

the Sentinel

SALERNO [DEVIL'S] LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2019



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Salerno (Devil's) Lake
Cottagers' Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Lake

Our sunny autumn has very quickly changed to a white and bitterly cold one. Water temperatures plummeted from a cool 20°C on Thanksgiving weekend to 5°C on November 9th. Thick ice even formed in the south east bay, not melting the next day. But if you were at the Lake these days, it would have been noisy with the honking of migrating geese, ducks and even a few late loons.

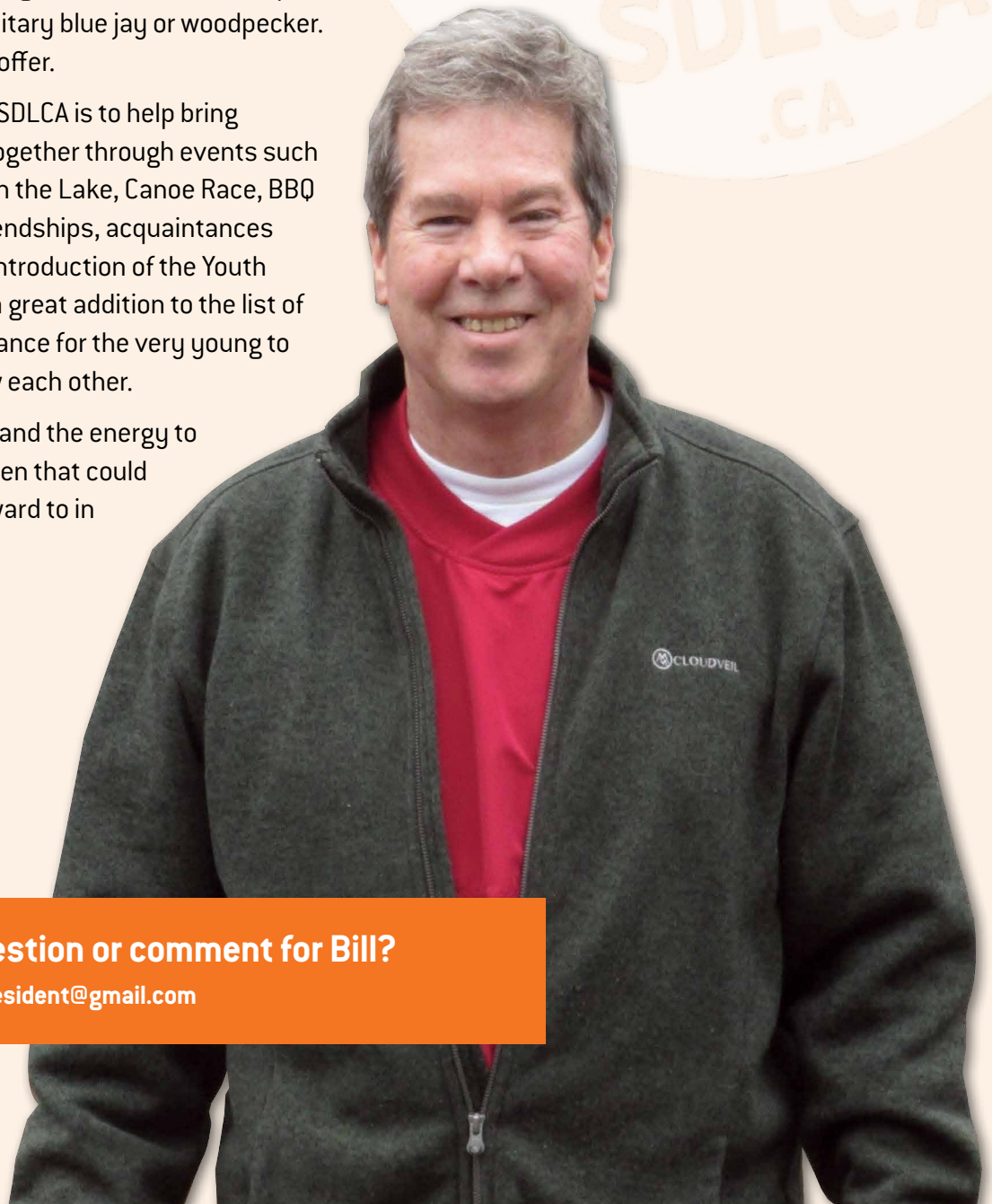
Walking in the woods, you might come across a troop of feeding turkeys and the solitary blue jay or woodpecker. Every season has much to offer.

One of the purposes of the SDLCA is to help bring Salerno Lake area people together through events such as the fireworks, Concert on the Lake, Canoe Race, BBQ & Games —forging new friendships, acquaintances and having some fun. The introduction of the Youth Race a few years ago was a great addition to the list of events on offer, giving a chance for the very young to participate and get to know each other.

Imagine, if you had an idea and the energy to help make something happen that could become keenly looked forward to in future years.

Your President,

Bill Holding



Do you have a question or comment for Bill?

Send an email to sdca.president@gmail.com

Hello to two, farewell to a few



Hello to Michele Diano

A big hello to all and I'm very excited to join the Executive Team as **Communications Chair**.

I have been on the lake since 2011 and drive up every weekend in the summer from Toronto with my Golden Retriever, Ellie. My daughter, Emily, sometimes ventures up, as well.

As a carpenter's daughter, I always have a project on the go at the cottage [who doesn't?!] but also love to kick back and entertain friends on the lake as well as many friends that come up to The Sanctuary.

I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know other cottage owners as I gather stories for each issue of the The Sentinel.



Hello to Line Gervais

I'm happy to introduce myself as the new **Website Manager**.

My husband Alex and I found our cottage going onto two years now. I was new to cottage life and now absolutely love it. We ended up living on Salerno Lake all year and found that it was pretty cool. We now have our condo in Stouffville, where we reside in some of the winter months working in our life insurance business. We have the best of both worlds, just the way we planned it. We are living our dream!

I had a wonderful 28 year career in publishing and retired about 7 years ago. I love to ski, play ball, walk and enjoy creating lifetime memories with our wonderful family and friends.

I look forward to meeting many more friendly people on Salerno Lake and in this community.

Farewell...

Sydney Clark

Sydney served as President for five years. She gave an immense commitment all across the spectrum: As Doug Rodger said, "whatever needed to be done, Sydney would find a way to do it."

Margaret Clayton

Margaret served as Vice President for almost two decades. Margaret is thorough, conscientious and well organized. She spearheaded the development of our Lake Plan, which remains a lasting legacy of her service. We sincerely thank her for all she has done.

Jacqueline Proud

Jacqueline joined the SDLCA Executive as Secretary five years ago. With great energy and creativity, she spearheaded our digital transformation, improved communications, created clothing campaigns and enlivened meetings with fresh ideas. We sincerely thank her for her service.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Currently we have 103 SDLCA members for 2019— **down** by 18 from last year. Good news is, we have 30 pre-paid members for 2020. Also note, we still have unpaid members for this year.

[There is still time to renew your 2019 membership. Visit our website to renew now or your 2020 SDLCA membership at \[sdlca.ca\]\(http://sdlca.ca\)](#)

We do appreciate everyone's continued support.

MEMBERSHIP E-MAILS

Membership status emails will be going out in **January**. Member emails will contain either a renewal notice or a confirmation of pre-payment for 2020.

Your support allows us to continue to provide education and information through speakers, workshops and other initiatives about what matters most — our lake, our property, and our cottage lifestyle for the next generation. We need you and you need us!

52ND ANNUAL CANOE RACE & BBQ

Canoers, Kayakers, Hobie riders and a Swimmer, oh my!



This year marked our 52nd Annual Canoe Race and BBQ. We had a total of 21 crafts and 37 participants. A fun day was had by all!

On Sunday August 3rd, the day of this year's 52nd Annual Canoe Race, the Weather Gods were with us. Race Day in 2018 had been extremely hot and humid and the overall participation number was very low. But in 2019, conditions on the lake were perfect. Sunny and clear, with just enough unpredictable wind to annoy the paddlers!

"I continue to love how it (The SDLCA Annual Canoe Race and picnic) brings our community together, creates family memories generation after generation..."

—Kim Stuart

LONGTIME CANOE RACE COORDINATOR

At 11 am the Third Annual Youth Race (age 12 years and older) commenced, with 18 competitors. This year the course was extended to create a greater challenge because the kids just aced it last year. The Youth Race, which was the brain child of **Rob Stimers** (and is run by him), was doubly popular this year, with a 100% increase from last year's 9 participants. This increase may be partly attributable to much better weather, but there is a definite upswing in interest from the youngsters who are the future of Salerno Lake. This year, the winners received beautiful paddles, artfully prepared by artist **Julie Campagna** whose sister, **Rosalie Brown**, is a long time Laker. Also, the success of the Youth Race is due to the gracious support of **Wendy Idiens**, who hosts the Start and Finish Lines and helps with registration on Race Day.

At 1 pm, the adult Canoe Race began at the boat launch with **Rob Stuart** (Marshall) and **Kim Stuart** (Emcee and Grand Panjandrum) leading the assortment of good folks who have been the heart and soul of this event for decades. Ask Kim why she is game for all the work and inevitable stress of preparing for and executing the Race? She responds: "The SDLCA Annual Canoe Race and picnic is a highly anticipated highlight of each summer on Salerno. I continue to love how it brings our community together, creates family memories generation after generation and how even after 5 decades there are always new firsts to behold, like **Heather Maclachlan's** swim of the entire race route and **Ty Lue's** winning two paddles in one day this year." 21 craft were entered in the 9km race [see next page for results]. The paddles were – as ever – gorgeous, designed and created by the resident Renaissance Man of Salerno Lake, **John Leonard**.

Looking to the future, we can see the overall number of entries (37) in 2019 as a positive development. In addition to racing, there are many other ways for folks to participate in the event: acting as Wardens or shore crew, cheering on the paddlers from their docks or paddle boats, attending the Awards Ceremony to applaud the winners, and/or taking part in the Children's Games at the Community Centre. The Games could more aptly be described as multi-generational Family Games because the popularity of the adult events is a sight to see. Who knew so many sophisticated grownups could have so much fun with eggs, water balloons and flying sneakers!



Always a big thank you to our great volunteers!

2019 RACE RESULTS

Junior ~ Senior

CATEGORY	TIME	PLACEMENT	WINNER
Canoe			
Junior	1:04.45	First	Robert Field & Ty Lue* 5
Junior	1:34.28	Second	Clayton Danyshyn & Kaden Van Namen
Women	1:06.28	First	Kim & Julia Chebott
Women	1:10.51	Second	Jesse Todd & Ellen Austin
Men	1:00.29	First	Alexander & Nick Schiller 1
Senior Women	1:10.38	First	Anne Van Hoof & Fran Hurst
Senior Men	1:07.14	First	Doug Rodger & Bill Holding
Senior Men	1:09.34	Second	Rob Stuart & John Leonard
Mixed	1:17.01	First	Morgan & Logan Boehm

Kayak			
Junior	1:08.02	First	Nicole Vaxvick
Junior	1:22.47	Second	Aiden Ferguson
Junior	1:23.02	Third	Daniel Stimers
Junior	1:47.04	Fourth	Alex McDowell
Women	1:02.19	First	Julie Lock 3
Women	1:31.53	Second	Ella Russell
Men	1:08.21	First	Eric Brown
Men	3:40.30	Second	Adam Lee

Open			
Stand Up Pedalboard	1:01.03	First	Rob Brown 2
Stand Up Pedalboard	1:02.24	Second	Sarah White 4
Swimming	3:40.30	Third	Heather Maclachlan**

1 2 3 4 5 Top fastest times.

*First person to win **two** First Place Paddles in one day!

** First person to ever swim the entire race!



SOME OF THE WINNERS...

Junior to Senior

Putting names to faces —to get to know your fellow cottagers.



Morgan & Logan Boehm



All smiles from this pair of winners



Doug Rodger & Bill Holding



Daniel Stimers



Robert Field & Tj Lue



Heather Maclachlin



Rob Brown



Ella Russell & Rob Stuart



An award winning day



Aiden Ferguson



Adam Lee



Guess who?



Proud paddling duo!

Paddles were designed and created by John Leonard

4TH YOUTH LAKE RACE

Happy faces of some of our younger winners!

PLACEMENT	WINNER
-----------	--------

Under 6	
First	Hunter Clark

6-9 Year Boys	
First	Jonas Durante
Second	Caelum Roke
Third	Bentley Moore
Fourth	Nathan Durante
Fifth	Easton Zarudny
Sixth	Levi Moore
Seventh	Jackson Steele

6-9 Year Girls	
First	Isla Woodard
Second	Brianna Buckingham

10-12 Year Boys	
First	Ty Lue
Second	Brayden Steele
Third	Liam Ferguson

10-12 Year Girls	
First	Natalie Stimers
Second	Taylor Vens
Third	Isabella Mensinga
Fourth	Madeline Buckingham



Jonas Durante



Isabella Mensinga



Natalie Stimers



Taylor Vens



Liam Ferguson



Bentley Moore

Paddles for the Youth winners were made by the talented Julie Campagna.



End of Season Loon Report

Wow! Hard to believe that's another summer season is behind us. Our first loons arrived on Salerno back on April 20th which seems so long ago. This year we had a total of five resident loons; two mating pair and a single or floater as they would be called. A single or floater loon is one that will not contribute to the loon population.

Through the season we had many visiting loons on the lake. On one Loon Watch I counted 11 in the south end which was good to see. Having loons visit Salerno tells us our lake is healthy and producing plenty of food for them to feed on.

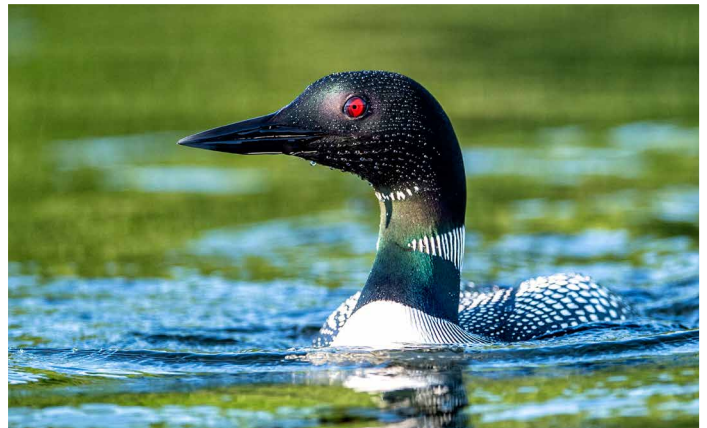
It was a disappointing season from a loon chick perspective. The two-mating pair nested and in both cases laid two eggs each. One nest was located in Fern's Bay near the island and the other was at the very south end of the lake. The loons abandoned both nests before the eggs were hatched—one nest due to human proximity and the other was compromised by Mother Nature herself.

Research has indicated that the overall loon population is down in North America due to unsuccessful hatches – a trend that started several years ago.

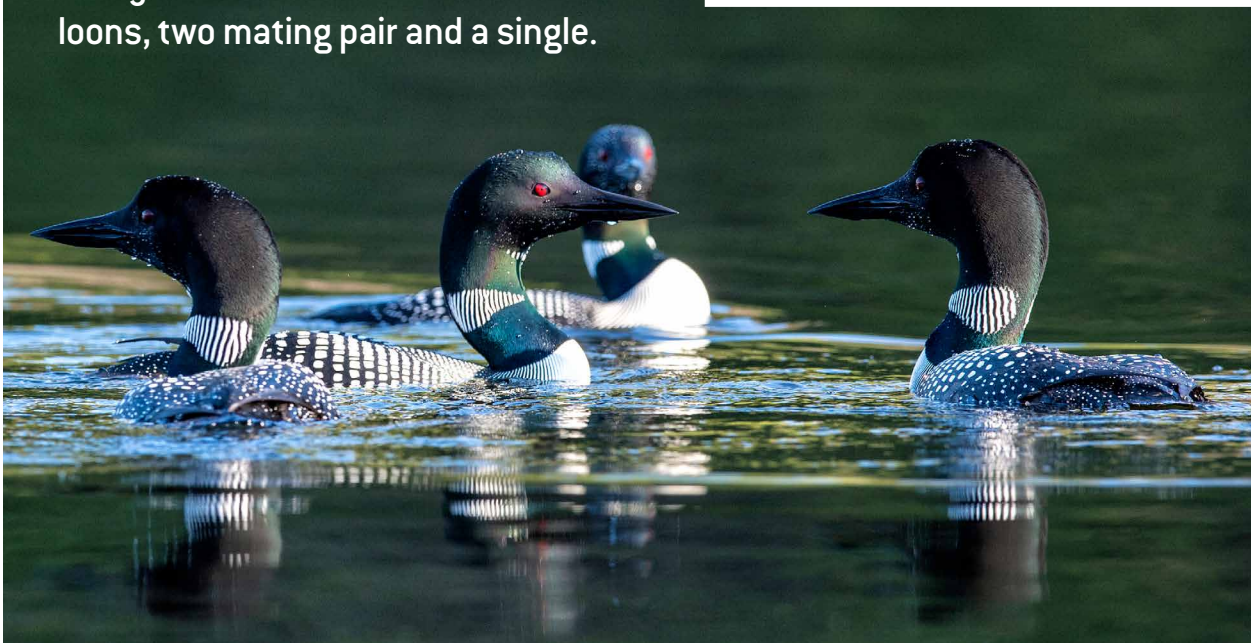
We have been successful to always have loons on Salerno which again tells us our lake is healthy. There is nothing more pleasing to the heart and mind to wake to the yodel of a loon in the morning—a true sign of cottage life. As we wait for the snow to fall and winter to set in, I want to thank all of you for your continual support and concern of our loons on Salerno.

Have a safe winter and we will wait for the return of our Feather Friends in the spring.

Kevin K. Pepper



This year we had a total of five resident loons, two mating pair and a single.



Photos by Kevin K. Pepper

CELEBRITIES ON SALERNO

Introducing a new column to The Sentinel whereby we showcase famous cottagers on our lake—whether it be onstage, off-stage, or someone that is a star in your own eyes. We'd like to hear from you. Simply email us at sdica.communications@gmail.com.



BARBARA GORDON

Barbara Gordon began her career on stage in Vancouver almost 50 (!) years ago and has played on most of the stages across Canada.

She is the recipient of one Dora award and three nominations for her work in Toronto theatre. Her most recent theatre work includes Polonius in Theatre Why Not's tour of *Prince Hamlet*, and Nightwood's production of *Unholy*, soon to be seen on VisionTV.

Her television work includes a continuing role on the CBC mini-series *Best Laid Plans*, *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, and most recently, an episode of *Murdoch Mysteries*. And these days she can be seen in a number of Hallmark Christmas movies.

She and her husband, Doug Rodger, and their children, Dougal and Melody, have been on Salerno for 25 years.



ROBIN KAY

Robin Kay is one of Canada's unfaltering voices for the fashion industry. A self-taught designer, she ran a successful eponymous brand for 25 years that held 600 wholesale accounts across North America, and 22 stores across the country. This journey led her to pioneer the largest Fashion Week in Canada.

She transferred ownership of the event in 2012 to focus on the larger work of the Fashion Design Council of Canada (FDCC), a non-for-profit dedicated to supporting the Canadian fashion industry she helped establish. Since then, Robin has been tirelessly working to engage government with a written charter of sustainability for the Canadian fashion industry, providing a long overdue endorsement as a pillar of culture and commerce the business of fashion delivers.

Robin has been on Salerno for 4 years...and just sold!



Five heavenly ways to upgrade your hot chocolate this winter

Nothing quite says winter like a warm cup of hot chocolate. After a cold day of skiing, skating or even holiday shopping, this sweet treat is the perfect comfort. Well, almost perfect. Want to know how to make it even better? Here are some mouth-watering upgrades that will kick your cocoa up a notch!

Use your favourite mix (or recipe) and these simple add-ins; you'll ward off the winter chill with gourmet cocoa from the comfort of your own cottage. Top with whipped cream—all that's missing is the cup.

Make it creamy

Stir in 1 to 2 tbsp peanut butter or 1 tbsp chocolate or butterscotch chips, or add a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Liqueur is your friend

Try Baileys, Kahlúa, Grand Marnier, Crème de Menthe, Frangelico, or Amaretto.

Spice it up

Mix in 1/4 tsp cinnamon, nutmeg, or cardamom.

Enhance the taste

Add 3 tbsp maraschino cherry juice, 1 tsp grated orange zest, 1/2 tsp almond extract, 1 to 2 tbsp seedless raspberry jam, or 1 to 2 tbsp pumpkin pie filling.

Let it melt

Add a caramel hard candy, a peppermint or two, or a miniature candy cane [they'll soften and add flavour as you drink].

Source: *Cottage Life*

Enjoy!

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How can I identify a Blue-Green Algae Bloom?

There has been a dramatic increase in blue-green algae blooms in Ontario in recent years.

As a result, many lakefront property owners are very concerned when they see blooms or floating masses which they think could be a bloom. To alleviate unnecessary concerns and to share important information The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations is providing this fact sheet on how to identify blue green algae blooms and what to do if you do suspect one.

What is it? Info from MOECP

Blue-green algae are microscopic, plant-like organisms that occur naturally in ponds, rivers, lakes and streams.

Although often blue-green, they can also be olive-green or red.

How to recognize it

Blue-green algae are not normally visible in the water, but populations can rapidly increase to form a large mass or scum called a bloom when conditions are favourable.

Blooms most commonly occur in late summer and early fall. They thrive in areas where the water is shallow, slow moving and warm, but they may be present in deeper, cooler water.

Dense blue-green algae blooms may make the water look bluish-green, or like green pea soup or turquoise paint. Very dense blooms may form solid-looking clumps.

Fresh blooms often smell like newly mown grass, while older blooms may smell like rotting garbage.

What to do if you suspect a blue-green algae bloom

1. Take pictures.
2. Notify MOECP Peterborough office directly - Chris Johnston, Senior Environmental Officer, (705)927-7809 or chris.johnston@ontario.ca
3. Notify your Lake Association so that your Association can let all the members on the lake know.
4. Tell your neighbours.
5. Do not swim in the lake or let pets swim or drink from the lake.
6. Do not allow water from the lake to enter your cottage;
 - i. Most water treatment systems will not safely treat water with a blue-green algae bloom
 - ii. Boiling or chlorinating the water can release toxins into the air
 - iii. Even UV filters will not safely treat water which contains a blue- green algae bloom
7. Stop using the water and seek medical attention if symptoms such as skin, eye or throat irritation, allergic reactions or breathing difficulties occur while in contact with untreated surface waters.
8. Do not eat fish caught in the water body.



Source: *Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations*

Have you noticed fewer birds parking themselves around the feeder at your cottage?

According to a report published in *Science*, there are 3 billion fewer birds in North America today than there were in 1970—that's 29 per cent or almost one third of the bird population. And this isn't just rare birds; it includes the everyday ones, too.

"Even the most common, adaptable, urban-type birds are going down, like the house sparrows and the starlings," says Andrew Couturier, the senior director of landscape science and conservation at Bird Studies Canada.

In Canada alone, shore birds have declined by 40 per cent, grassland birds by 57 per cent, and aerial insectivores (birds that eat insects out of the air) by 59 per cent.

Eighty per cent of the birds in Canada migrate during the winter, travelling as far as the southern tip of South America. During these trips, birds encounter a number of threats, including collisions with buildings, homes, and cars. But one of the biggest threats is free-roaming cats. According to a report in *Nature Communications*, free-roaming cats kill over a billion birds a year in the United States alone.

If birds continue to disappear, this could have a profound impact on local ecosystems. Not only do birds help suppress invasive insect populations, but they also pollinate the food that we eat and disperse seeds, helping to regenerate forests. "We're losing biodiversity by the day and, actually, you have to think this is going to have a real impact on us as the ecosystems become less resilient and are unable to rebound from disturbances and harmful stressors," Couturier says.

"...volunteer as a citizen scientist by observing and reporting on local birds you're seeing—on the dock, from the kitchen window, at your feeder, or during migration season—to contribute to the research of organizations such as Bird Studies Canada."

"Eventually, there's going to be some kind of catastrophic ecosystem breakdown."

But there is hope. Couturier cites waterfowl populations as an example. "When we protected wetlands and encouraged habitat conservation for those types of birds, we saw them rebound." And now that the use of DDT and other toxic chemicals have been banned, the bald eagle population is also on the rise.

In order to prevent the further decline of bird populations in North America, Couturier says there are a few simple steps that any ordinary citizen, including cottagers, can take. The first is to volunteer as a citizen scientist by observing and reporting on local birds you're seeing—on the dock, from the kitchen window, at your feeder, or during migration season—to contribute to the research of organizations such as Bird Studies Canada. "None of this would be possible to even know what is going on without all of those people contributing."

Next, "they can help to steward and lobby for important sites for birds, such as important bird and biodiversity areas," he says. "Another thing is getting involved in municipal planning and advocating for natural areas and birds at the local level because that's where a lot of the decisions are made about development."

Around your home or cottage, Couturier suggests adding bird stickers to your window to prevent collisions. People can also plant "bird-friendly gardens that have native plants in them that support birds through seeds or fruits."

"There are ways that people can make a positive difference."

Source: *Cottage Life*



Why propane is super practical for the cottage



Next time you're wondering whether there will be enough propane for Saturday's barbecue or if the flow will peter out somewhere between the tank and dinner, try this science demo. Pour some hot tap water down the side of the tank, then run your hand along it to feel the boundary where cold metal becomes warm: that's the level of propane.

Propane is also a practical fuel because we have a lot available. Canada produces about 11 million cubic metres each year. Even if we didn't need any propane at all, we'd still produce it: about 85 per cent is a by-product of natural gas processing, and most of the rest comes from oil refining.

Despite the best efforts of hungry cottagers, most of Canada's propane doesn't go into barbecues; it heats homes, especially in rural areas not serviced by natural gas lines. "Propane is natural gas for

people who can't get natural gas," says Brad Hartman, the national partner channel manager at Superior Propane.

At a cottage, once you start using propane for more than a barbecue, a stove, and maybe a firepit, you may save money by having a permanent tank installed, says Hartman. Among the cottage applications he sees are in-floor radiant heating, water heaters, stoves, fridges, fireplaces, furnaces, and generators. A typical tank is 1,500 litres, but the size varies depending on how much you use and how accessible your cottage is. Usually, a propane supplier will install a tank sized so it needs three to five refills a year. If winter access is too difficult for a truck, you'll get a bigger tank that needs only one delivery in the fall, enough to see you through to spring.

Tank rental ranges from about \$50 to \$300 a year, so for most cottagers—heating with propane will be more expensive than natural gas, were it available at the cottage, but much less than electricity.

For cottagers with electric baseboard heating, Hartman suggests a hybrid system to reduce energy bills without an extensive renovation. Wall-mounted propane heaters, which look a bit like oversized bathroom fans, are easy for a heating contractor to install and don't need extensive ductwork (just exterior venting). "They work well in large open rooms, like the big main space in a Viceroy cottage," he says. Leave the existing baseboard heaters in the bedrooms for extra warmth when needed.

Source: *Cottage Life*

Keeping the cottage in the family

The cottage is a source of joy for many families, and is often viewed as 'common property' within generations. Like many people, you are perhaps considering leaving the cottage to your heirs so it can be enjoyed by generations to come.

When transferring any property, you should first consider the cost impact of the transaction. If you have owned a property for several years its value has likely increased, creating what could potentially be a significant capital gain assuming the transfer takes place after October 17, 2000. If this is the case, 50% of the appreciated value of a cottage is considered taxable income in the year it is sold or transferred. A major downside of a capital gains tax is that in most cases it is not deferrable—the amount owing must be paid immediately. (Note, the sale or transfer of a principal residence is excepted.)

While the prospects for an easy transfer of the cottage to a family member might seem grim, with proper care and planning you can keep the property within your family for the next generation without creating a significant tax burden.

Transfer the cottage today

If you transfer the cottage into your child's name today, you will immediately trigger capital gains resulting in an additional tax burden for yourself. Even if you sell the cottage at a 'bargain' price the government will consider the property to have been sold at fair market value, so you will not be reducing the capital gains tax payable by you. Your children however, will be required to report the "bargain" purchase price as their cost base, creating a larger capital gain for them when they pass away or choose to sell the cottage some time in the future. It is important to be sure of your decision before transferring the cottage as

you are not only giving up ownership but also control over its use.

Leave the cottage to your children in your will

This strategy should involve planning by both you and your children, and should be done with the assistance of a will specialist (i.e., a lawyer). If there are multiple heirs, you may want to formulate guidelines for usage and maintenance costs associated with the cottage and set them out in writing. Remember, upon your death your estate will be liable for the capital gains tax on the disposition of the cottage and therefore if any of the children do not want the cottage, their share of the estate will still be responsible for a proportional amount of the tax on the capital gains.

Source: *TD Wealth*



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