



PALMERSTON POST

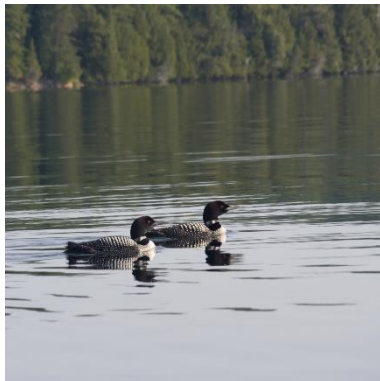
SPRING 2022 VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

We sincerely hope that everyone has come through the recent storm unharmed and without too much property damage. Unprecedented seems to be the catch phrase of all the recent events. We are not alone in the devastating destruction. Reports from many lakes in North Frontenac detail similar stories. It has been wonderful to hear of so many examples of neighbour helping neighbour as we all struggle to get back to some level of normalcy.

Annual General Meeting

Our fifth Annual General Meeting will be held at the Ompah Community Centre on Saturday July 23. With the worst of the pandemic hopefully behind us, we will be holding an in-person meeting but also will make it available virtually for those who are not at their cottage on that day. We are hoping for a great turn out this year! Minutes of last year's AGM and committee reports can be found on our website at <https://palmerstonlakeassociation.com>

Palmerston Lake Loon Survey – Observers Needed!



Once again, volunteers are needed to observe and report on common loons seen on Palmerston Lake. This is a free, covid-safe activity for individuals or families who enjoy nature, organized by the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (CLLS) of Birds Canada (<https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/canadian-lakes-loon-survey/>) CLLS participants have monitored Common Loon chick hatch and survival since 1981, revealing a disturbing decline in loon chick production in Canada.

Our lake is too large for one person to monitor alone, but a group of volunteers responsible for different sections could cover off the whole area for a comprehensive picture of loon abundance and breeding success on Palmerston Lake. A few volunteers signed up last year but there are still gaps in coverage. Survey participants would need to dedicate at least three days, visiting their section of the lake once in June (to see if loon pairs are on territory), once in July (to see if

chicks hatch), and once in August (to see if chicks survive long enough to fledge). Ideally a pair of binoculars would be on hand dockside and when out boating to keep an eye on the loons from a respectful distance.

If you are interested in monitoring a section of the lake, please get in touch with Mary Rothfels (mary.rothfels@gmail.com), a Palmerston cottager and loon observer for about 30 years. She will provide the necessary instructions and take responsibility for online reporting of your observations. This is an extremely well-run national survey that will add a new dimension to your cottage experience and inspire youth to value and conserve wildlife.

Short Term Rentals

As a result of discussions with the North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance (NFLAA) regarding issues with commercial short-term cottage rentals, the Township sent Short Term Rental Owners Guidelines out with the latest property tax bills. The guidelines were distributed after discussions between NFLAA and the Township regarding noise and other complaints at some lakes arising from short term commercial rentals such as Airbnb. The Guidelines include procedures for making a Confidential Complaint. The Township will monitor complaints to determine if a Short-Term Rental By Law is warranted. The NFLAA strongly recommends to all members to use the **Confidential Complaint policy** so that the Township can officially track these issues and use that information to address individual problems and isolate areas of concern. Procedures for filing a confidential complaint can be found at the following link. [Report an Issue - Township of North Frontenac](#) The form can be found at <https://northfrontenac.formbuilder.ca/Report-a-Confidential-Complaint>

Septic System Re- Inspections

The NFLAA has also been in discussions with the Township regarding septic re-inspections. The NFLAA is recommending mandatory septic system re-inspections which the Palmerston Lake Association supports. Township Council has so far decided to continue with the voluntary reinspection program (which has not resulted in very many systems being tested) and is studying the need to make them mandatory. The NFLAA intends to make septic re-inspections an election issue. The next municipal election is October 24 and we are asked to encourage all members to get on the voters list. All cottage property owners can vote both at home and at the cottage in Ontario municipal elections. Voting is available on-line, by mail or in person. The NFLAA will be questioning candidates for their positions on various items of concern including Short-term Rentals and Septic Re-Inspections.

Eurasian Water Milfoil Workshop

There will be an in person and virtual workshop at the Ompah Community Centre on Saturday June 25. Our Lake Steward is presenting this workshop in response to the very real threat this invasive species has to the enjoyment of our lake. Look for the invitation to this event coming to your inbox soon and please plan on attending.



MVCA Water Monitoring

We have been advised that the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority will not be conducting any water monitoring tests this year as they are too busy conducting Environmental Assessments for a great number of development proposals. This is a terrible set back and will have a very negative impact on the gathering of necessary information to monitor the quality of the water in our lakes. If you would like to help with water quality testing, please contact our Lake Steward, John Viets.

Membership Drive

The Membership Committee is working on plans to significantly increase our membership this year. We have learned that the Township Council will not necessarily consider our views on important issues unless we represent more than 50% of the property owners on the lake. We have a long way to go before we get there, but we are encouraged that we maintained our membership numbers throughout the pandemic. If you would like to help, please contact our Membership Committee Chair, Robbie Viets. In the meantime, we can all do our part by encouraging our neighbours to join.

Cottage Fire Safety

The [Ontario Fire Marshal](#) reminds everyone: if you didn't **change the batteries** in smoke (and carbon monoxide) detectors when we changed to Daylight Savings Time **IT IS TIME NOW!** Make this an essential part of your annual [cottage opening](#) routine.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual General Meeting

OMPAH COMMUNITY CENTRE

(in person and virtual)

Saturday July 23 9:00 am -noon