

Waterfront

Items in this section may appear larger, smaller, cooler, furrier, and more sarcastic than they actually are.



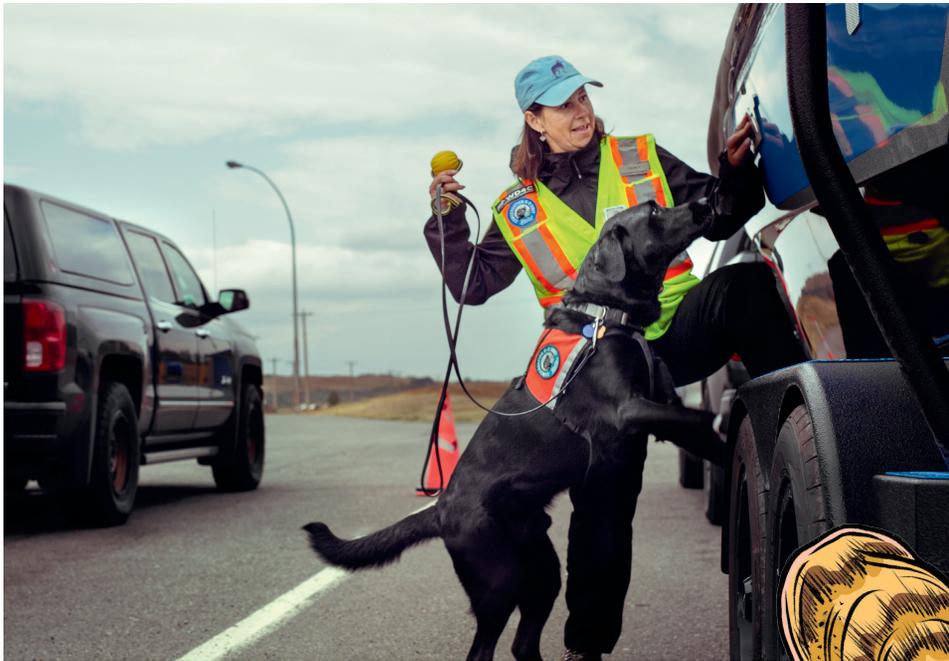
Only you can prevent zebra mussels. Oh, fine. Hilo will help too.

BRENDAN STEPHENS

20 In Western Canada, the invasive species detectives are on the case!

21 Mason jars, please go back to 1858 and preserve some peaches.

23 “If it Ain’t Broke, It Will Be” and other time-tested cottage aphorisms.



Who's a clever boy? Hilo the mussel-sniffing pooch has a nickname: "The Professor."



TOUR OF DUTY
Smells like team spirit

When Hilo sniffs boats for zebra and quagga mussels at roadside checkstops in Alberta, most people get out of their vehicles to watch the dog, hard at work keeping the province's lakes and rivers safe from these invasive species. Along with his handler, Cindy Sawchuk, the five-year-old black Lab-golden retriever mix is one of three teams on the payroll of Alberta's Environment and Parks department who can sniff out the tiniest trace of mussel. How does Hilo stay motivated on the job for eight hours a day, five days a week? Cindy plants a mussel on about every fifth watercraft that Hilo inspects. That allows him to earn his reward, a chance to play with his favourite toy—a ball on a string. "It keeps him enthused. He's always searching, always excited to do it," says Cindy, who takes the very good boy home with her at the end of every workday.

After a career spent working with the government on environmental initiatives, Cindy got the idea in 2014 to start a canine program to detect invasive mussels (she'd heard about similar U.S. programs). She became a dog handler through Working Dogs for Conservation, and they found Hilo, who was originally on tap to be a guide dog. One career shift and 140 hours of training to detect the scents of invasive species later, Hilo had clearly found his true calling.

Alberta's 2018 inspections at highway checkstops found 17 mussel-fouled watercraft out of the more than 30,000 boats checked. That may not sound like very many, but even one mussel slipping through could cost the province \$75 million annually. For dog-lovers, meeting Hilo can be the highlight of their road trip, explains Cindy. "He loves engaging with the public." —Susan Peters

THIS PAGE: BRENDAN STEPHENS. OPPOSITE: KELSEY DAKE. PHOTO: LIAM MOGAN



ENVIRONMENT

Speaking of aquatic invaders...

When zebra mussels first appeared in Lake St. Clair in 1988, they seemed unstoppable. "If you've got them in your lake, you might as well sit back and watch them reproduce," Paul Hebert, a University of Windsor biologist, warned *Cottage Life* in 1990.

Three decades on, zebra and quagga mussels still threaten to "march on," says André Martel of the Canadian Museum of Nature. The research scientist tracked the spread of mussels through the Rideau River for more than 25 years. In parts of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and the U.S., the molluscs have choked out native clams, sucked up useful nutrients and native plankton, and fuelled toxic algal blooms.

But Martel stresses that there is some good news: care, vigilance, and the sensitive sniffers of mussel-detection mutts can bring the mussels to heel by halting their spread to new watersheds. For example, last year, B.C.'s efforts to stay mussel-free included inspecting 47,000 watercraft, detecting 25 with mussels, says Insp. Aaron Canuel with the B.C. Conservation Officer Service.

Cottagers can help put the bite on mussels. When trailering from lake to lake, "spend five minutes checking and cleaning your boat. If there's scum and debris, clean it off," says Martel. "Your lake is worth it." —Ray Ford

Craving a cold one? Check out our epic beer guide on p. 76!



WORD FOR WORD

"The fantasy behind the Mason jar is that we are mending and making do. The great champagne flute drought of '02 wiped us out, and until we can rebuild the country's glassware supplies we'll just have to pull together and use what we have, a song in our heart and a twinkle in our eye."

—From Claire Coffey's rant against the trend that just... won't...die ("I Cannot Bear Another Summer Full of Mason Jars," *The Outline*)

ARTIFACT

A box of love

Two years ago, we lost my dad—suddenly, and forever. We were shattered. Dad was the centre of our family, and the heart and soul of our cottage on Sharbot Lake, Ont. His voice echoes through the shed—filled with rusty tools from the 1930s, not to mention about a million miles of fishing line, lifejackets to fit all ages of grandkids, cobbled-together croquet sets, and at least one 1950s lawn mower. His engineer's know-how lingers on every bolt secured to straighten that flagpole (at last!), every tweak to the dock (which goes in a little different each year), and on that special spot you have to avoid on the back deck, especially if you're carrying a tray of mimosas.

In his bedroom at the cottage, Dad had "that shelf." You know the one—the receptacle of loose change, golf tees, sticky notes reminding him when the dump was open. It was the most "Dad" spot in the entire cottage. When my husband, Paul, and I took ownership of our family cottage this past summer, he wanted to clean that shelf. To Paul—a pragmatic army Captain with a "get on with it" attitude (even when his heart too was broken)—it was just a collection of objects. But to me, it represented everything I missed most about my father.

Imagine my surprise, then, when Paul presented me with a shadow box of memorabilia. My husband took all those precious bits and pieces from Dad's shelf, scraps of paper with Dad's handwriting, corks from great wines, tees and balls from great golf games, even an eraser from a long-ago children's game my sisters and I played (we pretended we were lawyers at "Ryan's Law Office"—a thriving, often stressful back-porch business), and he put them together in a tribute to a man we all loved. He even included the final Canadian flag Dad lowered from the flagpole two summers ago.

This object is crowded, eclectic, and oddball—but to me, it's the most treasured item in our cottage.—Gillian Martin



COTTAGE LOGIC

We mocked the signs

Life Is Better at the Lake, says every throw pillow, picture frame, wineglass, T-shirt, and wooden wall sign sold on Etsy. Well, maybe it's better at the lake *most* of the time



REPORTER

Following bug speed, cabin country fight & the scoop on lakefront septics

The fast and the fashionable
Butterflies and dragonflies don't mind a little rain. According to a recent study in the journal *Biology Letters*, temperature and wind play a role in the bugs' flying speed during fall migration. But precipitation? Not so much. Researchers fit monarchs and green darner dragonflies with tiny radio-tracker fanny packs to chart their speed as they journeyed south. Rain had no impact on how fast the bugs flew, while warmth and wind made them speedier. One dragonfly clocked in at 77 km/h! Maybe it was trying to ditch the fanny pack. Which would have been a mistake: those things are actually in style now.

Zero to brawling, real quick
At least your lake's loud renters aren't these loud renters. In August, a routine middle-of-the-night noise complaint investigation at the Pine Bungalows rental cabins in Jasper,

Alta., trainwrecked itself into multiple arrests, one tasing, and a lot of sleepy, disrupted guests. The RCMP charged four people with everything from "uttering threats" to "assaulting a police officer" to "mischief under \$5,000"; one man was arrested for "obstructing the enjoyment of property."

30 is the new terrible
The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations has released its septic re-inspections report. The document, based on collaborative data-gathering by a team of septic and environmental experts, explores "the successes, challenges, and lessons learned" from Ontario's various municipal reinspection initiatives. No surprise: the report reveals that the older the septic system, the more likely it is to have problems. Three-quarters of "major deficiencies" were in systems more than 30 years old.

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: LIAM MOYAN

Waterfront

Items in this section may appear larger, smaller, tastier, and more heroic than they actually are.



Up in the air and on the job with Hydro One. Feb. 15, 2019.

DANIEL EHRENWORTH

20

Stop trying to make “windensation” happen! And other fake winter words.

21

Have mosquitoes met their match in this high-tech super-material? *Suckers.*

23

It’s aviation history in the making: a B.C. float plane company is going electric.

REPORTER

Bug repeller, meat rules & tax bashing

Cloak of unbite-ability

Bless you, chemistry! Experts may have discovered a new mosquito repellent: graphene, a material already used in electronic devices, the biomedical field, and Novak Djokovic's favourite line of tennis rackets. Brown University researchers had participants put their arms—either bare, covered in cheesecloth, or covered in layered films of graphene oxide—in a mosquito-filled enclosure. The bloodsuckers went medieval on the bare and cheesecloth arms, but ignored those arms cloaked in graphene. The researchers also tested the material's puncture-resistance; a minuscule needle designed to mimic a mosquito's proboscis couldn't pierce it.

Have your steak and eat it too

Not feeling the Beyond Burger? That's cool, says a controversial new article in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Researchers analyzed previous medical studies and concluded that—despite all guidelines to the contrary—carnivores are okay to “continue current levels of red meat consumption.” Caveat: the team looked only at meat vs. health, and “chose not to consider animal welfare and environmental issues related to meat consumption in making recommendations.”

Tax smack talk

That thing we said was going to happen is happening! This fall, six B.C. residents filed a lawsuit against the 2018 provincial Speculation and Vacancy Tax (see “Taxed to the Max,” Waterfront, June/July '19). The tax is designed to target “speculators” who buy B.C. property as investments, but it also hits some who own seasonal cottages and cabins. “The tax is quite divisive and discriminatory, and just arbitrary,” Kailin Che, the lawyer handling the case, told *cottagelife.com* in October.

TRIBUTE

They got game

About a year and a half ago, my daughter and I started talking about customizing a board game that would chronicle our family and our cottage on Beaver Lake, Ont. On the heels of my in-laws both (successfully!) going through cancer surgeries, we'd come to realize that we all needed the cottage—and the family time that goes with it—more than ever. Then we stumbled upon some Monopoly trivia. We read that the Policeman, who has been sending people to jail from his corner on the board since the game's earliest versions, apparently has a name: Officer Edgar Mallory. Once we saw the Mallory name, we knew that we had to make our own version of the game. Out of maple and cherry, we created a six-sided, laser-engraved board with 48 places, all of which

have some connection with the three generations of family that the game pays homage to. We put a Beaver Lake twist on every aspect of the game, and scoured the Internet for tokens just as unique as each of our family members. For example, we found a vintage John Deere tractor token, like the one that my father-in-law used growing up on a farm, and a small airplane for my brother-in-law, who has his pilot's licence.

It took me and my daughter most of the year to secretly plan and make the board and its parts; we unveiled it at Christmas, when we were all together for the holidays. Watching everyone as they unwrapped the game, and all of its pieces, made our efforts worthwhile. Game on!—Joe Mallory



THIS PAGE: DANIEL EHRE WORTH, OPPOSITE: PHOTOS: LIAM MOSAN; ILLUSTRATION: KELSEY DAKE

“Tree contact” causes 40% of power outages in cottage country

There's got to be another way!

Hydro One busts out the snowmobiles and the snowshoes when snow is too deep to travel by vehicle. They also have a fleet of helicopters.

It's 11 o'clock. Do you know where your technician is? If repairs require boat work, and the sun sets, crews have to hit pause. They aren't allowed to go out on the water after dark. —Jackie Davis

Colour them protected

Ontario's Hydro One workers wear orange. Because it's still the new black. Or maybe because it's Hi Vis. Their outfits are also flame retardant. Flame retardant? “Well, we're working around electricity,” says Bill Hackett, a front line manager and a 35-year veteran of the utility company.

They like to climb it, climb it Poles, trees, transmission towers. “Every day, we have to work at heights,” says Bill. “If you want to do this job, you can't be afraid of that.”

Workers climb up to 150 feet for hydro work and repairs.

Power, out

The most common cause of outages? Heavy, limb-breaking snow on trees, or ice buildup on equipment. If you lose your juice during good winter weather, it's probably because a sick tree fell on the line. Hydro One monitors trees every three years, but, as all cottagers know, “even diseased trees can appear to be fine,” says Hydro One's Tiziana Baccega Rosa.



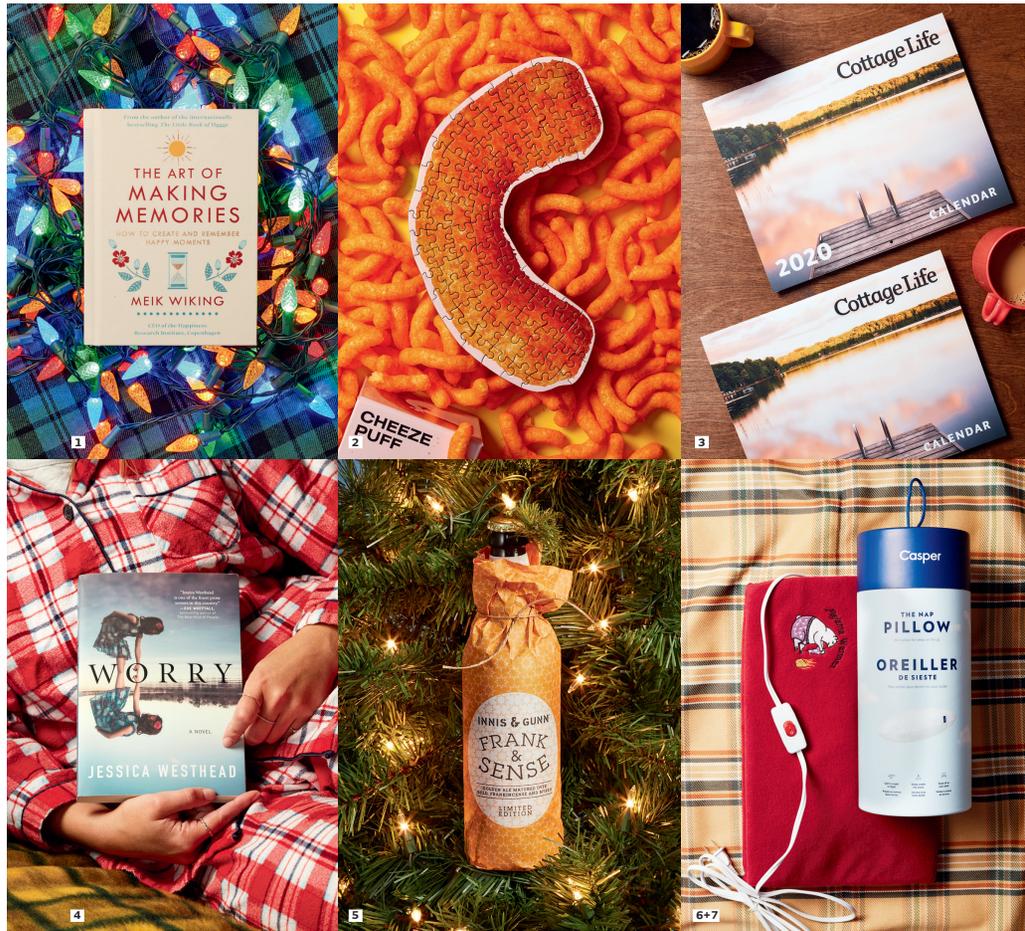
LEXICON

There's a portmanteau for that!

Winter words that don't exist but should

Window condensation
“WINDENSATION”

USE IT IN A SENTENCE! “We had such bad windensation last year that we bought another dehumidifier.”



Stuff it! Your stockings, that is. Seven small-sized gifts for big holiday hits.

1 The Art of Making Memories, by Meik Wiking (\$21.95; penguinrandomhouse.ca) Why do cottage experiences stick in our minds forever? Bestselling author Wiking sciences the heck out of memory-making.

2 Little Puzzle Thing Cheeze Puff (\$24; drakegeneralstore.ca) Sadly, you can't eat any of the 70+ pieces. But you can put them together without your fingers turning orange. For ages six and up.

3 Cottage Life 2020 Calendar (\$9.95; cottage.life.com/calendar) If you're gonna gift a calendar, make it the greatest one on the planet.

4 Worry, by Jessica Westhead (\$22.99; harpercollins.ca) A taut cottage-set novel that takes place over 48 hours. Part mystery, part "psychological fiction." All sweltering tension.

5 Frank & Sense 5.8 per cent Golden Ale (\$7.99–\$8.99; innisandgunn.com) "Matured over gold, frankincense, and myrrh,"

says Innis & Gunn. What does myrrh taste like? Beer. It tastes like beer.

6 Casper Nap Pillow (\$45, casper.com) For the car, the dock, the hammock, the ground...comes with its own mini pillowcase and travel bag.

7 Pajamas Warming Pouch (\$39.95 U.S., hammacher.com) Wearing room-temperature PJs is no way to live, dammit.

THIS PAGE: LILIAN MORGAN, OPPOSITE: DRINK PHOTO: LILIAN MORGAN; PLANE PHOTO: BAYNE STANLEY/ALAMY



Flying to a cottage on the B.C. coast is about to get a lot quieter and more environmentally friendly. Float plane operator Harbour Air is replacing the fossil-fuel-burning engine on one of its six passenger de Havilland Beavers with a 750 hp electric motor. The move—a first in the commercial aviation industry—is the initial step towards converting the airline's entire fleet to electric. "We're excited to bring commercial electric aviation to the Pacific Northwest," says Greg McDougall, Harbour

expects Transport Canada and U.S. certification and approval to take up to two years, and then the company will convert the rest of the fleet to electric. Harbour Air runs the largest float plane operation in North America, flying around the south coast of B.C. and across the border to Seattle. The ultimate goal? For all 12 existing destinations, including Whistler, Salt Spring Island, Tofino, and the Backeddy Resort and Marina at the north end of the Sunshine Coast, to remain within range.

The de Havilland Aircraft company of Canada produced 1,600 of its DHC-2 Beaver bush planes—"workhorses of the North"—between 1947 and 1967.

Air's founder and cno. The airline was also Canada's first to go carbon neutral. The biggest challenge with making the transition to electric is the weight of the batteries; Harbour has partnered with aviation battery leader MagniX, and together, they're testing a prototype Beaver this December. McDougall

"I think my customers will love e-planes," says Kristine Bennett, Backeddy's dock master. "I get a lot of complaints about how loud the seaplanes are, so anything that can help with that would be amazing. And around here people are in tune with the environment." —Ryan Stuart

@KATYASEIN
Go for a long sauna and roll around in the snow!

@LAKEWAPO
Fly kites over the frozen lake. Snowshoe. Get birds to eat from my hand. Make wassail. Hike on the night of a full moon. Puzzles.

We asked on Instagram: What do you love to do in the winter at the cottage?

Going wassailing?
Find hot drink ideas on pp. 86 and 88.



Snowmobile fail
"SNOWMOBAIL"

USE IT IN A SENTENCE!
"Check out this epic snowmobail I found on YouTube!"

Frostbite scare
"FROSTBARE"

USE IT IN A SENTENCE! "I couldn't feel my fingers for, like, two hours after our hike. Total frostbare."

COTTAGE LOGIC

Don't be a hero

The next big superhero movie won't hit theatres for another 17 minutes. In the meantime, we wondered—from a cottager's perspective—who is more super: the superhero or the superhero's super-interesting (but often maligned) namesake? You decide! Just kidding. We'll decide. —J.D.

Batman or bat?

More super: Bat

Batman is rich and hot. He has a grappling gun and a butler. And he probably doesn't have rabies. Still, in the summer, bats eat thousands and thousands of mosquitoes every night. Sold.

Ant-Man or ant?

More super: Ant

Ants roll out of bed tiny and extraordinarily strong: one ant can carry as much as 50 times its own body weight. Ant-Man is just an ex-con with the ability to shrink himself thanks to a really awesome motorcycle suit. And we've yet to see him carry 50 people on his back. Don't steal our plot line, Marvel!

Poison Ivy or poison ivy?

More super: Poison Ivy

She's a supervillain eco-terrorist with a deadly kiss. But she's also a botanist. As a cottage neighbour, she'd be able to offer native plant suggestions to help you naturalize your shoreline. Just don't try to make out with her.

Spider-Man or spider?

More super: Neither

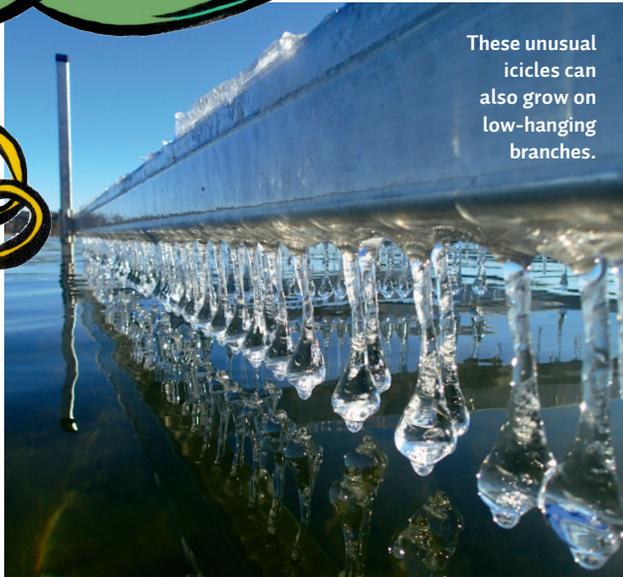
Spiders have fangs and blue blood, they make silk that's stronger than steel, and some can survive underwater for hours. Spider-Man can do whatever a spider can. Thus, they are equally super.

Squirrel-Girl or squirrel?

More super: Squirrel-Girl

Squirrels chew through everything. Your insulation; your windows; your wiring; your soul. Squirrel-Girl can only chew through wood. But she also has that prehensile tail, claws, and the ability to communicate with squirrels. "Listen, guys, I'm going to have to ask you to move out of my attic. You only think that you're being quiet."

These unusual icicles can also grow on low-hanging branches.



THAT'S WILD!

For whom the bells form

It's a cool, cool world we live in. As he was taking his dock out of the water before freeze-up, Ken Hall, a Prosperous Lake, N.W.T., cabin owner, captured this photo of the "ice bells" that had formed on the aluminum frame. "Once we removed the decking, we got a good look at these crazy icicles," says Ken. What's the deal with the bulbous shape? "Ice bells form when icicles hang close to a liquid water surface," says Stephen Morris, a physics professor and the co-creator of the *Icicle Atlas*, an online database of more than 230,000 icicle images. "Waves splashing from the surface supply water to the ends of existing icicles, so they grow 'bulbs' like that." Ken has seen ice on the dock before, "but never hanging like a row of Popsicles." Quick, add these frozen treats to the *Atlas* before they melt! —J.D.

PHOTO: COURTESY KEN HALL. ILLUSTRATION: KELSEY DAKE

When it's not really winter anymore, but it's not yet spring
"SPRINTER"

USE IT IN A SENTENCE! "That groundhog is garbage. It's still Sprinter."

Waterfront

Items in this section may appear larger, smaller, boozier, and more useful than they actually are.



What NOT to forget when opening up p.20

20

Four spring-fresh brews to take the edge off the laimest of cottage chores.

23

And the syrup shall flow like wine! Ontario gets a state-of-the-art sugar shack.

24

The original Swiss Army knife is cool. Ours is cooler. Patent pending.

TOP TEN

THE OOPS LIST

We asked on Instagram: What's the worst thing to forget at home on opening-up weekend?

- NO 10** GLOVES
- NO 9** LYSOL
- NO 8** THE BOAT PLUG
- NO 7** YOUR BATHING SUIT
- NO 6** BATTERIES
- NO 5** TOILET PAPER
- NO 4** LIBATIONS
- NO 3** BUG SPRAY
- NO 2** YOUR CHILD
We forgot Kevin!
- NO 1** THE KEYS

Opening up?
Pair one of these refreshing brews with the following boring chores. (It'll make them less boring.)
Beer picks BY CHRISTINE SISMONDO

Hunting for mouse corpses
Drink: Bellwoods Brewery Jelly King (5.6%)

Making the beds
Drink: Bench Brewing Short Hills East Coast IPA (6.5%)

Checking for signs of water damage
Drink: Big Drop Brewery's Pale Ale (0.55%)

Sweeping and dusting
Drink: GoodLot Farmstead Ale (6.2%)

QUIZ Know thy enemy, know thyself

Test your invasive and non-native species IQ

- The northern snakehead—a predatory invasive fish—is able to:
 - A Latch on to prey fish (and feed on their blood), thanks to its suction-cup-like mouth.
 - B "Walk" on land by wiggling its body.
 - C Survive out of the water for up to 10 days.
 - D Both A and B
- Touching invasive giant hogweed (it looks a little like Queen Anne's lace) can give you:
 - A A rash
 - B Blisters
 - C Warts
 - D Both A and B
- Which of the following is not an invasive species in Canada?
 - A The earthworm
 - B The common starling
 - C The red-backed vole
 - D The quagga mussel
- Which two swan species are native to Canada?
 - A Tundra swan and mute swan
 - B Tundra swan and black swan
 - C Tundra swan and Arctic swan
 - D Tundra swan and trumpeter swan
- After weeding invasive plants on your cottage property, you should:
 - A Burn them
 - B Put them in a plastic bag and let them sit in the sun.
 - C Remove any seeds or leaves; compost what's left.
 - D Either B or C
- Canada's only major population of the destructive brown spruce longhorn beetle is in:
 - A Nova Scotia
 - B Saskatchewan
 - C Alberta
 - D New Brunswick

Can't do on p. 22

PHOTOS: LISA MOGAN; ILLUSTRATION: ALDREY MALO



REPORTER

We're! Number! Two! Canada has ranked 2nd in the 2020 Best Countries Report. That's up from last year, but still behind Switzerland. Oh, it's on, Heidi.

Source: U.S. News & World Report

BUSINESS

Kind of a sappy story

Here's some good news if you love pancakes: this spring, a hockey-arena sized facility at Batchawana Bay, north of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., will become one of Canada's largest maple syrup producers—with an unlikely backer. Black Bird Management, a forestry company that oversees 24,280 hectares of private land in the Algoma Highlands and whose business until now has been cutting hardwood timber, has added a sweet side hustle that it claims is perfectly complementary to its logging operations. Black Bird is using its 1,000-hectare sugar bush, located just off the Trans-Canada Highway, for both timber and maple products. CEO and forester Pat Rosebrook says this unique, integrated strategy reflects the company's commitment to maintaining a healthy forest with multiple benefits.

Black Bird started investigating new ways to add to their bottom line in 2016. They looked at producing trendy health foods, including chaga (a fungus associated with birch trees that's believed to have anti-cancer properties) and American ginseng (a plant suggested to boost immunity, among other benefits), as well as carbon sequestration credits and Christmas trees. Maple syrup emerged as the winning option.

"People around the world want to live healthier and use natural sugars," says Rosebrook. "The market is really expanding for all things maple."

Canada has boasted steady growth in maple syrup production over the past decade—including a record 60 million litres in 2019. (That's enough to fill 24 Olympic-sized swimming pools, easily making Canada the global leader.) Currently, Quebec accounts for more than 90 per cent of Canadian production, with Ontario and New Brunswick still lagging behind. Besides syrup, Black Bird will also produce filtered sap, a.k.a. maple water. It has exploded in Europe, says Rosebrook. "They can't keep it on the shelves."

This year, the company will operate at half its capacity, drawing 400,000 litres of sap per day. To make syrup, a super-efficient reverse osmosis system extracts most of the water, creating a concentrate with 32 per cent sugar. Evaporators then bring the syrup to its final sugar content of about 67 per cent, making nearly 2,300 litres of sweet amber goodness per hour. "There's only a six-week window to make syrup," says Rosebrook. "You need to have your system buttoned up."

Don't expect to see a Black Bird label in supermarkets—but you may douse your pancakes in Batchawana Bay syrup unknowingly. All of the company's products will be sold in bulk, to be re-labelled by various retailers. "The demand is quite high," says Rosebrook. "We'll sell it all." Success—and diversification—is sweet, isn't it?—Conor Mihell

THAT'S WILD!

Along came a frog

That's what you get for scaring Miss Muffet, fool! Elizabeth Aubin was taking photos of the flowers near her Dorset, Ont., pond when she snagged this shot of a frog about to chow down. "When the frog got the spider, I flinched—I'm terrified of spiders—but in doing so I hit the shutter button on my camera," she says. Kermit's lunch that day was a mature male *Dolomedes* dock spider, says Robb Bennett of the Royal BC Museum. At best, all the spider could do to save himself was "bite the frog's tongue," says Bennett. "But that probably wouldn't accomplish much. It's a tough life being a frog. It's a tougher life being a spider." Now, who's hungry?—Jackie Davis



7 American bullfrogs are invasive to:

- A Ontario
- B British Columbia
- C Quebec
- D Nova Scotia

8 In 2016, Australia proposed controlling common carp (a non-native invader in Canada as well) by releasing this into the waterways:

- A Northern pike
- B The herpes virus
- C Impregnated bait
- D Pheromones

9 Which of the following is a non-native ground cover? (And therefore, not a good choice for your cottage property. Sad face.)

- A Wild ginger
- B Heart-leaved foamflower
- C Periwinkle
- D Wintergreen

10 In 1950, the Alberta government launched a province-wide campaign against this invasive, "one of the most destructive creatures known to man."

- A The Norway rat
- B The wild pig (see opposite)
- C The Asian swamp eel
- D The clouded salamander

ANSWERS

- 7 D
- 8 B
- 9 C
- 10 B

How did you score?

8 OR MORE CORRECT
Hot damn! You're an invasives expert.

5 TO 7 CORRECT
Good job. Keep reading this magazine for more invasives info.

4 OR FEWER CORRECT
Quick, to the internet! Google "purple loosestrife," and go from there.

"SOUTHERN ONTARIO COULD SUPPORT A MILLION WILD PIGS."

—Ryan Brook, Canadian Wild Pig Research Project, in a CBC News interview about the growing invasive.



“THE ANY NATIONALITY NON-ARMY COTTAGER KNIFE” *

INCLUDED FEATURES:

Knives out

What else should we include? (Voice modifier that changes loon calls to human speech, and vice versa, right?) Give us your ideas: edit@cottagelife.com. Be weird.



Long-time contributor Paul Rush originally wrote about this cottage-classic knife in our April/May '98 issue.

BRINGIN' IT BACK

It's still a cut above the rest

I follow a ritual whenever I go out: I pat my pockets. One pat for my wallet, one for my keys, and my right pants pocket for my Swiss Army knife. I couldn't leave the cottage without it because there's often a rope to cut or a screw to tighten when you are far from the shed. It's portable, uncomplicated, and multi-purpose, an ideal cottage tool. Indeed, there are probably more Swiss Army knives at cottages than there are in the Swiss Army.

We have been through so much together, my knife and I. Hand and handle. With it, I have carved ducks (wooden) and steaks (beef). Cleaned fingernails,

spread butter, pried off bottle caps, and whittled walking sticks. I have screwed with the screwdrivers, cut with the scissors, and tweezed with the tweezers. And, with the magnifying glass I have tried—without success—to light a fire in wood chips.

I have even used the reamer—although only to punch that extra hole in my belt. (I should never have eaten that fourth cheeseburger.) And, yes, the corkscrew has proved itself at our cottage when guests bring real wine. (We run more to screw-top bottles and beer. Corkscrews don't abound.) **Swiss Army knives can have as many as 31 features**, but mine is in the middle, with 11. It's a close relative to the original knife, first produced in 1891. Eleven are enough for me—although a saw would be nice—but I don't really need the hook disgorging, the wire cutter, or the ballpoint pen, which are some of the attachments on the **SwissChamp**, the biggest model. Nor do I need the model with the built-in watch—not at the cottage. My knife is not utterly perfect; in our quarter-century relationship, I have lost toothpick and tweezers (replacements cost \$1 and \$2) a number of times. I have broken the scissors. I have sharpened the blade so often it looks like an eagle's beak.

But the blade will endure for years, and that's just as well, for we have ducks to carve and sticks to whittle, my knife and I, in the cottage days to come.—Paul Rush

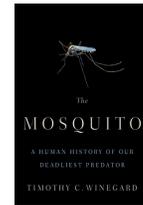
Today, they can have as many as 71!

Now called the "SwissChamp XAVT."

A replacement toothpick now costs \$3. Ka-ching!

SHELF LIFE

THERE WILL BE BLOOD



LAM MOGAN

Cottage country's most bothersome bloodsucker is having a moment. *The Mosquito: A Human History of Our Deadliest Predator*, by Timothy C. Winegard, was one of five books shortlisted for the *Mac* Taylor Prize, a Canadian literary award for non-fiction that will be presented in early March.

I learned more about mosquitoes in the first two chapters of *The Mosquito* than in 15 years as editor of *Cottage Life*. Did you know that body odour repels these bloodthirsty beasts, but they love stinky feet? They have no preference for female or male victims, except that pregnant women suffer twice as many bites. Males swarm around our heads to attract females, the biters, who have

killed some 52 billion people in their reign of terror. They prefer blood type O, and, I'm sorry to say, love beer drinkers. They contributed to the demise of the dinosaurs, and a ravenous horde can drain half the blood of an adult human in two hours.

But wait, we're just getting started. The next 400 pages thoroughly examine the influence of this "angel of death" on wars, trade, and colonial expansion through the ages.

The Mosquito lives up to its buzz. It's a fascinating romp for history-loving cottagers.—Penny Caldwell