

# Salerno Lake Sentinel

Spring 2011

## Rambling Thoughts from a Rambling Man

As the cost of fuel shoots up faster than the dandelions on my neighbour's lawn I've been wondering if this spike in the cost of travel and boating will have any lasting effect on the cottagers summering on Salerno Lake. Certainly at about \$60 per round trip it has begun to factor into our thinking when we are deciding whether or not to dash up north for a short stay. Well I suppose it wouldn't be an issue if we just gave up wine at \$15 a litre - but that's not going to happen. I suspect for a person on a fixed income or who is less than fully committed to cottaging, this might be the sort of cost increase that drives one to sell a property. I suppose we'll absorb these new costs for now but I can foresee a time when gasoline at \$2 a litre begins to have a negative impact on the value of properties that are at a greater distance from the GTA.

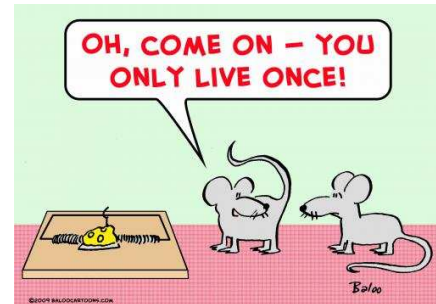
I read reports that say consumers are making more fuel conscious choices when buying automobiles but I have yet to see an ad for a boat or PWC that trumpets fuel efficiency. The good news is that canoes, kayaks and sailboats use no fuel whatsoever but I don't imagine that we'll see any real change in usage patterns in the short term. You can't water-ski behind a canoe.



**"I Hate Meeeces To Pieces!"**  
Mr Jinks, (Hanna Barbera cartoon character circa 1960)

We had owned our cottage for 14 years before we discovered our first mouse. The fellow who built our place had done a masterful job of sealing every possible point of entry with metal plasterer's lath but eventually a rodent found its way inside. This is hardly surprising since an adult mouse needs only a three- eighths of an inch gap to gain ingress.

So, given that we had never seen a mouse inside the cottage it took me a little while to identify the source of the nocturnal crunching sounds that awakened me one night. There is a mental magnification factor of noises that you hear at night - especially when you are roused from sleep by the sound. A squirrel sounds like a racoon - a racoon sounds like a bear - a bear sounds like - well I don't know actually because I've never woken up to the sound of a bear - but this mouse must have had jaws of steel because I sat bolt upright in bed convinced that Godzilla was eating our sofa. Now I wouldn't mind Godzilla eating that old sofa since it has done more harm to my back than fifty-plus years of snow shovelling - but it was eerie to hear these strange noises in the night. So with the decisiveness that have marked my years on earth, I



took stock of the situation - and went back to sleep.

But in the morning light, the unmistakable scattering of mouse crap strewn across the countertop brought me to earth. It wasn't a Japanese Sci-Fi dinosaur from the Fifties making free with my toast crumbs - damn! it was a mouse. A mouse! I felt so ---- violated! The mouse must begone!

Now I grew up in a rural area in an era when the concept of animal rights was unheard of. I can recall a friend casually crushing a mouse with his boot while we were doing chores in the barn without either of us remarking on it. How times changed! Our daughter Melody used to have elaborate funeral services for dead mice she'd find in the composter. So now that I'm a New Age Sensitive Guy I thought I would use a live trap - something that would let me remove the little rodents from my home without killing them. So I bought a package of four glue traps, the sort that are designed to ensnare the unwary trapee in a sticky pool of gunk. I set the traps out in several locations - under the coffee table, behind a chair, by the stove - then I went to bed. During

the night Godzilla reappeared but the nocturnal munchings disturbed me little. I could rest easy knowing that Mickey and Minnie were stepping into my little version of the La Brea Tar Pits.

Except that in the morning I couldn't find the traps! They were missing! I finally located them under the sofa where they had been dragged by the mice, no doubt to revel in their depraved gustatory indulgences. But there were no mice stuck in the traps. However they had eaten every last dollop of the gluey goop. I was left with four empty plastic trays and no mice whatsoever. I was not to be trifled with this way! I declared war on my unwanted interlopers.

Having abandoned my non-violent principles, I set more lethal traps but all I managed to do over the next few nights was vary their diet. They seemed quite partial to peanut butter, cheese (both brie and cheddar) and popcorn, all of which they managed to consume without once tripping the spring-loaded mechanisms which should have doomed them to a swift demise. (The common wooden mouse-trap has varied little since it was designed and patented in 1899 by James Henry Atkinson as "The Little Nipper".) The only positive development was my discovery of the chink in the cottage armour - I found and plugged the hole through which these critters had come. But that didn't get them out of the cottage.

My outrage at their effrontery was getting out of all proportion - I began considering arson as a means of eliminating the mice. The loss of the cottage would be mere collateral damage in my war on rodential terrorism. Luckily before I took such drastic measures, I tried warfarin, the poison that is most widely used in controlling mice and rats. The green blocks I set out were devoured with great gusto and in a couple of days I had recovered the carcasses of three mice - and thus the great Mouse Invasion came to an end. Mission accomplished as a certain US President crowed!

I won't belabour the point - as

humans no matter how we dislike the notion, we live with mice and they do carry diseases, particularly in their fecal matter. Mice void so often in the course of the day you'd think they were on piece work. Their scat often contains hanta-viruses which can cause kidney and lung diseases so when you've had an infestation of mice it is wise to take protective measures while cleaning up because the dust you inhale may contain infectious materials.

Neighbours of ours Gail and Ryan have an old cabin which is pretty well impossible to mouse-proof completely but they are careful to remove any potential food source whenever they leave their place. Except this winter when the lady of the house used her Magic Pak filled with hot and cold rice to block a freezing draft under the cabin door. The next day they locked up and went away but the rice pack was forgotten and remained on the floor.

A few weeks later they returned to find the empty sleeve of the pack but no rice. A kilo of the stuff had disappeared. Then they began to find rice, stashed in crevices and corners everywhere - under pillows and chairs, stuffed into a shoe. The refrigerator fan came on and blew a rice storm into Ryan's face! Gail was making tea and a rice fire broke out under the element. How resourceful and hard working these critters can be; they had cached this windfall all over the house and would have happily lived on it all winter. No word on whether they had broken into the soy sauce...

## Concert On The Lake

In the early evening of August 6th the SDLCA will be presenting a live musical event on the shores of Salerno Lake; a concert by Canadian recording artist Katherine Wheatley. For a glimpse of this talented artist go to [www.katherinewheatley.ca](http://www.katherinewheatley.ca) - of particular interest is the video for her song Water Moves Me, which

serves to illustrate why we have invited Katherine to inaugurate what we hope to be an annual event. This will be an all-ages show, with a very affordable admission fee of ten dollars per adult with children under the age of 16 admitted free.

It is important to recognize that the artist will be performing on-shore while the audience will be on the water. People are invited to come by boat, canoe or kayak. Mooring blocks will be provided for those craft that do not have anchors.

In the event of inclement weather, arrangements have been made to rent the Irondale Community Centre as an alternate venue.

Watch for a flyer delivered by dock-mail which will give more details. We will be asking people as a courtesy to those attending the concert, to forgo water-skiing and wakeboarding through the narrows from the hours of 6 pm onwards for this one evening. Please help to pass the word!

El Presidente, Diego Rodriguez



# Natural Shorelines Bring Abundant Blessing

With over 2000 lakes the shorelines in Haliburton County are plenty. The county sits centrally in a landscape known as The Land Between which boasts more shoreline to area than anywhere else in Ontario. Unique to this region are the shallow soils and exposed bedrock. The combination of rock and water, the rich natural cover, and the position between the Canadian Shield and St. Lawrence Lowlands makes the region an important and distinct ecological zone- home to species of the north and south, and to many unique species at risk. The region, and so Haliburton, has the highest habitat diversity and more abundance of key mammal, bird and reptile populations than anywhere else in Ontario. In Haliburton we are blessed by seeing both moose and deer, both blueberries and strawberries and we have more ruby-throated hummingbirds, pileated woodpeckers, whippoorwills than anywhere north or south.

However, this mix of rock and water make the landscape highly susceptible to pollution. Because of the lack of soils and interconnected waters, contamination moves fast and far. The

local climate and physiography make it easy to damage the land and its functions - permanently. The highest development footprint is within the most sensitive areas to disruption - shorelines. Haliburton County has altered more shorelines of large lakes than anywhere across the region, with a close tie to Muskoka. The affects may not be immediately apparent, but can be understood in the huge declines in species such as kingfishers, loons, and golden-winged warblers, with a dramatic increase in goose populations; increased water temperatures, phosphorous and nitrates, and marked declines in sport fish populations. Keeping or enhancing your shoreline with native plants is important and its benefits are immediate. With the help of an ecological landscape designer, native plant installations can be aesthetically pleasing providing both open viewing or privacy, as well as colour, flowers, and structural



elements that will enrich your property in all seasons. The plants are hearty, tolerant to pruning and weather fluctuations, and do not require maintenance or watering as they grow naturally in these local conditions. A rich and diverse shoreline with native cover will attract song birds and butterflies, reduce goose populations and will interrupt, take up, and so reduce nitrates and pollution entering lakes. Natural Shorelines support our fisheries, and the functions and diversity of our land.

*The author **Leora Berman** [leoraberman7@gmail.com](mailto:leoraberman7@gmail.com) is an ecological landscape specialist specializing in shoreline naturalization, wetland and water management.*

## The Links at Monck's Landing Golf Club: It's Worth The Drive To Norland

The village of Norland usually doesn't spring to mind when cottagers on Salerno Lake are asked to name a golfing hotbed in the region, but owner

Scott Kuschnerreit is trying to change that with his new course, The Links at Monck's Landing Golf Club. Monck's Landing is a Scottish-style links layout that opened for play in August 2008.

"We're trying to do something different over here", Kuschnerreit says. "The closest links course to us is probably Muskoka Highlands over in Bracebridge, so we've certainly got a product that is one-of-a-kind for this area."

When designing the course, Kuschnerreit was

sure to include details like railway-tie pot bunkers, dry-fit stone walls and the like....features normally seen only on your higher-end public and private clubs.

"I think that we've been able to create a pretty fair approximation of golf in Scotland or Ireland....and the experts seem to agree. Robert Thompson went so far as to compare us to Tarandowah, which is high praise indeed since it's also an inland links course, and was named Best New Course in Ontario in 2008. Monck's Landing has recently been awarded a nomination as "Best New Golf Course in Ontario" by Fairways Magazine.



## Zebra Mussel Testing

Last summer Sue Thompson, Kirsten Conner, Kathy Mansfield, Camden Conner (age 10), and Dillon Upal (age 5) collected samples testing our lake for Zebra Mussels and Spiny Water Fleas, two invasive species that we do not want in Salerno Lake. Gary Mansfield delivered the samples to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

This letter from the OFAH

arrived recently.

*"I am pleased to inform you that Salerno Lake in Haliburton County tested negative for both Spiny Water Fleas and Zebra Mussel veligers.*

*Again, thank you for your participation in our Invading Species Watch program. We are currently compiling the results and hope to have the 2010 final report*

*mailed out soon."*

Thanks to Sue and the gang for their efforts on our behalf. If you'd like to participate or volunteer in efforts to preserve and protect our Salerno Lake Environment, contact our new Lake Steward, Wendy Kidd through the new website which will be launched in June - [www.sdlca.ca](http://www.sdlca.ca)

## Save the Date — Summer 2011 Events Calendar

◇ Irondale Historical Society **High Tea**

June 11 at Highland Trail Lodge – noon and 3 pm.  
[www.irondaleontario.ca](http://www.irondaleontario.ca)

◇ SDLCA Canada Day **Fireworks**

Friday July 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 pm (by the island) [www.sdlca.ca](http://www.sdlca.ca)

◇ SDLCA **Annual General Meeting**

July 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 am Irondale Community Centre

◇ SDLCA **Annual Canoe Race, Children's Games and Bbq**

Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup>

◇ SDLCA **Concert On The Lake** starring Katherine Wheatley

August 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

◇ Irondale **Fishing Derby with Karaoke & Beer Tent**

June 18<sup>th</sup>

◇ Irondale Historical Society **Wild Game Dinner**

July 23<sup>rd</sup> Galway Hall Kinmount 6:30 pm

◇ Haliburton **Art and Craft Festival**

July 22,23,24 Head Lake Park, Haliburton Village  
[www.railsendgallery.com](http://www.railsendgallery.com) for complete list of participating artists and artisans

◇ **Treasures N Trash**

June 18 8 am - 2 pm Head Lake Park, Haliburton Village [www.railsendgallery.com](http://www.railsendgallery.com)

## Giant Hogweed

Giant Hogweed is a short lived perennial weed that reproduces only by seed and is predominantly found along rivers, streams and wet land areas, but can also be found in pastureland. If you see Giant Hogweed, DO NOT TOUCH IT.

Giant hogweed can be a serious health hazard. Its watery, clear sap contains photosensitizing compounds (furanocoumarins), which, when in contact with human skin and in combination with UV radiation, can cause burning.

Content varies depending on plant part, but contact should be

avoided at all times. The reaction of the skin depends on individual sensitivity.



After 24hrs, reddening and swelling of the skin can be noticed, which is followed by an inflammatory reaction after 3 days. Depending on individual sensitivity, effects can last for months and skin can remain sensitive to UV light for years.

# Planning Work Near Water?

Wondering if your project will require permits or approvals from MNR?

## EXAMPLES OF SHORELINE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

**DO** require MNR work permit:

- ◇ construct a dock or boathouse where the total surface area of the supporting structure (e.g. pipes, cribs) placed on the bed of the waterbody exceeds 15 m<sup>2</sup> (160 sq. ft) solid concrete, wood and steel docks
- ◇ dredging boat channels and swimming areas
- ◇ aquatic vegetation removal
- ◇ removal or displacement of rocks and boulders within a waterbody
- ◇ erosion/shoreline protection within a waterbody
- ◇ breakwalls and groynes\*
- ◇ water crossings draining an area greater than 5 km<sup>2</sup> and enclosing more than 20 m of stream
- ◇ stream diversions and constructing channels, dams and ponds
- ◇ commercial/industrial water intakes and heat loops

**DO NOT** require MNR work permit:

- ◇ submarine cable laid on lake or river bottom
- ◇ boatlifts and marine railways (no dredging)
- ◇ docks (floating, on posts or stilts, cantilevered over the water; crib docks where the crib or combination of cribs (i.e. footprint on lake bottom) occupies less than 15 m<sup>2</sup> (160 sq. ft), and clean rocks from dry land are used)
- ◇ removal of old docks and boathouses
- ◇ minor or routine repairs to existing structures
- ◇ municipal and private water crossings enclosing less than 20 m of stream length and draining an area less than 5 km<sup>2</sup>
- ◇ residential water intakes, heat loops and cables (small scale)



To discuss your proposal, contact your Ministry of Natural Resources Minden Area Office at 705-286-5201.

Article provided by : **Coalition of Haliburton Associations**

## Letter to the Editor

We need to educate Big Boaters. My boat almost ended up on top of the dock this weekend due to 4-5 foot wave produced by a big boat going about 10 MPH. Most people think going that slow on the lake is a good thing, but in reality it is the worst speed you can go. There are two speeds you can go in a big boat without harming docks, parked boats and the fragile shoreline. Idle speed for perusing the lake and high speed "up on the wake" is the other. The way to tell if you are going the wrong

speed for this lake is the angle your boat is plowing through the water. If it is level you are going an acceptable and courteous speed. If the bow of the boat is pointing up you are not.

This can also be adjusted by tilt or ballast in the X10 type boats. Please spread the word! I believe everyone producing these

large wakes are not doing it out of malice, they simply do not realize all the damage they are doing.

Rob Brown



*The new SDLCA website will be launched this June at [www.sdlca.ca](http://www.sdlca.ca)*