

Our lake in a new light

Check out these amazing images of Oathill Lake, courtesy of two local residents, Earle Hickey and Marlies Cohen. Earle and Marlies are neighbours on Lorne Avenue with a shared passion for photography – and for the lake in front of their homes.

Over the years they have taken thousands of exquisite images, each one helping us to see and appreciate Oathill Lake in a new light.

A special thank you to Earle and Marlies for sharing their passion for Oathill Lake--and a shout out for a great Christmas gift idea courtesy of Marlies. She has designed a 12-month calendar crammed full of superb lake images. This handy little calendar makes a great Christmas gift.

To order or find out more about Marlies' calendars, go to <http://goo.gl/0sgfi>

Join us

The Annual General Meeting of The Oathill Lake Conservation Society is coming up. Come out and join your neighbours to learn more about the Society and what we're trying to accomplish. The AGM is set for November 19, 2012 in Room 101 at the Findlay Community Centre. The meeting gets underway at 7 pm. See you there!



Feedback

Firstly, congratulations on the creation of both the society, and this terrific website that supports it and its cause. As an occasional user of the lake, I appreciate the efforts contributed by both the Oathill Lake community and this society in maintaining and protecting this invaluable and fragile resource. Keep up the good work! I am interested in joining your community. Please add me to your email list – Claude Desgange

Oathill Lake Conservation Society News

A publication of The Oathill Lake Conservation Society: a non-profit community-based organization dedicated to restoring and maintaining the ecological health and biological diversity of Oathill Lake.

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Message from the Board

Welcome to Volume 1 of a newsletter celebrating a small jewel in the crown of Dartmouth's lake system. Located in the heart of our neighborhood, Oathill Lake is like a community centre, the source of fun and enjoyment all year round – from swimming, walking and fishing to skating and ice hockey. Oathill Lake is simply too valuable a resource to be taken for granted. We must come together as a community to preserve the natural beauty in, on and around the lake for today's families living in the area – and tomorrow's. Our membership is comprised of volunteers – all dedicated to improving and maintaining the health of this wonderful lake. Take a moment to read what we're trying to accomplish – and feel free to get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Sincerely

Terry Rowell
Terry Rowell
Chair OLCS



A colour version of this newsletter is available at www.oathilllake.ca



Lake Clean-up

Oathill Lake is not a garbage can. But that hasn't stopped people from dumping all sorts of strange items in the area including a microwave oven, car seats, construction material, a shopping cart, stacks of newspaper flyers, reams of fishing monofilament and tackle, golf balls and car tires.

All these gems were found in and around the lake during clean-ups organized by members of The Oathill Lake Conservation Society.



Photo courtesy of Earle Hickey

vation Society (thank you John and Linda Tremblay!). Held during the spring and fall, the clean-ups are equal parts social gatherings as they are scavenger hunts. Clean Nova Scotia got in on the action by donating garbage bags and gloves – which came in handy as volunteers dove into the woods and the water to dig out all the unwanted items.

Those first clean-ups campaigns have pulled a remarkable amount of material out of the lake area. Recent campaigns have yielded less and less garbage – but there still remains a lot of recyclable material such as pop cans and beer bottles. If you have an interest in helping keep the lake clean drop us a line and we'll let you know when the next clean-up is taking place.

info@oathilllake.ca

The frogs are back!

The wonderful chirp of the spring peeper. The throbbing hum of the bullfrog. For generations, these were essential summertime sounds on Oathill Lake. Then it all stopped and Oathill Lake was eerily silent. The reason offered up were many and varied – everything from pollution to overstocking to worldwide trends. But there was no mistaking people's concern. A cherished sound of summer was gone.

And then it happened. Last year the unmistakable yaaaaaaaarp of the bullfrog returned to Oathill Lake. And this year brought more good news. An area along the southwestern shoreline was boiling with giant tadpoles thrashing about. Those tadpoles grew into bullfrogs who spent the rest of the summer barking through the night.



Tadpole Photo courtesy of Mark O'Connor

And best of all, neighbours along the southern end of Oathill Lake think they heard the cherished sound of the peeper. All the more reason to keep your eyes and ears peeled next summer. And to help in your search, check out FrogWatch at naturewatch.ca. This part of the website is devoted to helping people identify and catalogue Nova Scotia's frog population. You'll find photos and sounds of frogs native to the province, which will make it easy to identify the peeps, parps and yarps coming from Oathill Lake!



We're live! Want to know the lake temperature before your next swim? Our website has live data during the swim months (May to September) so you can find the real time water temperature. Just go to www.oathilllake.ca and check out all the helpful information. Our web site will also tell you about all the programs we offer – including habitat monitoring, responsible fisheries management and community education. There's lots of room to get involved and share your passion for preserving Oathill Lake. So get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!

Sign of the times

Did you know that literally dozens of storm sewers on streets as far away as Gaston Road drain into Oathill Lake? This sad state of affairs exposes our lake's fragile ecosystem to any number of harmful pollutants. The Oathill Lake Conservation Society has dedicated itself to solving this problem.



With the support of the Halifax Water Commission, our long term plan is to create a natural filter system to stop storm sewer water draining directly into the lake. The planned filtration system is really a system of pools that allow storm water contaminants to settle before cleaner water empties into the lake. This approach has already been implemented in parts of the Dartmouth Crossing with great success.

While filtration pools are a few years away, our short-term plan is to help people understand where storm water goes – and the danger of dumping pollutants directly into the sewer. Look for these signs on or around storm sewers in the weeks and months to come!

Justin Beaver watch

When Justin the Beaver arrived in late summer 2010, people were in disbelief that a beaver could ever find Oathill Lake, let alone make his home here. Chances are Justin was on the hunt for a mate when he came across our little oasis in the city – and stayed. Who could blame the guy! At first Justin made a temporary home at the north end of the lake but was overwhelmed with all the attention. Today, he hides out in a small but cozy little nook in a stream at the south end. Justin isn't the only mammal to have made his home on Oathill Lake. There have been numerous sightings of at least

one otter skimming through the water. Have you seen Justin lately? For any sightings drop us a line at info@oathilllake.ca



Photo courtesy of Marlies Cohen

