



# News & Views

Early Summer 2025

Dedicated to the care and protection of our land, lakes and river system so that future generations will enjoy what we today enjoy.



SCAN HERE

Digital Flipbook Version



Tim Pridie October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

[WWW.SHADOWLAKESASSOCIATION.CA](http://WWW.SHADOWLAKESASSOCIATION.CA)



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Reflecting on the year-to-date for Shadow Lake, Silver Lake, and the Gull River system, the diversity of waterfront is recognized to provide distinct beauty and experiences. This year has been a reminder that the natural beauty that we enjoy is unforgiving and challenging; emergency preparedness is an important element in our environment. Winter 2025 produced an awe-inspiring amount of snowfall. The January accumulated snowfall was over 110 cm, which is three times typical. Historical weather records collected in various weather stations that were operational in the area between 1950 and 1980 identify between 40 and 80 cm per month, a station in Gooderham reported 100 cm of snowfall in January 1960. More snowstorms came in February and weeks of cloud cover preserved the snowpack. Many used snow rakes to remove rooftop snow. We were fortunate that the accumulated snow gently melted away without being drenched by an abnormal winter rain event. The good fortune ended in the once in a generation ice storm event that started on March 28 and continued through the weekend. Trees and tree limbs broke under the weight of the ice coating. Blocked roads and power outages took days and weeks to resolve. Presently, our roads remain lined with fallen tree branches and storm related brush piles awaiting City of Kawartha Lakes removal services. The spring freshet brought high water levels, an unwelcome additional test of resilience. The shoreline may have changed somewhat with downed trees and branches. This year has already created several challenges with neighbours helping each other and with our community working together to support recovery.

As we emerge from Spring, our thoughts turn to summer recreation activities, family and community events, and hosting friends. Our community-based organization's original mandate was marking hazards in the Shadow Lakes waterways. Our lake markers have been installed in the week before Victoria Day. We also have a valuable relationship with the Parks Canada to advocate for water level control.

Shadow Lakes Association has advocated for our membership with Kawartha Conservation, and the City of Kawartha Lakes. As a member of FOCA, our advocacy is extended with that of other associations on topics like Capital Gains Tax policy. FOCA also provides seminars on topics of relevance to our membership, like succession planning. All SLA members have access to FOCA materials via website.

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held Saturday, July 5 9:00 AM at Ward's Park. Please see articles within this newsletter for additional details.

The Summit Wellness Centre in Coboconk project broke ground in July 2023. The Shadow Lakes Association has been a supporter of this endeavour to provide health services within our area. Jennifer Wilson, Operations Director of the Wellness Centre, provides an update in this newsletter.

Your volunteer Directors, Road Monitors, and many others continue to be dedicated to the goals of our non-profit organization. Our aim is to protect and preserve our land, lakes, and rivers for the experience of future generations. Our members have a common interest in land, waterfront, and lake activities in the Gull River, Shadow Lake, and Silver Lake system. We advocate for our members and foster community through events. We are grateful for the contributions of our volunteers. We also depend on the annual dues of our paying membership. Our volunteers work diligently to deliver value for members and we ask that you support the organization with your \$30 annual dues payment. Further detail on payment options for annual dues is provided later in the newsletter. We thank you for your support.

The SLA Directors extend our best wishes for a healthy and safe 2025 summer season.

Kevin Henry  
President



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Norland Recreation Centre, Ward Memorial Park.

All are invited to attend at 9:00 AM on July 5, 2025. As usual, there will be coffee and light refreshments, and an opportunity to update records and pay the annual membership dues. All members in good standing are eligible to vote on the business of the Association. We hope to see you there!



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for members that are interested in representing the membership on the board of directors. If you, or someone you know, has experience or an interest in volunteering for a not-for profit we ask that you communicate with our nominating committee. Time commitment is limited to approximately 5 board meetings per year.

Please reach out to  
[nominatingcommittee@shadowlakesassociation.ca](mailto:nominatingcommittee@shadowlakesassociation.ca)

## SUMMER SOCIAL

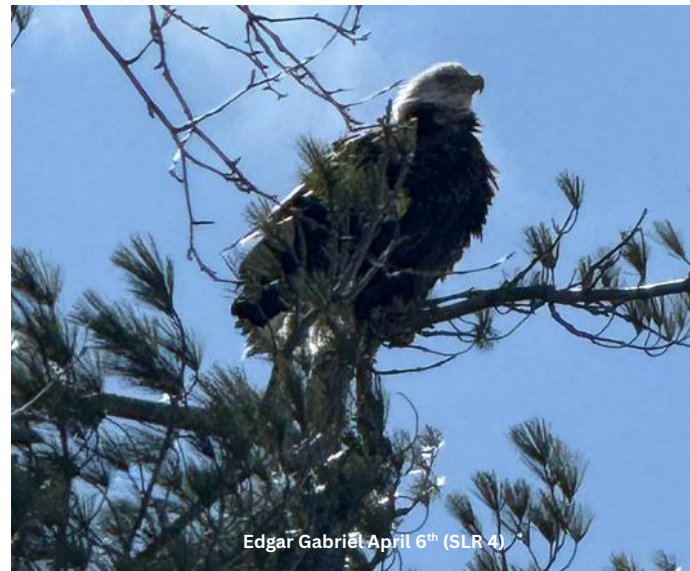
Following the Shadow Lake Association AGM, we invite you to stay for a casual lunch and social gathering, an ideal opportunity to catch up with fellow cottagers, share stories from the season, and chat about everything from lake life to local news. Enjoy live music while you strengthen community ties and enjoy the company of your cottage neighbours.



Anthony Gibson April 14



Dina Russo-De Cotiis November 10th 2024



Edgar Gabriel April 6<sup>th</sup> (SLR 4)

# Membership Benefits

Dedicated to the care and protection of our land, lakes and river system so that future generations will enjoy what we today are enjoying.

The Shadow Lakes Association is a member of FOCA. This membership gives each paid member of our association access to FOCA membership benefits.

- Recordings of past FOCA events
- Benefits access codes
- FOCA print publications, reports
- Fact sheets/video resources
- Discounts with Cottage Life, Insurance, and more

[www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca)

To access this valuable resource, pay your dues and find login details in our e-newsletters this summer.

Use your personal login for members-only materials.

If you're already a SLA Member and need the login before the next e-Newsletter, please email us!

## Lake Marker Program

**71** Hazard & Navigation Markers

- 41 Hazard Markers (marking underwater hazards)
- 20 Green Navigation (guiding through narrow channels)
- 13 Red Navigation (guiding through narrow channels)

## Community Liason

Acting as a liaison with community groups & government allows us to advocate for members, stay informed, access resources, and protect the lake and shared interests.



## Road Monitor Program

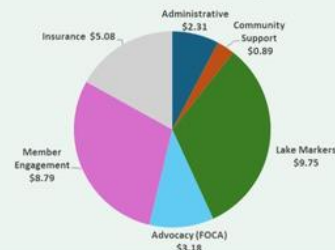
Working at the grass roots level these volunteers are essential contacts within the community, and personally deliver our highly sought after newsletters, twice a year.

**40**  
Dedicated Road Monitors



**Hand Deliver 650 Newsletters!**  
Early Summer & Late Summer

## Allocation of Your Membership Dues



## Communications & Events

We rely on a mix of email, social media, website, and alert systems to share important updates, safety information, and community news, keeping you informed whether you're at the lake or elsewhere.



## Join Us

For our yearly events

- AGM
- Summer Social
- On line events & contests

Our volunteer directors, both part-time and full-time cottagers, dedicate their time to foster a strong lake community. They are committed to protecting our land and waterways, drawing from decades of cottaging here, deep relationships, and a passion for lake life.



## Renew your membership

Continue to receive our e-Newsletters for high water alerts, community updates, and to support the Association's ongoing work.

- 1 e-Transfer your dues (\$30) today! Attn: [treasurer@shadowlakesassociation.ca](mailto:treasurer@shadowlakesassociation.ca)  
No password required! Include your Shadow Lake address that the payment pertains to.
- 2 Mail using the included return envelope and completed dues card along with your cheque.
- 3 Drop Off Cheque or Cash using this card and return envelope to the Home Hardware in Coboconk or give to your Road Monitor.

If you have any questions about your membership please reach out to our Membership Director at [membership@shadowlakesassociation.ca](mailto:membership@shadowlakesassociation.ca)



## Lake Marker Program

71

### Hazard & Navigation Markers



41 Hazard Markers  
(marking underwater hazards)



20 Green Navigation  
(guiding through narrow channels)



13 Red Navigation  
(guiding through narrow channels)

Explore our new Lake Marker Map on Google Maps!

It shows red and green navigation markers, yellow hazard buoys, points of interest, and caution zones.

Click on markers for helpful notes and navigation tips.

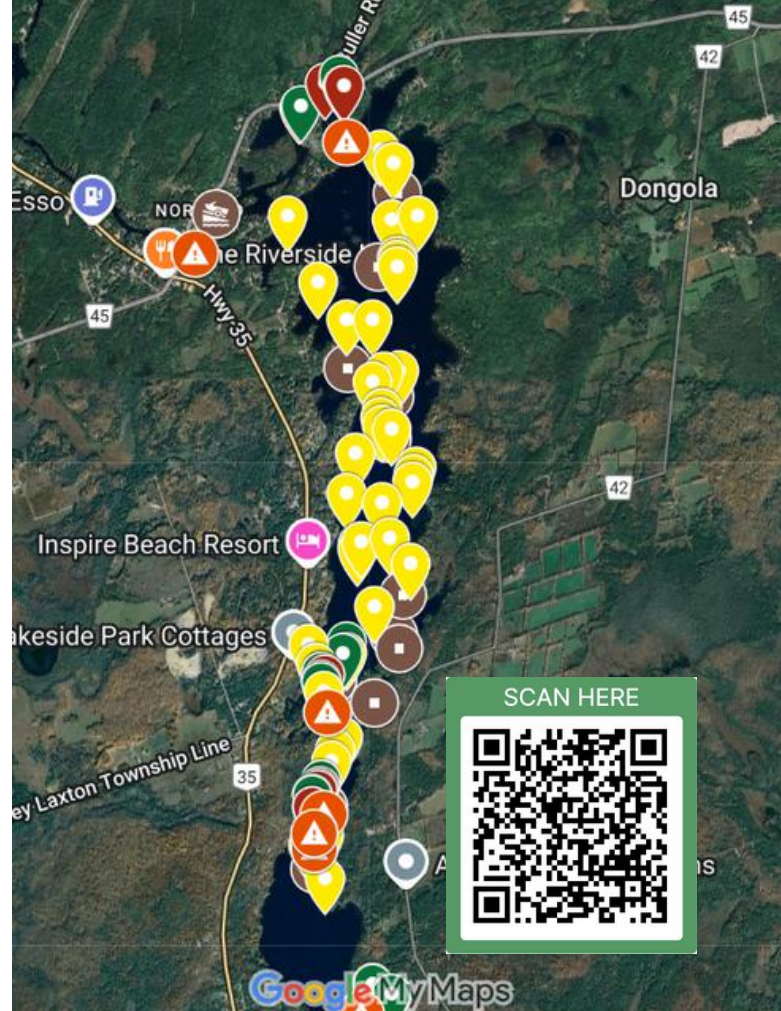
The Shadow Lakes Association prioritizes maintaining its annual marker program to enhance boating safety and protect members' watercraft from underwater hazards. This program covers the entire lake and river system, from Coboconk's mill ponds to Norland's dam.

It has been operational since the association's founding and is its largest annual expense, provided gratuitously without any warranty or representation as to the accuracy of marker location, completeness of marker coverage, or suitability of channel depth.

All missing or shifted markers should be reported as soon as possible.

Email our [Marker Maintenance Team](mailto:lakemarkerreporting@shadowlakesassociation.ca) directly, please include the coordinates of the missing/shifted marker. Alternatively you can provide the what3words location using the what3words app.

[lakemarkerreporting@shadowlakesassociation.ca](mailto:lakemarkerreporting@shadowlakesassociation.ca)



## BOATER'S CODE

Respectful boating guidelines from Safe Quiet Lakes

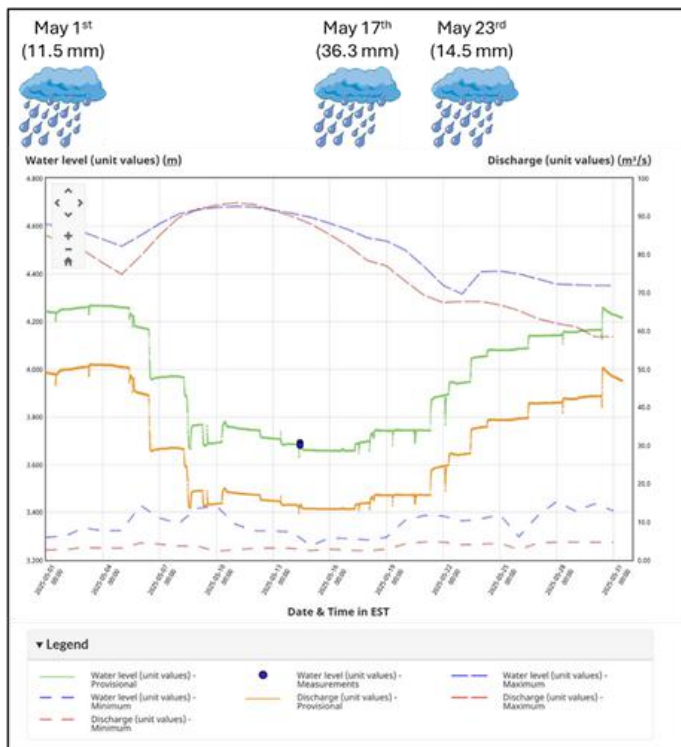
1. I will never operate my boat beyond the level of my skills.
2. I will be aware of and obey all laws and regulations governing operation of my boat.
3. I will operate my boat with caution and courtesy to others at all times.
4. I will minimize my wake impact on shorelines, docks, structures and people.
5. I will always steer well clear of other boats, swimmers and wildlife.
6. I will set a speed and heading that is safe and comfortable for my passengers and others on the water.
7. I will provide safety instructions and offer appropriate life jackets or PFDs to everyone who travels in my boat.
8. I will carry all equipment necessary to operate my boat safely and within the law.
9. I will not consume drugs and alcohol in my boat or allow my boat to be operated by anyone who is impaired.
10. I understand that boating is a shared experience and I will not create excessive noise or operate my boat in a manner that disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others.



# SHADOW LAKES SYSTEM WATER LEVEL UPDATE: MAY 31 2025

Tim Dobush

When we provide water level updates/alerts to our members, our communication statements are based on the information from our discussions with the Trent-Severn Waterways Management (TSW) Team and our own recommendations and experiences. It is important to understand that these updates/alerts are predictions and there can be variations to actual flow rates and water levels. The TSW works with multiple datasets where some of the data is predictable (i.e., water level readings), and some that is less predictable (i.e., Environment Canada's weather forecasts). Based on these factors, we take a more cautionary approach to our water level updates/alerts to you as the safety of people and property are of paramount importance to us.



We met with the TSW Management Team on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2025. For May, we have experienced high water levels due to approximately 120 mm of rain occurring predominantly in three short time periods of May 1<sup>st</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup>, and May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

When this much precipitation occurs in short time periods, the TSW needs to be more forceful in pushing this water through the system as there is no place to store the water given that the Haliburton Reservoir Lakes are approximately 95 percent full. From the chart, you can see the impact of all this short- term precipitation is having on our water levels.

We should expect that water levels will remain high for the next two weeks as the weather forecast is predicting more significant rainfall events for the beginning of June. We should then see a substantial drop in water levels as they look to bring the Norland Dam flow rate back to the seasonal 20m<sup>3</sup>/s. The normal drawdown of the reservoir lakes is currently planned for the end of June/beginning of July; ideally keeping the flow rate at 20 m<sup>3</sup>/sec.

We have put together a Trent Severn Waterways Overview informational document, that speaks to the full year management of the TSW. This document defines the priorities and major impacts/considerations for managing the flow rates/water levels, what it means for Shadow Lake being a “flow-through” lake, definition of reservoir lakes, and what causes flooding on the Trent-Severn waterway. You can access this article on our website, at <https://tinyurl.com/TSWHistory>



# Welcome to Your Watershed

Find out how we can support your property with our free Welcome Kit.

Visit: [KawarthaConservation.com/Welcome](http://KawarthaConservation.com/Welcome)



We'd like to (re)-introduce ourselves. Kawartha Conservation is your local environmental agency.

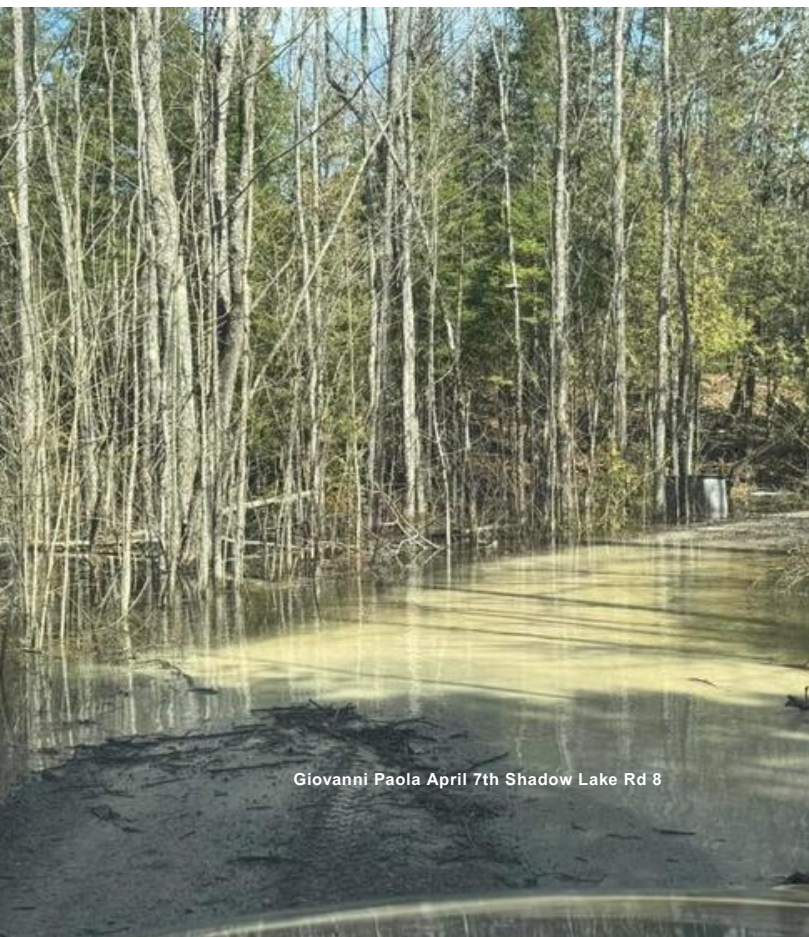
As a resident of the Kawartha Watershed, you're part of an interconnected system where water, land, and people all rely on each other. We offer a range of programs and services to help you make decisions that benefit both your property and our surrounding system of over 250+ lakes and rivers.

## Landowner Grants

Each year, landowners are eligible for up to \$4,000 in grant funding to support environmental projects through our Water Fund program. Eligible projects include shoreline naturalization, rainwater management, septic upgrades, and more.

Have an idea in mind? Reach out for a free consultation at

[KawarthaConservation.com/WaterFund](http://KawarthaConservation.com/WaterFund)



Giovanni Paola April 7th Shadow Lake Rd 8



Janet Kennedy April 7th Shadow Lake Rd 3 Area Flooding





Janet Kennedy March 21 SLR 3 Area



Shadow Lake Rd 6



James Rogers April 8th  
Hydro Crews working Between  
Buller and Norland Monck Road



Janet Kennedy March 31



David Jeffery May 4th



SLA Rd 4



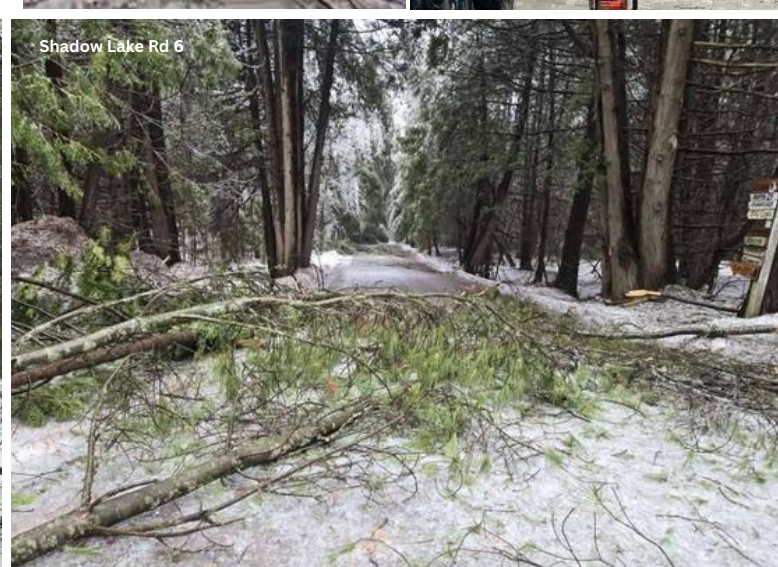
SLA Rd 4



SLA Rd 4



SLA Rd 4



Shadow Lake Rd 6



## PRIVATE ROAD LIABILITY: FOCA

To reach the cottage, we utilize provincial highways or municipally-owned roads, often accessing our properties via private roads. FOCA is a valuable resource for information on private road access, managing road associations, and the advantages of liability insurance.



[www.foca.on.ca/road-issues/](http://www.foca.on.ca/road-issues/)

<https://tinyurl.com/FOCA-Private-Road-PDF>

Being a member of the Shadow Lakes Association, makes you an automatic member of FOCA!



The quality of your private road can affect both your access to and enjoyment of the property and its overall value.

Local committees, associations, or road groups are an important piece of the puzzle when it comes to private roads. Residents using these non-municipal routes to access their properties have a common interest in, and a shared commitment to, the road's condition and safety. Ensuring uninterrupted access, fair use, and sharing of the costs of these important community assets means planning ahead and ensuring everyone is included in the decision making.

The evolution of a road group takes time, and may happen in several stages. You might be starting at the very beginning, or you might already have some pieces in place, but lack the support of a written set of bylaws, peer mentors, or benchmark statistics. Some groups begin as a "hand-shake" agreement between neighbours but evolve over time into more standardized organizations.

\*\*See the [www.foca.on.ca/road-issues/](http://www.foca.on.ca/road-issues/) site for the full article



Dream Princess Margaret Cottage on Shadow Lake!

Our beautiful lake is host to a new build, that will be one of the Grand Prizes in this year's Princess Margaret Lottery.

**Look for this new \$2.7M cottage near the mouth of the Norland River.**

<https://tinyurl.com/Shadowlakeproperty>

## ROAD MONITOR PROGRAM

Once again, the SLA would like to give special recognition to our committed group of Road Monitors, who in addition to delivering the Early and Late Summer Newsletters to your door twice a year, provide a valuable service to helping the SLA update contact information for the owners on their respective roads.

Since the Road Monitors make regular contact with the owners, their presence provides an opportunity for these owners to share comments, suggestions and feedback, which we otherwise might not hear of. This informal method of communication is equally valued and appreciated. So, to our Road Monitors, our many thanks in helping the SLA achieve our goals!



## DIGITAL COPY BONUS ARTICLE!

# COTTAGE SAFETY REFRESHER: FIRES, BOATS & FIRST AID

*Summer is the ideal season for a gentle reminder to keep our cottage community safe and joyful.*

### Fire & Open-Air Burning: [Kawartha Lakes Rules](#)

Campfires no permit required, if they:

Are ≤60 cm (2 ft) across, in an approved pit

Are ≥15 m from buildings/structures and ≥5 m from fences, trees, brush, property lines

- Use only clean, dry wood—no garbage, painted or treated materials
- Are supervised by an adult and fully extinguished afterward
- For larger brush burns or debris piles, a permit is required—apply through the city's online Public Access Portal or in person

Please visit the [COKL Website](#) for the full details.

### Transport Canada Boating Safety

For more visit the [Transport Canada Website](#)

- Operators of motorized vessels need a Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC); fines start at \$200.
- Lifejackets are mandatory for everyone onboard
- Max 10 km/h within 30 m of shore, and avoid creating wakes that disturb swimmers, docks, or wildlife.
- Always yield to paddle and sailing craft, and be courteous to local wildlife, especially loon habitats.

### First-Aid & Emergency Prep

Keep a fully stocked first-aid kit at the ready: bandages, antiseptics, tweezers, allergy and burn care, plus water, flashlight, extra batteries, and some cash.

Equip your cottage with ABC-rated fire extinguishers, check them annually, and have an evacuation plan ready near each exit.



Here's the news!

The Summit Wellness Centre has been undergoing a lot of changes inside the building, getting ready for Opening Day late this year.

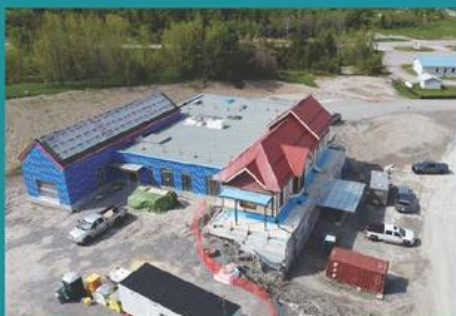
We have just launched a "Back Stage Pass" video series on facebook during the month of May, and we can't wait for work to start on the old Train Station this summer. Want a sneak peek? Click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575777120254>

...and please 'Like' or 'Follow' our page for more updates coming soon!

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions to Jen Wilson at [jwilson@coboconknorland.ca](mailto:jwilson@coboconknorland.ca)

*Wishing you a wonderful summer of fun on the water!*



Visit The Chamber website  
for the full events calendar

[www.coboconknorland.ca/events](http://www.coboconknorland.ca/events)



# REVIVING THE COTTAGE WAVE: FULL DIGITAL COPY VERSION

LISA PADGETT

For many of us, the cottage is more than just a getaway. It's a place where we gather with family and friends, where the pace slows down, and where the beauty of nature brings us closer together. But there's another tradition that makes the cottage experience unique — one that has quietly faded over the years but still holds a special place in the heart of the Shadow Lake community: the cottage wave.

## A Tradition of Connection

Years ago, it wasn't uncommon to see cottagers waving at each other while out for a walk, cruising by on a boat, or when squeezing past an oncoming car on the cottage road. It didn't matter if you knew the person or not; the simple wave was a sign of friendly recognition. It was a symbol that we were all part of a bigger cottage family. Whether you were coming or going, the wave was a reminder that we were all connected by the same shared space — the lake, the trees, and the slow paced rhythm of cottage life.

This small but meaningful gesture was more than just a passing moment; it helped create a sense of community. In a place where everyone is trying to escape the busyness of daily life, the wave was a way to acknowledge that the cottage community was always there, whether you were heading to Coby, out for a boat cruise or enjoying a peaceful afternoon on your dock by the water.

## A Fading Practice

Over time, things have changed. The wave has become less common as the pace of life speeds up and people become more absorbed in their own worlds. Whether it's the rush of everyday life or the growth of our lake population, it seems the tradition of waving to passing neighbours is slowly slipping away. And, while we all still treasure the peace and quiet of our cottages, the sense of connection is something that we've started to lose.

## A Simple Gesture, A Big Impact

But here's the thing — the cottage wave doesn't have to be a thing of the past. It's one of the simplest and most genuine ways to remind ourselves that we're all part of the cottage family. A wave is a small gesture, but it can have a big impact. It's an acknowledgment that we see each other, that we're here together, and that we all share and enjoy the beauty of our lake.

It's time to bring the tradition back. The next time you're out and about at the cottage, take a moment to wave at your neighbour — whether you know them or not. Let's revive this simple yet meaningful tradition.

**We're all part of the same family, those who love our lakes, rivers and our 'happy place' and that's something worth celebrating.**

This summer, we encourage you to share your "Cottage Wave" experiences with great photos and shout outs to our neighbours on our [Facebook Group Page](#)!

[www.facebook.com/groups/ShadowLakesAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ShadowLakesAssociation)





## COKL SHORT TERM RENTALS

As of October 2024, approximately 422 licenses were issued, with 278 locations under investigation for non-compliance. The program addresses noise, safety, and other issues through a robust complaint system (916 total complaints in 2024), demerit points, and legal actions. The program's goal is to operate self-sufficiently while aligning with strategic municipal priorities for governance and environmental health.

Staff are tracking approximately 278 Short Term Rental business locations that are un-licensed due to one or more of the following:

- by-law non-conformity, license application denial
- building and septic, lack of building permit, capacity limits
- fire safety concerns
- being unlicensed (no application received)
- suspension or revocation due to accumulation of demerit points

For the full December 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 update please click this link.

<https://tinyurl.com/Dec102024update>

Since my last update to Council (December 2024) the number of short-term rentals (STRs) in our municipality has remained relatively stable, with no significant changes. However, I'm pleased to share that, through a federal grant specifically targeting short-term rental enforcement, the municipality will be adding two additional enforcement officers.

This is a positive step forward and a welcome development, particularly given the historically slow response from higher levels of government to STR-related issues.

STR information and the licensing application form can be found generally at: <https://tinyurl.com/STRLicensingApplication>

STR related complaints can also be made to: <https://tinyurl.com/STRComplaints>

Aaron Sloan (he/him)  
Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing  
705-324-9411 ext. 1223



December 15<sup>th</sup>



Dave Parsons April 19th





Wendy Finnerty Feb 2nd



January 22nd



Angelo Campanella March 2nd



Tim Pridie Jan 24th

## Good to Knows.

MORE  
INFO



» Do you have **Ice Damaged Trees** on your property? Here's a handy article about how to care for these trees! <https://tinyurl.com/Caringforyourtrees>

» COKL [Major Projects Webpage](#) to see all scheduled major projects.

## Reminders.

» Who to Call When! [www.kawarthalakes.ca/en/living-here/who-to-call-when.aspx](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca/en/living-here/who-to-call-when.aspx)

» Minden Urgent Care Clinic, same-day, non-emergency healthcare on a first-come, first-served basis. Daily from 10 AM to 5 PM <https://knfht.ca/home/mucc/>

» Fireworks [By-Law 2007-236](#), require residents obtain a permit to discharge consumer fireworks on their own property for an event outside of the designated days. [www.tinyurl.com/COKLFireworks](http://www.tinyurl.com/COKLFireworks)