

Salerno Lake Sentinel

Spring 2010

Message from the President Irondale Tree Trauma

By Douglas Rodger

I am usually slow to anger - at least that's what I tell myself - but it's actually not true. Case in point - when I drove down the Irondale Road in early May and came across a stretch of mature white pine trees that had been mutilated, I was utterly gobsmacked! I swear steam was coming out of my ears! Tree limbs were rudely hacked off, twisted and wrenched from the trunks like they were green saplings yanked apart by kids looking for sticks to roast marshmallows. Branches were shredded and bark torn from the trunks. Shredded wood littered the roadside. Had a petulant giant roamed this stretch of road vandalizing pine trees? Looking closely I could see rivulets of sap that the trees had produced in a futile attempt to heal the wounds. The effort to repair the injuries would take a great deal of the trees' resources for a long time to come. The broken and shattered branches are perfect entryways for insects and diseases.

I was at a loss to figure out who had committed this outrage and to what purpose but an enquiry at the Irondale Store - or at least at the trailer beside the burned-out hulk of the Irondale Store - revealed that the deed had been done by a contractor hired by the Municipality of Highlands East. In fact Anne-Marie Hancock stated, the crew took a few

passes with their machinery to complete the job. She agreed it was a horrible sight.

In fact everyone I have spoken to about these trees has been of the same opinion; that this was an outrageous way to deal with a minor and routine problem. What makes it worse was that we as taxpayers had subsidized the whole exercise with additional infrastructure funds from the Province.

My opinion is that hundreds of Salerno Lake cottagers will be looking at this ugliness every time they make their way to Chimo Drive - which by the way accesses the largest number of cottages of any road on the lake. Are we are not major taxpayers in this Municipality? And what about the year round residents of Irondale? This is their village road - people here take pride in their community. Why should they have to put up with this ghastly sight - right in front of their community centre?

So I called the Municipal offices of Highlands East. The Reeve was not in and although they do have Voice Mail the receptionist wasn't sure that it worked or that Reeve Burton's messages would get to him. Would I like his home number? I'd forgotten where I was - these days in Toronto with all the emphasis on privacy, you'd be lucky to get your wife to give you her cell phone

number.

So I called Mr Burton at home and gave him an earful which he took graciously. He indicated that he wanted to see the trees for himself so I told him just where to look on the Irondale Road - bear right at the red single lane bridge. I asked if I could meet with him there. A few hours later I got a call. He and his Superintendent of Roads Earl Covert were driving around on the Fortescue Road and had no idea where to look for the problem. I directed them to meet me by the waterfall near the junction of Con-tau Lake Road and the Irondale Road.

I rode along with them in the Township truck and showed them the damaged trees. They listened to my tirade (which I tried to moderate). Mr. Covert was quiet and polite. He and Mr. Burton seemed quite willing to listen to my point of view.

The argument for this method of 'pruning' seems to be that using a bucket truck or a cherry picker to remove over-growth would



A damaged mature white pine.

cost too much. Crews use a machine called a Bush Hog. The Bush Hog has a 20 foot boom and can elevate its' cutting blades or flails to wreak havoc overhead. I've seen these things in action and they do a fine job of chewing up the undergrowth that encroaches on a road. Part of its' function is to leave saplings and the like so mutilated that they do not grow back as they would if they were neatly severed.

Point taken - but these are mature white pines perhaps 60 years old, likely planted by a farmer as a windbreak along the village road. Pruning these grand pines (I counted 25 of them in two short stretches) with a Bush Hog is like amputating a human limb with a dull axe.

This stretch of trees comprises only about 500 metres of the 7 or 9 kilometres of the Irondale Road. Surely it is not asking too much for crews to be taught how to distinguish mature trees from weeds or saplings and act accordingly. From what I've been told it took a few passes for the crews to hack down the limbs! How efficient was that? If the trees die much sooner than they might have had they been pruned properly, then the Township will have to spend money to remove them? How expensive will that be? And if they are pruned properly by a professional they won't need attention again for a very long period of time. To me that is a much better use of tax monies. Just my opinion...

Nothing was resolved by our meeting but Reeve Burton promised to look further into the matter. I have sent pictures of the ravaged trees to a professional arborist to ascertain if anything can be done to ameliorate the damage. When I receive that report I will post it on our web-site. In addition I am sending a letter to the Editor of the County

Voice and today I spoke with that paper's reporter Liz Danielsen. Apparently there are other people who share my feelings about the methods used to clear roadside overgrowth.

As much as the plight of the 25 trees of Irondale concerns me, I know there must be many more examples throughout the County. My hope is that by drawing attention to this dubious practice we can change the way valuable and beautiful trees are dealt with by contractors and road crews. Reeve Burton mentioned that he is interested in fostering more co-operative interaction between seasonal and year round residents. I believe that the Council and Administration could start by reminding themselves of why we cottagers choose to invest so much money, time and effort in our country or lakeside properties; because Highlands East can offer us much that we value dearly. Respect for nature must be a part of that. They are the stewards in many ways and they need to use our trust wisely.

P.S. As I was finishing this article I received a call from Sharon Stoughton-Craig the CAO of Highlands East. She was phoning at the behest of Reeve Burton to tell me that this matter will be brought before Council because no funds can be committed for any remedial work without council approval. I intend to contact as many people in Irondale as I can in an effort to drum up support. I would urge anyone in the SDLCA who shares these concerns to contact the elected representatives on Council. Their numbers and email addresses are as follows;

Burton, Dave

Reeve (Ward 0)
Phone: 705-448-9355
Email: dburton@highlandseast.ca

Graham, Donna

Councillor (Ward 3)
Phone: 705-447-3280
Email: grahamre@bellnet.ca

Mackie, Jim

Deputy Reeve (Ward 1)
Phone: 613-339-1714
E-mail: james.mackie@sympatico.ca

Partridge, Suzanne

Councillor (Ward 2)
Phone: 613-339-2365
Email: secret.gardener@gmail.com

Stoughton, Gary

Councillor (Ward 4)
Phone: 705-448-2725



Irondale Store Fire

On March 19th 2010 the Irondale Store was destroyed by fire. Fire crews from throughout the county battled the blaze. No one was injured and two pets were rescued. Damage is estimated to be \$150,000.



Above: Irondale store in flames.



Silence of the Wolves

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FROM THE HALIBURTON
COUNTY VOICE

It appears that the recent attempts to whip up fear and hysteria regarding an increasing number of wolf sightings in Haliburton County is having its desired effect: on Tuesday this week a lone ATVer discovered at least seven slaughtered wolves in the bush just east of Minden. The wolves, which all appear to have been healthy, had been either shot or snared and dumped in a pile in

the bush. Ministry of Natural Resources Area Biologist Gerry Moraal was taken to the site, and investigation of these killings was immediately begun by the MNR Conservation Officers. The MNR's concern was that the killers would try to move them before an investigation could be completed.

Postscript; The MNR has yet to release its' findings. You can follow this story and many others by subscribing to the County Voice online at www.countyvoice.ca.



For the latest news and cottager resources, visit www.salernolake.ca.

The Trillium Team

The Trillium Team are Realtors with Royal LePage working primarily out of the Haliburton office. Last year they sold three properties on Salerno Lake and it is their custom to donate \$100 from each sale to the local lake association.



Marcia Prenger of Royal LePage and El Presidente accepting a \$300 donation on behalf of the SDLCA.

What's In a Name?

If you have ever wondered why our Association is known as the Salerno – Devil's Lake Cottagers', the following letters will enlighten you as they did me.

down who in the Ontario MNR would be the right contact and he confirmed my suspicion. See below!

Best regards,
John

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Ball, B.A., B.Ed., M.Sc.

A/Georeferencing Data Specialist,
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

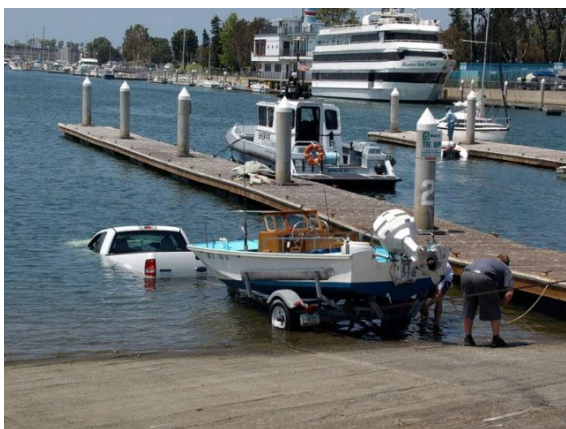
Hi Doug,

My name is John Currie and my family has a cottage over at 1049 Spencer's Trail off of Lake Road #3. I thought I would pass the below on to put it on the salerno lake website as a bit of information. For years I have been asking around as to how "Salerno" was picked for the name of the lake. I never got a clear answer from anyone. I suspected, based on the timing of the change, which I was told was in the 1950's that it may have something to do with the Battle of Salerno during WW II in which the Canadian Army figured prominently. Anyway, I finally tracked

Dear John Currie:

We are pleased to provide the following in answer to your e-mail of April 5, 2010: As you have indicated Salerno Lake was named after the Italian place of that name, prominent as a landing point for Allied troops in attacking on Italian soil during 1943 in World War II. It was suggested by Ontario and published on a 1944 federal map as a distinctive name in order to eliminate the common name "Devil". The name Salerno Lake was eventually approved by the Canadian Board on Geographical Names in 1953.

I'm proud that the name of our lake is a reminder of the sacrifices made by the brave men and women of the Armed Forces. During the Italian campaign, the Canadian Army engaged in fierce battles with the German forces which led to great loss of life and significant damage on both sides. It is worth noting that the Canadian Army in Italy reached a peak theatre strength of nearly 76,000. Total casualties in the Corps were 9,934 in all ranks, of which 2,119 were fatal.



Tell me, is this your first boat?

Stores, New and Old

I really believe in patronizing local businesses because it's good for the community – plus I've met some great people that way. We're all looking forward to the rebuilt Irondale Store which the Hancock family hopes to have open by the Canada Day weekend. It's like a lot of things in life – you don't miss it till it's gone. No more quick runs for milk or fuel or a daily paper since the fire. What a difference. We're lucky

that the store is coming back!

There's a new butcher store in the neighbourhood called Highland Meats – the owners Maggie Thomas and Terry Pitcher have opened their shop at 10124 County Rd 503, between Irondale and Gooderham. They will be selling fresh and deli meats, gourmet prepared foods, rotisserie chickens,

special sausages, baked goods and more. I had a brief look inside and they are doing a great job of remodeling and opening up the interior. They will also take phone-in or fax orders. The numbers are 705-447-0129 and fax 705-447-0130

Support your local merchant – so they can be there when you need them.

SDLCA News

HELP IS NEEDED !

We are in need of assistance on the Executive of the SDLCA. In the past year we have lost two valued contributors, our Treasurer and our Environmental specialist. The time demands are not onerous and the positive contribution would mean a great deal. Please consider becoming a member of your SDLCA Executive Committee. We need you.

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR!

Canada Day Fireworks will be at sunset on Saturday July 3rd. Watch for the flyers posted on your cottage road for more details.

The SDLCA AGM will be on Saturday July 31st at 10 a.m. at the St. John's Church Hall in Irondale.

The 42nd Annual Canoe Race and BBQ will be held on Sunday August 1st . Registration is at noon by the Irondale Bridge. Entry fees are \$10. per person or \$15 for canoes. We are looking for entrants in the Junior and Senior Women's Categories.

Website Re-Launch

We are preparing for a relaunch of our website this summer. If anyone has suggestions for content or structure that would make it a more valuable resource, please forward them to me at elpresidente@salernolake.ca or to webmaster@salernolake.ca



Spring is Nesting Time!

Hey Kids - Did You Know...

A typical robin's nest takes 500-600 flights to carry construction materials and five or six 12-hour days to build.

A baby robin needs to eat 14 FEET of worms a day.

The osprey builds a BIG nest of sticks, twigs, driftwood and weed stalks and lines it with grass, algae or feathers. Have you seen the one at the corner of Rama Road and Monck's Road? When you turn off of Rama Road look on top of the third telephone pole you come to. This nest has been in existence for a dozen years or more. It is used year after year. If you're lucky you may see the little ones poking their heads over the top awaiting their

meal delivery. Wow!

Kingfishers dig a burrow as long as a canoe paddle in a river or pond bank and lay their eggs on the bare floor of a round chamber at the end of the burrow. Dinner leftovers (fish bones) pile up and make a nice prickly mattress.

To fool their enemies, marsh wrens build several nests of grasses, reeds, cat-tail down and feathers in marshes but only use one to lay their eggs.

Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills don't build nests at all - they lay their eggs right on the ground. And cowbirds just lay their eggs in other birds' nests, letting other birds foster their babies.

If you find a nest, take a picture and send it to elpresidente@salernolake.ca and we'll put it in the next newsletter! How about building a nest yourself? Use whatever is around the cottage - twigs, grasses, mud, string, feathers, and make something nice and cozy. Hang it in a tree - or in your bedroom! If it's tricky, take your time, and just imagine what it's like doing it without hands and fingers, just a beak!

With information from:

"Bird Wise"

Federation of Ontario Naturalists

"Seasons of the Wild"

Sy Montgomery