

SPRING & SUMMER 2009

SALERNO LAKE SENTINEL

SALERNO DEVIL'S LAKE
COTTAGERS
ASSOCIATION



UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT.
JULY 4TH CANADA DAY
FIREWORKS DISPLAY
OFF FRANK

SAT.
JULY 11TH
Rain Date BARTLEY'S DOCK

SAT.
AUG. 1ST ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

SUN.
AUG. 2ND CANOE RACE
AND PICNIC

Another Summer to look forward to on Salerno Lake!

In this issue of the Sentinel we review the best methods of feeding Hummingbirds at the cottage, we have a look back with a family's history on the lake, we look for our next environmental director and finally an insight into wintering at Salerno.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and have a great time in 2009!

Please join us for the upcoming events listed to the left.



Membership Reminder

Please send in your annual membership renewal in the amount of \$30.00 made out to 'Salerno Devil's Lake Cottagers Association' to:

Susan Thompson,
88 Maiden Lane, Milton, Ont. L9T 2H4



We are looking for Salerno's Next Environmental Director – It Could be You!

Well friends, as I enter my 7th season as Salerno's Environmental Director it is with some sadness that I share it will be my last in this role. It's been a great 7 years and I'll be wrapping up with this year's environmental newsletter, AGM and canoe race activities.

The Environmental Director position will be up for election at this year's AGM (Saturday, August 1 @ 10:00 am). The position requires a passion for the health of the lake, respect for those that use it and a willingness to learn. Traditionally, duties have included the following:

- Chairing the Environmental Committee;
- Creation of the lake-wide environmental newsletter and distribution with the Environmental Committee on the July long weekend;
- Collecting survey data for the ongoing environmental inventory;
- Focusing the associations attention on timely issues such as biodegradable products, shoreline erosion and naturalizing your property; and
- Encouraging the integration of cottaging practices and the lakes ecosystem.

Feel free to drop me an email if you are interested and have any questions or want more information on the role (stuarth1@hotmail.com).

Thanks for all the support over the years – keep it green!

Heather Maclachlan



Did You Know?

Did you know that in 1874 a post office was established in the hamlet of Devil's Creek in the Victoria and Peterborough Postal District. Fred Barr was the first Postmaster. The name was changed to Irondale in 1883 and spelt Iron Dale. In 1892, the population was 100 dropping to 40 in 1908 and 3 in 1976.

Source: Place Names Of Ontario Vol.1, Floreen Ellen Carter,
1984, Phelps Publishing Company; London, Ontario



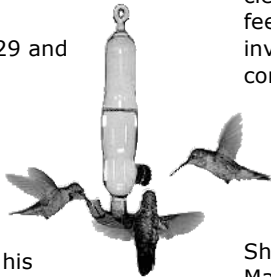
HUMMINGBIRDS

Hummingbirds get the energy they need to maintain their astonishing metabolism primarily from flower nectar and the sugar water they find at feeders. For protein and other nutrients, they also eat soft-bodied insects and spiders; "Hummers need nectar to power the bug eating machine that they are." Think of them as miniature flycatchers, and sugar is just the fuel for getting their real nourishment. You might try setting out some overripe fruit--banana peels are good--to attract flies for your hummers.

A Little History...

The device pictured below is an example of the first commercially-available hummingbird feeder. It was designed by Laurence J. Webster of Boston for his wife, who had read a 1928 *National Geographic* story about feeding hummers from small glass bottles.

Sometime between 1929 and 1935, Webster had his design produced by an MIT lab glassblower (possibly James Ryan). In 1947, *National Geographic* ran an article by Harold Edgerton about his newly-invented strobe flash, which included photos of hummingbirds at Webster's feeder. Interest was aroused, and in 1950 the Webster feeder was offered for sale by the Audubon Novelty Company of Medina, NY.



Choosing a Feeder

There are many imaginatively-styled hummingbird feeders available today, and they're sold in stores ranging from birding shops and garden centers to discount marts, as well as by mail order. Most feeders are made of plastic, glass, and/or ceramics. Since feeders are much too recent a development for hummingbirds to recognize instinctively as food sources, they must learn to use them, which they do from watching other hummers and through their own natural inquisitiveness. If your birds seem to prefer one style feeder over another, it's probably a simple matter of familiarity. If you change feeders, they

may not feed immediately from the new one, but they will adapt; it may help to hang the old feeder, empty, next to the new one.

Any feeder can attract hummers, so perhaps the most important design feature to look for is ease of disassembly and cleaning. In this respect, the basin-style feeders are much, much better than the inverted-bottle types. Hummingbirds will come to any feeder that holds fresh syrup, so you might as well buy one that's easy for *you* to keep up - if it's easy, you're more likely to do it faithfully, and that's important.

Should you buy a feeder with perches? Many photographers prefer not to use perches, because they can get better pictures of hovering birds. But hummers live at the edges of their energy envelopes, and perching saves a lot of calories. Consider that when hummingbirds feed from natural flowers, they spend very little time at any one blossom; on the other hand, they may drink from one feeder port until they are satiated, and hovering is considerably more tiring to them than normal flight. Give them a break, and provide a place for them to rest. After all, many hummingbirds spend around 80% of their time perching anyway, on twigs and leaf stems.

Location, Location, Location

Where to hang your feeder? A new one may be found sooner if hung over or near a garden of hummingbird plants.

Some people feel that a hummingbird feeder should not be placed close to a window unless there's a drawn curtain or blind behind it, to avoid injury from striking the glass.

Filling the Feeder

The sugar water we use to fill hummingbird feeders is only a supplement to the birds' natural diet. It's not necessary to buy a commercial "nectar" mix that includes additional vitamins, protein, or other substances, because the birds get all they need from the flower nectar and insects they consume. All they want from us is the quick energy they get from ordinary white cane sugar. It's just fuel for chasing bugs, and causes no known health problems in hummingbirds, whose metabolism is significantly different from humans'.

A note about sugars: natural nectars may contain any of the plant sugars, including sucrose, glucose, and fructose. There is no proven advantage in using, say, fructose instead of sucrose (cane or beet sugar). In fact, given the choice, hummingbirds seem to prefer sucrose above all others. Sucrose is by far the most common sugar in the flowers of plants for which hummingbirds are the primary pollinators. Water and sugar (usually sucrose) are the only constituents common to all natural nectars; most also contain traces of minerals and amino acids, but they vary from plant to plant, and probably are of little dietary importance.

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Please, **do not put honey, Jell-O, brown sugar, fruit, or red food coloring in your feeder!** Honey ferments rapidly when diluted with water and can kill hummingbirds.

Here's the recipe for artificial nectar (syrup):

Use one part ordinary white cane sugar to four parts water.

It's not necessary to boil the water. The microorganisms that cause fermentation don't come from the water; they are transported to the feeder on hummingbird bills.

Store unused syrup in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.

This mixture approximates the average sucrose content (about 21%) of the flowers favored by North American hummingbirds, without being so sweet it attracts too many insects.

Any syrup solution will spoil rapidly in warm weather and especially in direct sunlight, so strict maintenance is required (see **below**).

Feeder Maintenance

Hanging a hummingbird feeder means

assuming a certain amount of responsibility for the well-being of a fragile and trusting animal. If you are not prepared to follow the rigorous maintenance routine outlined below, perhaps you should consider planting a **hummingbird garden**, instead.

Cleaning Experts say that hummingbirds will starve rather than consume spoiled feeder syrup, so a dirty feeder isn't likely to cause harm. But it may cost you the pleasure of their company if they abandon your yard for more reliable food sources elsewhere.

Every filling, flush the feeder with hot tap water; a bottle brush can be very helpful. **Do not use soap** - hummers apparently don't like the taste, but bleach will remove it if you have this problem. Visually inspect the entire feeder for black mold; a bleach soak (see the next paragraph) is the best way to remove mold. Discard any unconsumed sugar water - if the birds are not emptying your feeder between cleanings, just partially refill it. If the sugar solution in your feeder turns cloudy, it's spoiled and needs to be replaced. When the temperature is over 80 degrees (F), clean and refill every three or four days. Over 90°F, it might spoil in two days.

At least once a month, clean the feeder thoroughly with a solution of 1/4 cup bleach to one gallon of water. Soak the feeder in this solution for one hour, then clean with a bottle brush. Rinse well with

running water and refill. Any remaining traces of bleach will be neutralized by reacting with the fresh syrup, and there's no need to air dry before refilling. Bleach is both safe and very effective.

When to Take Down the Feeder

Hummingbirds will **not** delay migration if a feeder is present; they are driven by forces more powerful than hunger.

For more information on Hummingbirds visit;

www.hummingbirds.net



Message from el Presidente

I believe that I have mentioned before in the pages of this newsletter that even after fifteen years spent on Salerno Lake I often feel like a newcomer although no one has ever snubbed me because our roots there don't go as deep as many other families'. Still, there are so many people on the lake that I haven't met and just as many stories that I haven't heard.

A few years ago during one of the hectic Canoe Race barbecues while I was choking on the smoke and wiping the grease spatters from my face I became aware of a handsome older gentleman who was watching Brad MacDuff and I

with a warm smile. Watching us elbow to elbow flailing away at the sizzling grill, he noted that we were working in too cramped a space and he asked, could we use another barbecue? Yes I said gratefully. How it materialized I cannot recall but soon enough another barbecue was wheeled into place and fired up.

This was my first introduction to Bob Hayes and a more delightful fellow you couldn't ask to meet. In the course of the afternoon's conversation Bob said very kind things about the job I was doing as President of the SDLCA. I was certainly flattered because I learned later that Bob had been involved with the formation of the

organization decades before and had served as President himself for a year. In fact Bob had never missed an Annual General Meeting since the SDLCA had been formed.

I was really looking forward to getting to know Bob socially but alas it wasn't to be. We only met a few more times over the next couple of summers before I heard the news at Christmas of 2007 that Bob had passed away on November 11th.

For some reason, I felt cheated. I wanted to know more about Bob and his wife, the lovely Pearle and the years

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**Bob and Pearle
Hayes**

that they and their family had spent on Salerno, long before I had even heard of the place. So I took it upon myself to try to bring a little fraction of his life story to our lake community.

At the time of his death Bob had been married to Pearle for an astonishing 65 years. They raised four children, Bobby, Marilyn (Leonard), Susan and Sharon and had eight grandchildren.

Bob's mother had married Steve Hancock (there's a familiar local name!) and that was the first step on the Hayes family's road to Irondale. Throughout the 50's and 60's they summered in the old cabin on the north shore. Salerno Lake was far less developed in those days in the sense that there were fewer cottages. There was however a sawmill at the foot of the lake near where the MNR dam now stands. Salerno Lake Road was known then as the Sawdust Road. The roads giving access to the north side of the lake hadn't yet been built and any cottages in that area were water access only. Highland trail Lodge was a fully operative concern in those days, with Sunday dinners at the Lodge being a ritual for some families.

We thank Pearle for the following look back at their history and strong link with the lake.

It was 1947 when Bob & I were first introduced to the wonders of Devil's lake and the Haliburton Highlands. We were married in 1943 after meeting while both in the RCAF at Costal command Torbay Newfoundland. Bob was on embarkation leave when we got married in Sherbrooke Quebec and then he went overseas to train and serve on Typhoons. He took part in D-day operations, returning in August of 1945.

Bob's mother Blanche met Steve Hancock while visiting her brother Herb Eveleigh at Jack and Bea Eakins cottage at the lower end of Devil's lake. Steve and Blanche were married in 1947 and lived in a small cottage which has long since been replaced by the larger one next door to the "Hayes" cottage.

By the time Bob's mother was married to Steve, Bob's growing family consisted of Robert Jr. and Marilyn. Every weekend the family travelled to Irondale to visit Blanche and Steve but at that time not all roads were paved so to get to Blanche and Steve's cottage we would have to go to the end of the lake by the dam and flash the car lights. Keeping an eye out for us Steve would row down in his handmade wooden boat and pick us up. Sometimes we would go to Allen Brown's Lodge across the lake which was a shorter row! Later Steve acquired the first motor on the lake which made the trip easier. There was no road and no hydro so Steve's Brother George who had a farm at the other end of the lake

would drop off a block of ice cut from the lake in the winter and housed in sawdust at an "ice house" down by the narrows. It went into the ice box for the food but the spring up the hill behind the cottage kept the beer cold! Blanche got Steve to add a screened in porch and that was the guest room. Bob and I along with our kids were always warmly welcomed. We had two more children, Susan and Sharon so it wasn't long before we rented the boathouse next door, which Steve had converted into a cottage, for the entire summer.

By the time Bob jr. was a young adult he had already been teaching swimming at Steve's dock. Later he Jack Thompson and Bob along with other enthusiastic cottagers got together and organized the original canoe race – no categories, just first and last and anyone could enter, but only canoes. At first they had about 12 canoes but that soon increased. After the canoe race we stayed into the evening with a bonfire and lots of laughter.

The family spent every summer in the boathouse converted into a cottage. Eventually, we bought the place and in 1972 with the help of family on weekends and vacations, Bob designed and built the new one. My daughter Marilyn and husband John acquired the one next door in the early eighties and later replaced their "vintage" cottage with John's hand built version of a summer getaway complete with sculpture garden.

On our twenty fifth wedding anniversary we purchased our first large boat, a Crestliner, and the kids all had a great time water skiing. The lodge across the lake owned and operated by Joyce Brown was our Favourite place to dine with family and friends on special evenings for many years. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary there. Just a few years ago my grandson Jamie and his sweetheart Cindy were married there.

Bob and I retired to the cottage in 1985 to live there year round. At that time we skied at Sir Sam's and went on skidoos along the lake and trails with the McCarthys, Bob's friend Richard Simma and others. Bob went to every Cottagers annual meeting and had his say.

We have 7 grandsons, one granddaughter, two great grandsons and two great granddaughters – the cottage is still a gathering place for all the Hayes family along with John and Marilyn and their sons Jonathon and Jamie with their wives Dorothy and Cindy.

My grandson Rob and his wife Paula have the most recent great grandson Shawn who is going to be one and can look forward to growing up spending his summers at Devil's Lake.

Our daughter Sharon is now co owner with her sons Chris and Rory. They plan to keep the family cottage traditions Bob loved so much.

He really enjoyed seeing everyone together enjoying themselves and would stand back to take it all in, always making the remark that it was a pretty good cottage.

**Steve Hancock
and Bob Hayes**



Wintering at Salerno

By Chris Whitmore

This was our first winter full time at the lake as we retired the second week in December. The way it started off we thought we would be buried in snow before spring. We arrived home December 9th to 35 centimeters of snow. By Christmas I had blown snow out nine times. The usual January thaw came early. Christmas eve it poured rain and by that evening the hills on Salerno Lake road were impassable. Two vans of young people headed to Twist Lane had to turn back at the boat launch road after one of them spun around and slid back down the hill. They spent the night at friends and were able to get to their destination on Christmas day. The thaw left us with a great "skating rink". We kept an area shoveled here that we skated on till Family day in February. The lake froze over the usual time on December the 5th. The ice is usually off on April the 20th. I'm writing this on April the 12th and it looks as if the ice will be off in the next couple of days. The water in the creek and the river were so high a week ago that water was flowing over the road at the bridge over the creek. The river was so high that the three homes on Pegasis Road were surrounded by water. The creek was so high that someone joked that the Scotts who live on the creek were sleeping with their door open in case they had to get out quickly in the night. We usually judge how high the water is by how close it comes to the concrete blocks under the little brown cottage where the creek meets the river. April the 5th the blocks were below water. The lake now in early April is the highest we have ever seen it. We usually sit on our dock in the spring and watch logs, pieces of docks and all kinds of debris float by. This year there should be more traffic than usual. If anything of any value floats by we'll try to catch it as it goes by so if you're missing anything check out our dock. It's the one with the shelter on it by the boat launch.



If you are still receiving this newsletter by snail mail and in black and white consider changing to an e-mail version. It is MUCH better in colour, but it is cost prohibitive to print so we need to stay with the black and white version for the mailings.

Just e-mail Susan Thompson at :
susan.thompson4@sympatico.ca and she will switch you over.

We'd like to encourage you to send us your pictures and anything else you feel is relevant – elpresidente@salernolake.ca - perhaps a link to an interesting newspaper article or web page – we can use it in the newsletter and post it on our website

– www.salernolake.ca - **It's your lake folks = jump in!**