

# RAINY LAKE CONSERVANCY



Preserving the Rainy Lake Watershed  
Fall Newsletter, Nov. 2018

## Celebrating The Beauty of Rainy Lake



Sunset near  
Copenhagen Island  
by Kim Embretson

Thunderhead North of  
Goose Island  
by Kim Embretson



## President's Message



With fall settled in, the cabins closed up for the season or set up for the winter, it seems a good time to reflect on the year for Rainy Lake Conservancy. In August, we had a successful Annual General Meeting in Fort Frances with many of you. We were engaged with expert presentations on wolf research in Voyageurs Park and how the Rainy Lake water levels are managed and monitored. The new Rule Curve went into effect so, in the year ahead, we should all watch how the water levels are responding to climate events. If there are topics of interest to you for future AGMs, please let me know. It is always a great time to see everyone and share ideas and issues related to the lake.

We continue to work with island owners on the protection of their properties and on the legacy they want to leave for their family and for all of us who care about maintaining and sustaining a healthy lake. We are one of the most successful conservancies in Ontario, thanks to everyone's efforts. We continue to find out interesting ecological information about the properties and their significant species of plants, birds, mammals and of course, our special Red and White Pine forests. If you are interested in learning more about how to protect the natural areas of your property, please reach out to me or anyone on the Board. We recently developed a packet of information that can be shared with family and advisors and may hopefully answer many of your questions.

For now, I wish everyone safe and happy holiday get-togethers with family and friends in the season ahead. ***Carolyn Wallis***

### Remembering Helen Heller



Helen Heller, long-time member of the Rainy Lake Conservancy, died peacefully on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at her home in San Francisco, following a prolonged battle with cancer. Helen's love of Rainy Lake began when she was a teenager, living with her family on the shores of Rainy Lake. Her affection deepened during the many happy summers she and her husband Robert spent at their cabin on Noden Island. She supported the mission of the Rainy Lake Conservancy and before Helen's death, she fulfilled her wish to donate Olsen Island to American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, with the intention that it be transferred to RLC. Helen will be greatly missed by her family, her friends and by members of the Conservancy.

## ***Member Stories***

In this new section there will be a video about a RLC member reflecting on his or her experiences on Rainy Lake. The first video features Thatcher Peterson from Venture Island telling his story of the first time he came to Rainy Lake as a 7 year old. He tells of a harrowing story of storms and travel in small boats.



To view the 6 minute video on Youtube, click on the link below, or copy it into your browser.

<https://youtu.be/UuOfIgeeXBo>

Please contact Kim Embretson at [embretson@charter.net](mailto:embretson@charter.net) if you have a video or written story to share.

## ***New Board Members***

### **Sandi Tibbs**



After learning to drive a boat at the age of 8, Sandi provided a water taxi service for family members going to and from the family cabin on Eden Island, located just south of Nowhere Island. Growing up, she spent most of her time on the lake and river. Her love of fishing, canoeing and camping was reflected in the years she spent as a guide and organizer. Sandi appreciates the beauty and sounds of the lake, and she enjoys paddling the waterway to view the wildlife and see the incredible changes the seasons bring to the lakes. After canoeing on many lakes in Ontario, Sandi always appreciates returning to the serenity of Rainy Lake. She is interested in keeping the lake as natural as possible, in improving the fisheries stocks, and in making Rainy Lake a tourist stop, known for its beautiful scenery.

### **Deborah Embretson**



Deborah has been coming to Rainy Lake since 1981, when her parents James and Bettie Schneider bought Island HA 15 and named it Isle of View. Since then, Rainy Lake became her family's vacation place and her retreat from the busy life of a music teacher. Her children, and now grandchildren, have enjoyed the natural beauty and special family place that is Rainy Lake.

## **Kim Embretson**

Kim has accompanied his wife Deborah and children on summer vacations at Isle of View. He has become the fix-it man for all kinds of projects around the island. He organized the family members in the construction of a second cabin on the island when the children and cousins grew too big to just sleep on the floor during family reunions. His crowning island achievement is the solar electric system he and his nephew Hans installed 6 years ago.

## ***Returning Board Members***

Thank you to the following Board members who have agreed to serve for another term: Don Dickson, Ruthanne Miller, Barry Sampson, Joe Gauss, Mary Graves, Joanna Loney, Donna Romyn, Kim Roy, Dave Siebert, Paul Anderson, Dale Callaghan, Carolyn Wallis.

## ***Around the Watershed***

Dale Callaghan represented RLC at the 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Binational Lake Association Network Workshop at Sunny Cove Camp, Rainy Lake, on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to learn about the successes, programs and challenges of the 40 lake associations in the Rainy/Lake of the Woods basin. As representatives from the 22 groups attending the workshop shared information about their organizations, it was obvious that most of them face the same challenges that RLC does both in retaining and increasing their memberships and attracting



younger people to serve on their boards. The majority of these groups, however, have other significant challenges to deal with. In most cases, they are simply trying to preserve what is left on smaller lakes in Minnesota and Northwestern Ontario where water pollution and destruction of habitat are the result of overdevelopment.

Fortunately, we on Rainy Lake are still in a proactive position. We can take steps to prevent similar situations here. As an Ontario land trust and registered charity, the Rainy Lake Conservancy has the ability to help property owners preserve their land through Conservation Easements and Land Donations.

A presentation by Jeff Forester, Executive Director, Minnesota Lake and Rivers Advocates on "A Lake Based Strategy for Protecting Lakes: the Power of Local Grassroots" illustrated how small groups like ours can make a difference in preserving the natural values of our special places for future generations.

Kelli Saunders, International Watershed Coordinator, Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation and Todd Sellers, Executive Director, Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation, did a great job organizing the workshop.

## **Membership**

Memberships keep the important work of the Rainy Lake Conservancy on the move. Please renew your membership and invite your friends and family members to join the Conservancy. New members are always welcome.

You may join, renew or donate at: [//www.rainylakeconservancy.org](http://www.rainylakeconservancy.org) or by mailing your check to the Rainy Lake Conservancy, Post Office Box 223, Fort Frances Ontario, Canada, P9A 3M6. Annual dues are \$30 per person or \$40 for family memberships.

*Your dues and donations support our mission to preserve the ecology, culture and historic features of our watershed. Donations to RLC are tax deductible for Canadians. If you are a U.S. member and would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please mail your check to the Minnesota Land Trust @ 2356 University Ave. N., Suite 240 St. Paul, MN 55114 with a notation that it should be directed to the "Rainy Lake Fund". In memoriam and other donations are also welcome.*

**The Mission of the Rainy Lake Conservancy is to work with property owners, governments, and the local communities to preserve and protect the natural beauty, historic features, ecological and recreational values for present and future generations within but not restricted to Rainy Lake.**

**Editors:** *Kim and Deborah Embretson*

*Please send ideas for articles, photos, or videos to [embretson@charter.net](mailto:embretson@charter.net).*

*A PDF version of this newsletter is available at [www.rainylakeconservancy.org](http://www.rainylakeconservancy.org).*

## **Resource Links of General Interest**

*Courtesy of the Lake of the Woods Property Owners Association website:*

Looking for information on a particular topic? We have included website links below to various resources that will help you find the information you are looking for. Have suggestions for additional resources? [Let us know](#). Having trouble navigating the resource page? [We can help](#).

Scroll down to find information on:

[Government](#) | [Cities & Municipalities](#) | [Emergency & Important Numbers](#)  
| [Environmental Agencies](#) | [Environmental Issues](#) | [Invasive Species](#) |  
[Land & Water Safety](#) | [Wildlife](#) | [Miscellaneous](#) | [Taxation](#)



## Government

Government of Canada

Canadian Coast Guard

Environment Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Transport Canada

## Government of Ontario

Ontario Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services

Ontario Ministry of Environment & Climate Change

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry

Ontario Ministry of Transportation

Ontario Provincial Police

## Cities & Municipalities

City of Kenora

Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls

Lake of the Woods Township

## Emergency and Important Numbers

**To Report a Forest Fire Ontario Wide– Dial 310-FIRE (3473) or 1-888-284-FIRE (3473)**

**Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Non-emergency - 807-548-5534 or 1-888-310-1122**

**Ontario-wide Ambulance - 1-877-351-2345**

**Police and Ambulance City of Fort Frances +1 807-485-2577 Portage Ave & Church Street**

## Environmental Agencies

Canadian Safe Boating Council

Canadian Wildlife Federation

IISD Experimental Lakes Area

International Joint Commission

Lake of the Woods Control Board

Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Northwestern Health Unit

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Rainy Lake of the Woods Watershed

Watershed Canada

## Environmental Issues

**Blue Green Algae - Northwestern Health Unit, LOWDPOA, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change, Ontario Government, NWHU**

Docks and Boathouses - [MNRF](#), [FOCA](#)  
Drinking Water - [MOECC](#), [NWHU](#)  
Healthy Waterfronts - [LOWDPOA](#), [FOCA](#), [Canadian Wildlife Federation](#), [Watersheds Canada](#)  
Invasive Species - [FOCA](#), [OFAH](#), [Ontario Invasive Plant Council](#), [Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program](#), [MNRF](#)  
Jack Pine Budworm - [MNRF Info Sheet](#), [MNRF -A Safe Way to Control](#)  
Learn how to obtain a Public Lands Act work permit and what activities require one for public land and shore lands - [MNRF](#)  
Microplastics - [FOCA](#)  
Ontario Invasive Species - [Kids Corner](#)  
Propane Tank Regulations –

[Ontario Government](#) , [EDPRO](#), [Technical Standards & Safety Authority \(TSSA\)](#)  
Protecting Lake of the Woods - [MOE Fact Sheet](#)  
Responsible Garbage Disposal - [MOE Fact Sheet](#)  
Septic Fields/Fields - [LOWDPOA](#), [NWHU](#), [FOCA Video](#)  
Water Levels - [Lake of the Woods Control Board](#)

### [Invasive Species](#)

[Emerald Ash Borer](#) - [Ontario Invading Species](#), [Natural Resources Canada](#), [Manitoba Government](#)  
[Flowering Rush](#) - [Invasive Species Manitoba](#)  
[Grow Me Instead Program](#) - [Ontario Invasive Plant Council](#), [LOWDPOA](#)  
[Invasive Species Found in Ontario](#) - [MNRF](#)  
[Invasive Species Guide](#) - [FOCA](#)  
[Ontario Invasive Species](#) - [Kids Corner](#)  
[Purple Loosestrife](#) - [LOWDPOA](#), [Ontario Invasive Plant Council](#), [Ontario Beetles](#)  
[Report Sighting of Invasive Species](#) - [EDDMapS](#)  
[Removal of Invasive Aquatic Species](#) - [MNRF](#)  
[Rusty Crayfish](#) - [Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program](#), [MNRF](#)  
[Spiny Water Fleas](#) - [Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program](#)  
[Stop the Spread](#) - [FOCA](#), [MNRF](#), [OFAH](#)  
[Zebra Mussels](#) - [LOWDPOA](#), [Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program](#)

### [Land & Water Safety](#)

[Boat Equipment](#) - [Transport Canada](#)  
[Boat License](#) - [Canada Boating License](#), [Boater Exam](#), [National Boating Safety School](#), [Transport Canada](#)  
[Boating Safety](#) - [Canadian Coast Guard](#), [Red Cross](#), [City of Kenora Boating Code](#), [FOCA](#), [OPP](#), [Transport Canada](#), [MOE](#)  
[Burning Rules and Regulations](#) - [MNRF](#), [MOE](#)  
[Emergency Management Ontario](#) - [Step 1: Make a Plan](#) | [Step 2: Build A Kit](#) | [Step 3: Be Informed](#)  
[Fire Safety](#) - [FOCA](#), [Ontario Government](#), [FireSmart Canada](#)  
[Lake of the Woods and Area Ice Conditions](#) - [Ice Patrol](#)

[Lifejackets and PDF'S - Canadian Red Cross, Canadian Safe Boating Council, Transport Canada](#)

### [Fish and Wildlife](#)

[Bear Wise - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

[Coyotes, Wolves and Foxes - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

[Feeding Wildlife Do's and Don'ts - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

[Fish Online - Learn how you can easily plan a fishing trip, check fishing rules, and catch and identify Ontario sport fish by using the Fish ON-Line tool - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

[Ontario Fishing Regulations 2018 - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

[Guide to Eating Ontario Fish - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change](#)

[People and Wildlife - LOWDPOA](#)

[Wildlife and Nature - Ontario Government](#)

### [Miscellaneous Resources and Agencies](#)

[Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations \(FOCA\)](#)

[Hydro One](#)

[Ontario Sunset Country](#)

[Responsible Cottage Rental - FOCA](#)

### [Taxation](#)

[Assessment Review Board](#)

[Guide to your Final 2016 Property Tax Bill](#)

[Ministry of Finance Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Municipal Property Assessment Corporation \(MPAC\)](#)

[Ontario Property Tax \(Municipal\)](#)

[Provincial Land Tax \(Unincorporated\)](#)