

# SUMMER EDITION

## AUGUST 2025

# DOCK TALK

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-- DAVID LATTER --

### SUMMER OF 2025

First there was rain and then there was sun – it was an ideal summer for trees and cottagers alike! By all reports the squirrels, chipmunks and even the snakes are thriving.

Unfortunately, no loon chicks have been spotted this year, though there are plenty of loons using the lake – see further updates included in this Summer Edition of Dock Talk.

Additional activities on the lake, sponsored by the association this year, included a new arm to stabilize the dock on Kapikog Bay and the completion of the replacement of the balance of the Fire Response Water Pumps at various locations around the lake. All the pumps are now the same Honda models, and all the fire hoses are new, (and cross compatible across pump locations).

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Membership renewal has been slower than normal this year. It is never too late to renew your own membership, to join if you're not currently a member, or to encourage neighbours both new and old if they've never been a member or are new to the lake.

### GET IN TOUCH

If there are any issues, questions or particular concerns that need the attention of the Executive, please email me at [dletter1712@gmail.com](mailto:dletter1712@gmail.com) or call my cell at [+1 416 407-4965](tel:+14164074965). You can now also contact Brian Steinhauser, our new Vice President, at [briansteinhauser@rogers.com](mailto:briansteinhauser@rogers.com).

David Latter

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## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

-- BRIAN STEINHAUSER --

### WHY I JOINED THE HLPOA EXECUTIVE

It's a privilege to join the Healey Lake Property Owners Association (HLPOA) Executive. I'm a second-generation Healey Laker, fortunate to have enjoyed this beautiful place for over 50 years. While the stunning scenery, clean water, and star-filled night skies are what many first notice, **what has always made Healey special to me is the people.**

### ENGAGING IN THE COMMUNITY

Unlike the "big lakes," Healey has always been about community – neighbours coming together to play, work, eat and enjoy time on the lake together, and most importantly, caring for the lake we love. That shared commitment is at the heart of the HLPOA. Our volunteers dedicate countless hours to keeping our water clean, maintaining the dam, ensuring fire pumps are ready if needed, placing and servicing markers, and providing public docking and parking. They also advocate for our needs with local and municipal governments, making sure Healey isn't overshadowed by larger neighbours like Georgian Bay.

### GIVING BACK WITH OUR SUPPORT

I felt it was my turn to give back – to help ensure future generations can enjoy Healey Lake as much as I have. I encourage every property owner to join the HLPOA and pay their dues. The cost is nominal, but your membership sends a strong message of unity and support when we speak up for our lake.

### ATTEND THE AGM

I also invite you to attend our bi-annual AGM at Lakeshore Marina each spring and fall. It's a great way to have your voice heard, stay informed, and connect with neighbours—both old friends and new faces.

Here's to working together to keep Healey Lake the special place it has always been.

Brian Steinhauser

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# REGATTA UPDATE

-- MICHELLE BURANDT & GEORGE YOUNGBERG --

## 2025 REGATTA UPDATE

The 2025 edition of the Annual Healey Lake Regatta came together and was once again a huge success!

It was a wonderful opportunity for people to reconnect with old friends as well as make some new ones. While there were activities for all ages, the kids in particular seemed to have a great time competing in the events, participating in the kid's games, enjoying the craft table, and having their face painted. There were also free "I love Healey Lake" tattoos so people could show off their lake pride. The kids games were capped off with free ice cream for all, courtesy of JCIC Asset Management.



The adults enjoyed themselves in the Beer Tent, and as the day went on, the bidding at the Silent Auction accelerated. The auction was once again a huge success, largely thanks to all the fabulous people who donated all the wonderful items that were up for auction.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS!**



6 lucky people went home with huge baskets of wine from the ever-popular wine raffle!

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

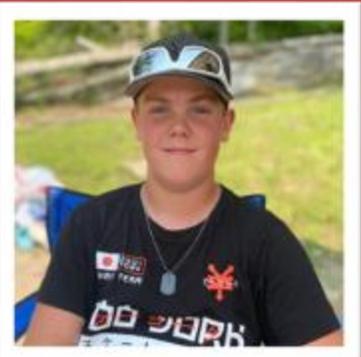
If you were a volunteer at this year's event, a big heartfelt **THANK YOU** to you!!

It takes a great community and a lot of hours to run an event like this, and we are so lucky to have so many great people on the lake who are willing to spend their personal time helping to make this event such a success. If you'd like to get involved next year, please reach out to us any time! We can always use more people to help bring the event to life and keep it going for generations to come!



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# 2025 REGATTA PHOTO MONTAGE



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## COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

-- DAN MACLEOD --

### PESTICIDE SPRAYING FOR MOSQUITOES & TICKS

#### What You Need to Know

With the increase in ticks this year, especially around Healey Lake, many residents are considering hiring companies to spray their properties for mosquitoes and ticks. I've been researching this myself, and I'd like to share some important information before decisions are made — particularly about what these sprays contain and how they can impact our shared environment.

#### What's Being Used: Permethrin

Most companies offering mosquito and tick control sprays are using Permethrin, a synthetic insecticide modelled after compounds found in chrysanthemum flowers.

While it's effective at killing mosquitoes and ticks, it doesn't discriminate — it also kills beneficial insects, including:

- Bees (critical for pollination)
- Butterflies and moths
- Dragonflies (which naturally eat mosquitoes)
- Aquatic insects (vital to the food chain in our lake)
- Permethrin is designed to:
- Last longer than natural pyrethrins (it doesn't break down quickly in sunlight or rain)
- Be more potent, with a broader "kill zone"

These features make it effective but also highly persistent in the environment.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

#### Lake & Water Contamination:

Permethrin is highly toxic to fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates. It can enter our lake through runoff after spraying, harming the very ecosystems we all enjoy. Even trace amounts can:

- Kill or disrupt aquatic insects that birds and fish rely on for food
- Harm frog and turtle populations
- Break natural ecological balances

#### Impact on Biodiversity:

Wiping out beneficial insects weakens our lake's ecosystem, potentially leading to more long-term pest problems. For example, if dragonfly populations decline, we could see more mosquitoes in the future — not fewer.

#### Drift Beyond Property Lines:

Even if only one household sprays, the chemicals can drift through the air and onto neighbouring properties — where children, pets, or wildlife might be exposed without consent.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

While the sprays are marketed as "safe," it's worth noting:

- Spray technicians wear masks for protection — a red flag in itself
- Permethrin can cause skin irritation, breathing issues, or allergic reactions in some people
- It is toxic to cats, even in small doses
- Pets and children are often allowed back onto sprayed areas within an hour — but residue can linger



#### Before You Spray — Please Consider:

- 1) Let neighbours know in advance if you're spraying. Drift doesn't respect property lines.
- 2) Avoid spraying near the shoreline or during windy days — both increase the risk of lake contamination.
- 3) Ask the company for a full ingredient list — not just the active chemical.
- 4) Explore alternative methods to reduce bugs (see below).

#### Natural Mosquito & Tick Control Tips:

- Rake leaves and remove yard debris — ticks love moist, shaded ground
- Dump standing water — birdbaths, buckets, low spots in the yard
- Consider natural repellents — like lemon eucalyptus oil
- Install bat houses and promote dragonflies — both eat thousands of mosquitoes daily

### LET'S PROTECT OUR LAKE TOGETHER

This message isn't meant to alarm — just to inform. If you're thinking about spraying, I urge you to weigh the short-term benefit against the long-term cost to our fragile lake ecosystem. There are many ways to stay safe without harming the environment we all share and love.

If you have access to additional information or resources, I'm always interested in learning more — please share them.

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## COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

-- DAN MACLEOD --

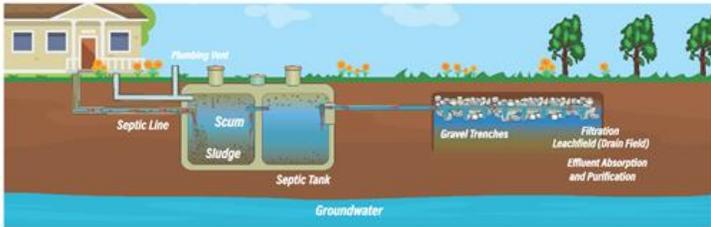
### SLUDGE JUDGE PROGRAM

The program is a free voluntary septic screening program. It provides resident with a simple self-assessment tool and guide to determine the status of septic tanks. Sludge Samplers are easy-to-use tools for determining when a septic tank is in need of a professional pump out and conversely, when pumping is not yet required.

#### What You Need to Know

In addition, Sludge Judge samplers are also available to all residents at the following township locations (during their respective operating hours):

- Township Office – 9 James Street, Parry Sound
- Crane Lake Transfer Station – 346 Blackstone-Crane Lake Road
- Woods Bay Transfer Station – 718 Healey Lake Road
- Skerryvore Transfer Station – 449 Skerryvore Community Road
- Site 9 Landfill – 10 Site 9 Road



Your septic system is part of your home or cottage and is your responsibility. Protect your investment and your property value by understanding how the system works, by following general maintenance guidelines, and checking on the health of the system annually.

For further information on the program, please visit the website below:

<https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/septics>.

After sampling, complete the [participant survey](#) for your chance to win one of three \$100 gift cards!

For questions about the You Be the Judge program, please email: [septics@thearchipelago.ca](mailto:septics@thearchipelago.ca)

**Thank you for taking responsible stewardship action by taking care of your home or cottage septic system!**

### ROAD GRASS CUTTING

Grass cutting along our roads started the week of July 28-Aug 1. The reason for the delay was the contractor hired to do the job had an equipment failure. Further to this issue, I have requested the grass cutting budget be doubled in the future – as the climate changes, we understand that grass may have to be cut up to twice a year.

### PHRAGMITES

Phragmites are a highly invasive grass that grows along roadways and in wetlands. They crowd out, taking over land at an alarming rate, and must be controlled.



Any one spotting these plants, please report to me or our Public Works Dept.

I would like to highlight a recent environmental success that our Public Works staff accomplished with Georgian Bay Biosphere. Together we were able to remove 510kg of invasive phragmites from Ward 6. A large patch 500 m west of the Healey Lake Transfer station

The Township's efforts should be coupled with the continued efforts of local community groups to achieve the greatest impact, so please continue to encourage community organized phragmites cutting and invasive species education.

### REGATTA

I have to say this year's regatta was a huge success. We simply cannot thank the volunteers enough for running the games sign-up, providing the food tokens and making change, BBQing the burgers and hotdogs, as well as running and judging the games. Thanks to Ryan and Justine, for making sure cold beverages were available and nobody went dry. To Melanie for running the silent auction and all the duties that surround it. To the ticket sellers, walking around all day in the heat, making sure everyone had raffle tickets. To Cindy for running the kids' activities, to the teenagers doing the face painting.

A VERY special thank you to Michelle and George, Hayley and Savanna for stepping up and organizing a fun day for all Healey Lakers. Being a volunteer for this day, is not a bad thing. I had the easiest job of the day and thoroughly enjoyed watching the fun.

**If I have forgotten anyone, I am truly sorry, we thank you all for your outstanding and much appreciated efforts.**

### 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](mailto:dmacleod@thearchipelago.ca) or [+1 647-549-5474](tel:+16475495474).



*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 175 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, 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](mailto:sharon_tosswill@hotmail.com)) or Debbie Latter ([debbie.latter@gmail.com](mailto: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) **Dock Talk** 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.
  - 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.

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# FIRE SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS

-- CONTRIBUTED --

## MUNICIPAL FIRE PREVENTION & BY-LAWS

<http://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/fire-prevention>

## FIRE RATINGS

<http://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/fire-rating>

The HLPOA website ([www.healeylake.org](http://www.healeylake.org)) shows a fire icon in top right corner. Click on the icon for a current fire rating.

## FIRE BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT

While we all share the lake and count on members of the community to offer helpful reminders when folks “forget to check” the fire ratings, the Township of the Archipelago is responsible for by law enforcement.

The best course of action is to take photos to document the situation and directly contact the By-Law enforcement officer - Liam Thompson at [\(705\) 774-3630](tel:705-774-3630)

## HEALEY LAKE FIRE PROTECTION

The Township of the Archipelago and other nearby municipalities do not provide fire protection of any kind for the Healey Lake area. Although there is a fire station in MacTier, this is operated by the Township of Georgian Bay and cottagers should not expect them to respond to a fire on Healey Lake.

The Healey Lake Property Owners Association does not offer a firefighting service; however, we have made available 11 gasoline powered, high pressure water pumps at various locations on the lake. These 11 courtesy pumps may be accessed and used by cottage members or their representatives to assist in fighting fires at their own risk.

Please be aware that the water pumps and associated equipment are provided on a “best efforts” basis and the Association assumes no responsibility for their reliability or for injuries to anyone using this equipment.

The pumps are stored in boxes that contain the pumps, hoses and a set of operating instructions. The Association occasionally puts on an annual demonstration of the use of the pumps at the Regatta or an Annual General Meeting.

## FIRE RESPONSE WHATSAPP GROUP LIST

There is a WhatsApp Group List for Fire Response – you can message it if you spot a fire. This helps mobilize a fire response – so if you’re able-bodied and on the lake when you receive a notice, you can help out too. To be added to the list, contact John Mendicino at [705-321-2203](tel:705-321-2203) or [john.mendicino@gmail.com](mailto:john.mendicino@gmail.com).

## FIRE PUMPS

The Association has purchased and maintains water pumps which may be borrowed from the end of April to late October when they are removed for winter storage.

[Wildfire Water Pumping and Sprinkler System Handbook](#)

## FOUR OF THE PUMPS ARE YEAR-ROUND USE

To the best of our ability, we try to make sure all our pumps are gassed up and ready for use when needed. After a fire pump has been used, it is important to notify John Mendicino at [705-321-2203](tel:705-321-2203) or [john.mendicino@gmail.com](mailto:john.mendicino@gmail.com)

## FIRE PUMP LOCATIONS

Below is a list of the fire pumps currently deployed around Healey Lake – you can reference a map of these locations on the page following this one, or on the HLPOA website.

## SEASONAL USE – MID APRIL TO LATE OCTOBER

- 409 Healey Lake Water (P. Hayley)
- 427 Healey Lake Water (A. Gilks)
- HLPOA Fire House on Main Channel
- 80 Healey Lake Water/Kapikog Bay (T. Szambor)
- 433 Healey Lake Rd/Dollard Bay (B. Kizemchuk)
- 63 Earl’s Rd (R. Martin)
- 314 Healey Lake Water (D. McNamara)

## YEAR-ROUND USE (FIREBOX INCLUDES AUGER)

- 139 Healey Lake Water (C. Smith)
- 317 Healey Lake Rd/Mariner’s Cove Marina (P. Hintze)
- 395 Healey Lake Water (G. Partchenko)
- 89 Fox Back Rd (D. MacLeod)

## FIRESMART CANADA

FireSmart™ Canada is a national program that helps Canadians increase neighbourhood resilience to wildfire and minimize its negative impacts. It was founded in 1993 to address common concerns about wildfire in the wildland urban interface.

Everyone can be FireSmart - <https://firesmartcanada.ca/>

With a changing climate, the threat of wildfire has increased significantly for everyone, include those living outside of the wildland urban interface. We all have a part to play when it comes to preventing wildfire and reducing risk.

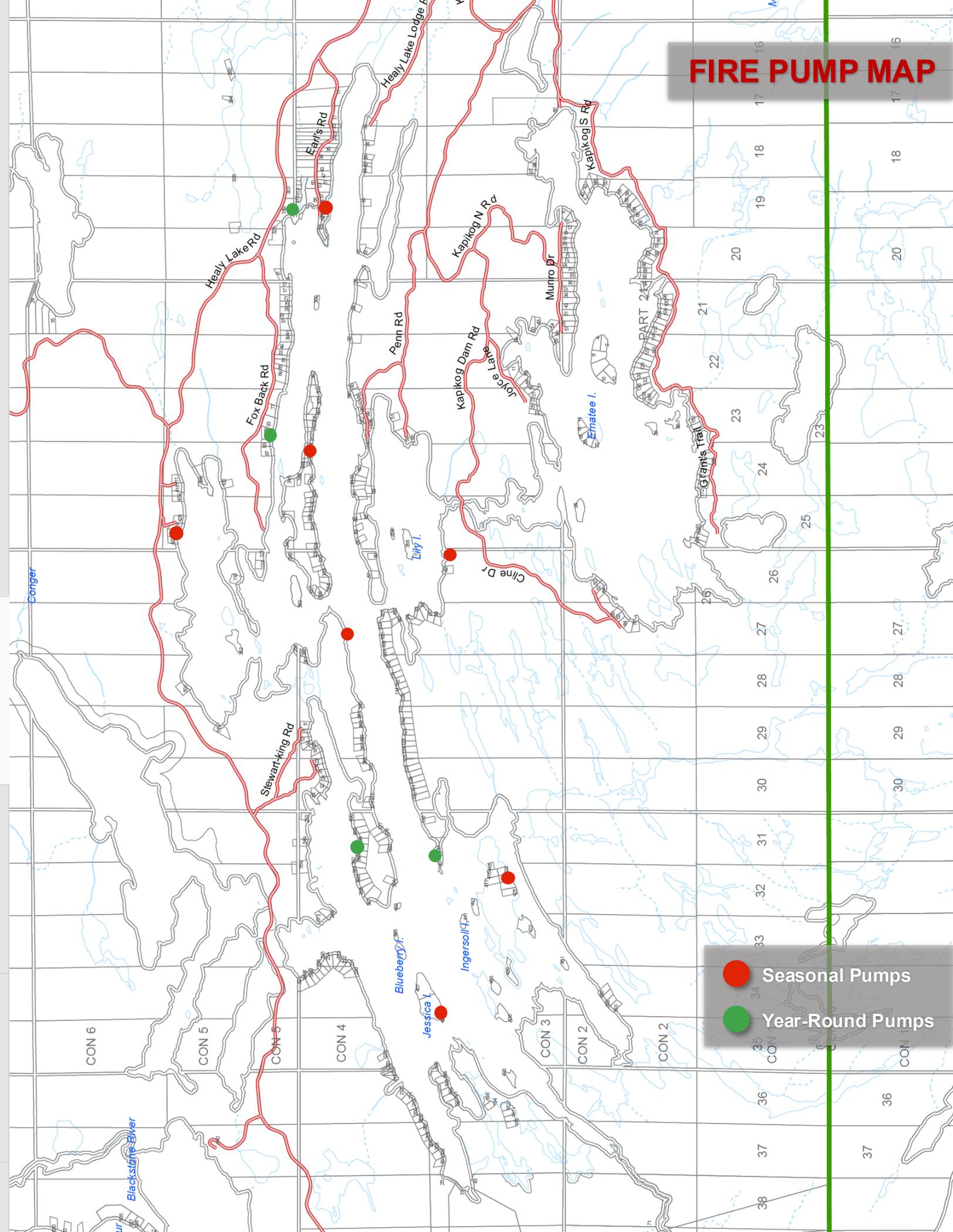
FireSmart Canada has developed practical, effective, and science-based programs that provide you with tools to be better prepared when wildfire occurs.

[ACCESS THE FIRESMART GUIDE HERE](#)

<https://firesmartcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Begins-at-Home-Guide-With-Self-Assessment-WEB.pdf>

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# FIRE PUMP MAP



- Seasonal Pumps
- Year-Round Pumps



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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## HEALEY LAKE LOON UPDATE

-- MISSY MANDEL --

### SUPPORTING THE LOONS

Over the past few years, our community has made efforts to support the loon population on Healey Lake, including the construction and installation of a floating loon nesting platform. The goal was to provide a safe and stable environment that encourages successful nesting and chick survival, particularly as natural nesting sites become increasingly vulnerable due to rising water levels, human activities, and predator disturbances.

#### Loon Population and Reproduction Trends

Healey Lake has historically been home to three pairs of loons. Three years ago, all three pairs successfully raised two chicks each—a promising and heartening season. However, since then, there has been a concerning decline in successful loon reproduction:

- Last year (2024): Only one pair produced chicks.
- This year (2025): Unfortunately, none of the loon pairs have produced chicks.

This drastic decline is alarming and suggests that the loons on Healey Lake may be facing growing challenges. Whether due to increased boat traffic, nest disturbance, predation, habitat changes, or broader environmental stressors, the absence of chicks this year is a concern that we must take seriously.



### NEXT STEPS

We continue to monitor the situation and gather observations. The floating platform will remain in place and be maintained and improved as needed. Community awareness and cooperation are key—avoiding shoreline disturbance, reducing speed near loon nesting areas, and reporting sightings can all contribute to the effort.

Let's work together to protect and support these beautiful birds, who are not only iconic but also vital indicators of a healthy lake ecosystem.

Missy Mandel

## FIBRE INTERNET OUTREACH

-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

A company called Kene Pro is working with Pickard Construction, as part of a team (Pickard Construction, Mike's Communication and Bell) to upgrade the fiber optic telecommunications infrastructure on Healey Lake.

Their task is to make sure people know about the construction that is going on with regards to the infrastructure upgrades happening involving Fibre Optic installation. This will lead to some properties finally having access to the internet in the first place and upgrading everyone else to a much better and consistent service. They are not selling anything at all, the work that is happening is covered by Bell and the Canadian Government. Also, there is no obligation to switch to or sign up with Bell services, it just gives the potential for using it in the future or once the network is live if desired. After giving consent to having the work done on their property (which will not impede anything and be quick) Bell will later be in contact, and once the network is going live then they will let people know any offers and packages available for the areas.

It is an advantage, even if you do want the service at this time, to have the fiber optic line run to your cottage. If you miss out now you may have to pay for the currently free connection, in the future.

If you have not already been contacted Pickard Construction or signed up for this service, please contact Robert Szczebiot ([robert@kene.pro](mailto:robert@kene.pro)).

Share the news about these benefits with others!

Stay Connected: Visit [www.healeylake.org](http://www.healeylake.org) for the latest news and updates!



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## TRUTHS AND MYTHS ABOUT POWER OUTAGES

We've all experienced, (oftentimes with frustration), power outages during our time at the lake – but outlined below are some truths and myths about these outages to help us all understand what's really going on.

### 1. THERE IS GREATER STRESS ON THE GRID.

**Myth.** Sure, lots more cottages have AC and big screens these days, but the same thing has been primarily causing power outages since the advent of, well, power.

"Blame the trees," says Kendall Garry, a distribution line superintendent at Hydro One. Whether it's because of wind or ice and snow, trees fall and branches break to take down power lines. This is particularly true in cottage country, where mostly overhead conductors run through the tree canopy. Second to trees is motor vehicle accidents, she says. Sometimes the outage is due to equipment failure—in the winter, ice can build up on the equipment, for example—or less commonly, animals getting into equipment boxes. But greater stress on the grid isn't the culprit.

### 2. THERE ARE LOTS MORE POWER OUTAGES THAN THERE USED TO BE

**Myth.** Not more outages, just more *awareness* of outages, says Garry. Thanks to social media, we hear about every outage whether we're personally affected by it or not, leading to an overall impression that they're more common.

### 3. THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE WILL LIKELY LEAD TO MORE POWER OUTAGES

**True.** "Climate change is causing increasingly severe and frequent storms and floods that are putting more communities and people at risk," says Anna Kanduth, a senior research associate at the Canadian Climate Institute.

Power outages in Canada cost an estimated \$12 billion annually, a cost she expects will increase along with extreme weather. What's more, as Canada transitions to renewable energy (people switching to electric vehicles, industrial plants converting away from fossil fuels), the Institute estimates that by 2050, the demand on the grid will be almost double.

Hydro One, along with other utility companies, is working hard to build reliability and resiliency into the grid, says Garry. That work includes replacing older utility poles; cutting down diseased trees near power lines; and replacing transformers and upgrading the infrastructure at transformer stations. When a harsh weather event beckons, "A lot of rigour and time goes into staffing for these events to make sure we can respond swiftly and efficiently," she says. "Everyone in the industry is looking towards how we can improve."

But Kanduth argues that it isn't happening quickly enough. "Unfortunately, the risks around us have changed, but our infrastructure and electricity systems have not—and we continue to build for yesterday's environment. We aren't building with materials that can withstand increasing temperatures and higher rainfall, for example."

### 4. THE POWER STAYS OUT LONGER IN COTTAGE COUNTRY

**Myth.** No truth to this one, though Garry admits it can be harder to access equipment in some off-road areas, which is why Mary Kelly sees and hears helicopters. "Hydro One has helicopters that we use in different ways," Garry says. "We'll use them to patrol, to move equipment, and to transport personnel." The helicopters are moving poles and equipment out to areas that aren't easily accessed by truck, snowmobile, or boat.

So what does happen when an outage is reported? Hydro One has automated devices on power lines that can section off part of a line to reduce the number of customers affected by an outage, and the devices can also help crews identify where the issue may be on the line.

Often, Hydro One first learns about an outage when someone reports it (so keep calling!). Crews are on call 24/7 so, once the outage is reported, they are dispatched to do a damage assessment. If possible, repairs are made right away. But if it's a larger issue, such as a location that's hard to reach, which requires specialized off-road equipment, or a problem at a station that requires a different team of experts, "we prioritize those outages, and we dispatch crews accordingly," Garry says.

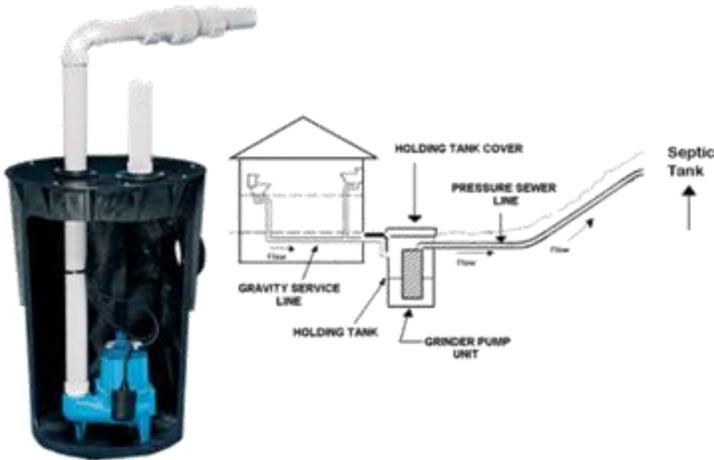
Workers are alerted to outages whatever the time and are told to report where they are needed, and crews can often be at the outage site in less than an hour from the time they are notified. There is a "restoration protocol," she says, "and a plan for communicating back to the customers when they can expect to see their power back on." The protocol is based on priority—responding to 911 emergencies or live lines that are down; then restoring power to emergency services, such as hospitals, fire and police stations, and water and sewage treatment facilities; then addressing the outage that would "do the greatest good for the greatest number," according to Hydro One; and then finally to whoever is left.

Crews update the Ontario Grid Control Centre, which operates the province's power system, on their progress, and those updates are shared with customers through Hydro One's call centre, the outage map, on social media, and through text alerts.

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## 5. IF YOU NEED THE TOILET, YOU CAN JUST FILL A BUCKET WITH WATER FROM THE LAKE TO FLUSH

**True.** (sort of). Sure, you can [grab a bucket of lake water](#) to flush your toilet during a power outage, says Rob Davis, the owner of EcoEthic in Sunderland, ON. But that's only if there's no sewage pump connected to your system. "Many systems have a pump chamber, which the sewage flows into," Davis says. "Sewage is then pumped to the septic tank or from the septic tank pump pit to the leaching field."



It's the pump, he explains, that won't work during a power outage, and while your system can hold a certain amount of sewage, whether it holds enough for continued use during an outage depends on the system—and the length of the outage. This is true for any water that goes down your drain: it all goes into the same system. At Davis's cottage on Kashawigamog Lake, ON the bucket method works dandy during outages because his system is gravity fed. The neighbours, however, have a pump, so they rely on Davis's loo to make deposits during an outage.

**Outhouse enthusiasts get the last laugh. For them, No power is no issue!**



## 6. POWER OUTAGES CAN DAMAGE ELECTRONICS, ESPECIALLY HIGH-END ONES

**True.** (potentially). Though it's not the outage that does the damage, it's more likely the restoration of power. The sudden spike in current and voltage can cause an "arc" that generates heat, which in turn can damage electronics and circuit boards. Even if the damage isn't immediately obvious, it can cause problems down the road with devices that eventually stop working short of their expected lifespan. **They can be damaged if they're plugged in, even if they're not on.**

Brandon Boyd, the emergency operations manager for Eastern Ontario at the Canadian Red Cross, suggests turning off appliances, electrical equipment, and turning the thermostat down (if the heat was on) or up (if the AC was on) after the power goes out. Avoid any potential damage by plugging sensitive electronics into surge protectors.

## 7. BEING PREPARED FOR POWER OUTAGES CAN MAKE IT EASIER TO GET THROUGH THEM

**True.** Are you one of the one in three Canadians who have taken the Red Cross' advice to prepare for disaster? If so, you know that you should roughly have three days' worth of supplies, including food, water, batteries; anything specific to your family, such as medication and pet food; and a portable radio.

### Why 72 hours?

Why three days? Brandon Boyd at the Canadian Red Cross says that the "72-hour preparedness focus" was first launched in 2006. "The three-day window strikes a balance of being very useful in an emergency without appearing too overwhelming to the average person to prepare in advance." In other words, the Red Cross knows that most of us are lazy and unjustifiably confident that we'll be "just fine." For the keeners, says Boyd, "having supplies for longer than three days would be amazing, and I certainly encourage folks to assess their situation and prepare for as long as is feasible."

Hopefully these insights help bring greater understanding of our situation, the impact climate change (and our choices) are having on the systems we rely on and finally, what we can do to help mitigate the impact and "weather the storm" when power outages happen on our lake!

*Doug Thompson*



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# THE LAKED CHEF

-- RON HUTZUL --

## END OF SUMMER SKILLET PASTA

Prep Time: 15 Minutes | Cook Time: 35 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

- 8 ounces short past - penne, rigatoni, or ziti work well!
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 zucchini, sliced
- 1 large yellow squash, sliced
- 6 ounces smoked sausage, sliced
- 1 red bell pepper, rough chopped
- ½ sweet onion, rough chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 ¼ teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1 large can (28 oz) diced tomatoes
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- ½ cup chopped fresh basil leaves
- 8 ounces mozzarella cheese, shredded

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook pasta according to package instructions until al dente; drain well.
3. Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a large cast iron skillet over medium high heat. Working in batches, add zucchini and squash, and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, roughly 3-4 minutes per batch; set aside.
4. Add remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil to the skillet. Stir in sausage, bell pepper and onion and sauté until golden, about 4-5 minutes. Stir in garlic and Italian seasoning, keep it moving until it smells great, about 1 minute.
5. Stir in the diced tomatoes. Reduce heat and simmer until slightly thickened, about 7-10 minutes; season with salt and pepper, to your taste, (I like a lot of pepper here).
6. Stir in the drained pasta, the reserved zucchini, squash and basil until well combined; sprinkle with the cheese.
7. Place into oven and bake until bubbly and golden brown, about 15 minutes.
8. Serve immediately.

*I like to serve this with warm bread and a nice acidic salad of mixed greens – especially as the cooler fall air starts to hit. It's nice with a crisp, chilled white wine, but will hold it's own with a glass of full-bodied red too, (it's all about your preference).*



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