



# President's Message

Hello neighbours! What a whirlwind winter! As I write this message we are in the aftermath of a crazy early April snowstorm! I woke up this morning to one of our beautiful cedar trees split in half across our driveway as the weight of the snow we received was just too much for it to handle! Considering the day before our driveway was almost completely free of snow this was quite a surprise. For the most part though it really was a mild winter with very limited snow. Regardless of what nature brought, we still got to enjoy some snowshoeing in the beautiful trails along the A and B road and were able to walk the shores of Fairy Lake a couple of times. I am very much looking forward to summer and seeing you all out and about in our beautiful lakes area!

The Hudson Lakes Association will be meeting again on May 30. At our next meeting we will be discussing any updates pertaining to the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law information, the Lakes Capacity Study and of course the upcoming plans for this year's 75th Anniversary Edition of the Hudson Lakes Regatta!

I want to pay tribute to a number of former lake residents who sadly have passed away this past winter. Their lives touched many of us personally, and now they live on in our hearts. Former Fairy Lake residents: Doug Spencer, his uncle Gord Spencer and their neighbour Betty Fielder. As well as our longtime Hudson Landfill Attendant William (Bill) Walker. Please see below where I have linked their online tributes for you to visit.

- [Doug Spencer](#) (1953-2024)
- [Gord Spencer](#) (1927-2024)
- [Betty Fielder](#) (1927-2024)
- [William \(Bill\) Walker](#) (1954-2024)

Finally, I hope you find some time to read through this newsletter. It's a collaborative effort, and hopefully of interest and enjoyment to you as a resident of our beautiful lakes area! Once again a big thank you to Nicki Duke who voluntarily puts this whole thing together! Thank you to everyone who submitted articles and photos and to Renée Catt who carefully edits and proofs all content!

Kind regards,

Sarah Desmarais  
HLA President



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# LAKE HEALTH

In September at the Hudson Township council meeting, Hutchinson Environmental presented the [Lakes Capacity Study](#) that was done last summer. This Lakes Capacity Study will be used to inform upcoming changes to the Zoning By-Laws and Municipal Plan that the township of Hudson is working on. Some key highlights and recommendations from this Lakes Capacity Study included:

- Upper Twin, Fairy & Bartle are all at or beyond capacity for new lot development.
- Fairy, Upper Twin and Lower Twin had elevated nutrient levels, in particular phosphorus.
- It was encouraged that septic systems be inspected and pumped at minimum every 5 years.
- It is also recommended that septic systems that are not up to date be repaired/replaced to meet requirements and not contribute to elevated nutrient levels in the lakes.
- That water quality monitoring continues to occur on all four lakes.
- Encourage natural shorelines and limit future shoreline development.

As well, a recent [FOCA article](#) made some recommendations to help minimize the input of phosphorus into our lakes. Many of these are applicable to our lakes, as the Lakes Capacity Study indicated that phosphorus levels in a few of our Hudson Lakes are considered to be high.

- Maintain a properly functioning septic system. Have your septic system pumped every 3-5 years to remove the build-up of solids and scum, and take this opportunity to have the system checked for any required maintenance. If you are converting a cottage into a permanent dwelling be sure to check the capacity of your septic system. Exceeding the capacity of your septic could result in the remobilization of phosphorus in the soil.
- Reduce your water use at the cottage. Excessive water use is the most common cause of septic failure. Cut down on the amount of water entering your septic by installing low flow toilets and showerheads, and taking laundry home to wash.
- Naturalize your shorelines (e.g., vegetated buffer strips, wetlands) to help control soil erosion and the runoff of nutrients to the lake and nearby rivers and streams.
- Limit the amount of impervious surfaces, including roofs, parking areas, and patios, to reduce runoff to nearby water bodies.
- Encourage enhanced septic system setback limits. The current minimum setback requirement in the Ontario Building Code (OBC) is 15 metres. The MOE recommends a minimum clearance of 30 metres between septic system and the water's edge.

~ Sarah Desmarais



Image from [The Land Between](#)

## DOUG SPENCER TRIBUTE

It is with profound sadness we announce the passing of our dear husband, father, Poppa and Great Poppa, Doug Spencer. Doug passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on February 13, 2024 at the Temiskaming Hospital just two weeks after his 71st birthday.

Doug will be deeply missed by his wife of 52 years Janet, his son Jason (Tammy) and their two girls Breanna and Kaitlyn and his daughter Cheri (Wayne) Knight and their two children Dawson and Emily. He will now watch over his new Great Granddaughter Lyla Knight. Doug will also be sadly missed by his two sisters Connie (Alex) Gillis, Lynn Birinie and brother John (Pat) Spencer. Doug and the Spencer Family spent many, many years cottaging and living the good life at Fairy Lake. Their love for the lakes, their respect for nature, and the joy the four seasons brought all of them will be etched in the Spencer Family forever.

**A Celebration of Life for Doug will be held on Saturday, May 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the New Liskeard Golf course.**

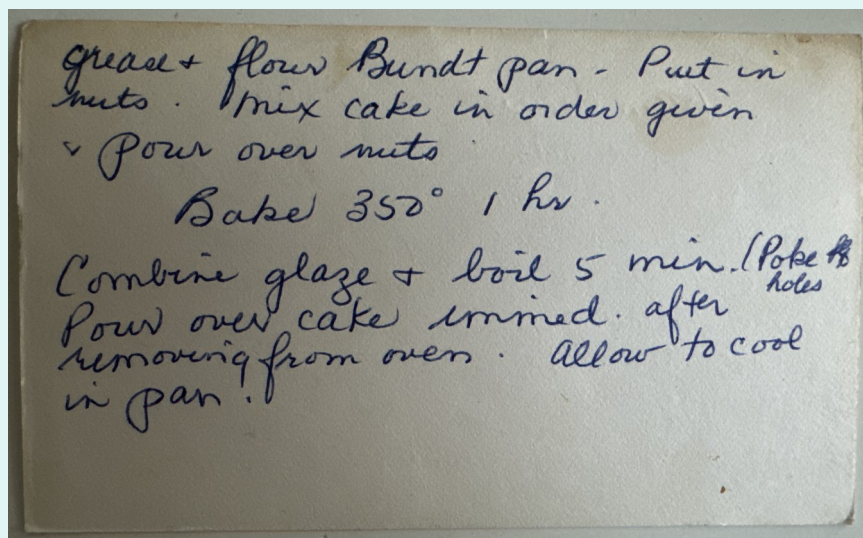
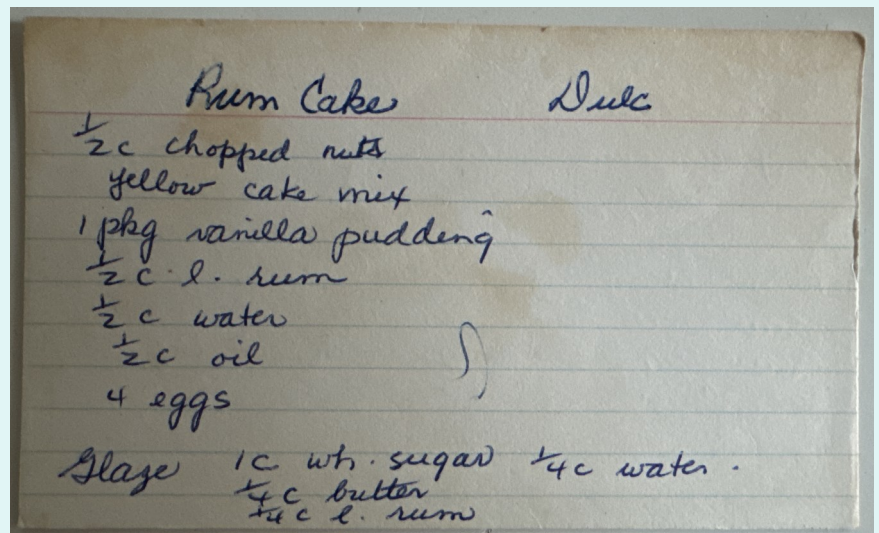
~ Janet Spencer

## RECIPE - DULCIE EVANS RUM CAKE

Make at your own risk and post your review to the Hudson Lakes Facebook Group. I haven't tried it yet. This is Dulcie Evans' recipe found in my grandma Betty's recipe box.

Dulcie and Jack Evans were long time cottagers in the Boot.

~ Chelsie McKnight



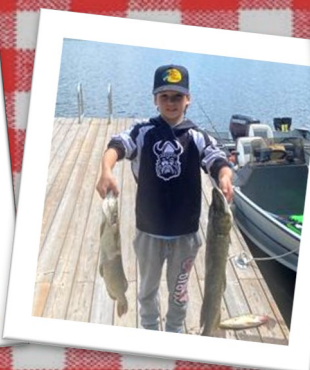


75<sup>th</sup>

# HUDSON LAKES REGATTA



## SAVE THE DATE!



Join us for a special celebration on the Civic Weekend, August 3 & 4, 2024, as we mark the 75th Anniversary of the Hudson Lakes Regatta.

This milestone event promises to be a memorable weekend, celebrating a beloved tradition that has brought together lake residents and cottagers for generations.

This year's festivities will include:

- **Volleyball Tournament** on Pike Lake
- **Pon-Tune Sing-a-Long** on Fairy Lake
- **Classic Boat Parade and Races** on Twin Lakes
- **Art, Photography, and Baking Contests** featured online and on the Regatta grounds
- **and more!**



We invite all members of our community to participate in these historic celebrations, either by joining the competitions or by cheering on from the shores. To make this anniversary truly unforgettable, we are calling on volunteers to help with the event.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Whether you're looking to contribute to the planning process or assist on the day of the event, your involvement will be invaluable. It's an excellent opportunity for teens to earn volunteer hours and for all community members to strengthen their ties. Please reach out to Chelsie McKnight at [chelsie.mcknight@gmail.com](mailto:chelsie.mcknight@gmail.com) if you can lend a hand.

We extend our heartfelt thanks in advance to the cottagers, residents, and local businesses whose support has been crucial in making the Hudson Lakes Regatta a cornerstone event for so many years.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details on what is sure to be a historic gathering!

~ Chelsie McKnight



# FIRESMART PREPARATION

With a potentially dry summer ahead my mind darts between the imminent bug season and of course the potential for forest fires! I personally always like to think positively, however, it would be foolish to think that we are not at risk in our beautiful wooded lakes area to the potential risks for localized fires. Being prepared is the best line of defense. Here are a few ideas to consider as summer approaches.

- Contact your insurance company or carefully read through your homeowners/cottage policy to be sure you understand the coverage you have for fire/natural disaster. You may just find that you are underinsured and need to increase the amount of coverage you have. With the increasing values of our properties over the past number of years, it's crucial to ensure you are covered sufficiently. It's worth a call or a close read in order to know exactly what you are covered for.
- Put together an "evacuation bin" that can be easily grabbed if need be. Over the years I have put together a bin that includes documents that are not easily/conveniently replaced such as: passports, birth certificates, marriage certificates, legal will/power of attorney info, custody information, house title/deed, insurance policies, diplomas/certifications etc... as well as personal items that are of sentimental value and could never be replaced. This way, if ever we receive an evacuation warning, at a moment's notice you could simply grab your bin, throw it in the vehicle and have everything of importance that would be very hard to replace if lost in a fire.
- Consider taking photos and making a video of the contents of your home. If ever a claim is to be made it is much easier to show what was lost in a fire rather than trying to recall the contents while in a state of trauma and grief. A picture says a thousand words, and a video, well that can be even more valuable.
- Ensure you have a plan in place for your pets as well. Pets are often left inside at home and therefore having a plan for them is critical. Consider a "pets inside" sticker for your entry. Coordinate with a neighbour who could pick up your pet in case of evacuation if you are not home at the time.

Simply taking a little time to put together a plan now could make all the difference for you and your family.

~Sarah Desmarais



## HUDSON LIBRARY - OPEN SATURDAYS 11 AM - 1 PM

We are a lending Library and we are open to one and all.

We have a large selection of both English and French books for all ages.

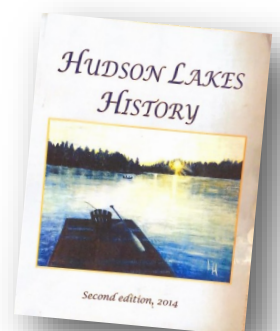
We are always trying to recycle and restock our shelves so drop off your unwanted books any time! We have a drop off box outside the library for books and movies.

We have a large selection of movies (which we rent for .25 cents). Drop by and pick up some movies for those rainy days while at the cottage.

We also have internet service in the parking lot 24/7 and a computer and printer inside the library.

A Big Thank You to our volunteers who work throughout the year!

~ Janet Spencer



Hudson Lakes History books are available to purchase at the Hudson Library for \$30.



# PROTECTING YOUR HOME: HOW TO PREPARE FOR WILDFIRES

Wildfires pose a significant threat to homes and properties, where the risk is heightened due to various factors. As communities face the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires, it becomes imperative for homeowners to take proactive measures to safeguard their properties.

## **Understanding the Threat: Wildfire Statistics, Policy Impact, and Homeowner Challenges**

Historical data and analyses indicate a trend of escalating wildfire activity in Northern Ontario. Severity measures have led to budget cuts and resource constraints, hampering the ability of emergency fire services to respond effectively and timely to wildfires. Given the reduced moisture levels, post La Nina, there's a heightened anticipation for a potentially severe wildfire season.

## **Preparation is Key: Mitigation Principles and Additional Measures**

Implementing wildfire mitigation principles is crucial for homeowners to prepare their properties for the wildfire season. By adopting proactive measures, you can create defensible spaces and reduce the likelihood of fire damage. Here are some strategies you can implement:

### Create Defensible Spaces:

Clear vegetation and combustible materials from around your home, creating a buffer zone to prevent flames from reaching your property. Choose fire-resistant plants for landscaping, and keep vegetation well-maintained.

### Choose Fire-Resistant Materials:

Choose fire-resistant building materials when constructing or renovating your home, such as metal roofing, tempered glass windows, and non-combustible siding.

### Maintain Your Property:

Regularly clean gutters, remove dead vegetation, and trim overhanging branches to reduce the risk of embers igniting on your property.

### Community Collaboration and Advocacy:

Encourage community collaboration and advocacy by mobilizing neighbours and community members to increase awareness of wildfires and advocate for resources to strengthen community areas against potential wildfire impacts.

### Prepare an Evacuation Plan:

Develop a comprehensive evacuation plan for your family and pets in case of a wildfire. Identify multiple evacuation routes and establish a meeting point outside the danger zone. Ensure all family members are familiar with the plan and practice it regularly.

### Maintain Access for Emergency Vehicles:

Keep driveways and access roads clear of obstacles to allow emergency vehicles easy access to your property.

By implementing these measures, homeowners can enhance the resilience of their properties and reduce the risk of wildfire damage. Stay informed, stay vigilant, and together, we can build a safer and more resilient community!

## **Resources**

For more information on wildfire preparedness and advocacy efforts, visit [FireSmart Canada](#) and Ministry of Natural Resources – [Wild Fire Mapping](#) (Ontario)

~ Shay Yaskovitch



## BALD IS BEAUTIFUL

The bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus*, is Canada's largest bird of prey and is the only eagle found in North America. They make their homes in forested areas and prefer to be near large bodies of water where the availability of tall trees (eg. white pine) provide important breeding habitats. They can be found in and around the Temiskaming area and are often sighted around the Hudson Lakes.

At 3 to 7 kilograms with a wingspan of up to 2m, the bald eagle has few natural predators and is at the top of its food chain. Adult bald eagles are effective hunters and primarily eat fish. They will also eat other small animals, including mammals, birds, crustaceans and reptiles. Juveniles rely mostly on scavenging for carrion.

As a top predator, the bald eagle became vulnerable to the bioaccumulation of the pesticide DDT, which was commonly used to kill insects in the mid 1940's to late '60's. Since the ban of DDT in the early 70's the population has rebounded where it is no longer considered a species at risk under COSEWIC.

The characteristic white head of a bald eagle only appears at 4-5 years of age, once they reach adulthood. Around that age, a pair bond develops, and courtship activities begin. Many bald eagles mate for life. However, bald eagles will find a new partner if their mate is lost, or a failed breeding attempt may cause a split in the relationship.

A bald eagle courtship involves a series of vocalizations and an elaborate display of acrobatic like moves, such as cartwheels, roller-coaster swoops and chases. Courtship also involves the building of the nest and collection of food. Mating can occur in the air, but more often this occurs in trees or on the ground. In the Northern parts of Ontario, courtship begins shortly after the birds return from their wintering grounds in late February to mid-March.

Stick nests in our area are generally found at the top of large white pines and average 1.5-2m across and 1 m tall but they can be much larger. The female lays 2-3 eggs and incubates her eggs for 35 days until they hatch. The eaglets leave the nest at about 12 weeks.

Habitat management in Ontario largely involves the protection of breeding habitat. Eagle stick nests are identified and inventoried by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry so that forest management planners can include the required buffers around these sensitive habitats during forestry operations.

If you are lucky enough to see these majestic birds around the Hudson Lakes area, enjoy the sighting and appreciate that this magnificent bird, which was once was at risk of disappearing off the face of the earth, is fortunately one of nature's success stories.

~ Mike Anderson



Photo by Dana McLean (2015)

