



"Let's keep our lake great"

WIND SWEEP

The Lake Manitou Area Association Newsletter

March 2013

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What a difference a year makes!



Above- March 24, 2012 / Below- March 24, 2013



Photo's are courtesy of LMAA Director Stephen Mann who spends time year round his cottage in Rockville. According to his records, the ice went out on March 26, 2012.

As opposed to this year where the only open water is under 24" of ice that isn't going anywhere anytime soon! And they say spring is around the corner!

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Musings from Kingfisher Cove by Anne Moffat

I love winter but this year has been trying, cold and snow most every day. Paul has been plowing and blowing the snow in our 600 yd driveway every other day. The snow banks are 4 ft. high.

After the swamps finally froze the groomer was able to begin maintaining the snowmobile trail, part of which passes through our property. It makes a great walking trail for us and the dogs.

On one of the sunny days on our walk I thought how beautiful the white snow was, everything stood out so vividly. The sun was so bright, the sky blue and the snow sparkled like diamonds. The grey tree trunks stood out as did the green cedars, all casting blue shadows across the trail.



Earlier there were deer tracks but the weather has driven them into the deer yards. There are partridge tracks everywhere, part of the flock of 11 that I saw behind the garage earlier in the winter. Bunny tracks abound, we have 2 big ones with grey black ears visiting the bird seed behind the house. In the cedars we see the Cardinal and a small flock of Evening Grosbeaks, the first in a few years. The Black Capped Chickadees, a Junco, Blue Jays, a Nut Hatch, Mourning Dove and Woodpeckers round out our usual collection of birds. We had a large flock of Red Polls with their little pink vests and red blotches on their heads at one point as well.

Out on the ice, a beautiful red fox was having an argument with a Raven. The Raven kept diving at the fox until it had had enough and began leaping at it. The fox had probably stolen the Raven's meal. Another day 2 Otters played on the ice off the point. One of them dove down the hole which they found and came up with a good size fish which it enjoyed eating. There are the black dots of fish huts spread across the lake. I understand that the fishing has not been great. One morning a grey Timber wolf stood at the end of our driveway, and then trotted off as silently as it came.

Another thing I like about winter is the silence. The only things you hear are crunching of your boots in the snow and the occasional chirping of a bird or chatter of a squirrel, the panting of the dogs as they run by and



occasionally in the distance a snowmobile.

At night the ebony black sky is lit with myriads of stars. I stand outside and turn in circles looking at the different planets and constellations. It takes my breath away.

Back down to earth, the days are busy. Paul is busy with the plow and in between his schedule of various meetings he curls and plays poker once a week.

I joined a group of seniors skating at the arena every Monday. It has been fun but spring is coming and next week will be our last skate. That means that it is time to polish up the golf clubs because before you know it we will be back on the course where I hope to see you!

Lake Manitou Phosphorus & Secchi Disk Readings by Michael R. Costigan

Thanks to **Alex Lohead**, our annual phosphorus and secchi disk readings were taken and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment’s “Lake Partner Program”. Follow the link www.ontario.ca/lakepartner to view the history of Lake Manitou readings. The goal of the Lake Partner Program is to create a valuable, long term data base to evaluate the nutrient status of Ontario’s inland lakes. The program has grown to the point that in 2011, 793 sites were sampled in 491 Ontario lakes.

Total phosphorus concentrations are ideally used to interpret nutrient status since phosphorus is the element that controls the growth of algae in most Ontario lakes. Increases in phosphorus will decrease water clarity by stimulating algal growth. By sampling the total phosphorus each year it is possible to detect a change in the nutrient status of your lake. **Water samples are taken in the two (2) deepest areas of Lake Manitou....the Sandfield Basin and the West Basin annually.** .

Lakes are generally placed into three broad categories with respect to nutrient status.

Lake Nutrient Status	Total Phosphorus	Secchi Depth
Oligotrophic (few nutrients)	10 micrograms / litre or less	Over 5 metres
Mesotrophic (moderately enriched)	10 – 20 micrograms / litre	3 -5 metres
Eutrophic (enriched –high nutrient)	20 micrograms / litre or more	Less than 3 metres

Lake Manitou Total Phosphorus Readings 2012

	ug/L	May	June	July	August	September	October
Lake Manitou - West Basin	TP1	6.8	5	4.6	7.6	9	7.6
	TP2	8.4	5	4.6	7	8.4	8
TP Readings 2011	Avg. TP	7.6	5	4.6	7.3	8.7	7.8
Lake Manitou - Sandfield Basin	TP1	7.2	4.4	5.2	5.6	6	5.6
	TP2	6.6	4.2	4.2	5.6	7	5.8
TP Readings 2011	Avg. TP	6.9	4.3	4.7	5.6	6.5	5.7

❖ ug/L = micrograms per litre. A microgram is equivalent to .001 mg/

Lake Manitou Annual Average Ice-Free Secchi Depth 2012-2008

West Basin			Sandfield Basin	
Year	Secchi Depth (m)		Year	Secchi Depth (m)
2012	6.0		2012	5.6
2011	6.1		2011	6.1
2010	6.1		2010	7.2
2009	5.5		2009	5.7
2008	5.8		2008	NA

Website Update by Stan Salisbury

The LMAA web address at lakemanitouarea.ca has not changed, but we do have a new website created by Mylaketown.com. This system is used by many [other lake associations](#). As Mylaketown’s first Canadian client, they agreed to reconfigure the system to support Canadian addresses. A significant new feature is that LMAA members with administrative access can easily update the website. In addition, LMAA members who join the site will be able to communicate with other members, upload photos, contact Board members, post personal classified ads, upload announcements, and learn more about other LMAA members and their activities. More website features are available for our future use.

We continue adding content and encourage you to visit frequently to review the progress. For example, this and past newsletters can be viewed or downloaded from the site’s “Newsletters” page.

To gain access to the new features and help us build the LMAA website membership database, please log into the website and create your “Personal Profile.” Please [click here](#) to view the special tutorial video that Mylaketown created especially for LMAA members. You will be shown the steps on how to join the website. After joining the site, as a current LMAA member, you will have full use of all the site pages and features. Your Personal Profile cannot be viewed by the general public, but logged-in LMAA members can, unless you choose to hide all or part of your profile data from other members.

To learn more, click on the green “Get Started” button on the website [home page](#). That will take you to a set of short video tutorials on how to use various website features. For now, we recommend you only create your personal profile and delay creating your “Family Group” page.

If you can’t play or you choose not to watch the videos, just follow the steps below to join the website. You will need to join and login to the website to use features not available to the general public.

1. From the home page (lakemanitouarea.ca), click the green “Join Us!” button.
2. Fill out and submit the form. Mylaketown recommends using your first and last name (with no space between) as your “user name.”
3. Create a password of your choice (a combination of letters and numbers is recommended).
4. Except for phone numbers, all fields require entries.
5. Use your permanent home address, not your lake address. You will add your lake address to your “Personal Profile” after you have submitted the “Join Us” form.
6. Click the check box at the bottom of the form to accept the Mylaketown.com terms of agreement.
7. Enter the “Captcha” code displayed (If you have trouble reading the code, you can click the speaker icon hear the code).

8. Click the blue “Submit” button.
9. After five (5) seconds, you will be redirected to your Personal Profile page.
10. Enter your personal data, where desired, by clicking “edit” in the various entry boxes. Edit the address box to enter your lake address. (Click “save” in each box to save your entries).
Note: before saving, you can make some of these entries private.
11. If you click “Change to Private” in the blue bar at the top of your profile, you can completely hide your profile from other LMAA members.
12. You may now visit other areas of the site or log out.
13. When you join, you will receive a “Welcome New Website Member” message in your email inbox.
14. **Finally, and this is important, please forward the welcome message** in your inbox to me at sasalisbury@cox.net so I can activate your account.

If you have any problems with joining, logging in, or any other questions about the new LMAA website, please email me.

Stan Salisbury, LMAA Website Administrator

“SUMMERS ON LAKE MANITOU” by Rob Tubbs

As far as my wife’s family is concerned, I’m a newbie to Manitoulin Island. I’ve only been coming to the Island every summer, or so, for the past 27 years. Laura, however was a Williamson. Her grandfather, Harry Williamson, the oldest of seven brothers, was born on the Island. The Williamson General Store in Mindemoya is owned by a cousin. A store in Sandfield has been owned by another cousin. Laura’s roots on Manitoulin go back a long way.

Laura’s family has had a cottage at the Eagle’s Nest on the southeastern shore of Lake Manitou for many years. Her grandparents, Harry and Clarice, had a cottage next door. A great aunt and uncle, Jean and Russ Williamson, owned the cottage to the north. Across the small bay were cottages owned by her father’s cousins, Dewar and Robert Williamson, with their wives, Effie and Marca. Further across the lake are cottages owned by still more cousins; all descendents of those seven brothers.

Thus, Laura spent every summer on the Island since before the time she could walk. Summer days on Lake Manitou, or along its shores, were spent swimming and water skiing and fishing and cliff jumping; catching frogs, skipping stones, and watching the sunsets across the lake. Occasionally, the family left the cottage for a climb up Cup & Saucer, located directly across the lake from the cottage. But the goal to swim in Lake Manitou every day of the summer went unabated, even in the face of the occasional “three day blow.”

Laura has two brothers, Mark and David. Two doors down from Perry and Micky’s cottage, was the Sabine cottage; no relation, not even shirttail to the Williamsons. It was owned by the Sabine’s of London, Ontario. Irene Sabine was the matriarch of the family when I met them. Irene’s oldest son, Dave, and his wife Carol, had two children, Mark and Becky Sabine. Mark was David’s age; two years younger than Laura, and David’s friend. Becky was even younger. Rather than associate with a friend of her little brother’s, Laura preferred to walk her red setter through the L & J campground, with the express purpose of trying to meet boys a little older, or at least her own age. Mark Sabine was just the friend of her little brother’s that had to be tolerated. Summers on Manitoulin were idyllic.

While Laura spent those summers on Manitoulin and the shores of Lake Manitou, my visits to Canada were spent mostly in a pup tent, occasionally something a little larger. My memories on the Island don't go back quite so far. I was in my mid-20s when Laura brought me here for the first time. Frankly, I'm a little surprised she, or her family, allowed me to come back. My stock wasn't as hardy. The lake was so cold that first summer that I refused to go for a swim. They looked at me as though I came from some foreign land – well, technically I guess I was, since I'm a Michigander – and nicknamed me “Grubby Tubbs.” We are hardy over there as well, but from the moment I put my foot in the water, I firmly believed that anyone who could swim in Lake Manitou that summer must have been a full-fledged member of some polar bear club. Rather, at that point I was thinking of becoming a full-fledged member of the family, and my pride was outweighed by my concern over the possible permanent loss of any ability to procreate.

Other than my recollection of ice bergs on Lake Manitou in the middle of July, one of my other earliest memories on Manitoulin was walking to the end of the dock one afternoon to meet Perry and ask him for his daughter's hand in marriage. (Any perceived comparison between a walk to the end of a dock to ask for one's daughter's hand in marriage and walking the plank is wholly of your own mind.) Laura anxiously waited in the cottage; until she could tell by the bear hug I received that his response was in the affirmative. Our request to keep the news on the “down low” pending our own announcement, however, fell on deaf ears. Most of the family had heard the news before we had even crossed the swing bridge at Little Current.

Sitting at the end of the dock with Laura, holding hands, and watching the sun set over Lake Manitou was as beautiful as the girl I was sitting next to. Romance flourished. And thus began another generation coming to Manitoulin. Just like their mother, our daughters, Natalie and Olivia, have also been coming to Manitoulin since before they could walk. (If truth be known, our youngest daughter may have been the first descendent of Harry Williamson to have actually been conceived on Manitoulin since Harry himself.)

Aunt Jean passed on a few years ago. Russ before that. Their grandson, Mike Costigan, his wife Patti, Mike's daughter Julianne, and their son, Graeme, now occupy Russ and Jean's old cottage most of the summer. And that pesky friend of Laura's brother, Mark Sabine: what a good friend he's turned out to be. He married Sue. (We're so lucky.) Their three daughters, Sara, Hillary and Clare, like their father before them, and Natalie and Olivia, like their mother before them, and Julianne and Graem, like their father before them, have likewise spent parts of their summers on Lake Manitou; swimming and water skiing and fishing and cliff jumping; skipping stones, watching the sunsets across the lake; an occasional climb up Cup & Saucer, and becoming friends. Although gone for a while, the frogs are coming back; and an occasional mink can be seen scampering along the shore. And there have been games of euchre and plump and an occasional game of Wolf, when it gets dark and a foreboding howl sends shivers down their spines. If you want to know more about Wolf you can ask Effie's grandchildren Taylor and Brendan. Unfortunately, the wolf is getting older and slower; and the kids are getting older, but faster.

I have been fortunate to have traveled to every Canadian province with the exception of Newfoundland. And Laura and I have taken our girls all over Canada as well – from Banff and Jasper in the Canadian Rockies to Prince Edward Island and a production of “Anne of Green Gables” in Charlottetown. Every summer, however, we always come back to Manitoulin.

Lake Manitou is the constant; it's who's on the shore that changes over time. Irene Sabine has since passed away (another of my early memories was the night Irene took the prize for last place at the Tehkummah euchre tournament – she was not amused), as has Laura's mother, Micky, and grandmother, and Dave Sabine and Uncle Russ and Aunt Jean and now Laura's father, Perry; and many others that Laura knew for years and I had only known, but loved for just a short time. But the lake remains. Cup and Saucer is still across the lake. And the waves continue to gently or at times not so gently, lap up to the rocky shore. And they will do so even long after Laura and I have said our good-byes. The sunsets will be watched by our future grandchildren and their children and the Sabine's grandchildren and their children and the Costigan's grandchildren and their children. Perhaps to be followed by a game of Wolf... and if it's not too cold, by a swim in Lake Manitou.

2013 FOCA Spring AGM



On March 2, 2013 President Mike Costigan, Education Committee member Pat Costigan, and Treasurer Don Payne attended the FOCA AGM in Toronto.

As always, the morning began with the FOCA business meeting, followed by a presentation on “**Adapting to Climate Change in Ontario**” from **Gary Nielson**, a Climate Change Project Coordinator with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

There were three presentations scheduled in the afternoon session. **Nick Pasquino**, a lawyer with the firm Borden Ladner Gervais, spoke about the **Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act: Pending Changes and Implications for FOCA Member Associations**. There was keen interest in the presentation by **Blake Hurst** from SOS Emergency Response Technologies and his topic titled **Cardiac Emergencies in Cottage Country: Would you know what to do?**

The day ended with Environmental and Lake Steward updates from **Anna DeSellas**, Inland Lakes Monitoring Scientist with **the Dorset Environmental Sciences Center** speaking about water quality monitoring news and **Michelle Palmer**, a scientist with the **Ministry of Natural Resources** made a presentation on Blue-Green Algae monitoring.

In the end the day was very informative leaving the participants with lots of information to take back to their respective associations.

Member Notice Board

- ✚ **Please keep your contact information up to date! If you have a change in mailing address or email address please forward to one of the following:**

Don Payne at payne@interlog.com or Michael R. Costigan at mikecostigan@hotmail.com

- ✚ **Death Notices:** The LMAA would like to extend its sympathies to the following long time members.

Mary Mansell passed away on January 31, 2013. Mary spent her summers at her cottage in Sandfield.

Perry Williamson passed away on March 9, 2013 at the age of 83. Perry has spent his summers at his cottage in the Eagle’s Nest area for many years. He also served as a LMAA director for a number of years.

Thanks to **Anne Moffat**, **Stan Salisbury**, and **Rob Tubbs** for their submissions to the newsletter!

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