

32 Haliburton Lakes on 'Watch' List!

Three 'Dead Zones' identified on Kashagwigamog Lake!

Threatened lakes cannot be named - MNR officials muzzled by Government.



Message From El Presidente

It seems to me a painful irony that while people spend greater and greater amounts of money on buying and building lakefront properties, our Provincial and Federal governments are gutting the very few agencies that are charged with assessing and

protecting the resources we value so highly. I have never seen more cynical and manipulative use of public funds as in the last five years. When will the electorate wake up and realize that we are being used? If you think that our natural environment is being protected, you are wrong (pg 3)

45TH ANNUAL SDLCA CANOE RACE DEFIES THE ELEMENTS!

Nothing as trivial as a torrential downpour or two could deter our passionate river racers this year.

Results and times are on Page 3!



Salerno Devil's Lake
Cottagers' Association

Blue Green Algae



"Blue-green algae, which is naturally-occurring, often gives the water a pea soup appearance, and can appear blue/green, bright blue, grey or tan in colour. We just ask people to be watchful and take precautions if they see it," says Anne Alexander, Director of Environmental Health with the HKPR District Health Unit.

"Drinking water in areas where blue-green algae is present is not recommended as it can lead to a host of health problems."

When the blue-green algae is dying or disturbed, it can produce toxins in the water that put the health of people and animals at risk.

If local residents who draw water directly from a lake detect blue green algae in the body of water, the Health Unit urges them to immediately avoid using water from the lake and seek alternative sources of water for all purposes.

WHAT IS A DEAD ZONE? AN EXPLANATION BY PAUL MACINNES, CHAIR OF THE CHA

For the first time, a major lake in Haliburton County has discovered 3 dead zones in the lake (The Highlander Sept 27th). We also know through the CHA that 32 lakes in Haliburton are being monitored annually by the Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources for declining oxygen levels.

So what is a dead zone? In a lake or ocean, it is an area devoid of fish or any aquatic life. The cause is little or no oxygen to support life. In a dead zone nothing at all can live nor can those dead zones support the wildlife such as loons that depend on the fish, frogs etc. in the lake.

Oxygen depletion is caused by poorly maintained septic systems, fertilizer runoff, inappropriate development and the loss of natural shorelines and wetlands with their essential filtering effect. *We have developed and de-naturalized more of our shoreline in Haliburton County than almost anywhere else in Ontario including Muskoka.* Lake Simcoe's trout fishery crashed 20+ years ago because of oxygen level declines caused by the above factors. In fact Lake Simcoe is in danger of dying altogether.

This surely means that the threat here in Haliburton County must be taken seriously.

What can you do?

Support your lake association and your lake steward. They are the ones testing your lake water.



Minimize the water that goes down your drains. More flow-through is NOT better.

Make sure that your septic system is operating properly and is pumped out every 3-5 years.

If you have grass to the lake, please re-naturalize your shoreline by planting native shrubs, grasses and trees to absorb the nutrients before they reach your lake. While the depth of grass roots in our area can be measured in inches, the roots of native shrubs can reach down 3-5 feet into the soil to absorb more nutrients. Don't let your lake become the next headline.

DEAD ZONES = MORE WEEDS AND ALGAE, LESS FROGS AND FISH, FEWER LOONS.

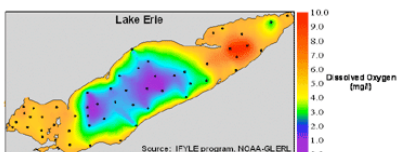
your (from pg 1) Those days are gone. Our environmental regulations are being compromised and enforcement of what remains is neutered by the simple matter of removing the civil servants who were once employed to do the work. The latest round of provincial cuts has gutted the Minden office of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Last summer, MNR officials who would have normally been out in the field working, were confined to the office due to lack of funding. In this new 'bottom line' world, the stewardship of our lakes is being offloaded onto volunteer organizations which lack the resources

to do the job. Furthermore, information relevant to the health of our local lakes is being withheld from the public. Thus we are not told just which lakes are at the greatest risk. But be certain of one thing; all our lakes are at risk if we don't change the way we use them. This is undeniable.

At the present time, The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations (CHA) is preparing a request under the Freedom of Information Act to obtain this data from the government. But we need to act now.

Douglas Rodger

DEAD ZONES IN LAKE ERIE KILL TENS OF THOUSAND OF FISH



'Dead Zones', so large they can be seen from space, are cited as the cause of the massive die-off of fish that occurred over the Labour Day weekend this year when tens of thousand of dead fish washed up on the beaches, fouling the shores of this popular vacation area.

**CANOE RACE RESULTS 2012****JUNIORS** (2 canoes)

Charlie Alfredsson & Beau Binnie	1:27:39
Alex Schiller & Nick Schiller	1:32:03

SENIOR WOMEN (2 canoes)

Susan Thompson & Tricia Witham	1:26:01
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Sharon Hayes & Kay

Armitage	1:42:01
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SENIOR MEN (1 canoe)

John Leonard & Rob Stuart	1:13:44
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WOMENS (4 canoes)

Kim Field & Heather MacLachlan	1:20:35
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MIXED (7 canoes)

Brenna Thompson & Corey Witham	1:14:36
Catie White & Sarah White	1:29:24
Louise Filgiano & Brianne McBrien	1:34:27
Gail Bradley & Georgina Bradley	1:43:24

MENS (1 canoes)

Bill Bayard & Jacob Bayard	1:11:51
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OPEN (3 boats)

Logan & Roman Boehm & Jason Pilfer	1:18:31
Isabel, Mary, Olivia & Rob Hussey	1:33:26
Natalie Boubrav & Paul Morin	1:48:26

KAYAK JUNIOR (7 boats)

Michael Field	1:20:46
Robert Field	1:31:30
Brock Marchese	1:36:28
Morgan Boehm	1:37:31
Matt Abbott	1:42:14
Brooke Leonard Borczak	1:48:45
Evan Abbott	2:12:28

KAYAK WOMEN (5 boats)

Samantha Thompson	1:13:14
Rosalie Brown	1:18:22
Ella Russell	1:29:47
Peggy Boehm	1:36:36
Cindy Wilson Leonard	1:50:29

KAYAK MEN (4 boats)

Eric Orschel	1:00:57
Doug Rodger	1:17:46
Brent McLaughlin	1:23:41
Eric Brown	1:27:54

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES → 36

Games results

Kid's shoe kick Robert Field
 Women's shoe kick Brenna Thompson
 Men's shoe kick Matt Vaxvick

SDLC CANOE RACE RECORD TIMES

Eric Orschel & Sean Ruppel 1st mens in 2000	56:56
Bill Lawson & Robert Wilson 2nd mens in 2000	58:07
Bill Lawson & Dan Wilson 1st mens in 1983	1:01:42

JUNIORS 1996

Ian Crossan & Robert Wilson	1:08:17
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SENIOR MEN'S 1995

Peter Maher & Jon McKee	1:05:23
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SENIOR WOMEN'S 2009 (new category 2007)

Susan Thompson & Chris Whittemore	1:21:36
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WOMEN 1995

Mary Mitchell & Ella Russell	1:12:00
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MIXED 1996

Eric Orschel & Jean Orschel	1:03:12
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MENS 2000

Eric Orschel & Sean Ruppel	56:56
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OPEN 1996

John Cowan & Dan Wilson	1:02:50
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KAYAK JUNIOR 2012 (new category 2012)

Michael Field	1:20:46
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KAYAK WOMENS 2007 (new category 2007)

Julie Lock	1:09:41
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KAYAK MENS 2012 (new category 2006)

Eric Orschel	1:00:57
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Fired up over fireworks by Matthew Desrosiers

It's a dreaded sound. Accompanied by a flash of lights, the loud crack, sometimes boom of fireworks going off is enough to drive anyone within five kilometres mad. While children are fascinated by them, adults purchase them for the sheer pleasure of watching something blow up. But when you're at home with your family trying to enjoy a relaxing evening, these mini-explosives go from cool to obnoxious in a hurry. There's a difference between store-bought fireworks and a fireworks display put on by professionals. Just ask the people who enjoyed Dorset's show this past Canada Day.

For the past two weeks, there's been a fire ban in effect across the Highlands. Fireworks sales however, continue. The temptation to set them off rises the longer you stare at them, until you can't stand it anymore and boom!, off they go rocketing into the night sky. Just about this time you notice the fire burning in the extremely dry grass or bush in your backyard. In these conditions, it's just not worth the risk. One mistake can cost someone their home, or worse, their life. A county-wide ban on fireworks would remove that risk altogether. A ban would be in line with the Highlands lifestyle. It protects peace and quiet, tranquility and the environment that draws so many here during the summer. It also protects the safety of residents from mishandled fireworks.

Fireworks aren't inherently bad. People, however, are careless. There will always be those who are responsible, but unfortunately many are not. Unless they're handled by trained professionals in a controlled environment, fireworks have no place in the Highlands.

Stumped! by Bram Lebo

The annual water drawdown has begun, weeks ahead of schedule because of the dry winter, spring and summer. The drawdown is when the folks who manage the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) take logs out of the dams (yes, logs) so that water can flow from our lakes here in the Highlands down through the system. The purpose of this exercise is to ensure boats can navigate the TSW. Unfortunately, the measures that allow boats to float on the TSW often leave our's high and dry. As the water level declines in local lakes, stumps and rocks that were well below the surface now lurk ominously, ready to destroy a boat's propeller or hull. The impact of the drawdown ranges from mild inconvenience to the annual emergence of ugly mud flats where swimming and boating were possible only weeks before. Much lakefront property becomes ditchfront property but without the lower taxes.

This is a zero sum game; there is only so much water to go around, and so the TSW's gain is our loss. It has always been thus. The extent of water fluctuations is made worse by two factors: there are two dozen government agencies involved in water management for the TSW, meaning nobody has full responsibility; secondly, the infrastructure — those logs — is ancient; a modern, centrally managed system of remotely-controlled dams would allow better water management. That is exactly what a 2007 independent study commissioned by the federal government recommended. The experts suggested a single water management authority for the entire TSW, plus about \$300 million in modernization. These recommendations were studiously ignored, and now Parks Canada, a

major player in TSW water management, is seeing drastic cuts to its budget. We're going in the wrong direction.

We do have advocates working on our behalf — a great group known as the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF). Every Highlander should support this group. But compared to other regions connected to the TSW, we have fewer voters and less economic clout. It's pure politics, a game we'll never win until the TSW issue ends up in The Supreme Court. The only chance we have is in court. Of course we could lose, but we're losing already.

These two editorials were published in longer form in the July 26th Edition of the excellent free publication, The Haliburton Highlander. Republished here with permission of the Editor and Publisher.

2013 Events Calendar

June 29th

SDLCA sponsored Fireworks

July 6th 10am,

Road Liability Workshop Irondale Community Centre

July 14th

Concert By The Lake

July 20

Wild Game Dinner, Galway Hall

July 26-28

Irondale Slo-Pitch Tournament

July 27th

SDLCA AGM St. John's Church Hall 10 am.

August 4th 2013

46th Annual Canoe Race, Children's Games and BBQ

PRIVATE ROADWAYS - SIGNAGE, LIABILITY, EMERGENCY VEHICLES, SEASONAL ACCESS

Private roads; Most of us on Salerno Lake use them, in fact rely upon them for access to our properties. Most of us know precious little about these roads but it's safe to say that we may not be able to put them out of mind for much longer. We live in a litigious age and it is only a matter of time until an accident occurs and an insurance company looks around for someone to sue. Are we covered in that eventuality?

Then there is the question of access; On the north side of the lake for example our primary road (Chimo Drive) is 'closed' in the winter. It is deemed a seasonal road but as people invest more money in their lakefront properties, they want year-round access. There are costs associated with providing that; ploughing, culverts, graveling etc. Who will pay for these services? Folks who don't use the road in the off-season certainly don't want the additional expense. Then there is the question of Emergency vehicles and year round access. If someone calls for an ambulance or firetruck in the winter and the road is not passable, is that someone's fault? If you own the land that a road crosses over, in the event of an

accident, could you be sued if there is no other insurance policy in place? Some folks maintain that our individual policies are all that is required but if experience tells us one thing it is that insurance companies will look for the deepest pockets to sue. And if one of the drivers in a collision is uninsured perhaps and the accident occurs on our property, it could be any one of us on the other end of a lawsuit.

So the SDLCA is organizing a Road Liability Workshop to be held at The Irondale Community Centre on July 6th. If you are a Road Steward or anyone with concerns about private road access, watch for the next issue of the Sentinel where there will be more information about the guest speakers. There will be a nominal fee charged but the SDLCA is committed to underwriting this learning seminar. For more information contact



elpresidentesdlca@gmail.com

Two Core Canadian Values – Nature and Democracy – are Under Attack

Nature Canada has joined Canada's other leading environmental groups to launch a major national campaign to stand up for nature and democracy – and they hope many more individuals and organizations who cherish these values will join in.

Parliament is pushing through a bill to weaken almost every one of the country's most important environmental laws and silence Canadians who want to defend them. The federal government's budget act (C-38) makes it easier to rush headlong into potentially damaging industrial projects, like the Northern Gateway pipeline. And it makes it harder for

Canadians to have any say, risking the things Canadians depend on for their health and safety – water, food, air and ecosystems.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act is being replaced with a totally new law. Under it, Ottawa will play a much smaller role in protecting people from harmful projects, while retaining the right to basically rubber-stamp big projects that powerful oil interests want. And the new weaker rules are being applied to review processes that are already underway—so projects like the Enbridge Northern Gateway tankers and pipeline project can get an easier ride.

The government is adding \$8 million in new funding for the Canada Revenue Agency to audit charities – including environmental groups – because they use their legal right to advocate for things like laws to fight global warming. Under the new laws, citizen groups will likely be shut out of environmental reviews of big projects like oil pipelines. Key government agencies with expertise will also have less input. Well-funded backroom lobbyists and political operatives will have greater influence.

See www.sdlca.ca for more on this important subject.

4 Myths About Changes to Canada's Environmental Laws

by Chris Sutton, in Nature Canada

There's been a whole lot of talk about the future of Canada's environmental laws. Are the Prime Minister's proposed changes a much-needed streamlining of environmental reviews? Or are we witnessing the gutting and slashing of a generation's worth of environmental protections?

After [releasing a budget](#) that clearly placed resource exports over environmental health, the government has followed through with legislative changes that severely weaken the environmental safety net that Canadians have long depended on for clean air, water and land.

Among other changes, the Conservative government will significantly reduce federal environmental oversight of natural resource development projects, impose limits on who can participate in environmental reviews and reduce the time permitted to review projects.

To defend these moves, the government has offered a variety of arguments that are, well, highly arguable. Here are a few of the myths circulating out there, along with a reality check:

Myth 1: "Streamlining" environmental reviews will increase certainty for project investors.

On the contrary, denying adequate public review of development projects and abandoning the federal government's role in reviewing such projects are a recipe for conflict, litigation, and a patchwork of conflicting provincial measures that will result in uncertainty and unpredictable delay for projects.

Already, [First Nations leaders](#) have reacted to plans to cut short the approvals process for the Northern Gateway Project with threats of legal action, and [law experts predict](#) a raft of lawsuits that will tie up the project for years. Pushing projects through, and limiting public involvement, will only serve to erode the public's confidence in the project's safety, a lack of support few investors would welcome.

Myth 2: Environmental reviews can be handed over to the provinces because "one project, one review" is all Canada needs.

It is the federal government's number one job to protect the safety and security of its citizenry. Canadians depend on the federal government to safeguard our families and nature from pollution, toxic contamination and other direct threats to our physical well being.

Eliminating or limiting federal environmental reviews means eliminating the environmental safety net for things like fish and fish habitat, which are the federal government's legal responsibility.

Provincial environmental assessment processes are inconsistent from each other and often weak, lacking key safeguards of the federal process.

Myth 3: Environmental review of projects hurts the economy; so strict time limits are needed to push projects through more quickly.

History has taught us that rushed and superficial public review of mega-projects risks leaving taxpayers on the hook for multi-billion dollar clean-up costs when things go wrong later. Remember the [Giant Mine in Yellowknife](#), or the pulp and paper mills of Dryden, Ontario, or [radiation clean up in Port Hope](#).

The key purpose of environmental assessment is to "look before you leap" – that is, to carefully consider the long-term environmental consequences of a development proposal before deciding whether or how to proceed. While other federal laws are more reactive and not engaged until after damage to the environment has already occurred, environmental assessment is one of the few institutionalized processes Canada has developed to prevent environmentally harmful activities or projects from being approved in the first place.

By preventing problems before they start, environmental assessment is good for the economy. Making sure a project is environmentally sound before it begins is a lot easier – and cheaper – than after the fact cleanup. Just ask BP whether preventing an oil spill is a better option than having to clean one up.

Canada needs a measured and thoughtful approach that ensures that we approve projects that make the greatest contribution to a sustainable economy and put them in the right place, not a 'rubber stamp' for development at all costs.

Myth 4: Proposed legal changes "modernize" the regulatory process.

Dismantling Canada's environmental laws, if done as planned, turns back the clock several decades. Canadians have spent 30 years working to build up our environmental laws so that the disasters of our past – the Sydney Tar Ponds, the death of Lake Erie, the Bennett Dam flooding – are not repeated. We are still paying for these disasters with compromised health and with taxpayer dollars.