



Spring 2022

RLCA Newsletter

RAVEN LAKE



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A huge thank you to the entire Board of Directors, editorial contributors, and all RLCA members past and present, for working together to bring the newsletter together year after year.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Raven Lake Friends and Neighbours,

I'm writing to you sitting by the fire on a cold January Sunday morning at Raven. This past week was full of extreme cold alerts, and the temperature this morning is a balmy -20 compared to yesterdays -29. I hope, as you read our spring newsletter, temperatures are much warmer, the smell of spring is in the air and our annual 'ice out' guess is underway.

2022 is definitely not off to the start many of us had hoped for as we closed our cottages last fall. As COVID-19 continues I hope that everyone in our Raven Lake community is staying healthy and safe and that, like me, you are able to take reprieve from daily life by dreaming of a warm summer day at Raven.

Our Raven community has experienced a lot of change over the past couple of years. We have had to cancel in-person events, putting on hold the Raven Lake specialty of

chatting, eating, music, laughter, and good-natured competition. We have experienced uncertainty over docking at the landing, causing inconvenience and challenges. And we have lost many of the 1st generation cottagers that founded our community. May their memory and dedication remain with us always.

On a positive note, we have adapted to virtual events, the docking project is on track and moving forward for this spring, we have welcomed new families to the lake, and we are welcoming new 3rd and even 4th generation cottagers into our community. One of the things most often said about what makes Raven so special is the strength of its community.

For this year's newsletter, we are planning to touch on the history of the lake and its community.

Continued on next page.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Continued from previous page.

I grew up cottaging on Kahshe Lake, a bigger lake a bit further south in Muskoka. I have many fond memories of family growing up and spending time together at the cottage, but I did not experience a sense of community the way I do here on Raven. The Hungerford family moved to Raven on the August Long Weekend in 2008.

I remember Harry Wilson, the then lake president stopping by our dock as we moved in to welcome us and invite us to the Regatta. We couldn't make it (that's a story for another time, something to do with mice, bats and carpenter ants), but I remember finding out afterwards that Susan Luke and the Regatta team had even made special awards to welcome us to the Lake.

Over the past thirteen and a half years our family has expanded to two cottages, we have gained an extended family through the Kenins (also a story for another time, something to do with matchmaking and LinkedIn) and we have grown to include our next generation of cottagers to continue the tradition of contributing to a strong community on Raven.

As we eagerly await the return of warmer weather and ice-out, I look forward to seeing everyone again soon, both at the lake and virtually.

Sincerely,

Sean Hungerford
RLCA President





2022 RLCA EVENTS



2022

Virtual Family Fishing Day

Please watch for updates on the RLCA website (ravenlake.org) and the RLCA Facebook Page, this event may be done virtually for 2022.

Due to the ongoing uncertainty around COVID safety and provincial rules, at this time the RLCA has not confirmed any in-person events for 2022.

2022 AGM

Please watch for event details on the RLCA website (ravenlake.org) and the RLCA Facebook Page.

HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

2021-2022 RLCA BOARD MEMBERS

Sean Hungerford
Graham Donald
Mike Wlodek
Scott Lewis
Ross Lawrence
Cathy Séguin
Bruce Lourie
Jo Ann Julien
Danielle Wood
Karl Mehisto
Amanda Hungerford
Ian Hungerford
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Howard Rowilson
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1st Vice President & Landing Committee
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Lake Steward
Newsletter
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Regatta Chair & Hazard Buoys
Facebook Page & Communications
Spring Social Chair
Director at Large

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Cathy Séguin

Greetings Raven Lake cottagers!

Many thanks to all members, new and returning, for your 2022 membership payments. The strength of our Association and our ability to work on your behalf are reflections of your support.

If you are already a member of the RLCA, we thank you for your ongoing support. Membership is open to all residents of Raven Lake. For those of you who are not yet members, we encourage you to join us.

Why Join?

Here is a list of what the association does for you and why being a member is a great decision:

FOCA + DISCOUNTS

As a RLCA member you are also a member of FOCA which advocates at the federal, provincial and regional levels on priorities that affect waterfront property owners. FOCA can lobby effectively in a way that we, as a small lake association, would not be able to.

Through FOCA you are entitled to special pricing and discount product offers for Cottage Life Magazine, Boating and Places Magazine, Canadian Canoe Museum and Superior Propane foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits. As well, RLCA is able to obtain liability insurance in a cost-effective way through FOCA's broker, [Cade Associates](#)

[Insurance Brokers Ltd.](#)

GOVERNING BODY RELATIONSHIPS

Maintain a close relationship with both Lake of Bays and Algonquin Highlands Townships and work with them on many issues

FOCA + CHA

Establish a positive working relationship with various government agencies and property owner associations such as FOCA and CHA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations and Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations); and maintain the regulations that are required of us, as an incorporated Not-For-Profit Organization.

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Continued from previous page.



What we do on your behalf:



MEMBER ADVICE

Offer an avenue to access other members their experiences and their networks of contractors.

ANNUAL MEETING

Conduct an Annual Meeting which provides members with up-to-date information regarding current issues, financial information and association business.

NEWSLETTER

Publish a Spring Newsletter focusing on issues affecting property owners.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Organize social events: Regatta, Spring Social, Corn Roast, CPR course, Family Fishing Day.

WEBSITE

Maintain website www.ravenlake.org and Facebook page.

LAKE HEALTH

Collect water samples and Secchi-disc readings which are monitored for changes in phosphorus levels and water clarity - key measurements of the health of our lake.

COMMUNICATION

Deal with the unexpected - the ability to organize rapidly to speak on behalf of the members ensures that when a strong, unified approach is required, the infrastructure already exists.

GET KEY UPDATES

Staying connected also offers all of us a strong communication tool, in a hazardous situation or when damage is done on the lake (eg power outages, micro bursts etc.)

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

All members have access to the membership directory online via the RLCA website.

It provides a searchable list of all members including phone numbers, email addresses, and home mailing addresses. If you are logged in, you will see a "Membership Directory" link in the main menu. If you aren't logged in, simply click on the icon in the top right corner of the home page (or the big "Membership Directory" button about halfway down the home page) and login with the email address you used to renew your membership as well as your password.

HOW TO RENEW OR JOIN:

1. Visit the RLCA website www.ravenlake.org
2. Click on the "Join Us" link in the menu and follow the steps.



Past, Present, and Future

ROBINSON'S GENERAL STORE

Katie Hinbest is the new co-owner of Robinson's General Store along with hubbie Mike. I had the good fortune of speaking with her and it's like I've always known her. The warm smile in her voice was evident over the phone. If there was ever a person so well suited to fill Brad's shoes, Katie is That Girl!

Last year I was privileged to have a similar conversation with Brad Robinson. He kindly shared the story of his upcoming retirement as third generation owner of Robinson's General Store. He expressed his delight about the pending purchasers citing his confidence in their fitness for running the business, but more importantly that they would value the community as he did. As Brad is so beloved by us all, and having now met Katie, my dear Ravens, I am here to put any of your fears to rest about the change of ownership at Robinsons. Brad has found the perfect pair in Mike and Katie to mirror his genteel ways, emulate his warm intensity and to echo his ideals that are the legacy of Robinson's (and all that we love about it) for decades to come.

Katie is from the health care field, her husband Mike, is a passionate entrepreneur. Their combined

business acumen and people skills will make us all feel right at home.

The enthusiasm they have for their new enterprise is infectious. They seem to be making all the right moves by leaving key elements as is but also infusing the place with innovative new experiences, i.e., a gelateria & espresso bar as well as a food truck out front. I, for one, can barely wait for cottage season so I can queue up to sample their wares.

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Fireside fun with the Hinbests: Katie holding 2 ½ yr old Brie + Mike holding 4 ½ yr old Ethan.

Past, Present, and Future

ROBINSON'S GENERAL STORE

Continued from previous page.

Of course, it hasn't all been a walk in the park. Katie is quick to praise her staff for their support. Brad's team stayed on and rallied around the newbies; taking on new responsibilities, working additional departments in the store and continuing to pitch in to do what ever it takes to smooth out the transition.

This is a triple win for the staff, the business and the customers. The two commute from Huntsville with their two little tots in tow (son, Ethan 4 ½ and daughter, Brie 2 ½) before they face the day's challenges.

From frozen water pipes, broken boilers and a leaking roof to tenant turnover and supply chain interruptions, there is never a dull day. But this dynamic duo does not shy away from opportunities to develop new skills and grow. There is no doubt that Brad is a very hard act to follow but Robinson's General Store has found the perfect successors and Katie and Mike are IT!



The new coffee and gelato bar at Robinson's General Store located at the far end of Home Hardware.



Robinson's new Moose & Paddle food truck - a popular year 'round hot spot for good grub.

An advertisement for Robinson's General Store Dorset. The ad features the store's name "ROBINSON'S GENERAL STORE" at the top, followed by "DORSET" in large letters. Below that is a black oval with the text "Thank you for shopping locally!". To the right of the oval is a yellow shield logo that says "CANADIAN BERRY COUNTRY STORE". At the bottom left is the phone number "705-766-2415" and at the bottom right are logos for "FOOD TOWN" and "Home Hardware". The website "www.RobinsonsGeneralStore.ca" is at the very bottom.

P.S.

On a recent visit to buy groceries, who should be seen stocking shelves but Brad Robinson. We were soon engaged in conversation. Somehow, this was not a big surprise. Customer engagement was always Brad's strong point!



The History of **CUNNINGHAM ISLAND**

By George Kenins with Harry Wilson

Your cottage may be the nicest on Raven Lake, or may have the best view, or the best sunset, the best dock, the best whatever, but it seems that the oldest building on the lake belongs to the founders of Ravenstock (20 years ago) Harry Wilson, and his lovely wife Anne.

Harry and Anne bought “Cunningham Island” in 1994 from a Cunningham, whose family had owned it for many years. While other would-be purchasers clucked and shook their heads, the Wilsons, optimists both, knew they could eventually transform it into the warm and inviting place it has become, and certainly the hub of cultural activity on the lake.

Ever since opening up the walls, they have made one archeological discovery after another: a huge set of ice tongs found in a mound of sawdust in what was once an ice house, vintage bottles, workers’ signatures, newspapers from the 1920s glued to wall panels, apparently to keep the weather from entering through gaps

between the planks, and much more.

The main building may have originally been built in 1910. A signed and dated plank indicates that the builder of what was originally sleeping quarters for lumbermen in the heyday of logging was the grandfather of Dorset builder Sandy MacKay – the Mackays are one of Dorset’s first families, settling in the 1800s. Old (and empty) corked bottles in the framing could explain irregular and peculiar building features of both the main cottage and the ice house.

A beautiful restoration and expansion of the original building, (as well as a stage for Ravenstock), included stripping, planing and refinishing magnificent basswood wall panelling, which yielded more history: fishing records had been scribbled on the planks, revealing the building’s second use – a fishing camp.

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More newspapers were found, this time from the 40s, 50s and 60s, used as inexpensive insulation, the whole building a fire trap that luckily escaped an inglorious end a second time, the first being a near miss 100 years ago. The buildings were saved by the owners of the day who placed layers of soaking-wet burlap bags on the roofs as the great fire of 1921 raged across the island.

The first steps complete, work is now focused on restoring the upper floor of the two-story ice house, (the bottom floor was turned into Harry's workshop in 2000), the top to become a sleeping cabin for a growing Wilson clan. A strangely built structure, the framing was on the outside (with mill-run planking inside) fully exposed to the elements.

Next time you are at Ravenstock (all Raven Lakers are invited), breathe in the history around you, knowing that there were people living on the island over one hundred years ago. Imagine what construction would have looked like without modern power tools, and speculate on how every stick of lumber arrived there. Raven Lake history: remarkable!

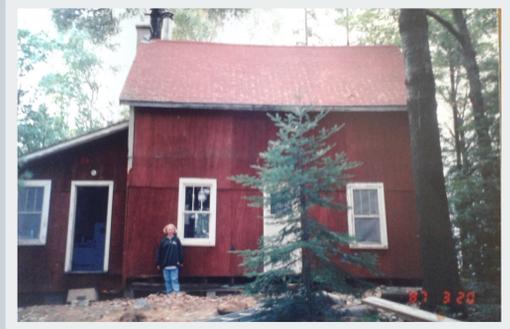


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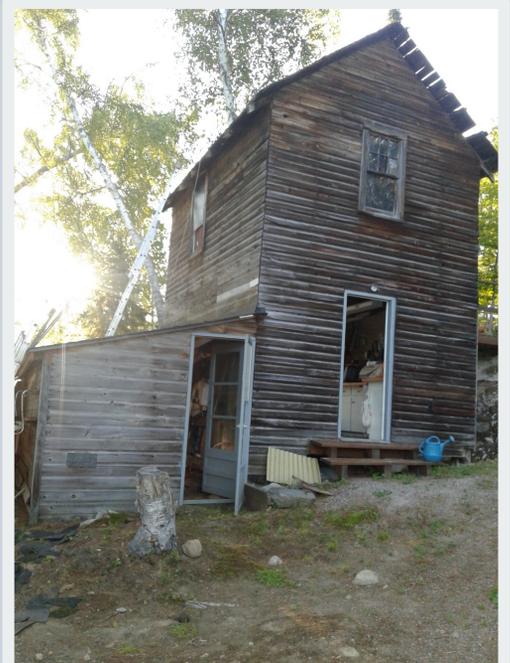
1029 Brodie Drive
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Direct 707-788-4060



Wilson Cottage 1994
with 11 Year Old Megan



Wilson Cottage after
the Windstorm



Ice House in its
Original Glory



LANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Hello fellow Raven Lakers!

The Landing Committee has been very busy since last fall and would like to share the significant progress made on the docking project in preparation for spring 2022.

As we closed up at the end of last season there was a lot of uncertainty for water access cottagers with the posting of the MNRF stick dock removal, and what it would mean for accessing our cottages next spring. The Raven community pulled together and were able to remove the stick docks and organize a final cleanup in order to pass the MNRF inspection. This hard work and group effort led to the RLCA/RLDA receiving an interim Land Use Permit, which was the first important step toward the installation of the new docking project.

While the landing cleanup was in progress, the Landing Committee was hard at work putting together a Request for Proposal and securing 5 vendors to bid on the

docking project. The Landing Committee completed a thorough evaluation of the bids received using a scoring system and was able to recommend R&J Machine from Lakefield ON to the RLCA Board. The board voted unanimously to accept the Landing Committee's recommendation and we signed a contract with R&J Machine to be the RLDA project vendor and guarantee delivery and installation of the first phase of the project at ice out this spring. Because the landing is within the Township of Lake of Bays, the Landing Committee has been working with Wayne Simpson & Associates to complete and submit our applications to LoB for rezoning and development and building permits. To fit within the existing LoB zoning rules, the project is being done in 2 phases.

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PHASE ONE

Phase 1 has now been fully approved by the Township and will provide about 40 docking slips for RLDA members this spring. Because the RLDA has more than 40 members, we will be sharing slips for phase 1. The Landing Committee will be working to identify family, friends and neighbours who are able to share a slip during phase 1 of the project.

PHASE TWO

Phase 2 applications have been submitted to Lake of Bays and the Landing Committee is continuing to work with the Township to secure the necessary approvals as quickly as possible. Once phase 2 is approved R&J Machine will be ready to install the additional docks needed so that every member of the RLDA has their own dock. Once phase 2 approvals are secured, the Landing Committee will work to complete final slip assignments taking into account RLDA members' needs and preferences.

NEXT STEPS

The Landing Committee still has several steps to work through to complete the project, like determining the yearly fees, determining the final legal structure of the RLDA and electing a new RLDA board, to name a few. But, with the ongoing support of the RLDA Members and the Raven Lake community, we are confident that the project will continue to move forward successfully.

We hope that everyone is as happy as the Landing Committee is with the progress that has been made to date. The Committee has invested a lot of time and effort into keeping the project moving forward on its current path to success. We will continue to be committed to delivering Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project as quickly as possible while minimizing costs. After all, we are all in the same boat (and on the same dock)

For further information about the RLDA Docking Project, contact the Landing Committee at info@rlda.ca.

Sincerely,
The RLCA Landing Committee

Sean Hungerford, Scott Lewis, Graham Donald,
Ross Lawrence, Mike Wlodek, Peter Hungerford,
George Kenins, Craig Stoyles, Tom Wilson



HYDRO ONE, HYDRO ONE, HYDRO... NONE!



By Sean Hungerford

We've all experienced it, a bit of rain, a bit of wind (or a lot of wind), and bam lights are out! Then the mad scramble to start the genny, open the Hydro One outage map, call Hydro One to report the outage, and then patiently wait fingers crossed that the local crews will be out soon to get the power back on.

Hydro One occupies a special place in the hearts of many Raven Lakers'.

In my experience the call center staff and the local crews are great. I've even gotten to know the crew out of Huntsville that services Raven. They've been out fixing the lines by snowmobile, ATV and Stanley boat so many times along the south shore over the past 3 years!

The corporate office, the changes in fee structures, the cost of hydro, the delivery fees, the line clearing... these are the topics that make me cringe. I've been told by Hydro One that their lines are supposed to be brushed every 5 years. I can confirm the lines along the south shore have not been cleared in the last 5+ years.

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On December 11th

there was a major wind storm throughout Ontario that resulted in an old, dead tree falling on the hydro line running along the east shore. The power for the entire east shore was out.

Despite numerous conversations with the Hydro One outage people, their communications were a disaster. Multi promises to get someone to call back so that hydro crews could be briefed with on-the-ground information were not kept. If the crew had reacted promptly, the problem could have been fixed before freeze-up. As it was, they delayed for 28 days, until power was finally restored on January 8th.

Hydro One was not covered with glory.

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BROKERAGE

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HYDRO ONE, HYDRO ONE, HYDRO... NONE!



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Requesting tree clearing is very straight forward. There is an online form that you can complete. You add your account, property and contact information and you'll receive a call back (from a real person) within a few days. On the phone they ask you for details about the request, they confirm it is the Hydro One line and not your personal line that needs clearing and they give you a date by which a crew will be dispatched to investigate the request. Our experience was that the crew came out, marked hazard trees along the section of line we were reporting on, and that was that.

But... the story continues, over the last 2 years we have had several of the marked trees come down in windstorms (falling on the lines requiring the local crew to respond). By this point the markings done by the Forestry crew were starting to fade. So, another coordinated effort of repeated calls and requests and 2 years after the trees were initially marked the forestry crew was dispatched and took down the remaining marked trees. This felt like a small victory.

We're now moving on to the next battle with Hydro One. Having the new growth brush that has

been growing long enough that it's in contact with the live lines cleared.

This spring as we open our cottages, before the black flies come out, take a walk back to the hydro line behind your property. Check for any trees or large limbs that appear to be dead and at risk of falling on the lines. Also check for new growth brush that is in contact with the hydro lines. If you see issues, take pictures and also make note of the identification number on the nearest Hydro One Pole and then submit a tree trimming request directly with Hydro One from their [website \(https://www.hydroone.com/request-a-service/tree-trimming\)](https://www.hydroone.com/request-a-service/tree-trimming).

When you receive a call back from the forestry department make sure to share the details of what you identified as the closest pole number to help the crews locate the area of concern.

If neighbours around the lake submit clearing requests (where needed), Raven Lake can become a squeaky wheel and spur Hydro One to get out and clear our lines, hopefully leading to more reliable hydro delivery for all of us.

By Harry Wilson

THE WAY WE WERE



What's a boater to think when heading down Raven Lake for the first time? Are the eyes playing tricks, or are those really be-goggled yellow minions bobbing merrily as we pass by?



Photo courtesy of Joanne Wilson.

If those little fellas indicate the presence of shoals, how's a boater to know on which side to pass? Where are the red and green channel markers?

Colour us unorthodox, whimsical if you want, and our community is decidedly out-of-step with the big Muskoka Lakes: no marinas, cottages straight out of the '50s and '60s, canoes and kayaks and tinnies with large boats giving them a wide berth, all very de rigueur if you are a seasoned Raven. "How quaint...", the Newbie might think, and just maybe "How perfect!"

Is Raven Lake perfect?

Well of course it is, if one's definition of perfection includes spotty-to-nil internet, boat-access-only cottages, hauling supplies up endless cliffs, family game nights instead of endless Family Feuds.

Opening & closing surprises, Hydro One failures, Regattas, Rum Runners & Ravensstocks, Community Corn Roasts and the like all factor into our particular claim of Cottaging Perfection.

But are we really perfect, all the time?

Well, no; of course not.

A perfect cottage community would never fish too close to someone's dock, jet ski frolics and water sports would never verge on the inconsiderate, even dangerous. No boat exhaust, no wakes would ever disturb Mother Nature. Litter, light and noise, docking, car & trailer issues? Never!

Imperfect we are. Some mistakes, some errors in judgement do happen, but not many, thankfully.

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By Harry Wilson

THE WAY WE WERE



Continued from previous page.

We Ravens may be put off a bit, for a while, but we don't dwell; we get up, dust off and move on.

We never (hardly ever? should never?) build walls between ourselves and the people we wave to in boats, help at the landing, end up on regatta teams with, applaud on stage.

And when the chips are down we ante up, for ourselves, for our neighbours and friends, for our piece of Paradise.

We've done very big things together in the past: our Lake Plan defined what we love and wish preserved about our lake community, our responses to Mother Nature's tantrums like the devastating twisters of 7/7/17, our move from unregulated, underperforming outhouses and the embracing of new - and expensive! - septic systems.

(I was recently told our old outhouse was one of the most, er, memorable on the lake. I had no idea).

We turn crises into victories in a remarkably short period of time, and are living another such miracle this season. A lesser community might

have become lost in despair, wallowing in the blame game; we went through some dark and discouraging days, yes, but then we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. We will have a new docking system in place for 2022, with the promise that, before long, the decades-long, inequitable, unsafe and illegal docking we have lived with will finally be addressed.

Expensive? Yes, and just like the conversion to septic, we know this community investment will also pay huge dividends.

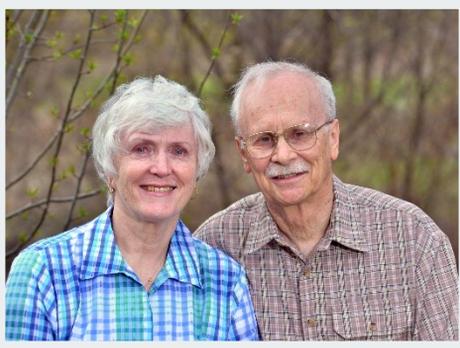
While a new chapter in the Raven Lake story is being written, some things will not change. Our minions will bring more smiles, families will play on the Sandy Beach, music and loon calls will float in the night air.

And unlike the polarizing repercussions of trucker protests, this year's existential challenge will not divide us; we will continue to iron out the wrinkles and make the landing work for everyone.

Perfect.



A real estate logo for Trillium Team. It features the text "TRILLIUMTEAM.ca" in large blue letters, with "EST. 1976" below it. To the right is the "ROYAL LEPAGE" logo with "REALTOR" and "Lakes of Reunion" below it. Below the main text, it lists "Broker of Record Anthony van Lieshout, CRA" and "Sales Representatives Marcia Bell, Erin Nicholls, Chris James, Chris Smolarz". At the bottom right, it says "Top 1% of Realtors in Canada". A dark blue banner at the bottom contains the text "Specializing in Waterfront Properties" and contact info: "info@trilliumteam.ca" and "705-935-1000 ext 27".



A Farewell From the
KANITZ FAMILY



September 2021

By the time you read this, the Kanitz family who have been on Raven Lake for 4 generations and 60 years commencing in 1961, will have left Raven Lake for the last time. We sincerely hope the new owners will enjoy the cottage as much as our family has.

My father, Walter, and I purchased a property on Raven Lake containing an old one room hunting cabin, the walls of which were full of bullet holes, after we recognized it as a unique property with a 320 degree view of a bay which was later to be named Mona Bay.

At that time, I was an engineering student at the U of T and my father was a well-known radio and television personality and author who was looking for a place to relax from an onerous lifestyle and life threatening war-time experiences.

For the next 34 years we made all sorts of modifications to the

property and cabin without the benefit of electricity and running water or, in some cases, plans. The outdoor plumbing was always interesting especially at night with the opportunity to meet bears, wolves, beavers and porcupines on the path.

When we finally electrified in 1996, things became a little easier. There has always been a family debate on what was the most important addition to the cottage after electricity, the outdoor shower or the indoor bathroom.

Over the 60 years we owned the cottage, my family only missed being on the lake during our 3 year government secondment in Africa in the early 70's. In the 21 years since retirement, we have spent the majority of our summer months at the cottage. The children claim we did so to escape them!

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KANITZ FAMILY

Raven Lake has a fascinating history with a first mention of Raven Rock's existence in an article in the Toronto Globe in 1865. My wife, Carolyn, wrote the history section of the Raven Lake Association's Lake Plan and later authored a book on the early history of the lake entitled "Raven Lake: From Logging to Leisure".

It has been interesting to reflect on all the changes and events we have witnessed over the years.

A few stick out among the many. The rebuilding of the dam, the splake stocking, the acidification of the lake by the Sudbury mine's acid rain fallout, the expansion of the landing and proliferation of stick docks, the establishment of the RLCA and the corn roast, Ravenstock, the Radar Run and a few I do not want to mention in polite company!

I have always maintained that which gives life to a cottage are children and dogs. We have tried to

live up to this premise with 4 children, 10 grandchildren and, over the years, 9 Golden Retrievers, who all enjoyed growing up on the lake. Alas, the children and grandchildren have gone their separate ways and, although they all love the cottage, do not maintain the lifestyles that allows them the free time to spend using and maintaining it.

We are profoundly sad that we are leaving but time moves on and we do not feel able to maintain the property as we have in the past. We are very grateful for the many years we had the opportunity to enjoy the lake and both human and animal acquaintances.

Not the black flies, mosquitoes and deer flies so much.

We wish you all the best and, as one of my acquaintances told me years ago, "You will know when the time is right".

Peter and Carolyn Kanitz





HISTORY:

A SET OF AGREED UPON LIES

On musing about the history of Raven Lake – best done on the dock with a beverage in hand, I began to think about history in general (definitely both hands needed). There’s the history we learned in school: I remember explorers from elementary school – exciting stuff, but still tremble when I hear words like Pax Britannica and Entente Cordiale, staples of grade 10 history then.

When in doubt, I always consult Mr. Google. There I found that Winston Churchill said “History is written by the victors”. Winnie’s statement is remarkably out of date today: modern history is written by anybody who chooses to, without seemingly much regard for facts. Napoleon, and before him Voltaire, said “History is a set of lies agreed upon”.

Now we’re getting somewhere.

More cynical is Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana:

“History is a pack of lies about events that never happened told by people who weren’t there”

Lest we discount Santayana, (I would never discount anyone named George), he is also credited with:

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”

I often can’t remember where I left my keys/wallet/cell phone/glasses – according to Santoyana, I’ll be stuck in this Groundhog Day loop forever.

History is definitely in the eye of the perceiver and the teller of the tale. Many get credit for the phrase “The older I get, the better I was”, among them John McEnroe and Lee Trevino.

Indeed, that phrase conjures up wonderful images of the Sunrise Ski Club: graceful water skiers to a man, elegantly yet powerfully carving smooth curves on the calm waters of misty Sunday mornings, many, many years ago. Gosh, we were good!

Here comes that “pack of lies” again.

Continued on next page.



A SET OF AGREED UPON LIES



Don't we all have our own cottage legends, somewhat enhanced memories, and exaggerated feats – our own “histories”?

“Don't you remember when we won that canoe race at the regatta against strong and youthful opponents?”

Thankfully, very little from these definitions applies to Raven Lake history. We are all “victors” if we cottage here, tall tales aren't really lies, and we definitely WERE and ARE there.

Raven Lake history is worth exploring. Grab a map and hike the Bobcaygeon Road that settlers took as early as the 1860s, which crosses Raven Lake from Highway 35 across Kirkwood island, then to the west behind some of the cottages on the north shore of Five Mile Bay. (There's a piece of history – who would have named it Five Mile Bay, and

why?) I have found a milepost on that road behind our cottage, and even recent surveyors have insisted on finding it, since it is the lynchpin to all nearby properties. One account describes the trip from Carnarvon to Dorset along this road over 100 years ago – ten and a half hours! They must have travelled behind my place – should have dropped in for a beer.

Or, read about the incredible voyage of enormous pine logs from Algonquin Park, through Raven Lake on their way to Trenton. We even had our own old growth pine until a few years ago. Or, visit Harry Wilson, whose cottage dates from 1910. I have experienced his outhouse – definitely 1910.

Or, just drop by my place. I'll tell you a pack of lies about events that never happened...



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SEPTIC PUMPING

IT'S A CRAPPIE JOB

BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA DO IT

As part of a lake wide effort to ensure good water quality, and to comply with municipal requirements, we had another coordinated effort to have septic tanks pumped out on the lake this past summer.

There were a couple of factors that determined who really needed to have their septic tanks pumped.

First, the contractor we used wanted to ensure that all the tanks they were going to pump had completed the Septic Re-Inspection Program run by The Township of Algonquin Highlands.

This program was a follow-up to a similar program done by both Lake of Bays and Algonquin Highlands Townships almost twenty years ago.

This past summer the inspectors were on our lake visiting each, and every cottage to examine outhouses, composting toilets, grey water pits, and septic systems to ensure they conformed to current standards.

If a system was found to be faulty, leaking or otherwise out of service by the inspectors then repair work would have to be done before pumping was practical.

We learned during the process that the inspectors really know their crap. In some cases, cottagers had signed up for pumping and the inspectors advised that it was not necessary.

The reasons ranged from the tank being less than 30cm or 10%, full of liquid, to there being only a thin crusty layer on the top.

Since few of us ever really want to open the lid and assess the contents, the contractors second recommendation would apply. Tanks should be pumped every three to five years depending on use.

However, some cottagers who had not had their tanks pumped in 7 years learned that they were just now ready for a pump out.

Continued on next page.

SEPTIC PUMPING

IT'S A CRAPPIE JOB

BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA DO IT

At the start of the exercise 14 cottagers signed up for pumping. With the re-inspection program underway, and the contractor visibly on the lake, the actual number of tanks pumped ballooned to 18 in total.

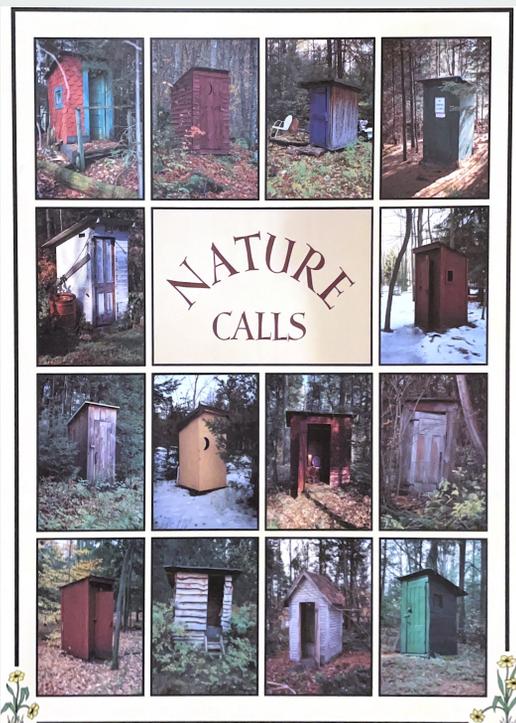
We arranged for Thomas Contracting to be on the lake during the last week of July and first week of August this past summer. The fixed costs for the project included transportation of the barge to the landing and a crane to launch it into the water.

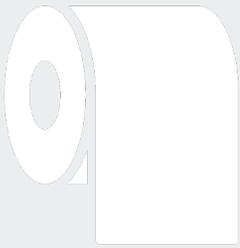
The single day rental of the barge was \$1,250 for the first day, including transportation, and then \$950 per day for each additional day. The crane was \$260 per hour and was required for 4 hours to put the barge in and 4 hours to take it back out. For each septic tank, they estimated \$180 in labour which included 2-3 workers for a couple of hours.

One or two cottages filled the honey pot on the barge before it had to be taken back to the landing to off-load it's contents into a tanker to take it away.

What it all means is that if you, alone, need your tank pumped it would cost over \$2,800. If 10 people share the fixed costs, the price is reduced to a little over \$1,000 each. Quite a savings. That compares reasonably well to similar efforts in 2012 and 2016.

With that, we would expect that we will organize another water access septic pumping exercise in 2025.





THE SEPTIC SYSTEM

“DIRTY DOZEN”

- 1. Liquid Fabric Softeners**
Fabric softeners coat clothes with slimy chemicals that are harmful to your septic system.
- 2. Bath & Body Oils**
Avoid using oily lotions & personal care products with micro plastics (micro beads).
- 3. Drain Cleaners**
Toxic drain cleaners can affect healthy bacteria activity & impact the ability to properly treat wastewater.
- 4. Toilet Cleaners**
Most products contain harsh cleansers that can cause long term problems with continual use.
- 5. Spray Shower Cleaners**
The sanitizing & emulsifying features of these products are very harmful to septic tanks.
- 6. Degreasers**
Degreasers contain dangerous carcinogens that flow through your septic tank into the soil.
- 7. Quaternary Ammonia**
Known as 'quats', these complex organic salt compounds are found in many products like disinfectants surfactants & fabric softeners
- 8. Prescription + OTC Drugs**
Never flush drugs & antibiotics down the drain.- they can kill healthy microbes in the system & cause increased maintenance
- 9. Antibacterial Products**
These chemical kill bacteria & microbes but are NO MORE effective at deactivating viruses than any other soap or detergent
- 10. Powdered Detergents**
Dry detergents may have fillers, sealants, or extenders that can clog your dispersal field
- 11. Surfactants**
Found in almost every detergent, soap & cleanser, surfactants lead to faster solids buildup & the degradation of soil
- 12. Construction Debris**
Paint, chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides & antifreeze can stress or destroy the biological treatment in your system



HISTORY OF THE LANDING:

CREATING COMMUNITY ON RAVEN LAKE

By Mike Wlodek

The Landing is the gateway to life on Raven Lake for so many people.

The Landing has provided so many people over the years the ability to overcome the challenges of getting to, and enjoying, the rustic and remote wilderness getaways.

Over the years, a deep sense of community has been created at The Landing as people with common interests and challenges cross paths coming and going to and from their happy place on Raven Lake.

The first people to ever use The Landing would undoubtedly have been the Indigenous Peoples.

In 1850, the Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe) of the Upper Great Lakes signed the Robinson-Huron (Treaty 61) which provided the Province of Canada access to the lands for settlement and mineral extraction on the north shores of Lake Huron in exchange for, amongst other things, hunting and fishing rights.

In 1859, as part of the “Colonization Roads” initiative, the Bobcaygeon Road was completed to Dorset, roughly following the Muskoka / Haliburton County line.

It crossed Raven Lake at Kirkwood Island, which, at the time divided Five Mile Bay to the west and Eagle Lake to the east. While archaeological evidence was recently (1986) discovered upstream from the dam (the entrance to the Back Bay), at the Sandy Beach, and the western entrance to Mona Bay, it is almost certain that Indigenous Peoples would have also been active at The Landing, not because there was road or trail access to the lake, but, because it would have been along an excellent trading route between the Black River system and the expansive Lake of Bays.

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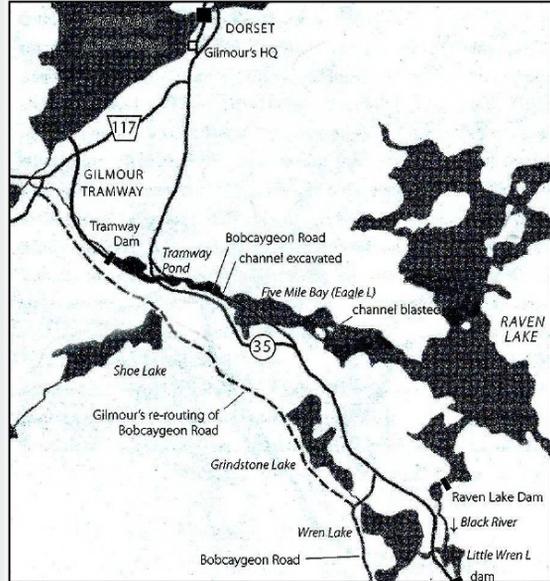
In 1892, The Gilmour Lumber Company built a tramway to lift logs up from Lake of Bays and float them down the Black River onward to Trenton. To make that all happen, they built the original wood dam above Little Wren Lake which raised the water levels by 2 meters. This made Five Mile Lake, Eagle Lake and Raven Lake one body of water. That rise in the water level moved the shoreline in the area where The Landing is 65m to the west where it remains today.

It also flooded the Bobcaygeon Road. The Gilmour Lumber Company was required to re-route the road around the perimeter of Five Mile Bay crossing the Tramway at the location of The Landing.

Evidence of the original water level can be seen from the shoreline survey done for the MNRF to define the water body that we have leased for the new dock system at The Landing. The survey shows the original road access line some 65m out into the water.



2 The 2021 Survey showing the original waterline of Five Mile Bay of Eagle Lake at The Landing



1 The Gilmour Tramway from Lake of Bays to Five Mile Bay

This would have been where the re-routed Bobcaygeon Road passed next to the swampy shores of the newly created Raven Lake. To prevent the waters of Five Mile Bay from escaping through the cut at the height of land to the Lake of Bays side, a stone and earth dyke was constructed ... this can be seen just west of The Landing.

The location of The Landing would have provided an excellent access point to the lake for equipment and personnel.

Starting in the 1920's, recreational activities began on the lake when local resident, Angus Mackay set up a fishing cabin on Cunningham Island now known as RavensNest Island which is across from the

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Sandy Beach. In 1930, the original Bobcaygeon Road was replaced by a more streamlined Highway 35 which improved access to The Landing at Raven Lake.

Kirkwood Island became home to seasonal residences in the 1940's. In his Retrospective, Jim Adams recalls attending Mel Blake's Boys Camp on Raven Lake at the age of 12 in 1941.

In his memoir, he recalls "One of the three row boats was a wooden one that the Rangers left at The Landing for their use. The other two belonged to the Kirkwoods and Mel Blake. Mel's was in fact made of tin, long before the aluminum ones of today, which people incorrectly refer to as "tin boats".

Pretty much everything these early settlers brought to the lake to build, and live at, their cabins and cottages came via The Landing.

More formally, The Landing was established by the Department of Lands & Forests (now Ministry of Natural Resources) when the original Crown lots were sold in 5-mile Bay by the Department in about 1948.

We know that Peter Scott bought Blueberry Island in those early years

as well as a number of other cottagers who first came to the lake. By 1955, Ronnie Orbell had purchased the property next to the Sandy Beach and became the 25th cottage on the lake. In these early days, it was prudent to arrive at The Landing from the city with a chainsaw in hand so that you could cut out your own parking spot.

The first full time residents of Mona Bay were John Fuller and his wife. Their daughter, Margaret was partnered with one John Gusser, who, in the early 60's, arrived at The Landing only to find his car "blocked up on timbers and missing all four tires". In fact, all of the cars at The Landing were in the same condition that day. Many of the original cottages on the lake were built during the expansion in the 60's and 70's.

If Gusser didn't build your cottage, then all of the materials had to be brought over from The Landing. If you were going to move up from the Tent or Tabin that you had, you'd build an outhouse first. That wood would easily fit into an aluminum boat. When you took the big plunge and wanted a cottage, you'd order a Nippissing Cottage Package from Cashway. Sometime later, a delivery truck

Continued on next page.

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3 Loading up in the big, new boat at the Raven Lake Landings Public Docks

would arrive at The Landing with the windows, door and all the required 2x4's all bundled together. They'd back the truck up to the shore at The Landing and dump the load in the water and you'd tow it to your property. Public docks were built by the township(s) in the early 60's which allowed larger boats to be put into the lake. These boats represented a significant investment and were trailered up each weekend.

A significant expansion took place at The Landing when, in 1964, Don Croft and Bill Yates started the first Raven Lake Marina having secured a lease of the land by a government tender. They had a small store, repaired boats, ran a water taxi service, sold gas under the Esso brand, as well as limited groceries, ice, milk, ice cream, and newspapers.

It was at this same time that

electricity first arrived at the lake. They built floating docks for sale (including delivery) to the cottagers.

The marina was closed in 1967 because of a dispute between the Department of Lands and Forest and the Department of Highways over which department was responsible for the leased land and what would be done about environmental concerns about its operation. The storefront building was towed across the bay to the Bollo's lot (number 163) which is the first cottage immediately to the south of The Landing. Bollo also took a shot at a Marina which ended one spring when they discovered that all the boats that they had stored for cottagers were stolen sometime during the winter.



The first "stick dock" was installed at The Landing in the 70's. This allowed cottagers to leave their larger boats at The Landing during the week while they were back in the city.

Continued from previous page.

According to Geoff Gooderham, prior the advent of land-line telephones, cell phones or even a payphone at The Landing. When you arrived at The Landing from the city you waited for your ride to arrive at the time you'd prearranged, probably several days or a week before. There were a couple of people in Five Mile Bay that had a system to communicate by honking their car horn.

The luxury of a payphone at The Landing was only installed in the early sixties, but it didn't help with communication from The Landing to the cottages because land lines were not installed until the early nineties.



The payphone at The Landing meant you could drive by boat from your cottage and make a call to the city. It was particularly important in case of medical or other emergencies. Before that one would drive to Clayton's store in Dorset and ask to use their telephone.

The safety of Raven Lakers was improved by the installation of the phone booth. This was a huge advance; one could boat to The Landing and then phone out to the rest of the world for ambulance, fire, help, or family!

But the payphone didn't come easily.

It took the influence of the vice-president of Bell Canada, the father of one of our founding cottagers, Bill Rankin (Geoff Gooderham's step-father) to intervene and set the installation as a safety priority!

Then came the days when CB radios were popular amongst car owners. Several cottagers had CB radios in their car and at the cottage. The challenge was that the strength of a CB radio could not send the signal from the landing to most of the cottages on the lake.

That's where Dot Roper, "The Raven", came in. She was the center of all conversation on the lake much like the old telephone



In 1986, when the dam was rebuilt and the lake drained, the stick docks and public docks weren't useable and there was a return to more traditional modes of transport.

Continued from previous page.

operator who actually connected your calls. She would relay a message sent to her from The Landing, rebroadcasting it down the lake hopefully to the waiting ears of the recipient at your cottage.

Dot became the hub of all communication on Raven Lake. With the advent of cell phones land lines and phone booths became redundant. It's a bit sad. The phone booth and the chatter on the CB were concrete examples of how we all depended on and supported each other when help was needed.

In 1976, Ron Brown recalls overnighing on Campers Island (the Island just north of RavensNest that has the No Camping Sign!) and saw that a cottage (soon to be named Boogie Hill) was for sale and he made his way to The Landing to call to tell family. The decision to purchase the property was made in that Bell Telephone booth at The Landing. The Phone Booth would have served as a collective phone for all cottagers until the first land lines to cottagers were installed in April of 1992. As Raven Lake became more accessible for cottagers, some residents decided to organize under the name "Raven Lake Property Owners" to help address issues of importance to the owners. While it was probably formed in the mid 50's, the earliest recorded written

minutes are from a meeting held in 1969. In the 1970s, the association worked on enlarging The Landing parking space, and improving docking facilities and lighting. To keep cottagers aware of what was happening on the lake, in addition to the newsletter, a notice board was built at The Landing in the 1980's.

All of the activity at The Landing drew the attention of ne'er do wells. Imagine when, in the early 70's, all of the aluminum boats that were parked on the shoreline at The Landing were stolen for their scrap value. You have to wonder who the person was who happened to have trailered their boat up that Friday night only to become the lakes first taxi, helping others get to their cottages to retrieve their back-up boat. Or later in the 70's, when a group came to The Landing with a tow truck, chain and hooks, and concrete blocks only to leave every car at The Landing without wheels and tires.



In October 2007, a working group from the MNR, Algonquin Highlands, Lake of Bays and the RLCA carried out a major clean-up operation at The Landing.

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Or the time before cars had hood releases inside the car, when all the car batteries mysteriously disappeared. Who was it that figured out how to get to town for wheels, tires and batteries – and then help everyone else do the same so that they could get home for work on the Monday?

Helping one another out at The Landing became the norm. John MacDermid recalls that, when you'd arrive at The Landing, it's likely that others were arriving at the same time, bringing things that needed more people to maneuver into, and out of their boats. Everyone helped everyone else.

This is why today, you can confidently go to the Timber Mart and buy a sliding door for your cottage, knowing full well that, if you just wait an hour or so, someone will be along to help you out. Once you helped someone out at The Landing, you now had a new friend on the lake.

Everyone knew what each other's car and boat looked like, so you knew when they were up so that you could pop by their cottage for a visit. Teenagers caught onto this way of identifying people. If your daughter came up with a group of girlfriends for the weekend, you can be sure the

teenage boys on the lake would turn up at your dock on Saturday offering waterskiing lessons!

Raven Lake is a unique, friendly and helpful community. This is due, in large part, to interactions at The Landing over the years.

It's this sense of community that has made it possible to evolve the access to the lake from canoes and aluminum row boats on the shoreline, to the new dock system that will be in the water for spring of 2022.

Acknowledgements

This article was made possible by the stories of John MacDermid, Patricia Smith, Ron Brown, Heather Orbell-Brown as well as: Hilda MacDermid's book "MacDermid's at Raven Lake"; Carol Kanitz book "Raven Lake – From Logging to Leisure"; Jim Adams article "A Retrospective" from the Raven Lake Cottage Association Newsletter in the Spring 2012; the many contributors to "A Dynamic Plan for Raven Lake", August 2006 (c 2007 Raven Lake Cottagers' Association); the article "The Gilmour Tramway" from the Kinmount Gazette in October 2011; and, Geoff Gooderham's email on early communications on Raven Lake.





INTERNET

AT THE COTTAGE

By Sean Hungerford

The cottage used to be a place to go and unplug from the world, a time to kick back and relax by the lake or by the fire, talking to family and friends, swimming, reading a book or playing board games.

While these are still popular activities at the cottage, our digital lives have also followed us to the lake. While I'm sure we all try to minimize the time we spend on our computers, tablets and phones while at Raven, there are also times where we need to be online for work, school or RLCA meetings ;-).

Raven being a smaller lake has varying degrees of connectivity depending on where your cottage is located.

Here are few of the internet options in use by Raven Lakers' today.



Cellular Phone + Mobile Hubs / Hotspots

Bell, Rogers and Telus. This is the simplest option for connecting to the internet, most of us already have cellular phones with data plans, and most modern phones offer the feature of enabling a hotspot which turns your phone into a wi-fi router.

Be sure to check how much data you have available as any devices you connect to your phone will also be using your monthly data allocation and streaming a movie or 2 will quickly consume your data.

Wifi Data Sticks / Hubs

A variation of a cell hotspot is a dedicated wi-fi device with a connection to a cellular network. Bell, Rogers and Telus offer services with a dedicated hub or hotspot.

The benefit to this approach over a cell phone hotspot is that the hub or hotspot device typically have more powerful antennas for cellular signals and wi-fi signals.

These devices also usually have their own data plan, so you are not using up your mobile phone data. A draw back to these services is often the price.

They use the same frequencies to connect to the cell towers as mobile phones, so congestion and speed degradation can become an issue when it's busy at the lake.

Continued on next page.



INTERNET

AT THE COTTAGE

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Cellular Boosters

Depending on where your cottage is located and how close you are to the cell tower on highway 35 or on Kawagama you may need to also use a Cellular Booster. A cell booster acts as a relay and amplifier to help your phone or hub/hotspot to get a stronger signal with the cell tower it is connected to. There are lots of options online to purchase cell boosters, they range from small coverage areas intended to boost the signal to a single device to large coverage areas boosting the signal for your whole cottage.

Dedicated LTE Internet Services

These services also use a signal from a cellular tower; however, they benefit from dedicated frequencies which are separate from those used by cell phones and hubs/hotspots.

Speed is generally advertised at 25Mbps, and is generally reliable, however during peak season, I have heard of issues with slowdowns due to congestion from usage.

I know many cottagers in 5-Mile Bay have been able to have the Bell Wireless Home Internet installed at their cottages.

Generally, you need to be able to see the tower on highway 35, and a technician must come to your property to check for the necessary signal strength and complete the installation.

People have had the best luck getting this service installed by calling the Bell store in Huntsville directly vs the Bell 1-800 general number.

Rogers offers a competing service to Bell's Wireless Home Internet; Rogers also calls their service Wireless Home Internet. I know of at least 1 cottager in 5-Mile Bay using the Rogers service.

Xplornet LTE Fixed Wireless Internet is another competing service in this space. They use a different cellular tower location, and do have some coverage on Raven Lake, however I have not heard of anyone on the lake using this service.

Satellite Internet Service

A popular option for remote internet.

The benefit is that they don't rely on a cellular tower and they can work in more remote locations, but there are some limitations.

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INTERNET AT THE COTTAGE

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You must have line of sight from your property to the satellite (tree cover / obstructions become an issue), and traditional satellite internet services struggle with long round trip times (request from your computer to the satellite, back to earth, out to the internet, back to the satellite, back to your computer). This can cause issues with online activities like video conferencing where the long travel times delay causes your audio and video streams to get out of sync with the meeting.

Xplornet offers a traditional satellite service that I know is being used by several cottages in the main body of the lake.

Xplornet requires line of site to the south, they're speeds are limited to 10Mbps or 25Mbps depending on what satellite you can connect to.

From personal experience on the 10Mbps service, speed

varies drastically depending on weather conditions and service congestion (especially during the summer).

Starlink is a new player in the satellite internet space. The Starlink uses low orbiting satellites for their network which reduces the latency time over traditional satellite providers (meaning voice and video conferences will perform better).

Starlink is advertising speeds of 100-200Mbps, and offer their service based on availability by area and a first come first serve basis. I know many fellow Raven Lakers' who have already signed up for Starlink and are on the waiting list for when the service becomes available on Raven.

I hope this summary is helpful for anyone looking at adding an internet connection to their cottage. There are probably other providers out there, but I have tried to cover off the ones I know are currently being used on Raven.

- Sean



FIRE DANGER RATINGS

LOW

Fire must be under constant supervision and control from time of lighting until it is totally extinguished

Only environmentally friendly products may be burned

Fires may start easily and spread quickly but there will be minimal involvement of deeper forest fuel layers or larger forest fuels

Continued on next page.





BURNING BANS

The [Outdoor Burning By-law](#) and its [amendment](#) regulate outdoor burning.

The by-law also allows the Fire Department to place a ban on outdoor fires and fireworks based on environmental conditions.

In general, no person shall be allowed to have open air burning between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. between the months of April and October in each year, except as permitted under Parts 3 and 4 of the by-law.

Part 3 speaks to Barbeques and Fire Department education/training, and Part 4 speaks to Permissions and Approvals to conduct open air burning.

Permits to conduct open air burning will be required:

- if the pile is greater than by-law requirements, and;
- if the burning will occur during prohibited times.

FOREST FIRE DANGER RATING

This chart to the right is the Forest Fire Danger Rating for Restricted Fire Zone RFZ 27 (District of Muskoka). The Muskoka Fire Season runs April 1st to October 31st each year. The rating is verified daily and updated whenever the rating changes.

The Muskoka Fire Danger Rating is determined using the Fire Weather Index (FWI), an internationally used method for determining the risk of fires in open air.

It uses factors such as the relative humidity, temperature, previous 24-hour rain amount, wind directions and wind speed in combination with the forest fuel type and loads to determine the risk of the forest to certain fire types. From this calculation the Forest Fire Danger Rating is made in consultation with the Fire Chiefs of the six area Municipalities and the Ministry of Natural Resources



FIRE DANGER RATINGS

Continued from previous page

MODERATE

Fire must be under constant supervision and control from time of lighting until it is totally extinguished

Forest fuels are drying and there is an increased risk of surface fires starting

Carry out any forest activities with caution

HIGH

Extreme caution must be taken with all open flames

Forest fuels are very dry and the fire risk is serious

New fires may start easily, burn vigorously, and challenge fire suppression efforts

Extreme caution must be used in any forest activities

EXTREME

Total Fire Ban

No burning, fireworks, or campfires are permitted

Extremely dry forest fuels; the fire risk is very serious.

New fires will start easily, spread rapidly, and challenge fire suppression.

ATTENTION STARGAZERS



By Paul Séguin

Many of us spend clear evenings on Raven Lake admiring the night sky from our docks and decks and boats.

And some of us probably have telescopes and binoculars that we pull out once in a while. Constellations, meteor displays, the moon, and planets – they all call us to look up.

Would anyone be interested in sharing information, peeks through telescopes, their interest and curiosity with others on the lake?

I'm a beginner at this but would be willing to coordinate a group of likeminded amateurs for some exploration of the universe!

Some topics of interest include: sharing knowledge and best practices, finding good locations around the lake neighbourhood to view the sky, setting up a group stargazing event, learning about telescopes, making new friends.

If anyone has any astronomy background that would be great!

If interested, please contact me, Paul Séguin
paul.seguin@rogers.com



LIGHT POLLUTION



Through the Docktalk program, FOCA encourages landowners to help stop light pollution in night skies.

BENEFITS

More stars!

On a moonless night, you should be able to see 2,500 to 3,500 stars! People in cities generally see less than 100 stars on a 'good' night.

Fewer lights reduces glare (especially troublesome when reflecting off of water), increasing boaters' ability to see navigation lights, buoys, docks, and other boats.

Fixtures that allow light to flow sideways are wasting energy – up to 30%!

Changing light patterns can disrupt an ecosystem's' balance – fish, moths, frogs, songbirds, salamanders, and their navigation, predator-prey relationships, foraging, and mating can all be impacted.

HOW AN YOU HELP?

Talk about light pollution.

Only use lights when necessary.

Choose glare-free lights and shielded lights (lights that direct light down, not sideways).

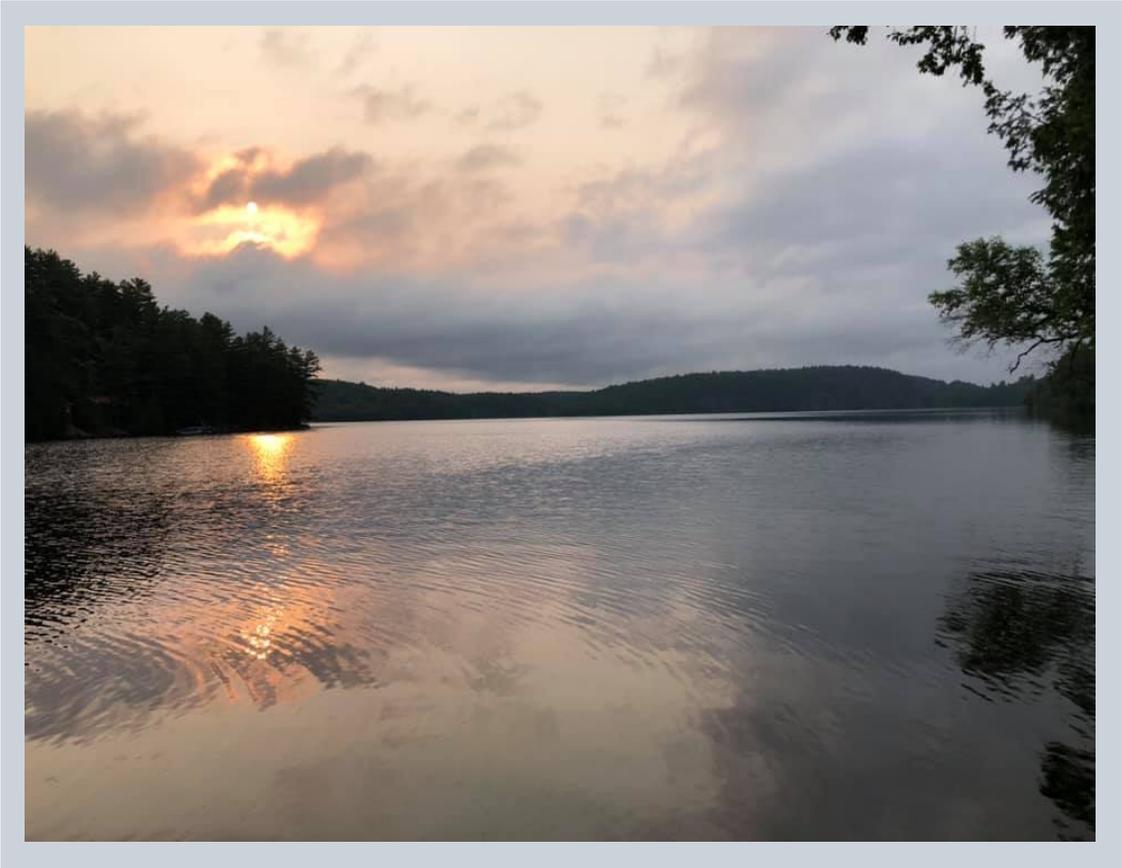
Avoid using one big, bright light to illuminate a large area.

Aim lights down and away from water.

Install lower wattage bulbs.

Use dimmers and timers.

Online Resources:
foca.on.ca
darksky.org



HERE'S TO ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL YEAR ON RAVEN LAKE.

Questions about the RLCA?
Email info@rlda.ca.