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Did You Know That?

Did you know that Lake Manitou is located just slightly closer to the North Pole than it is to the Equator?

Did you know that lake trout, smallmouth black bass and yellow perch are the most popular sports fish sought after by recreational fishing enthusiasts on Lake Manitou?

News From FOCA

Invasive Species

Invasive species threaten the health of Lake Manitou. Perhaps the most looming threat comes from the zebra mussel. This invasive species is found in both Lake Mindemoya and Lake Kagawong. When swimming or boating in Lake Kagawong you can easily observe millions of these creatures adhering to rocks and boulders. There are many adverse affects attributed to zebra mussels in lakes. They clog up water intakes, can cut your feet and may play a role in algal growth in lakes. They radically change the ecology of a lake's aquatic environment. So, boaters please follow the new Ontario regulations when moving boats and trailers into a water body.

October 19, 2021 – The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry has finalized amendments to Ontario Regulation 354/16 under the Invasive Species Act, 2015 to regulate watercraft as a carrier of invasive species. The changes also classify 13 species as either prohibited or restricted invasive species.

The objective of this proposal is to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species which can occur through the movement of watercraft overland to other waterbodies in Ontario and to other provinces and states. The rules are based on the Clean, Drain, Dry practices which have been promoted through education and outreach efforts across North America, by FOCA, and others.

- **Boaters are now required to remove drain plugs, drain all on board water and remove any aquatic plants upon removing the watercraft from a waterbody.**
- **Prior to reaching a launch site for a body of water, the watercraft, watercraft equipment and any vehicle or trailer used to transport the watercraft or watercraft equipment must not have an aquatic plant, animal or algae attached to it.**

Note: watercraft includes any motorboat, rowboat, canoe, punt, sailboat, or raft.

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You can learn more about invasive species and their impacts at the following web link.

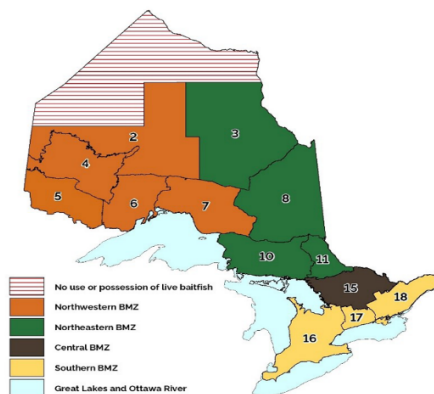
<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3465>

Bait Fish It is strongly recommended that all persons using bait and bait fish refer to official government documents that outline bait fish regulations, in addition to what is outlined below.

The movement of bait fish such as leeches and minnows pose a threat to Ontario's Lakes. The release of a non native bait fish into a lake can result in establishing a population of new minnow/fish that can spread disease, disrupt the ecology of the lake and damage native fish stocks.

New rules coming into effect on January 1, 2022, as directed by the Ontario Government Min. of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry.

- establishing four Bait Management Zones (**BMZs**) to limit the movement of baitfish and leeches in Ontario, **See map below.**
- restricting the transportation of baitfish or leeches, whether live or dead, into or out of a BMZ with some limited exceptions.
- anglers fishing outside their home BMZ (zone of permanent residence) must purchase baitfish and leeches locally, retain a receipt and use or dispose of their bait within two weeks from when they were purchased.
- harvesting of baitfish and leeches by anglers may only occur in their home BMZ.
- the use and storage of bait is prohibited in native brook trout lakes.



Map compliments of the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNR).

- **Manitoulin Island is defined as all land south of the causeway connecting Great LaCloche Island and Whitefish River First Nation known as Swift Current Bridge. It is in the Great Lakes Area for BMZ purposes.**
- anglers can only move baitfish and leeches into an adjacent BMZ from the Great Lakes or portion of the Ottawa River for the purposes of immediately disposing of them more than 30 metres from the water.

An example of how the new regulations apply locally.

Bait fish can be moved onto Manitoulin Island by land, purchased in Espanola, but bait fish cannot be taken off Manitoulin Island and used in the Espanola area.

Worms are not bait.

Permanent and non permanent residents of Manitoulin Island may harvest bait fish.

Lake Manitou is not considered a (native) naturally reproducing brook trout lake.

The new bait fish regulations have little impact on fishing on Manitoulin Island. The biggest impact is bait fish **cannot** be taken off the Island even if purchased off the Island.

- For more information on bait fish regulations use the following link www.ontario.ca/bait.

Thankyou to the staff of the MNDMNRF Sudbury District Office for providing current information about bait fish regulations on Manitoulin Island.

CULINARY DELIGHTS

Moist and Easy Cornbread

1 cup cornmeal
3/4 cup all purpose flour
1 tablespoon sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 large lightly beaten eggs
1 1/2 cups buttermilk
6 tablespoons melted, (plus butter for baking dish) unsalted butter

Preheat the oven to 425°. Lightly grease an 8-inch baking dish.

In a large bowl, mix together the cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

In a separate bowl, mix together the eggs, buttermilk and butter. Pour the buttermilk mixture into the cornmeal mixture and fold together until there are no dry spots (the batter will still be lumpy). Pour the batter into the prepared baking dish.

Bake until the top is golden brown and tester inserted into the middle of the corn bread comes out clean, about 20 to 25 minutes. Remove the cornbread from the oven and let it cool for 10 minutes before serving.

<https://www.pauladeen.com/recipe/moist-and-easy-cornbread/>

I use my cast iron and put a tsp of bacon grease in it then put it in the oven as it is preheating.
Submitted by Jenn Sailus

Kids' Corner

Paddling adventures on Lake Manitou

There are a several options for getting out on the waters of Lake Manitou. These include human powered paddling activities that require some skill but do not require a licence to participate. Two of the most popular paddling craft are canoes and kayaks. They are available to persons from a wide range of age classes. Better still they are a good form of exercise and have a very small carbon footprint. So, get out and enjoy the beauty of the lake and enjoy nature at its best.

The most universal boating safety device is the personal flotation device (PDF). Always wear a properly sized, Transport Canada approved personal floatation device (PFD) sometimes also called a life jacket. You must always have a PDF, one for each person in the boat. Strong swimmers enjoy an additional level of safety beyond the PDF.

The next rule is don't go out after dark or in windy or stormy conditions. Always keep a close eye on the weather. Never venture out if you hear thunder rumbling or if there is a risk of lightening while you are on the water. A strong wind could drive you far out into the middle of the lake and large waves could swamp the boat. Dense fog can cause a boater to become disoriented. Be weather wise and alert to changing weather conditions when out for a paddle.

Always let a responsible person know where you are going. A group offers some additional safety compared to a solo venture.

Now if you enjoy early spring or late fall paddling consider that very cold water can be a big problem. Hypothermia can set in quickly if you capsize and a PDF will not offer much protection from cold water. When water temperatures are cold consider delaying your fun until things warm up. If you must go out stay very close to shore.

There are plenty of calm warm sunny days that are perfect for paddling. Pick a nice day and you can safely enjoy the experience of a lifetime. The below web link will give you the minimum safety equipment requirements for canoe and kayaks on Lake Manitou. There are special safety equipment requirements for each specific type of self-propelled watercraft. It is essential you check these out and comply with them before operating your watercraft. The PDF is a requirement for all types of small watercraft. Refer to the web link below for more information on safety equipment.

<https://www.northernontario.travel/paddling/kayak-canoe-and-sup-laws-in-ontario-life-jackets-safety-kits-lights-and-more>.

There are several ways to learn how to safely operate a paddled watercraft. Learning from an experienced operator is a first choice. You may also have the chance to go online and watch Youtube videos. That is a good rainy-day activity.

THE CANOE The canoe is part of our Canadian heritage and was very important as a mode of transportation during early settlement. The canoe can be from 14 to over 20 feet in length. Most are made of fibre glass, aluminium, kevlar or molded plastics. Earlier canoes were made of wood and birch bark, a little later wood and canvas.

Canoes are light in weight so they can be carried overland around rapids and between lakes on portage trails. They are designed to carry luggage like sleeping bags and food or fishing gear.

The canoe is usually open to the sky so water can splash in. Big waves and canoes are not a good mix.

To propel a canoe, a paddle is used. The paddler in the back, the sternman steers and the paddler in the front, the bowman paddles and keeps a look out for rocks and sometimes assists with steering. Most canoes are built to be paddled by 2 people but sometimes 3 or more can join in and paddle. They can also be paddled by 1 person. During the period in history when there were fur traders, canoes were often bigger to carry heavy loads. Some canoes then and now are equipped for up to 10 paddlers. The canoe is one of the most versatile watercraft, relatively inexpensive, easy to use and transport by vehicle. It is a first choice boat for many paddling enthusiasts.



There are many canoe paddles to choose from. To size a paddle put one end on your toe. The other end should come up to your nose.



A standard 16-foot canoe made of kevlar. Strong and light and suitable for easy short paddles on the lake, fishing or extended over night canoe trips.

Kayaks are a very popular watercraft. Kayaks come in numerous designs. The design should compliment the intended use. Kayaks for short outings close to home might best be of the open to the sky, sit on top models. Water can easily flow in one side and out the other unimpeded so be prepared to get wet. These are great for short paddles in warm weather. There are sit on kayaks that are specifically designed for fishing.

Closed cockpit kayaks referred to as **recreational, touring or sea kayaks** can be largely sealed against water coming inside and are suited for longer day and overnight trips. These kayaks usually have front and back cargo holds that are watertight. These models lend themselves to larger waves and colder water.

The length of the kayak is an important consideration. Sit on top and recreational kayaks average about 12 feet or 3.5 meters in length. Touring and sea kayaks average about 16-17 feet or 5 meters in length. The ease of moving and storing a shorter lighter kayak maybe an advantage. Longer heavier kayaks are easier to steer but more difficult to transport using a vehicle and take up more storage space.

Kayak paddles average about 92 inches or about 225 cm in length.



Less costly aluminium plastic paddles are good for beginners.

For longer trips more costly fiberglass and carbon fiber paddles are more reliable, less likely to break and are stiffer giving a slightly better paddling performance. Most kayak paddles come apart in the middle. Paddle blade orientation can be adjusted by twisting the shaft and locking it in to a desired position.

There are several other model specific options available such as foot-controlled rudders and skegs that help maintain steering. These are found on higher end touring and sea kayaks. Most touring and sea kayak users will invest in a skirt to seal themselves from water entering the cock pit.

It is advisable to do a little research before deciding on a kayak model to purchase. If possible, play around with a kayak on the water before selecting it.



An open cockpit sit on top kayak suitable for fishing



A Sea Kayak

There are many kayak models to choose from. A simple google search will provide model details.

Safety equipment is regulated by Transport Canada and is mandatory. Safety equipment for canoes and kayaks is mostly interchangeable. The PDF is essential. A floating heaving rope, pea less whistle, and waterproof flashlight are essential although the flashlight is only required for night travel. A bailing device or water pump is required. An extra paddle is not mandatory but highly advisable. Storing this equipment can be problematic so compact kits such as that shown below can be purchased at marine sporting goods store. Sunscreen and sun protective clothing is imperative. Exposure to ultraviolet sun rays is at a maximum on the water.

A waterproof paddling jacket is recommended for kayakers.



HAPPY BOATING

The Big Lake School House

Negotiations are underway for the purchase of and operation of the Big Lake School House by the Big Lake Community Association.

The Big Lake School House located on the corner of Highway 542 and the Silver Bay Road has recently (before covid) been the host to many community events largely through the efforts of the Big Lake Community Association. The schoolhouse built in 1926 is currently owned by the Municipality of Central Manitoulin. The municipal council (winter 2022) voted to enter into negotiations with the Big Lake Community Association to transfer ownership and responsibility for the property to the Association.

One can only hope that these negotiations go well, and the Schoolhouse can continue to remain a testament to the early history of settlement on Manitoulin and will provide a venue for community events such as fish fry, hobo steak dinner, pancake breakfast, euchre games and more.

Following is a short section of a report published in the **Manitoulin Expositor** March 16th, 2022. Reprinted with permission.

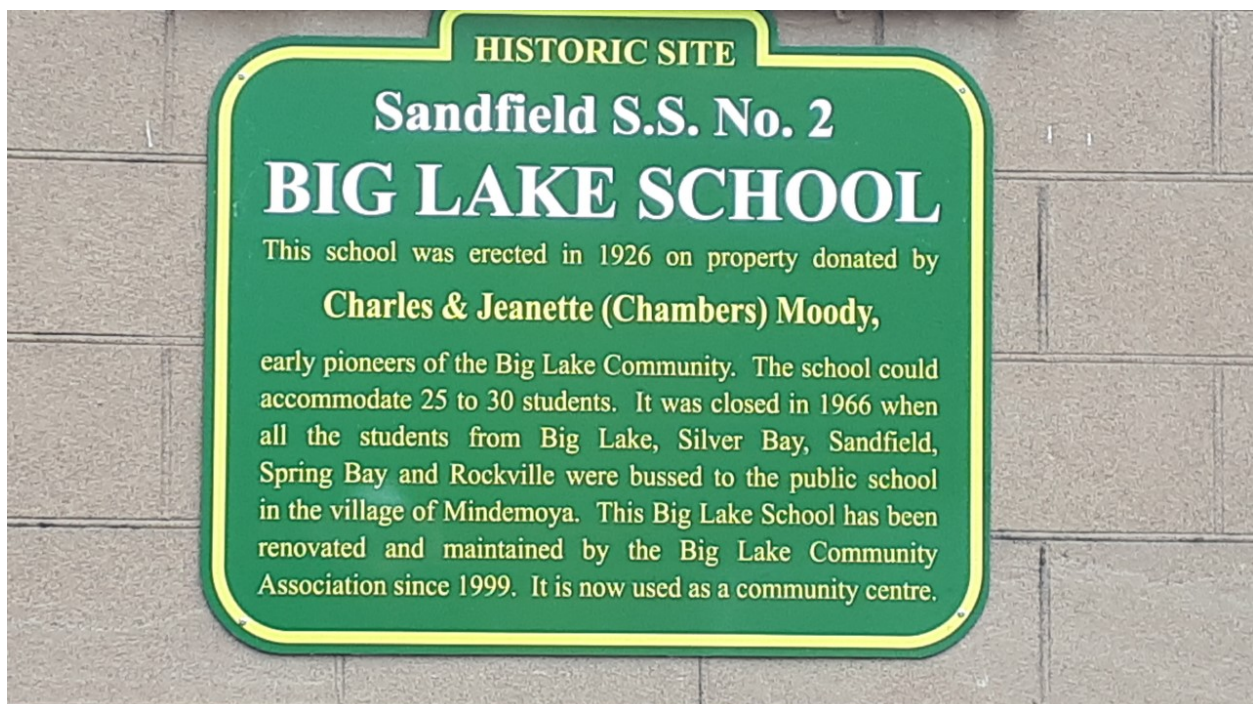
A recommendation to this effect had come from the municipal property committee, after a CENTRAL MANITOULIN—Council for the municipality of Central Manitoulin has declared the Big Lake School property as surplus and staff has been instructed to enter into negotiations for its purchase with the Big Lake Community Association (BLCA).

“This is a long-standing issue,” stated Councillor Derek Stephens at a council meeting last week. “A lot of the people here tonight on Zoom for this meeting are here because they are members of the Big Lake Community Association and are passionate about the building. I hope, through negotiations, the property is turned over to the association who built, paid for and have used the building. Hats off to them, and I hope the negotiations go well.”

“I would like to put forward the motion to declare the Big Lake School property as surplus and for staff to be instructed to enter into negotiations with the (BLCA),” said Councillor Stephens.

Councillor Rose Diebolt seconded the motion which passed without any opposition.

Presentation made by Lois Middaugh of BLCA at a meeting earlier in the week.



The Big Lake School House. Its fate is soon to be determined.

Members' Notice Board

- LMAA Annual General Meeting - **Saturday July 16th at 10 am** in the Sandfield School House.
- LMAA Information Night - **Wednesday August 17 at 7 pm** in the Sandfield School House. Topic TBA.

Check the LMAA website for updates. lakemanitouarea.ca



Rumour has it there is a pot of gold somewhere on the north shore of Lake Manitou.

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Have a Great Summery
Wind Swept Editors - Mark and Jennifer Harvey