

RAINY LAKE CONSERVANCY

Preserving the Rainy Lake Watershed

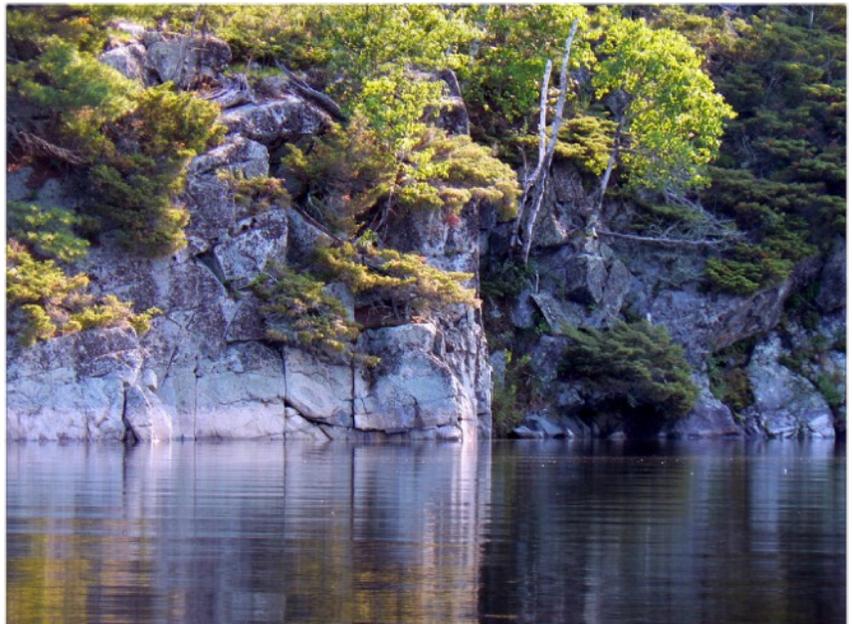


Spring Newsletter: May, 2020

Celebrating the Beauty of Rainy Lake Recent Photos



Sandpoint
Island
Provincial
Park
Mary Lysne



Goose Island
Phyllis
Callaghan

President's Message



I wish I were sitting in that kayak on Rainy Lake right now! I know all of us have some anxiety about whether/when the border will open up this summer, will we be able to get out to our cabins, will Fort Frances businesses get back to work? The good news is that Rainy Lake has blessed us with a beautiful, open, and healthy environment. The natural cycle of the Lake continues on, resplendent as always, welcoming us all. Oh the joy...and hope that we can get there! The fish are probably biting, the eagles soaring, warblers passing through, hummingbirds humming, flora is greening and budding, and the pines are showing off their glorious heights and needles. And, the Rainy Lake Conservancy continues to work to protect our lake, our lands, wildlife and home. I hope you will stay connected with us. I'm not sure, as yet, what type of annual meeting we will have, but be assured we will have a chance to get together. We are all in this together!

Thanks to all of you for your past donations, membership and passion for the Lake – we will continue to depend on you, especially in these trying times. Take care, be safe and stay sane,

Carolyn Wallis
President

In Memorial

Remembering Ed McLeod



Ed, a dedicated board member of the Rainy Lake Conservancy for many years, passed away on December 27, 2019. Born in Fort Frances in 1936, he spent his early years at the family's lake home in the North Arm of Rainy Lake where he and his sister received an unusual elementary school education. Unlike the home schooling that children are experiencing today, he attended Railroad School Car No.4 for 5 school days and then had 4 weeks off before returning to the school car for a week of instruction. His mother made sure that his homework was finished before she let him out to play! Ed completed High School in Fort Frances without any difficulty. He then attended the University of Manitoba, followed by a career at the local pulp and paper company where he held various supervisory positions in the Woodlands Division, ending with Manager, Purchased Wood. Ed and his wife Betty, also a long-time volunteer with RLC, spent many happy summer holidays with their children, Neil and Patricia, at the McLeod property on Rainy Lake.

Ed loved fishing and getting together with family and friends in the North Arm, and he especially treasured the 51 happily married years he spent with Betty. Conservancy Board members will remember him as a valued contributor to decision making at board meetings and a steady supporter over the years. The 74 years he spent on Rainy Lake made him truly appreciate its unique beauty and the value of preserving it for future generations.

Updates on the Covid 19 Pandemic Border Closing

Reduced Port Hours, Mask Requirements. Canadian Quarantine Rules. See COVID-19 coronavirus travel restrictions.

Coronavirus Travel Issues

Covid-19 coronavirus Travel Restrictions Now In Effect

Numerous travel restrictions have been put in place at both U.S. and Canadian ports. This post provides details on all of the restrictions including facemask requirements, reduced port hours, quarantine requirements, the definition of essential travel and more. In addition, both the United States and Canada have reduced the operating hours of numerous border crossing ports between the two countries. Given the length of the list, we have created a new post which shows all [Reduced Port Hours Along U.S. and Canadian Border](#).

Foreign nationals from countries other than the U.S., Canada or Mexico will most likely be denied entry to the U.S. or Canada unless they are permanent residents, or immediate family, of that country's citizens. The U.S. will also refuse entry to anyone at both the northern and southern border that do not have proper documentation for lawful entry. This will result in an outright rejection of individuals even if they are seeking political asylum or refugee status.

What is "Essential Travel"?

The borders between the U.S. and Canada, and the U.S. and Mexico are now closed to all non-essential traffic. You will only be allowed to cross the borders for "essential travel," or if you are returning to your home country.

The list of essential travel reasons is very lengthy, difficult to read, and may change. Despite the length of the list, it is not always clear what falls under the essential travel definition. It is intended to be a guideline, and border officials can use their discretion on how to interpret your trip and whether to allow you to enter the country. The full list of allowed travel can be found at the U.S. and Canadian government websites we include at the end of this post. Below is a general summary of items considered essential travel:

- Work related travel
- Trade and Commerce including truck drivers
- Medical purposes

- Attend educational institutions
- Emergency response and public health purposes
- Cross-border trade
- Individuals engaged in military-related travel or operations

If you do not clearly fall into one of the essential travel categories, you should be prepared to discuss in great detail why you should be allowed into the country. You should bring any relevant paperwork to prove what you are saying. If your reasons are borderline, you may spend hours trying to convince an officer to let you pass. If you are an American entering Canada, you will need to demonstrate that you have a suitable quarantine location, and that you have medical insurance that will cover you if you get sick. Come prepared.

What is “Non-Essential Travel”?

You will be turned around at the border if you are trying to cross for any type of “non-essential travel”. The following are examples of things considered NON-ESSENTIAL:

- Shopping
- Visit family, friends or a girlfriend, boyfriend or fiancé
- Recreation
- Gambling
- Attend a party or celebration
- Go to a restaurant for take-out
- Taking a shortcut through Canada to get to a U.S. destination faster
- Opening or checking on a cottage or seasonal home ([Read More](#))

An additional site for border crossing information is: <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/contact/menu-eng.html>

Conservation Easements Update

We have been continuing to work on land protection opportunities – mostly in the South Arm, but hoping also to work with landowners in the North Arm this summer. We have now officially taken ownership of three small islands that were donated to the American Friends of Canadian Conservation and successfully deed-transferred to the Rainy Lake Conservancy. This summer will see more monitoring of these properties and of all of our other easements still legally held by the American Friends.

Some easement updates for U.S. citizens: recent US Tax Court decisions have simplified the easement process to help us protect the critical natural areas of islands or shoreline properties to be protected, and not include any restrictions on building sites. However, if a landowner would want to put some restrictions on future maximum height of a cabin or how far from the lake buildings could ever be, that could be done with a separate agreement. Conservation of our lake is all about what landowners and families want to see happen in the future, as all of us want to leave Rainy Lake the treasure it is for future generations. Please contact us if you have any conservation questions.

Video Stories from RLC Members

This short YouTube video features the natural beauty of Rainy Lake, shared through members' photographs.

Beauty of Rainy Lake

YouTube link <https://youtu.be/lrTtszrHWI0>



Conservation News

Voyageurs National Park undertakes study of invasive cattails

by Alissa Johnson

Imagine boating in Voyageurs National Park and seeing what appears to be an island on the move. It is over six acres in size, composed primarily of cattails and pockmarked by shrubs and small trees.

Unanchored, this vegetative mass moves freely—a navigational hazard, a danger to docks and property, and spreading invasive species.



You might not believe your eyes, but what you see is real. A hybrid species of cattail is pushing out native plants, creating monocultures in park wetlands, and sometimes taking to open water.

“It’s not just a navigational issue and taking over wetlands,” said park biologist Bryce Olson. “They disrupt nutrient cycles in the lakes and reduce biodiversity in general. It’s a giant monoculture that doesn’t benefit shoreline or wildlife.”

Olson is spearheading efforts to remove the invasive plant within Voyageurs National Park. He hopes that large-scale efforts now will not only stem the tide but reestablish native ecosystems. ([Read More](#))

<https://queticosuperior.org/blog/voyageurs-national-park-undertakes-study-invasive-cattails/> 1/17

4/17/2020 Voyageurs National Park undertakes study of invasive cattails | Quetico Superior Wilderness News

(Some articles have been taken directly from the internet and remain unedited.)

Membership News

We need your help

Each year the Rainy Lake Conservancy asks its members to make an annual donation to help keep our lake clean and healthy for the next generation. The donations are used to encourage conservation easements, fund research into environmental issues impacting the lake and celebrate

the benefits of the Rainy Lake area. Please receive the fundraising letter and thoughtfully consider making a gift to accomplish these important goals.

Renew your membership

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

You may join, renew or donate at:

<http://www.rainylakeconservancy.org/page-1323796>

or by mailing your check to:

Rainy Lake Conservancy, Post Office Box 223,
Fort Frances Ontario, Canada. P9A 3M6.

Annual Dues are \$30 per person or \$40 for a family membership.

The Mission of the Rainy Lake Conservancy is to work with property owners, governments, and 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.

Please send your ideas for future newsletters to the editors:

Kim and Deborah Embretson embretson@charter.net

