

# SPRING 2023

# THE LIGHTHOUSE

Seasonal newsletter for the members of the Lake Rosseau North Association



## President's Message

Summer is just around the corner! The ice is gone and thankfully we are not experiencing the high water levels and damage this year that others in the Muskoka area are. I have already heard from members who are out on the lake enjoying the early Spring warm weather and sunshine!

Those of us who call North Lake Rosseau home for even part of the year have so much to be grateful for. We cannot be complacent about ensuring our area stays renowned known for its natural beauty and serenity! The LRNA is committed to continuing to work hard on behalf of its membership to protect and improve the quality and enjoyment of life in the Lake Rosseau North community.

- Corinne Hagerman

## OVERVIEW:

We have lots of exciting initiatives to share:

- Pickleball is coming to Rosseau in the next few weeks!
- Speed monitoring on Hwys 632 and 41 will be installed in June.
- Savestations are in Rosseau!
- The LRNA is participating for the first time in the Lake Partner Program water testing. Read on to learn more about these initiatives and other items of interest in our area.
- Save the date! Social July 15th

*The Lake Rosseau North Association (LRNA) is a non-profit organization established in 1982 to represent the interests of approximately 180 lakefront and Village of Rosseau property owners in the North Lake Rosseau and surrounding areas of Seguin and Muskoka Lakes townships.*

## A new life for the Log Cabin By: Glen Herbert

When Lena Patten came across Lady Eaton's sofa, she knew it needed a home. A decade later, she found one.

"I always wanted that building to be refurbished," says Lena Patten, owner of Hilltop Interiors in Rosseau. The Log Cabin is one of the signature structures of the RLC campus and, if not one of the first things people see when they arrive on site, it's a building that invariably captures their attention.



The cabin was first constructed to serve as Lady Eaton's sewing room, this when the property was the grand Eaton estate. Lady Flora Eaton was born in Omeemee and, marrying into the Eaton family, went on to become a socialite and philanthropist, certainly very well known in her day. The cabin was her retreat from the bustle of the mansion that once stood roughly where Brock House is today.

For Lena, the building signals that history and then some, including the uniqueness of the school, of which she's particularly proud. Over the years Lena's been an RLC parent and a volunteer; she's served on building committees, and fundraising committees, and has been an indefatigable champion of the school. Which is why she is delighted to see the cabin being restored to its past grandeur. This past summer and fall the hung ceiling was removed, revealing the beams: straight logs, bark removed, finished to bring out the character and the knots. The chimney, like the beams, had been obscured by the hung ceiling. The walls were uncovered, and the logs cleaned and refinished. It was like unwrapping an early Christmas gift.

**And then there's the sofa.** "I would call it a parlour sofa," says Lena. "To me it's not your typical sofa that has, you know, tons of cushions and back cushions." It really isn't. Its heavy, with broad wood armrests. "It's very beautiful," she says, "but it's not that comfortable."

It's unique in every way. Flora's parents were Irish immigrants, and her father built cabinetry, though—as delightful as it would be—it's probably too much to imagine that he had a hand in building the sofa. But it's just one of those pieces that is so singular that it makes the mind wander. Lena imagines Lady Eaton and her friends having tea, true to the style of that era: elbows in, backs straight, everyone hatching plans and sharing gossip.

The fact that it's here is a story unto itself. Some years ago, Lena was asked if she'd be interested in having it. The provenance was clear, and her answer was, yes, one hundred percent yes. "My thinking was that it could be refinished and given back to the school," so she put it in storage, waiting for the right moment. "It was just something that I saved."

Then, earlier this year, Dave noted to her that the building was going to be restored and wondered what kind of furniture she'd suggest. "I was tickled and happy that he'd asked me, because of course I had the perfect piece to go in front of the fireplace." She had it upholstered in blue, a signature RLC colour, and paired it with a small chair that, while not from the Eaton estate, is nevertheless from one of the historic cottages on Lake Rosseau.

And, a few weeks ago, the sofa and the chair were moved in. It just feels right. Thanks to Lena and Randy Patten of Hilltop Interiors for the donation of the couch, the armchair, and the chandelier in addition to guidance with the interior design. Another huge thank you to Carol and Peter Newall for their contributions of time and vision toward appointing this beautiful space.

Would Lady Eaton be proud? It's hard to know. But we are.



## Hey Ash Spreaders, we'd love to chat with you

At FOTMW, our goal is to protect our watershed—and a healthy forest and watershed go hand in hand. We appreciate everyone who has donated ash. Without them, we could not do our studies and learn of the positive impacts of adding wood ash to our forests.

But we also appreciate those who are supporting our work by restoring their own forests using clean wood stove or fireplace ash. We want to be able to measure this additional impact of our ASHMuskoka work and thank you for your effort.

If you or your friend, neighbour, parent, workmate ... well, if you know anyone who has been a "self spreader", let us know.



If you are spreading ash on your property, we want to know! We don't need too many details; we are trying to get an understanding of how many people are spreading ash and where they are doing it.

Email [spencer@fotmw.org](mailto:spencer@fotmw.org) or call 705 640 0948. And thanks to those who have already reached out. It's great to hear from you.

## Speed Monitoring in the Rosseau Area

The LRNA has been working with both the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Seguin Township on the issue of speed monitoring in the Rosseau area. It has taken quite a while, but we are pleased to report that Seguin Township now has the required approvals and is in the process of purchasing 4 speed monitoring units that will be installed in the near future - 2 on Hwy 41 at the entrances to the Village of Rosseau and 2 on Hwy 643. Thanks to the on-going efforts of Tom MacLeod, Seguin's Director of Public Works, who worked with us and persistently followed up to ensure this important initiative to promote public safety would come to fruition.



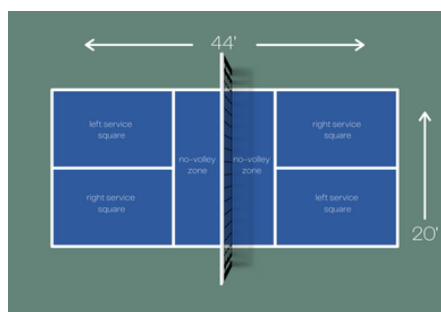
## Pickle Ball in Rosseau

Yeah!! Exciting news - Pickleball is coming to Rosseau!

The LRNA has been working with the Township of Seguin to make pickleball available this summer. Watch for the courts to be open for first come first serve play on the basketball court at the Sports Field.

Pickleball is fun, social and friendly! The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a fast-paced, competitive game.

Just bring a partner, your paddle and balls and get ready to have fun!!







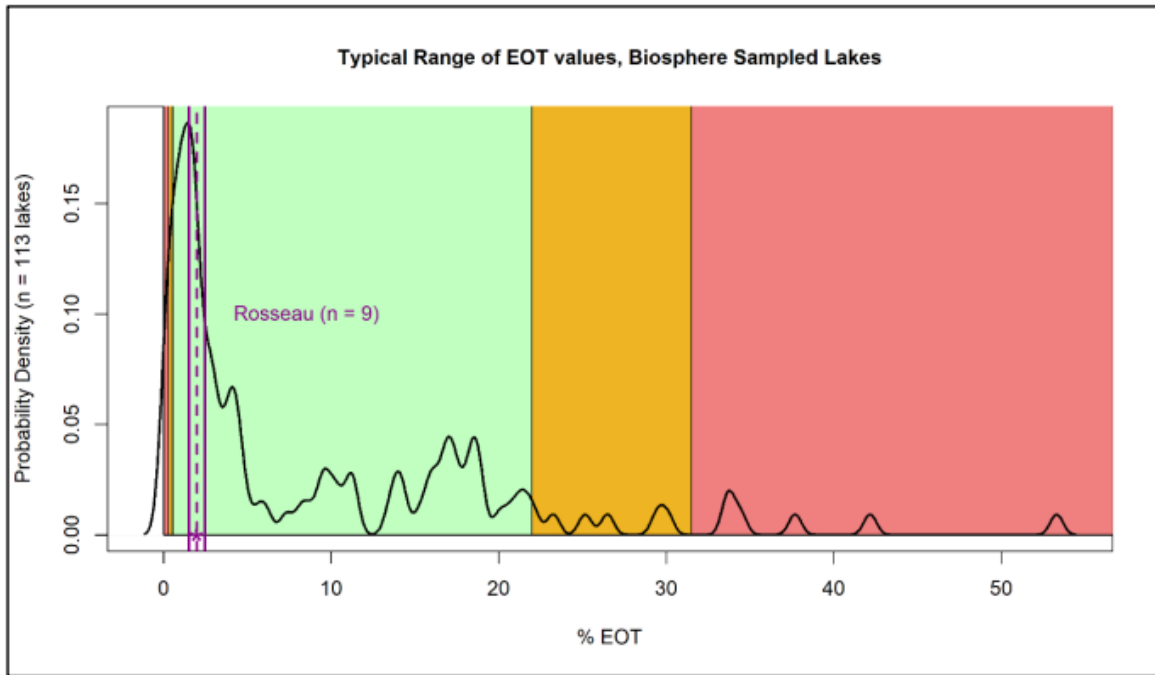
# Benthic Monitoring Report

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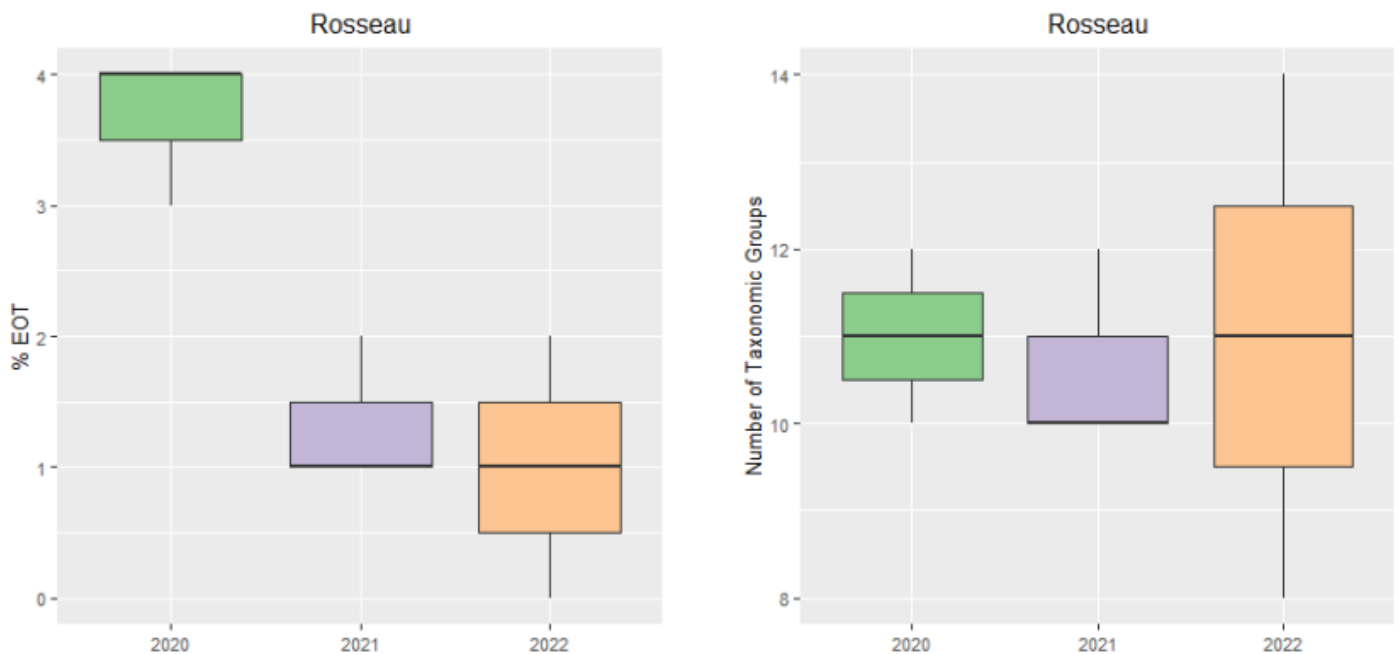
Seguin Township Lakes

# LAKE ROSSEAU

The %EOT for Lake Rosseau falls within the normal range of what is expected for lakes in the region (Figure 9). Differences in %EOT and the number of taxonomic groups among sampling years are not statistically significant (Figure 10).



**Figure 9.** Lake Rosseau average %EOT (dashed purple line) and standard deviation (solid purple line) sampled from 3 lake segments over 3 years (n = 9) fall within the “typical” category (green area) on the typical %EOT range plot (based on 113 sampled lakes). This indicates that the Lake Rosseau benthic community is typical of what is expected for a lake in this region.



**Figure 10.** Differences in %EOT and the number of taxonomic groups among sampling years for Lake Rosseau are not statistically significant.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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For all monitored lakes within Seguin Township, the recommendation is to continue with annual sampling to track trends over time and observe any notable shifts in the benthic community away from typical conditions.

While all of the 10 monitored lakes are currently considered to have 'typical' benthic communities, lakes in the region are experiencing increasing pressures, such as climate change, invasive species, and development. It is important to continue monitoring water quality even in lakes considered to be healthy so that if/when changes start to occur, those changes are noted and appropriate actions can be taken swiftly (e.g., stewardship actions, enhanced monitoring or studies). Without long-term, continuous monitoring, changes in the benthic community and water quality more broadly may go unnoticed until there is a significant problem.

Finally, maintaining a benthic monitoring program is in direct alignment with the township's goal of Environmental Leadership, set out in its 2019-2022 Strategic Plan. Seguin Township is one of a few townships in the province with a dedicated lake benthic monitoring program. This fact speaks to the township's commitment to the goal of maintaining and improving environmental quality in the region.

Vist [https://www.seguin.ca/en/explore-play/Benthic\\_Monitoring\\_Program.aspx](https://www.seguin.ca/en/explore-play/Benthic_Monitoring_Program.aspx)  
to view the 2022 Benthic Monitoring report

## Campfire Circle

Dear Campfire Circle friend,



Campfire Circle (formerly Camp Ooch & Camp Trillium) is passionate about building a world where children thrive and families heal. Through our in-hospital, community and overnight camp programs, Campfire Circle fosters resilience, wellbeing and lifelong connections for kids and families affected by childhood cancer and other serious illnesses.

In 2023, we commemorate 40 years of healing through happiness, and we could not have done it without the supportive community around us. We invite you to learn about our history, tour our campsites and meet the people who have made Campfire Circle what it is today. Join us this camp season **Saturday, July 29th in Muskoka** for an interactive day at camp with a BBQ, tours and activities! [Check out what we're celebrating!](#)

There are thousands of children diagnosed with cancer and other serious illnesses not yet served by Campfire Circle. Your ongoing generosity and support means that we can continue to work toward helping more families in crisis every year. A sincere thank you for the joy and hope you bring to so many kids and families.

To learn more about how you can support camp contact [rsvp@campfirecircle.org](mailto:rsvp@campfirecircle.org) and [click here to make a donation.](#)



# Aspen Wildlife

## HELPING MOM AND HER BABIES

Every spring and summer, people spot baby animals that appear to be “orphaned” and wonder if they should lend a helping hand. Unless an animal is obviously injured, clearly in distress, or you know for a fact that the parent is dead, it is best not to assume that the animal needs your assistance. For the most part, the best solution is to leave the animal alone. Otherwise, you may inadvertently kidnap an animal, who will miss out on the many benefits of being raised by its mother in a natural environment. We can’t emphasize this enough.

Chances are high that the mother is nearby. She is likely feeding, or may be too frightened to return because you or your pet are nearby. Give the animal some space, and continue to watch unseen from a distance. If the parent hasn’t returned in several hours (up to a day) then there may be cause for alarm, and we suggest you contact our animal-care line immediately at 705-644-4122. In fact, we ask that you put this number in your phone today!

If you have a general question, please contact our office at 705-732-6368. For additional information visit, [www.aspenvalley.ca](http://www.aspenvalley.ca), and click on “Found an Animal” (under the “Wildlife in Care” tab).

### When Should I Take Action?

- If there is a dead parent nearby
- If the animal is brought to you by a cat or dog
- If there is evidence of bleeding
- If the animal has an obvious broken limb
- If the animal is shivering
- If the animal is crying and wondering all day long



Photo Credit: Elsa Van Kampen



## Save Stations in Rosseau

Savestations equipped with AEDs have been installed in front of The General Store in Rosseau, at the Rosseau Waterfront and at the Field House by the sports field.

Take a moment when you are in these areas to familiarize yourself with their locations - you never know when they might be needed and could save a life.

**SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL LRNA SOCIAL  
JULY 15TH**

**Follow @lakerosseanorthassociation on  
Instagram for details to come!**

