

OLDFIELD LAKE RESERVE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

This summer was a little more eventful for the Oldfield Lake Reserve. As it was a wet and mild summer, the water level remained quite high in the wetlands that surround the lake. All the vegetation is hearty, be it trees, wildflowers, sedge, wild rice or reeds. Water flowed steadily over the falls into Blackstone Lake, keeping the wetland below the falls in good condition as well.

The Land Trust hosted professional photographers, who donated a piece of art reflecting a GBLT property, to a fund raising auction in the fall. Hugh Martin, the photographer, assigned to Oldfield Lake took a gorgeous photograph of a leaf on a rock. This particular piece created quite a buzz at the auction.

Normally, this property receives few visitors in the spring and early summer, and this year appears to be no exception. Unfortunately, for a few years, one or more individuals of unknown identity have been camping on the south side in a non-responsible manner. The culprits come by ATV, from a former logging road, which originates at the Healy Lake Road. Signage is ignored and vandalized, fires are set, a wood pile maintained, various camping items and garbage are been left behind. To be fair this is the only spot identified on the property.

Various volunteers and visitors to the property have graciously hauled out bags of garbage but this only dented it. The Eastern Stewardship Council kindly lent us four junior rangers plus their leader to clean up this site. They piled everything onto a tarpaulin to carry it away. This tarpaulin was part of the camping equipment left behind. It was approximately a 1.5 km trek back to their vehicle, when at the half way point the tarp broke. Luckily they had 2 more as part of their haul.

Overall the property remains in pristine condition.