚ **Death Notices:**

Two long time members of LMAA have passed away.

John Edward passed away December 4, 2009. John was a founding member and a Past President of LMAA who worked actively for years on the association’s behalf.

Irene Sabine of London Ontario passed away in her 105<sup>th</sup> year on March 8, 2010. Irene spent many summers at her summer cottage in Eagles Nest Bay.

Our sympathies go out to the Edward and Sabine families.

- ✚ **To date 291 maps have been sold.** Contact John Harvey at [throrajohn1@rogers.com](mailto:throrajohn1@rogers.com) if you still haven’t got yours yet.

### ✚ **LMAA Membership signs**

The executive has been working on the suggestion made at a past annual meeting of a promotional sign acknowledging membership to the association to be hung on your 911 post. All approvals have been granted and we hope to distribute the signs at the 2010 LMAA Annual Meeting. Be there to get yours!

- ✚ 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](mailto:mikecostigan@hotmail.com) so that he can publish it. Thanks to Anne Moffat, Don Payne, Betty and Doug Heis, Seija Deschense and Pat Costigan for their contributions / ideas for this newsletter. We always need member input!

- ✚ Notice of 2009 LMAA Annual General Meeting (AGM)  
**Saturday, July 18, 2010 at the Big lake Schoolhouse at 10 a.m.** Hope to see you there.

- ✚ **Please keep your contact information up to date! Note the change for Pat and Mike Costigan. If you have a change in mailing address or email address please forward to one of the following:** Pat Costigan at [patjcostigan@gmail.com](mailto:patjcostigan@gmail.com) , Don Payne at [payne@interlog.com](mailto:payne@interlog.com) or Mike Costigan at [mikecostigan@hotmail.com](mailto:mikecostigan@hotmail.com)

**LMAA – Directors, Officers, Project Coordinators**

<b>Title/Position</b>	<b>Winter Address</b>	<b>Summer Address</b>
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<b>Secretary:</b> Effie Williamson Eagle’s Nest Area	459 Sierra Dr. Traverse City MI 49684 (231) 943-8333 <a href="mailto:litemetals@aol.com">litemetals@aol.com</a>	RR2 Manitowaning, ON POP 1N0 (705) 859-3559
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<b>Education Coordinator’s:</b>	Mary Lohead & Pat Costigan	See Above