



The Laker

Morrison Lake News

ISSUE 12

FALL

2012

Another great summer on ML!

I am sure most will agree the summer of 2012 was fabulous. Lots of sun shine and warm temperatures. Unfortunately it's that time again to put the boat and patio furniture away for another winter! Below is the latest edition of the ML Newsletter. Again we are asking for your feedback and input into this newsletter. We can expedite the delivery of the newsletter by each resident sending their email address to (NEW): ourlake@morrisonlake.ca Should you be willing to provide input into the newsletter, please contact Paul Kelly at: kellysp@sympatico.ca or at (705) 687-5605.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Get In Touch

Provide your email address and get regular updates on Morrison Lake at: www.morrisonlake.ca



LAKE WATCH

Morrison Lake Website: www.morrisonlake.ca

Membership Fees \$25: Please send to...MLRA General Delivery, Kilworthy, Ont. P0E1G0

Morrison Lake Rate Payers Association

EXECUTIVE 2012-2013

A Special thank you to the following members who have agreed to hold MLRA Executive positions for the next year:

President: Daren Boydell
darenboydell84@gmail.com

Vice President: Gord Kobe
gordkobe@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Joanne Forth
joannef.43@gmail.com

Secretary: Karen Fairbrass

Directors: Ralf Buschke
Geraldine Debes

ASSOCIATION DUES 2012

All residents/cottagers of Morrison Lake are requested to join the Morrison Lake Rate Payers' Association.

Your \$25 dues can be paid annually at the Regatta or by mail to:

MLRA, General Delivery, Kilworthy, Ontario, POE 1G0.

Cheques should be made payable to: *Morrison Lake Rate Payers Association*

Your dues contribute toward the website, the newsletter, insurance and this regatta!!!

The Regatta brought in \$221 after expenses with an invoice to be paid of \$190 for Johnny-on-the-Spot.

The balance in the MLRA as of August 31, 2012 = \$4,634.58

Joanne Forth - Treasurer



REGATTA 2012

Thank you to Jenny Fairbrass for once again coordinating the ML Regatta and for providing the lake residents and families with a wonderful weekend of activities. A special thank you to the following:

Kim and Dwain Burns
Cara and Rich Englehart
Zack McGillivray
The Tsioros Family
The Rawlings Family
The Doyle Family
The Carcone Family
Geraldine Debes
The Fairbrass Family
The Titus Family
The Kobe Family

The Regatta is an event that brings the lake together.

It requires lots of volunteers in order for it to happen.

If you are able to help in anyway, please send an email to our website.

MORRISON LAKE GOLF & DINNER DAY

THANK YOU.....to Peter and Judy Burkitt for once again organizing the long standing tradition of the Morrison Lake Golf & Dinner event this year. There was a great turnout for both the golf and dinner.

They have offered to once again organize this event for 2012. If you would be willing to assist next year please

contact:

Peter & Judy Burkitt:
pburkitt@sympatico.ca or
at (705) 687-7697.

As soon as you get your new 2013 calendar please turn to August and mark down August 17 for the Morrison Lake Golf Tournament. We had a good time this year and would like to see even more of our neighbours attend!

MORRISON LAKE SKI CLUB NEWS

Barefoot Competition

**Dunnville, ON
on Grand River**

The Morrison Lake Ski Club entered a team comprised of Dustin Titus, Zack McGillivray and Adam Gores. They ended up placing second, even though they were short one team member.

SIXTEEN MORRISON LAKE RESIDENTS RECEIVED CPR TRAINING THIS SUMMER



A Special 'Thank You' to our ML cottager and CPR trainer.....Margaret Bryce.

MORRISON LAKE SKIERS TAKE ON THE WORLD

The competition was the first ever international show ski competition and 5 teams went down to Janesville, Wisconsin to compete. It was Canada, USA, China, Belgium and Australia. Each team had an hour to perform a show and each show was done twice, once on Saturday and once on Sunday. The highest scoring show was then taken as your final mark. USA placed first, China second and Canada third. Most of team Canada was comprised of Summer Water Sports employees so our show was the Batman ski show we have been performing all summer, just with some additions and revisions. And a lot of people went down to support us, including my family and Ian Pegg and Ben Buschke. I've included one picture of the group of people who were there from Morrison Lake. Also a picture of the final pyramid and the last is just a picture from the end of the ski show and some of our supporters.



MEMORIES OF MORRISON LAKE

The story ofWEST WIND



West Wind, the brown cottage on the south-west point of Betula Island (Sims Island on the map, but we are working on changing that) was built around 1944 by the descendants of two of the pioneer families of Morrison Lake. Edna Grainger Page was the daughter of Edwin and Eunice (Eunie) Grainger, one of the couples who built Otiosus, now the Slater cottage, in 1901. Charles Gordon Page (Gord) was the son of Mary Ann Hall Page, who in 1921 bought the north-east point of Betula, in spite of being the widowed mother of four, not being able to swim, and encountering a rattlesnake on her first visit to the site. Gord, his brothers Al and Bob (my father) built the cooking shack which still serves as part of the kitchen of Avoca, the Bryce cottage.

Gord had helped to support his siblings when his father died of pneumonia when he was 12. He became a lawyer, who valued his respite time at the lake so much that even when he could have installed a phone, he refused, saying that anyone who wanted to get in touch with him could contact the store, which at one time stood on South Morrison Lake Road. Only once do I remember anyone doing so. Two men drove to the store, and used their taxi service to arrive at West Wind in the dead of the night. I do not know what was so important. Gord had a gentle, teasing sense of humour. He loved music, and equipped West Wind with the latest in 1950s technology, which included a speaker that was bigger than a chest of drawers. He was also very handy, and built beds, boat covers of plywood to keep his boats dry, along with a Welsh dresser, or china cabinet, which still is impervious to mice. He was considered a respected elder on the lake, and each year he and Edna were invited as honoured guests to the year- end production at Balfour Manor Camp, a children's camp, which once stood where the Balfour Woods Estates are now. Edna was a curious, intelligent person, who taught her nieces and nephews much about the mushrooms, birds, and natural surroundings of the area. I still occasionally pick a wintergreen leaf to chew on, having been shown what they look like.

Her nieces and nephews adored her, as she respected them, listened to them, and made them feel important. She would say that she was interested in nature, and that children were part of nature. Edna was a fastidious housekeeper at home, and did not relax at all at the cottage, much to the chagrin of my brother, Graeme Page, and myself, who often stayed with them, as they had no children of their own. Graeme remembers his days sleeping in the boat house, where every morning he removed the coconut fibre mat, swept up the loose fibres, replaced the mat, only to have to repeat it all the following day. Edna was often the butt of Gord's teasing. I remember on one occasion she had made herself some toast, and set it down on the table. Each time she turned her attention to another task, Gord would take a bite, much to her feigned consternation when she saw what he had done.

Times during the depression were grim, particularly since the Page children supported Mary Ann, their widowed mother. Edna and Gord married in 1930, and by the mid 1940s were able to build a modest cottage on a lot acquired from Edna's father. Those were the days before electricity. The materials would have been brought over the ice in the winter, probably drawn by horses. They hired a carpenter, a Mr Perry, to build the cottage. Likely that necessity, an outhouse, was built first. The cottage was to be a simple one bedroom salt box style made of pine two by fours, unfinished on the inside. Towards the end of the construction they mentioned to Mr Perry that they intended one day to add a back kitchen. "No time like the present," responded Mr Perry, so a back kitchen and sink were added, leaving an opening rather than a window where the outside window would have been, but now adjoined the back kitchen. Mr Perry was fastidious, and insisted that Gord and his friends remove the wood they had hammered in place because it was not quite in line. All these years later we can see the finger and shoe prints of those who worked on the cottage.

After a few years the old oil heater was moved so that the stone mason, Bill Schell, could build a fieldstone fireplace in its place to provide heat. My son, Steve Code, recently totally rebuilt the inside face of the fireplace after a leak had caused the metal liner to disintegrate. Built on the model of English Rumford fireplaces, which use little wood to provide a lot of heat, it once more provides a cosy place to sit and keep warm.

The sleeping cabin installed up the hill from the cottage in 1949 was originally the sales office for the subdivision where Gord and Edna bought their home in East York.

When the cottage was complete a wood stove was put in the kitchen, oil lamps, dishes and other necessities were brought from the city and cottage life began. An ice box was installed. Once a week we made the trip to the store to buy a big block of ice for the ice box, cut from the lake in the dead of winter, and stored in sawdust in the attic of the second building on the store property. Water was hauled in buckets from the lake. Laundry was done in a galvanized metal wash tub with the aid of a corrugated wash board and a bar of Sunlight soap.

Gord built his own docks of two by fours resting on saw horses, hauling them in and out each season. Old tires were cut up and fastened to the sides to serve as bumpers. The boats which took them to the island were little more than slighter larger canoes, with a 3 horsepower motor. There were no external gas tanks, so that a can of gas had to be taken in the boat to be used to fill the tank in the motor when the motor suddenly stopped in the middle of the lake. They were not as clean as today's motors, and we often would see rainbow coloured oil slicks on the surface of the lake.

At that time there were only a few cottages on the lake, most belonging to relatives and extended family. There was the original Otiosus family, occupied by Edna's sister, Myrna Grainger Richardson, her husband Allan, their three boys, and Myrna's sister, Elsie. Al Page had taken over Avoca. Edna's brother, Vic Grainger and his family had bought the Sims cottage, Outside Inn, now the Carcone/Shipman cottage. Ian Sims' grandmother, Lil Sims and her sister Lyddie Sims often visited from Squaw Island in their red wooden boat. I was fascinated with Lyddie, as she always had Scotch tape on her face. Years later Ian told me that she once has an eyelash that was growing into her eye. A doctor told her to tape it down, which she did for the rest of her life. When she died the funeral home removed it, and the whole family felt something was definitely missing. Across the channel on Mile Island were the Gays and Averys, now the Balfours, and Keith and Ada McKim, their property now home to the Bacons. Keith was the son of Belle Fessenden, for whom Belle Isle was named. He built not only his cottage, but the sleeping cabins up the hill. He always seemed to be working on one project or another. There were also a few cottages on the east and south shore. The north shore was undeveloped, as was Evans Beach, now home to the McGillivrays and Vellingas. The cottage on Belle Isle, now the Fairbrass family cottage, was built only in the 1970s after Bob Grainger was able finally to navigate the regulations required for septic systems. I well remember his frustration as the process dragged on for years.

Communication with the outside world was slow. There was a store on the mainland, where one could buy milk, eggs and magazines as well as homemade bread and other goodies. I don't remember that it carried newspapers. They had to be rolled and wrapped in paper, to be mailed from the city, arriving three days later.

Without television, the internet, or radio, cottagers had to develop their own amusements. I remember evenings at Otiosus where by the light of oil lamps we played parlor games. Practical jokes were a good way to use up youthful energy, and the custom has continued to the present. In the early 1980s son Steve made a dummy from old clothes topped by a Halloween fright mask. Dubbed Mr Morrison, he turned up at regattas, and was found in the outhouse holding a can of deodorant spray. A few years ago he greeted the Slaters from a bench outside Otiosus, holding a bottle of beer. The following spring the poor soul was found hanging by the neck from our screen door. No doubt he

will turn up again, once we find his head. Several years ago we arrived at the cottage to be greeted by a sign saying “nude beach- open 7 July. Later that summer a plastic pink flamingo made a nest on Alcatraz and laid a large egg in it.

Travel also was more challenging. Before the 400 was built cars proceeded through all the towns on the way to Muskoka. There was no divided highway, and collisions were frequent. We used to encounter two or three scenes of police cars, ambulances, and flashing lights when we returned to the city. The Kilworthy roads were not paved. Entering Beiers Road you stayed well back of the cloud of dust thrown up by the preceding car. The swamp regularly flooded, making passage difficult.

In anticipation of electricity arriving on the islands in 1954, Gord had an addition built, which included a second bedroom and bathroom. About that time a boathouse was added. Brother Graeme slept in the bathroom until the fixtures were installed, and then moved to the boathouse. Many trees were cut down to allow for hydro poles and wires. After electricity was in place, Gord hired a man with a horse to come to the island to move some of the trees. The horse was required to swim to the island, and evidently did not like it much, as he made a determined effort to climb into the boat as he was led back to the mainland.

The cottage remains much as it was built. One point has been cleared and flattened to allow for a fire pit to be built. Prior to this the Bryces were kind enough to let us have marshmallow roasts on Ida Isle, the small island which is part of their property.

Although welcome visitors, brother Graeme and his family have moved on to other pursuits and the Codes are now the West Wind cottagers. Our children, Steve and Eric Code, and Heather Code Kessler are the third generation to enjoy the cottage along with spouses Carrie Code and Nick Kessler. We hope the next generation, which at this point numbers only one, Robyn Kessler, loves it as much as we do.



Gord and Edna Page

One Final Note... Sept.2, 2012.....Fire Threatened West Wind

THANKYOU.....

When I was asked to write a history of our cottage, West Wind, I could not have foreseen that it would be threatened by fire, and that we would owe its existence to the kindness of cottagers and volunteer fire fighters. On September 2, 2012, a fire broke out on the vacant lot between our cottage and the Carcone-Shipman cottage. It probably did not burn very long before several people noticed it and came to the rescue. Other cottagers responded immediately when asked for their help. With bucket brigades and fire pumps the blaze was extinguished before the fire fighter arrived.

We are so thankful to all who helped, some we know, others we have not yet met. A big “thank you” to all of you!

Jennifer Code and family

For Your Information...

The owners of some of the islands on the lake are proposing formal island name changes to their islands. Please see the letter below submitted to the government to request the changes.

1464 Chalice Crescent
Mississauga ON L5C 1S1
September 27, 2012

The Ontario Geographic Names Board
c/o Provincial Georeferencing
Geographic Information Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
300 Water Street, P.O. Box 7000
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8M5

To members of the board:

Morrison Lake is a small lake south of Gravenhurst, Ontario, between Lake Muskoka and the Severn River. I am writing on behalf of several families who have cottages on three of the Morrison Lake islands. Over 100 years ago the original cottagers named these islands, which have different names on the official map. Edna Grainger Page, whose book, **The Story of Otiosus**, is in the Gravenhurst Library, documented the naming of these islands. We would like the map to reflect the names by which they traditionally have been known, and by which the current cottagers know them.

The name changes requested are:

Sims Island to Betula Island

Bell Island to Belle Isle

Grainger Island to Otiosus

An island unnamed on the map, on the south-east corner of Sims/Betula Island, to Ida Isle.

All the cottagers on the islands are in agreement with the request. Enclosed are documents to support the traditional names for the islands.

With thanks,

Jennifer Code: Sims/Betula Island, on behalf of

Margaret Bryce, Gregory Bryce: Sims/Betula and Ida Isle, Marion Carcone: Sims/Betula Island, Brad and Karen Fairbrass: Bell/Belle Isle, David and Cynthia Slater: Grainger Island/Otiosus.

OUR MORRISON LAKE WEB PAGE

John Lemme our webmaster for the Morrison Lake website would like to change the look of the Lake's web site and would like to show more photos from the lake.....not just of scenes of the lake but the people, activities, food & drink, adventures, etc.....eg. water skiing, family at the dinner table, ribs on the que, volley ball game, biking in the Barons, cocktails on the dock, etc.

Each family is invited to send in one or two of your favorite photos from the lake. These pictures must be sent digitally. While John would do his best to use all of them, there is no guarantee they would be used. Original photos may need to be cropped to fit.

If you are interested in adding to this collection of photos for our website please forward photos **no later than NOVEMBER 10, 2012** to:

John Lemme....jlemme@rogers.com

Please indicate on the email subject line: **Morrison Lake Photos**

BUY/SELL/RENT/ADVERTIZE

Do you have trees on your property that need to be removed? Or possibly a favourite tree you would like to use to craft a momento for future generations? Maybe you're looking to build a new floor for the cottage, a coffee table, some siding for a shed, or a gorgeous set of new cabinets. I have the ability to bring your ideas to fruition.

I am Muskoka Mobile Sawmill; I have a portable sawmill that transforms trees into perfectly crafted boards. Please give me a call and let's discuss what we can do for you.

Steve Titus -289-259-5552 or stvtitus@gmail.com

Minutes of MLRA Meeting Labour Day Weekend Sept 2/12 @ 13:11

Attendance:

Gord Kobe
Joanne Forth
Geraldine Debes
Ralf Nella
Mike Proctor
Joe Cancilla
Mel Kellnur
Doug Pegg
Ralf Buschke
James Doyle
Barb Bentley
Cara Engelhardt
Lara Pajunen
Karen and Brad Fairbrass

Agenda

1. Bob Bruce has completed putting up 3 signs at North Morrison Lake Landing for Zebra Mussels. Instructions on how to clean you boat prior to re-entry to ML are in small print on the sign closest to the dock.
2. Concern re the MLA website. Not to be confused with the MLRA (Morrison Lake Ratepayers Association). Information shared that the police have been on MLA facebook and have been on Morrison Lake asking if boaters are members of MLA. Police commenting on the high volume of complaints from Morrison Lake. Gord Kobe to ask the founders of MLA to change their name or put a disclaimer not linking it with MLRA.
3. Fire Pumps:
 - To be winterized by Ralf Buschke and Brad Fairbrass.
 - Identified the need for new fire pump covers at a cost of \$180. Ralf Buschke paid for one cover himself.
 - Gord Kobe to produce a map identifying the location of the 4 fire pumps (Proctors Point – Mile Island, Boorman’s – Evans Wood Rd, Carol’s next to Richard Bennett’s property- S Morrison Lake Rd at Cove and Buschke Dock).
 - Discussed moving pumps to full-time residence property to protect from vandalism. Discussed moving the pump from Bennett’s property to full-time

resident Gord Kobe's property. For now the pump will remain at this location as Carol is a full time resident.

-Map of fire pump locations to be mailed out to emails of Morrison Lake Cottagers. (See news letter)

-We encourage all Morrison Lake cottagers to pay their dues to allow the maintenance and upkeep of such things as the fire pumps.

4. Treasurer Report: Available on the website

5. Need for a Board of Directors –

President: Daren Boydell

Vice President: Gord Kobe

Treasurer: Joanne Forth

Secretary: Karen Fairbrass

Directorship: Geraldine Debes, Gord Kobe, Karen Fairbrass, Daren Boydell and Ralf Buschke voted in for directorship.

6. Association Fee Collection:

- MLRA present account does not allow online payment. Concern was raised that a new account with online payment option may have expensive monthly fees. Geraldine Debes to check National Bank re type of bank accounts and charges for online payment.

-Door to door collection of association fees to continue. Gord Kobe offering to collect the Cove area, Karen Fairbrass and Joanne Forth collecting for Mile Island, Cara Englehardt collecting the cottages around north shore cove, Geraldine Debes collecting for Balfour Woods, Paul Kelly collecting Evanswood Rd.

- Looking for volunteers to meet their neighbours and help with Association Due Collection.

- Suggestion to collect dues for 5 years at a discount. ? \$100. (save \$25).

-Suggestion that the website list and thank the people who have paid their dues and let them know what they are supporting.

7. Pilot Project to introduce Black Crappy into Morrison Lake. See article in Newsletter.

- Gord Kobe to follow up with MNR re this.

8. Ralf Buschke announced Southlake Rd will be closed Sat Sept 8 for a triathlon Logs, Rocks and Steel through Torrance Barrens.

SEE FIRE PUMP LOCATIONS BELOW

FIRE PUMP LOCATIONS

(PLEASE KEEP VISIBLE IN YOUR COTTAGE)

Red dots: PUMP LOCATIONS

Pump #1: Buschke Dock

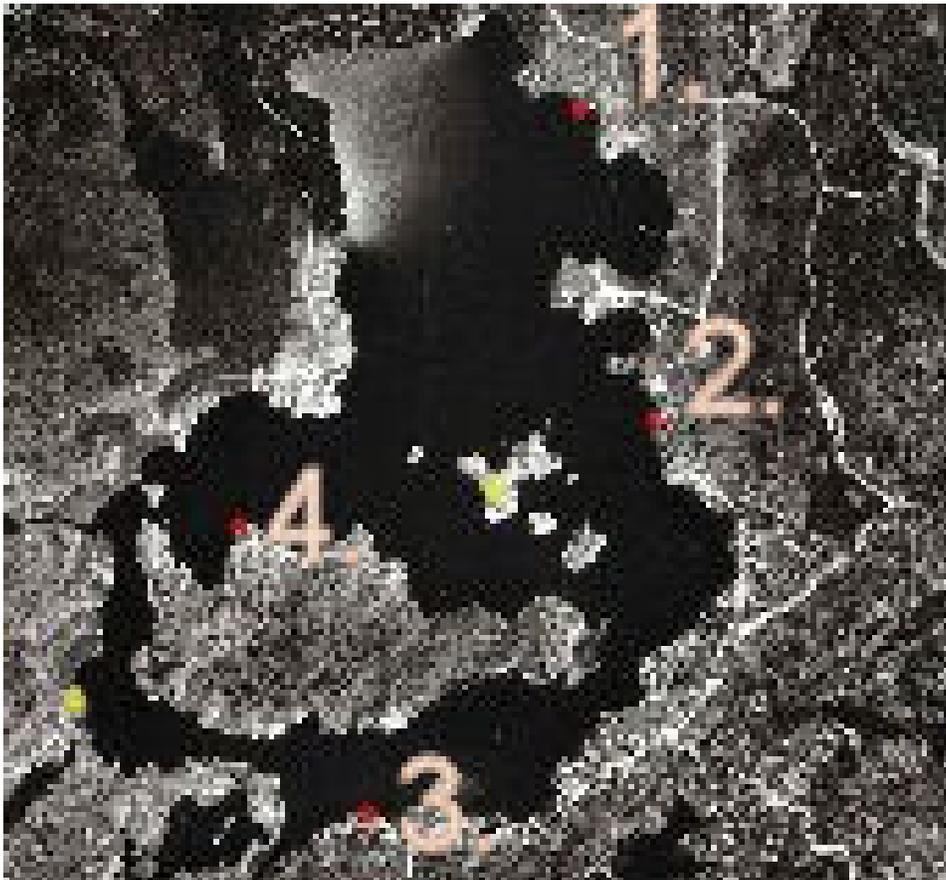
Pump #2: Boorman's – Evanswood Drive

Pump #3: South Morrison Lake Rd at Cove Rd

(First cottage on the right on Cove Road)

Pump #4: Proctor's Point – Mile Island

Note: Yellow dots were fires that the pumps were hauled out to and doused the fires prior to the fire department showing up.



All Morrison Lake cottagers are encouraged to pay their dues to allow the maintenance and upkeep of such things as the fire pumps.

NEWS FLASH....The MNR is planning on introducing a new fish to Morrison Lake (see article below). If you have any concerns please advise Gord Kobe .

MNR plans to introduce black crappie to three lakes By Pamela Steel

The Ministry of Natural Resources plans to stock three area lakes with black crappie, a popular sport fish.

The ministry is inviting public comment on the proposal and comments can be sent in within the next 30 days.

According to fisheries biologist Stephen Scholton, the fish have already been illegally introduced to some area lakes and there are confirmed populations in the waters south of here.

The three lakes to be stocked are Prospect Lake, near Vankoughnet, and **Morrison** and Muldrew lakes in Gravenhurst.

Scholton said he doesn't expect the introduction of the fish to have any negative impact on the ecosystem of the lakes. The existing fish communities are dominated by other non-native species.

"There seems to be quite a bit of interest in crappie fishing," he said. "They have been introduced either illegally or accidentally into area lakes"

He said the ministry's plan is to introduce the fish to the lakes in a controlled way to prevent possible problems from illegal stocking.

"They are not currently in the three lakes, but are in waterbodies that are downstream, including the Kaskashe River and Severn River watershed.

"Knowing they're already present downstream was a big factor...if they do disperse they will go to waters where they are already present".

The biologist said they study scientific literature and existing populations to determine what impact the introduction of the species will have.

We use experience from other waters to choose which lakes are suitable to support them", he said, adding that there is some evidence crappie will negatively affect walleye populations. "So we have intentionally not chosen lakes where walleye is present". Crappie eats bugs, zooplankton and small fish.

"We don't feel it will put a strain on the ecosystem", said Scholton.

In part that is because crappie tends to live off shore over deeper water out in the middle of the lake, unlike other fish populations.

“You are adding a new species; there will likely be some impact, competition and predation. But from our experience in other lakes we don’t think there’ll be a major impact”.

Scholton added that the ministry tries to balance preservation of natural ecosystems with providing social benefits for people. And the introduction of non-native species to area lakes isn’t new. “A large majority of fish in lakes in this area are introduced fisheries - like bass- in most cases, not native”.

Introducing the species in a controlled way reduces the risks of negative impacts such as the inadvertent transfer of other species.

“We recognize they are being introduced without control (presently)-we think intentionally, we don’t know for sure.

Public comment must be received by Sept 29 and can be sent to Stephen Scholton fisheries biologist, Parry Sound District, Ministry of Natural Resources, 1350 High Falls Road, Braceb ridge, On. P1L 1W9, by calling 705-646-5523 or sending an email to steve.scholten@ontario.ca