

# ***NEWSLETTER***

## ***JUNE 2017***

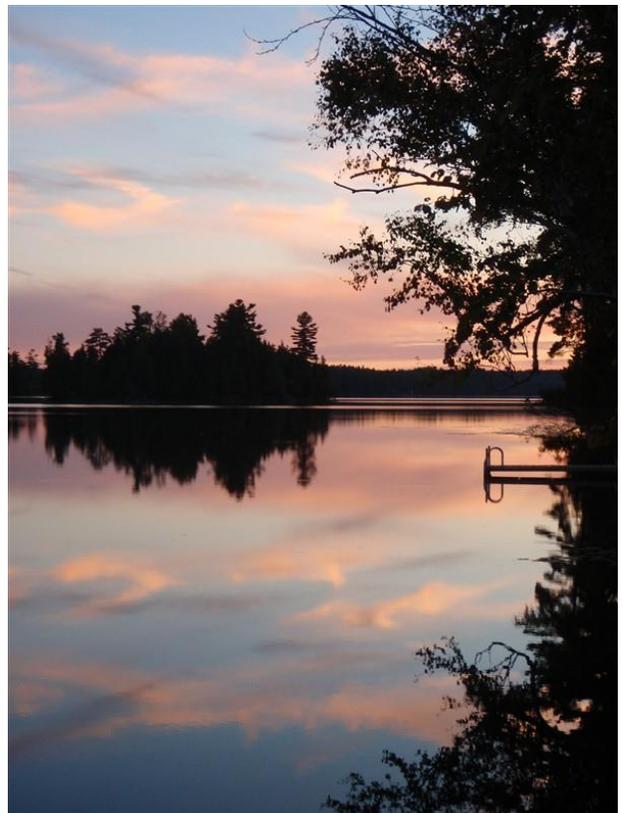
### ***MEMEBERSHIP PATTERSON LAKE ASSOCIATION***

#### **WHY BE A MEMBER?**

- To work together to keep the lake clean, safe and pleasant
- To help represent the lake where it can make a difference (Township of Lanark County Highlands, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Natural Resources, Lake Partners Program)
- To keep property owners aware of things which can affect their properties, the lake, services available
- Early warning system for any changes or threats
- Shared information for all about the lake via the website and newsletter
- Lake Conservation Plan – one of the best in Ontario
- Don't just let others do it – become a member and make a difference

#### ***CONTEST***

We are proposing a contest open to all Lake Association members who provide us with an email address for contact purposes. We have some professional photographers on the lake who are willing to provide existing photos or new photos of your cottage or your view, mounted, ready to hang. The draw will take place at our August picnic and arrangements can be made of your choice at that time. Below are some examples.



## ***MEMBERSHIP DUES***

**Cheques should be made payable to The Patterson Lake Association of Lanark Highlands. Membership receipts will be given out at the AGM. If you want a receipt mailed to you, please talk to Howard**

Howard Stanley, Treasurer

The \$20 membership dues may be paid at our Annual General Meeting or sent to:

Howard Stanley, 313 Hinchey Ave, Ottawa ON K1Y 1M1

## ***LYME DISEASE***

Eastern Ontario is now considered to be a key habitat for Lyme Disease. It is carried by ticks which use the White Tail deer as hosts. Several cases have been confirmed in the past year by Patterson Lake residents. Good websites for information on avoiding and managing this hazard include <http://canlyme.com/> and <http://www.tdc.ca/lymedisease.htm>

## **New Lake Website**

Patterson now has modern website with regular updates covering current news such as flooding, fire notices, links to township business and any other current items which may be of interest to lake residents. The new site is managed by Joy Bowerman and was put in place with the effort of Joy and a great contractor Crystal O'Connell.

Please go to <http://www.Pattersonlake.ca> to see what is new. You are also invited to submit material to the website and to the Lake Newsletter through Joy Bowerman to take full advantage of communication with your friends and

neighbours at the lake. We also have a Facebook page called Patterson Lake Cottage Association.

## ***LAKE PARTNERS PROGRAM***

Patterson Lake is monitored as part of the Lake Partners Program of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. The Lake Partners Program involves citizen scientists in the collection of lake data which allows the scientists at the Ministry to assess long term changes in the health of the lakes. It is a win-win combination. The MOECC gains a broader base of data at minimal cost and the lake volunteers get to watch the health of their lake. Data is collected at almost 550 lakes at 800 sampling locations (large lakes may have several sampling points). Lake monitoring for Patterson Lake has been carried out since 2011 by the Bowerman family. As a Lake Partner, water samples are collected in the spring and water clarity is monitored throughout the summer. There are three indicators monitored by the program: total phosphorus, calcium concentration and lake clarity.

The level of total phosphorus (TP) is used to infer a lake's capacity for algal growth. Lakes with less than 10 µg/L of TP are considered oligotrophic. These dilute, unproductive lakes rarely experience nuisance algal blooms, and are considered excellent recreational lakes that are highly valued and may support a cold-water fishery, such as lake trout. The TP of Patterson Lake ranges from about 7 – 10 µg/L of TP.

Calcium is a nutrient that is required by all living organisms. Tiny organisms called zooplankton, which are a primary food for many fish, are very sensitive to declining calcium levels. There are many other aquatic animals that need calcium, such as mollusks, clams, amphipods, and crayfish. Calcium concentrations in Canadian Shield lakes are decreasing (Fig. 9). Laboratory and field studies by partners working at DESC (Dorset Environmental Science Centre, the facility

which is responsible for handling the Lake Partner data) have shown that calcium loss is an important stressor for many aquatic species, especially when less calcium is combined with lower food availability and the warmer temperatures that are predicted in future climate change scenarios. Decades of acid loading, coupled with logging, have depleted watershed stores of calcium, and further decreases are predicted in many lakes.

Patterson Lake does not need to worry about this since our data shows high Calcium levels.

Water Clarity is measure throughout the summer using a secchi disk. This is a round disk divided into black and white quarters. The secchi depth is the depth at which it is no longer possible to see the black and white divisions of the disk. This measure of water clarity is an easy and efficient way to monitor clarity and can be used to track changes in the water which may not be evident in the total phosphorus measurement. Our lake has high water clarity with an annual average secchi depth of 4.5 to 6.5 metres. This spring, when I measured the water clarity for the first time, was shortly after the high rainfall and flooding and the secchi depth was the lowest we had recorded in our years of monitoring due to the high amount of run off during the rainfall.

These measures all tell us that Patterson Lake is an excellent recreational lake. The indicators have not changed significantly in the time it has been monitored and it gives us valuable historical data continuing into the future.

If you wish to read the 2015 report from the Lake Partners Program, it can be found online at:

[http://desc.ca/sites/default/files/LakePartnerReportCardRevised5%20FINAL-RS\\_LowResolution.pdf](http://desc.ca/sites/default/files/LakePartnerReportCardRevised5%20FINAL-RS_LowResolution.pdf)

## **Boat Safety**

Every year the Lake Association tries to remind residents and visitors that we share a lake and need to follow safety rules regarding

speed, wakes near shore, wearing lifejackets and respecting others on the lake. Also be very mindful of cleaning your boat before you put it in the water to be sure there are no organisms from another waterway that we do not want in our lake.

## ***LAKE LEVELS***

Checking back on the lake data to 1995, we have not recorded a lake level as high as we did on May 13, 2017. The water at that time was approximately 365 mm above the level of the shoal rock off Mary's Island. Our water levels last fall, while not a record low, were among the lowest levels recorded with approximately 355 mm of the shoal rock exposed. The lowest levels we have recorded were in 1996 where 456 mm of the shoal rock was exposed.

## **Staying Safe Around the Water**

By Sarah Dee

As we move into the summer months of fun at the cottage, it is important to remember that safety around the water needs to be a part of our summer cottage routine. Ontario has the highest frequency of water-related deaths of any province or territory, with the majority of these incidents taking place during the summer (Canadian Red Cross, 2016). This in mind, here are a few tips as to how to stay safe around the water this summer.

### *While Boating*

Boating is the number one cause of water-related deaths in Canada, accounting for 34% of deaths between 1991 and 2013. Here are some tips to stay safe:

- **Wear a lifejacket!** Even the best boaters can be caught off guard by the shock of cold water or injury.

- **Be prepared!** Make sure all safety equipment is on board before you depart. This includes a communication device, a whistle, a bailer, paddles, a rope, and any other safety equipment advised for the boat you are using.
- **Plan ahead!** Let someone know where you're going and when you'll be back. This should include a check of the weather before you depart; the last thing you want is to get stuck out in a thunderstorm.

(Canadian Lifesaving Society, 2017).

### *While Playing By or In the Water*

Going swimming and playing in the water are some of the best parts of summer! That makes it important to note that research by the Canadian Red Cross has shown that the strongest swimmers are the most likely to take risks in the water, while those who are not strong swimmers are more likely to be cautious. So regardless of your swimming ability, accidents happen when playing in or by the water. Here are some tips for creating a safe aquatic environment:

- **Never swim alone.** Swimming with a buddy means you can keep an eye out for one another, and helps both people be safer.
- **Always supervise children in and near the water.** This means having a bathing suit on and being in the water alongside them, just an extra chance for you to play! Drowning is the second leading cause of preventable death in children under the age of 10, so it's always best to play it safe.
- **Stay within arm's reach** of children under the age of 6. The best way to catch drowning early is to be right there. Drowning is an instinctive response, and often people can't keep their heads above water to call for help.
- **Keep floatation devices on hand.** Whether it's on the deck/dock or in your hands, having something that

floats nearby can help. Give young swimmers the option to wear a lifejacket if they are uncomfortable in the water.

### *In Case of Emergency*

As mentioned, it's not only weak swimmers who drown. In case of any emergency, here's how you can help.

- **Call for help.** If there's someone nearby, they may be able to hear you and assist.
- **Try to throw them something that floats.** This can be a noodle, a lifejacket, or anything else you may have handy. It's important to throw or reach with a flotation device because someone who is drowning will grab on to whatever comes near him or her, including you!
- **Encourage them to swim towards the shore/dock.** Once they have a flotation device, encourage them to kick towards solid ground. Upon arrival they should be encouraged to wrap up in a towel and shouldn't be left alone. If they have swallowed or inhaled water, they should seek medical assistance in the next 24 hours.

To learn more about water-related injury or drowning prevention, you can visit the cited resources online or look up water safety events in your area.

### *Resources:*

From the Canadian Lifesaving Society –

<http://www.lifesavingsociety.com/who%E2%80%99s-drowning/resources.aspx>

<http://www.lifesavingsociety.com/media/102248/English.pdf>

[http://www.lifesavingsociety.com/media/158883/parentsafetytips\\_5-12.pdf](http://www.lifesavingsociety.com/media/158883/parentsafetytips_5-12.pdf)

[http://www.lifesavingsociety.com/media/158886/parentsafetytips\\_under5.pdf](http://www.lifesavingsociety.com/media/158886/parentsafetytips_under5.pdf)

From the Canadian Red Cross –

<http://www.redcross.ca/training-and-certification/swimming-and-water-safety-tips-and-resources/swimming--boating-and-water-safety-tips/summer-water-safety>

[http://www.redcross.ca/crc/documents/What-We-Do/Swimming-Water-Safety/Water-related\\_fatality\\_trends\\_Jun\\_2016\\_EN-PDF.pdf](http://www.redcross.ca/crc/documents/What-We-Do/Swimming-Water-Safety/Water-related_fatality_trends_Jun_2016_EN-PDF.pdf)

### **Addendum from Joy:**

In our lake, it is particularly important when you are swimming in areas where there might be boats to make sure you are highly visible. No boater wants to hit a swimmer, but when a swimmer is swimming alone and is not highly visible, it is a scary situation. So if you want to swim across the lake, make sure you are highly visible by taking a noodle or by having someone above the water (perhaps in a boat or raft) accompany you.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 PATTERSON LAKE ASSOCIATION OF LANARK HIGHLANDS**

Watsons Corners Hall June 24 10:30 AM

Meeting followed by a potluck lunch

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome by the President. (State of the Lake – record lake high and low)
2. Appointment of annual general meeting secretary.
3. Conduct of Meeting: Discussions will be after a motion has been moved and seconded.  
All are welcome to speak to a motion. There is only one vote per property and only one vote regardless of the number of properties that a person owns. Any voter may request a poll if he or she disputes the call of the chair.

4. Confirmation of Quorum Approval of the agenda.
5. Report of the Nominating Committee of the whole Board, followed by elections of Executive Committee. (Executive Committee to meet immediately after adjournment to elect a president, secretary, and treasurer.)
6. Financial report
7. Appointment of an auditor/reviewer (note review can be done by an external reviewer not a member of the Board in lieu of an auditor, if agreed unanimously at the AGM) .
8. Appointment of bankers.
9. New Website
10. Lake Photo Draw: all members eligible – will be drawn at Picnic from all those providing an email contact.
11. Newsletter (distribution electronic or paper if requested)
12. Annual Picnic (August 12, noon to 2PM Purdon cottages)
13. Current issues (e.g. MVCA invasive species survey; proposal to update lake conservation plan, lake safety concerns)
14. Other business.
15. Adjournment.

### **Area Representatives**

Parsons-JudyYoung–

[judyyoung@sympatico.ca](mailto:judyyoung@sympatico.ca)

Howard Stanley [howardstanley21@gmail.com](mailto:howardstanley21@gmail.com)

Nelson/Purdons - Rhodena Bell

Porcupine – Lesley Scharf –

[lesleyscharf@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyscharf@gmail.com)

Lakeside/White Pine – Joy Bowerman –

[joybowerman16@gmail.com](mailto:joybowerman16@gmail.com)

Hardwood Ridge - Ted Manning –

[tourisk@rogers.com](mailto:tourisk@rogers.com)