

# Shoreline

NEWS



## Steenburg Lake Cottage Association Newsletter

Spring 2012

### A Message from the President:

Welcome back seasonal members, and for those who reside at the lake, I'm sure you are already in full summer mode.

If the mild winter and our balmy month of March is any indication of what to expect from Mother Nature, then the summer of 2012 will be one to enjoy outdoors.

As always, the SLCA team is gearing up for all the activities

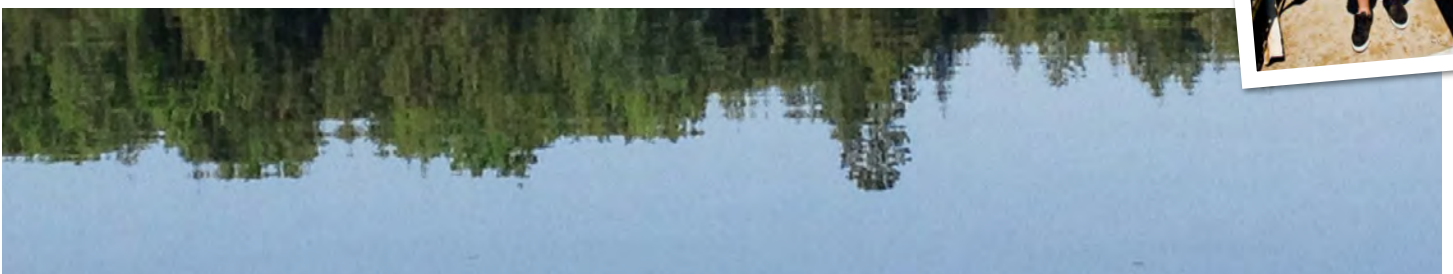
planned for the summer, and we are looking forward to enjoying them with our members. So please come out and play.

By the end of this season, we will have a few openings on our team. We are seeking leadership for our social committee, membership and the role of vice-president. As a volunteer to these roles, it isn't hard work. It is a great way to meet your neighbours and a fun way to help our community. Please remember that without these leaders, this association could

not exist. Consider it, and then jump onboard.

Before I settle into my hammock, here is a quick rundown of noteworthy items:

Cell Phone and Internet Service on the lake is much better than in the past. There are many vendors in Bancroft with solutions if you need it



## President's Message Cont'd

There is an active logging operation in the woods around our lake this summer. So please be mindful of the trucks

If you have items that can be used as prizes for SLCA events, we are always thankful for these contribution.

A petition will be circulated to our members on the south road regarding township maintenance. Please take the time to let us know your thoughts on this matter.

We will have a continental breakfast at the AGM on August 1<sup>st</sup>, and the OPP will join us for a brief discussion on property crimes. Come check it out.

On behalf of the Steenburg Lake Community Association, let's get the party started And play safe.

**Anthony, President SLCA**

Wild Turkey



## Invasive Species: Reintroduction of Extirpated Species to The Steenburg Lake Area

Last spring, I was strolling across the middle of our island (Birch Island), and flushed out what I thought to be five or six Ruffed Grouse. Then up popped this large blue and red head! It scared the you-know-what out of me until I realized it was a female turkey. What I thought were grouse were young turkeys.

Turkeys can be found throughout much of rural Ontario as a result of re-introduction of this once extirpated species (by 1909) beginning in 1984. In 1984, wild birds from the USA were trapped, transferred and released into Ontario. The program had three main goals - restoration of part of our natural heritage, provision of hunting and viewing, recreation, and deriving economic benefits from these recreational opportunities. From 1984-87, 274 birds were obtained from 6 states in the US, and released at 6 locations in southern Ontario. The wild birds were captured over bait, using rocket-propelled nets, brought into the province and then released at appropriate habitat sites. After those initial releases, the province in partnership with other organizations began trapping its own birds, and relocate over 3000 birds to 190 sites. As of 2002 Ontario's wild turkey population had estimated at more than 35,000 birds, and in 2011 the population was estimated at 100,000 birds. Wild Turkeys now occupy 15,000 sq. miles in southern Ont., which is about 75% of their suitable range. In 1987, wild turkey hunting seasons were first established in three Wildlife Management Units. By 1990, 16 Wildlife Management Units had spring turkey seasons. Last year wild turkey hunting seasons were open in all, or part, of 61 Wildlife Management Units in southern Ontario. Wild turkey harvests in Ontario have grown steadily from 64 birds taken during the first spring season, to a record of 3,496 birds harvested in 2001, and 9086 in spring of 2010 (361 in the fall).

Moose can be found in our Steenburg Lake area. My daughters came across a moose one evening (one thought it was a horse at first), and one of the





White girls ran into one on the south road. More evidence of real wilderness in our back yard.

This spring, I was woken in the night by the sound of a Barred Owl (Who-cooks-For-You), and I am sure I have heard the sound of a bull elk (Bugles, Barks, Grunts) on the Headland once or twice in the past few years. The elk was lost to Ontario in the 1800's.

A restoration program was carried out with the help of many partners between 1998 and 2001. Elk were released in areas around the Nipissing/French River, Bancroft/North Hastings, the North Shore of Lake Huron, and Lake of the Woods. Released elk came from Elk Island National Park in Alberta, a source of elk for many reintroduction and restoration projects in North America. Overall, Ontario's elk population is now increasing. Released animals have, however, responded differently to natural environment conditions and stressors, both within and between release areas. Population trends for local groups of elk in Ontario are influenced by their ability to adapt to these factors. To listen to the sound of an elk follow this link on your computer's browser to

Youtube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKnqLGED9SQ>

I was fortunate enough to travel to British Columbia, where elk sightings are as numerous and regular as wild turkey sightings are for us in Ontario now. On the side of the road were signs warning of goats on the road as well as moose and elk. My charming, and lovely wife informed me that those were not goats on the road warning signs, they were sheep on the road warning signs. The Big Horned Sheep (*Ovis Canadensis*) is a problem on BC roads it seems. Rocky mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) are a different species and are not a road hazard in the Rockies. This got me to thinking about goat sightings on the Steenburg Lake South Road, where it is assumed that the common goat (*Capra aegagrus hircus*) was sited by that old eagle eye himself, Rickus Burkus. Now, the theme of this article is reintroduction of species, and I am wondering about the range of the Bighorn sheep – perhaps it has been reintroduced along with turkeys and elk into North Hastings?

## Invasive Species

### Prevention Boaters and Anglers - You can help!

1. **Inspect** your boat, motor, trailer, and boating equipment such as anchors and fishing gear, centerboards, rollers, and axles. Remove any zebra mussels and other animals and plants that are visible before leaving any waterbody.

2. **Drain** water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land immediately before leaving the waterbody

3. **Wash or dry** your boat, tackle, downriggers, trailer, and other boating equipment to kill harmful species that were not visible at the boat launch. Some aquatic species can survive more than two weeks out of water. Therefore, it is important to:

**Rinse** your boat and equipment that normally gets wet with hot tap water (greater than 50°C), or

**Spray** your boat and trailer with high pressure water (250 psi), or

**Dry** your boat and equipment in the sun for at least 5 days before transporting them to another body of water.

4. **Empty your bait bucket on land** before leaving any body of water. Never release live bait into water, or release aquatic animals from one water body into another. **It is illegal to use gobies, ruffe or rudd for bait!**

5. **Learn** how to identify exotic species, if you believe they have spread to a new location in Ontario, please call the province-wide Invading Species Hotline at [1-800-563-7711](tel:1-800-563-7711).

## What are those big mysterious snails in the lake?



They are "Mystery Snails", and have large rounded shells with non-calcified opercula.

They are noteworthy for their wide diet: grazing on algae growing on any submerged surface, ingesting fine particulate detritus and its micro-organisms, filtering suspended matter from the water, and even feeding on carrion.

*Viviparus "georgianus,"* the Banded Mystery Snail, is the thin-shelled, banded, inflated snail (25-35 mm high) whose shells accumulate in immensedrifts on the shores of cottage lakes. The recently established Ontario populations have not yet been proven to be different from the European *V. viviparus*, but they appear to be markedly different from true *V. georgianus* of the southern USA, so their classification and origin is not certain. As this is the only surface-active large snail that was widespread and abundant in Ontario lakes we can't speculate on which, if any, native species it may have displaced.

This species has invaded the northern part of the United States, as well as [Quebec](#) and [Ontario](#) in Canada. In the Mid-Atlantic Region it is found in the [Niagara River](#), [Erie Canal](#), [Hudson River](#) drainage in New York, and possibly [Lake Champlain](#). In the Great Lakes Region: The first record of this introduced species in the Great Lakes basin is from the [Hudson River](#) drainage, connected to the [Erie Canal](#) and [Mohawk River](#), in 1867. It was later reported from the [Lake Michigan](#) watershed by 1906 and [Lake Erie](#) by 1914. Other

records are from 1931 near [Buffalo](#), Lake Erie and the [Niagara River](#).<sup>[21]</sup> The [New York State Museum](#) has records from the 1950s and 1960s from 11 counties list this species as recorded from [Lake Huron](#), but they do not give the date of establishment, or any references.

**Ecology:** Found in lakes and slow-moving rivers with mud bottoms. This species thrives in eutrophic lentic environments such as lakes, ponds and some low-flow streams (Lee et al. 2002). It is usually absent from larger, faster flowing rivers (Kato and Foltz 1994); however, it is able to survive conditions of high water velocity in the St. Lawrence River, and may even be better adapted than the introduced *Bithynia tentaculata* to such habitat (Vincent 1979). Individuals are generally found in a range of habitats, including: regions with silt and mud substrate; communities dominated by diatoms and filamentous algae (not blue-green algae); shallow waters with sand or gravel substrate; soft and hard water; waters with pH between 6.3 and 8.5; freshwater habitats only; river reaches more than meanders.

*Viviparus georgianus* breeds and lives in shallow waters, often amongst macrophytes, in spring to fall, then moves out to deeper areas in the fall in order to overwinter away from shore. In more open waters, fall migration begins earlier than in smaller lakes and ponds. Most growth generally occurs when waters become warmer in spring and summer, although reduced growth continues in winter.

It is dioecious, iteroparous and ovoviviparous, laying eggs singly in albumen-filled capsules. Females generally brood eggs for 9–10 months. Fecundity is generally between 4 and 81 young/female, but on average is closer to 11 young/female. Females can brood more than one batch of young at a time and the number of young in one brood is positively related to the size of the female. Reproductive females are usually larger than 16 mm. Female banded mystery snails live 28–48 months and males live 18–36 months.

*Viviparus georgianus* is known to be a facultative or even obligate filter-feeding detritivore and thus can be used as a bioindicator of sediment contamination by oil and fertilizer, because growth, survival and histology are significantly affected by ingestion of contaminated sediments. This species grazes on diatom clusters found on silt and mud substrates, but may require the ingestion of some grit to break down algae. The banded mystery snail often lives at high densities, sometimes up to around 864/m<sup>2</sup>. It is host to many parasites in its native habitat, including cercaria, metacercaria ciliated protozoans, annelids, and chironomid larvae.

**Means of Introduction:** The earliest introduction of this species to the Hudson River drainage was made by an amateur conchologist who purposefully released around 200 of these snails simultaneously into the river. The snail probably dispersed by itself following this event, but more recent introductions were likely made via release from aquaria.

**Status:** This species is considered established in the drainage systems of Lakes Michigan, Erie, and Ontario.

**Impact of Introduction:** At present there are no known impacts associated with this introduced species in the Great Lakes basin. Anecdotal evidence suggests that mallard ducks are adapting to foraging on this species in Lake George, New York. *Viviparus georgianus* has been shown to significantly reduce survival of largemouth bass eggs in guarded nests both in the laboratory and in ponds, and may contribute to high incubation mortality seen in natural field settings. This species may prey on fish embryos.



## The Splake are IN!

Marlene Pollard witnessed the stocking of our lake this spring. They released 7500 splake and the average weight was 44.4 grams. Enjoy the photos:



## Membership Report

by Marlene Pollard

The ice went out so early this year that it brought the thought of Spring just a little too early. The ice melted away on March 24<sup>th</sup> this year. It is the earliest that I have records for. If anyone has earlier dates please let me know.

Again this year I am looking forward to meeting new and old members at our association events. Please check out the membership kits and the notice board at Trudy's for the dates.

Still looking for one canvasser for the south road. Susan Jarson has done 2 sections for a couple of years now and it would be nice if someone could take over one of the sections.

I am making up a new list of the 50 years member certificates (which will be given out at our AGM on August 5<sup>th</sup>) Our newest 50 year members are the Douglas Family (Estelle Gordon), the George Family, the Rudd Family, and the Marshall Family. If there are any more families out there that have been members for 50 years please let me know and I will make sure you get your certificate.

We have two new members since our fall newsletter. I would like to welcome Radek Zelechowski and Laura Fryer member # 109 from Toronto and Valarie McGriskin and David Minshall member # 136 from Warsaw. Again welcome to the lake.

I also would like to remind everyone that we do have the PAY PAL service on our website [www.steenburglake.com](http://www.steenburglake.com). Many members used this service last year to pay their membership. If you choose to pay this way, your area canvasser will still drop off your info kit.

Hope to see you this summer. If you have any questions please contact me at 613-474-2392 or [pollard25@steenburglake.com](mailto:pollard25@steenburglake.com).

Marlene Pollard  
Membership Chair SLCA

# Township Bylaw Update

Limerick Township is in the process of updating its bylaws.

## Outdoor Lighting

Limerick township revised the proposed bylaw to include a clause governing outdoor lighting. Tudor CHashell did not include this clause.

5.21 iv) Lighting fixtures designed for exterior illumination shall be installed with the light direction downward and deflected away from adjacent lots and waterbodies.

This means that unshrouded outdoor lights fixed to houses, on boathouses, or on lamp-posts will not conform with the township bylaws. For compliant outdoor fixtures, search the internet for "Dark Sky Compliant" fixtures or try this URL: [http://www.darksky.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=628](http://www.darksky.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=628). These fixtures prevent upward and sideward light and direct light down to where it is needed. Your neighbours across the lake will really appreciate your consideration when you update your outdoor fixtures.

## Lakeshore Protection

Limerick Township has included a statement of intent regarding lake shorelines in the township. This is not enforceable, but it is strongly recommended as a guideline to follow for your own property on our lake in order to protect the lake environment and to help sustain good water quality. Below is a copy from the draft bylaw found on Limerick's website. Of interest is Tudor Cashell has adopted the "Buffer Strip" within its ENFORCEABLE bylaw that was approved and brought into use in 2010.

Following is a "Statement of Intent" endorsed by the Council of the Township of Limerick. Although it is included as guidance for Township Officials and Ratepayers alike, it does NOT constitute a part of the New Conforming By-laws as drafted and passed by Council on

xxxxx, 2012. Instead, it is hoped by Council that it will be effective in prompting better management practices for the use of shoreline properties throughout the Township.

## SHORELINE BUFFERS

### The Importance/Function of Shoreline Buffers

There are several benefits from buffers located along the land water interface of recreational lakes and rivers. These benefits include:

1. Protection of shoreline from wind and wave erosion
2. Reduction of contaminants from upland areas – sediment, nutrients, pesticides, herbicides, etc.
3. Control of nuisance wildlife (eg geese)
4. Provide wildlife habitat diversity and transition zone

### Principles of Buffer Creation/Maintenance

- 1) Minimum depth of buffer 15 metres where possible – more is better
- 2) Buffer should extend into the lake (macrophytes) where practical
- 3) A minimum of 75% of the shoreline property width should be buffer
- 4) Water flow across the buffer, toward the lake or stream, should be diffused across the entire property and not concentrated in a channel
- 5) Disturbed shoreline areas should be revegetated with a mixture of native grasses, shrubs, and trees appropriate for site specific conditions
- 6) Maintain existing vegetation, and use selective pruning to allow "view corridors" rather than total vegetation removal
- 7) Native vegetation that can be maintained throughout any development process and occupancy should be selected for revegetation plans

### Ideal Principles of Three Zone Buffer System

- 1) Zone 1 – area closest to the water should be a minimum 8 metres in depth and be vegetated with native trees and shrubs appropriate for site conditions

- 2) Zone 2 – the middle zone should be at least 15 metres in depth and contain managed forest
- 3) Zone 3 – the zone farthest from the water should be a minimum of 7 metres deep and consist primarily of maintained turfgrass, although woody vegetation is more desirable and is encourage

## Uses Within Shoreline Buffer

- 1) Zone 1: Area closest to the water should be relatively undisturbed native vegetation.

Uses to include footpaths, boat docks, etc

- 2) Zone 2: This area can support limited recreational uses such as wood chip trails within the view corridor. Tree maintenance (pruning, dead tree removal, and revegetation) is allowed.

- 3) Zone 3: Residential uses such as lawns, gardens, garden compost, or passive storm water management facilities such as infiltration trenches

### Uses Strongly Discouraged or Prohibited Within the Buffer

- 1) Impervious cover
- 2) Septic tanks and weeping beds
- 3) Clear cutting
- 4) Structures other than a pump house or dock
- 5) Parking lots
- 6) Motorized vehicles
- 7) Grazing or livestock
- 8) Pesticide or fertilizer application
- 9) Storage or disposal of wastes

### View Corridors

- 1) Clearing for a view corridor should be limited to no more than 12 metres at the lake or river bank, or a maximum of 25% of shoreline width, whichever is less
- 2) Clearing within the view corridor should retain 60% of basal area of trees
- 3) Shoreline access paths should wind through view corridor and be limited to a width of 3 metres: less is better
- 4) Pruning within the view corridor should be limited to 1/3 of tree height with no clearing of vegetation less than one metre in height



## Photo Contest is BACK!

Note - Only SLCA members will be able to participate

1 ONE picture per category

Deadline Oct 1st 2012

Photos to be emailed to [PhotoContest@steenburglake.com](mailto:PhotoContest@steenburglake.com) with name of photographer, age, membership/cottage #, or mail to Box 326, Gilmour, ON K0L 1W0

Categories:- PHOTO BY KIDS, ACTION, LANDSCAPES, NATURE, LIFE AT THE COTTAGE, BEST OF CONTEST

The winners will be announced in



## Water Quality

Steenburg Lake water quality is measured annually by sampling water from the main (West Bay) each May long weeked. Our association is a Lake Partner with the Ministry of Natural Resources, who test samples of lakewater sent to them , and provide published results. I have summarized several years of recent data into a mean for several local lakes to compare to Steenburg in the table below.

Lake Name	Mean Phosphorus Measure (ug/L)
Steenburg	8.8
Dickey	5.6
Limerick	7.8
Baptiste	10.1
Chandos	11.1
Weslemkoon	5.2

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. In extreme cases, algal blooms will affect the aesthetics of the lake and/or cause taste and odour problems in the water.

Many limnologists place lakes into three broad categories with respect to nutrient status. Lakes with less than 10 µg/L TP are considered oligotrophic. These are dilute, unproductive lakes that rarely experience nuisance algal blooms. Lakes with TP between 10 and 20 µg/L are termed mesotrophic and are in the middle with respect to trophic status. These lakes show a broad range of characteristics and can be clear and unproductive at the bottom end of the scale or susceptible to moderate algal blooms at concentrations near 20 µg/L. Lakes over 20 µg/L are classed as eutrophic and may exhibit persistent, nuisance algal blooms.

## AGM Presenter: Constable Cameron

Also note that Constable Cameron Stewart of the Bancroft OPP has agreed to present at our AGM.

Topics to include:

- Break and enters;
- "target hardening" your home/cottage;
- Community Watch;
- what to do if you become a victim;
- and SafeGuard Ontario

# Bancroft Summer Theatre



Bancroft Summer Theatre presents its 2012 season playbill at the Bancroft Village Playhouse. The season starts with *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling. Truvy's beauty shop is an oasis in an otherwise challenging life for six women who come together for a lot more reasons than hair. Heart felt and heart warming the wonderful writing of Robert Harling takes us right into the

core of these women as they cope with their lives, share their secrets and ultimately realize what friendships are really for. This popular comedy will run at 8 pm, Tuesdays to Saturdays from July 10 to the 28th. A matinee show will take place at 2 pm on Saturday July 21. Tickets are \$20. A Blackfly Summer Theatre production.

The season's second show will be *Early August* by Kate Lynch. This fast paced comedy takes the audience into the dressing room of a cast fully immersed in a production. Things however are not going smoothly as the entire cast suffers from various afflictions related to heart and home. Someone has to put things right if the show is to go on. Thankfully, a crafty stage

## What Impact Will an Extremely Early Ice Break Up (March 24<sup>th</sup>) Have on Our Lake Ecosystem?



As reported by local resident Marlene Pollard, the Ice went out on Steenburg Lake March 24. This is up to a month earlier than "normal". What impact might this have on our local

ecosystem?

take about 7 years to mature, and the key to survival of bass fry is a long first summer. The fry must reach a critical size to make it through the winter "starvation" season. Below is an abridged version of a report (Biological Synopsis of Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) by T.G. Brown, B. Runciman, S. Pollard, A.D.A. Grant, and M.J. Bradford, Fisheries and Oceans Canada on Smallmouth bass that I'd like to share with you.

The development of smallmouth bass from fertilized egg to free-swimming fish is fairly rapid. Growth in the first year appears to be critical. Growth of young-of-the-year bass positively related to water and air temperature during June-August (Serns 1982). Mean length of age-0 smallmouth bass ranged from 68.7 to 81.3 mm for the period 1974-1981. Length of the growing season determined the size of bass fry entering winter, and size of young-of-the-year in autumn is correlated with over-winter survival. Growth ceases and the "winter starvation period" begins when temperatures dropped below 7-10 C. The critical size required at the end of the growing season is dependent upon the length of the starvation period. For example, if the starvation period is 60 days, 20-40 mm fish experienced some mortality; if the starvation period was 260 days, fish 60-100 mm experienced some mortality while fish less than 60 mm experience complete loss.

In cooler areas, bass fry must reach an adequate size by the end of the first growing season if they are to survive the first winter. In Maine, when spawning

## Lake Water Levels

Combined with very dry hot weather in March and minimal snowfall this past winter, we have below summer normal water levels in April - it was actually below normal late August "stop log controlled) levels Easter weekend. I gage the water level by the "third rock" in front of Sandra Langman's log cabin, which has been below the surface for years. On Easter weekend, that rock was just poking above the surface of the water. The longer ice free season might also result in a higher water temperature this summer, and depending on rain, lower than normal water levels. Therefore, watch the rocks in the shallows this season when you are boating.

## The Fishery

While listening to a Saturday morning fishing show on the radio, a biologist was describing the likely impact on Smallmouth bass of the longer than normal ice free season. Bass normally

manager steps in to keep it all together. This production will run at 8 pm, Tuesdays to Saturdays from August 7 until the 25th with a matinee show at 2 pm on Saturday, August 18. Tickets are \$20. A Blackfly Summer Theatre production.

And for something entirely different, be sure to attend a performance by hypnotist Casey St. James. This acclaimed hypnotist will amaze and amuse you long after the curtain closes. Three shows only will be offered. Tuesday July 31, Friday August 30 and Saturday August 31. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds will go to the Bancroft Community Cupboard.

Dinner theatre packages will once again return this season. This package includes dinner at St. Pauls Church, next to the Playhouse and cost only \$32. Packages for *Steel Magnolias* are available on July 12 and 26th. Packages for *Early August* will take place on Aug. 9 and 23. Dinner will be served at 6 pm. Tickets must be reserved 7 days in advance.

Ticket sales begin May 1 by phone. Call 1-877-322-4682 to reserve your seats. The Bancroft Village Playhouse box office located at 5 Hastings St. will be open on Wednesday June 5th. Box office hours are Wednesday to Saturday, 2 to 6 pm. Box office will be open until 7:30 pm on performance nights.

More info at [www.bancroftvillageplayhouse.ca](http://www.bancroftvillageplayhouse.ca)



occurs at the normal time, smallmouth bass age-0 typically reach average lengths of 56-74 mm, although some individuals may reach 100 mm by the end of their first growing season. Feeding stopped at water temperatures below 4°C, followed by the period of survival on stored energy. There is size-dependent survival as young-of-the-year bass < 50mm died under the ice in New Brunswick. The distribution of smallmouth bass in northern Ontario appeared related to summer water temperature and growth period relative to the length of the starvation period.

Growth is temperature-dependent. Maximum growth rate of lab-held smallmouth bass fry was at 26-29°C or 25-26°C. The young fish grew 1.23 mm/day. When fish were held above 29°C. Under ideal water temperatures for age 0 and 1 fish, maximum growth rates were 2.85 mm or 0.99% per day. Growth seems to be associated with warmer surface waters from July-Sept. There is a relationship between growth (age at length 280 mm) and environmental factors such as mean air temperature and degree-days above 10°C

Tables of incremental growth for the first 7 years of life based on number of scale annuli have been created by biologists. Mueller et al. (1999) examined growth rate of smallmouth bass and provided tables on mean lengths by age. Length and weight per number of annuli (3-11) were compared. Growth of adults appeared to be reasonably steady with 3-annuli fish measuring approximately 300 mm and 11-annuli fish reaching 480 mm. One-year-old fish averaged 10.1 cm growth, two-year-olds averaged 18.5 cm, three-year-olds averaged 26.0 cm, and at 6 years of age fish length was over 40 cm. Growth was attributed to an excellent food supply, abundance of habitat, warm water and lack of competitive species. The majority of the bass population (63%) was composed of 2-year-old (39%) and 3-year-old (24%) fish. The maximum age in Canada would appear to be around 15 years for Smallmouth bass.

In general, smallmouth bass do not grow as fast or get as big as largemouth bass. The world record smallmouth bass was caught in Kentucky in 1955 and weighed 5.4 kg. The Canadian record was caught in Ontario in 1954 and weighed 4.46 kg. Smallmouth bass are sexually mature in the 2nd to 4th year in more northern areas, where maturity may be delayed if food is scarce or water is relatively cool. Smallmouth bass males and females of similar age appear to exhibit no sexual dimorphism, perhaps because of an equal expenditure of energy on somatic growth (Dunlop et al 2005); females invest a large amount of energy into gonad development while males invest an equal amount into nest construction, courting, and parental care. However, Henderson and Foster (1956), who examined sport-caught smallmouth bass from the Columbia River, Washington, found females were larger and made up a greater portion of the catch than males. Male behaviour may have required a slightly greater expenditure of resources.

Water temperature is one of the most important environmental variables affecting smallmouth bass, and influences range and distribution, migration, spawning date, nest guarding behaviour, success of incubation, growth rate, period of growth and winter responses such as feeding curtailment. Smallmouth bass are often considered to be a cool-water fish even though they are relatively tolerant of high water temperatures. The upper temperature limit for adult smallmouth bass is about 32 C, the optimum range for adult rearing as 21-27C, and the optimum range for spawning as 12.8-21C

Spring and summer water temperatures are important factors in successful reproduction and the survival of fry. A correlation between higher water temperature during the first growing season and bass year-class survival has been noted. A strong year-class of smallmouth bass has been related to above normal June – October temperatures. There was a positive

correlation between autumn 1st year fish length and winter survival rate. The abundance of bass in autumn was positively correlated with spring and summer water temperature. Shuter et al. (1980) reported a relationship between mean July air temperature and survival of young-of-the-year bass.

Conclusion: A long ice free season in 2012, and warm air and thus water temperatures this summer and will result in a higher than normal survival rate for smallmouth bass in our lake. Therefore more young fish next season, and in 2019, a spectacular smallmouth bass fishery. Something to look forward to!

## Do Your Part:

You can contribute to an improved fishery by **not** fishing along the shores of the lake this spring. Let the bass spawn! If you want to fish, fish the deep part of the lake for Splake. Catch and release your bass this summer too. On the land, avoid use of fertilizers, pesticides, and harsh soaps, shampoos, and detergents. Buy ecologically friendly soaps, shampoos, and detergents. Let your shoreline go back to nature as recommended in your township bylaws. Own an effective, well maintained septic system. Don't dump sand into the lake to make an artificial beach - this is highly illegal, wrecks the spawning beds, and may cost you a fortune to restore the shoreline if the DFO officers comes calling (remember the guys in the starched shirts with Glocks that showed up ten years ago?).

Tight lines everybody!

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## Fisher Cats

I recently visited family in Manchester, New Hampshire, also home of the Blue Jay's AA affiliate the New Hampshire Fisher Cats. I've never heard of a "Fisher Cat", so I looked it up and found out it is just a good old Fisher, a member of the weasel family. These solitary animals have been spotted around the lake on occasion, so I have included some information on the big weasel. They are the only predator of the porcupine, are harvested for their pelts at the rate of about 5,000 pelts per year, and are doing quite well in eastern Ontario.

The fisher (*Martes pennanti*) is a member of the Mustelid family of weasel-like animals. Its common name is derived from that name of the European polecat, "fitchet", "fitcher" or "fitchew". Other common names include "pekan", "black cat", "wejack" and "Pennant's marten".

**Distribution** Fisher are found in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. They do not live as far north as do marten, and are rare in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and northern British Columbia. Fisher inhabits Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and most of the New England states. They can also be found in the mountains of the American west.

**Description** The fisher's wedge-shaped head is set on a stout neck. It has short, heavy legs, sharp claws and a long, bushy, tapering tail. The adult male usually weighs from 3.6 to 5.4 kg (8 to 12 lbs.) and measures 90 to 120 cm (35 to 47 in.) from the nose to the tip of the tail. The adult female weighs from 2 to 2.5 kg (4 to 6 lbs.) and has a total length of 75 to 95 cm (30 to 37 in.). Fisher uses two types of scent glands to mark their territories: a pair of anal glands, and a set of small glands on the pads of the hind paws.

The pelt ranges in colour from grey-brown to black, and is lighter on the sides and darker towards the rump and tail. The face, neck and shoulders are often heavily frosted with grey or pale brown. A few white patches are found on the neck, throat, belly and inner part of the upper leg, as well as around the anus. Immature fishers are somewhat darker in colour than adults. The adult male's fur is fairly coarse and grizzled, while the female's is lighter and silkier. Molting causes the spring and summer fur to become lighter in colour and less dense. By November, the fur is dense, glossy and prime. It is no longer at peak primeness after late January.

**Life History** The female fisher is sexually mature by and breeds at 12 months, and has her first litter when she is 24 months.



Although the male produces sperm by the age of 11 months, his breeding success at this age is not known. Both sexes may have more than one mate. Breeding begins in March or April a few days after the birth of the young from the previous year's mating. Fisher have delayed implantation, breeding 51 weeks before the kits are born. Active pregnancy lasts only eight weeks. The average litter contains three kittens. The blind and helpless new-born is partially covered with a growth of fine hair. They utter cries like those of domestic kittens. Their eyes usually open by the fifty-third day. The kits nurse for about four months and begin to eat meat before they are weaned.

The average life span of the male fisher that survives the first year is from four to five years. The female lives longer, and individuals as old as 14 years have been reported. The skull characteristics of the juveniles distinguish them from the adults. A bony crest begins to form down the middle of the skull at 6 months of age and becomes progressively larger with age, particularly in males.

**Habitat** Fisher are adaptable animals that will live in a variety of forested areas so long as there is something to eat. They avoid open areas, preferring dense forests of mixed conifers and hardwoods, or second growth stands and swamps. Hollow trees and logs, holes in rocky ledges, old porcupine dens and cavities in the snow are likely den sites. Fisher also make dens under large boulders and brush piles. A favourite spot for a nesting den is high in a hollow hardwood tree.

**Food and Feeding Behaviour** The fisher eats what it can find - snowshoe hares, small mammals, ruffed grouse, small birds and their eggs, amphibians, fish, insects, fruit and nuts. Carrion can be important to its winter diet. It is especially noted for preying on porcupine, which it kills by repeatedly attacking the face and head. Little of the dead porcupine is wasted. The fisher eats everything except the skin, the large bones, the feet and the intestines.

**Habits** Except for brief periods during the breeding season, fisher lead solitary lives, travelling extensively as they search for food. They are most active at night, and can also be active during the day. They usually remain on the ground but can climb trees and swim if necessary. They travel in rough circles 10 to 30 km in diameter, repeating each circuit every four to twelve days. Using their scent glands to mark their territories, the males establish home ranges of about 25 square km (9 square mi.), and the females, of about 17 square km (6 square mi.). These ranges vary in size according to habitat quality and the food supply.

Like marten, fisher demonstrate a good deal of curiosity, and are, therefore, readily baited and trapped. Note to ol' eagle eye - it is important to note, that these "cats" are dark coloured, and not white, and don't resemble a fox.

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## Time for a Change

After 6 seasons of Regattas, Bbq's, AGM's and Fun Runs... I'm going to call it quits. I have enjoyed being a part of the Executive and bringing together the fantastic group of Steenburg Lakers through the various events and activities myself and my team of volunteers have helped with. Many thanks to Wendy Buter, Amanda Burke, Tom Little, Chris Langman, Jimmy Nevins and Pat Simmons for all their help. I couldn't have done it without you all!!!

I hope to participate in a few Fun Runs myself, and sit back and enjoy a burger from the sidelines at the Regattas. My kids are growing up (boohoo) and its time for someone else with energy and new ideas to take over this fun spot on the Executive.

Elections will be held at the AGM on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Please consider putting your name forward. It takes many people to make this Association successful, and nothing is more rewarding than the smiles on the faces of your participants. For more information about this position, please feel free to contact me at [carolyndobson@steenburglake.com](mailto:carolyndobson@steenburglake.com)

Have a great summer!!! Thanks for all your support and involvement. See you all at the Regatta!!!

**Carolyn Dobson**  
Social Director  
Steenburg Lake Executive

## Dear Steenburg Lake Cottage Association

For the past eighteen months a team of dedicated volunteers from Bancroft have been working hand in hand with the Bancroft & District Chamber of Commerce to restore the Bancroft Railway Station as a permanent home for the Bancroft Gem & Mineral Club Museum, Mineral Education Centre, Regional Tourism Centre and Chamber offices. With 82% of the funding in hand from a combination of sources, grants and personal donations, we are well on our way to having the new facility opened this summer 2012. To reach this goal we are putting on a last push to gather the remaining funds to complete the project. Bancroft, "The Mineral Capital of Canada" needs to have its mineral museum back and we want to be able to build a mineral education program that will attract schools from across Canada and the U.S. It is our intention to bring greater sustainability to our community and our region through this new facility. With the downturn in the lumber industry, building both our tourism and education sectors is essential to our local economy.

We are writing to ask for the support of the Steenburg Lake Community Association by including a notice in your upcoming newsletter about our project and the opportunity to give to this important community project. All cash donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. Cheques can be made payable to the Town of Bancroft, clearly marked "Railway Station Project" and mailed to 24 Flint Ave., Box 790 Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0.



Financial Report as of May 2012

We finished 2010-2011 with a healthy profit of \$2,237, an increase of \$605 over the previous year. This was primarily due to increased profit on sales of merchandise. In addition, other expenses were down slightly over the prior year. Our reserve for future expenses remains at \$20,000, while the unrestricted reserve is at \$7,488. So far this year we are showing a loss of \$1,557, however this is due to the timing of revenues vs. expenses; the bulk of our revenue will come in over the summer months, after which we should in all likelihood show a profit again. Most of the major expenses for the year have already been paid including FOCA dues and annual Insurance costs.

Assets:	YTD 9 Mos.	2011
Bank Account	1,135	5,768
PayPal	201	27
GIC - 1 Yr 0.15% Cashable	2,503	0
GIC - 2 Yr 2.00% Oct 8 2012	3,090	3,054
GIC - 2 Yr 1.75% Sep 14 2011	0	5,084
GIC - 2.5 Yr 1.80% Mar 15 2014	5,138	0
GIC - 2.5 Yr 2.45% Nov 29 2013	13,544	13,270
Prepaid Insurance Sep/12-May/13	1,065	1,030
Inventory T-Shirts/Hoodies	812	812
	<u>27,488</u>	<u>29,045</u>
Reserve for Future Expenditures	20,000	20,000
General Fund, Unrestricted	9,045	6,808
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	29,045	26,808
Excess (Loss), Current Year	-1,557	2,237
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>27,488</u>	<u>29,045</u>

INCOME:	YTD 9 Mos.	2011
Membership Fees	390	4,730
Advertising Income	300	1,650
Fundraising Income, Maps	20	10
Fundraising Income, Merchandise	831	3,441
Fundraising Income, Fun Run	0	475
Interest Income	366	537
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>1,907</u>	<u>10,843</u>

EXPENSES:	YTD 9 Mos.	2011
Fundraising Costs, Merchandise	422	2,547
Fundraising Costs, Fun Run	0	537
AGM, Regatta, Movie Night	0	1,122
FOCA Dues & Expenses	567	545
Insurance	1,385	1,377
Newsletter Expenses	457	1,322
Members Handout	137	146
Bank, Paypal & Admin Charges	39	136
Rock Markers, Fishing Derby	250	361
Sign Maintenance	109	0
Donations/Gifts/Memberships	0	452
Web/Webcams	98	61
Total Expenses	<u>3,464</u>	<u>8,606</u>
Excess (Deficit for Period)	<u>-1,557</u>	<u>2,237</u>

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## How's Your Johnston?

by Dave Langman

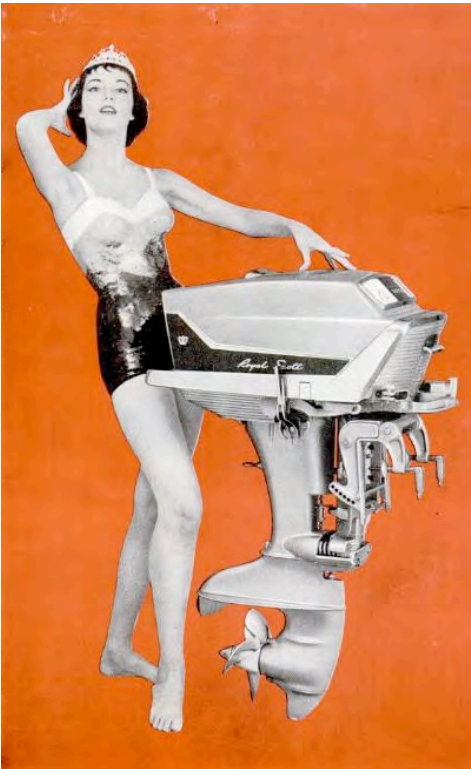
While surfing the specials at "The Tire" (Canadian Tire) I ran across a outboard motor on display - a 5HP Shakespeare. Shakespeare is well known as a fishing rod and reel manufacturer, and Canadian Tire has decided to market two motors this year (2.6 and 5 horsepower water cooled four strokes. Walmart is selling another brand - Coleman - also four strokes offered up to 20 HP. It would appear that both brands are made by the same manufacturer and are essentially identical machines with different brand labels.

This new supplier hales from China, and competes with the Mercury, Evinrude, Yamaha, Honda, Suzuki, and Tohatsu - Nissan. These products fall into the same marketing strategy as Viking (Chrysler made motors sold through Eatons way back in the 50's and 60's). The dealership network seems limited as was that for Viking 'back in the day', and repair parts and service factory technicians might be hard to find. Your local marine mechanic might be reluctant to work on a motor. Once diagnosed, parts might have to be sourced through internet suppliers, which might be an efficient system considering that Fedex et al are pretty darned good at getting material from point A to point B.

When considering a new outboard, all the big brand manufacturers produce excellent products. Most important is to develop a strong relationship with your local dealer, such as Bancroft Sport and Marine, one of our sponsors. They sell and service Mercury, Suzuki, and Yamaha motors.

When buying an outboard, make sure you can pull over your outboard - some four stroke motors require quite the effort to pull start. Consider product features like tilt and trim settings, location of shift leavers, and ease of removal from the boat (carrying handles).

Always use good quality lubricants, use super gasoline (no ethanol), and mix fuel stabilizer in each tank of fuel you use. Fuel stabilizer can reduce allot of fuel related problems for motors that are seldom used.





## Cottage Toy Trends : Stand Up Paddle Boards

by Erika Langman

Stand-up paddle boards have been popping up in cottage shops, marinas, even in Costco stores all over the province. They have been the talk of the town, and have quickly become one of the most popular summer toys on the market. I spoke with the owners of Dock Start Distribution, one of the primary paddle board distribution companies in the province and they told me the following; "Paddle boards are flowing off the shelves like hot cakes. We will have a large shipment come in and the next thing you know they are all gone. Every single fiberglass model we have arriving this month has already been sold, its great!"

So why all the huff-puff? Isn't a paddle board just a glorified windsurf board with an extended paddle? Quoted from the all-scholarly Wikipedia, "Stand up paddle surfing (SUP), stand up paddle boarding, or in the [Hawaiian language](#) Hoe he'e nalu, is an emerging global sport with a Hawaiian heritage. The sport is an ancient form of surfing, and reemerged as a way for [surfing](#) instructors to manage their large groups of students, as standing on the board gave them a higher viewpoint. This increased visibility of what was going on around them such as incoming [swell](#)."

OK - I get it. Awesome for learning to surf. So why so popular on calm lakes? What is all the rage about? I did some digging and came up with a few key points and testimonials that

attribute to this popular new sport. Here is what I found:

- Core Workout: Athletes, fitness groups and leisure participants love to reap the benefits of the core workout paddle boarding has to offer them. If you combine balancing on the board and propelling yourself forward - yup I can see that being very true. There are even 'SUP' Yoga classes popping up in more urban areas!
- Easy to Learn: Paddle boarding is very straight forward, after being on the water for less than an hour, (depending on the individual of course) people generally get the hang of it and feel comfortable enough to start exploring
- Walking on Water: A few of the articles I read mentioned that paddle boarding has an amazing gliding sensation so close to the surface which can make you almost believe you are walking on it. Pretty cool!
- Explore: As an alternative to canoeing or kayaking, it is a great way to tour around the lake, observe wildlife ... hey even spy on your neighbour's new johnson! (Outboard motor of course!)

All in all, I am for the new trend. I have had a few opportunities now to try paddle boarding and for me, it lives up to the hype. They are also fairly affordable - you can purchase basic inflatable or plastic paddle boards for around \$500 - \$600. Of course, if you want to go all out with a fiberglass model they will be higher up in the price range. If you are thinking about taking the plunge support local, check out Cottage Toys in Bancroft or a local marina near you.

## How to Get 'Air' on a Wakeboard:

by Erika Langman

Any watersports fan that comes to cottage and sees the wakeboarders out on the lake jumping back and forth immediately thinks - "I'm next, and I'm going to show you how it's done." Don't get me wrong, I love the go-getter attitude. However, for first timers or beginners, that attitude can often award you a solid face plant. Here are a few tips to read before you go out and tackle your wake jumps:

1. Practice edging without getting air. This is just carving from side to side behind the boat. Doing a proper wake jump is about controlling your edge into the wake and timing - NOT about how fast you can carve
2. Learn an Ollie. Cut out on your heelside edge, put a little weight on your front foot, then in a 'rocking motion' rock back onto your back foot and push up. This should release your board into the air. Don't 'Jump' you will only get stuck on the water. 'Rock and pop'.
3. Practice your progressive edge. I know your thinking "Huh? What edge?" This is what I was saying before about speed and timing. Follow these key steps:
  - a. Cut out on your toes away from the boat
  - b. Stop, look at the boat and start cutting back slowly towards the wake
  - c. As you get closer start to bend your knees and lean back a bit. Kinda like sitting on a toilet. This will build up momentum.
  - d. When you get to the top of the wake stand tall, push your rope down to your hip and spot your landing. Which you will then proceed to "Stomp."

## Social Corner Summer Events



## July

### 14 Regatta & Barbecue

11am @ The Beach

Come and meet your neighbours at the Regatta! Refreshments will be provided, donations welcome.

Bring your own KAKAKS, CANOES, PADDLES, AND LIFEJACKETS. Medals will awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers.

### 15 Road Clean Up 9-11AM

North Road - Meet at the Beach  
South Road - Meet at the first Y in the road

Steenburg Lake is your lake. Please take pride and ownership in our lake by helping keep the roads and beach free of garbage.

Please bring garbage bags and dispose of the garbage at the dump in your area.

## Aug

### 4 Lakeside Movie Night

8:45 PM @ Across from Loon Island  
You are invited to come out for an outdoor movie at the Steenburg Lake "Drive In". Anchor your boat across from Loon Island – Cottage #98 South Road. It will be dark at the end of the movie, so bring lots of flashlights to guide you home. FM radios are optional for that full drive in experience.

**THIS EVENT IS WEATHER PERMITTING  
– NO RAIN AND NO WIND.**

### 5 Annual General Meeting a

Coffee: 9:30 am Meeting: 10:00 am

Based on member feedback it was decided that the SCLA will be hosing a continental breakfast at 9:30am prior to the meeting. We will not be having a BBQ, bug members are invited to hang around for coffee and conversations following the meeting,

## Aug 11 Steenburg Lake Fun Run

**Registration** 9:30 am – check off your name and get your race number

**Race Starts** - 10 am

**Distance** - 5km for runners and walkers...(or walk until you've had enough)

**Where:** Start/Finish is at the South Steenburg Lake Road & Highway 62

**Fee:** \$5 per person includes t-shirt&snack

**Prizes:** Medals will be awarded to both males and females who finish 1st, 2nd and 3rd in their age categories

**Volunteers:** If you can help the day of the event please contact Carolyn at 905-640-9305 (home) or 613-474-1032 (Cottage) carolyndobson@rogers.com

### Steenburg Lake Fun Run T-Shirt Form

Please complete the entry form below and drop it off **WITH PAYMENT** to Carolyn Dobson, South Steenburg Lake Road #958 by **August 5th**. Or sign up online and bring payment the day of the event. **DEADLINE TO GUARANTEE YOU GET A T-SHIRT IS AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>. SO DON'T DELAY, SIGN UP ONLINE TODAY!!!**

Tshirt Sizes: Youth Small, Medium and Large  
Adult: Small, Medium, Large, Xlarge, XXLlarge

Male or Female: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_