

Holy Cow Canoe Corp. to raise funds, awareness for Lyme Disease

By Neil McKenzie-Sutter
Special to The IFP



Holy Cow Canoe Corporation general manager Gulam Baloch, left, his wife Naomi McQuade, artistic director and Shawn Best, boat builder are hosting an auction on eBay.ca with one of their custom-built canoes, donating all proceeds to CanLyme, the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation.

Photo by Neil McKenzie-Sutter

May is Lyme Disease Awareness month in Canada, and local Acton-based Holy Cow Canoe Corporation is participating in big way.

This Friday, May 22, Holy Cow is hosting an auction on eBay.ca with one of their custom-built canoes, donating all proceeds to CanLyme, the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation, with the goals of improving the public's knowledge of the disease, their mitigation and treatment options, and improve the Canadian Healthcare system's ability to provide care for the disease.

"I want this to be the start of something great," says Naomi McQuade, the artistic and media director with Holy Cow. "I want it to go to the moon."

McQuade has, in fact, been fighting her own battle with Lyme disease, and her experience is part of why Holy Cow has become so significantly involved in raising people's awareness about it. For more nearly a decade she has struggled with an illness that baffled multiple doctors, and it was only by chance that she received a diagnosis at all.

It was actually a customer who entered the shop at 12590 Regional Rd. 25, interested in buying a boat, who pointed them in the direction of Lyme Disease.

Gulam Baloch, general manager at Holy Cow and husband to McQuade, noticed that this customer's wife had similar symptoms to his own. The customer turned out to be a doctor and recommended that the couple explore the possibility of Lyme Disease.

"If he hadn't come in," says Baloch,

talking about their random encounter with the doctor/customer. "She (McQuade) could still be going to different doctors and emergency rooms."

A truly frustrating aspect of Lyme Disease is that it can be effectively and easily treated if it's caught in the early stages, however if it's unchecked it can develop into a significant inflammatory and eventually even neurological condition, which is much more difficult to treat. More unfortunate is the fact that stories like McQuade's aren't that uncommon regarding the Canadian healthcare system's ability to deal with the disease.

Instances of Lyme are on the rise in Canada and because it's a difficult to diagnose, stories like McQuade's of getting swept out of the way or having it blamed on other illnesses are frequent in Canada. Even high profile personalities like Avril Lavigne, who recently announced she was a Lyme Disease sufferer, reports having a depressingly difficult time receiving a diagnosis.

In addition to this direct personal experience, the Holy Cow Canoe Corporation is campaigning against Lyme

Disease to raise awareness among their customers.

"All I want is for the paddling community to be safe and aware," McQuade says.

"We have to look out for our customers," Baloch adds. "We think of



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them like family."

Their concerns stem from the fact customers buying or renting their canoes frequently travel to forested or rural areas, where it's easier to come in contact with ticks carrying Lyme bacteria. With proper information and awareness, however, people shouldn't be afraid to spend time outdoors.

"In the canoe you can't get Lyme

Disease," Baloch says. "So the canoe can almost be a symbol for Lyme Disease and prevention."

And the canoe being auctioned off is a limited-edition, 16'6 Algonquin Prospector painted 'Lyme' green, and constructed out of ultra-glass material.

If you have questions about Lyme Disease, check out CanLyme's website, canlyme.com.

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS: DESTROY NUISANCE WEEDS - GIANT HOGWEED

Giant Hogweed has been found in the Town of Halton Hills. This is a giant plant that looks like "Queen Anne's Lace" but is **Very Dangerous** to handle. If you find it, please do not touch it with your bare hands and keep children away from it. Remove early in the growth season (April/May) to eliminate spread.

For further information on Giant Hogweed please visit www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca.

Community Standards By-law 2008-0138 No. Part 3, Section 8 states "Property Owners are required to destroy and remove all nuisance weeds and weed seeds on their land."

For a list of nuisance weeds please refer to www.haltonhills.ca/bylaws. Any person who fails to destroy and remove all nuisance weeds and weed seeds is guilty of an offence. As a result, the Town of Halton Hills may enter upon your property to do the work required.

The Town may recover the costs of doing any work or matter by action and adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting it in a like manner as property tax.

Please note that dandelions, burdock and goldenrod are **NOT** considered nuisance weeds.



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NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS: DESTROY NOXIOUS WEEDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons in possession of land, in accordance with The Weed Control Act R.S.O. 1990, c. W.5., that unless weed seeds and noxious weeds growing on their lands within the Town of Halton Hills are destroyed by **June 1, 2015** and throughout the season, the Town of Halton Hills may enter upon the said lands and have weeds destroyed, charging the costs against the land in taxes as set out in The Weed Control Act. The Town earnestly solicits co-operation of all property owners.

The purpose of the Weed Control Act is to reduce the impact of noxious weeds on land used for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

The Weed Control Act does not apply to noxious weeds or weed seeds on lands that are far enough away from any land used for agricultural purposes that they do not interfere with that use.

Please be advised that the list of Noxious Weeds has been revised to the following

- Black Dog-Strangling Vine
- Bull Thistle
- Canada Thistle
- Coltsfoot
- Common Barberry
- Common Crupina
- Cypress Spurge
- Dodder
- Dog-Strangling Vine
- European Buckthorn
- Giant Hogweed
- Jointed Goatgrass
- Knapweed
- Kudzu
- Leafy Spurge
- Poison Hemlock
- Poison Ivy
- Ragweed
- Serrated Tussock
- Smooth Bedstraw
- Sow Thistle
- Tansy Ragwort
- Wild Chervil
- Wild Parsnip
- Woolly Cupgrass

Please note that dandelions, burdock and goldenrod are **NOT** considered noxious weeds under The Weed Control Act.

Any concerns or inquiries should be directed to: Kelly Withers, Municipal Law Enforcement Coordinator 905 873-2601 ext. 2330

Dated at the Town of Halton Hills this 7th of May 2015. Suzanne Jones, Town Clerk 56

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