

UPCOMING EVENTS –SUMMER 2018

1) PLRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) – 2018 Saturday August 4, 10:00 AM,

The AGM is a time where questions can be raised for our elected officials, information is exchanged, and is a great social opportunity for you to get to know your neighbours and renew your annual membership! Light refreshments will be served. The AGM will be held at. Murray Fearrey, Dysart Township's Reeve and Walt Mckechnie, Ward 5 Councillor, will be our guest speakers.

The AGM will be held at 1019 Bernie's Road (courtesy of the Thompsons). Further details will follow as we get closer to the date. Hope to see you there!

2) ANGLING ACTIVITIES

A - FULL SEASON YOUTH ANGLING CONTEST – 16 Years and Younger

This contest is open for the entire legal fishing season for both lake trout and bass. If you prefer to catch and release, you will need to have a witness to measure the fish length, take a photo, record the date and for entry in the contest, email the information including the anglers name and age to any director or to info@plra.net.

This contest is open to Percy Lake Ratepayers' members and their families. Trophies will be presented at the following year's AGM. Tight lines usually means "fish on", so young anglers, let's see your photos and hear your fish stories.

In addition, in honour of the late Richard "Dick" Graesser's passion for fishing, his family is sponsoring a trophy for a cottager's **non-family** visiting guest 16 years and younger. The same rules apply as for the full season trout and bass. This award will be presented at the following year's AGM. It's not too late to send in photos for last season. Forward them by June 30, 2018 to be included at this year's AGM presentation.

B - FISHING TOURNAMENT– SATURDAY AUGUST 18

PLRA's Catch and Release Fishing Tournament will be held from 8:00 AM to noon that day. The tournament is open to members (and family) of the PLRA. Rules for both the Youth Angling Contest and the one-day fishing tournament can be found at: http://www.plra.net/index.cfm?page=fishing_derby. Youth can enter both contests.

3) POT LUCK SOCIAL EVENT – SATURDAY AUGUST 18 4:00 PM

We are planning on holding our annual social event on the afternoon of August 18 on the beach at the Winder family cottage, as in the past years. Stay tuned for further details on this fun-filled active day. Suggestions and volunteers are most welcome.

4) OTHER ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST in Haliburton

Haliburton is an active community – many varied events are held during the summer season. The radio station, CANOE-FM, is an excellent source of information and events happening in the community.

One particular historic event, for runners and walkers, is the Highland Yard.



If you know of an event that may be of particular interest, please pass it on.

PLRA MEMBERSHIP

The annual PLRA membership fee is a modest \$30 per family. These fees pay our major expenses, including membership in organizations including Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association (CHA), the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), and the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) and for expenses incurred by PLRA's annual obligations and events. We encourage you to renew or if not a member, to join the PLRA. The membership form is included for your convenience.

CURRENT PLRA BOARD DIRECTORS

Anna Tilman: President

Brian Edey: Secretary

Koko Yamamoto: Treasurer

Graham Warren: Past President

Lou Kiriakou: Live Release Bass Tournament and Newsletter Printing

Jim Richert: Full season Fishing Contest and Lake Development

Katherine Nanowski: Member-at-Large

Lake Steward: Mick Tilman

Jack Russel, who has been Past-President and served as Director of the Board for many years, has recently resigned. Jack is active in many endeavors in the Haliburton region, and will continue to contribute to the Haliburton community in diverse ways. We extend our best wishes to Jack and know that his interest in the well-being of Percy Lake will no doubt continue.

Have a great time this summer, and I look forward to meeting you at our AGM and at the Pot-Luck event and of course, on the lake or thereabouts.

Best regards,

Anna Tilman, President PLRA, annatilman@sympatico.ca

Percy Lake – Lake Trout Assessment – Summer 2017

Percy Lake was identified as a candidate for the introduction of the Kingscote ‘Silver’ lake trout by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) in the early 2000’s due to its proximity to Kingscote Lake in Algonquin Park (about 10 km), the relatively simple fish community, available habitat and similar basin characteristics. This introduction was done to provide an additional self-sustaining population of the ‘Silver’ strain of lake trout as it was endemic to Kingscote Lake and there were concerns about the long-term sustainability of the Kingscote population. Stocking of the Kingscote Silvers occurred in Percy Lake between 2002 and 2013.

This past summer, MNRF, Bancroft District conducted a low-mortality Lake Trout population assessment using benthic gillnets set for 2 hour durations to assess the survivorship of the stocked Silvers and also to get a sense on whether natural reproduction of Silvers had begun. Catch rates were very good, with the vast majority of fish captured appearing to be stocked Silver strain lake trout with fin clips, a few unclipped Silver lake trout, and a few Manitou strain lake trout which had naturalized in Percy Lake following historical stockings between 1964 and 1996. Genetic confirmation of the lineage as well as the age of each lake trout captured is yet to be confirmed, however, survivorship of the stocked fish appears to be strong. Habitat quality including dissolved oxygen for lake trout was very good at the time of the survey in late August 2017.

Lake trout in the Haliburton area are typically small-bodied and have slow growth rates. Percy Lake is no exception. To give a sense of the slow growth rates of Silvers in Percy, a mature female Silver that was caught had a left pectoral clip with a fork length of 374mm. We know that this fish was stocked in the Spring of 2010 as a yearling (over 1 year old) as that was the only year with a left pectoral clip that was stocked into Percy. That means this fish was 8.5 years old at 374mm (14.72 inches) when caught in late August 2017. Recognizing the slow growth and maturity rates of Percy Lake’s Silver lake trout and the low number of unclipped Silvers, it is still early days to see any natural reproduction of Silvers in Percy Lake. This highlights the vulnerability of lake trout and our collective responsibility to conserve them.

Dedicated lake trout anglers are encouraged to complete angler diaries of the fishing efforts on Percy Lake or any Haliburton trout lakes. As indicated on the diary form (refer to link below), public input is crucial to the development of sound District fisheries programs.

Adam Challice, adam.challice@ontario.ca

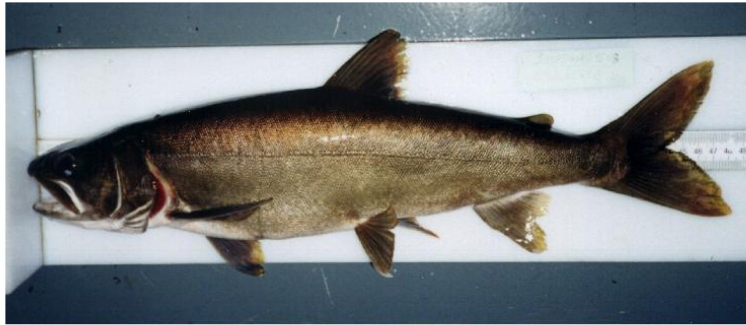
Management Biologist in the Minden Field Office, Bancroft District MNRF

The link for the 2018 fishing regulations for the zone FMZ 15 which includes Percy Lake is: http://files.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/fishing/2017/2017_FMZ_15_English.pdf

The angler diary is available at:

www.salacoa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/MNR-Angler-Diary-Program.pdf

Manitou strain (above) and the Kingscote Silver strain (below)



Manitou strain (caught at Percy Lake)



TRENT SEVERN WATERWAY (TSW) - PERCY LAKE WATER LEVELS

- The TSW has a new water reporting WEB page, which shows either a graph or a table. The table is particularly interesting as it indicates how seldom they get a level reading. <https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/waterlevels/donnees-data?Id=15&lang=en&siteId=100419>
- As noted, spring water levels this year were lower than 2016/2017, largely because precipitation in March was ~30% of normal levels. Precipitation in April and May has been normal. Currently the long-term lake level is slightly above average as recent dam operations have raised the level at the expense of outflow in the Gull River. The operations to hold back water have moved the Spring peak from May to June. One of the enhancements we might hope for in the TSW rehabilitation on the Percy Lake dam would be continuous water level monitoring as is the case at Haliburton Lake and at most of the other reservoir lakes.
- On a positive note, the high spring levels in the two preceding years ought to favour bass spawning.

