



AXE COTTAGE ASSOCIATION

Fall/Winter 2018





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Cordova Lake Cottage Association

It is such a joy to write this message to you on a gloriously sunny autumn day. It is days such as this that make one never want to live anywhere else. I have noted that many of our members must feel the same as they are moving to Cordova Lake full-time both as they continue to be employed and in their retirement. Quite a few other members have built their dream houses with retirement in mind in the near future.

Our association sent out a survey to you in July 2018. We were amazed to have so many people respond and we thank you for taking the time to let us know what is important to you, what's going well and where things might be improved.

We learned that communication and relationships amongst all stakeholders at the lake level, municipal level and provincial levels is important to our members. To that end, we are active members of the Havelock Belmont Methuen Lakes Association and of the Federation of Ontario Cottager's Association. In the last six months, both groups have worked diligently to provide you with information to enable you to vote municipally in a way that will make a difference for all waterfront property owners. Three all-candidates meetings were sponsored locally and many of you attended to listen to those wishing to be elected to office and to ask questions of them. In the past, we on the lakes, have often felt that we have 'drawn the short end of the stick' when it comes to what we receive for our tax dollars. It is to be hoped that the newly elected HBM Council now sees us as a vital part of their mandate, in addition to the Village of Havelock.

On the Civic Holiday weekend, Clare Matthews and Nancy Grozelle organized another wonderful regatta. They lead an army of volunteers who devoted much time and effort to ensure that we all enjoyed a fantastic day. My sincere appreciation to everyone who stepped forward to donate their time and to all of the cottagers and their guests who attended in droves. Special thanks are owed to Melissa Burns and Rich Smit who allowed us to use their beach for the day!

We continue to focus on regularly testing the lake water for E.coli so that we may all be confident that the lake is safe for swimming.

A site plan for the south end boat launch and adjacent parking areas is nearing completion. It is our hope that by next Spring we will have permission from MNRF to proceed with the improvements we wish to make to the area. We will be calling on the membership to help us with its implementation.

I know that some have already closed their cottages whilst to others the idea is anathema! Wherever you spend the fall and winter may I wish you well until we meet again in the spring.

Melanie





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FACT SHEET



ALGAE

Through the Docktalk program, FOCA encourages waterfront landowners to help control the growth of algae in lakes.

How do algae survive?

Algae make their food in the form of starches or oils by using the energy of sunlight and nutrients from the water. They grow in many forms. Some species are microscopic simple cells; others can grow as mass aggregates of cells or in strands. They can even resemble higher plants.

Are algae good for the Lake?

Algae are critical to the life of our lakes. They are the base of the food chain, convert nutrients to organic matter, and oxygenate the water. Fish production in lakes varies directly with the amount of algae the lake produces. If there were no algae there would be no fish. Virtually all aquatic animals are dependent (directly or indirectly) on algae.

Factors that Affect Algal Growth

There are a number of environmental factors that influence algal growth. The major factors that determine the type and amount of algae in your lake are:

- the amount of light that penetrates the water
- the concentration of nutrients in the water
- water temperature
- the physical removal of algae by sinking or flushing through an outflow
- grazing on the algae by microscopic animals and fish
- parasitism by bacteria and fungi
- competition from aquatic plants for nutrients and
- sunlight

Algal Blooms

Nutrient sources such as detergents, septic tank seepages, and fertilizer runoff from lawns and gardens feed the algae in a lake and can result in increased algal growth or a bloom. Blooms of algae can affect the appearance of a lake, result in unpleasant tastes or odours, reduce clarity, and colour the lake a vivid green, brown, or yellow. Filamentous and colonial algae can mass together and form scum or mats on the lake surface that can drift and clog water intakes, cause unsightly shorelines, foul beaches, ruin recreation, and provide habitat for bacteria. Peeling paint and staining on boats and docks are partially the result of algae growth. Some

species actually produce acids that may chemically corrode submersed metal pipes and concrete. Death and sickness to animals have been attributed to certain algae, mostly blue-green bloom-forming species.

Reduction in Oxygen Levels

Algae produce oxygen as a by-product of photosynthesis, but also take in oxygen for respiration. A lake that has a large population of algae can experience a great fluctuation in dissolved oxygen concentration during a 24-hour period. Extreme oxygen fluctuations stress fish and other wildlife in the lake. When algae die, the decay consumes oxygen in the water. When dissolved oxygen reaches

a critically low concentration, phosphorus is released from lake sediments and becomes available for algal growth—thus the cycle feeds itself and speeds up the degradation of the lake, or eutrophication.

Types of Algae

Several thousand species of algae live in Ontario's waters. Algae are extremely diverse in form, colour, habit, and habitat. They can live in water or on land. There are four general groups. The descriptions below relate to algae found in fresh water in Ontario:

Green Algae can be filamentous or free-floating. Filamentous greens (or attached algae) range from several millimeters to a metre in length. In many cases they develop into large colonies of floating or attached mats. They can cause odours in water and clog filters. Examples: Spirogyra, Mougeotia, and Cladophora. Free-floating green algae are important in the aquatic food chain and help to maintain oxygen levels. Examples: Chlorella, Pediastrum, and the desmids.

Diatoms are food for many aquatic microscopic animals. Diatoms have silicon cell walls that do not decompose. This is the group of algae most likely to clog filters. Some diatoms produce tastes and odours in the water. Examples: Asterionella, Fragilaria, and Cyclotella.

Flagellated Algae possess one or more flagella, whip-like 'tails' that act as propellers. These algae can sometimes produce strong tastes and odours in water supplies. For example, Synura can impart a cucumber odour to water even when present in low numbers. Examples: Dinobryon, Euglena, and Synura.

Blue-Green Algae, commonly known as pond scum, range in colour from olivegreen to red. Some forms are gela-tinous floating masses of various shapes. Sometimes, when a bloom of blue-green algae decomposes pigments are released, giving the water a bluish or pinkish colour. They have a pleasant grassy odour while healthy, but this may change to an unpleasant odour as they decompose.

How Can I Protect My Lake?

Try to maintain a natural shoreline to increase nutrient uptake by plants and reduce erosion and nutrients leaching into the lake.

- Use low-phosphorus detergents and soaps.Avoid fertilizers.
- · Keep shampoos and soaps out of the lake.
- Know how to maintain your septic system to keep it functioning properly. Have your septic system inspected and pumped every 3 to 5 years by a licensed contractor.
- Be familiar with your lake's healthy conditions and be able to recognize troublesome symptoms.
- Be a lake steward and join the Lake Partner program, contact FOCA for more information

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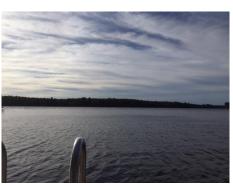


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Cordova Fun! Photos courtesy of Angela Lewis









Gage is enjoying his long weekend with Grandma and Pappas!



After the Storm!
Photo courtesy of Doris and
Murray Axford

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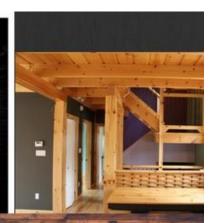


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FACT SHEET



SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Through the Docktalk program, FOCA encourages landowners to look after their septic systems.

WHY? Problems can arise with septic systems that have serious impacts,

including: Overload/leaking of sewage

A septic system is designed to treat a set volume of waste water. Every time water goes down the drain into your septic tank, the same amount of liquid leaves the tank and enters the leaching bed. If too much waste water enters the tank, from extra guests, heavy water use - too much waste is forced out, too soon.

Untreated waste water escapes, including solids that can clog up pipes and/or enter the leaching bed, as well.

Wiped out waste digesters

Sewage is broken down by millions of bacteria and enzymes in your septic tank and soil within the leaching bed. That bacteria is harmed or killed by (1) cleaning products that are antibacterial, non-biodegradable, chlorine-based and/or full of toxic materials; and (2) hazardous products like varnish, paint, pesticides, and gasoline.

Water quality affected, algal blooms erupt, and nuisance plants choke the lake

Septic systems were designed with public health in mind. They are designed to remove contaminants such as organic solids, bacteria, and viruses, but not to prevent the release of nutrients. Nitrogen and phosphorus released from septic systems can negatively impact water quality and cause algal blooms and increased growth of aquatic plants. Excess nitrogen can also pollute drinking water, endangering people.

Build up of solids

There's a lot that can't be digested by your septic system. Fats, grease, and oils don't break down, and can form a scum layer at the top of your septic tank. Paper products, coffee grounds, hair, tampons, and other common sewage items inhibit the work of bacteria and quickly fill tanks. Combined, they can clog the system significantly hampering your

septic's effectiveness.

Poisoning yourself

Hazardous products (paint, varnish, pesticides, gasoline, antifreeze) dumped down your drain, come out of the septic system just like they went in, but now they're in the ground and water with the potential to poison wells and lakes.

Contaminated drinking water and swimming areas

If your sewage is leaking, not getting cleaned, or building up, the end result could be contaminated water entering wells, ground water, lakes, streams, etc. Your health and the environment's health are at risk.

A septic system treats your waste water and sewage. Your household drains connect to a septic tank and a leaching bed. Both are buried beside your cottage. The leaching bed is made up of pipes (with holes) buried in gravel, surrounded by natural or imported soil.

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

HOW?

FOCA encourages landowners to learn the following septic slogans that will keep you on the right track to a healthy lake:

What goes in must come out

To allow waste water the time it needs to be treated in the tank, conserve water. Ensure the size of your system can handle the quantity of waste water you create. Many older septic systems may be grossly undersized.

Don't poison your poop processor

The importance of using biodegradable, non-toxic shampoos, detergents, soaps, and cleaners can't be stressed enough. Many products in your cottage are loaded weapons. Make septic-friendly products the popular choice!

Nutrients not needed

Keep the input of phosphorus to a minimum. Use low-phosphate or phosphate-free cleaners.

Have an inspector visit every 3 to 5 years

Regular maintenance is one of the most important steps. Get an inspection and your tank pumped every three to five years. Replacing or repairing a septic system (and its impacts) is expensive; maintenance keeps thousands of dollars in your pocket and emergencies at bay.

It's not a garbage can

Don't put garbage (i.e. non-biodegradable items) down your drain. That includes grease, fats, oil, and paper products.

Location, location

Soils play a big role in how water travels from the leaching bed, what contaminants get absorbed/broken down, and how far they travel. Your septic system must be designed for the type of soil around your cottage. Make sure your system meets the rules (Ontario Building Code) that control how far a septic tank and leaching bed can be built away from buildings, wells, and waterbodies.

Plants not trees

Plant with caution in the nutrient-rich area above the leaching bed. Do not plant trees or shrubs within three metres of the tank or bed. Roots will seek out and crack your pipes. Shallow-rooted ground covers are ideal.







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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 7-13, 2018

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Why winter long weekends are secretly the best

By Sara Laux



Summer long weekends get all the love—there's sun, there's heat, and there are three glorious days to revel in summer's perfection. But when you factor in traffic, bugs, the possibility of rain, heat waves, sunburns, hangovers and the overall pressure of having *the best time ever*, even the most die-hard sun worshipers have to admit that winter long weekends starts to look pretty appealing. Here's why.

Less pressure to do all the things

Swimming! Boating! Water-skiing! Camping! Hanging out with friends! Yoga by the lake! Outdoor movies! Barbecuing! The list of stuff you feel you *have* to do on a summer weekend can get a little overwhelming—after all, summer is short, and if you don't cram every single activity into every available moment, you'll regret it in February. On a winter long weekend, though, you can stay inside and wear your pyjamas for three days and not feel guilty. After all, it's winter. That's what you're supposed to do.

No traffic

If you do decide to get out of the city for a winter long weekend—and that's an awesome idea, by the way—you're pretty much guaranteed that you won't hit a horrendous traffic jam on Friday evening. Now, you might hit snow, but unless things are *really* bad, you probably won't be stuck crawling along the highway for hours and hours. And if the snow really is terrible? Remember, on winter weekends it's OK to stay home and do nothing.

There are fun things to do outside

If you're not indulging in guilt-free cocooning, there are lots of fun, winter-specific things to do outdoors. Find a skating trail (Arrowhead Provincial Park in Ontario has one), go dog-sledding, try ice-fishing, go hiking, try snowshoeing, go tobogganing, build a snow fort—the list is endless. Remember, there's no such thing as bad weather—just inappropriate clothing choices. Bundle up and get outside and enjoy the feeling of beating winter at its own game.

Less pressure to visit family and friends

Winter weekends have the perfect built-in excuse for not participating in dreary "duty calls"—so sorry, the weather's acting up. (If it's really obvious that the weather isn't a problem, you can always have a cold instead.) But really, winter long weekends don't have the same pressure to visit that other holidays do, leaving you to set your own agenda happily without guilt or obligation.

Not as many chores

There's no lawn to mow, deck to stain, leaves to rake, garden to weed—summer's chores are a distant memory on winter long weekends. If you really want to relax, spend one day doing the indoor chores that will bug you if they're left undone, then spend two days blissfully free of "shoulds."

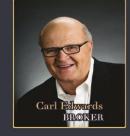
All the cosiness

No matter what you decide to do or not do, there's no better feeling than being cosy. Cuddle up on the couch with a soft, fleecy blanket, build a fire, sip on some decadent hot chocolate or mulled wine, light some candles, and remember that the whole point of a long weekend is to relax and recharge. Invite your friends over to enjoy the warmth as well, and make the cosiness an emotional as well as a physical feeling.

What are you doing this winter long weekend?







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How do you keep a lake skating rink smooth?

By Jackie Davis



We plan to clear a spot on our lake for skating. How do we keep the ice smooth and prevent it from getting bumpy?

—Tammy Luscombe

It will help to clean off the snow regularly, avoid skating when it's mild (which can chew up the ice), and resurface the rink periodically.

To resurface, you'll have to flood your ice. You can buy flooding tools, make your own (there are lots of designs on the Internet), or just use a plain old hose or bucket. Resurfacing is simpler if you have running water—and you can get that water down to the lake easily. If not, you can make a hole in the ice with an auger and use a pump to draw out the water.

Before you resurface, clear off *all* the snow—every little bit. If there's any left on the ice when you flood it, you can bet it will clump up, turn into a frozen lump and, come skating-party time, cause you to trip and fall (probably while everyone is watching). A shovel is fine to clear a small rink, say, six by 12 metres. For a larger rink, you'll probably want a snowblower, or the shovels—and help—of several neighbours. Flood the rink at night, when it's clear and the air is still (wind can cause ripples to form), and use only a thin layer of water, just enough to fill in blade grooves.

Of course, make sure the ice is thick enough before you start tromping around on it. It should be at least 20 cm thick; test a few spots with an auger. If you have any doubts, keep off. Stay inside and play a little table hockey instead.





6 reasons why every Canadian should try curling

By Sara Laux

Curling may have started in sixteenth-century Scotland, but it found its forever home in Canada in 1807 with the establishment of the Royal Montreal Curling Club—still the oldest sporting club in North America. Since then, the curling has spread around the world, becoming an official Olympic sport in 1998 and played in countries not traditionally associated with winter sports, including Brazil and Australia.

If you haven't tried curling, we'll forgive you—but here are six reasons you really should.

1. Anyone can play

Curling is one of the most inclusive sports out there. You can play in a wheelchair, you can play if you're visually or hearing impaired, you can play if you're 90, and you can play if you're five. There's such a big age range in curling that little kids can use special lighter rocks until they get big enough to push the granite monsters. You also don't have to be able to run 10 miles without breaking a sweat in order to play—although being physically fit is definitely a benefit. Both throwing and sweeping can get pretty intense. Curling teams can be all men, all women, or mixed.

2. Curling is inexpensive

No crazy pads, no skates, no helmets—just some basic gear and a membership to a curling league or club, and you've got yourself a super-fun sport. Chances are, you can play for a lot less than an annual gym membership. Just be warned: you can blow your budget pretty easily buying rounds for the other team after a match.

3. It's great for your mind

Curling is all about strategy and precision—in fact, its nickname is "chess on ice." Although you can learn to play in a couple of hours, curlers spend years learning to read the ice, evaluate the other team's play, and make decisions accordingly. Plus, you'll get some good practice in focusing and being mindful. As one curler puts it, "Whether it's on sweeping, or watching a line, or letting your legs remember what the weight feels like as you slide out—you think about one thing. And for a bit, everything else melts away."

4. Curling is a ridiculously social sport

Good sportsmanship is key in curling—sweepers are expected to call their own infraction when they burn, or touch, a stone, for example. So while there's definitely rivalry and competition, it's also expected that curlers will be friendly and courteous, even if they're losing badly. Also, getting a beer or coffee with the opposing team after the game is pretty much required, so you're guaranteed to make friends whether you want to or not.

5. It's safe

Yes, you can fall on the ice or trip over a stone, and yes, your quadriceps will feel like they're on fire after your first couple of games (a hot bath will help)—but all things considered, curling's a lot safer than a lot of other winter sports. You know, the ones that involve blades on your feet or hurtling down mountains at high speeds. Curling requires no safety equipment beyond a designated driver for the drinks afterwards.

6. Wacky curling pants are a thing...in Norway

Google "Norwegian men's curling team" and you will see some of the brightest, craziest, wackiest curling pants ever. Team Ulsrud made headlines with their red, white, and blue designs during the 2010 winter Olympics in Vancouver, and returned to the 2014 Olympics in Sochi with an equally eye-catching wardrobe. An unofficial fan page devoted to the team's pants has almost 500,000 likes, and shows that the team continues its tradition of wacky pants today.









10 things we're looking forward to this winter

By Tammy Burns

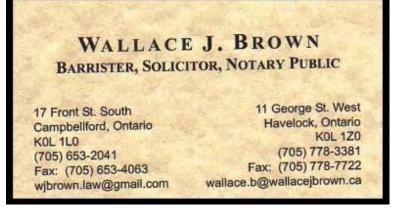
The leaves are falling, the days are growing shorter, and you're holding off as long as you can before switching on the house heat. Yes, Old Man Winter is on his way, and no matter how much we fight it, those days of blizzards and wind chills are coming.

And while we adore summer's late sunsets, warm lakes, beach barbecues, and lazy cottage weekends, we think there are plenty of things to love about winter, too. That's why, instead of bemoaning the impending cold and snow, we're choosing to embrace the much-maligned season, and here are 10 reasons why.

- 1. You can go back to indulging in creamy pastas, hearty soups, cheesy sandwiches, and other comfort foods without feeling guilty. After all, when it's cold outside you'll need those extra calories to help you keep warm, so eat up. It also doesn't hurt that winter clothing can be very forgiving.
- 2. Speaking of winter clothes, you can reunite with your favourite cozy sweaters—it's the only season where you can comfortably wear wool without breaking a sweat.
- 3. You can get back to perfecting your skills in all the sports that Canada is famous for: skating, skiing, snowshoeing, and curling. Challenge yourself to the Black Diamond slope that slipped you up last winter.
- 4. Every time you go outside, you'll look like a fresh-faced youth with perfectly rosy cheeks that not even the best make-up can mimic.
- 5. It's perfectly acceptable to turn down social invites so you can bury yourself under a blanket and binge-watch Netflix or read this year's line-up of Giller finalists. When the weather outside is frightful and it's dark by 5 p.m., no one will think you're lazy for making a date with your couch.
- 6. A clear sky on a bitterly cold winter day is unlike any other view of the sky you'll get the rest of the year—hazy summer afternoons can't compete with the crisp, blinding blue of a sunny winter's sky.

- 7. Planning a vacation is way more fun when it's mid-winter at home. Caribbean beach resorts, island yoga retreats, snowbird communities are that much more enticing when there's snow on the ground. Book your escape and get ready for that unparalleled joy of saying goodbye to a wind chill of minus 35—even if it's only for a week.
- 8. The first snowfall is just as magical as it was last year—and the year before that, and the year before that. No matter how much we all complain about winter, when those first flakes fall, we all run to the window to watch. The first snowfall reminds us of when we were kids wishing for school to be cancelled or when we'd run outside to catch snowflakes on our tongues.
- 9. The colder it gets, the warmer the drinks. A mulled wine or hot toddy never tasted so good.
- 10. You can get a fresh start on last year's New Year's resolutions—and this year, you really will keep them. Really.









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