

May 2021

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THE Aerie

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION

BMLA meeting
Saturday, June 12
4 pm
Emmaville pavilion

- Mostly open air.
- Please bring lawn chairs – we may not have enough.

**The loons of Big Mantrap Lake
are in another tv special!**
Find it online at
<https://bit.ly/3f6cq6d>

web site
www.mantraplake.org

Find us on 

www.facebook.com/BigMantrapLake
public site

[www.facebook.com/
groups/1076808002386929/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1076808002386929/)
private site, contact Rich Halvorsen for access

2020 Mantrap Lake loon report – 27 new chicks added to our loon population

STEVE MAANUM

Mantrap Lake was covered with a layer of ice by the first week of December, 2019. The summer residents had left for warmer climates and the loons were already dining on salt water fish. The year-round residents who had spent weeks adding to the size of their wood pile took time to breathe in the frosty fresh air while listening to the blue jays announce their presence at the bird feeders.

Loon volunteers were already preparing for the spring nesting season. Barry Guptill and Ron Harlow helped Warren and Arlis McGinnis cut and collect the lake vegetation that would be used on the rafts in the spring of 2020.

Barry ordered one Type A raft in December. Due to increases in the cost of aluminum, the price for the raft had gone from \$270 to \$650. Covid caused the governor to close schools and as a result St. Cloud was not able to complete the Birch Bay raft.

The pandemic altered the spring raft preparation, too. Instead of having a large group of volunteers work together, Warren and Arlis prepared six rafts on April 6 and Jim Nemzek and Barry completed the raft prep on April 7.

Most of the lake west of the Narrows

Volunteers

Barry Guptill
Steve Maanum
Warren McGinnis
Arlis McGinnis
Lyle Laske
Tish Laske
Jim Nemzek
Ron Harlow
Bill Mills
MaryLou Meier
Bill Moore
Gerry Johnson
Rich Halvorsen
Janet Dixon
Barb Fischer
Burney Fischer

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was open on April 22, but stubborn ice in the river remained. Warren and Arlis put out Pine Bay raft on April 23 and the entire lake was clear of ice on April 24.

Arlis, Jim, Bill Mills and Barry placed the remaining 18 rafts on April 25.

An experimental raft was placed just north of the Narrows.

Some loons claimed their raft right away. The following days were filled with courtship activities, some territorial disputes, sitting on nests (natural and rafts), and copulation.

In early May, Barry and Steve counted 50 loons on their outing.

On May 6 the first egg of the year was observed at Porcupine Bay and by May 11 we observed 14 active nests – (11 rafts and three natural nests) and 15 eggs were counted that morning. A pair of loons used

the experimental raft north of the Narrows and 2 eggs were produced.

By May 14 we discovered four more nests – 3 rafts and 1 natural nest; and by June 5 Mantrap had a total of 24 nests. 5 nests on rafts had been abandoned and 3 natural nests had been predated.

The reason for abandonment is unclear. Black flies were extremely bad in 2020. That may have caused loons to seek relief from the constant biting. Because of the amount of failed nests and re-nesting the hatch was split. The first chicks appeared on June 4 and by June 12, 10 nests had hatched a total of 17 chicks.

Late nests and re-nesting produced chicks into the first week of July.

The Osprey Bay pair began on a natural nest close to shore, but after that nest failed they took

up residence on the raft. Geese beat the Lower Deadhead pair to their favorite nest site so the loons relocated 40 yards to the north.

Loon observations

May 19 was a bad day on loon patrol.

- » The natural nests at Lady Slipper West, Mirror Bay, and Lower Deadhead had all been predated.
- » Osprey Bay had no eggs on their natural nest.
- » There had been no nesting activity at Steamboat Bay.
- » Barry, along with his daughter and son-in-law, captured a distressed loon in Pine Bay. They measured 30 yards of fishing line as they untangled it. The loon was checked and released. The Pine Bay loons didn't return to their nest after the fish line fiasco. Loons were not on several of the nests tending eggs that morning. The black flies were about as bad as we have ever seen. Most of the nests west of the Narrows were only sitting on eggs at night.

May 20 Loons were once again absent from eggs at River; Home Bay; Mud flats: Dead Island; Hoodoo and Pine Bay.

May 25 The Hoist Bay pair was finally sitting.

May 30 Re-nesting: Two eggs at Mirror Bay; two eggs south side of Dead Island; back on nests at Pine Bay, Loon Bay, and Osprey Bay; nest building at Lower Deadhead and on the west side of Upper Deadhead.

June 3 New natural nest at Narrows, two eggs predated; sitting at Lower Deadhead; re-nest at Mud Flats. The good news was that all of the failed nests re-nested, final egg count, 57.

June Lots of nesting activity. By June 28, 23 chicks had hatched with 12 more eggs to hatch. One egg hatched on the Hoist Bay raft. Burney then checked the nest and there were two eggs still on it!

Big Mantrap Lake Association Treasurers Summary Report for 2020

BEGINNING BALANCE:

	General Checking Account	AIS Money Market Account
	\$16,127.07	\$40,103.40
Loon Income	3,801.00	
Membership	1,814.00	15,162.50
Interest	41.14	56.25
Other Income	440.97	1,000.00
Total Income:	\$22,239.18	\$56,322.15
EXPENSES:		
Loon Exp	\$2594.83	
Lake Maint.	663.00	
COLA Memb	280.00	
Other Expense	225.32	\$264.94
Transfer		1085.00
H. Cty Inspectors		17,786.00
H. Cty. Treatment		1,944.00
Ending Balance 12/31/2020:	\$18,476.03	\$35,242.21

Prepared by:
Linda Zawacki, Treasurer 1/27/2021

Spring 2021 on Mantrap Lake

BURNEY FISCHER

Ice out date this year was April 5. Our normal ice out date is April 25.

AIS and Boat Docks Installation

Spring installation of boat docks and lifts is a critical time to inspect for AIS. Here's some simple guidelines to follow (for more info go to https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/shoreland_owners.html)

- If hiring someone to install docks, be sure to ask if they are a DNR AIS Permitted Service Provider.
- New equipment should be safe. Your equipment that was out of the lake all winter is safe to reinstall.
- Regarding used equipment from another lake – Minnesota Law requires that docks and boat lifts be out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them in a different lake.
- AIS to specifically inspect for are Zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil and New Zealand mud snails.

■ **When in doubt ask for help, protecting the lake from AIS is everyone's responsibility!**

Local Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Monitoring and Can Ice Fishing Introduce AIS?

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center and U of M Extension have organized a monthly MN AIS Detectors Zoom Social for 2021 in which I participate. The January discussion topic "Creating a Local AIS Monitoring Program" was a great session to get the new initiative started. About 30 participants interacted with three U of M extension/research staff for an interesting discussion and sharing of ideas on local AIS monitoring, etc. I learned that Lake Associations (LA) around the state are self-organizing lake-based, local monitoring efforts which engage lake shore owners and their families (kids are great for searching for AIS), and others such as local biology classes/4H clubs/Scouts to search for AIS along their shorelines. Some lakes have lake shore owner neighborhood beach captains to facilitate efforts around the lake. Results are emailed to all LA members. I wonder whether there's interest to organize something on Big Mantrap Lake.

During the session there were opportunities to ask other AIS questions. With the surge in ice fishing this winter I asked the U of M experts whether there are any associated AIS problems with the sport. The responses were interesting. The one invasive AIS that could be directly introduced via fishing could be Spiny water fleas, since they live on fishing line, but they thought the possibility of spread was small. Another possibility was the within lake

spreading of AIS by moving living plants from one fishing hole to another on fishing equipment. But, probably the biggest concern was the use of live bait and ice fishermen at the end of the day disposing of excess bait into the lake which could result in either the introduction of non-native fish or maybe a pathogen in the bait. This is of course a year round issue. There's an excellent article on the release of bait or other type of non-native fish into lakes in the January-February 2021 Minnesota Conservation Volunteer "The Wrong Fish" (pages 20-30, <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine>)

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HCCOLA) Update

The BMLA is a member of the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HCCOLA, <https://hubbardcolam.org>). The HCCOLA mission is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shore lands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. There are currently 30 member lake associations represented by a member and alternate, plus the LA President, as appropriate which meet monthly from April-October. The BMLA representative is Burney Fischer but we have no current alternate rep. Representatives volunteer to serve on the HCCOLA Executive Team and/or various operating committees (planning, finance, charitable fund, communications, membership and activities). Key external activities are AIS, Lake Water Monitoring, Education and Restore the Shore.

HCCOLA strategic actions for 2021 are the following:

- » Cultivate leadership,
- » continuously improve organizational effectiveness,
- » Facilitate education-workshops-programs,
- » Manage communications and public relations,
- » Develop membership,
- » Address multiple revenue streams,
- » Partner as government liaison and Shield lakes and rivers from aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.

That's quite a list and could be a model for the BMLA!

Watersheds, Watershed Planning and the Big Mantrap Chain of Lakes

(ARTICLE SUMMARY, ENTERPRISE 2/20/21)

Hubbard County participates with neighboring counties in a broad watershed planning initiative. Three major

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watersheds – Mississippi River, Leech Lake and Crow Wing – are in different stages of planning and possible implementation of 10-year comprehensive plans. Big Mantrap Lake and the Mantrap Chain of Lakes are part of the Crow Wing watershed, which is the last of three to begin watershed planning.

A Watershed is explained as the following: An area of land that contains a common set of streams and rivers that all drain into a larger body of water. The water within a watershed is always moving. Groundwater and surface water are connected. Streams and rivers form

extensive drainage networks. What you do on your land has the potential to affect many other places.

The big issue for the Big Mantrap Chain of Lakes has been identified as the following by the HC Commissioners 'Those water levels keep rising, if you draw a trend line. Lake Belle Taine is the end of

the line, with no outlet. A lot of property gets damaged when that occurs.' This is for sure not a new issue but one that keeps coming up. Whether the planning will result in any proposed actions is several years into the future. Something for the BMLA to definitely keep track of.

Winter on Big Mantrap – it's more than ice fishing! Reports of people seeing otters, foxes, etc., on the ice!

The following picture is from year around resident Janet Dixon – "Otters on the Ice"



Forever a Mantrapper

APRIL, 2021

George Ingebrand died November 25, 2020. George was a summer resident with his wife Addie for 15 years. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/twincities/name/george-ingebrand-obituary?pid=197181679>

Barbara Dunn Houston died January 11, 2021. Barb spent many summer visits at her mother's (Ruth Dunn) cabin, and the family (Vlcek-Dunn-Simmons) cabin. <https://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com/obituary/barbara-houston?lud=5199466D506D7646F0EE1EAC6145FD6A>

George "Sarge" Martin died March 29, 2021. George was a former resident on Mirror Bay. <https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000386909/>

Park Rapids Area DNR Fisheries annual aerial fish house count, January 12.

FROM PARK RAPIDS ENTERPRISE, 1/30/21

Ice Fishing is important to Hubbard County.

'According to Acting Area Fisheries Supervisor Calub Shavlik, "We flew over 73 lakes, and the total number of fish houses for 2021 was 686. This count was similar to counts completed in 2018 and 2019 when we had good early ice making conditions. However, we have not had good, consistent ice making conditions for the past several weeks. Thirty-four lakes had at least five fish houses, and a majority of lakes had fish house counts at or above their normal number of fish houses."

"Several lakes had higher fish house counts than expected," Shavlik said. These were Blueberry Lake, Hinds Lake, Lake George, and Stocking Lake in Wadena County.

Lakes that had a lower fish house count than expected were Kabekona, 11th Crow Wing, Portage, and Long Lake.

"All these lakes have been historically popular lakes, so it is not surprising to have some fluctuations in fish house counts," he said.'

The story includes a table listing all lakes with more than five ice houses.

Big Mantrap Lake Ice Houses

	No. of fish houses in 2021	Ave No. of houses	Least ever counted	Most ever counted
BML	13	15.5	0	40

Kabekona Lake Association – Partners Protecting Watersheds, HCCOLA Presentation, Sept 2020

A recent HCCOLA Board Meeting presentation by the Kabekona Lake Association highlighted their long-term efforts to protect their watershed. Here are some brief summary notes from the presentation, it might be something for the BMLA to ponder.

General Protection for Resilience Goal Statement: If a lake's watershed has 75% or more of its landscape undisturbed with less than 25% land disturbance or development – then high probability of sustaining clean water and a healthy lake ecosystem to support cold-water sensitive fish such as tulibee.

Protection strategies:

- Conservation Easement (see <https://northernwaterslandtrust.org/landowner-options/land-owners/> for more details)
 - » Individually tailored agreements that limit or prohibit future developments the land, yet allows owner to maintain ownership and most uses. The landowner makes the final decision on the agreement.
 - » Perpetual – they last forever
 - » Grants may be available
- Sale/Donation for Permanent Public Protection
 - » Conveyed to a government agency to be managed as Aquatic or Wildlife Management Area, county forest, etc.
 - » IRS charitable donations can be considered

Prioritizing protection opportunities – applications are scored and ranked by funding source

- Size and abundance of habitat
 - » Minimum 10 acres for a conservation easement
 - » Shoreline feet
 - » Designated sensitive shoreline feet
 - » Amount of property developed
 - » Native plant communities
- Landscape context
 - » Proximity to protected land
 - » Quality of natural communities within three miles
- Urgency:
 - » Amount of disturbance in watershed
 - » Risk classification in water plans

■ Cost and donation value

To identify important tracts to consider for their program, they use the recently created Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLTL) mapping tool – Clean Water Critical Habitat (CWCH) map on this web page: <https://northernwaterslandtrust.org/projects/clean-water-critical-habitat/>.

I explored the web page and found the map (below) for the Big Mantrap Lake watershed. The parcels 10 acres and larger are color coded as follows: Brown – public lands (assumed protected from development), Red – lands most sensitive to future development, Yellow – second most sensitive, Light Green – third least sensitive and Dark Green – least sensitive. The actual scoring system to arrive at the colors is a bit hidden but it appears clear that larger tracts, wetlands and undeveloped lake shoreline are of the highest concern. The color coding identifies lands most in need of conservation action to protect the lake and meet the watershed goal of 75% undisturbed, protected lands. While many land holders are clearly not currently considering developing their lands, the process provides LA's and land trusts with a ranking system to possibly focus on lands of greatest interest.

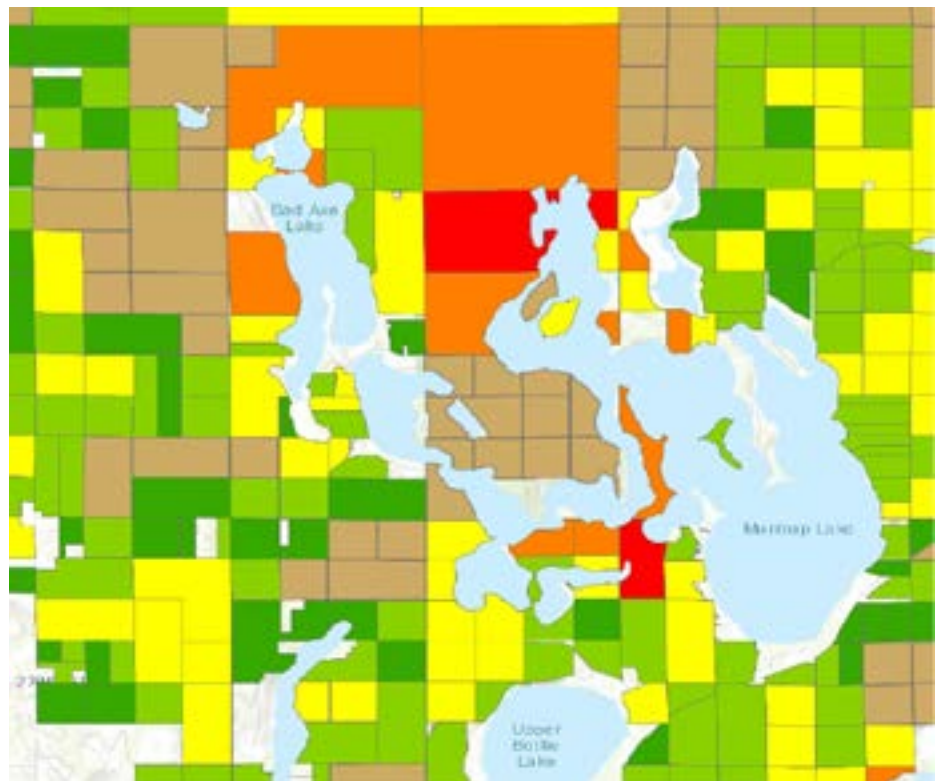


FIGURE. BIG MANTRAP LAKE WATERSHED, DOWNLOADED FROM NWLTL WEBSITE, 2/14/21.

Big Mantrap Lake Association Treasurer's Activities

as of March 01, 2021

*General Fund Checking- \$18,993.13 (\$5,1666.18 of this is dedicated to the Loon fund).

*AIS Fund (Money Market) \$24,334.00

*81 Memberships from Fall membership drive through March 01, 2021 = \$2,039.00

*60 landowners from Fall membership drive through March 01, 2021 +\$17,237.50

Julie Allevan	L. Barta & T. Jastrzebski	Beckel Cabin LLC. J. Lindberg
John & Katie Billion	Sheralee Boe	Linda Campbell
Gary & Judy Condiff	Mark & Cindy Condiff	Mark & Jeanie Conzemius
Janet Dixon	Mark & Kelly Evans	Gary & Cindy Fegley
B. Douglas & Catherine Fielder	Burney & Barb Fischer	Robert & Kristi Gorman
David & Debbie Greteman	Mike & Heidi Hansen	Cliff & Loraine Hoffman
J. Kaufmann & P. Rouleau	Judith Kind	Norman & Sharon Kittleson
Cris Krasco	Lyle Laske	Kuhl Farms LLC
Brian & Dina Livingston	David B. & Susan Livingston	John Masek
Mantrap Lodge (Andrew & Charolette)	Gary & Linda McAlpine	
Pat & Eunice McArdle	Tim & Marcy McFarland	M. Mckillop & S. Reiman
Mike & Lisa Reinhart	M.L. Meier & V. Miller	David & Julie Mickelberg
William Mills	Lauris Molbert	William Moore
David & Linda Myhre	John & Leah Nemzek	Rolland & Kathy Nevins
Brooks & Patty O'Neil	Tim Paulson	Scot & Kristi Persellin
Marlene Rance	Ann Richardson	Ron & Kelly Ryan
Sue Ryan	Dave & Debbie Sauer	Damon & Carole Sierk
Brian & Eve Skajewski	Michael & Kaye Stacey	Pete & Liz Stahnke
Stell Trust (K. Pierson)	Brett & Michelle Swensen	Rodney & Deb Topp
Dennis Ulm	Vlcek & Dunn	Dennis & Linda Wolff
Jim & Linda Zawacki		

*Loon Donations = \$1,060.00

Beckel Cabin LLC (J. Lindberg)	John & Katie Billion	Gary & Cindy Fegley
B. Douglas & Catherine Fielder	Burney & Barb Fischer	Cliff & Loraine Hoffman
J. Kaufmann & P. Rouleau	Gary & Linda McAlpine	David & Julie Mickelberg
David & Linda Myhre	Brooks & Patty O'Neil	Ann Richardson
Dave & Debbie Sauer	Damon & Carole Sierk	Stell Trust (K. Pierson)
Brett & Michelle Swensen	Rodney & Deb Topp	Dennis Ulm
Dennis & Linda Wolff		

*Memorials to the Loon Fund = \$1,721.00 in memory of: Marge Stell, Fran Laske, Bob Landrigan, Barbara Dunn Houston, Dan Eslick, George Ingebrand, Bruce Wolff.

Burney & Barb Fischer	I. Laske	Lyle Laske
Steve Maanum	Warren & Arlys McGinnis	Brooks & Patty O'Neil
Marlene Rance	Ann Richardson	Damon & Carole Sierk
Michael & Kaye Stacey	Sandra Suttie	Dennis Ulm

Thank you for all the donations and memorials.

Reported by Linda Zawacki, Treasurer BMLA

651-246-3844

Lzboutique@comcast.net

Updated version 4/22/21

Thank you!

Big Mantrap Lake Association Membership Registration, AIS Watercraft Inspection Donation and Loon Fund Donation.

Big Mantrap Lake Association's purpose is to preserve and protect Big Mantrap Lake and its surroundings. BMLA will work to enhance the enjoyment of wildlife, fishery, boating, safety, economic and aesthetic value of Big Mantrap Lake for our members and the public.

Today's date _____ / _____ / _____

____ **Renewing member** ____ **New member: please complete all information.**

Contact member: _____

Mailing address: _____

Lake address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Other members: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I have enclosed the following payment:

Membership dues \$25 per property. Please pay between January 1 and June 1.

AIS suggested donation \$250. Loon donation, any value is appreciated.

_____ Check, (preferred) made out to Big Mantrap Lake Association, for \$25 along with completed form.

_____ PayPal accepted, bmlamn@gmail.com please complete form and send to address below

_____ A donation of \$ _____ payable to BMLA AIS Fund.

_____ A donation of \$ _____ payable to BMLA Loon Fund.

Send completed form and/or check to Treasurer, Linda Zawacki, 5104 Sundial Lane, Woodbury 55129

Or email form to: bmlamn@gmail.com

Anyone interested in volunteering or being on the board of directors contact any current board member.

Visit our web page for info about our meetings and current events:

www.mantraplake.org and/or Facebook page: [Big Mantrap Lake Neighbors](https://www.facebook.com/BigMantrapLakeNeighbors)

Board of Directors

President	Rich Halvorsen	612-245-9391	rich.halvorsen@gmail.com
Vice President	Jim Zawacki	651-735-8613	bigzimm@comcast.net
Treasurer	Linda Zawacki	651-246-3844	LZboutique@comcast.net
Secretary	Kathy Nevins	605-695-2959	knevins62@gmail.com
Aerie coordinator	Barb Fischer	765-414-4197	barbf49@aol.com
AIS coordinator	Brian Livingston	507-263-6102	bdlivingston@icloud.com
Board member	Julie Mickelberg	218-699-3004	jmickelberg@sio.midco.net

web site
www.mantraplake.org

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www.facebook.com/BigMantrapLake
public site

[www.facebook.com/
groups/1076808002386929/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1076808002386929/)
private site, contact Rich Halvorsen for access

Barb Fischer
28538 Junco Dr
Nevis MN 56467

From the President

RICH HALVORSEN

With all the fun over the past 12+ months I must say the relatively short and gentle winter was very welcomed for many of us and an early ice out always helps lift my spirits! But just when I thought spring was forging ahead the weather became much more “average” once again. My boat read 51 degrees on May Day in the shallows. For comparison the same week in 2018, when the ice had just gone out days prior, the water was already reading 57.

With an early ice out much of our lake’s vegetation gets a head start with early sunlight. That includes our Eurasian Water Milfoil invaders. Still, the earliest they will show themselves and how well our mitigation efforts last year worked will be at least end of June or early July. All we can do is wait to find out.

It will be then we can have a formal search done which is required prior to any kind of treatment for 2021.

With the particular chemicals we used last summer coupled with our DNR AIS Specialist hand pulling much of what she could find at the time, it is entirely possible that we won’t find anything in 2021. However that does not mean it’s gone. As with most invasives the DNR avoids the term “eradicate” for the simple fact that it is near impossible to do.

Whether we find and treat any this year or not, it has been the board’s stance that our best strategy is to accept that it is here now and that our efforts should remain focused on containment to the boat launch area. Treating it and effectively “beating it back” will go a long way towards preventing boat traffic from moving it around the west arm and beyond. The DNR will not allow us to treat what we cannot find.

There are days in the fall when the wind is straight and uninterrupted past the

campground and clear to Home Bay. So we will remind everyone late this summer to be on the lookout for any floating or matting vegetation that might try to take advantage of the free ride. I have personally seen native milfoils spreading in that way, all the more reason to contain it before it grows to that stage.

One thing that isn’t letting the weather hold them back is the loons! At the time of writing this we’ve counted a dozen eggs across eight nests! This giant loon and I will be holding out for warmer days ...

