



BALSAM LAKE ASSOCIATION 2020

PROTECTING OUR LEGACY

Shaun Mitchell Photography

50 YEARS OF PROTECTING OUR LEGACY

By: Dean Michel, President

Congratulations Balsam Lake Association (BLA) on a golden anniversary.

Concerned lakers formed the association in 1970 to address proposed development of Grand Island. The original proposal was for 2,000 cottages (shoreline and backlot), an airstrip, a possible casino and other amenities. Who would have thought the BLA would still be active in 2020?

With about 1,000 permanent and seasonal resident supporters, the volunteer board continues to serve as an umbrella organization for 15 local associations and single supporters around the lake.

As written in the BLA bylaws:

Fundamentally, the aim and role of the Balsam Lake Association is to maintain and improve the security and enjoyment of lakefront and near-shore property owners. Key to that is monitoring activities that may impact Balsam Lake and the adjacent areas that contribute to the health and enjoyment of the lake.

For less than the cost of a slice of pizza, (\$5 each year per supporter—unchanged in decades) the BLA has a long list of initiatives. The list is too long for this page. Instead, visit our recently updated website: balsamlakeassociation.ca

Thank you to the many volunteers with the BLA who play an important role in protecting Balsam Lake's legacy for future generations.

NEARSHORE WATER TESTING

By: Debbie Balika, Kawartha Conservation
Douglas Erlandson, Director, Area 11

In 2019, with the help of Balsam Lake Citizen Scientists we collected water samples and observational data over the summer months; the first year of a four-year project. Preliminary results showed that Balsam Lake is very healthy and had no exceedances of E.coli or total phosphorus. Year two of the program is currently on hold as a result of COVID 19 but we are hopeful that we will be able to recommence testing in the late Spring or Summer.


This year we are also planning to initiate another Citizen Science project asking volunteers to attach a collection contraption (a Hester Dendy) to their dock to determine the biological community in the nearshore area. This project is also on hold but again we are hopeful that it will be able to commence in late Spring or Summer. If you are interested in additional information on the Nearshore Water Testing or would like to participate by attaching a Hester Dendy collector to your dock, please contact Doug Erlandson - douglas.erlandson@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support.



I am important! I am protected!

What am I?
A Freshwater Mussel!



What is a mussel?

- 2-shelled invertebrate living in rivers and lakes
- Lives up to 100 years
- Of 40+ Ontario mussels, 66% are endangered

Why are mussels important?

- Filter up to 9L of water/hr, keeping it clean
- Sensitive to pollution: presence of mussels indicates healthy waters
- Food source for otters, mink, small fish and other animals

Photo: Todd Murray, 2013

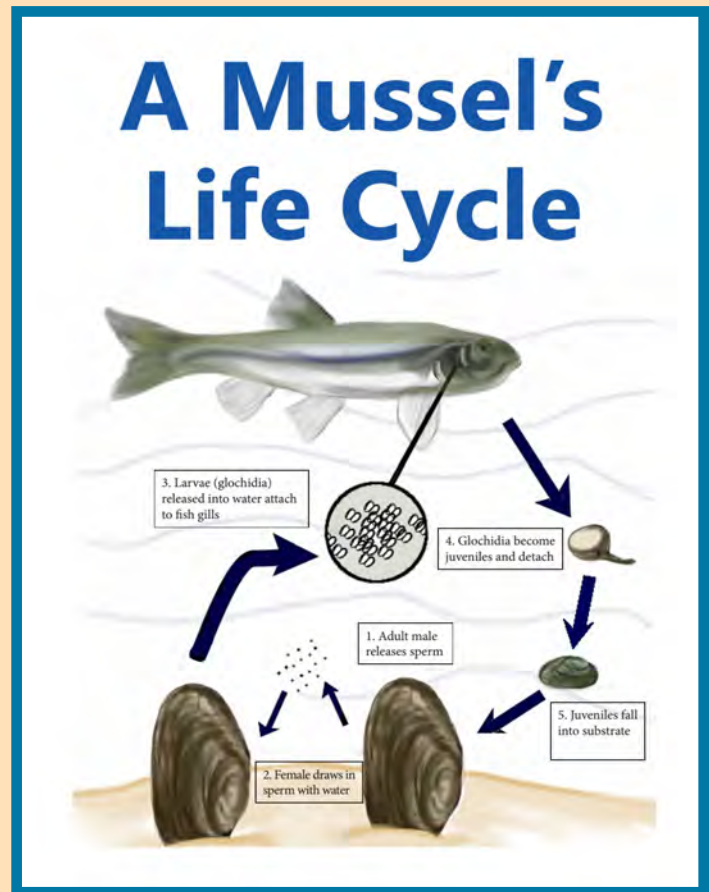
Mussels are protected by the Fisheries Act; collecting them without a permit is forbidden

For information, contact: greatlakes@torontozoo.ca

Report mussel sightings with Clam Counter

I am important! I am protected!

Logos: Environment Canada, Toronto Zoo, Rouge Park, Great Lakes Program, and Clam Counter app icons.



Freshwater Mussels are the largest and longest lived invertebrates in North America. Highly sensitive to habitat changes over 50% of the 40+ species of Ontario mussels are considered threatened. Help biologists gather data for Balsam this summer and join "Clam Counter"

INVASIVE SNAIL SPECIES

There are two invasive snail species that have been in Balsam for several years and with the warm summers and calm water numbers have increased. We see the empty shells washed onshore during wavy days or floating on the surface.

The floating snails have air inside their shells and can be feeding on microorganisms that are living at the air-water interface, using the natural surface tension that collects their microscopic prey. Snails consume algae, some plant material and decaying matter on any surface.

The two invasive species are likely the banded mysterysnail & Chinese mysterysnail. They are widespread in Ontario, originally introduced through aquarium or garden pond plants being released into local waters.

Note: Our lake has several similar looking native snails each species contributing to a healthy lake ecosystem.



ROSEDALE BOAT RAMP - NEEDS REPAIR

By: Glenn Hunt

Many of you use this ramp-the busiest Public Boat Ramp in the City of Kawartha Lakes (COKL) and on Balsam Lake. It needs repair! As larger boats power onto their trailers, the river bottom has been progressively pushed out, creating an underwater silt and rock pile. This is becoming hazardous to boaters. Also, the driveway leaving the ramp is plagued with potholes. Residents of Rosedale (RoR) has been communicating with Ministry Of Transport Ontario (MTO) to obtain approval for a new boat ramp and driveway. This land is owned by MTO who have indicated that, conceptually, they are ok with what RoR is proposing. However, MTO requires the COKL to enter into a project agreement where the COKL provides Insurance, Engineering, Design & Management of the project.

Currently RoR is requesting support from the COKL. RoR will be applying for grants and will typically need to raise up to \$50,000 themselves, which is substantial. Please help us to keep your access point open! Donations for Ramp maintenance and the project can be E-Transferred to ResidentsOfRosedale@Gmail.com or, mail cheques, payable to Residents of Rosedale to 90 Coldstream Rd. Fenelon Falls ON K0M1N0. A Donation Box is also located at the boat ramp.



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1302 North Bay Drive, on the corner of Hwy 48, 4 km West of Coboconk



COBOCONK and ROSEDALE are two of the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) Trail Towns along Canada's first ever 'Water Trail'. This program is modelled after a similar concept in the U.S. that created trail-friendly towns that encouraged tourists to experience the trail and attractions nearby.

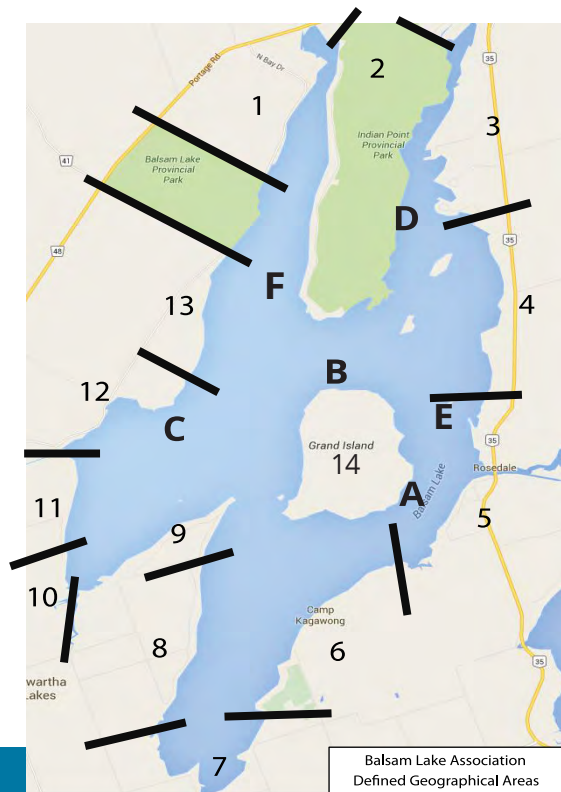
Currently, nine communities along the TSW have embraced the concept.

Our Trail Towns will support paddlers, boaters, and land-trail users who seek enjoyment within 2 kilometres of the Trent-Severn Waterway. Visitors can marvel at the Kirkfield Lift Lock, visit Coboconk's Smallest Jail and walk the Deweys Island Trails in Rosedale. Coming to each community this year are informational signage, brochures, bike racks and kayak/canoe racks.

Thousands of visitors come to Balsam Lake each year. They will be encouraged to stop and explore the Trail Towns and all they offer. This free to businesses program has the potential to be a real benefit for participating businesses over time, building stronger, growing communities. Look for businesses displaying a Trail Town decal showing their support and listed on the TSW Trail Town website.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the completion of the Trent Severn Waterway and the kickoff of the TSW Trail Towns...what a great year 2020 will be!

For more information, visit TSWtrailtowns.ca or Coboconknorland.ca



BLA - DEFINED GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS AND DIRECTORS

- | | | |
|----|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Dean Michel | North Bay |
| 2 | Barb Callander | Indian Point |
| 3 | Barb Peel | Coboconk - Northeast Shore |
| 4 | Vacant | East Shore |
| 5 | Doug Cowan | Rosedale and Area |
| 6 | C. Lee | Southeast Shore |
| 7 | Nicole Samson | Killarney Bay - Birch Point |
| 8 | Tom Savage | South Bay |
| 9 | Tim Anevich | Long Point |
| 10 | Ken Edwards | Homewood Park - Staples River |
| 11 | Doug Erlandson | West Bay |
| 12 | Dave Donais | Southern Balsam Lake Drive |
| 13 | Jerry Crown | Northern Balsam Lake Drive |
| 14 | Graham Clark | Islands of Balsam Lake |

BLA - MARINE HAZARD MARKINGS

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| A Togo Rock | D North Lightning Point |
| B Grand Rock | E Delamere Island |
| C Mackenzie Point | F Indian Point |

Did you enjoy this year's newsletter? We welcome your feedback. Drop us a line at balsamlakeassociation@gmail.com