



## THE LIGHTHOUSE NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2020

Welcome to the beauty of fall in Muskoka! Despite the challenges we are all facing, nature did not disappoint in 2020. What a fabulous summer it was and a breathtaking fall is now underway! Hope you are all getting a chance to spend some time admiring the leaves and the glorious sunny, autumn days.



### COTTAGE CLOSING TIPS

#### A “HOW TO” FOR POWERING DOWN YOUR SEASONAL HOME

With the arrival of fall colours and cooler temperatures, it’s time for cottage owners to think about closing for the season. Whether you turn off the electricity over the winter, or leave electricity on to keep some mechanicals running year-round, the suggestions via the link below will help you close the cottage with electrical safety in mind. Click [HERE!](#)



## BENTHIC WATER TESTING

The LRNA learned that Seguin Township planned to conduct a Benthic water testing program to:

- Determine the ecological condition of Seguin Township lakes and monitor them over time; and
- Compare the ecological condition to other lakes in the area.



We successfully worked with Seguin staff to identify a suitable site for the program in the Lake Rosseau North area. Seguin Township partnered with the Georgian Bay Biosphere to coordinate and conduct benthic monitoring on 10 lakes within the township. Summer 2020 was the first year of a three year monitoring program in the township.

### **What is benthic mentoring?**

Benthic macroinvertebrates (or benthos) are small aquatic organisms (including insects, crustaceans, worms, and mollusks). The term benthic macroinvertebrate can be broken down to understand what these organisms are like.

There are 27 different groups of benthos that are searched for, each ranging in sensitivity to water pollutants and water quality. Benthos spend all or part of their life cycle living at the bottom of the lake (benthic); they are quite small but can generally still be seen with the naked eye (macro), and they lack a backbone (invertebrate). These animals are well suited as indicators of water and sediment quality as they spend most or all of their lives (1-3 years) in constant contact with lake sediments and the water in a specific area. Furthermore, they are relatively easy and inexpensive to sample and they have different tolerances to disturbances and pollution.

Three shallow, nearshore areas representative of each lake are selected as test sites (referred to as “lake segments” in the protocol). The same lake segments are sampled each year. At each lake segment, the travelling-kick-and-sweep sampling method is used. The individual doing the sampling disturbs the bottom of the lake in transects from 1m depth to the water’s edge. Using a net, the dislodged material is collected and placed in a bucket. Sampling is usually done for about 10 minutes. These samples are then processed to count and identify the different types of benthos in the sample (video available [here](#)).

## Why monitor benthic macroinvertebrates?

Seguin Township previously monitored phosphorus levels which provide a measure of exposure to stress (e.g. impacts from humans, climate change, invasive species). But what is the impact from these trends on the ecosystem? By adding benthic monitoring, we can start to see if and how the ecosystem is reacting to a stressor. Different monitoring approaches provide water managers with complementary information. “Stressor- based” approaches (e.g., waterchemistry monitoring) provide measures of exposure to stress, but leave unanswered questions about the ecological significance of that stress. Biological approaches (e.g., benthic monitoring) measure biotic responses, but leave unanswered questions about which stressors are impacting the aquatic ecosystem. Therefore, conducting both chemical and biological monitoring provides a complete picture of aquatic ecosystem health (i.e., the lake’s exposure to stress and associated ecological response).

## THE SALVATION ARMY FOOD BANK

In our previous newsletter we indicated that the LRNA had made a \$1000 donation to the Salvation Army Food Bank in Parry Sound to specifically help Rosseau families in need. The summer is over, but the need has not diminished. The LRNA has therefore recently made another \$1000 donation and will continue to monitor the situation and assist as we can.

The Salvation Army is always in need and appreciative of all donations. If you would like to assist you can find them at 61 Gibson Street in Parry Sound, P2A 1X2 or reach them via phone at 705-746-539, via email at [caroline\\_claridge@can.salvationarmy.org](mailto:caroline_claridge@can.salvationarmy.org)



## 2020 AGM

COVID presented the LRNA Board with a unique challenge in running our Annual General Meeting. With some much needed guidance and tips from FOCA (Federation of Cottage Associations) we were able to hold a successful ZOOM meeting on August 22, 2020 complete with the use of proxies and online voting to fulfill all our legal obligations. Thanks to all of you who ZOOMED in and voted!

## UPDATE ON LEGACY COTTAGES

The Legacy Cottages development, located on 470 feet of Lake Rosseau shoreline off Juddhaven Road in Minett, will consist of 43 individual units or cottages and common areas including a pool, boathouse, docks and resort office.

The Township of Muskoka Lakes, supported by a host of other local organizations, including the LRNA, had opposed these units being used as residential cottages when zoning for one residential cottage requires a minimum of 200' of shoreline and other restrictions to protect our lakes from over-development. The opposition was taken to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT). On March 27, 2020, LPAT issued its ruling in favour of the developer of the Legacy Cottages resort, allowing units to be sold to individual owners with the proviso that the owners make their units available for rent a minimum of 10 weeks per year with 2 of those weeks in the summer months between the first Saturday after June 15 and the first Saturday after September 15th.

The development will include 3 phases: Phase I consists of 15 units and common areas including the resort office, phase 2 will include an additional 15 units and phase 3 will be composed of the final 13 units. The Township of Muskoka Lakes Council is scheduled to discuss and vote on the Condominium Agreement for the development at its October 2020 Council meeting.

## UPDATE ON RESORT VILLAGE OF MINETT

The Resort Village of Minett is a major planned initiative in the Cleveland House/Wallace Bay area off Juddhaven Road. It is anticipated to include a boutique style hotel, wellness centre, marina, eco-cabins, Bayside cottages, shopping plaza, amphitheatre and hiking and pedestrian trails. A concept master plan for the project has not as yet been released as the project is still at the concept and planning stages. The next step will be the circulation of an Official Plan Amendment by the Township of Muskoka Lakes for public and other stakeholder consultation and comment. Stay tuned - we will forward details as they become available.

## GYPSY MOTHS

The European Gypsy Moth is a major forest pest concern because the caterpillar, or larva stage of the insect, eats the leaves of trees, defoliating them which makes them more susceptible to disease and damage from other insects, like tent caterpillars. Continued defoliation of trees can lead to their decline and eventual death. A single gypsy moth caterpillar can eat an average of one square meter of leaves.

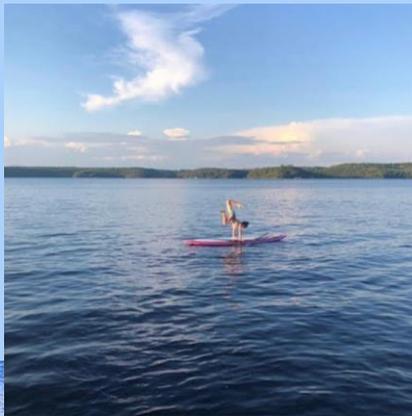
Read the rest of the article [HERE](#).



## LRNA PHOTO CONTEST

With almost 70 entries we announced our winners of our first photo contest on Instagram. Congrats to our winners!

Next up. Autumn and Winter photos. Follow us on Instagram for contest 2021 details!



**Stay tuned over the next few months. We will continue to keep you informed about new initiatives and developments via email and web updates.**