

KLCA Newsletter - January 2022  
"Preserve the Heritage"



**Happy New Year!**



The KLCA Executive wishes all KLCA members and their families all the best for the New Year! Please remember to renew your membership for the 2022 year at [www.klca.org](http://www.klca.org). Memberships run from Jan. 1 - Dec 31 of each year. Benefits of membership can be found by clicking here. <https://klca.org/benefits-of-membership>

## Water Levels Update

Attached is the KLCA water levels chart for 2021 showing actual levels compared to target levels.

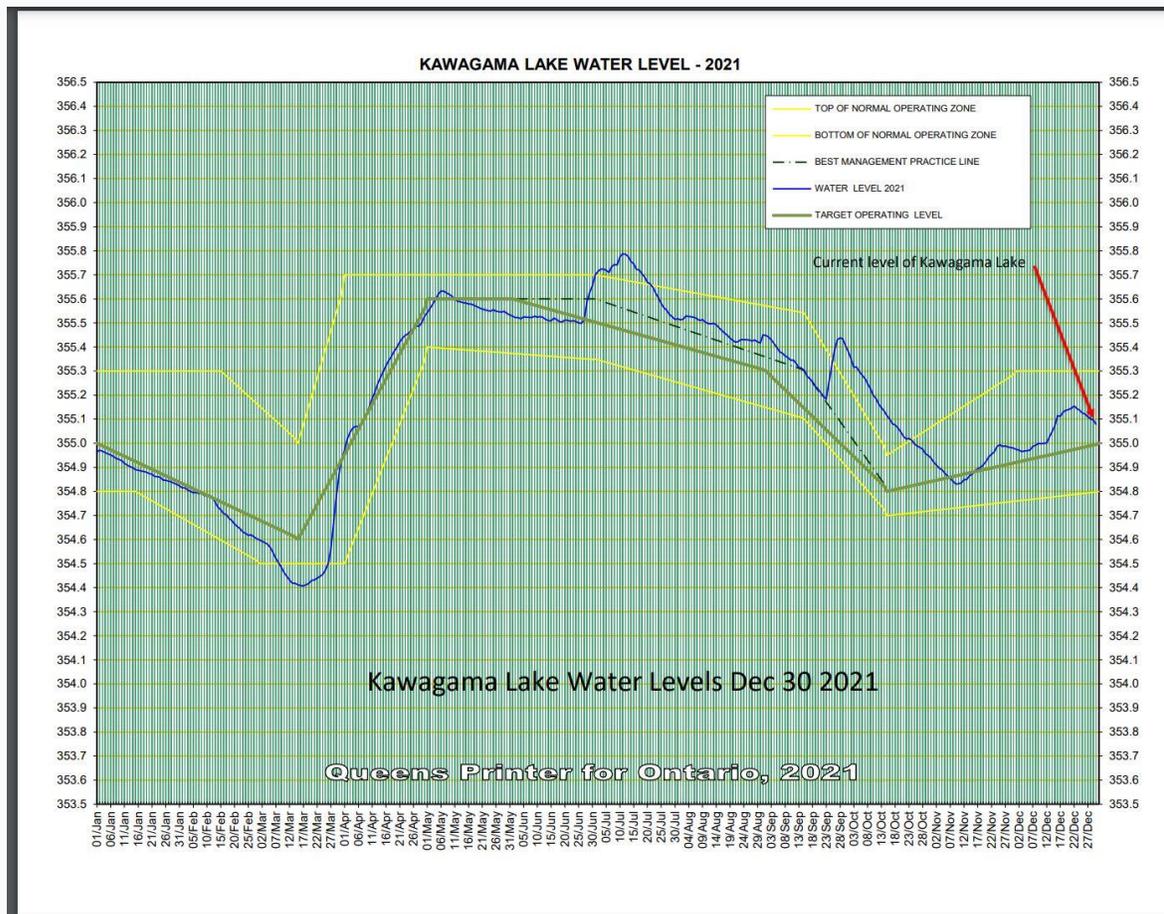
The past year had multiple periods that cycled between high flow and low flow conditions as a result of significant precipitation falling over a 1 week period and then very little precipitation for the next few weeks. These conditions made it difficult for NDMNRF to keep our water levels on target so we experienced some low water levels in the spring and 2 periods of high water in the summer and fall.

For the past few weeks, the flow down the Hollow River has been strong and checking the levels on Jan 4th, we are within 2 inches of target. Now, we need the snowpack to increase significantly to aid in bringing lake levels up in the spring.

Finally, there is a tender out for work on our dam. The intent of the work is to extend the dam's lifespan, improve worker safety, satisfy dam stability requirements, and increase the dam's discharge capacity. Bids are being reviewed in early January and if within budget, work is expected to be done this year.

Thanks to NDMNRF for their dedication to maintaining healthy lake levels on Kawagama.

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## Preparing for Hydro Outages

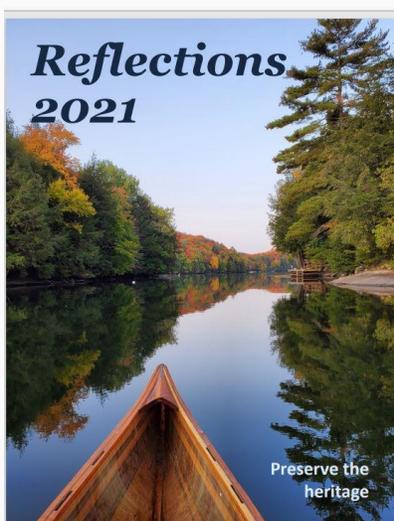


With the recent high winds from December storm, many of us were without power for several days. Ensure your emergency kit is stocked in the event of any future emergency or prolonged power outages. [Click here to see a list of](#)

items that you may need. <https://www.hydroone.com/power-outages-and-safety/emergency-preparedness>

Wondering if your power is out? Consult the Hydro One Storm Map here, <https://d8bkncndcv6jca.cloudfront.net/> and [sign up for outage notifications](#).

## Time to Reflect



We've received a few articles, poems, and photos for *Reflections 2022*, but there are still lots of blank pages available for your contributions. Any content for adults or kids that is relevant to life on our lakes is suitable for this KLCA yearbook. If you find it interesting, others will, too.

As always, *Reflections* will be as good as you make it!

Please email all stories, puzzles, poems, recipes, photos, interviews, and so on to [reflections@klca.org](mailto:reflections@klca.org) before February 28.

This year, we'd like to include a page of green tips for cottage life. If you have any suggestions for being a little more environmentally friendly while enjoying life on our lakes, please send them along. They will be printed anonymously.

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## Property Assessments Still on Hold



In their early November "Fall 2021 economic update", the Province announced that property assessments for the 2022 and 2023 tax years will continue to be based on the same valuation date that was used for 2021. Details and a link to the economic update are on the FOCA webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/focas-property-tax-position-overview/>

## Supporting our Community



Moorelands Camp, Dorset Volunteer Firefighters Association, Dorset Health Hub, Dorset Lions Camp and the Friends of the Muskoka Watershed - each of these local organizations fulfill an important role in our community. On behalf of KLCA members, the KLCA Board of Directors donated money to these organizations to recognize and financially support their important contributions.

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## Go Searching for Canada Jays in Algonquin



The Canada jay, previously known as the Gray jay, is a resident songbird of Ontario's boreal forests. Canada jays maintain year-round territories, which usually are located in bogs and conifer forests made up of black spruce and balsam fir. The jays spend their fall caching food items such as insects, scavenged meat, mushrooms, and berries throughout their breeding territory, which they rely on during the harsh winters. Curious of human activity and supplemental food, Canada jays regularly visit campsites, snowshoe trails, and logging sites and are commonly found in Algonquin Provincial Park. Some popular sites in Algonquin to see Canada jays include the the Mizzy Lake trail, Mew Lake Campground, Spruce Bog Boardwalk, Beaver pond trail, Logging Museum, Leaf Lake ski trail, and along Opeongo Road.

The long-term study on the Canada jays in Algonquin Park, now in its 57<sup>th</sup> year, has been possible due to the unique colour-bands put on each of the jays being studied. This has allowed for individuals to be monitored over large periods of time. These bands not only provide each bird with its own unique name (such as **ROYLBOSR**—Red Over Yellow Left, Blue Over Silver Right) but also allow the researchers to monitor birds throughout their lifetimes, determining who mates with whom and how long individuals live. However, since the Canada jays are so mobile, it is sometimes difficult to relocate the banded birds. If you happen to be spending time in Algonquin Park, bring a camera or a pair of

binoculars along! Opportunistic sightings by local birders, hikers, and anyone that encounters a jay during their time in the park are extremely valuable. If you do encounter a jay in Algonquin Park, or the surrounding area, try to see if it has bands on its legs and if so, what colors they are. If you are interested in learning more about the Canada jay research, have an observation to report, or are curious about other ways to help, you can contact Matthew Furst at [mfurst@uoguelph.ca](mailto:mfurst@uoguelph.ca)

## Safe Quiet Lakes 2021 Survey Results



The Safe Quiet Lakes received close to 6,000 responses in their 2021 survey. Read the complete survey here. <https://safequiet.ca/news/survey-results/>

Safe Quiet Lakes has fielded the most comprehensive and professional surveys of lake users ever conducted in Ontario. The 2013 survey attracted 1700 responses and the 2017 survey 3300 responses. The insights from these surveys led to a better understanding of the activities, issues and concerns of lake users in the region. Results have been used by local and federal governments and by lake associations as a basis for developing programs and strategies. These surveys form the basis of our actions and priorities.

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# Volunteer Opportunity!



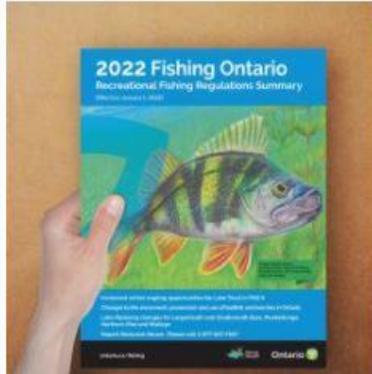
Attention Cottagers! The KLCA board is searching for our next Chair of the Lake Partners Program. This important position contributes to the long-term monitoring of lake health by completing the following:

- Once annual water sample collection (spring).
- Once monthly (May- October) water clarity testing.

All sampling materials and equipment are provided and a training session with the current Chair will be provided in the spring of 2022! If you're interested in being an essential part of the KLCA and contributing to the health of Kawagama and Bear Lakes, please reach out to Robert Bill at: [info@klca.org](mailto:info@klca.org) to express your interest.

These samples are collected for our lake as part of an important, Ontario wide program. For more info, please go to: <https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-overview/>

# 2022 Ontario Fishing Regulations



The province has released the 2022 Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary, the annual guide to the rules and regulations for recreational fishing in Ontario, including information about licenses, seasons, and catch limits. Access this by clicking here. <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary>

## Invasive Species Prevention

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## COTTAGERS | Action Plan

Keep invasive species away from your cottage — they will ruin the fun for everyone. To stop the spread, make sure you and your guests know the plan.

### 1. USE LOCAL FIREWOOD

Firewood may carry an invasive pest or disease that could harm our forests. Avoid transporting it across long distances. Buy and burn local firewood instead.

### 2. CLEAN YOUR GEAR

Before heading to or from the cottage, be sure to clean all of your gear. Make sure your watercraft, trailers, bicycles, all-terrain vehicles and boot bottoms are free of plant material and seeds, including mud that may contain seeds.

### 3. GROOM YOUR PETS

Give your pet's coat a good brushing to remove any seeds or plant parts it might have picked up.

### 4. NEVER RELEASE YOUR PETS

Never release aquarium plants or pets at the cottage or anywhere else. Some pets like goldfish are an invasive species.

### 5. GARDEN RESPONSIBLY

Choose native or non-invasive plants for your garden to avoid introducing or spreading invasive species. Avoid relocating plants from your home to your cottage garden, and vice versa. Do not dump yard waste in nearby natural areas as this can smother natural vegetation and spread invasive plants.

### 6. KEEP AN EYE OUT

Inspect your property and shoreline for any sign of invasion. To find out what species may be threatening your area, visit [eddmaps.org/ontario](https://eddmaps.org/ontario).

### 7. REMOVE INVADERS RESPONSIBLY

Read the Ontario Invasive Plants Council's [Best Management Practice Series](#) to learn how to safely dispose of common invasive plants and more about how to manage them.

### 8. REPORT ALL INVADERS

Call the **Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711** to report an invasive species sighting or download the [EDDMapS Ontario app](#) to report an invader on the spot.

### 9. STOP THE INVASION

To learn more about how you can stop the invasion, visit [ontario.ca/invasionON](https://ontario.ca/invasionON) to download action plans for Boaters, Hikers, Cottagers and Gardeners.

For more information on invasive species and a list of our partners, visit [ontario.ca/invasionON](https://ontario.ca/invasionON)

[ontario.ca/invasionON](https://ontario.ca/invasionON)

Ontario 

For more information, please go to: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-species-ontario>

## **The Problem with Road Salt**

**Dr. Norman Yan, PhD, FRSC, Chairman, Friends of the Muskoka Watershed.**



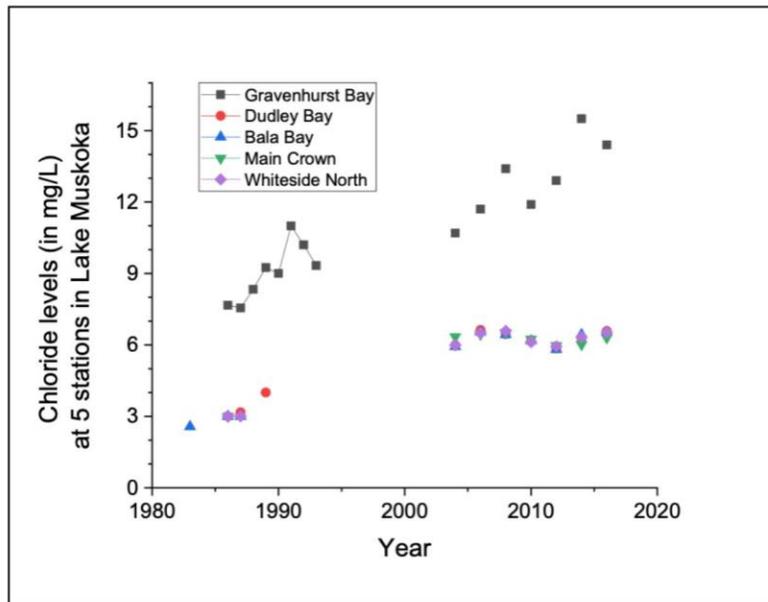
Friends of the Muskoka Watershed takes on the most widespread threats to our lakes that aren't being adequately resolved, pointing the path forward to solutions. That is the basis of our ASHMuskoka project. We selected it because "ecological osteoporosis" (environmental calcium decline) was damaging almost half of our lakes.

So, other than climate change, what is the next most widespread anthropogenic threat to the health of our lakes? The answer may surprise you. I believe it is road salt, and its signature is the concentration of chloride in our lakes.

### **What is the evidence?**

The graph below shows chloride levels rising over the last 35 years in Lake Muskoka. Chloride levels in remote undeveloped lakes in Muskoka are currently less than 1 mg/L, and they'd barely show on this graph. Chloride was first sampled in Lake Muskoka in 1983 downstream of Bala. At that time, levels were just under 3 mg/L, levels we can assume were typical of much of the lake. Since then, levels at four open water stations in the lake have risen to about 6 to 7 mg/L. Doing the arithmetic, the lake now holds about 15,000 tonnes of salt in its waters – 15,000 tonnes! While chloride levels have been pretty stable in the open waters of the lake over the last 20 years, they continue to rise in Gravenhurst Bay, indicating a rising local source.

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Well. So what. Levels are now roughly 15 times above background in Gravenhurst Bay, but is this a problem? Recent work from Queen’s University scientists working with the FMW and [MECP](#) proves that it is. At levels of 5 to 40 mg/L of chloride, the death rates of 6 species of Muskoka water fleas increased and their production of offspring dramatically decreased. [Daphnia](#) and her cousins are the little living lawnmowers that help to keep our lakes clean by filtering the algae. Gravenhurst Bay has been the stage on which past pollution events have been played. In the 1960s phosphorus levels from municipal sewage were high enough that algal blooms were a common occurrence. If salt pollution is killing the water fleas that eat the algae, the risk of algal blooms is again on the horizon, this time not because of increased algal growth, but because of reduced grazing of algae by their predators – the animal plankton including *Daphnia*. Keep tuned to how the FMW plans to help confront this issue.

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Data sources: MOE (1983 to 1995) and DMM (after 2000), thanks to Huaxia Yao, Andrew Paterson, and Rebecca Williston.

<https://ashmuskoka.ca/2020/02/the-problem-with-road-salt/>

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**Our mailing address is:**

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