

SPRING EDITION

MAY 2025

DOCK TALK

Dock Talk is a publication of the Healey Lake Property Owner Association (HLPOA)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-- DAVID LATTER --

If you like snow and snowmobiling, we had a wonderful winter... for a change. Almost 3 metres of snow fell between December and March. The ice was safe for vehicles from mid January to the end of March.

THE ICE STORM OF 2025

But then the “ice man cometh”, at the end of March. A severe ice storm lasted for 2 days. One could hear broken limbs crashing to the ground by the minute. Healey Lake Road was blocked for a day. Power was cut off for much of cottage country for 5-7 days.

For those of you who close your cottage for the winter, make sure your road in is cleared before you arrive or bring a chain saw along with you the first time you venture up. Everyone will have a lot of clean up to do.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION & OPPORTUNITIES

I want to thank both the Executive and all our Volunteers for their valuable contributions to Healey Lake. Cottage Watch, the Bottle Drive, keeping the parking & trailer lots in shape, Fire Pumps, The Regatta and all that goes with that activity, and Dock Talk to name a few - absolutely nothing would happen without you!

The Regatta is another great example – and it requires some level of advance planning. At this time, no one has come forward to lead this year’s team. George & Michelle have been enthusiastic leaders, but they announced their retirement from the role last year. They have shared that they’re more than willing to help others in taking on this role, however, if no one comes forward, the Regatta itself, simply cannot take place. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know.

NEW EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBER

Brian Steinhauser has agreed to join the Board as Vice President. He is welcome addition and fills a vacant position on the board.

FOCA MEETING & UPDATE

I attended the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA) annual meeting in early March. Almost 250 associations were represented. Members of the Healey Lake Property Owners Association (HLPOA) can access all the FOCA services directly with their own email account.

Visit the article on connecting with FOCA, elsewhere in this edition of Dock Talk. I would highly recommend that you set up your own account.

UPDATED BY-LAWS

The HLPOA was required under the new Ontario Non-profit Corporations Act (ONCA) to prepare new articles of Incorporation and By-laws (Constitution) and file the document by mid October 2024. This document was prepared with legal advice and approved by the HLPOA executive by the deadline. The next step is to obtain the approval of the HLPOA general membership. Since only a small portion of members physically attend the Annual General Meetings, and current internet capabilities prevent use of digital technology like a Zoom Meeting, we will be establishing a survey, similar to that developed for the 2021 Parry Sound Hospital donation, where all interested members can review and vote on the new by-laws. Look for further news on this through our batch email system – which serves as a reminder of the importance that you ensure we have your most up to date contact info.

SAVE THE DATE | 2025 LAKE EVENTS

- 1) **Annual General Meeting**
Sunday, May 18 at 10:00 AM
- 2) **Fundraising Bottle Drive**
Saturday, July 5th
- 3) **Healey Lake Regatta** (*pending new committee chairs*)
Saturday, August 2nd

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-- DAVID LATTER --

LAKE DIRECTORY UPDATE

The Lake Directory will be updated this year and published in time for the 2026 season. Please indicate if you want to be in the Lake Directory when you renew your membership.

OTHER "BUSINESS" ON ARRIVAL TO THE LAKE

The HLPOA will renew the Port-a-Potty Contract for 2025. We are happy to report it's has been used responsibly the last two seasons - PLEASE keep up the good work. The unit will be at the same location at the main public dock between the marinas from **May 22nd to October 16th**.



Public washrooms and porta-potties are available within 30 km both north & south of Mactier on HWY 400.

We strongly encourage you to consider these facilities as a good first choice when the need arises on your journey.

FIRE SAFETY & CALL LIST

John Mendicino, Fire & Safety Lead Volunteer, has set up a WhatsApp ALERT list to notify lake residents of a fire or any other emergency on the lake. We hope this will improve the response time and provide a system that can more readily and immediately communicate with potential responders.

See the article on FIRE SAFETY and COTTAGE OPENING TIPS, for information on how to be added to the list.

OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS

The Association has a healthy bank account. We are open to suggestions from our members for any additional investments that would maintain or improve the Healey Lake community.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Including the two Marinas on the lake, we encourage all our members to support the local businesses, especially our advertisers. They strengthen the economy of the local area and contribute to the enjoyment of the lake by all cottagers.

GET IN TOUCH

If there are any issues or concerns, please contact me at dlatter1712@gmail.com or via my cell at [+1 416 407-4965](tel:+14164074965).

David Latter

2025 TRANSFER STATION SUMMER SEASON

Starting Saturday of the Victoria Day Weekend through Thanksgiving Day

HEALEY LAKE TRANSFER STATION

(169 HEALEY LAKE RD)

- **Sunday** 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
- **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday** 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- **Wednesday** Closed
- **Holidays:** Victoria Day, Canada Day, Civic Holiday, Labour Day and Thanksgiving Day 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM

WOODS BAY TRANSFER STATION

(718 HEALEY LAKE RD).

- **Sunday**, 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
- **Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday** 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- **Tuesday, Thursday** Closed
- **Holidays:** Victoria Day, Canada Day, Civic Holiday, Labour Day and Thanksgiving Day 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

During the Spring, Summer & Fall seasons, the Township also operates two water-access sites on Georgian Bay:

- **Devil's Elbow** - Summer: June 2 to September 14
Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
8:30 AM to 7:00 PM
- **Sheep Head**
Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
8:30 AM to 6:30 PM

See link below for additional information & hours during the Spring and Fall seasons

SOUTH ARCHIPELAGO WASTE DISPOSAL PAGE

- <https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/south-archipelago---facilities-and-hours-of-operation>

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CONTACT:

Adam Smith 705-627-0970
redsrepairsrenos@gmail.com

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

-- DAN MACLEOD --

SPRING HAS FINALLY ARRIVED

What a winter that was and while it took its sweet time, it seems Spring had finally arrived!

While snowmobiling did not start at the first snows, the trails opened up about the first week of February. Because this is a three-year agreement, there will not be any complications come the snowfall of November / December of this year.

NEW LOOK, SAME ARCHIPELAGO

The Council of the Township of The Archipelago is proud to announce the unveiling of a refreshed brand and updated communications materials; an initiative that better reflects and celebrates our community's values and character.



The Archipelago's new logo is a visual representation of our Strategic Plan and aligns with our pillars, including Protect & Preserve, Effective Relationships & Partnerships, and Leadership & Communications.

"This brand refresh comes at a time when the Township is celebrating our 45th anniversary. This occasion gives us the opportunity to celebrate our past, as well as look ahead to the future: a future where preserving our waters, lands, and air will be more important than ever. Like any strong brand, our new logo declares our core values and priorities. We are very excited about this new direction for the Township."

- Bert Liverance

A key aspect of the rebrand is the development of creative assets that are optimized for digital applications, developed under Council's direction. The new logo reflects the natural landscape of The Archipelago, drawing inspiration from the Georgian Bay shoreline, including its inland lakes and watershed areas. As a whole, the new brand underscores the Township's continued commitment to the guardianship of its natural environment.

Our current Corporate Administration Officer (CAO) John Fior has retired as of the end of March. John has been very beneficial in keeping council and staff on track to accomplishing our goals. In his position, John McKinnon will be taking over. John has been in municipal affairs for many years. I hope to have him come out to the Assc. Meetings in the near future.

PHRAGMITES

Invasive Phragmites is a perennial wetland grass which forms dense, near monoculture stands. It is a member of the Poaceae (grass) family and is also known as European common reed, common reed, or common reed grass.

It is native to Eurasia and was likely introduced more than once to North America in the 1800s along the Atlantic coast, as both a seed contaminant in soil ballast and intentionally introduced through the horticulture trade.

In 2005, it was recognized as Canada's worst invasive plant with rapid expansion occurring during the 90's. It has since spread throughout Ontario, becoming a significant threat to Great Lakes coastal habitats, drastically reducing plant and wildlife diversity and threatening a high number of already at-risk plant species.



If you see it growing anywhere along Healey Lake Road, Crown Land or on your property please [report it to Ontario Parks](#) and/or take a picture and send the location to dlatter1712@gmail.com.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET

I've spoken informally with representatives from Pickard Construction and Mike Communications – they've advised that Bell Fibe, "might be operational by Fall 2025."

That is the latest news I have on that subject.

GET IN TOUCH

As always, if there are any questions or concerns with the above subject matter or any Township issues, please contact me.

You can reach me directly via dmacleod@thearchipelago.ca or [+1 647-549-5474](tel:+1647-549-5474).



Dan MacLeod

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HLPOA MEMBERSHIP

-- SHARON TOSSWILL --

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

In recent years, HLPOA Membership has remained fairly stable with roughly 200-210 members. Many cottages have changed hands through various means in recent years, and it has proven difficult to track all the changes.

Thank you to the 208 Members who maintained active membership in 2024. Better still, more than 135 members have already renewed since March 1, 2025. Your ongoing support is very much appreciated!

Our records indicate our full potential membership includes a total of 301 properties on the lake. This means there are some 93 properties who are not active members. Some of those owners may be quite new to the lake community, may have moved off the lake, may simply have let their memberships lapse over time or perhaps were never even members at all. In a digital age, and without any up-to-date contact information, our only options are to rely on neighbours, "word of mouth" invitations and of course, to visit each property when volunteers are available to do so.

Whether they are aware or not, ALL Healey Lake owners encounter and benefit in some way, from the services that the HLPOA provides. The same is true of their renters.

Whether it's the lights between the Marinas, the porta-potty by the Main Docks, the lending libraries, select rock markers and courtesy lights, the annual Regatta, FOCA membership or access to the 11 fire pumps located strategically around the lake, and the Emergency Alert system to alert volunteers around the lake - these are just a few of the services provided by and funded through payment of your annual Association dues. **A bargain at \$40.**

Over this summer and fall, we hope to focus our efforts on contacting and engaging owners of those 93 properties in a renewed membership drive. If you can assist in any way to make that happen, please contact Sharon Tosswill (sharon_tosswill@hotmail.com) or Debbie Latter (debbie.latter@gmail.com)

JOIN THE HLPOA

Membership information is available at:

<https://healeylake.org/community/#membership>

WE'VE GONE DIGITAL!

The Association is no longer mailing out hard copy Membership Renewal Forms other than on an exception basis. We initiated email renewals in March 2022, but some Members were not aware of this change and were waiting to receive mailed information.

Sharon Tosswill

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Some of the many benefits your HLPOA Membership Fee work to support include:

- 1) **Annual General Meetings** (AGMs) in May and September to meet other members and exchange views of interest to us all.
- 2) **DockTalk** Three editions of our newsletter yearly.
- 3) **Cottage Watch**: Over the winter, Volunteers will visit your property and alert you to any issues.
- 4) **Webcams**: There are two currently installed on the lake, which are viewable through our website
- 5) **Notifications**: Email blast delivered to your inbox to keep you aware of news & events on the lake
- 6) **Lake Stewardship Program**: Annual Water testing and working on many initiatives to keep Healey Lake safe and flourishing.
- 7) **Annual Regatta**: Scheduled regularly for the Saturday of the August long weekend with games, crafts, food, and a beer tent.
- 8) **Fire & Safety**
 - Provides and maintains 11 fire pumps, (6 seasonal & 5 year-round) on the lake, available to help in an emergency situation.
 - Maintains select courtesy lights and markers to aide boating safety.
 - Link on our Home webpage to the current Fire Rating (Fire Icon in top right corner) or see also <https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/fire-rating>
- 9) **FOCA Membership** (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association) included with your HLPOA membership. FOCA members may additionally benefit from potential insurance savings. HLPOA is also a member of the Georgian Bay Biosphere.
- 10) **Boat Trailer Parking**: Available free to Members Only located by the two Marinas. In addition, the Association in partnership with the Township, maintains three landings at Fox Back Rd; Pine Bay and Kapikog Bay.
- 11) **Representation**: Advocacy of our member's interests with the Township of the Archipelago.
Dan MacLeod is the Councillor for Ward 6, TOA.
A former President of the HLPOA, Dan is our voice on Council, advocating for Healey Lake issues like waste disposal, taxation, roads, fire safety & the dam.

Stay Connected: Visit www.healeylake.org for the latest news and updates!

TOWNSHIP OF THE ARCHIPELAGO



GREAT NEIGHBOUR GUIDELINES



I WILL ...

- ✓ Remember that all noise, including music and barking dogs, easily carries great distances across the water and has the potential to disturb others
- ✓ Let my neighbours know of planned gatherings that may interrupt their enjoyment of the home/cottage
- ✓ Ensure that my boat wakes are appropriate to the distance from shore and speeds are reduced in narrow areas so that no wake is produced
- ✓ Preserve natural vegetative growth along my shoreline to reduce erosion and preserve water quality
- ✓ Keep my septic system in good working order to help preserve water quality
- ✓ Manage my garbage in a responsible fashion using animal proof containers and ensure that garbage is properly sorted when utilizing municipal transfer stations
- ✓ Use environmentally friendly products and follow best practices when transporting non-native materials to my property
- ✓ Respect, maintain and improve the natural environment and surrounding wildlife in effort to sustain the life and spirit of Georgian Bay and inland lakes
- ✓ Keep outdoor illumination to a minimum, avoid placing spot lights where they are highly visible from other properties, and turn lights off whenever possible
- ✓ Ensure that all boat operators at my property possess a valid boating license and understand and abide by applicable boating regulations in the area
- ✓ Obey all applicable municipal fire regulations and be mindful of fire bans, firework by-laws, smoke drift, and fire ratings in my area
- ✓ Ensure my family and visitors are informed about the Township of The Archipelago's Great Neighbours Guidelines and bylaws →
- ✓ **BE A GREAT NEIGHBOUR**



For More Details on These Topics, Visit www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/toacode



FIRE SAFETY & COTTAGE OPENING TIPS

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FIRE SAFETY

April 1st marked the start of fire season in the Archipelago!

Everyone must play their part to protect our forests from any threat of fire this summer!

See: <https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca>

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- 1) Be aware of the current Fire Rating in the Township.
 - The Township's Fire Danger Sign is highly visible as you drive on Healey Lake Road!
- 2) Visit the Township ([thearchipelago.on.ca](https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca)) website
- 3) OR the HLPOA websites ([healeylake.org](https://www.healeylake.org)) and click on the fire icon in the upper right corner for the most up-to-date fire information.

KNOW THE RULES

- 1) [TOA - Fires and Open Burning By-law](#)
- 2) [Township of The Archipelago - Fire Rating](#)
- 3) [Fireworks By-law](#)

Check list for equipment and tasks for when you arrive to open your cottage or annual update for properties used year-round.

Essential items to take and tasks to perform upon arrival:

Pack Batteries: That includes batteries for flashlights and batteries for all your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors as applicable. I also remove batteries at fall closing-up from all devices like clocks, weather stations, etc., but not from smoke / CO detectors. Batteries function best at room temperature. Prolonged exposure to extreme cold temperatures can dramatically reduce battery life.

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE LAKE

Before you go to bed on arrival day, put fresh batteries in all your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors as applicable (some have permanent batteries that last up to 10 years). Test all of your safety devices, including those that plug in to a wall outlet. Thereafter, test these devices at least monthly.

At the same time, check the expiry date on all your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. A typical lifespan for these devices is 7-10 years from the date of manufacture, but some have a lower designed lifespan. The manufacturing date and or a "replace by" date will be clearly marked on the case. Purchase new units as needed and replace before or at expiry. Note that if your device does not have a visible manufacture date or "replace by" date it is very old and should be replaced immediately!

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Check the pressure gauge on all your fire extinguishers and give them a shake to loosen the dry powder chemical mixture inside. If you do not already have fire extinguishers mounted in various locations in your cottage and outbuildings, it is strongly recommended that you have several of these on hand.

The Ontario Law requires properly working smoke / fire detectors in every home and carbon monoxide detectors in every home with a fossil fuel burning appliance, and don't forget your sleep cabins / bunks! Refer to the manufacturer's installation instructions for advice on where to locate these devices. Don't start a fire in your fireplace or woodstove before your CO detector is plugged in (or batteries changed) and tested.

An essential fire safety item is the fire extinguisher. Mount at least one near an exit door. The theory is that as you are running out of the building, you can grab one near an exit and then turn around and try to extinguish the fire if it is safe to do so, while having the door at your back for a quick exit if needed.

Fire extinguishers are not yet legally required in Ontario homes, but they are strongly recommended as an integral part of your fire safety plan. Also mount one in each of your sheds or outbuildings.

Also note that Fire Extinguishers are legally required in any powered watercraft with an inboard engine or fixed (non-portable) fuel tank and any powered watercraft over 6 metres in length (minimum 5BC size/type). This includes PWCs (fixed fuel tank). If you bought such a boat or PWC from a dealer it would have come with a fire extinguisher (now you know why). If you purchased privately, make sure it is equipped with a fire extinguisher.

EMERGENCY CALLS

(Fire, Accidents, Illness etc.)

A call system has been set up on WhatsApp to improve the response time for emergencies on Healey Lake.

You need to be added to the Healey Lake WhatsApp call list to have access to the emergency responder list for Healey Lake.

If you wish to join and be included on the list, reach out to John Mendicino at john.mendicino@gmail.com

Thanks to The Crane Lake Property Association for permission to edit their notice for Healey Lake

Stay Connected: Visit www.healeylake.org for the latest news and updates!



On behalf of Wall-2-Wall Painting, I would like to thank Healey Lake Cottagers for being such loyal customers. It has been my pleasure serving you over the years. I look forward to yet another year of meeting wonderful new people and reconnecting with my past clients. Your support and loyalty has been incredible and I hope that am able to continue providing you with interior and exterior painting services for years to come. Wall-2-Wall Painting is committed to providing customers with only the highest quality service, delivered through impeccable attention to detail.

As proof of my appreciation for your loyalty and support I wish to extend both new and existing clients a 2025 spring pre-booking special.

Please contact me at (905) 830-8900 to prebook your 2025 cottage painting projects.

Thank You for your business & ongoing support. I look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Darlene Jones

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LOON UPDATE

-- MISSY MANDEL --

Spring is in full swing on Healey Lake, and with it comes the welcome return of our iconic summer residents: the loons. Their haunting calls echo once more across the water, a familiar and beloved sign of the season. We're especially hopeful this year that a pair will discover the newly installed artificial nesting platform—an important step in helping restore the loon population on our lake.

Healey Lake has historically supported up to three breeding loon pairs, but in recent years, that number has declined. Last summer, only one pair successfully raised a chick to fledging age. While we celebrate that little victory, it's a clear signal that more must be done to support these sensitive birds.

Loons need very specific nesting conditions to thrive: quiet, undisturbed locations, typically on small islands, hummocks, or downed trees surrounded by water. These spots offer natural protection from predators and human activity. Stable water levels are also critical—flooding during nesting season can quickly lead to the loss of eggs or chicks.

Unfortunately, our lake, like many others, faces increasing pressure from human activity. More boat traffic, louder recreation, and a changing climate are all affecting loon breeding success. Loons are particularly vulnerable to disturbance; even a single close pass by a boat or kayak near a nest can cause adults to abandon their eggs.

In response, our community has teamed up with Bird Studies Canada to take action. With the help of volunteers, we built two floating loon nesting platforms designed to mimic the safety and seclusion of natural nest sites. One of these has already been placed near a previously failed nest in a quiet part of the lake.

Artificial platforms can take time to gain acceptance from loons—sometimes several seasons—so patience and continued observation are key. We're optimistic that with persistence and community support, we'll see loons using these platforms in the near future.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and future Dock Talk editions for updates. And in the meantime, if you're out enjoying the water, remember to give loon nesting areas plenty of space. A peaceful shoreline means a better chance for loon families to raise their chicks safely.

Here's to a hopeful season ahead!

Missy Mandel



FOCA UPDATE

-- DAVID LATTER --

WHAT IS FOCA?

FOCA is the province-wide umbrella group for Ontario's 250,000+ waterfront property owners (WPO), whether seasonal or year-round residents of their rural communities.



Because the Healey Lake Property Owners Association is a FOCA Member Association, all our member families are also members of FOCA! As members, you can login from your own account to access member benefits on the FOCA website: <https://foca.on.ca/>.

To set up your personal login to access member materials and offers on the FOCA website:

- 1) Click this link: <https://foca.on.ca/register/member-association/?ca=a97af0be505e8b5f724e2f89d179722f>. It is unique to our Association and should only be shared with current members.
- 2) Scroll down on the Account webpage and fill in the information fields to create your "Sub-Account" as part of our Association. Set your own Username (some folks use their email address for this) and Password (known only to you).
NOTE: ensure you enter something in each required field, marked with an asterisk. If you don't have information for that field (e.g., no postal code because you are island access), enter generic information in a similar format (e.g., Z1Z 1Z1) so the system allows you to continue.
- 3) Click the green "Sign Up" button at the bottom.
- 4) If you need any technical assistance, reach out to FOCA directly for help during business hours: info@foca.on.ca.

Now, any time you see a prompt to login for members-only materials – for recordings of past FOCA events; benefits access codes for the Rogers Preferred Pricing program or other offers; FOCA print publications, reports, fact sheets or video resources – you will be able to use your personal login to access them.

David Latter

Share the news about these benefits with others!

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STEWARDSHIP REPORT

-- DOUGLAS THOMPSON --

I think we all want to know how climate change is affecting our lake now and into the future.

At the moment in reviewing the FOCA studies on lake chemicals for lake Healey i.e. Phosphate, Calcium, and Chloride we seem to be in the safe norm. E DNA studies other than revealing spiny water flea in our lake do not show any other invasive species i.e. Zebra or Quagga mussels etc. yet. And there have not been any significant algae blooms.

We do have yellow iris as invasive species on the lake, but it does not seem to be spreading at alarming rates. In surrounding waterways however there are lots of invasive species including Chinese snails, Water soldier, milfoil etc. (7 have been identified in the Muskoka watershed) so it may just be a matter of time. It just takes one unwashed boat traveling for one lake to another or minnow release at end of a fishing day to infect our lake.

We had a rather wet season last year, which somewhat safeguarded us from forest fire threats - but will that last in our area or will there more likely be dry spells or perhaps a wet spring and dry summer with lots of underbrush to burn?

We have seen the devastating effects of wildfires in other areas of Canada and how quickly propelled by strong winds they can spread and how devastating they can be blocking exit routes and burning houses with loss of life. This also raises the issue of insurance rates or denial in our future. Are we adequately prepared for one of these possible devastating disasters?

And last but not least are we prepared for the increasing climate events; windstorms, tornados, hail, thunderstorms, excessive rainfall, and flooding precipitated by climate change which we are experiencing in our area and everywhere in the world?

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Any effort to reduce climate change is meaningful. Because fossil fuels are the main source of global warming, using less is a great start. For instance, a new build on our lake has installed heat pumps, and I plan to replace my 2-stroke outboard engine this year. We have also promoted the use of organic incinerators around the lake to cut down on organic waste going to the dump, where it creates methane (a powerful greenhouse gas). One marina has added EV charging stations. Additionally, when feasible, we should all consider upgrading older appliances, light fixtures, and plumbing fixtures (such as water taps and showerheads) to more energy-efficient and water-saving models.

MORE ACTIONS TO CONSIDER:

If you are renovating or building something new, look into greener, more adaptive standards. Examples include using fireproof siding and roofing, limiting wood stored around or underneath the cottage, installing heavier shingles to withstand hail or strong winds, and adding hurricane straps or other fasteners to protect against tornadoes. A three-meter berm of stone or another fire-resistant material around the cottage, along with clearing low brush, can help prevent forest fires from reaching your property. I always point to the example of a house that survived a devastating forest fire because of its adaptive, fire-resistant building choices.

So be proactive and climate change stewards so we can continue to enjoy our lake.

Doug Thompson



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TREE CARE UPDATE

-- SYMANTHA RUSH --

CARING FOR TREES AFTER AN ICE STORM

In the wake of the recent ice storm that hit Healey Lake, cottage owners should be careful when opening this season. It will be a time to assess and care for damaged trees around your property, as well as making sure everything is safe for the season. Loss of branches, split trunks, and even uprooted trees may need immediate attention to minimize any long-term impact.

Trees can recover, but it often depends on the initial health of the tree, and the extent of damage. Healthy trees with minimal crown loss (upper branches) should recover, and over time, the crown may even appear normal. Even trees that appear to be severely damaged may also recover with proper care.

Outlined below are a few recommendations:

SAFETY FIRST

- Stay clear of power lines
- If there is severe damage or a potential safety issue, it is best to call a certified arborist. We have many companies that help cottagers on the lake, ask a neighbour, or check out our sponsors for a name.

ASSESSING TREE DAMAGE

- Loss of crown/branches: Trees that have lost up to 50 per cent of their crown are very likely to survive with proper pruning, while those that have lost more than 50 per cent of their crown may not survive (but that varies from species to species)
- Split trunks: Trees with severe splits usually need professional evaluation.

PRUNING GUIDELINES

- If possible, wait until spring or fall to consider pruning any damaged trees. Trees are quite resilient and may recover from some damage.
- For young conifers with damaged tops, prune above the first live set of branches around the main trunk as this will enable a new healthy branch to grow into the next leader.

TREE PLANTING

Trees are an integral part of our cottage landscape but how many of us really think about the value of trees – how they add to the landscape, what they provide for birds, wildlife and ourselves.

With most of the forest on Healey Lake being second generation growth after logging, many trees are now at least 100 years old. Planting some trees might be a good idea to help with continued health of the forest. Did you know that there are companies that send you seedlings in the mail frozen that can be planted by you? It is the same product as professional tree planters use up north. It might be too late to organize this year but perhaps some planning for the following year (with a neighbour or two) might be worth consideration.

If you are interested in looking into purchasing trees or seedlings, a good Canadian company to start with is



You can learn more about their selection of trees and pricing at their website: <https://treetime.ca>



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THE LAKED CHEF

-- RON HUTZUL --

NICKI'S CONFETTI PASTA SALAD

Prep Time: 30 Minutes | Cook Time: 15 minutes | Serves 4-6

With summer nearly here, our "Laked Grillers" will be firing things up – and this is a great side dish (that scales well) to pair with anything from basic burgers to fish, chicken or steak!

INGREDIENTS

Dressing:

(Option: Brianna's Real French Vinaigrette works well here)

- ☐ ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- ☐ 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- ☐ 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- ☐ 1 clove garlic, finely grated
- ☐ 1 teaspoon sugar

Pasta Salad:

- ☐ 8 ounces fusilli pasta (or sub-in a creative pasta shape)
- ☐ 1 cup halved grape tomatoes
- ☐ 1 cup diced Persian cucumber
- ☐ 1 cup diced orange bell pepper
- ☐ ½ cup diced hard salami
- ☐ ½ cup crumbled feta cheese
- ☐ ½ cup sliced red onion
- ☐ ⅓ cup torn kalamata olives
- ☐ 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill
- ☐ 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves
- ☐ 2 cups arugula, (or sub spinach or fire mix greens)
- ☐ Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large pot of boiling + salted water, cook pasta according to package instructions; drain well.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together olive oil, red wine vinegar, Dijon, garlic and sugar; season with salt and pepper, to taste. (or just twist open the cap on the Brianna's)
3. Mix in pasta; let cool 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Stir in tomatoes, cucumber, bell pepper, salami, feta, red onion, olives, dill and parsley; season with salt and pepper, to taste.
5. Stir in arugula or mixed greens. Serve immediately.

You can serve this alongside just about anything off the grill – and sub in any season veggies that you can lay your hands on. I've been known to double (or triple) the quantities and store leftovers in an airtight container in the fridge for later on in the weekend – it's just as good served cold the flavours come together nicely. – for lunch or a snack down on the dock.



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