



THE LIGHTHOUSE NEWSLETTER

We are all in the confines of our homes and many of us are physically separated from our family members, friends, co-workers and other community supports. This is uncharted, unfamiliar territory that brings up a range of emotions from frustration and boredom to fear and worry. We can all do our part to protect ourselves and others by following the guidelines being issued daily by our governments.

And, I hope we can also take some of the extra time most of us now have to watch the beauty of nature as it unfolds into Spring. Some of you are lucky enough to be in Muskoka to have watched as the ice melted and to see the wildflowers in the woods as they begin to grow. Others are in urban areas but can still enjoy the sounds and activities of the birds as they return and start to build nests and the majesty of the trees as they slowly bud and start to flourish. We are all surrounded by the magic and beauty of nature, but often fail to recognize the subtle changes that take place daily as winter turns into spring. Hopefully we can find some peace and joy amidst the craziness. Once we are fully into spring, Summer isn't too far away!



2020 ROSSEAU FAMILY DAY/REGATTA

Given the continued uncertainty surrounding the Coronavirus situation, the LRNA has decided to cancel the Rosseau Family Day/Regatta scheduled for July 23, 2020. We will instead focus our efforts on planning for a bigger and better event in 2021.

Stay tuned for information on our summer social and Annual General Meeting which are both scheduled for August 8, 2020. The LRNA has not yet made a decision whether these events will take place as planned.

LEGACY COTTAGES

In our Fall Newsletter, the LRNA committed to continue to keep you informed with regard to the Legacy Cottages Development. A Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) hearing was held on February 27, 2020 regarding this development which consists of 43 cottages being built on 470 feet of shoreline in the Minett area. At issue is the period of time that eventual owners of these cottages will be permitted to occupy them personally versus the amount of time they will be required to put them into a rental pool. A final decision by the LPAT is expected in 4 - 6 months.

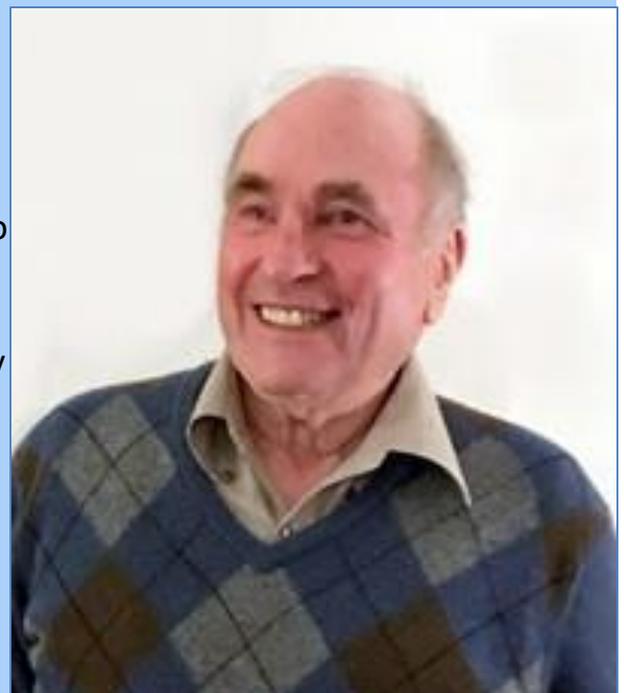


SAFE QUIET LAKES (SQL)

Wakes and speed on the Muskoka Lakes continue to be one of the top concerns SQL hears about in surveys and in person at outreach events. To address these concerns, they have embarked on a pilot project on the Indian River/Mirror Lake section around Port Carling which during summer is a widely used and misused part of the lakes. To learn more about this pilot project and other SQL priorities please see their Winter 2020 Newsletter by clicking [HERE](#).

RAY WHELDON

It is with sadness that we report that Ray Wheldon passed away suddenly on March 28, 2020. Ray and his wife Kathleen, along with their four children, moved to Rosseau in 1981 shortly after immigrating to Canada from England. Ray was a well recognized figure in the community. Ray was very involved in many community activities and organizations including the Rosseau Horticultural Society, Rosseau Classic Cruise Car Show and Nursing Station Community Advisory Committee. Ray never missed an opportunity to give back to his local community. His constant willingness to help and his ready smile will be greatly missed.



CAMP OCHIGEAS

Last summer the LRNA worked hard to raise funds for important and much needed programming for Camp Oochigeas. For over 35 years, Camp Ooch & Camp Trillium have safely delivered programs for medically fragile children. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus, management of Camp Ooch have made the difficult decision to suspend all traditional camp programs through summer 2020, including overnight and day camps. This decision was not made lightly, and they appreciate our understanding and support as they discover new ways to support families. Since Camp is not only a place—it's a community, they have begun to develop innovative virtual programs with the goal of reaching the same number of children and families as before with these programs.

Please click [HERE](#) for additional information about the important work being done by Camp Oochigeas staff.

TURTLES IN MUSKOKA

There has been some recent speculation that reduced traffic on our roads as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic could be positive for the turtle population. There are 6 types of turtles found in the Muskoka area and all six are listed as species at risk. So any reduction in the number of turtles killed on our roadways would be beneficial especially considering that less than 1% of turtle eggs and hatchlings will survive until adulthood.

Turtles often cover many kilometers in search of mates, feeding grounds, preferred summer hang-outs, and nesting sites. They invariably encounter roads in their travels. Both male and female turtles are actively crossing land, during the spring months. Males tend to move earlier than females; they can be seen in early spring and throughout the summer. Females tend to be more commonly seen during their peak nesting time in June.

If you see a turtle crossing the road, please stop and help it by **moving the turtle in the same direction** it was traveling when you saw it and in as direct a line as possible.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre is permitted to continue caring for the turtles at the centre and also for injured turtles brought to the centre. If you see an injured turtle, please contact the **Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre at 705 741-5000**. The OTCC (website [HERE](#)) is the only wildlife rehabilitation centre dedicated solely to providing medical and rehabilitative care to Ontario turtles.



SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Please follow us on Instagram (@lakerosseounorthassociation) and Twitter (@RosseauNorth)

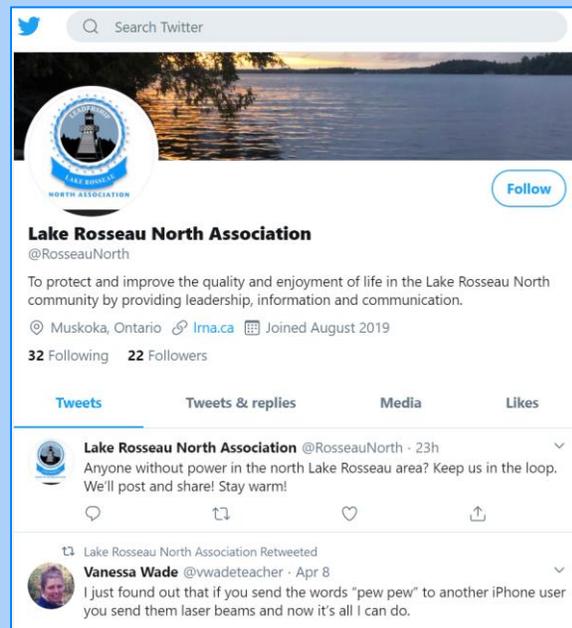
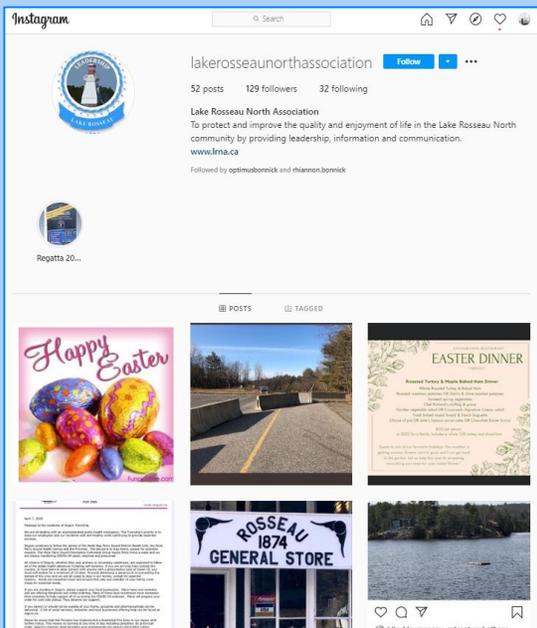
Instagram has been busy with COVID updates in our community, closures and local business updates - they need our support.

We have had some wonderful feed back - one follower posted “Thank you for providing amazing service during this stressful time”

We have 129 followers, most of whom are not members!

Twitter use has picked up with municipal updates, COVID news and closures. This will continue throughout the pandemic as things are changing quickly and daily. With twitter, following multiple sources and local municipalities helps keep our members up to speed. So updating that list of “following” is a great reliable resource. We will continue to do so by posting relevant articles and retweeting news and important, accurate information.

And all things weather!! - we will keep updated so you know what’s happening when you are NOT in Muskoka. Power outages, storms, you name it - we’ll share it! So please follow us, you’ll be glad you did!



IN CLOSING

Please let us know if you have comments, questions or ideas to share. We continue to strive to build a vibrant and informed community and it takes all of us to assist in achieving that !!

We look forward to hearing from you. **Reference *lrna.ca, twitter and instagram***

Stay safe everyone. Like you, we are hoping that the current crisis is soon behind us and we can all fully enjoy a fantastic summer in Muskoka

Corinne Hagerman
LRNA President