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Message from the President...

I was recently driving along Vansickle. The branches of the trees were enrobed in heavy snow and, as the sun glittered on them, I couldn't help but think how fortunate I am to live in this beautiful, quite magical place. Of course, I may not feel quite so bucolic about it all when I'm shovelling after a heavy snowfall in February. Yet, I love the changes of seasons here at Cordova Lake. One seems so much more connected with them here than one might in the city.

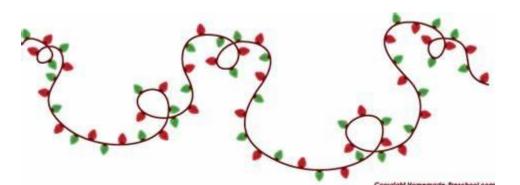
This has been quite the most unexpected year of my life. Whilst living primarily in isolation, I have had many opportunities to do the things that I have long wanted time to do. I am blessed to be retired and able to live here full time. Distractions have been kept to a minimum enabling me to read more, knit baby hats for the hospital, quilt and chat on the phone with friends. All these are things which oftentimes have taken a back seat to running around and taking care of 'things.' Of course, there have also been downsides, most particularly, not seeing family and friends, not hugging my 88 year old mum, and not directing my church choir as singing is not allowed in a pandemic.

'Pandemic' was chosen by Merriam-Webster as the word of the year; one which now rolls trippingly off our tongues along with many others. Rarely has a word moved from the jargon of medical professionals to the general public's everyday vocabulary as quickly as 'coronavirus'. Though not a new word, 'coronavirus' rocketed from obscurity to ubiquity in a span of a few weeks. The world seems to be changing at an alarming pace and it can be challenging to keep up with it all.

We are approaching the time when we all think of peace on earth and the intent of goodwill to all people. Yet this year, one wonders where the peace may be. Turn on the news and watch demonstrations of anti-vaxxers, anti-maskers and anti-democracy protests! It can be easy to feel overwhelmed by the negativity of it all, until one realizes that we can all do that which has always been in our power. Treat people as we would want to be treated.; respect that other people's ideas don't have to be the same as our own, no matter how misguided we might believe they are, and live peaceably with our neighbours. We don't have to buy in to ugliness and strife.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Festive Kwanzaa. Whether you celebrate with friends and family in your bubble or by yourself, may the season bring you a spirit of peace and may you find hope and joy in anticipating all the blessings of 2021.

Melanie



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Mystery Solved! The Year Deer Lake Became Cordoya Lake!

Thank-you Nancy Grozelle for solving the mystery!

What Year Did Deer Lake Become Cordova Lake?

For all of you who are curious about the year that Deer Lake was renamed Cordova Lake, I contacted The Ontario Names Board to find out more. They sent me the attached index card record that shows it was renamed on December 30, 1943.

I was surprised to see that the name was changed so long ago, so I checked the Ministry of Transportation's Official Road Maps to see if they documented the change. I was also surprised by what I found...

Cordova Lake is not on the Official Road Map until 1972! I have attached a snapshot of the map from 1971 and 1972.

I have also attached a snapshot of the original Township Plan for Belmont as surveyed in 1851.

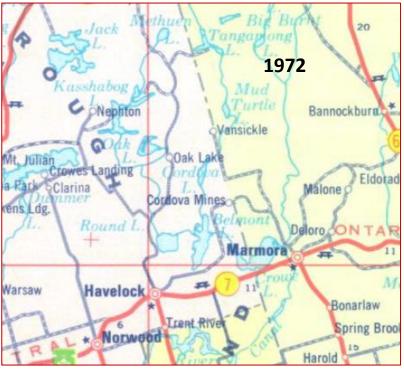
Mystery Solved!

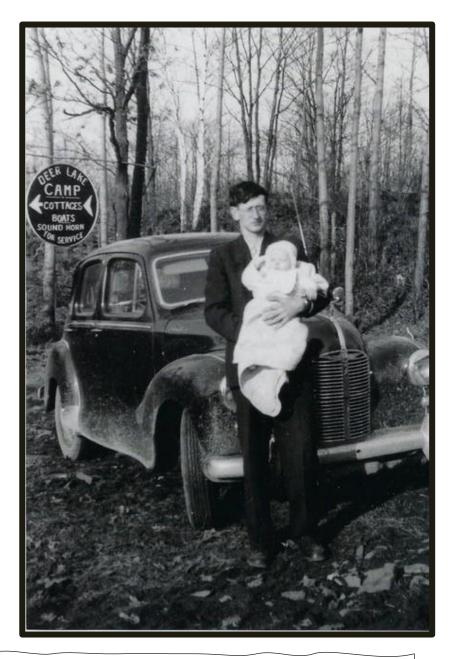
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Maps of Deer Lake and Cordova Lake!









Thank You Betty Maker for sharing this photo with us!

The Gentleman in this photo is Verdon Ellis and the baby is Helen Ellis.

Please keep sharing your Cordova history with us, we love sharing your stories!

Happy Holidays from

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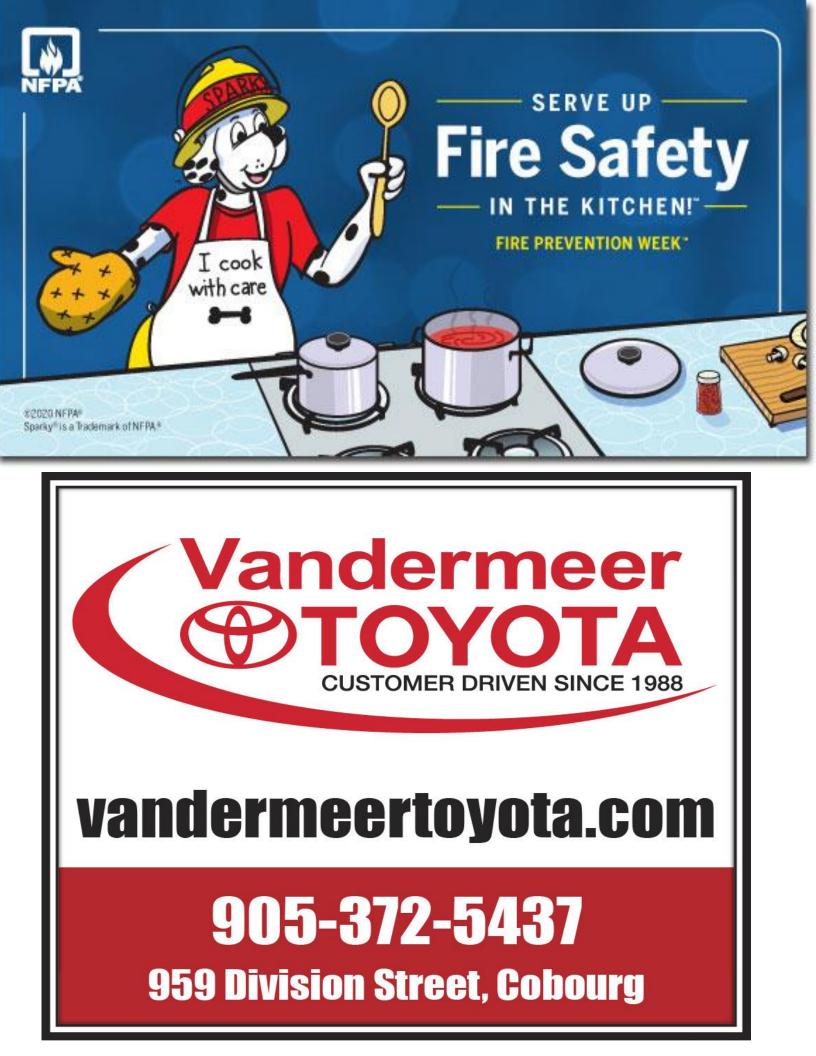
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ODONE



Hello Cordova Lake Cottagers and Home Owners. Allyson Gubb and Janet Gammon here!

Hope those of you who are able to enjoy your lake addresses will continue to do so over the winter. And for those who can't, spring is only a few short months away!

Fun Fact: The "Cordova Lake Cooks" cookbook is going to be 17 years old in July 2021! Some of you reading this were not even Cordova Lake cottagers in the summer of 2004.

We're thinking that the time is right for a second edition to be published.

Everyone must have at least one favourite COVID recipe that they've added to their menu rotation. In the spring we'll be asking you for that recipe with the goal to have a new Cordova Lake Cookbook published and ready for purchase next summer. Net proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will be donated to the CLCA. Given that the Regatta could not be held in 2020, and it's unclear as to whether it will be held in 2021, the revenue generated from the Cookbook sales will benefit us all by helping to keep our lake community running smoothly.

To help get you in the spirit of holiday cooking please see Allyson's favourite <u>Butternut</u> <u>Squash Gratin</u> recipe below. Guaranteed to make everyone a squash lover!!

"This is not the year to get everything you want. This is the year to appreciate everything you have." (a quote posted by Erin Davis)

Wishing everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday season! Allyson and Janet

Butternut Squash Gratin

Slightly sweet golden squash is topped with a savory herbed cheese-breadcrumb topping.

- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 (2 1/2 pound) butternut squash peeled, seeded, and cut into 3/4-inch chunks
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 4 ounces shredded Gruyere cheese
- 4 ounces shredded extra-sharp Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup dry bread crumbs

1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.

Step 1 (can be done 1 day prior then do step 2 the day it's being served)

Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Stir in the onions and garlic; cook until the onions soften and turn golden brown, about 10 minutes. Add the butternut squash and brown sugar. Continue cooking and stirring until the butternut squash begins to brown on the edges, but is still somewhat firm in the center, about 10 minutes more. Scrape the squash into the prepared baking dish, and pour in the chicken broth. Wrap tightly with aluminum foil.

Step 2

Bake in the preheated oven until the liquid has been absorbed and the squash is tender, 45 to 50 minutes. Toss together the Gruyere cheese, Cheddar cheese, bread crumbs, thyme, and rosemary in a bowl until evenly combined. Remove the foil from the baking dish, and sprinkle the squash evenly with the cheese mixture. Sprinkle the Parmesan cheese on top. Return to the oven, and bake uncovered for 15 min.







Steal this winter grilling trick

By David Zimmer



Most cottagers know the drill for winter grilling. Is the barbecue out of the wind but away from eaves and combustibles? Check. Extra charcoal or propane? Check. Grill preheated for 20 minutes? Check. Headlamp? Gloves? Hat? Check.

Five essential winter grilling hacks

But what about the food that gets stone cold on the way from the deck to the kitchen? A big roast will keep its heat, but smaller cuts, the kind that lend themselves to quick winter cooks, suffer in cold weather. Take a page from <u>restaurant service</u>, where hot food is delivered to hot plates for the trip to your table.

How to make winter grilling a little more comfortable

Preheat a Dutch oven or a heavy casserole dish in a 200°F oven. When the vittles on the grill are just barely done, skip inside, grab some oven mitts, and transfer the food to the Dutch oven. Then stroll back indoors, and serve hot. If you decide to hold the food in your warming chamber, crack the lid to prevent steaming. One caveat: if your dinner requires a specific internal temperature (seared tuna, medium-rare steak), remember that the hot pot will cause some carry-over cooking. So pull delicate stuff off the grill a few degrees shy of your desired doneness.



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'TIS THE SEASON TO BE FIRE SAFE! Prevent These Leading Causes Of Fire During the Holidays.



▲ Cooking is the leading cause of fires during the holidays. Always stay in the kitchen while cooking!



 Heating equipment is the second leading cause of fires during the holidays. Heating systems and chimnevs should be inspected and cleaned annually by a qualified service technician.

 Smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires during the holidays. Butt-out cigarettes in large, deep ashtravs.





XPLORNET

Alcohol is a factor in approximately one in five fatal fires during the holidays. Drink responsibly during the holiday season.



Install **smoke** and carbon monoxide alarms in your



Practice a home fire escape plan so everyone in your home

Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Fire and Emergency Services

Office of the Fire Marshal and **Emergency Management** ontario.ca/firemarshal

How to shovel snow safely

By Cottage Life



Physiotherapists say that shoveling snow requires as much energy as running 15 kilometres per hour. Although 15 minutes of shoveling benefits a healthy heart, every year Canadians sustain injuries from repetitive twisting, improper lifting, or simply shoveling too much. It's a job made more difficult by the weather: cold air makes it harder to breathe, which adds some extra strain on the body, and cold tight muscles are more likely to strain. Take time to stretch and prepare with a simple warm up of marching on the spot and a few shoulder circles before tackling the snow.

The Canadian Physiotherapy Association offers the following tips for safer shoveling:

Choose the right shovel. The handle is long enough when you can slightly bend your knees, bend forward 10 degrees or less, and hold the shovel comfortably in your hands at the start of the stroke. Lighter plastic blades put less strain on your spine; smaller blades mean less chance of picking up a pile of snow that's too heavy. Ergonomic, curved-shaft shovels mean less bending.

Grip the shovel with your hands at least 12 inches apart to increase your leverage. Always keep one hand close to the base of the shovel to balance weight of the lift and lessen lower back strain. Lift the snow properly. Squat with your legs apart, knees bent, and back straight. Lift with your legs; do not bend at the waist. Scoop small amounts of snow into the shovel and walk to where you want to dump it; holding a shovel of snow with your arms outstretched puts too much weight on your spine. Spray your shovel with a lubricant or silicon spray so the snow does not cling.

Step in the direction of where you are throwing the snow to help prevent the lower back from twisting and "next-day back fatigue."

Tackle snow in two stages: skim off the top snow and remove the bottom layer. You're working too hard if you can't say a long sentence in one breath.

Take frequent breaks. Stand up and walk around periodically to extend the lower back. Place your hands on the back of your hips and bend backwards slightly for several seconds.

Dress well. Wear mittens (not gloves); wind-proof, water-resistant, multi-layered clothing to wick perspiration away; a scarf, hat and footwear with good tread.



Stay **Fire Safe** While Staying **Warm**

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires in Ontario. What **heating equipment** in my home can cause fires?



How do I keep myself and my loved ones safe?

- Ensure woodstoves, fireplaces and fireplace inserts are installed by a **qualified technician** according to **manufacturer's instructions**.
- Have your heating system, vents and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually by a **qualified service technician**.
- Ensure all outside heating vents are **not blocked**.
- Allow ashes from your woodstove or fireplace to cool before emptying them into a **metal container** with a tight-fitting lid. **Keep the container outside**.

Install **smoke** and **carbon monoxide alarms** on every storey of your home.

Test them every month.



• Always use a fire screen around the fireplace!

For more information contact your local fire department.

Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Fire and Emergency Services



Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management ontario.ca/firemarshal

Wild Profile: Meet the barred owl

By Jackie Davis



What does the barred owl say? "*Who cooks for you*?" Lots of bird-savvy cottagers can recognize the species' call; even though the owls are noisiest during the spring—lots of hoots, hisses, screams, barks, and cackles—you can hear this particular refrain throughout the year. And you probably will: barred owls are one of our loudest owls.

Weekly Hack: Birdsong cheat sheet

That said, they're also good listeners, especially in the winter, when they have to hone in on mice and vole prey sneaking beneath the snow. Barred owls have long ear "slits" that are bigger than their (big) eyes (see below for more on this). The slits are hidden by flaps of skin and feathers. Each slit is in a different position on the owl's head; this means that the bird can detect noise at two different angles at once. Plus, the owl can raise those skin flaps to deflect sound coming from behind, and use the ear feathers to direct sound into the ear. All in all, this makes the owl's round head function as a radar dish.

Barred owls need such powerful hearing because, while they can see well from far away—up to six times better than humans, even in the dark—they can't pinpoint objects up close. Their huge eyes are so massive that they can barely move them in their sockets. Humans can look up, down, and sideways, and have a view field of 180°. Barred owls? <u>**Only 110**°</u>. They are, however, able to turn their heads 270° (freaky-looking when they swivel their heads abruptly).

Can owls really rotate their heads 360 degrees? And other wildlife myths debunked

Though barred owls are able to locate prey underneath snow cover, an icy, crusty layer, or very deep powder, makes it hard for them to actually access their dinner. Because of these poor winter hunting conditions, barred owls will sometimes leave their more northern breeding ranges to fly to southern parts of Canada, in search of easier meals. Too bad they can't just order takeout like the rest of us.



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A BIG Thank-You!!!

We would like to thank Sandy Rice for all of her hard work organizing, and seeing through, the improvements made to the parking lot and access to the boat launch at the south end of our Cordova Lake. Thank you for taking the time to address all of our concerns and take into consideration the water access only cottagers at the south end. All of your efforts are very appreciated.

The Ilson and Cassidy Families



Cottage swap: a solution for COVID-19 border restrictions

By Allan Britnell

When COVID-19 locked two families out of their cross-border cottages, they came up with a creative solution



When American Andy Mullen realized that COVID-19 travel restrictions would prevent his family from visiting their Canadian cottage this past summer, he came up with an ingenious idea: see if he could find a Canadian family facing a similar predicament accessing their cottage in the U.S and do a cottage swap.

Cottage Q&A: Renting and liability

Mullen, an elementary school counselor in Valley Forge, Penn., had grown up summering along the New Jersey coastline. But when a friend invited him to visit their cottage in the Thousand Islands, about a 6-hour trek from home, it was an eye-opening experience.

"People around here have never heard of the Thousand Islands," says Mullen. "It's just magical. I fell in love with it immediately." So much so that the family bought a parcel of land on Stave Island on the Canadian side of the border, near Gananoque, and built a cottage on it.

"Our children have grown up going there," says Mullen, who feels the cottaging has made his children, now 15, 18, and 20, "more well-rounded people. If something breaks on the island, you have to figure it out."

Top reasons for renting out your cottage

The thought of missing out on the cottage experience this past summer was deflating until he had his epiphany. His initial sleuthing, which included cold-calling people from a list of Canadians who owned property on the U.S. side of the border that he got from one of the township offices, didn't pan out.

But then a friend posted his request on the **Murray Isle Facebook** page. Murray Isle lies a few kilometres almost due south of Stave Island, but on the other side of the invisible border. That's when Phil Murdock, a retiree who served 41 years in the Canadian Coast Guard, saw the message and reached out. The two chatted on the phone, shared photos, and eventually exchanged their detailed opening up and closing instructions so they could trade properties for the summer.

Photo courtesy of Google Maps

The two cottages were so close that, "From a high elevation we could actually see our island. It was quite painful," admits Mullen. That said, he and his family enjoyed the unique experience. "Our cottage is a 14-year-old Viceroy in a very private part of the island. Their cottage, called Goldie's, is from the 1880s and Murray Isle has a very strong-knit community feel. It was neat to have a new experience. It worked out really well."



Photo courtesy of Andy Mullen

Would they do it again next year if the two countries are still in lockdown? "We talked about it...but we didn't really want to jinx it," Mullen says, halfjokingly.

Do you think a cottage swap might be a way to spice up your holiday plans while cross-border travel is still off the table? There are a number of home exchange websites, including **Love Home Swap** and **Home Exchange**, that offer online tools for finding families to trade homes or cottages. Fees for accessing these networks start at about \$10 a month.





Welcome to Cordova Lake!!!

Welcome to all the new cottage owner's this year!

John M. Meloche and family joined our lake community this year! They purchased Island #11 and 13



If you are a new member and would like to be profiled in the next newsletter, please let Clare Matthews know!

CLCA Membership Drive

If you know anything about Clare Matthews, secretary of the CLCA, it's that she loves to walk! You've likely seen her marching along Vansickle and every one of the Fire Roads (including FR 18!). She knows every cottage on the lake, or thought she did...This Fall, in an effort to clean up her CLCA membership records, Clare took her membership lists with her along the roads to match up her records with the Fire Route numbers. There have been a lot of changes on the lake over the past few years, but Clare was still amazed at the number of cottages that were not recorded as belonging to the CLCA. She has no way of reaching out to new cottagers or even those who have been on the lake for a long time but have not joined our Association. If you have new neighbours or are aware of others who aren't members, please encourage them to reach out to Clare at <u>clareclca@xplornet.com</u>. \$20.00 is a good deal to belong to such an amazing community!

Next stop – snowshoeing or kayaking on the South End of the lake to check out the WAO addresses!







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