

# BALSAM LAKE ASSOCIATION 2019

PROTECTING OUR LEGACY

Sunset Skate by Camryn Pearn

## BROTHERHOOD

### - UPCOMING FILM ABOUT A BALSAM LAKE TRAGEDY

By: Doug Paterson

July 1926.

A band of teenage boys from the Brotherhood of St. Andrew arrive at Long Point Camp on Balsam Lake for the ultimate Canadian summer experience. On July 20th, 13 of the boys set out in a 30-foot Indian war canoe for supplies in Coboconk. When they encounter a freak summer storm and capsize off Grand Island, the brotherhood holiday descends into a soul shuddering fight for survival. Only the younger boys can get on the overturned hull of the canoe so it may remain afloat. It is here that they will discover what real camaraderie and true brotherhood is all about. Based on the harrowing true story that made newspaper headlines across North America, Brotherhood is a taut survival drama that feels timely and modern in this era. It is destined to be a highlight event this summer. Not only because it's a true story and a bristling piece of Canadian history, but because it's a clarion call for a return to nature as wonderful and as lethal as it may be. Brotherhood provokes conversations about thinking less for ourselves and more for our tribe. It is a story about bravery, sacrifice and selflessness.

Private screenings with the actors and director Richard Bell July 20/21. Event produced by Kirkfield and District Historical Society in association with the Balsam Lake Association. Screenings, ticket prices and patron opportunities TBA.

[www.brotherhood1926.com](http://www.brotherhood1926.com)

## COTTAGE SUCCESSION OVERVIEW

### - LEARN HOW TO "KEEP THE 'FAMILY' IN THE FAMILY COTTAGE"

Saturday, June 1st, 2019  
10:00am – noon  
Coboconk Legion

Feature Speaker:  
Peter Lillico, Estate Planning Lawyer

Event Co-Hosts:  
FOCA & the Balsam Lake Association

This event is FREE to FOCA members, including all members of the Balsam Lake Association

PRE-REGISTER to secure your space:  
[info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca) 705-749-3622

"It's not lack of interest, capital gains tax or other financial pressures that result in most family cottages going up for sale, it's a consequence of friction within the family that arises from sharing ownership and usage."

~ Peter Lillico, Estate Planning Lawyer

[www.balsamlakeassociation.com](http://www.balsamlakeassociation.com)

[www.facebook.com/BalsamLakeAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/BalsamLakeAssociation)

# BIOLOGY ON BALSAM – DID YOU KNOW?

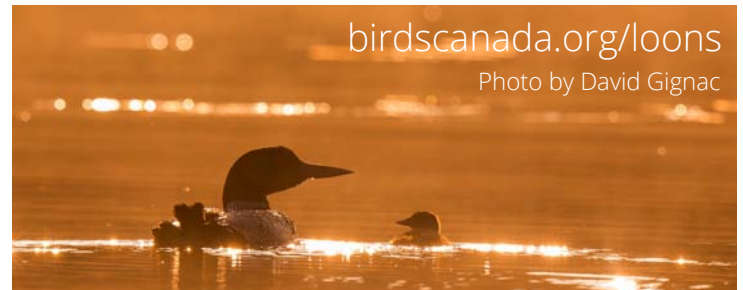


## BEE CITY & POLLINATORS

Our City of Kawartha Lakes is officially recognized as a Bee City. The Pollinator Pathway Project helps residents to create gardens with attractive native plants to support pollinators like bees, butterflies and birds over three seasons. With media reporting the decline of pollinators worldwide and the serious impact to crops and our environment why not participate?

## LOONS ON THE LAKE

One of the best “Balsam moments” must be the haunting call of the loons. If you want to learn more about these iconic birds consider helping The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey. Make it a family project. Visit [www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/clls](http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/clls). Consider two ways to protect the loons: Keep Your Distance. Floating mid-lake, loons often are resting after a long dive. Also Avoid shoreline fireworks. Nesting birds will abandon young and nests when frightened.



## FISH SURVEY

In June 2018, the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry surveyed the Balsam fishes community. Preliminary results shared with BLA identified 24 fish species including walleye, pike and muskie (shown), five species of the sunfish family and a diversity of small fishes including cyprinids or minnows. Full results will be posted on the BLA website as available.

## FRESHWATER MUSSELS STUDY

- Locally called clams, mussels are key invertebrate filter-feeders in the Balsam Lake food chain.
- Native mussels are threatened by invasive zebra mussels.
- Toronto Zoo Great Lakes Program has identified 3 native mussel species in Balsam.
- Learn more and participate with the Zoo's Clam Counter app.



Report clam sightings with  
**Clam Counter**



## AQUATIC PLANTS IN BALSAM — STEP TWO

Continuing efforts after the 2018 newsletter and the plants flyer, BLA volunteers are surveying the Lake to identify what plants are present, including invasive species. In 2018, 14 species were identified in South Bay at 15 sample sites. In 2019, other locations will be studied. Partners: Dr. Sager, Trent U., Royal Botan. Gardens and Kawartha Lake Stewards.



# FROSTIVAL FUN AT BALSAM LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

By: Dean Michel

Skate On! Over 2000 skaters descended upon Balsam Lake Provincial Park (BLPP) for a skate through the woods on January 26/27. This exciting first-time ever event featured a torch lit 1.4km skate trail, hot chocolate, popcorn, bonfires and smiles galore.



Photo by Fred Thornhill

The Frostival event was produced in partnership by the Coboconk and Norland Chamber of Commerce, BLPP and the City of Kawartha Lakes. While there are no immediate plans to open the skate trail on a full time basis, Natalie McMorrow, BLPP assistant park superintendent, said staff would be delighted to continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce in the future.

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# CITIZEN SCIENCE — NEARSHORE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

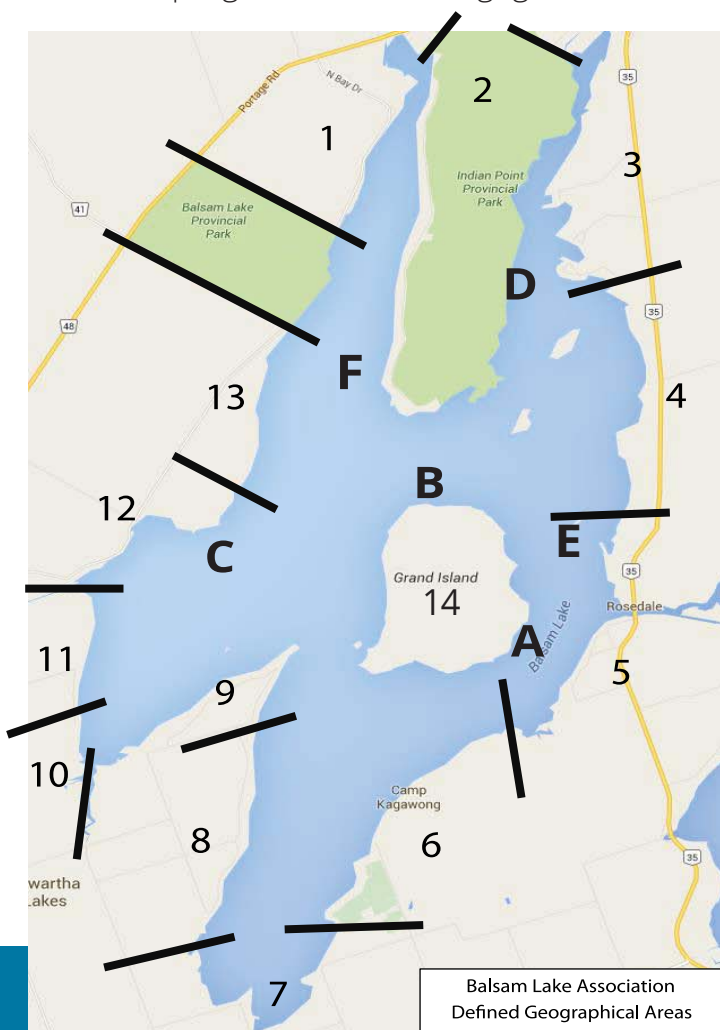
By: Debbie Balika, Kawartha Conservation

The nearshore portion of our lakes is known to sustain 90 per cent of aquatic life – fish nursery habitat, plant life, bugs, crayfish, etc. It is also where we, as humans, have the greatest impact – homes and cottages, septic systems, and shoreline activity – which may have a negative impact on nearshore water quality and habitats.

Ironically, as was noted during the recent development of Lake Management Plans, the nearshore portion of our lakes is typically understudied. The gap in science includes both chemical and biological water quality data. To address the lack of nearshore data, in 2017 Kawartha Conservation in partnership with shoreline residents embarked on a nearshore water quality monitoring program on Sturgeon Lake. They also partnered with the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) to conduct a similar program on Lake Scugog.

The success of both programs was due to dedicated community engagement. Shoreline residents volunteered their time to be trained as Citizen Scientists and to collect water samples, record water temperatures and document observations.

In 2019, this program has been expanded to include Balsam Lake. Over the course of three years, volunteer shoreline residents will collect water samples and data during the summers. UOIT PhD student Erin Smith will complete the lab analyses and conduct biological surveys, including nearshore vegetation surveys, macroinvertebrate collections (small animals such as aquatic insects) and phytoplankton analysis (microscopic floating plants). The objectives of the study is to obtain baseline data for nearshore sampling locations, compare that data with open-water data, and to educate, inform and encourage stewardship. At the conclusion of the study a report will provide easy-to-understand scientific results and stewardship recommendations.



## BLA – DEFINED GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS AND DIRECTORS

1	Dean Michel	North Bay
2	Jane Andrew	Indian Point
3	Barb Peel	Coboconk – Northeast Shore
4	Steve Hajdu	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	Grant Fraser	Long Point
10	Mike Lange	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](mailto:balsamlakeassociation@gmail.com)