

# Clear Lake Adventures 2009



## Hidden gem in our own backyard

By Stephanie Lisoway  
THE NEPAWA BANNER

Stepping out of my vehicle on a crisp early Monday morning just outside the visitor centre in Clear Lake, I was swept away by the sweet smell of the forest. I was awaiting the arrival of Celes Davar, founder of Earth Rhythms, a hands-on approach to wildlife and the discovering of the natural beauty of Riding Mountain National Park. Davar has been running Earth Rhythms since 1996, and has been involved with Parks Canada for over 25 years.

After jumping in his Ford Escape Hybrid (Davar is huge on doing all we can to help the environment), we took off down a winding road to take in the Park in all its glory. Davar's first instructions were to stop the car, roll down the windows and just listen. Eagerly, I awaited something magnificent, but heard nothing, so I thought, "Do you hear that?" Davar asked me excitedly, and since I didn't, I listened closer. "It's alive!"

Having listened closer I was now aware of birds chirping very softly, the slow rustle of leaves and you could almost hear the glistening of the lake. "This is what people hunger for, something more universal than the usual urban noise you hear in a city or town," Davar explained to me. This made me think: are we so quick to pass up the simplicity of God's beautiful creation?

Carrying on down the road we come across very abundant cranberry bushes, sprinklings of hoary puccoons (which are wildflowers) and yellow lady slippers. We then pulled over to do some bird listening. Very intensely Davar listens to the sounds the birds are making. He whips out an iPhone and begins to search iBird Pro which is an application that allows you to search every species of bird imaginable, read up on the them and then play their call. This was so fascinating to me.

After differentiating and

playing an Ovenbird's call, we listened for him to call back and he did more loudly this time. Next, another bird joined in, it was a Red Eyed Vireo. Both birds had beautiful calls, and the iBird tool was fun to use with both of them.

When returning to the vehicle, we spotted a lone gosling wandering down the road toward us. We listened carefully to his desperate cries and watched his bobbing head sniffing for the scent of his family. As a mother my heart wrenched for this poor gosling for reasons I cannot explain, and as I witness this, I never thought about animals getting lost, like human children do. After watching him toddle into the bush we went about our way taking a lovely hike to a serene clearing.

Standing there taking in the beauty of the boreal forest, marsh and highland surrounding us, I began to understand why it's important to let nature come to you. If you stay still and quiet, it magically appears and you get caught up in the simple joys of rediscovering what it feels like to be a child again, seeing it all for the first time. I felt a sense of fulfillment and thankfulness for being able to experience what is intended for us to enjoy.

Taking a break to snack on some muffins, we sit in the car and watch a white tailed deer poke her head out of the bush. She begins to get brave and stride out further until she is on the road, looking around for any danger that is prominent. We watch as another one creeps along the opposite side of the road and then, spotting our vehicle, they both run back deep into their home.

Our next stop was another clearing, this time perched upon a ledge along with the bird spotter we brought along. Davar's trained eye spotted Manitoba's provincial bird, a great grey owl. Setting up the spotter, I was able to see the majestic bird watch for food, then swoop up, hover and dive down like lightning to catch its prey. "You are one



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE LISOWAY

Celes Davar taking in the beautiful park scenery.

of the few lucky people to see this type of owl," Davar tells me. "They are very rare and people from the U.S. come to see them, you are privileged." I was stunned that something so simple and little is so rare. I did indeed feel very lucky.

Throughout the morning I was a witness to some amazing sights. Along with the ones mentioned above I also spotted a black bear and a baby cub on separate occasions, explored the bison exhibit, watched a buck nourishing himself lavishly on foliage, learned of different fruit and

nut trees and many more species of birds. I also learned that most people nowadays lean towards commercialized theme parks and overlook the beauty of the gems in our own backyard. "I want people to hurry up to Riding Mountain to slow down," said Davar. "We need to book time with nature."

For more information about Earth Rhythms and Celes Davar, you can go to his website [www.earthrhythms.ca](http://www.earthrhythms.ca). He also has a blog that you can read at <http://experiencridingmountain.com>.

## A calm over the lake



PHOTO BY KATE JACKMAN-ATKINSON

Calm conditions over the lake made perfect scenery for an evening walk

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## July 1st CANADA DAY Clear Lake and Onanole

**8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast** (Barnaby's in Onanole) (\$4.00 per person/under 6 FREE)

**9:30 - 12:00 noon Scavenger Hunt** (Visitor Centre - FREE)

**10:00 a.m. Gorge Creek Hike Interpretive Program** (\$3.90 per person) (Meet at the Visitor Centre)

**12 noon Official Program RMNP Bandstand** 12:30 LuLu & the Tom Cat 1:45 Tracy Bone & J.C. Campbell 3:00 The Swiftys

**1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Hot Dog Barbeque Sportman Park** (FREE - while supplies last)

**4:00 - 6:00 p.m. BBQ Hot Dog & Cake** Onanole Rec Centre (\$6.00 per person)

**6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Entertainment** at the Onanole Rec Centre

**7:00 p.m. Car Caravan Interpretive Program** (\$3.90 per person) (Meet at the Visitor Centre)

**10:30 p.m. Fireworks in Onanole** (Meet at the Big Elk)

### JULY

July 18 Parks Day

July 31 - Aug. 3 Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival Onanole Community Centre

### AUGUST

Aug. 7 - 9 Wasagaming Weekend and Parade

Aug. 15 Riding Mountain Triathlon Olympic Distance

Aug. 15 Supper in the Field

Aug. 15 - 22 Tamarack

Aug. 16 Kids of Steel Triathlon

Aug. 22 Boo in the Park

Aug 28 & 29 Riding Mountain Blues Onanole Community Centre and Wasagaming businesses

Visit [www.RMNP75.com](http://www.RMNP75.com) for more information

# Canada day entertainment at Clear Lake

Submitted

Noizeboyz productions wishes to inform the public that Dauphin/Edmonton based outlaw country rockers The Swiftys will headline Canada Day celebrations at Clear Lake in Riding Mountain Park on July 1st this year. The program will begin with Oh Canada and birthday cake at noon followed by a performance from celebrated children's entertainers Lulu and the TomCat at 12:30 p.m. as well as nationally recognized recording artists Tracy Bone and J.C. Campbell at 1:45 p.m. The Swiftys are scheduled to perform at 3 p.m. capping

off the day's entertainment.

Since their inception in 2002, The Swiftys have been determined to make no-nonsense, heartfelt country music - and to make it their way. They have been dubbed "modern outlaws", both for their love of the maverick country movement and for fearlessly wandering wherever their path may lead them. Often joined by talented musical cohorts across Canada onstage or in the studio, The Swiftys' strength and core bares down as a trio, creating a solid, identifiable sound. They are often likened

to their heroes such as Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, The Band, CCR, Buddy Miller, and Steve Earle, though The Swiftys maintain their own distinctive sound, never forgetting who they are and where they come from. The result is an old fashioned country music sensibility that weaves in stray fragments of blues, rock 'n' roll, Western swing and rockabilly.

The Swiftys recently released the highly anticipated follow up to their self-titled 2003 release.

And now...The Swiftys are tearing up the highways again to "fearlessly wander" across the country in support of their latest release entitled "Ridin' High".

In the recent past, The Swiftys have been busy touring North America playing venues and key festivals including The Edmonton Folk Festival (they are back again this year), Calgary Folk Festival, Winnipeg Folk Festival, SXSW in Austin, Texas, The Taste of Chicago Country Music Festival, Big Valley

Jamboree, Craven Country Jamboree, Dauphin's Countryfest (2009 is the sixth year in a row), the Merritt Mountain Music Festival and many more.

They have also shared the stage with country/roots greats such as Lucinda Williams, The Sadies, Corb Lund, Marty Stuart and Rodney Crowell. With seven years under their belts and fire in their music, The Swiftys are eager to take on any stage and any crowd to continue building their legacy.

## Poplar Ridge getting ready for play

Banner Staff

After two seasons of construction, the 6,600 yard championship course at Poplar Ridge Golf Course and Housing Development will be opening on July 12.

The development is located at Onanole and, in addition to the golf course, it features 60 fully serviced residential lots ranging from one-half to four-fifths of an acre. All but four of the lots front onto the golf course which weaves through and around the lots.

The golf course incorporates aspects of the natural landscape including rolling hills, trees, water and meadows. The course aims to satisfy all golfers and each hole has three tees.

The course has some notable holes. At hole 11, players tee off from elevated tees, surrounded by trees and affronted by water. Hole 13 is a "near island" green, which is expected to give players the feeling of what the pros face at the Tournament Players Championship's 17th hole. Hole 8 is a tee shot across water expected to create a risk/reward situation for players.

In addition to the golf course, the development also features a driving range.

The course's superintendent is Ryan Myers, who joined the Poplar Ridge Management team the spring of 2008. Myers began his career in golf course maintenance in 1993

at Morden's Minnewasta Golf Course. After obtaining his diploma in advanced turfgrass management technology at Fairview College in 1999, he has been extensively involved in building golf courses throughout Canada and the U.S. Ryan came to Poplar Ridge from Sirocco Golf Club in Calgary.

The course's head professional is Shawn Woods, who was the head professional/manager of the Neepawa Golf and Country Club from 1997 to 2008. Woods has been a Class A Professional since 1994 and has also worked at the Moonlake and Saskatoon Golf and Country Clubs and the Rock Creek Golf Club.

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FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY - MONDAY JULY 3-6 8:30 p.m.  
Chris Pine **STAR TREK** PG  
TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY JULY 7-8 8:30 p.m.  
Tom Hanks **ANGELS & DEMONS** 14A  
THURSDAY - FRIDAY JULY 9-10 7:15 & 9:30 p.m.  
Will Ferrell **LAND OF THE LOST** PG

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