

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

C O N S E R V A T I O N   A S S O C I A T I O N

— FALL 2001/WINTER 2002 NEWSLETTER —

## Garbage Disposal

*at Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh*

You will remember that there was no garbage disposal at Bennett's Bay this past summer and the old dump sight was in the process of being closed up.

We petitioned around the lake and got close to 300 signatures supporting action by the municipality to provide some sort of garbage collection system in or near Bennett's Bay. This petition was presented to Reeve Don Carter at our Annual Meeting. Reeve Carter promised to ask the Public Works Committee to review the matter once again.

During August and September this matter was revisited and it was determined that at least \$100,000 would be needed to establish a Transfer Station that met regulations and additionally 1 or 2 acres of land would be required. Spending \$100,000 on a transfer station at Bennett's Bay was not of interest to the municipality.

At the September Public Works Committee Meeting a decision to carry on with existing dump closure plans was reaffirmed and administration was instructed to notify all who had sent letters regarding this matter that no extension of service would be offered.

So we each have the responsibility to get our garbage to either the Auld's dump or the Dunchurch dump.

The members of Council and members of the Public Works committee can be contacted by phone or e-mail and all this information is on the Whitestone web site if anyone wishes to pursue this matter further.

[www.vianet.ca/~whitesto/](http://www.vianet.ca/~whitesto/)

**Dalton Ferris**

## Bears

(Brochure enclosed)

Over the past few years bears have become more prominent in our area and in many cases very bold. This past summer there were a number of close encounters with bears in and around cottages, not to mention the proliferation of bears at the dump locations. Enclosed with this mailing is a brochure provided by the MNR that lists some very good guidelines regarding the do's and don'ts if you encounter a bear. So take the time to read this information about bears and pass it on to other members of your cottage family.

Frank Squires alerted me to the availability of this brochure—thanks Frank.

**Dalton Ferris**

## Fish Enhancement Committee

The Committee on behalf of the Association would like to thank the volunteers who signed up for the pickerel habitat rehabilitation work

at Gooseneck Bay and  
Whitestone

Chutes scheduled for this fall.

Unfortunately, the project has been delayed until next year, but your

names will be kept and we will call you!

Because of the revised dam proposal, bass habitat rehabilitation in the Narrows is no longer a requirement.

The trout egg project planned for this fall has also been postponed because funding could not be obtained in time. This project was outlined at the Annual General Meeting in August and hopefully funding will be in place by next year.

The Committee is actively pursuing with the MNR to get approval to close Whitestone Chutes to fishing in the spring of next year. If approval is obtained, marker buoys will be placed at the mouth of the chutes indicating fishing is not permitted beyond the buoys.

Thanks to the many people who supported the Committee in its fundraising endeavours this year. Over \$400.<sup>00</sup> was raised at the Annual Meeting and the raffle sales held later in the day.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

**Don Comrie**

## Elevations

In the spring newsletter we tried to inform you about the various lake elevation numbers that are quoted and or noted in documents about the lake.

229.44m is the 100-year flood elevation and also the elevation quoted in municipal bylaw 50-2000. Effectively, the opening of no building can be constructed below 229.44m in Whitestone.

During the summer the association had a surveyor determine the 1998 flood elevation—the elevation was 228.3m. This 1998 flood was the highest since 1928 as far as we can determine. Using 229.44m as a “no building below” figure has a safety factor of more than one metre and the 1/100-year frequency as further support.

For you to figure out how elevations affect your property you need to know the lake elevation on a given day. The lake edge of the "concrete" platform at the Bennett's Bay MNR dock is 226.2m. Simply measure down to the water and subtract that metric dimension from 226.2m. The result will be the lake elevation at that point in time. Back at your property find a good spot and mark the elevation. Then you can visualize whatever elevations you want on your property

**Dalton Ferris**

## **Whitestone Nursing Station Status**

In the fall I asked K-Ann Bell to prepare the "Nursing Station" status report that follows. As President of the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association I knew many cottagers on our lake could potentially benefit from medical facilities nearby. \$50,000 must be raised through private initiatives to get this needed and new facility underway. As members of our community we can

show support by giving donations and supporting local fund raising activities that are planned regularly throughout Whitestone. So give generously as this "nursing station" will certainly provide a much needed and convenient medical service.

**Dalton Ferris**

### *Below is the letter received from Whitestone Council.*

*Since our inception in November 2000, the volunteer Working Group for the Whitestone and Area Nursing Station has enjoyed rapidly growing recognition and support from many local and out-of-town individuals, businesses, groups, and associations similar to yours. (In this latter respect, volunteers from the Hagerman Ratepayers Association (HRA) donated over \$4000.00 in proceeds from their summer bingos. As well, a friendly challenge has been issued by the North West Whitestone Lake Cottage Association to all groups to match or exceed the \$1400.00 in contributions received from their members this past summer.)*

*Noted among the many letters of support are, the Council resolutions from the Municipalities of Whitestone & Magnetawan and the Township of McKellar; and letters from Andy Mitchell, M.P., Parry Sound-Muskoka; Norm Miller, M.P.P., Parry Sound-Muskoka, and Dr. W. D. George, District Coroner.*

*A "Needs" Survey conducted in May, in the three municipalities, revealed that mainly because of the inconveniences of distance and waiting times, 93% of respondents in the area want/need the area Nursing Station. This, along with demographic projections showing that approximately 50%(!) of our population are in the Seniors sector, and that 30% of current seasonal property-owners will be retiring here, lends an urgency to this initiative.*

*On July 26th, another "Town Hall" meeting featured Norm Maciver, CEO for the West Parry Sound Health Centre; Nancy Mace, Director of the Community Care Access Centre & Community Programs; as well as Don Brisbane, Manager of*

*Emergency Response Services. At that time the Working Group's fund-raising team was formalized. In doing so an update was given as to progress and the audience was advised that the Group had a fund-raising goal of \$50,000. (As of October 1st, we have raised over \$15,000 cash towards this goal!)*

*Our private sector and public fund-raising goal is a mandated 25% of a Capital Cost estimate of \$200,000, with, upon approval, the remaining 75% funded by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund. All Operating Costs (100%) – an estimated \$160,000 per annum – would be funded through the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care and would be administered by our corporate sponsor, the West Parry Sound Health Centre.*

*At a Special Council Meeting of Whitestone Council held Friday August 10th, a resolution was passed effectively allocating municipal property adjacent to the Fire Hall, and First Response, for the construction of the Station.*

*On Sept. 26th our proposal received the formal endorsement of the Northern Shores District Health Council! It is now in the hands of the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care waiting their approval.*

*It is with the aforementioned in mind that our fund-raising is kicking into high gear, and to this end we welcome any of your members' fund-raising ideas and donations. (Donations should be made out to the Whitestone & Area Nursing Station and forwarded to: K-Ann Bell, Chair, Whitestone & Area Nursing Station Working Group, General Delivery, Dunchurch, Ontario,*

*POA 1GO.*

*In turn, these donations will be sent to the WPSHC who will hold contributions In Trust as well as issue tax receipts.*

*We welcome any questions and all requests for further information.*

**Thank you for this opportunity,**

**Yours truly**

**K-Ann Bell, Chair: 1-705-389-2263**

**Don Carter, Project Co-ordinator:**

**1-705-389-3380 or Reeve's office:**

**1-705-389-2466**

## **Planning Whitestone**

You may recall that Whitestone is in the process of developing a new "official plan" and "comprehensive zoning bylaw". John Jackson and the planning committee is leading this process.

There was a public meeting in May of 2001 at the Dunchurch community centre—some of us attended but this meeting was largely a discussion of process as opposed to dealing with planning matters. You may have completed a survey in the spring, which asked various questions about planning and the community. This information has been consolidated and its purpose is to be a means of providing public input to the planning process. This information should allow the planning committee to propose planning policy that is compatible with what citizens think is needed – that is our hope!

I have included a portion of the survey results in this mailing of the newsletter.

The process ahead regarding the "official plan" will include the following:

- Development of draft policy
- Review the policy with the planning

committee and Council

- Present the draft policy at a public meeting
  - Comprehensive Zoning by-law development and presentation
  - Zoning bylaw public meeting
- Sometime after all of the above points have been completed Council will approve both the plan and zoning bylaw.

None of the above has happened so looking ahead it will be well into late 2002 before an official plan and zoning bylaws is in place.

The Association has provided input to the planning committee and to John Jackson and this was available to members at the annual meeting. Our main focus is to preserve the quality and character of Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh.

This past summer I e-mailed the planning committee and asked that funds generated from the sale of shore allowance be reserved for the betterment of the lake from which the shore allowance was sold. Recommendation 56-2001-Sept 19th –from the planning committee to Council accepted this reserve concept. Now this must be accepted and approved by Council.

The Planning process is moving very slowly and much remains to be done by the planning committee and Council. Realistically 2002 will be a big year for planning and it is our wish that we get a chance to review the draft planning policy ahead of public meetings so that meaningful comments can be presented at the public meeting.

**Dalton Ferris**



# MORTON'S POINT CAMP

by Tim Inkster

One can only imagine the unspoiled appearance of Wah Wash Kesh Lake in 1903 when Robert M. Morton & Edward Campbell Kenning first visited their acquaintance, Donald Alexander Cameron at Cameron Island. With the small amount of building which had taken place at that time and few cottagers on the lake it surely must have been extraordinary.



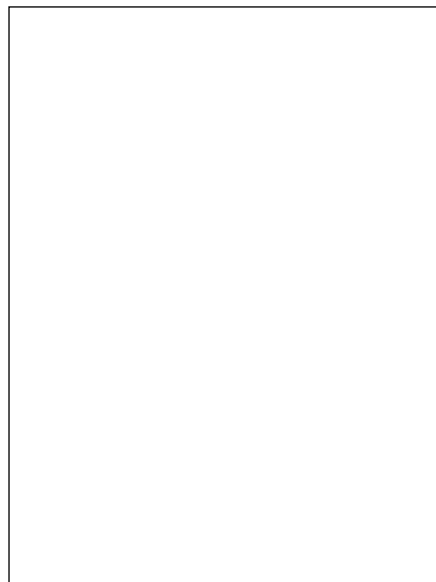
**ISLAND LAKE 1911**

Robert Morton was so impressed with the area he started to influence nine Windsor Walkerville businessmen to start a fishing camp on the lake. By 1905 the group was ready to launch the project under the name "Deer Lake Syndicate". These original people were William J. Burns, Abram D. Green, William Henry Isaacs, Major Edward Campbell Kenning, Lt. Col. Walter Leishman McGregor, Robert M. Morton, John Northwood, Col. Sydney C. Robinson and Dr. Herman H. Sanderson. Several of these men were executives from Hiram Walkers and others were brother officers in the 21st Regiment of Essex Fusiliers. Robert M. Morton owned Morton's Tobacco Co. It was September the 6th in 1907 when Robert M. Morton and Edward C. Kenning ventured around Wah Wash Kesh Lake to investigate and explore the lake for sites suitable to construct a fishing camp. In 1909, R. M. Morton & E. C. Kenning returned along with A. D. Green to survey the lake for sites again and found 22 locations including Islands and

Application for Crown Patents with the Ontario Crown Lands Department. They were told in 1910, that of the 22 locations, only two had not been claimed by other people. R. M. Morton & E. C. Kenning then proceeded to make application to the Crown to acquire the parcels of land. It was 1910 when the Patents were approved and received by Robert Morton and Edward Kenning.

The original Crown Patents are dated February 25th, 1910 at a cost of \$5.00 per acre. Sites under 2 acres were at \$10.00 per acre. Edward Kenning received the parcel of land we now know as Morton's Point Camp. It was 12 acres of land and the group chose this as the site for their fishing camp.

The group (9) had decided on a name for the fishing camp which was "The Deer Lake Syndicate" as Wahwashkesh translated to "deer" in Ojibway. The group consisted of Robert M. Morton, Edward Campbell Kenning, Colonel Sidney C. Robinson, William Henry Isaacs,



**BOAT HOUSE 1998**

Abram D. Green, Dr. Herman H. Sanderson, William J. Burns, Walter Leishman McGregor and John Northwood. Each member contributed \$125.00 for their membership. Also buying shares in 1910 were Major Ebenezer Michael McLean and Gordon Michael McGregor who did not join as members of the club until 1918 for McLean, and 1915 for McGregor. They were not listed as founding members so I presume they were purchasers later in 1910 than the rest.

Getting to the lake was quite different then than it is now. The visitors had to take the C. N. rail to Ardbeg then travel down Gooseneck Lake to the point where you had to portage across to Harrison's Landing and on to Wah Wash Kesh Lake (the big lake) through Indian Narrows, up to Lovesick Rapids and on to Cameron Island Camp. This was no small feat and required the assistance of locals like James Kelly and Guy Hayward to complete the journey. Guy Hayward was a much admired man by the Morton's Point group and his family has served Morton's Point Camp well over the years.

In 1925, a decision to Incorporate was made by the members mainly to give members a:

- 1) clearly defined & negotiable interest
- 2) to reduce personal liability and
- 3) create a more equitable manner of assessments, operations and finances of the club, under the name "Morton's Point Limited" in memory of Robert M. Morton (passed away in August 1924). E. C. Kenning applied for and received "Letters Patent" incorporating "Morton's Point Limited", a private company at a value of \$40,000.00 consisting of 160 shares with a value of \$250.00 each. Shares were made available and the shareholders did not have to be members of the camp and members did not have to be shareholders. The Charter of the company, "Morton's Point Ltd." was issued on April 18th, 1925.

In 1960, some of the original members had become inactive, either through death or resignation over the years, depleting the

*other persons as they may admit to membership and who are willing to assume and pay an equal share of each purchase price.*

**Carried 68 - 51**

Those shareholders who carried on were:  
John W. Haddow Sr.,  
Fred A. Isaacs,  
Fred B. Isaacs,  
James O'Grady  
Chris Tetter.

The present membership of Morton's Point Camp stands at 43 and is a mixture of Canadian and American men from Texas, Michigan, California, British Columbia and Ontario.

The Camp's finances are achieved through yearly dues charged to members and occasional additional assessments charged to members for larger capital projects such as roofing done in 2001. Also, guests of members are charged daily rates for their time in Camp. Members get 7

free days in Camp with the payment of their dues and a lower member rate for additional days in Camp. Relatives of members also get a special rate between that of guest and member.

Spring and Fall Camps are open for Mixed Camps, while Summer Camps are strictly Mens Camps. The Camp opens when the ice leaves the lake and closes at the end of deer season.

## *Spirit & Intention of Morton's Point Camp*

It has been written that September 6, 1907 was the historic day Morton's Point as we know it was conceived. This was the day R. M. Morton and E. C. Kenny explored sites

and bays for a suitable location for a camp. In the spring of 1910 construction of a log lodge was started on the 12 acres we know as Morton's Point.

Since that time through the hard work and dedication of its members, Morton's Point has grown and provides countless days of health, happiness and fellowship. Over these years through courtesy and a willingness to help others, a reputation has been developed that we can all be proud of.

It has not been just a simple premise of having a club to promote the welfare of members and guests that has made Morton's Point what it is. It is not simply a resort. It is an attitude. An attitude that appreciates the special atmosphere, the fellowship, the dedication and the history that goes along with it.

It is because of those who have gone before us we have what we do. To them we owe our sincerest thanks. To ourselves we owe the enjoyment our camp has to offer. To those of the future we owe the responsibility of preservation shown to us.

The enjoyment of the present, an appreciation of the past and a responsibility to the future is the spirit and intention of Morton's Point Camp. It is one that would have all who belong, work to put into the camp as much or more than you take out.

### **Morton's Point Camp Website**

**[www3.sympatico.ca/bekki/welcometo/mpc.html](http://www3.sympatico.ca/bekki/welcometo/mpc.html)**

### **MORTON'S POINT CAMP 1921**

necessary cash flow to maintain the expenses of operating the camp. Camp costs had risen but revenues were not keeping up. Due to the loss of cash flow, the Camp was \$2000.00 in debt to The Canadian Bank of Commerce and on the verge of bankruptcy. It was decided to terminate the defunct Incorporation. Shares held by the members were called in and 80% were received. The members tried for many years to track down the missing shares without success. With 80% of the shares and majority control, the members decided to stop looking for the missing shares.

*Minutes from June 27, 1960.*

*Morton's Point Limited*

*General Meeting - June 27, 1960.*

*At this meeting approved the sale and transfer of it's assets to a new association at the price of \$2,000.00 which will enable the club to liquidate it's indebtedness to the Canadian Bank of Commerce.*

*Such new association shall be composed initially of present shareholders and such*

**ORIGINAL CABIN**

# 2002

**SAT. JULY 13**

**WIENER ROAST**

4pm–Straubs

(Raindate: Sunday, July 14,  
2-5pm)

**SAT. AUGUST 3**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

9:30am–Bennett's Barn

**FIREWORKS**

9:30pm-Indian narrows  
near Skram Point

**SUN. AUGUST 4**

**DOCK N' ROCK SALE**

More details in  
Spring Newsletter

**SAT. AUGUST 17**

**CORN ROAST**

3-5pm–Straubs

(Raindate: Sunday, August 18,  
2-4pm)

## 2001 Successful Social Events

The poker run prior to the wiener roast was a great success – with everyone having a good time meeting people around the lake and at the same time raising approximately \$400 for the Association. This event was planned and coordinated by Bert & Jeanette Ellingham and Sandra & Randy McCullough – great prizes were provided by local sponsors along with a draw for cash prizes. This was a great lead up to the wiener roast—thanks again to the organizers.

There will be a Rock n' Dock Sale at Morgan's on Sunday Aug. 4th 2002 – starting at 8:30am -- there will be more about this in the Spring Newsletter

Gary Dimmick held a very successful "wine and cheese" Art Show at Bennett's barn in August. Gary gifted \$750 of his art sale proceeds to the Association – thank you Gary. We eagerly look forward to seeing more of your work every year.

The fireworks planned for this year had to be rescheduled for next year, as there was a fire ban in effect this past summer. Doug Marks - I am sure - will see that we have fireworks in 2002. Thanks Doug, for your help with this – sorry we could not proceed this year.

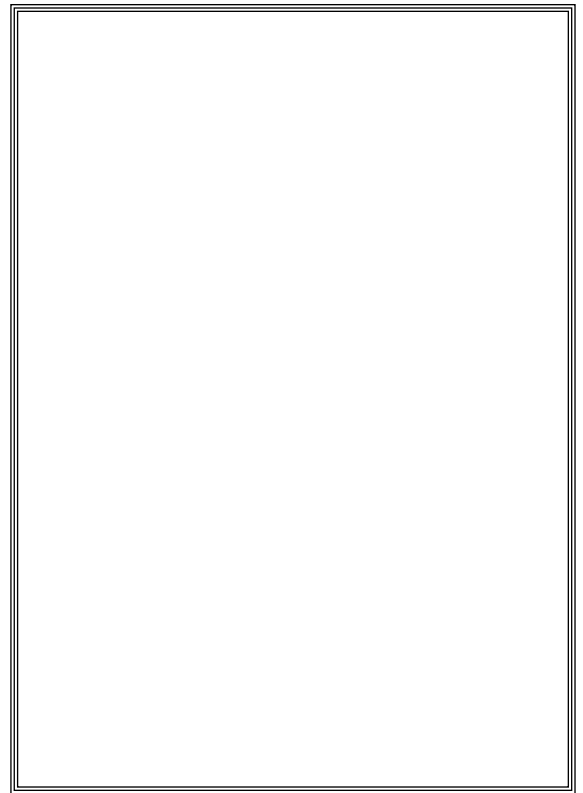
***Another year has passed and we are looking forward  
to next year at the Lake - already!  
Special thanks to all the volunteers that make our  
social events happen.***

*Dock stickers and memberships will be available at all events.*

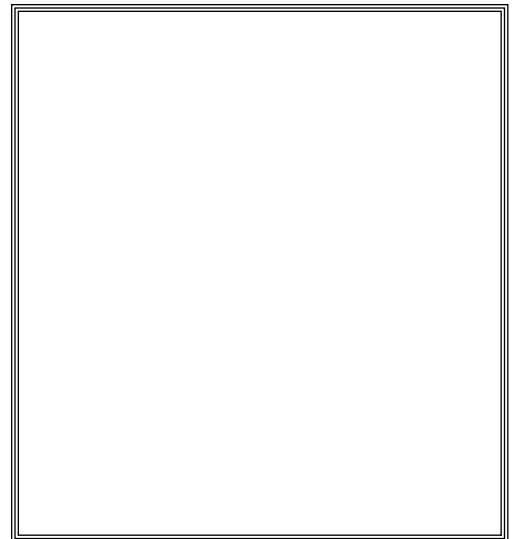
## **AUGUST CORN ROAST**

Again this year Ross and Pat Willet advertised, planned and held the July wiener roast and the August corn roast. Many look forward to, and attend these events, as their time to meet friends from around the Lake.

Thank-you Ross and Pat. You helped make everyone's summer at WWK special again this year.



**ENJOYED BY  
EVERYONE!**



### **We Love Our Sponsors!**

*Throughout this newsletter you will find advertisements placed by many local businesses. These advertisements generate needed revenue for the Association to support our goals and programs. Some advertisers are members of the Association. Please patronize them whenever you can and let them know you saw their ad in the newsletter or on the WWK website.*

The Executive



## RECOGNITION

At the 2001 Annual General Meeting we recognized three very worthy friends, lake supporters and Association supporters – **Eric Disley, Pat Murdock and Ginnie Sperry**. Each was presented with a beautiful recognition plaque that included a Gary Dimmick water-colour and beautifully scripted expression of thanks.

The service these lake citizens represented goes back to the early sixties and extends right up to the most recent past. These were most deserving recipients and again we are grateful for their presence on the lake and their involvement in our lake community.

Now we would appreciate your thoughts on who the directors should consider for recognition in 2002. Pass your suggestions along to any director. Recognition decisions for 2002 will be made at the February directors' meeting.

**Dalton Ferris**

See photos next page

## Lake Stewardship

This past spring and summer your Association participated in the "Lake Partner Program" and "The Great Ontario Dip In" – both of these programs are under the guidance and coordination of the MOE.

Sampling included water clarity on a regular basis and a few water samples (for chemical analysis) – all of which were sent to the MOE for analysis.

Morton's point members took samples with Ned Riley and Tim Inkster being the coordinators for that group. I took fairly frequent samples in the Top Lake as well. Samples were taken off Graves Point, near Caroline Island, off Sandy Hook and in the deep water off Parwood. (All samples were taken in deep water).

All data is recorded and sent to the MOE where it is analyzed, consolidated and compared with other lakes in Ontario. In the spring of 2002 an extensive report will be issued by the MOE and the results will be made public at that time. We will see how our lake is doing compared to other lakes in Ontario at that time.

We need someone to volunteer to carry out these readings in the Big Lake in 2002. We will make sure the membership is aware of our comparative results – hopefully this can be included in the spring newsletter.

Thank-you to Ned and Tim for helping with this initiative. Hopefully this can continue in 2002. That way we can start to build a data base that reflects the health status of our lake.

**Dalton Ferris**

## Comments From Members

*We Want Your Feedback!*

Any members who are interested: Please forward any suggestions and/or comments that you have about the Association.

How are we doing? OR directions that you feel the Association should be going in.

Send your comments to the Newsletter Editor: Lesley Hugill (address on back page)

## MEMBERSHIP DECLINING! COSTS INCREASING!

Lake residents purchased 248 memberships in 2001 which unfortunately was down from 282 memberships sold in 2000. This membership decline will be on the agenda of the next few directors meetings, as we need to decide what actions should be taken. Further we need cash flow throughout the year and therefore appreciate selling memberships as early as possible in the calendar year – we do not carry a line of credit and always try get by with what we have on hand.

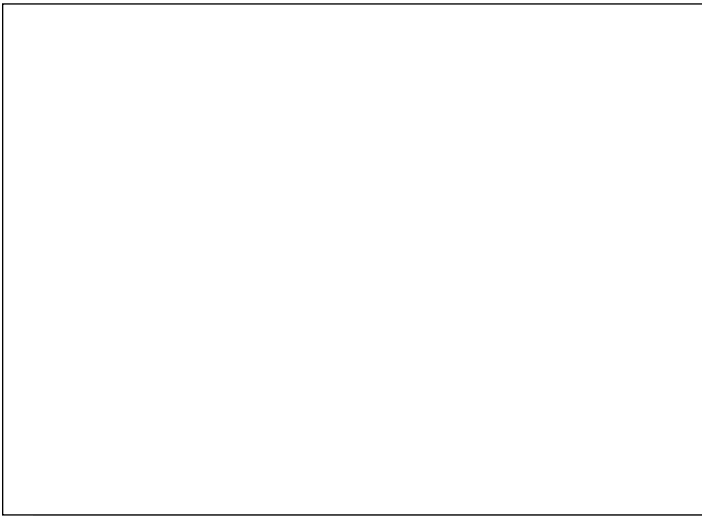
In 2001 we were very fortunate to have volunteers who helped financially with fundraising through events like the Poker Run and the Gary Dimmick Art Show, as well, we sold copies of the "Early Years" and a number of directories.

The directors will review operating costs, communication costs and communication alternatives in their quest to find cost effective ways to deliver our mandate to members. It is very likely that **the spring 2002 newsletter will only be mailed to those who purchased a membership in 2002**. Those non-members with less of an interest in what the Association is doing may receive only a one or two page flyer or be referred to the web site for information. All alternatives are on the table and we will let you know more in the spring newsletter. Your suggestions and ideas are valuable to us – so E-mail – mail or call with your input.

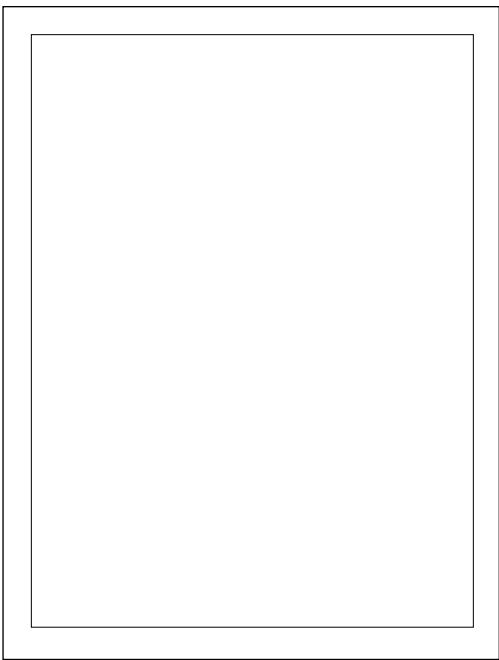
*Meanwhile, acquire your Association \$30.00 individual membership with the application form on the back of this newsletter and forward your payment to Duncan Robertson. We are hoping your response will allow us to continue to be as effective as in the past.*



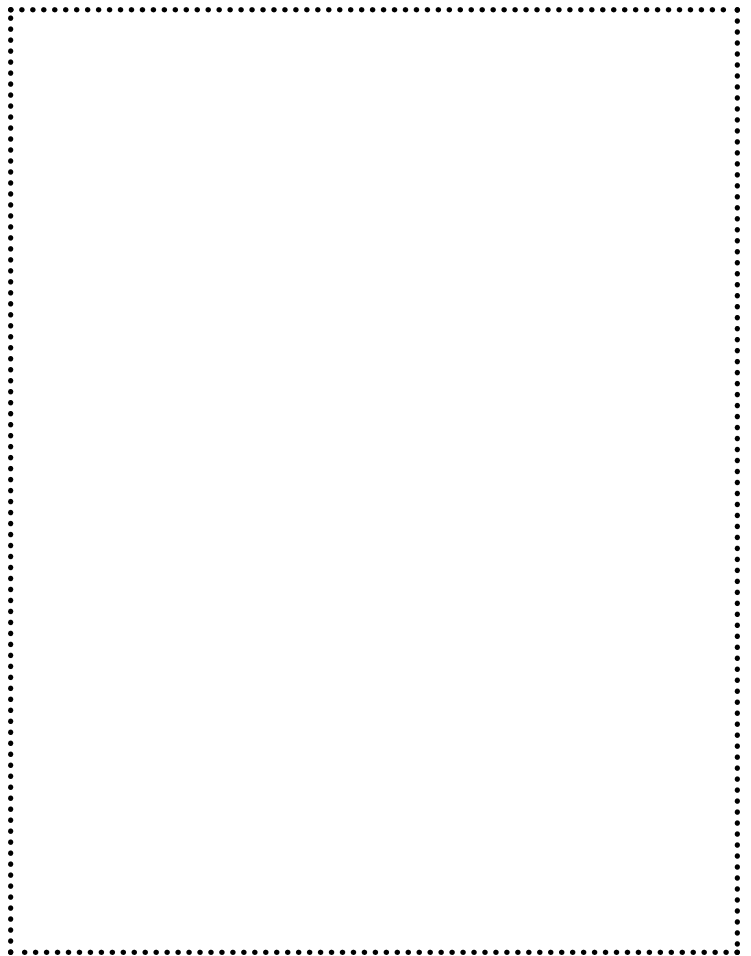
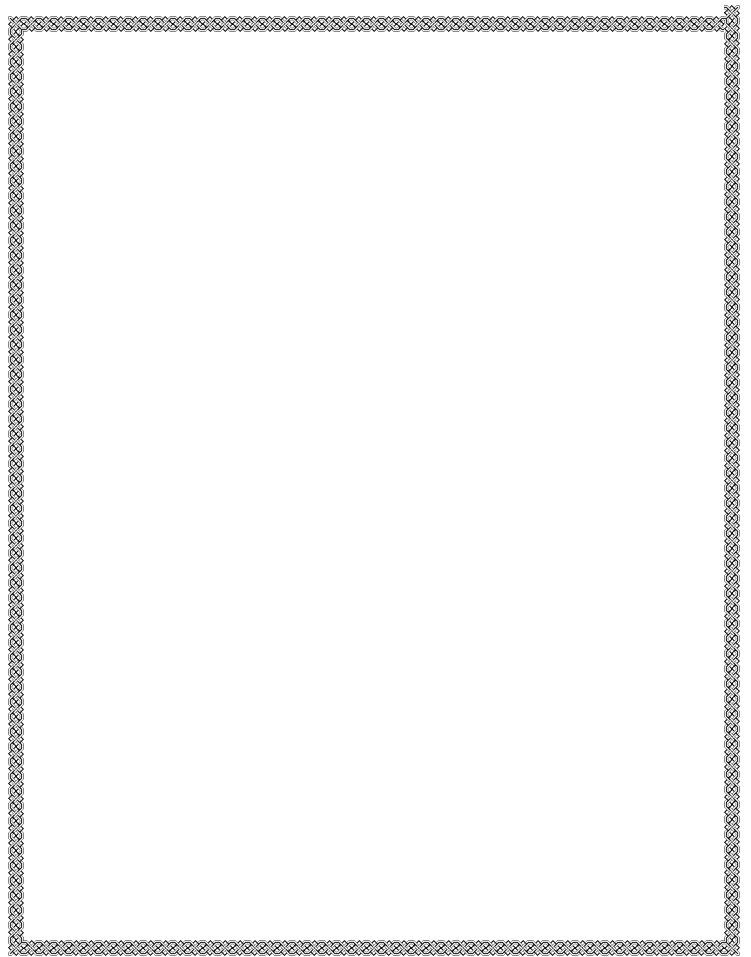
**ERIC DISLEY**



**GINNIE SPERRY**



**PAT MURDOCK**



# Nature Books & CDs

by N. Glenn Perrett

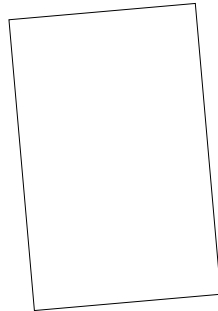
The fall and winter is a wonderful time to catch up on our reading while we await the arrival of spring and the opening of the cottage. There are many excellent books (and CDs) that provide information and respect for the natural world.

The following are a few books and CDs that are worth a look - or listen.

## ***Up North: A Guide to Ontario's Wilderness from Blackflies to the Northern Lights***

By Doug Bennet and Tim Tiner  
(McClelland & Stewart Ltd.) ISBN: 0771011164

*Up North: A Guide to Ontario's Wilderness from Blackflies to the Northern Lights* is different from



most nature reference books because it covers common species found in a more "localized" area, Ontario, as opposed to species native to a country or continent.

Besides looking at amphibians, birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, "creepy-crawlies," plants and trees, Bennet and Tiner also include sections on "The Heavens" and "Mother Earth" where such things as clouds, rainbows, northern lights, humus and soil are discussed.

## ***Up North Again: More of Ontario's Wilderness, from Ladybugs to the Pleiades***

By Doug Bennet and Tim Tiner  
(McClelland & Stewart Ltd.) ISBN: 0771011156

*Up North Again: More of Ontario's Wilderness, from Ladybugs to the Pleiades* is a "follow up" to *Up North*. This book looks at more of Ontario's animal and plant life as well as offering more interesting information on "The Heavens." Bennet and Tiner have added a "Nature Almanac" feature to this book where month-by-month nature happenings are listed.

## ***Algonquin: The Park and its People***

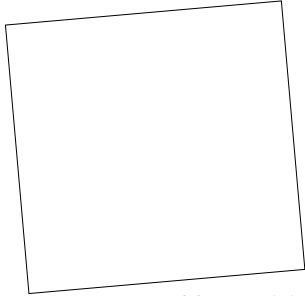
by Liz Lundell, photographs by Donald Standfield  
(McClelland & Stewart Inc.) ISBN: 0771082339

Algonquin Park is a very special place. Created in 1893, this incredibly beautiful, large provincial park has an interesting history. *Algonquin: The Park and its People* contains close to 150 photographs by Donald Standfield. These photographs alone would have made an impressive book. When you add Liz Lundell's informative text about the park and some of the many interesting people who embraced this wondrous place you are left with a truly special book.

**A Celtic Christmas Story** (CD)

Dan Gibson, Oliver Schroer  
(Solitudes Ltd. www.solitudes.com)

I like Christmas and Celtic music. I also like to listen to nature. So it should come as no surprise that *A Celtic Christmas Story* has become one of my favourite CDs. The wonderful Celtic sound applied to classic Christmas carols results in a beautiful, festive sound. However, when you add some of nature's most



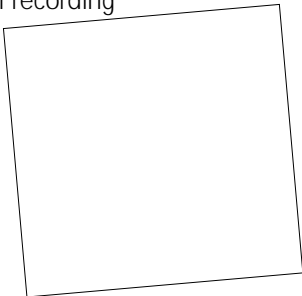
able musicians including the Canada Goose, Crow, House Finch, Blue Jay, Cardinal, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Starling and the English Sparrow you are left with a spiritual, musical celebration!

**Land of the Loon** (CD)

Dan Gibson, John Herberman  
(Solitudes Ltd. www.solitudes.com)

Those of us fortunate to spend some time on northern lakes in the summer have heard the wonderful cry of the loon. *Land of the Loon* is a beautiful recording

by Dan Gibson and John Herberman that allows you to sit back and enjoy the beckoning call of the loon, the calming

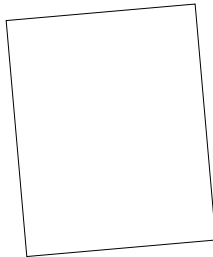


sounds of a lake combined with piano, guitar, flute and strings.

The overall effect is a wonderful compilation of songs featuring such animals as the: Common Loon, Canada Goose, Ruffed Grouse, Timber Wolf, Barred Owl, American Toad along with various other birds and frogs. So take a deep breath, close your eyes and let the beautiful music, complimented by the wondrous sounds of nature, take you to Lake Wahwashkesh!

**Watersheds: A Practical Handbook for Healthy Water**

by Gregor Gilpin Beck, illustrations by Clive Dobson  
(Firefly Books Ltd.) ISBN: 1552093301



Our species has negatively impacted nature in so many ways. Now, more than ever before, we must start protecting and restoring the

natural world. *Watersheds: A Practical Handbook for Healthy Water* contains considerable information on watersheds in particular, and the environment in general, and what we can do to protect and restore them.

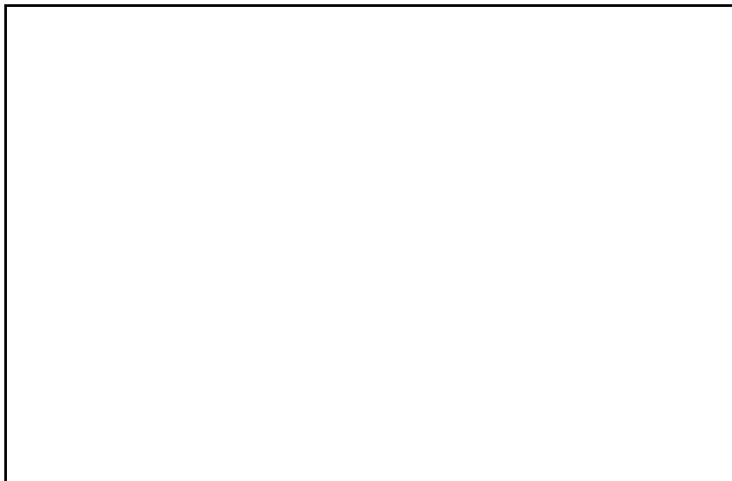
**Walden**

by Henry D. Thoreau

*Walden*, Henry D. Thoreau's famous account of living in a cabin on Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts was originally published in 1854. Thoreau's observations and thoughts pertaining to the natural world have made *Walden* one of the most respected books on nature.

Houghton Mifflin Company and Dover Publications, Inc. are two publishers that offer editions of *Walden*. The Dover edition (ISBN: 0486284956) is an unabridged paperback that is modestly priced. The Houghton Mifflin Company edition (ISBN: 0395720427) is an exquisite annotated edition (Foreword and Notes by Walter Harding) that not only contains Thoreau's famous text, but also drawings and captions from his *Journal*. A map of Walden Pond and the surrounding area in 1845 and another map showing the depths of the pond complement the text. Walter Harding's notes are informative. Even those who have read *Walden* will find this edition both informative and interesting.

*Glenn, his wife Lynn and their children Gleannan and Liam recently acquired a property on The Big Lake.*



# The Dam will be completed in 2002

At the Annual General Meeting at Bennett's barn on August 5th, the membership decided to award contract to the low cost bidder (Hydro One), conditional on FedNor funding being approved for our dam by August 27, 2001. This approach released all the other bidders to pursue other business; provided FedNor with a clear deadline; and, provided the best chance for us to complete the dam in 2001.

While FedNor was busy finalizing our approvals, our consulting engineer, Dalton Ferris and I were standing in front of the members of Whitestone Council, the Planning & Development Committee, the Public Works Committee and the Municipality's own engineer. The Municipality had asked us to attend a special meeting of Council on August 20, 2001 in Dunchurch, where we could fully answer their questions related to the new dam design, before construction had began.

As the result of our presentation, Council was very supportive and immediately sent an e-mail directly to Ms. Louise Paquette, Director-FedNor which said in part "...that Council accepted to acquire ownership of this dam upon its completion." And also "...Council is respectfully requesting that the Board of Directors provide its approval on or prior to August 27, 2001 to allow this dam to be built this year and to maximize the investment of all partners in this important community project."

*FedNor finally approves our funding...*  
All of our lobbying paid dividends! On August 21, 2001, FedNor and the Association signed an agreement (via Fax) to provide up to \$127,000 of FedNor funding to support the re-building of

our Dam. That agreement also spelled out that we could NOT make a public announcement of this award until the Honorable Andy Mitchell's office made the official announcement. That is why we could not make an announcement or put it onto our web site, but if you asked us we could tell you...so some of you knew earlier than others. As soon as the formal ceremony was completed (see the picture below), we broadcast this information to everyone for whom we had an e-mail address.

## *Ceremonial ground breaking...*

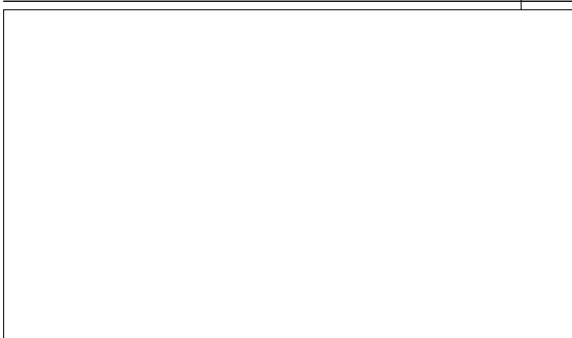
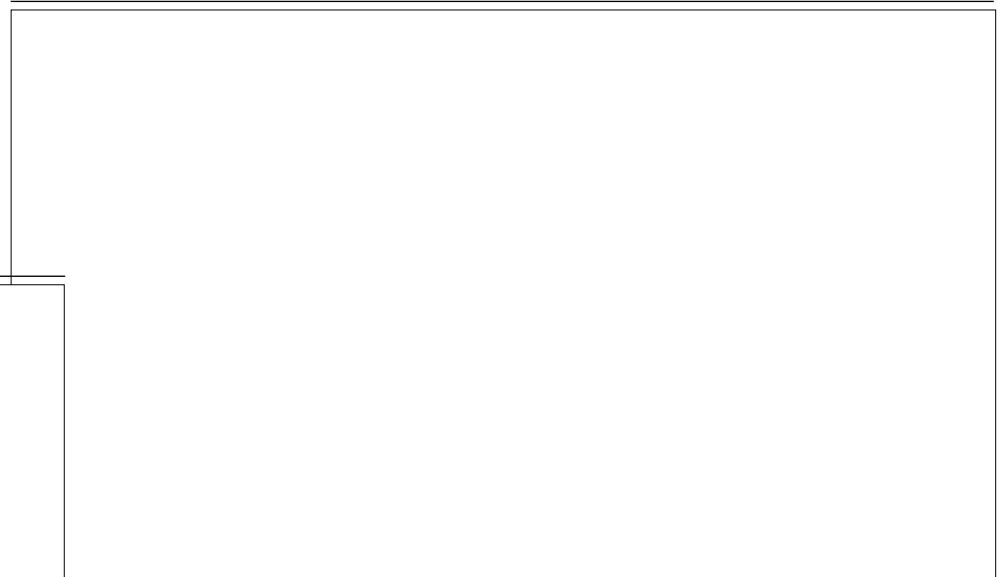
The Dam Committee and the Executive were elated to say the least, as the project was finally underway. For those of us that were at the cottage on Labour Day weekend, the sun shone brightly on us as we boated down to the dam to celebrate the start of the building of our new dam. I hosted a BBQ at our cottage that afternoon and many a glass was raised to celebrate. All the funding had been secured, the low water level allowed for excellent construction...things were perfect! That was soon to change over the next month and a half.

Hydro One finally got the construction started in mid September. This was very late in my mind, because we had notified Hydro One early

in August that they had been conditionally accepted as the low cost bidder for this project. We also had given Hydro One final notification to proceed on August 23rd. We had had ideal conditions up until then, but weather conditions can change rapidly in the fall. I was very concerned as it started to rain.

## *Hydro One request delay into 2002...*

As the rains continued, very rapidly it became clear to Hydro One, that construction of the dam could not be completed in 2001. On October 1st, Hydro One formally requested an extension of their contract to complete the rebuilding of the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Dam into 2002. Hydro One indicated in their letter that water levels on the lake and river had risen considerably due to heavy rains making construction very difficult and unsafe for their construction staff. Hydro One also indicated that no increase in contract costs would occur as a result of this re-schedule. MNR also told us that upstream lake reservoirs were at capacity. Water had to be released down the Magnetawan River towards Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh causing the Lake to rise further. The Association in consultation with RG Robinson and the Engineering Department of the MNR reviewed this situation and we agreed that it would be prudent to re-schedule construction until 2002, under these circumstances.



**September 1, 2001:** As a ceremonial start of the dam building, here we are amongst the rubble of the existing dam, excited to get going. Our feet are not wet, because the water level of the lake was 2 feet below the crest of the dam.

Front row (left to right): Wayne Lennox (past President), Lynn Lennox, Clare Ovenden, Joan Evans, Eric & Daphne's dog "Rob Roy", Jane Heggart, Andy Vurma (Vice-President)  
Back row: Dalton Ferris (President), Julia Ferris, Eric Disley (Dam Committee), Daphne Disley, Liz Camplie (Guest), Joe Zahody, Diane Ovenden (Director), Colin Camplie (Guest), George Comrie (Dam Committee), Ted Heggart (Director).

**September 21, 2001:** Andy Mitchell formally presents FedNor's contribution of \$127,000 to the Association at a ceremony in the Dunchurch Community Centre. Left to right: Dalton Ferris (President), Andy Vurma (Vice President), Andy Mitchell MP, Roger Labelle (Chief Administrative Officer), Don Carter (Reeve), Olive Duggan (Councillor), Bill Church (Councillor)

**September 21, 2001:** Dam construction had begun with the building of a temporary access road from the old dam downstream to the new dam site. Bennett's barge was being used to ferry materials and Peter Keck's backhoe was in use. Notice that due to rains, the lake level had risen over 2 feet, and was over-flowing the dam.

**October 7, 2001:** The access road had been completed and the rock has been stockpiled for the cofferdam. As the lake level continued to rise, work crews and equipment were pulled out. Construction had become too difficult and potentially unsafe to continue working.

*Agreements must now  
be changed...*

As the Association had agreements with the MNR, Hydro One and with FedNor, which committed the Association to complete the construction of the new dam in 2001, this delay meant that we had to reopen these agreements to allow the dam to be re-built during the summer of 2002. Also, the Association had been given authorizations by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Canadian Coast Guard and Ministry of Natural Resources based on construction completion in 2001. Similarly, we requested extensions to these authorizations.

*Agreements for the delay in  
construction have been  
received...*

As of this writing (November 4, 2001), agreements have been received to proceed in 2002 from our stakeholders Hydro One, MNR, FedNor and the Municipality of Whitestone. Also amended authorizations have been received from the MNR and the Canadian Coast Guard. The Department of Fisheries response is expected shortly.

So look for construction to re-start in July 2002 with completion expected in September 2002.

**Andy Vurma**

**October 8, 2001:** After closing up for the winter, some cottagers are seen here leaving the lake from the public dock at Bennett's Bay. During the following 2 weeks, it rained continuously pushing the lake level up 3+ feet (nearly to the top of the concrete abutment at the end of the dock). As George Comrie noted, "...in 53 years, I have never seen water this high in the Fall. It's basically at the typical Spring flood level."

**WAH-WASH-KESH CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION  
BUDGET FOR 2002**

INCOME	BUDGET 2002
DUES	\$7500
INTEREST	\$80
FUND RAISING	\$2200
<hr/>	
	<b>TOTAL: \$9780</b>
<b>EXPENSE PROJECTIONS BY COMMITTEE:</b>	
PHONE	\$800
COPYING	\$1700
EXECUTIVE	\$2570
INSURANCE	\$1000
STEWARDSHIP	\$1700
POSTAGE	\$1400
NEWSLETTER	\$3000
OFFICE SUPPLY	\$1000
FISH	\$1200
BANK CHARGES	\$70
OTHER	\$500
MEALS	\$250
TRAVEL	\$500
PROF. FEES	\$1500
MISC.	\$750
<hr/>	
	<b>TOTAL: \$8970</b>
<b>PROJECTED SURPLUS:</b>	<b>\$810</b>

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416-447-4587 (Toronto),  
705-389-2922 (cottage)***

THE PROPOSED 2002 BUDGET FOR THE WAH-WASH-KESH DOCK COMMITTEE IS INCLUDED AS A SEPARATE BUDGET AND WILL BE HANDLED BY THAT GROUP.

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***Boating Reminder***

**The deadline to obtain the required Boat Safety Operator Card is September 15, 2002. You must get your required testing done.**

**This applies to 'All operators of craft under 4m in length, including personal watercraft'.**

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www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca  
for more information**