

AUGUST 2020

FROM BY THE BAY ...

We are in shock over the sudden passing of Michael and are grieving his loss. We were allies. Together we wanted to make sure no one in our community got turned away. We supported Katemma's just as Michael and Gaynor supported By the Bay. We have had many good conversations with both of them together as small business owners in a similar trade. We are very saddened right now and know that Gaynor doesn't grieve alone as the community grieves with her.

The sad news continues on a much smaller scale. We have made the tough decision to shut down our boat launch to the general public. The increased traffic down the laneway to the boat launch since Anchor's Landing closed has caused some upset with our neighbours. Moreover, we aren't truly setup to handle that much traffic or large boats. We don't have the proper facility to store people's trucks and trailers while they are out boating. We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Our hours remain the same until Monday August 10th. The current hours are:
Monday - Saturday 8am-9pm and Sunday 8am-7pm.

Starting Monday August 10th our hours will be:
Monday -Saturday 8am - 8pm and Sunday 8am - 7pm.

On a positive note, Brad's non-profit fishing derby held at By the Bay over Labour Day weekend will move forward as we have entered stage 3 of COVID-19 reopening. It will be held starting on Thursday September 3rd – Sunday September 6th. Tickets will be for sale at the store starting August 4th and all prices remain the same as last year for single and family tickets. Thank you to everyone who has supported this event in the past. We look forward to seeing everyone this year for Brad's 2020 fishing derby!!

PIKE BAY NEWS

From the Pike Bay Community Association



As we grow tired and weary of the restrictions of COVID-19 our patience can sometimes wear thin. Our stress levels have increased and our tolerance is stretched to the brink with even small things upsetting us. We are blessed to be in a beautiful area that has had a great record and we worry every time someone new comes into the mix, wondering if this will mess things up for us here in our Shangri-La.

The pandemic isn't just about the physical symptoms. Our mental sense of well-being is also challenged. Routines are awry. We can't do all the things we used to do or want to do and miss everyone and everything.

You have heard the saying "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff and it's all Small Stuff". Yes, we need to let go of the little things that bug us. But when it comes to making someone else's day it can be such a little thing that does the trick. A quote you have seen in the newsletters before is "To the world you may be one person but to one person you may be the world." It costs nothing to smile, say hi or keep your mouth shut at the right (or wrong) moment.

Let's do our best to lighten up during these challenging times. If we can sweat the right small stuff and be 'the world' to someone Pike Bay will be an even better place to pass the time until things are more under control.

PIKE BAY HISTORY

Taken from "Pike Bay - A History of Church and Community"

"The exact date that John Harold Spence (1852-1929) son of Captain Spence, built stores at Pike Bay, Dyers Bay and Tobermory is uncertain, however it is known that Dan Stewart operated the store by 1889. The original building burned down in 1918. In 1931 Norman and Daisy Stewart bought the property from his widowed aunt and built a home, using the living room as a store until the front addition was added around 1934. When Noman was building, he uncovered the original well that has been dug in the 1880's. It is still being used today and is said to be the best tasting water at Pike Bay! In the fall of 1945, the business was sold to Pearl and Eric Makela from Simcoe. One of the first improvements they made was the installation of a Delco electric generator for the lights and refrigeration, thus eliminating the tiresome task of hauling ice, and chipping it for the ice-cream and pop coolers. Hydro arrived at the store in 1949. Many friends were initiated into the joys of sauna bath built by Eric. The building housing the sauna burned down in 1956. The Makelas bought adjoining acreage and opened a trailer park, laundry, marina and rental cottages and by 1950 a dance hall and snack bar. It has since been converted to a motel.

The Makelas sold to Ken and Marj Lockey in 1973. Ken Lockey died in 1979 and the following year the business was sold to Paul and Deb Annett. John and Gloria Hilgendorff and sons David and Jamie, purchased the complete operation in 1988, and renamed the business By the Bay."



Water **Hemlock** is growing in the area – be careful! It looks like the beautiful Queen Anne's Lace. **Hemlock** is a very poisonous plant. In fact, all parts of the plant are toxic. **Hemlock** is most poisonous during the early stages of growth in the spring, but it is dangerous at all stages of growth. The most important **identification** features are the stems and stalks. They are hairless, hollow, and almost always have distinctive purplish-red splotching or streaking on them, especially towards the base of the plant. These markings are a sure giveaway that it is poison **hemlock**. If you happen to touch it, wash hands and don't put your hands up on your face/ mouth. Another reason to keep some sanitizer handy!



Be aware!
Coyotes are still in our area.

Very recently a dog was attacked in a backyard in Red Bay South. The June newsletter had lots of information on coyotes and tips on how to deal with them. Let us know if you need another copy. In the meantime, it might be wise to walk with a friend and carry a big stick!

Do you have Phragmites?



There's an aggressive invasive plant in Pike Bay. It's called *Phragmites australis* (or Phrag for shorthand). It looks like very tall grass and grows both in the water and at the water's edge. The seed heads look almost purple once they develop later in summer.

According to the [Ontario Federation of Agriculture](#), "*Phragmites australis* is spreading across Ontario and needs to be stopped. It's Canada's worst invasive plant and is threatening Ontario's biodiversity. At heights of five metres or more, this reed-like plant forms large, dense stands in wetlands, waterways and drainage systems, choking out animal habitats and native species. *Phragmites* is already found across the province and throughout Eastern Canada, and becoming a real problem for Ontario farmers."

As a cottager, it can be very daunting to have a grass two to three metres tall growing between your shoreline and the rest of the bay.

It can spread in three ways.

1. A plant sends roots off in all directions that can grow at an alarming rate. The plant also releases toxins from those roots, making it difficult for the native plants to grow where the phragmites have settled.
2. A broken off piece of phragmites can easily re-root itself wherever it washes up on shore.
3. The seeds travel far and easily, letting it spread to new territory.

There are very few effective control options. At Pike Bay, the only realistic method is cutting it at the base of the stems where it emerges from the sediment and then transporting it to a place to dry out so that our Fire Chief can do a controlled burn later in the fall.

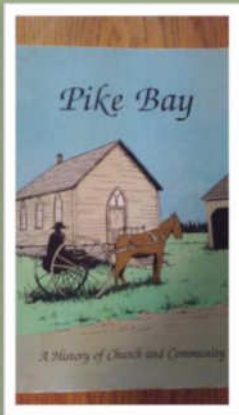
If you have *Phragmites* (or think you might have *Phragmites*) please let us know, so we can map the status of the plant this year. If you need any coaching or help with removing your patch, please let us know. And if you are boating and see a patch, especially in the Widgeon Cove area where there is a significant section of wetland that is not privately owned, please let us know.

If you can clear your own *Phragmites*, the gathering spot for drying the *Phragmites* this year will be at 4 Stewarts Point. Please stack them on top of the pallets there, as they dry best when there is air flow from underneath as well as above.

Volunteers from the Pike Bay Community Association will be clearing *Phragmites* from the known patches throughout July and August. If you can, please help. If you can't help, please smile and wave when you see us working!

Contact person for *Phragmites* removal: Karen Sword shadowpikebay@gmail.com

A Sampling of the 25 Auction Items



ON-LINE FUNDRAISING

Here we go! With the current challenges of COVID we couldn't do our usual fund-raising activities so we needed to seek out a new way. We are excited to offer you our first ever online auction. Thanks to many generous people several items have been donated over the past year that offer a very eclectic mix. We hope there will be something for everyone. Some things are new, some are hand crafted and others are gently used and/or vintage/antique. Bidding must be in increments of \$1. In addition to offering you some fun the Pike Bay Community Association (PBCA) is hoping to raise a few dollars.

Our first small activity started Sunday, July 26th. Head over to the new Facebook Group (Pike Bay Community Association Fundraising) now and invite your friends, follow us and/or save it to your favourites!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2906739236098534>

Please bear with us as we get started

on this new venture.

Your ideas and suggestions will be appreciated.

Bidding started Sunday, July 26th at 8:00 am

Bidding ends Saturday, August 1st at 8:00 pm

Place your bid by leaving a comment on the photo.

The first comment on each photo is the starting bid.

Facebook will take care of tracking the winning bid by recording the time of the last comment.

Be sure to look through all the bids on your selected item to ensure you are not lower than anyone else. Items must be picked up at the Pike Bay Community Centre by you or your designate on Sunday, August 2nd between 12 and 3. Please stay in your car and wait for service. Your cash or cheque payment in an envelope with the item #, your name and the amount would be appreciated.

If this goes well, we will do another one as well as an online garage sale for some smaller items.

We wish you happy shopping as you support the PBCA.



BRUCE PENINSULA BIOSPHERE ASSOCIATION DARK SKIES

With more free time and the recent viewing of the comet and other celestial objects many of us appreciate the value of our dark skies more and more. The Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association promotes 'Dark Skies'.

THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT BIOSPHERE RESERVE IS:

1. part of a UN network (UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve)
2. one of 669 biosphere reserves in 120 countries
3. one of 18 biosphere reserves in Canada

Preserving dark skies is an emerging conservation priority and on the Bruce Peninsula it provides a basis for sustainable economic development. The Bruce Peninsula has some of the darkest skies in southern Ontario not far from major urban areas. "Dark Sky" is a well-established element of the Peninsula's identity.

- Through the efforts of the Bruce Peninsula Environment Group (BPEG), the Municipality declared itself a 'Dark Sky Community' in August 2004 and both our National Parks were awarded the 'Dark Sky Preserve' designation in March 2009.
- In 2010 the Biosphere Association formed the community-based Dark Sky Committee to conserve our dark sky by promoting the adoption of dark sky friendly lighting practices
- The Association organized funding and built the Peninsula Observation Deck (POD) in 2011, enhancing Lion's Head harbour and creating an attractive venue for the public to enjoy the starry skies at night and a view of the dolostone cliffs and Georgian Bay by day.
- The following year, after raising funds for the purchase of two telescopes, the Association
 - created a student job funded by an HRSDC grant and corporate sponsorship
 - attracted 1,800 people to Bayside Astronomy's first season, and 2,000 each year since
 - became recognized as a tourist destination
- The Association developed a new Dark Sky event: offering star gazing on the Chi-Cheemaun ferry to Manitoulin Island.
- A dark sky culture was created among community residents as proved by an independent third-party survey that shows 90% of residents support preserving dark skies.
- The Association received written commendation in a Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) pamphlet for Dark Sky leadership. Our work prompted NEC to promote adoption of Dark Sky lighting throughout the Escarpment area.

For more information on the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association and the 'Dark Skies' initiative: <https://bpba.ca>

Your Executive:
President: Debbie Dover
Treasurer: Michael Latimer
Secretary: Karen Sword
Membership: Kathy Campbell
Community Ctr. Rep: Pat Howes

Please send us your ideas and feedback:
pikebay.ontario@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook and be sure to provide your community input!
<https://www.facebook.com/PikeBayCommunityAssociation/>