

# RAINY LAKE CONSERVANCY



Preserving the Rainy Lake Watershed

## A Rainy Lake Reflection – Looking Back a Hundred Years

Pioneer Rainy Lake tourist outfitter Bruce Lloyd was 19 when he arrived in Fort Frances to work for Herb Williams, General Merchant, in 1903. After the great fire of 1905, when Fort Frances' Front Street businesses were wiped out, Bruce joined in a partnership with A.H. Watson as Watson and Lloyd, General Merchants.

When Bruce married Flora "Belle" Anderson in 1910, their honeymoon was a canoe trip on Rainy Lake. Later the Lloyds bought "Belle Island" in Rocky Inlet Bay. In 1929 Bruce outfitted his first tourist party. Two years later he decided to strike out on his own and started Lloyd's Tourist Emporium, providing the complete outfit for canoe trips. At one time the Tourist Emporium had 125 canoes available for rent. Tourists would arrive by train, and after changing and getting organized, would set out for their trip up the lake. Often Lloyd would transport the parties, their canoes, and gear



Photo courtesy of Gordon Martin

by boat to more distant locations on the lake.

The Lloyd Boat Line began in 1940 on Rainy Lake and operated 7 days a week in the summer. Such boats as the *Cascadia*, *Blue Fin*, *Elsie J*, and

*Belle Isle* carried passengers and freight to camps and cottages. Bruce's son Bill built many of the boats of their Boat Line, and he captained the 40-passenger *Rainy Lake*. Built by Maffey Steel Boats in 1956, the 48-foot *Rainy Lake* was Lloyd's last boat. It was lifted from the Rainy River in 1985. After 80 years, this

event marked the end of the Lloyd enterprises on Rainy Lake.

A plaque at the foot of Crowe Avenue commemorates the tourism aspects of travel on the river and lake, and Lloyd's boat line is mentioned. A copy of Lloyd's Schedule is shown, and there is a picture of a holiday crowd on board a boat.

*As told by Mildred Brockie, Bruce and Belle's daughter*

## What in the World is NOCP? And What is it Doing on Rainy Lake?

Last year a partnership was formed between the Rainy Lake Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and the Rainy River Valley Field Naturalists. This partnership is called the Northwestern Ontario Conservation Partnership (NOCP, say "no sip"). In June we received \$48,900 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for conservation work in our area. Here's how we are using the grant.

- The field naturalists have completed the Alberton bog walk parking lot. They have installed the board walk and are working on plans for interpretive signs which will be ready for the late summer opening.
- The NCC office, under program manager Ilka Milne, is up and running and *busy* in Fort Frances.
- Student interns have been hired to manage the

Volunteer for Nature Program and to help with environmental research.

- Fort Frances High School students have had the opportunity to use their GIS mapping skills at the NCC Rainy River Oak Grove property.
- The NCC is working with RLC members on conservation easements on Rainy Lake.
- Last October the partnership invited representatives from local organizations and agencies to meet with them and share ideas for a regional conservation plan. The next step is to seek input from other local stakeholders, and to establish possible conservation targets based on their input, and on available ecoregional data.

*Grant contact: Phyllis Callaghan*

## Water Sampling Projects

Our water monitoring teams are collecting water samples to help determine what exactly is in the water we use every day. RLC is involved in several water monitoring programs.

1. Great Ontario Dip-in. This water clarity test is done once a year during the week of Canada Day. It's part of the Ontario Lake Partner Program.
2. Ontario Lake Partner Program. This program is sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment. Volunteers collect total phosphorus samples and make monthly water clarity observations.
3. A partnership among RLC, Rainy River Community College and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This program is developing a data base defining the status of the Rainy Lake environment. Its cross-border data will identify trends and problems and provide baseline data. See [www.mvp-wc.usace.army.mil/wq](http://www.mvp-wc.usace.army.mil/wq). Click on Rainy Lake, then select a location in the list box at the top of the page or a data set to graph.
4. Voyageurs National Park. This sampling project is providing a baseline of water quality data that will be used to guide future water quality monitoring and management in the Rainy Basin. In addition it is comparing water quality data from sites sampled 25 years ago.



Water monitoring instructions, Lisa Colb and Nolan Baratono Phyllis Callaghan

Volunteers are needed for Seine Bay, Swell Bay and the area near the entrance to Rocky Islet Bay. If you can help, please contact Lisa Colb or Paul Anderson.

*Environmental Research Committee*

*Lisa Colb (807-274-0317), Paul Anderson (807-274-3093)*

## Conservation Easements Update

Obtaining a conservation easement is a slow process, especially for Americans putting easements on Canadian property. Several such easements are in progress. Please let RLC know if you are interested in putting an easement on property you own – we can help. *Easement contact: Paul Larsen*

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## President's Message

The annual summer pilgrimage is an exciting time for all of us! True to Harvey Hudson's predictions, we were able to reach Rest Island by April 22nd with no ice in sight.

New projects, good fishing, seeing old friends are important. More important perhaps is that we are returning to a quiet, peaceful place surrounded by a wilderness most of us crave over the long winter months. Most important of all, we live in a watershed that feeds us good clean water. Those of us who own land are a lucky lot. Past governments have provided for a lake with hundreds of protected islands, and most of our publicly owned shorelines are uncluttered and beautiful.

Whether or not we own land, I believe we should see ourselves first and foremost as lake stewards. We don't have to look far to find good models. A premier example is Ernest Oberholtzer who spent most of his life working to preserve what we now treasure. Now we, the present generation, must think about how we can contribute to a healthy Rainy Lake. Specifically, we can promote natural shorelines, maintain quality gray water and septic systems, and consider placing covenants or conservation easements on some of our land. By doing our part, perhaps we can help persuade our governments to ensure that Rainy Lake remains a special place for future generations.



*Dale Callaghan, President  
Rest Island, Rainy Lake*

## Hold the Date!

The 2005 AGM will be held at La Place Rendez-vous, Fort Frances, on Sunday, August 7th 3-5 p.m. Nolan Baraton, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, will speak to us about the importance of monitoring water quality on both sides of the lake and about RLC's role in the program. Ilka Milne, NCC Fort Frances, will bring us up to date on the progress of conservation easements on Rainy Lake and also on exciting new developments in conserving land in NW Ontario. Refreshments will be served following the meeting. The public is invited to attend, so bring a friend; there is ample parking for both boats and cars. Please let us know if you need a sitter for your children.

*Contacts: Dale Callaghan, Norma Eberhardt, Kay Larsen*

## YOU: A Valuable Source

Although you may not be aware of it, you represent a valuable source of new Rainy Lake Conservancy members: your visitors and friends who share a common appreciation of Rainy Lake. Many of them are interested in keeping abreast of RLC's activities and with a little encouragement would be willing to support this worthwhile organization. It may be helpful to encourage prospective members to check out RLC's website at [www.rainylakeconservancy.org](http://www.rainylakeconservancy.org) as it provides an impressive overview of the mission and activities of the Conservancy. Giving gift memberships is an excellent option too.

The Rainy Lake Conservancy currently has 141 paid-up members. Some of you faithful members have forgotten that you need to renew your membership each July 31st!

*Membership contact: Paul Larsen*



## Border Crossing on Rainy Lake

The border crossing situation is ever changing. This summer as usual, we will all obtain our RABC permits to cross the border into Canada via the lake. This summer's changes will relate to the return trip to the U.S. There will be two ways that travelers may legally return to the U.S. The first and most obvious will be to cross at the port of entry. This means that the traveler will cross at the bridge and report to Borderland Security on the bridge. This crossing may be on foot or while traveling in a motor vehicle. The second legal means of return, and the method of most interest to owners of islands in Canada, is to use the I-68 permit.

The I-68 permit will allow travelers to return to the U.S. in a remote location such as a U.S. marina or resort and then merely call the Customs Border Protection office on the bridge. Travelers must call this office each time that they enter the U.S. from Canadian waters. The I-68 permit can be obtained at the Customs Border Protection office on the bridge. The phone number is 218-283-2541. I was assured that the U.S. entry regulations will be enforced this summer.

The issue of a PortPASS will not be addressed for at least a year. There is a possible future consideration for a 5-year pass, but this will not happen this year. Let's all do our part and follow the new procedures so we can retain the ability to cross the border via the lake. *Report by Bob Hammar*

## Focus 2005: What's Up?

In reviewing our strategic plan last August board members and executive officers were pleased to note that the Conservancy has *achieved* a number of its major goals over the past 2 years. These goals include the regulation of easement legislation (Red Tape Reduction Act), a partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust for fundraising, and the establishment of a Nature Conservancy of Canada office in Fort Frances.

Therefore, the RLC board of directors has set our focus this year on the following areas: increasing local support and membership through better communication with the public, fulfilling the terms of the Ontario Trillium grant, continuing and expanding environmental research, and encouraging good lakeshore stewardship.

Some ways we hope to achieve these goals are:

- ☛ RLC volunteers will continue to collect water samples and assist with loon research.
- ☛ We will launch an "Adopt a Beach" project this season.
- ☛ We are developing a plan to work with partners and volunteers to help control purple loosestrife on a privately-owned island.
- ☛ RLC has a member on the board of the Rainy Lake Fisheries Trust and has pledged a contribution of \$1000 to support fish research on the lake.
- ☛ As a speaker at the annual Rainy River Watershed ManOMin conference in March, President Dale Callaghan reviewed the history of conservation in the watershed and highlighted recent RLC conservation initiatives.
- ☛ In April, RLC participated in the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce Home and Leisure Show where we provided information about RLC and distributed handouts on lakeshore stewardship.
- ☛ In May we talked to two science classes in the high school.

Join us as we continue to pursue ways to increase local membership and support. In addition, an excellent PowerPoint presentation by and about RLC is available for you to use.

*For information and to volunteer, please contact Phyllis Callaghan or [info@rainylakeconservancy.org](mailto:info@rainylakeconservancy.org)*

## In Memoriam Donations

During the past few years several Conservancy members have chosen to honour friends or family members by sending In Memoriam donations to the Rainy Lake Conservancy. It is an excellent and enduring way to remember a friend or loved one. For information on making a donation that is tax deductible, contact [info@rainylakeconservancy.org](mailto:info@rainylakeconservancy.org).

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## Nature Outings

To start the summer off, we are happy to have Lee Grim of Voyageur's National Park guide us on the park's Beaver Pond Trail. This 2/3 mile (one way) trail is somewhat rocky and twisty, and we'll be sharing the trail with mosquitoes so be prepared! Meet at the VNP's Beaver Pond Trail dock directly east across the water from Sha Sha Resort on Tuesday, June 28, at 2 p.m. Boat pool if possible. For more information or to get a ride, contact someone from the Nature Outings Committee.

Our second nature outing will be held on a calm day the week of July 29th. Lee Grim has again agreed to accompany us on a pontoon flotilla to the seagull/cormorant rookery near Seine Bay and the Fox Islands. More information will be available later. If you could provide a pontoon or larger boat to accommodate extra passengers, let one of the Nature Outings Committee members know.

Sometime in August our third outing will be a guided tour of Ernest Oberholtzer's Mallard Island. Bob Hilke will share his wonderful memories of Ober and this fascinating, fragile island home. If you have never been there, don't miss this one – it is a treat you will never forget. Docks are available but limited space makes boat pooling a must. Details will be available at a later date.

*Nature Outings Committee: Claudia Horne (807-274-9124)  
Trish Hogan (218-286-5873) Ginny Sweatt (218-244-0408)*

### RAINY LAKE CONSERVANCY SPRING 2005 / VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1

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## Who Am I?

When I was a baby:

I hatched from an egg.  
I could swim.  
I had a hard shell.

In my lifetime I may have had up to 15 new shells.  
I breathed using feathery gills at the end of my tail.  
Tadpoles tasted good to me.

Later, when I became an adult:

I couldn't swim anymore.  
Now I have four wings that can't be folded.  
My wings operate independently.  
They beat up to 90 times a second.  
I can reach flying speeds of up to 54 km per hour.  
I can fly sideways and backwards.  
I am a very good hunter.  
I am really, really quiet.  
I could be green or iridescent blue.  
My colors can change over my lifetime.  
I live around wet areas.  
My favorite foods include gnats and mosquitoes.  
But, I am also a cannibal.  
I look like a tiny airplane.

Who Am I? *(The answer is at the bottom of this page.)*



*Purple Loosestrife  
a beautiful killer*

## Volunteer for Nature

Volunteer for Nature is a program that gets people involved in local environmental initiatives. RLC is helping with some Volunteer for Nature activities this summer and needs *volunteers*. See the Events 2005 insert for details.

## Watch Out for Loons

Voyageurs National Park is continuing its study of loon nesting success on Rainy Lake. If you see paired loons, nests or chicks, please call Kurt Lysne ☎807-274-6069.

### MISSION STATEMENT

To work with property owners, governments and local communities to preserve and protect the natural beauty, historic features, and ecological and recreational values for present and future generations, particularly within but not restricted to Rainy Lake.

*Visit our web site at [www.rainylakeconservancy.org](http://www.rainylakeconservancy.org)*

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