

# the Sentinel

SALERNO [DEVIL'S] LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020



## IN THIS ISSUE

A Message from the President .....	2	Road Safety Reminders.....	6
SDLCA Community Events .....	3	Renting: Then and Now .....	7
Membership Update.....	3	5 things you do at the cottage that help you live longer.....	8
FOCA .....	4	Boating Safety with Kids.....	9
Loon Report.....	5	What cottagers should know before they grow cannabis .....	10
Hiya Neighbour! .....	6		



Salerno (Devil's) Lake  
Cottagers' Association

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Greetings from the Lake



We are indeed living through troubled times. For many of us our work lives are on hold or greatly changed. Social events in our lives we took for granted like eating out, movies, school, clubs, going to the Gym or park or meeting someone for coffee have been put on hold. Visits to our aging parents and relatives in a time of “social distancing” is more difficult and challenging as we strive to connect with others and bring meaning to our lives.

Yet we are not living in unprecedented times. Old accounts of the Spanish Influenza and even the Black Death showed people tried social distancing such as the closing of theatres, clubs and other events to varying degrees of success. Closer to home my father

would tell me stories of when the polio epidemic hit Toronto in 1937 he, his brother and sister were pulled out of school and sent to the family cottage in Whitby for several Months. Back then Polio could leave you in varying degrees of paralyses in a time before a vaccine was discovered.

Today we live in a golden age of discovery where great strides have been made in the knowledge of germs, bacteria and viruses. Vaccines, DNA mapping of both our own Genome and that of the germs that afflict us aided by super computers and many millions of researchers give us an amazing advantage over previous generations in our fight with disease.

Now on to happier times. Restrictions on Marinas and boat launches will likely be lifted soon and lake life will resume. Happy children will be out fishing and swimming and families relaxing at the cottage. Shopping in local towns may be curbside pick up or masks may be required, time will tell. Our Lake Events – Fireworks, Concert on the Lake, Lake Race, BBQ, and AGM will be planned and all options explored to ensure they are safely conducted.

We will emerge from this like a spring day full of hope and promise.

Your President,

**Bill Holding**

**Do you have a question or comment for Bill?**

Send an email to [sdlca.president@gmail.com](mailto:sdlca.president@gmail.com)

# Community Events

Events sponsored by the lake association continue to be an important social contact point for cottagers on the lake.



**Canada Day  
Fireworks**  
Saturday,  
July 4



**Concert by  
the Lake**  
Saturday,  
July 11



**AGM  
Meeting**  
Saturday,  
August 1\*



**Canoe Race  
& BBQ**  
Sunday,  
August 2\*

\* To be confirmed closer to the date. Become a Member and receive updates about events that will continue or be cancelled.

Note: The Wild Game Dinner fundraiser scheduled for July 18 has been cancelled due to the uncertainty.

Further details can be found on our website at [SDLCA.ca](http://SDLCA.ca)

## MEMBERSHIPS



Visit our website to renew your 2020 SDLCA membership at [sdlca.ca](http://sdlca.ca)

SDLCA membership sign or 2020 sticker can be picked up on the July 4th long weekend at any one of our Executive Members' cottages. These signs are weather proof and we encourage everyone to display them in plain view to help us promote our lake association.

## MEMBERSHIP E-MAILS

Membership status emails will be going out soon. 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!

We do appreciate everyone's continued support.



## RECENT NEWS OF NOTE:

- Ontario has extended the Declaration of Emergency to May 12
- Parks Canada announced that the opening of the Trent-Severn and Rideau Waterways are delayed until at least May 31
- Some municipalities have closed public boat launches
- Short-term rentals to the general public are not considered essential services, and are restricted
- Marinas are considered essential services but only to the extent necessary to enable individuals to access their primary place of residence, or in support of emergency services, or the food supply chain

## ADVOCACY, POLICY & PROGRAM UPDATES

### Water Quality Testing and the Lake Partner Program

Despite FOCA's best intentions to continue with the Lake Partner Program (LPP) in 2020, the volunteer sampling and sample submission, plus any laboratory work by the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) has to be postponed indefinitely. Given the many closures, particularly the lab services at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre, it will be impossible to deliver this program.

### Electricity News

Time-of-use pricing is still suspended (until mid-May) under the Province's Emergency Order. Follow this issue and get background about FOCA's work on the electricity file:

[foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing/](https://foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing/)

### Protecting public participation under the EBR

An excerpt from the letter to the Province:

"FOCA and nearly 50 other organizations from across the province have jointly appealed to the Province of Ontario to

amend their provisions to suspend the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR), to maintain the right of the public to participate in important environmental decisions, and to ensure the environment is adequately considered in their decisions." See more, and read the letter: [foca.on.ca/environmental-bill-rights/](https://foca.on.ca/environmental-bill-rights/)

## LAKE ENVIRONMENTS

### Water Levels

There are flood watches and warnings issued for some parts of waterfront Ontario. Link to the Ontario Flood Map and other related high water preparedness information, here:

[foca.on.ca/high-water-flood-events-in-cottage-country/](https://foca.on.ca/high-water-flood-events-in-cottage-country/)

## SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

### Wildfire Safety

Effective April 3rd, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) has implemented a Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) across the entire legislated fire region of Ontario due to impacts related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Many municipalities have also implemented fire bans during this time. See more on FOCA's fire safety webpage:

[foca.on.ca/fire-safety-overview/](https://foca.on.ca/fire-safety-overview/)

### Carbon Monoxide & Home Fire Safety

If you are using gas, oil, propane or wood-burning heating systems or appliances, or portable generators in confined spaces, FOCA reminds you to install, test and replace batteries in carbon monoxide detectors at the same time that you check your smoke detectors each spring and fall. Learn more here: [foca.on.ca/beat-the-silent-killer-co-safety/](https://foca.on.ca/beat-the-silent-killer-co-safety/)

### Signs of Spring

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ontario Provincial Police remind Ontario residents to exercise caution as bears come out of hibernation this spring. Get tips for your home and neighbourhood, and find out what to do if you DO sight a bear, here:

[news.ontario.ca/mnr/en/2020/04/be-bear-wise-and-prevent-bear-encounters.html](https://news.ontario.ca/mnr/en/2020/04/be-bear-wise-and-prevent-bear-encounters.html)

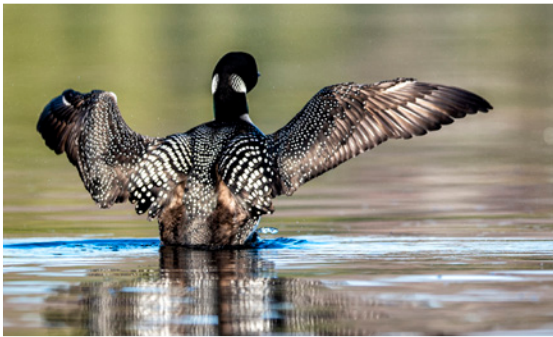


# New Season Loon Report

It's the start of another season on Salerno and our first Loon arrived on April 10th in Big Bay. It was a full grown male about three or four years old. The lone male was followed by a returning mating pair from last year. This pair was very familiar with the Lake and headed straight for the Island. They seem to have claimed their territory in the south end. It's still early in the season, and I'm hoping and expecting at least one more pair to make Salerno their home.

The male Loon starts the life cycle by claiming the territory, selecting a mate and eventually building the nest to hold the egg or eggs.

Last year we had two nests, one near the Island that was home to two eggs. This nest was abandoned by the Loons because of human proximity to the nest which resulted in an unsuccessful hatch. The second nest was in the south end, and also hosted two eggs. The eggs were destroyed by animals. So, even with two nests, unfortunately, no chicks were born on our Lake last summer.



It was a very disappointing year after having a great year in 2018 when Ryder was born and we were able to follow him into adulthood and migration.

I'm hoping Salerno can add to the Loon population this year with at least one successful hatch and chick(s) surviving to migrate in the fall. It takes all of us to be aware of, and provide protection for, our Loons.

Let's remember that having Loons on our Lake is the barometer of a very healthy and growing lake environment.

Take good care of each other. Be well and stay healthy.

Kevin K. Pepper



Loons on our Lake is the barometer of a very healthy and growing lake environment.

hiya  
neighbour!

## Getting to know your fellow cottagers

New to the Lake!



JULIE & GORD COWAN

Drawn to Salerno by their good friend Esther Atkin from Fern's Bay, Julie and Gord fell head over heels in love with Robin Kay's property at 1572 Chimo Drive and it became theirs on October 16th, of last year.

Hailing from mid-town Toronto where they both work (and where they raised their four boys) they look forward to spending as much time here as possible, getting to know and participate in the community. They already feel incredibly welcomed by the people they've met in a super short period of time.

Having downsized a couple of years ago, they look forward to putting around the property ... and enjoying every moment they can on the dock with their perfect views of the sunset! The cottage will remain much the same with a few coats of paint. A cute little bunkie has been added as the perfect draw for their adorable little granddaughter, Rae.

Feel free to wave to them as you're passing by!



ROSALIE BROWN

Salerno Lake's own Rosalie Brown is considered one of the most influential personal trainers in Canada. Rosalie was voted one of Canada's Top Trainers in 2019 & 2020. She has been keeping people fit worldwide and has over 5 million views on her YouTube Workout Channel with over 150 free online workouts available. Rosalie is one of the master trainers for Total Gym and Simply Fit Board and works for D'FYNE Fitness Magazine contributing monthly fitness & health articles.

Rosalie began her fitness career at the University of Waterloo and has worked with celebrities and professional athletes including icon Chuck Norris, singer Paula Abdul, boxer Lennox Lewis, actress Suzanne Somers, Christie Brinkley, gymnast Mitch Gaylord, Shark Tank's Lori Greiner, and hockey great Bobby Hull.

She and her husband, Rob Brown and kids Eric and Kirsten been on Salerno for 33 years.

## ROAD SAFETY REMINDERS

For those who use Chimo Drive

Once again we are all eager to get back to our cottages however we need to keep in mind that the frost has to come out of the road completely in order to avoid incurring damage to both the road and your vehicle.

While not encouraging cottagers to flock to the lake given the Ontario government's request to stay home, May 1 is usually when the road is open.

To ensure everyone's safety, the following are reminders of the road:

- Maximum speed is 20 km/hr
- Always open your driver's window and use your horn
- Dirt bikes are not permitted. Do not race ATVs—this could result in serious injuries
- Advise your friends and renters of the rules as you will be held responsible for any damages
- Do not dump garbage on the road, please take it home with you or to the nearest dump
- Please watch out for joggers, walkers and cyclists
- If maintenance is being done by volunteers on the road, please be patient and helpful
- Chimo Drive is for summer access only and should not be plowed in the winter
- Be observant and look out for your neighbour by contacting police if you see anything dangerous or criminal
- Do not order propane until the truck can safely use the road—these trucks are heavy and will sink into the road

Ensure you pay the annual \$150 fee which provides access to Chimo Drive and covers gravel, signage, insurance, correspondence and grading [for Chimo only, excluding the side roads].

Source: Ken Clark, Devils Gap Road Association

Know someone new to the lake or has an interesting story? We'd like to hear from you. Simply email us at [sdca.communications@gmail.com](mailto:sdca.communications@gmail.com)

# Cottage rentals—Then and Now



## THEN Highlands East plans short-term rental rules

NOVEMBER 25, 2019

Highlands East council is forging ahead with plans to create a short-term rental bylaw.

Council voted unanimously at a special meeting November 19 to direct staff to draft the bylaw. The motion comes after the municipality completed a survey of residents, with 62 per cent indicating they would like to see regulations.

Councillors discussed what should be part of the new law. Although there were no specifics, councillors agreed to include licencing. They also want to adjust the zoning bylaw to make rentals a permitted use. Council identified recurring issues from survey comments, such as noise, fireworks, environment and parking.

“If we don’t have a licencing system, we can’t deal with the overloading of septic [systems], the parking,” Partridge said. “Those issues that aren’t covered by another bylaw.”

However, councillors also said issues that are not specific to rentals, such as noise, should be addressed through other bylaws.

CAO Shannon Hunter said the municipality needs to educate. In the survey, 57 per cent of respondents said they did not contact anyone when they saw unwanted behaviours from neighbouring rentals.

“I’m hoping we can do an education piece that says these are your options if you have concerns,” Hunter said.

However, McKenzie said some people are skeptical about whether anything will happen if OPP or bylaw enforcement are called.

The discussion also touched on ideas such as regulating rentals based on the season or granting exemptions if a property is rented for less than three weeks, which were subjects of survey questions. But there was no consensus, with concerns about enforcement difficulty raised.

“We can’t regulate if it’s under three weeks,” Partridge said. “Either we regulate short-term accommodations or we don’t.”

“Everyone realizes this is going to be a slow process,” Hunter said. “There’s going to be quite a few strikes on the page.”

Source: *Joseph Quigley, The Highlander*

## NOW The pandemic has forced a rentals ban in Ontario

APRIL 4, 2020

The Ontario government amended the **Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act**, banning short-term rentals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the amendment states that “Every person who provides short term rentals in rental accommodations shall ensure that any rentals booked after April 4, 2020 are only provided to individuals who are in need of housing during the emergency period.”

Airbnb has also curbed their policies, banning all units that allow a party to take place during the pandemic and nixing any listing that tries to exploit the situation by marketing itself as a safe haven.

While these measures are necessary to cull the spread of COVID-19, they have left cottage rental companies financially unstable. “Sales have gone down to virtually nil,” says J.T. Lowes, an employee with All-Season Cottage Rentals in Haliburton.

The company, which has 120 listings, has been cancelling bookings since mid-March. “We’re cancelling all the way up until June 1,” Lowes says. And while the company will continue to preach precaution and follow the necessary Ontario guidelines, the banning of short-term rentals has left the company unsure about how to approach future bookings.

Not only will this impact the company’s earnings, but it will impact the cottage owners who use All-Season Cottage Rentals as a rental agency. Most of the company’s clients rent out their cottages for a couple of weeks each summer, using the auxiliary income to pay for general maintenance. A few of its clients, however, use the cottage as an investment property, trying to maximize rentals. “It will be tight for those owners because I know a lot of them rely on the income to help with the [rental] expenses,” Lowes says.

Source: *Cottage Life*

# 5 things to do at the cottage that help you live longer

Want to live to be 100? Spend more time at the cottage. It's scientifically proven that many of the activities that we engage in at the cottage are good for our bodies and minds. Of course, most of us cottagers already know this on an intuitive level.



## HAVE YOUR MORNING COFFEE

Coffee often gets a bad rap, but some new studies seem ready to clear its record—and also reveal its surprising health benefits. A study recently released has found that coffee drinkers actually live longer than their non-coffee-drinking counterparts. The research followed half a million people and found that people who drink even up to eight cups of coffee a day had a lower risk of death [this includes decaf]. Starting the day with a cup of coffee is a part of many cottagers' morning ritual.



## BEING AROUND PLANTS

Studies have shown that even seeing greenery has benefits to our physical and mental health. An eight year study found that women who had more exposure to vegetation had lower mortality rates, which included having lower rates of cancer and respiratory disease. Taking vacation time in general has been associated with lower heart disease (and more marriage satisfaction for couples), so if you need another excuse to spend another weekend out in the woods, say it's for your health.



## SWIMMING

Lake swimming is a quintessential part of the cottage experience, but it also happens to be one of the best forms of exercise around. Aerobic exercise (which includes swimming) is good for your heart, your mood, and your immune system. But a lot of aerobic exercise, like running and cycling, can be tough on our bodies. Swimming largely frees us from the constraints of gravity, allowing us to evenly distribute the impact of exercise. It has even been shown to benefit people with arthritis. Why spend an hour going nowhere on an elliptical when you can go for a swim in a beautiful lake?



## DRINKING BEER AND WINE

You've probably heard the argument that booze is good for you before, along with the counter-arguments that it's all a bunch of wishful thinking. However, plenty of studies have shown that in moderation, alcohol is correlated with several health benefits. For starters, people who drink show a lower rate of cardiovascular disease. Alcohol has also been associated with better sensitivity to insulin and improvements to blood clotting. However, high alcohol consumption has been linked to cancer, perhaps because it blocks the absorption of folate—a vitamin that helps our cells divide. So drink in moderation, and eat plenty of leafy greens.



## SLEEPING

Getting more sleep is proven to be good for us, including our brains. Napping helps us retain information, makes us better problem solvers and lowers stress. And people who sleep in, even just on the weekends, live longer than those who don't. For some of us, being at the cottage is one of the only times we truly give ourselves permission to sleep and relax. Therefore, the more time spent at the cottage, the healthier and happier we'll be!

# BOATING SAFETY

with kids!



## TIPS FOR PARENTS

### Protecting your children this summer is about more than using SPF 50 and wearing life jackets

We use car seats to transport our kids safely in vehicles, but what's the safest way to transport our little ones in boats? They don't make boat seats. Read on to learn about keeping small children safe when you're out on the water with your family. These are boating safety tips that should be put into practice EVERYTIME children are on board your boat. No exceptions.

#### BOATING WITH INFANTS: UNDER 1 YEAR OLD

Straight up, newborn babies should NOT be boating. Until infants can properly fit into Canadian-approved life jackets, they should not be on the water at all. Not on a motorboat, fishing boat, kayak, sailboat, rowboat, or a canoe... no type of watercraft with an open deck will be safe enough for a baby that's too small to wear a life jacket. No matter how carefully you're operating the boat.

However, a size category does exist for infant life jackets, so you can have your baby on board once he or she reaches the minimum weight indicated on their infant life jacket label.

#### BOATING WITH TODDLERS: 1-3 YEARS OLD

Toddlers fit properly into lifejackets, but children in this age bracket are still at high risk of falling overboard when 'toddling' around on the open deck of a boat. Always hold onto toddlers when you're underway because their little bodies aren't heavy enough for them to resist the hard bounce of the hull hitting waves or the unexpected blast of a strong wind. Always hang on tight to their life jacket straps!

This is a great age to begin your kids' Boater Education! They're starting to ask questions, right? Take them shopping for their lifejacket and explain to them while you're shopping why wearing them is so important. Tip: If they reach up and the life jacket touches their ears – it's too big!

#### BOATING WITH BIG KIDS: 3 YEARS OLD OR OLDER

At this age, kids are OBSESSED with boating, boat trips, and boats. They're now learning how to fish, they're untying the ropes for you at the dock and they want to sit on your lap to help you 'steer the ship'. This is essentially the beginning of the watersports decade too. Brace yourself: Your future will include the purchase of wakeboards, ropes and water-skis!

Kids are a little more independent at this age, so make sure their life jacket is properly zipped and buckled if they put it on without your help.

Remember, even if your child is too young to take their boating safety test and obtain their Canadian boating license, it doesn't mean they shouldn't start learning boating safety basics. It's never too early to start! Use this as a rule of thumb – if your kids are leaning over the side of the boat and trying to drag their hands in the rushing water... it's high time to talk about boating safety with your little captains. Starting with: Keep your hands and feet inside the boat at all times!

#### SO, WHEN CAN MY CHILDREN LEGALLY OPERATE OUR FAMILY BOAT?

Kids must be 12 years of age and have a boating license before they can operate a boat with an engine up to 40 hp without adult supervision. Have a Sea Doo at the cottage? Kids must be 16 years of age and have a boating license before they can legally operate a personal watercraft. Once they're ready, you should register your older kids in a Boating Safety Course! Keep your family safe... and your boat unscathed.

# What cottagers should know before they grow cannabis

Reaping what you sow is satisfying, but no matter how green your thumb, growing cannabis at the cottage may not be worth the risk. Lenders, buyers, and insurance companies still consider growing cannabis shady—though, one day it might be a selling feature.

“Just because it is legal, it doesn’t mean it is a good idea,” says a spokesperson for the Fraser Valley Real Estate Board. “A lack of guidance when it comes to issues around remediation, not to mention lenders’ and insurers’ reluctance to take on the risk of a home where cannabis has been grown, means that homeowners who have grown cannabis might be in for an unpleasant surprise when it comes time to sell.”

A majority of Canadians supported the legislation that allows growing up to four plants for recreational use in most of Canada (except Manitoba and Quebec). But that doesn’t mean they want to own a home where it’s grown or smoked. A survey by Zoocasa, a real estate website, found that 52 per cent of Canadians wouldn’t consider buying a home where legal amounts of cannabis had been grown. Even more, 64 percent, thought smoking cannabis inside a home reduced its resale value.

Lenders and insurers are even less excited by cultivation. The number one concern is indoor growing, says Dustin Woodhouse, strategic consultant and mortgage broker at Dominion Lending Centres.



Source: *Cottage Life Magazine*

Cannabis plants tend to need a lot of water and warm temperatures to produce a good crop, ideal conditions for the growth of rot and mold indoors. Mold has health implications and rot and mold are hard to clean up and potentially dangerous structurally.

But to insurers and lenders, growing is growing, says Woodhouse. Even outdoor cannabis growing will stain the property with stigma.

Realtors will probably continue to advise their clients to ask about cannabis growing history. If they do, honesty is the only policy in the eyes of the legal system. And even if a buyer doesn’t ask, a mortgage broker and insurer probably will.

“Ultimately lenders don’t like any kind of risk,” says Woodhouse. “So whether it’s legal or illegal I think we’re going to continue to see lenders put their own stigma on these properties.”

The Insurance Bureau of Canada still considers growing cannabis a high-risk activity and it is not covered by most home insurance policies. The BC Automobile Association, which sells home insurance, says home insurance policies in Canada do not cover any loss related to cannabis growing. And growing cannabis could impact all insurance coverage.

That’s not going to change until the government steps in, says Kevin Brown, the manager of HomeLife Glenayre Realty in Chilliwack, B.C. Right now, a home that once grew cannabis will always remain so.

A checklist of steps a cottage owner can take to lose the stigma is a good first step, says Brown. Additionally, he’d like to see changes to the building code that outlines how to grow cannabis safely. A permitting process would likely relax lending and insurance issues and create a boom for builders installing designated grow rooms.

“We may just see the stigma of a grow room turn into a selling feature if all goes down the way I think it will,” says Brown.

Until then, Woodhouse suggests caution.

“Honestly, if your house doesn’t currently have that stigma of having had plants growing in it, that’s a wonderful thing,” he says. “Right now it’s a little bit too risky... to start growing plants because you could take 20 per cent, 30 per cent of the value off of your home. To save a few dollars to try and grow your own, it could be a \$100,000 joint that you’re smoking.”

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