

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

- FALL 2002 NEWSLETTER -



The Dam Will Cost \$100,000 More...

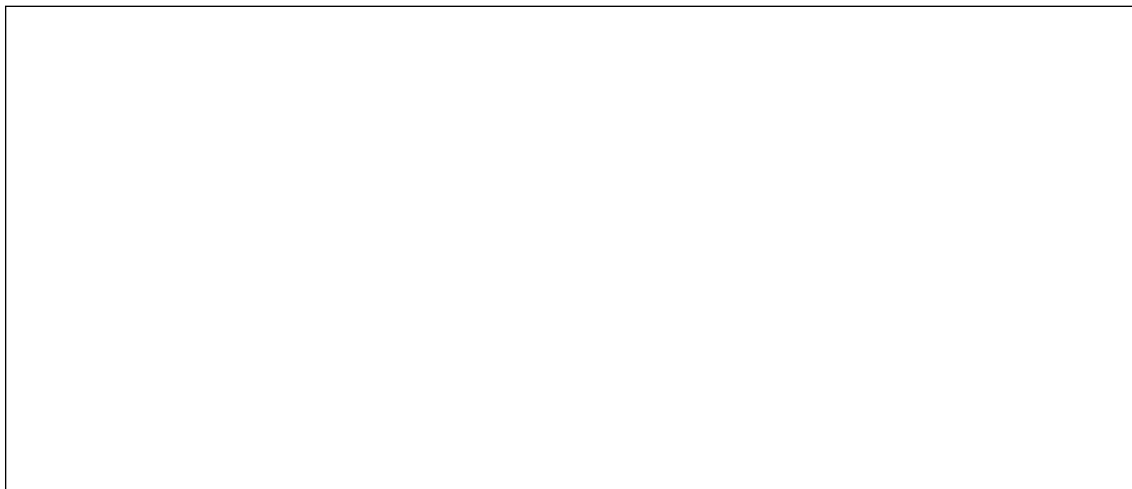
During the clearing of the rock rubble from the bottom of the river in August, it was discovered that the bedrock profile under the site of the new dam was much deeper than anticipated. As a result, our consultant instructed the contractor not to continue to excavate to bedrock, but to construct a portion of the proposed concrete dam on earth in order to minimize construction costs and maintain the timing to within the parameters of the contract. Our consultant calculated that the concrete volume would be nearly double the estimated tender quantity. In addition, a watertight bentonite liner would also need to be installed on the upstream face of the dam and river bottom to prevent leakage below the dam through the earth.

These modifications have not changed the overall design, appropriate safety factors, performance or life expectancy of the dam. However, the cost of construction of the dam may now increase by \$100,000! The final cost of the dam is now being negotiated with the contractor.

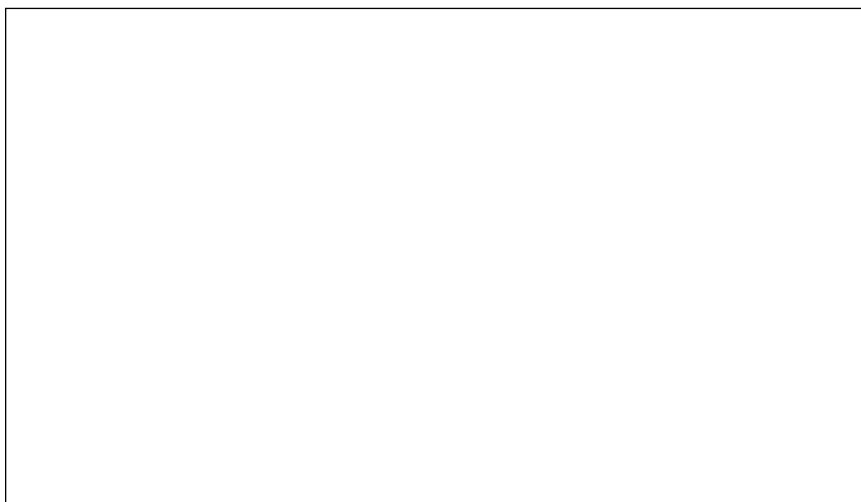
The Association identified this shortfall to both the MNR and to FedNor in August asking them for additional funding. To meet the anticipated shortfall in funding, the Association has offered an additional \$10,000 as its contribution.

Andy Vurma

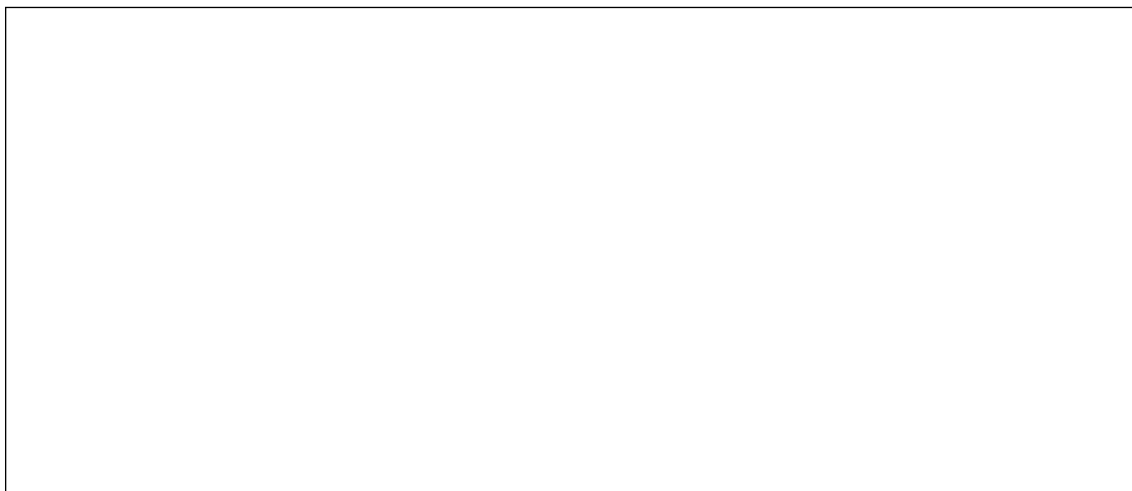
How The New Dam Was Built



▲ 1. In July the existing dam was breached to lower the level of the lake by some 2 - 3 feet



←
2. The existing dam was then filled in and its height raised to form a cofferdam



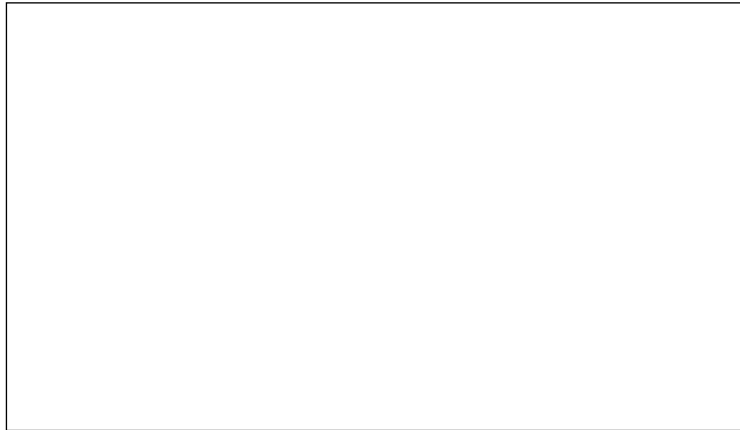
▲ 3. Plastic sheeting was installed to prevent water from leaking through the cofferdam



▲ 4. *Materials are on site and the pumping of the water continues to create a dry construction area*



▲ 6. *Reinforcing bars are installed and everything is ready for the concrete to be poured*



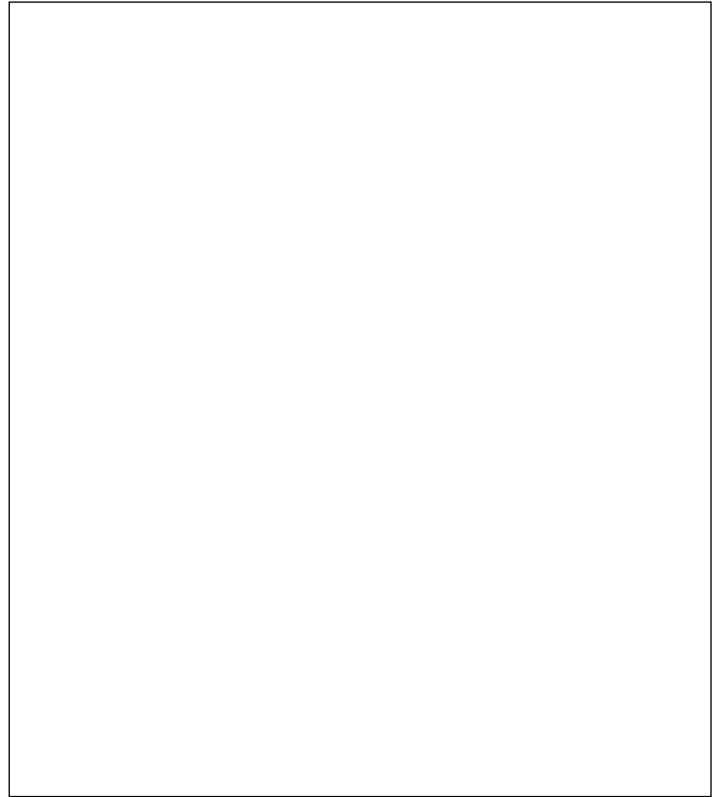
▲ 8. *A waterproof liner was placed upstream on the river bottom to ensure that water did not "tunnel" under the new dam over time*



▲ 9. *The new dam was completed in mid September. On Oct 13th, the water level of the lake was still 4 inches below the crest of the new dam*



▲ 5. *Forming of the new dam begins*



▲ 7. *The helicopter took 2 weeks to pour the concrete for the new dam*

▲ 10. *The "low flow notch" in the new dam ensures that water continues to flow downstream, even during low water levels*

Association & Lake WWK Reflections

The annual meeting seems like a long time ago but really it was only about 3 months ago. The directors really appreciate the support demonstrated by members through attendance at the annual meeting. I would estimate that between 125-150 members attended.

The meeting was too long although all agenda items seemed to be important—next year we will get the meeting over by 11:45 or so—that gives us 2 hours plus if we start at 9:30am. The minutes of the annual meeting are included with this newsletter mailing so you can review all the things we covered if you happened not to attend.

On October 9th we held a directors meeting by conference call and I can report that the executive for 2002/2003 was elected as follows: *President*: Dalton Ferris, *Vice President*: Andy Vurma, *Treasurer*: Duncan Robertson and *Secretary*: Terry Tweed. My special thanks to all directors for contributing to our conservation association by agreeing to serve. This is a busy and involved group of directors and we are most fortunate to have the skills and abilities that these directors bring to the challenges that we face as a conservation association. Many thanks to Ken Taylor for serving as a director for the past several years. Ken worked hard to improve our fishery and still wants to serve on the fish committee. Ken lived on the Lake year round and as a result we benefited from Ken's input at our directors meetings.

I welcome John Nelson as a new director and already have him loaded down with several projects—John is spearheading the *Lake Clean Up project* among other things. John has been enjoying WWK for many years and can contribute significantly right from the get-go. Thanks John—the new phone booth at Bennett's store looks great.

As you are now aware many of our association resources are aimed at Lake Stewardship:

- thus the dam project
- thus the fish enhancement efforts
- thus the Lake Partner Program
- thus our input to the planning process
- thus information on proper septic beds
- thus our concern for changes at the shore line
- thus endangered species info
- thus education of special Flora on our Lake
- thus info on boat motors that reduce pollution.

Many of these topics will be addressed in this newsletter—so read on.

We closed our cottage on October 21—a beautiful sunny day with fall colours in full bloom. In the forest the trees were still well leafed—much more than in 2001—this will be an extra challenge for moose hunters. The hunters were streaming into the Lake—and I know Kenny was busy from dawn to dusk hauling hunters here and there for the one week moose season.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and that it stirs up wonderful memories of Lake WWK and its many great people

Dalton Ferris

Membership Fee Increased to \$35 Dock Permit Fee Increased to \$30

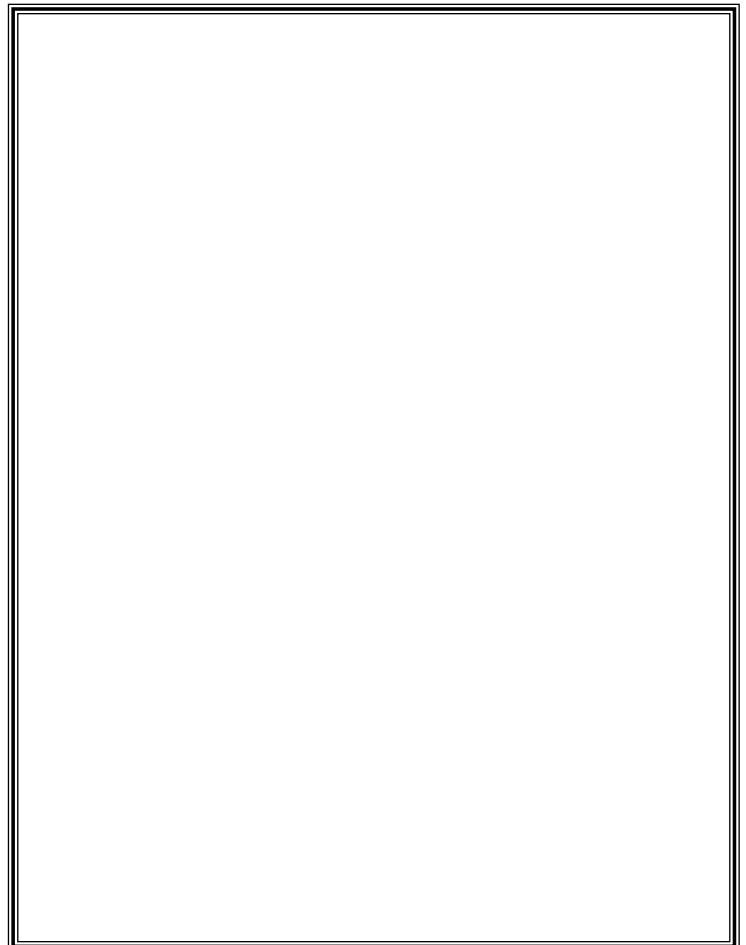
Our insurance costs have increased from \$1000 to \$3000 annually. We have tried for 2 months now to resource our insurance and so far have found no insurance company willing to quote on our insurance needs. We are paying our insurance monthly as we seek alternatives. Many of you have no doubt encountered significant insurance cost increases with your personal insurance. I guess insurance companies have lost money on their portfolios and so are trying to make up for that loss by increasing premiums

The Association directors met on Nov 27th to discuss Association business and at that meeting decided to increase membership dues to \$35 per person and to increase dock permits to \$30 each—effective now. This level of increase will generate \$2000 of additional revenue—equal to the increased cost of insurance.

Membership dues were increased in 1997 and dock permits were initiated in 1999 when we signed a stewardship agreement with the MNR to look after both public docks. I know this is not good news but we have held the line for 5 years and at the same time increased revenue through offering good value, fund raising and significantly growing our membership numbers.

Thank you for your understanding and I hope this newsletter encourages wonderful thoughts and conversations about our beautiful Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh.

Dalton Ferris, Association President



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.

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Dock Committee

I would like to thank the committee members, Rod Anderson, Ross Willet and John Kormos for their time and effort towards maintaining and improving the docks. This year I am pleased to have John Nelson join our committee. His engineering background will be well appreciated.

As outlined at the recent AGM, sticker sales reached 105, an increase of 22 over the prior year. The dock fund balance is now at \$2,442.00.

Given the improvements over the past year, our docks at present are in an excellent state of repair. Low water over the summer did cause damage to the hinge on the Bennetts Bay dock. This should be one of the few dock maintenance projects for the upcoming year.

As a committee we are in the process of drafting a 1 to 2 year improvement plan. Issues relating to the dock loading area, the docks themselves, the boat launch and the shore anchoring will all be reviewed. We will be looking at the current situations and begin deriving an action plan to reach our target plans. This analysis will help determine what monetary resources and skill sets are required.

The Municipality has already had funds it received from the MNR allocated to specific site improvements. In the near future, as the Municipality of Whitestone becomes more involved it is important that we review and clarify the responsibilities of owners and the maintenance.

Ted Heggart

Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy

On July 16, 1999 the Ontario Government released the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*, a broad land use approach to the planning and management of much of the Crown lands in central and northern Ontario. A major part of the strategy was a government commitment to the biggest expansion of provincial parks and conservation reserves in Ontario's history. Ontario identified its intent to add 378 new areas to its protected areas system.

The MNR is in the process of establishing these 378 new protected areas across the province. You will recall that the Island Lake Forest and Barrens Conservation Reserve along

the north shore of Lake WWK was the first protected area designated and defined in our area.

Currently the MNR's Parry Sound District is consulting on the boundary refinement of 4 recommended sites: 2 new conservation reserves and 2 new provincial parks. The Association was forwarded specifics on 3 of these areas and we responded with positive written comments. We are asked to comment on those that are on or near our Lake. Five other sites in our district are also being planned and I expect we will receive that information as well. This information is available for anyone at the Parry Sound MNR Office. Following is a definition of the sites that we have commented on.

Magnetawan Provincial Park (316)

This proposed 398 hectare park starts near the new dam and straddles both sides of the river and follows its branches as it meanders to Georgian Bay. It is linked to the Island Lake Forest & Barrens Conservation reserve and 3 other sites: The Nagonish Provincial Park (P317), the WWK Naiscoot Conservation Reserve (C326) and the Naiscoot Forest Conservation Reserve (C116).

Wah-Wash-Kesh Naiscoot Conservation Reserve (C326)

This 1877 hectare reserve includes Maple Lake, Bolger Lake, Miskokway Lake and Naiscoot Lake. We asked that this reserve also include Wolf Lake as it was not clear on the maps that we viewed. This is linked to the Magnetawan Provincial Park as indicated above.

The Naiscoot Forest Conservation Reserve (C116)

This 378 hectare forest reserve is not in our municipality but is connected to the above parks and reserves and is southwest of our area.

Public comment was sought through public meetings but we were unable to attend those meetings. If anyone needs further information just contact Dorthy Shaver at The Parry Sound MNR office at 1-705-773-4231.

Dalton Ferris

Our Newsletter Advertisers

It is important that we seasonal residents support those advertisers who support our newsletter. Our newsletter pays for itself annually through advertising revenue.

This past spring Tim Stiles, Rich and JB updated our old cottage—we wanted to get it in better shape for the next generation—we also wanted peace and quiet out at the point. All of our family members are very pleased with the outcome—Tim and the boys did a great job and if anyone wants to see it you are welcome anytime.

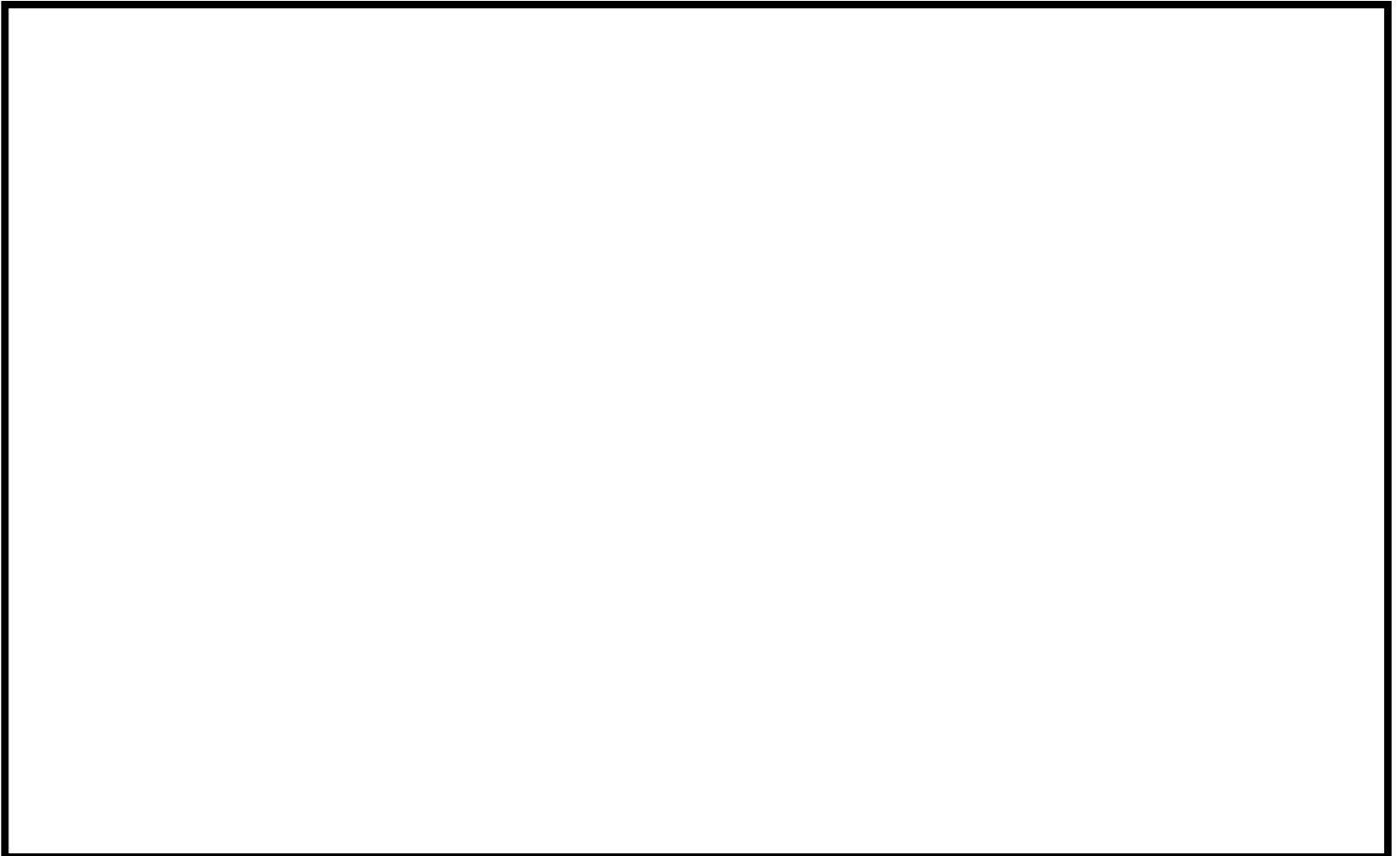
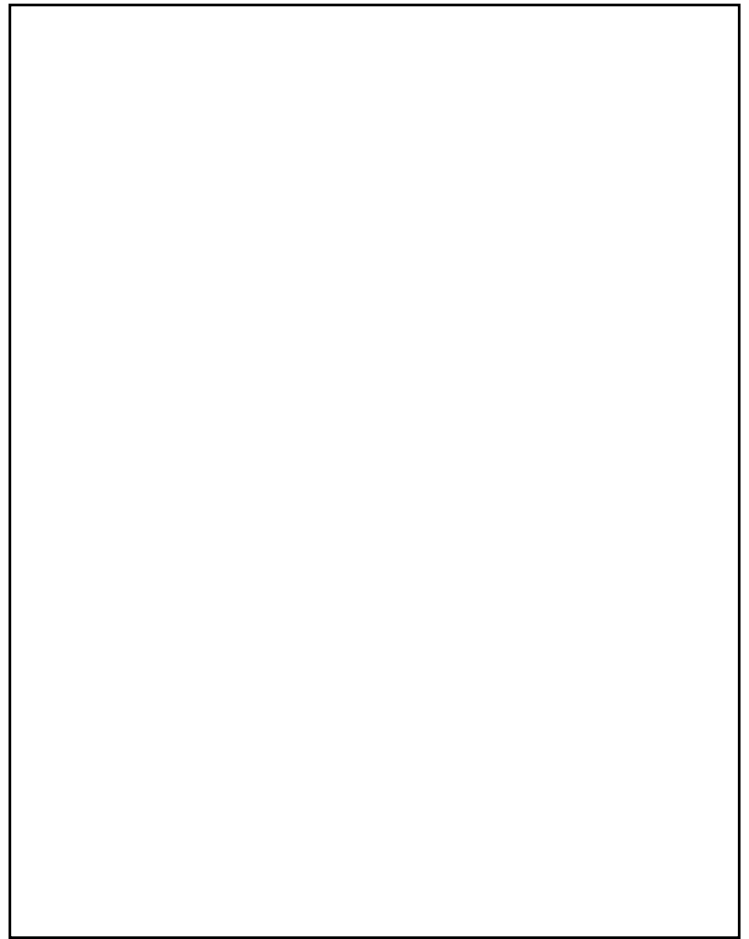
While the septic was being installed by Ed and John, I knew I did not need to be around because we both were confident that high quality work would be done.

We bought most construction supplies from the Home Building Centre in Magnetawan. All through the process they offered great service both on deliveries and with in store service. They had extra people on for the cottaging season and were open Sundays as well. They willingly sent a truck to Barrie to pick up a counter top that we needed before the July 1st weekend. Service here was exceptionally good in every respect.

Yes, and how many have had dinner at the "Bridge"—what a great and tasteful menu. It is a great place to take visitors—they will really be impressed.

We are fortunate to have such great service suppliers nearby and at the same time supporting our newsletter so strongly

Dalton and Julia Ferris



On Effluence and Affluence:

READ AND
SAVE THOUSANDS

At stakeholders' meetings conducted by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (and attended by FOCA, of course) professionals in the septic system industry have recommended that effluent filters be made a standard part of all new septic systems. Although this is not yet a legal requirement, FOCA is encouraging all members with septic systems to consider the installation of an effluent filter. The good news is that effluent filters can be installed cheaply even on existing systems, not just new ones.

As explained to us by Doug Joy of the Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre at the University of Guelph, effluent filters can potentially save you thousands of dollars. As your tank begins to accumulate solids, more solids will try to leave the tank. Without an effluent filter these solids, and the associated biological loadings, will go into the absorption bed, and will ultimately lead to earlier failure of the bed. If, on the other hand, the system has an effluent filter, the filter will trap the solids, and the slowing down of drains and toilets will alert the homeowner to the fact that it's time for the filter to be cleaned. The cleaning and pumping cost is around \$100. Compare that

with the cost of replacing the absorption bed, which could be in excess of \$15,000. More importantly, the homeowner with the effluent filter will have avoided the surface and ground-water contamination resulting from surface ponding and insufficient treatment in the absorption bed should it fail. The approximate cost of the installation of an effluent filter and associated access risers is \$300—or less if they are installed on a brand new system right at the start. This seems a small price to pay compared to the financial and environmental costs of a failed absorption bed. So, you see, dealing with effluence does not require affluence.

By Sally Gillis, Director, Environmental Committee
Courtesy of FOCA

Bell Canada's Service Improvement Plan (SIP)

In September 2002, Bell Canada officially launched a four-year program that will make basic phone service available to many "unserved" areas in Ontario and Québec where costs to provide service are unusually high. Bell will also improve existing radio-telephone services for some customers. Several communities will also be provided with the ability to access an Internet Service Provider (ISP) via a local call.

The main beneficiaries will be owners of permanent and seasonal premises in unserved areas where the total cost for Bell to extend

service does not exceed \$25,000 per premise. Residential and business property owners who opt for service under SIP are generally only required to pay up to \$1,000 (plus applicable taxes). Potential customers in areas where the total cost to provide service exceeds \$25,000 per premise are not included as part of the initial SIP schedule. Installment payment plans are available for residential customers requesting service under SIP.

According to the Bell Canada SIP roll-out schedule provided to the Canadian Radio-Television & Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), the company has included Wah-Wash-Kesh Lake on the list of localities to be served in 2003. Bell Canada's roll-out schedule may be found on the CRTC website at: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/PartVII/eng/2002/8638/c12-72.htm>. You can also check www.bell.ca/sip for information from Bell Canada's website.

The Association has provided Bell Canada with a computer file listing the cottage locations, names, and local and home addresses from our database to help them contact people who might want to order service.

In general, Bell expects to serve a locality within three months of receiving a customer's \$200 non-refundable advance payment plus applicable taxes (following notification that their locality is scheduled to be served). In special cases requiring the use of wireless technologies, roll-out could take up to a year. Preliminary indications from Bell Canada are that wireless technology (not cellular phones) will be used. No details about the specific schedule are yet available.

Bell will be contacting many potential customers directly by mail. In addition, Bell's dedicated SIP customer care team can be reached by calling a toll free number or writing to Bell. Contact Bell weekdays, from 9:00am-5:00pm at 1-866-713-7496, or by mail at Bell Canada, 100 Wynford Dr., Floor 5 Don Mills, Ontario, M3C 1K4, Attn: SIP.

John Nelson, Bennett's Bay

Emergency Helicopter Landing on Our Lake

As discussed back at the Annual Meeting, if there is an emergency on the Lake there would be a significant elapse of time before the injured could arrive at a hospital. Emergency crews need to drive to the lake, take a boat to the injured, then transport the injured by boat and ambulance to the helicopter landing pad in Ardbeg. Valuable lifesaving time may be lost during this long process. To decrease that travelling time Wah-Wash-Kesh can get an emergency helicopter landing pad.

The landing area needs to be 100 feet by 100 feet of relatively level grass and/or rock. Obviously the area needs to be clear of trees, shrubs, hydro wires, etc. We need your suggestions as to possible sites for this landing area. If on private land we need the owners permission. If on crown land we need the MNR's permission to clear some trees. The most important aspect is that the site be fairly level.

When an area is decided upon we will need to clear it. Once a year a small group of volunteers would be needed to check the area and clear away any overgrown brush. The landing pad could only be used in the spring/summer /fall season, as a winter landing site would have extra requirements.

We could also make the landing area accessible at nighttime, with the use of special reflective cones. The Fire Chief mentioned that they may have an extra set of cones laying around. If they do not have any extra there is a cost of approximately \$5000.00 for new cones. This can be discussed further at the next annual meeting.

Herb Schmidt of "Absolute Peace & Quiet" has offered his property—as a "good neighbour" gesture to The Lake WWK Community. We may be able to set it up on his golf course. Whichever site is considered it must be approved by appropriate government agencies. If anyone has any other suggestions of possible sites please contact an Executive Member or Newsletter Editor Lesley Hugill.

Lesley Hugill

Official Plan

Whitestone – November 27, 2002

Not much new to report on OP although it is progressing through the input stage. As you may be aware the Association provided a written response to the draft plan at the August 24 2002 public meeting and in the spring of 2001. I feel that the Association has been listened to by the Whitestone Planning & Development Committee and so I am looking forward to the reviewing the latest draft OP.

The Municipal Planning & Development Committee has met numerous times and is in the

process of incorporating input into a new draft plan—as at Nov 27/2002 they are still awaiting input from Municipal Affairs & Housing. I know Council wants to approve the draft OP this year—after that there is 90 days for input before final approval by Municipal Affairs & Housing. All of those recorded as attending the Public Meeting In August 2002 will get a copy of the new draft OP—I think.

Once the OP is in place then the very detailed process of developing a Comprehensive Zoning by-law gets under way. The bylaws are to assure that the OP policy is honoured in the reality of day to day planning within the municipality.

The very important matter of elevations is still an open issue. As a refresher the municipality has for the past 3 years used 229.44 m as the elevation that all cottage openings

must be above—knowing that the 1998 flood was around 228.3 m and the flood of the late 1920's was slightly higher but induced by a log jam. We have been lobbying to have the 229.44 m elevation reduced—so better use can be made of

ones property. Well as many are aware the MNR as part of the Mag Flow Modelling have indicated a 230.5m elevation. This range of elevation numbers is still being debated—I understand it is likely that 228.3m will be used in the new OP. Once the OP draft includes 228.3 then the input and or challenges can proceed anew until a resolution is determined—the ultimate resolution may be through an OMB hearing

I guess the summary is that a lot of work has been done but there is much more to do—so we will have I hope a good update in the spring newsletter—meanwhile watch the Whitestone Web Site and or call the Municipality. As of Nov 27, 2002 the web master Maureen Kowal is busy adding the latest OP draft to the Whitestone web site and it will likely be there by the time you read this

Dalton Ferris

Bequeathing The Family Cottage

*Puts Pressure on Inventory
and Family Relations*

Duking it out on the dock may not have been what mom and dad intended for their kids when passing down the family vacation home, but 22% of recreational property owners say feuding over the cottage is likely to happen if they give it to family. Recreational property buyers are even less optimistic as 34% say that passing down a vacation home will likely lead to family problems, according to Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Trilon Financial Corporation.

The skepticism may be warranted given that 97% of recreational property owners say that they currently share their vacation home with other family members, and, of those, 11% report that shared use has already caused a family rift.

The Royal LePage Recreational Property Report 2002 comprises a poll of cottage owner and buyer attitudes (conducted by Ipsos-Reid) and a market analysis of trends, activity, and prices in recreational property markets across Canada.

"The shortage of recreational property, the lack of new development, and rising property values are motivating owners to bequeath their vacation home to family. This trend is perpetuating the cycle of low listings, which means even more challenging conditions lie ahead for recreational property buyers and some planning considerations for family relations," said Sherry Chris, vice president, network services, Royal LePage Real Estate Ltd.

Chris added: "Given that the poll findings

indicate 81% of recreational property owners will bestow the vacation home to family, families should contemplate succession planning to develop a strategy that will minimize strife, making the cottage enjoyable for generations to come."

"Families who intend on keeping the property in the family should explore a range of options to ensure everyone's needs are met" said Catherine A. Roberts, senior partner, Private Client Group, McMillan Binch. "For example, having all the children as joint owners may seem appealing but this approach often creates much discord among siblings once the parents are gone. There is a big difference between parents deciding whether the cottage roof should be replaced and four children at different stages of life trying to reach and agreement on it."

Roberts proposes other alternatives when including the family cottage in a will. The simplest method might be to provide that the cottage is sold and an option to purchase be given to the children. That way, any child or children who want to buy it can do so. The proceeds of the sale can then be divided among the children in accordance with the will.

Another option is to have the cottage held in trust (either a testamentary trust under a will, or a trust established in the lifetime of the parents) for a specified length of time, for example until the last child dies. The trustees would determine who will use the cottage and when, and who will pay the expenses. One should consider having a separate fund to finance cottage maintenance expenses, and as well, one should also consider the ongoing cost of administration of a trust of this nature.

Currently, 9% of Canadians own a cottage and, of those, only 2% have exclusive use of

the property. In reality, sharing the recreational property is a common practice. When asked, "How many members of your extended family, such as parents, children, nieces and nephews use your cottage?" 64% of the owners report from 1-10 members, 23% say from 11-20 members and 10% say more than 20 members.

The high percentage (81%) of owners who say they will be passing their property on to the next generation will also mean grief for those looking to purchase a recreational property. Overall, demand is being driven by baby boomers approaching their vacation home buying years, many purchasing year-round recreational properties to eventually retire there to full-time. Other factors include lower interest rates and milder weather, which sustained activity through winter into spring, and stock market volatility, which prompted people to redirect non-income funds into secondary property. The strong American dollar continues to make Canadian recreational property an affordable, attractive option for United States residents.

Supply is struggling to keep pace with demand in many recreational markets. Seller's market conditions were reported in recreational areas in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia. Barring a major economic downturn, tight conditions will likely continue. In the next three years, only 13% of recreational property owners report that they are likely to sell their recreational property, while 6% of Canadians plan on purchasing one.

The supply crunch has pushed the boundaries of the recreational market to remote areas, and has also led to the trend of 'fractional' ownership. Fractional ownership is an afford-



able option, which allows several people to buy into the shared use of a property, each receiving equal holiday time every year. It's a practical solution for those who will spend limited time at a vacation home. The trend is growing in popularity, especially in Big White, Cranbrook, and Kimberley, British Columbia, and Collingwood, Ontario.

ADDITIONAL POLL FINDINGS

- When it comes to new development, 38% of recreational property owners are in favour of new development in the area in which their property is located, up slightly from 36% who favoured development in 2001.
- Tight market conditions may have swayed the opinion of prospective purchasers, as 50% of buyers report that they are in favour of development in the areas in which they are searching while only 47% were in favour last year.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Affordable recreational property priced under \$100,000 can still be found in Brackley Beach, Cavendish, Rustico, & South Shore, PEI; Liverpool, Lunenburg, & South Shore-Bridgewater, NS; Deer Park & Ocean Pond, NF; Shediac, Cap Pelee, Cocagne, & Richubucto

River, NB; Bromont, Glen, Sutton, & Owl's Head, PQ; Haliburton, ON; Lac du Bonnet, MB, & Kimberley, BC.

- For those who can afford a recreational home priced at more than \$250,000, hot spots include Bayfield, Collingwood, Grand Bend/St. Joseph, Gravenhurst mainland, Lake Joseph, Lake Muskoka, Lake Rousseau, Orillia, Port Carling, Port Franks, & Sutton, ON; Canmore, AB; and Cranbrook, Big White, & Kimberley, BC.
- A growing number of Europeans are purchasing Canadian recreational property, namely in Shediac, NB; Lake Brome PQ; Canmore, AB; and Kimberley, BC.
- Americans continue to shop for recreational property in Brackley Beach, Cavendish, Rustico, & South Shore, PEI; Liverpool, Lunenburg, & South Shore-Bridgewater, NS; Lake Brome, Lake Memphremagog, & Mont Tremblant, PQ; Collingwood, Ganonoque, Kingston, Haliburton, Honey Harbour, & Rideau Lake, ON; Lake Winnipeg, MB; Canmore, AB; and Big White, Cranbrook, & Kimberley BC.
- The trend of recreational property owners renting out their vacation home for part of the

year is prevalent in Liverpool, Lunenburg, & South Shore-Bridgewater, NS; Shediac, NB; Bala, Bracebridge, Bruce Peninsula, Gravenhurst, Lake Joseph, Lake Rosseau, Midland, Muskoka, Port Carling, Tobermory, & Warton, ON; and Sylvan Lake, AB.

The poll portion of the Royal LePage Recreational Property Report was conducted by Ipsos-Reid between March 15-28, 2002. The poll is based on a proportionately representative randomly selected sample of 4,002 Canadians. A total of 576 Canadian respondents qualified for the study, yielding a margin of error of +/- 4.2%, 95% of the time. All results presented in this summary have been weighted to ensure a proportionate representation of the Canadian population.

To download the complete report go to www.royalpage.ca and click on press releases. For more information, contact: Michael Miller, Manager National Communications, Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd., mmiller@royalpage.ca

News release courtesy of Royal LePage Real Estate Services, Courtesy of FOCA

Membership Committee

For all who missed this committee's presentation at the annual general meeting in August, the goals for the membership committee are to increase association membership and expand the base of the committee. The steps that we plan to use to achieve these goals are by the spring of 2003 to launch a new single sheet membership form readily available at local stores, water springs, dumps, parking lots and on our lake association web site, and to have ready for distribution a lake brochure. All along we will be revising and updating the master list of all members and striving to attract new members and encourage lapsed members to come back. Aiming for the summer of 2003 we plan to have a "know your neighbour program" and to establish the value of a neighbourhood watch program. The committee is researching the need for Lake merchandise for sale (using same design as the Association decal for t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, mugs etc.). Planning in advance for 2004 we are looking at establishing a welcome package for new members to include past, present and future performances of the association, infor-

mation on "all about our lake" including amount of shoreline, kind of fish in the lake, flora and fauna, characteristics of the area etc.

The membership committee can always use volunteers, as the committee is responsible for the Lake Association newsletter twice-yearly mailings. If you are in the Niagara Region and can donate no more than an hour or two to help with the mailings please contact me by phone or email. Any creative ideas or information on the lake would be greatly appreciated for the brochure and new member welcome package.

The total membership for 2002 is 323 (2001 was 248, 2000 was 282).

One last item, if you know of anybody new to the lake, could you please pass along the name/address and cottage location so we can update accordingly and introduce the Lake Association by way of the newsletter to these people. Either email, write or call myself or one of the directors.

Diane Ovenden

Welcome To Morton's Members

Over the past few years the Morton's Point Board of Directors has been encouraging its members to join the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association. In fact this past spring the directors moved a motion of support for their members to join our Association. Recently at the Morton's Point AGM the members voted a further motion of support for the Association and as a result each will receive an Association membership application mailed out by their secretary.

As President of the Lake WWK Conservation Association I am most pleased to welcome all Morton's members to our Association and hope everyone follows thru and joins. The larger we are the better able we are to get things done for the Lake when we are lobbying on behalf of the Lake. Over the past few years I have come to know many at Morton's and do value those friendships and look forward to sitting and admiring their beautiful view of Lake WWK—and maybe even having a beer or two.

Dalton Ferris

Fish Enhancement Committee

The pickerel spawning bed rehabilitation work that was scheduled for this summer could not be started because of the great fluctuation in water heights experienced during the dam construction. The rehabilitation work is scheduled for next summer and volunteers will be required for this project. *Sign up early and beat the rush!*

We are hoping to get more pickerel eggs and fry for next Spring, hopefully again free from the Almaquin Pickerel Association.

Synoptic trap-net surveys were done on WWK between July 15 and August 1, 2002 by the MNR. A full report has been prepared by Eric McIntyre who kindly sent me a copy. Thanks Eric.

The purpose of the survey was to assess the status of the near-shore fish community and in particular the walleye and smallmouth bass populations. The "catch per unit effort by weight" for all species in WWK is below the area average. This survey was also compared to a similar survey done in 1987. The comparison shows that walleye abundance has decreased significantly, smallmouth bass have decreased somewhat, and northern pike have increased significantly. This survey also confirms the presence in the lake of black crappies which is seen as a negative development which will likely impact a number of near-shore populations including walleye. Thirty-three trapnet sets caught in the two-week period 153 brown bullheads, 131 smallmouth bass, 101 walleye, 80 rock bass, 44 northern pike, 21 pumpkinseed, 16 black crappie, 11 common white suckers, 6 largemouth bass and 4 cisco. The net result of the survey indicates a "stressed walleye population". From all the smallmouth bass caught, the average length was 33.1 cm (13") and average weight was 587 grams (1.3 pounds).

The MNR rates WWK in comparison to other lakes in the area. WWK is rated as "C+" or slightly above average. Unfortunately this is in comparison to the 1987 rating of "well above average".

The results of the creel surveys will be published during the winter. Anyone wishing to see a complete copy of the report, please contact me.

Don Comrie

Are Golf Courses & Wilderness Areas Compatible?

I used to be an avid golfer. As a teenager, one summer I played up to ten rounds of golf a week. I enjoyed everything about the game; the challenges, the exercise, playing different courses, even practicing with plastic golf balls in the yard.

When I learned about a golf course being developed on Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh I was a little surprised. One of the main reasons why we acquired a spot on The Big Lake is because of the pristine and rugged nature of the lake and its environs. Manicured fairways, tees, greens and golfers wearing tacky "golf clothes" would seem out of place on Lake Wahwashkesh. Besides the lake's appearance, would a golf course result in other changes?

Potential Impacts

The creation of a golf course will result in numerous environmental impacts; anything from the removal of trees and plants to the loss of biodiversity to polluted ecosystems. *Some of the potential impacts that can occur include:*

- algae problems due to nutrient enrichment from the golf course
- introduction of fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and other harmful chemicals into the environment, including aquatic ecosystems
- sedimentation
- fragmentation of forests
- loss of trees, plants and animals
- threat to animal and plant species due to increased human activity, loss of habitat and nesting sites, increased pollution etc.

According to a recent report, "*Best Management Practices & Guidelines for the Development & Review of Golf Course Proposals*", prepared by Gartner Lee Limited,

"The construction phase has the greatest potential to damage natural features due to removal of natural vegetation, site alteration and the exposure of soils."

Pesticides & Other Chemicals

The harmful, and long-lasting, effects that chemicals have on the environment and everything that lives there, are receiving more attention from the public, governments and the media. For example, CCA-treated wood is being

phased out in Canada and the United States. In an article by Margaret Webb in R.O.B. Magazine (September 2002) entitled "The Green Goes Green" the author refers to concerns about golf courses and chemicals.

"Some 48 municipalities across Canada are considering bans on 'cosmetic' pesticides, and the federal government's Pest Management Regulatory Agency is re-evaluating several older pesticides". One being phased out, diazinon, an insecticide used on courses, had 'a fairly horrendous record with bird kills,' according to Canadian Wildlife Service toxicology expert Pierre Mineau. He says chlorpyrifos, still a golf mainstay, 'can incapacitate birds that merely walk on it.' The impact on people is harder to determine. But one American study conducted from 1970 to 1992 is notable: "It found an increased risk of cancer and nervous-system disease among golf-course workers." Deborah Straw, author of *Why Is Cancer Killing Our Pets?*, cites similar concerns in her book.

"Golf courses are apparently quite toxic to both humans and animals. A study of causes of death among golf course superintendents indicated a statistically significant number of deaths attributable to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and brain cancer between 1970 and 1992."

"According to a related report by Jared Baragar, chemicals used on golf courses have caused cancer, birth defects, nerve damage, and heart disturbances. Caddies also suffer eye problems, throat and congestion problems, headaches, and more. Baragar notes that a single 18-hole golf course can in one year use fifty thousand pounds of dry and liquid chemicals. The Global Anti-Golf Movement states that golf courses 'destroy natural ecosystems, contaminate the environment, and threaten human

health.' And clearly animal health as well."

Species at Risk

The construction and maintenance of a golf course will affect plant and animal species. To what extent we can't be sure. In their report "Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Conservation in Ontario" (March, 1989), Cathy J. Keddy and Mirek J. Sharp identified numerous rare plants on Lake Wahwashkesh. Several "Species at Risk" animals have also been identified in the Lake Wahwashkesh area including the Massasauga rattlesnake, the Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, the Common Five-lined Skink and the Red-Shouldered Hawk. What will be the short and long-term affects on these and other species of animals (including fishes) and plants?

Some Vital Ways to Minimize Impacts

Several things can be done to ensure that impacts to the environment from the golf course are minimized as much as possible. Establishing and maintaining an effective monitoring program of the water quality of the lake, both in the vicinity of the golf course and on other parts of the lake, is crucial. Initiating and maintaining an up-to-date inventory of the plant and animal species in and around Lake Wahwashkesh is also very important. We need to know the current status of plants, mammals, fishes, reptiles, amphibians etc.

Gartner Lee Limited's report states that an important way to minimize damage to the environment involves leaving appropriate size buffers around aquatic ecosystems.

"The design of buffer strips around all water features is the primary means to mitigate any impacts of construction and operation of the golf course on the aquatic environment."

The report states that the best buffers are "natural areas which are not disturbed at any

stage of design or construction...." which can:

- intercept surface runoff
- promote infiltration into non-compacted soils
- promote bank stability
- trap sediments and contaminants
- promote uptake of nutrients in vegetation
- provide shade and coarse organic detritus to aquatic habitat.

According to the report, these buffer strips can reduce phosphorous and sediment transport, but they "cannot be considered to be 100% effective." Gartner Lee Limited recommends maintaining buffer strips of natural vegetation that are at least 30 metres wide around all water bodies.

A Final Word

I enjoyed the game of golf. But when I learned about the environmental degradation that it causes I stopped playing the sport. I haven't played golf in several years and have only played a few times in the last decade.

The construction and maintenance of a golf course in a wilderness area will have short and long-term impacts on the lake, its environs and the species that live there. During a time when the public and many municipalities are becoming more aware of, and concerned with, the myriad of potential problems associated with golf courses, it is disconcerting that a golf course can be quickly established on Lake Wahwashkesh and, seemingly, without any checks and balances from the public or the authorities responsible for protecting the environment and the species that live there.

Let's hope that with the cooperation of concerned cottagers, government agencies charged with looking after this wilderness area, proactive cottagers' associations and the golf course management team we can minimize, as much as possible, the environmental impacts

created by this recreation facility and those who use it.

© N. Glenn Perrett

Glenn and his family are located on The Big Lake. Glenn has a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo.

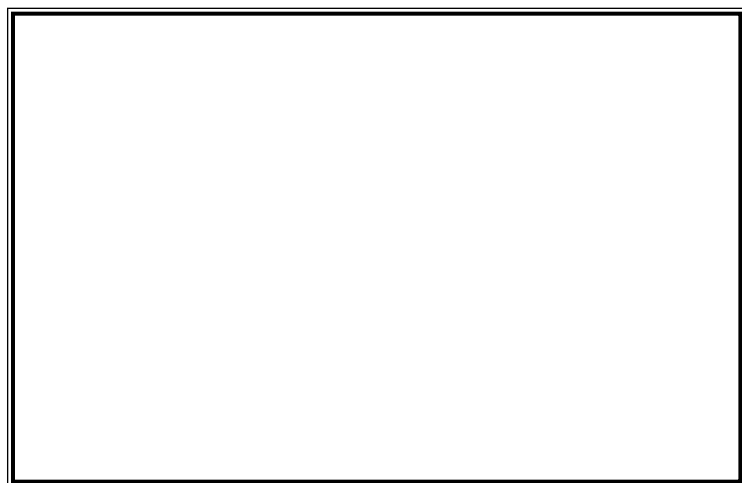
Golfing

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

Thought I should update everyone on what the Association has accomplished in cooperation with Herb Schmidt (owner) at Absolute Peace & Quiet.

In September a committee was formed with a primary purpose of determining what actions could be initiated to lessen the impact of the new par 3 golf course on our shores and waters. The committee consists of myself, John Nelson, Lynn Brennan and Jay Murdoch. The golf course has been approved by the Municipality of Whitestone and will exist. The committee has held two conference calls and both John and myself have met with Herb and toured the site. Additionally we have done a fair amount of research regarding the impact of golf courses on the environment. In reality the Association has nothing to do with the golf course and how it is designed or operated—but as Lakeshore residents of WWK we are concerned about flora, fauna, aquatic life and the shore appearance of our Lake—so this is the basis of our interest. John and I really appreciate Herb's friendliness and willingness to cooperatively deal with our concerns.

As a product of our September conference call, a letter (from The Association) was sent to the Municipality and it contained several questions about the process, following up to and including, the go ahead for the golf course. I am writing this on Nov 04/02 and so far no



response has been received from the municipality. Beyond our inquiry I know others asked the Municipality similar questions—but as taxpayers—not as members of the Association. Our questions were geared toward understanding how approval happened so that in future more public input would be sought prior to a “go ahead” decision—whether it be a new golf course or an expansion of an existing course.

On visiting the golf course site and talking with Herb, both John and I came away with a good feeling regarding the site and also Herb’s willingness and eagerness to work together with the Association. Some noteworthy points are summarized below:

- There is an awareness of the “environmental sensitivity” of the waters and shores surrounding Absolute Peace and Quiet—by Herb, the Association, and many Lake residents. This sensitivity stems from fish

spawning beds in the immediate area and Atlantic Coastal Flora throughout Indian Narrows as well as other species in the area.

- The golf course fairways are already “bushed out” and—really cannot be seen from the Lake unless one really studies the shoreline. There seems to be a fair amount of top soil as well— although I would not want to farm there.
- This is a very small golf course with about 5 acres of manicured property—vs. say 175 manicured acres on a normal big 18 hole course-like one might find in Muskoka.
- There are a couple of tees and greens near Duck Bay—but they are back a number of feet from the Lake and Herb will be including measures like membranes that will prevent seepage into the Lake.
- Herb has agreed to share the cost of base line water testing with the Association—when—where—and how much is yet to be worked out.
- Herb has assured those who asked that water use will be in the order of 30000 litres per day—well below the allowed 50000 litres per day.
- Herb will use measures through the construction process to prevent “negative affects” on the Lake.
- Very conservative application of chemicals was always part of the operational plan of the golf course.

- The Association obtained “Best Practices and Guidelines for the Development and Review of Golf Course Proposals” prepared by Gartner Lee Limited (a 120 page handbook). This was published in the fall of 2001 and was a product of concern about golf course growth in the Muskoka region. This was provided to the Municipality, Absolute Peace & Quiet and John Jackson (planner). Granted this manual focused on big courses but still there are many useful “Best Practices” that would apply to a smaller course. This is the very latest and most up to date “Best Practices Guide” for golf courses that we know of.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find educational information about the possible environmental impacts of golf course development and operation. Creating appropriate awareness of environmental concerns has to be part of our mandate as a conservation Association such as ours.

WE have a positive and constructive working relationship with Absolute Peace & Quiet and we feel that will permit us to successfully deal with concerns about our shores and waters.

If you have comments one way or another about the “golf course” please contact either myself, John Nelson or Herb Schmidt.

Dalton Ferris

2003

Sat. July 12 Wiener Roast

4pm–Straubs

(Raindate: Sunday, July 13, 2-5pm)

Sat. August 2 Annual Meeting

9:30am–Bennett's Barn

August 9 & 10 Arbour Day Shoreline Cleanup

Sat. August 16 Corn Roast

3-5pm–Straubs

(Raindate: Sunday, August 17,
2-4pm)

Director's Meetings

Oct 9, 2002 - Conference call

Nov 27, 2002 - Meeting Norwich,
Ontario - at Ferris's

Feb 06, 2003 -
Meeting at Robertson's

Apr 23, 2003 -
Meeting at Robertson's

Jun 28, 2003 - Meeting at
Toggle Point WWK

Aug 02, 2003 - 9:30am
Annual Meeting at Bennett's Barn

Successful 2002 Events

You Rock, Wah-Wash-Kesh!!

After donating your 'fleas' and treasures, you came back to the Rock 'n Dock on Sunday, August 4th, 2002.

*...to consume over 100
pancake breakfasts*

*...to buy back your neighbours' 'fleas'
...and to stay for hamburger/hotdog
lunches.*

During the morning you parted with over \$1165.00 of your hard earned dollars to benefit the Association.

The time and labour of 35 volunteers was required to perform all the tasks associated with this successful project. More than just a fund-raiser, the Rock 'n Dock has become a social event: an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

Previous earnings in 1995, 1997 and 1999 totalled \$2050.³⁰ With all your cooperation, we exceeded this year's goal of \$1000.00 in one day. The four-year total is \$3215.⁵⁹. We especially thank Jennifer Materne who put us 'over-the-top' with her donation.

Having convened the Rock 'n Dock four times at Lookout Point, we now pass the torch to others, (*any volunteers?*) yet T.B.A., for 2004. We will continue to provide the grill and serve the pancake breakfast. Thank you for your support and assistance!

Lewis and Jackie Morgan

Weiner & Corn Roasts

These events were well attended & a good time was had by all.

Total donations received.....	\$586.00
Less: Expenses	\$370.71
Net Profit to benefit the Association	\$215.29

A big thank you to all volunteers who helped in any way to make these functions such a great success, and to all who made donations.

Also thanks to Marlene Bennett for all the time and effort she put into these events and Eleanor Arbour who does an excellent job of the posters. Looking forward to a bigger and better turnout in 2003.

Ross Willett

Visit our
NEW
website at:
www.lake-wah-wash-kesh.org

WANTED

*Morton's Point Camp is seeking 2 used
10 cubic foot propane fridges*

Contact Dennis Pettit, President of Morton's
Point Camp at pettitd@rogers.com or at
home, London, 519-641-1707

In Memoriam

Gary Dimmick
1953 - 2002

Gary was a great supporter of the Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association, through his watercolour wine & cheese fundraisers.

Donations in Gary's memory can be made to a scholarship fund for his son:
Stewart Charles Dimmick Education Fund
C/O david.l.higgins@rssmb.com

OR

Salomon Smith Barney, 2300 Windy Ridge Parkway, Suite 550, South, Atlanta, GA 30339
Attention: Dave Higgins
And writing "FBO Stewart Charles Dimmick" in the check memo field.

David Boyter
1963 - 2002

Dave's family built a cottage on the Top Lake in 1986. Dave was an avid snowmobiler and hockey player.

Gordon Easterbrook
1918 - 2002

Gordon first visited the lake in 1944. He loved it so much, in 1947 in partnership with Harry Haggerty and Ken Shapland, Guy Hayward built them a cottage in Shanty Bay. He loved fishing and deer hunting. He continued to vacation at the lake every year at the site of the present Easterbrook cottage in Lawson Bay built in 1957 by Guy Hayward.

Recognition

At our 2002 Annual Meeting the Lake Wah Wash Kesh Conservation Association recognized two very deserving citizens of our lake—Doug Elliott and Ross Willett.

Doug served on the association executive for many years and has always been a strong advocate of conservation of the natural environment both on Lake WWK and in the Niagara Region.

Ross served on the association executive for many years, has kept our social events going, has lead fundraising activities for the association and spent many hours keeping our docks in good repair.

Again thanks to you both—Doug and Ross—you both are much appreciated at the Lake and we look forward to your continued support and input.

To the members of the association if you have thoughts about who should be recognized in 2003 please pass your suggestions on to a Terry Tweed and or any other member of the executive. Contact information is on the back of this newsletter.

Dalton Ferris

Recognition: *WWK Conservation Association*

Dalton presents the award to Doug

Presented to DOUG ELLIOTT in recognition of dedicated service and leadership to the people of Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh, August 2002.

Terry Tweed gives a Kiss n'Reward to Ross

Presented to ROSS WILLET in recognition of dedicated service and leadership to the people of Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh, August 2002.

Nature Books & Computer Programs by N. Glenn Perrett

Cottage Living: Designing Comfortable Country Retreats

By Ellen M. Plante, (Friedman/Fairfax Publishers) 2000, 160 pages
ISBN: 1567999794

Cottage Living: Designing Comfortable Country Retreats combines good decorating ideas with considerable information about cottages. The informative text combined with more than 150 colour photographs makes this attractive coffee table book not only enjoyable to read, but a valuable reference book that can be referred to on a regular basis. The book is divided into the following sections: "Seaside Escapes", "Lakeside Cottages", Rural Getaways", "Mountain and Woodland Retreats" and "Outdoor Rooms."

My wife Lynn and I are currently planning our nature retreat on The Big Lake. While it is an exciting time, it is also a little overwhelming as we try to efficiently plan the cottage layout and imagine how certain rooms will look when they're finished. Reading through Plante's history of cottages and decorating ideas and perusing the beautiful photographs has given us lots of ideas for our wilderness home.

2030: Confronting Thermageddon in Our Lifetime

By Robert Hunter, (McClelland & Stewart) 2002, 276 pages ISBN: 0771042388

Global warming could be the most important environmental issue of all time. Unfortunately,

many people aren't very knowledgeable about this potentially devastating threat and most governments are doing very little to combat it.

Written by Robert Hunter, *2030: Confronting*

Thermageddon in Our Lifetime looks at global warming, what is likely to happen if we don't change our polluting ways and our dependence on fossil fuels and things we can do to try and prevent the environmental catastrophe

facing us. Hunter's extensively documented book leaves no doubt that global warming is occurring, that it will have devastating consequences for the planet and that it is caused by our species.

While Hunter's vital message is sobering and upsetting, it should be viewed as a wake-up call for all of us. There is hope, provided we start respecting the Earth and act accordingly. We know our present lifestyles are destroying the planet. It's time we did something about it.

2030: Confronting Thermageddon in Our Lifetime is, for obvious reasons, a "must read".

Wolf Country: Eleven Years Tracking the Algonquin Wolves

By John B. Theberge with Mary T. Theberge, (McClelland & Stewart Inc.) 1998, 306 pages ISBN: 077108563X

Wolves are synonymous with Algonquin Park. They are also one of the most persecuted animals in the world – including those in and around this park. In *Wolf Country: Eleven Years Tracking the Algonquin Wolves*,

John and Mary Theberge share their experiences and findings regarding the wolves of Algonquin Park.

John Theberge not only provides considerable information about the wolf, but he also describes the numerous threats, most caused by humans, facing these incredible animals.

During this extensive study of wolves in and around Algonquin Park Theberge has discovered some fascinating and important information. According to Theberge the wolves of Algonquin Park are either red wolves, thought to have been extirpated in the wild, or "...a unique

species of wolf (additional to the other two species in the world: gray wolf and red wolf) with its remaining range restricted to southern Ontario and southern Quebec; or a distinctive subspecies of the gray wolf called *lycaon* that has the same restricted range." (page 277)

After reading *Wolf Country* take the time to write your political representatives requesting that the recommendations made in the book (including Theberge's suggestion of "...broad no-kill zones linking Algonquin with Killarney Park on Georgian Bay to the west, Temagami to the north, La Verendrye and Laurentide parks in Quebec to the east, and the Madawaska Highlands to the south.") to protect wolves are implemented. If implemented, these recommendations would not only be beneficial for wolves, other animals and the environment, but for our species as well.

The Canoe: A Living Tradition

Edited by John Jennings, (Firefly Books Ltd.) 2002, 271 pages ISBN: 1552095096

My favourite way to explore the area around our cottage is by canoe. Quietly gliding over the water is both peaceful and relaxing – and there is no impact on the environment. Canoes allow you to explore areas not accessible by motor boat or foot.

Firefly Books Ltd. has just published a coffee table-style book on the history of the canoe. Edited by John Jennings, *The Canoe: A Living Tradition* is an informative book written by twelve canoe experts. More than 400 photographs complement the text and make this book a truly impressive volume.

Peterson First Guides

(Houghton Mifflin Company, distributed in Canada by Thomas Allen & Son Limited)

Learning to respect and protect the environment involves learning about the natural world. *Peterson First Guides* is an educational series that will both interest and inform young and beginning naturalists. Published by

Houghton Mifflin Company (distributed in Canada by Thomas Allen & Son Limited) these quality guides combine a small amount of written information with quality illustrations on various plants, animals and other topics. The small size of the books (they can fit into your pocket)

make them ideal to take into the field.

Peterson First Guides

Mammals (ISBN: 0395911818), Reptiles and Amphibians (ISBN: 0395971950), Birds (ISBN: 0395906660), Wildflowers (ISBN: 0395906679), Fishes (ISBN: 0395911796), Insects (ISBN: 0395906644), Urban Wildlife (ISBN: 039593544X), Butterflies and Moths (ISBN: 0395906652), Caterpillars (ISBN: 0395911842), Forests (ISBN: 0395971977), Trees (ISBN: 0395911834), Seashores (ISBN: 039591180X), Shells (ISBN: 0395911826), Rocks and Minerals (ISBN: 0395935431), Dinosaurs (ISBN: 0395971969), Clouds and Weather (ISBN: 0395906636), Astronomy (ISBN: 0395935423), Solar System (0395971942)

Starry Night Beginner (computer program)

Starry Night Backyard

(Special Edition) (computer program)

SPACE.com Canada, Inc., www.starrynight.com

Starry Night Beginner and *Starry Night Backyard* are computer programs that allow you to explore the night sky and locate and learn about planets, comets, asteroids, stars and other objects in the sky. After establishing your home location, time and date you can see where stars, constellations, artificial satellites and other objects are. This makes identifying these once you are outside much easier. By using the control panel you can change the location from which you're viewing the sky to anywhere on Earth. You can also change the time and date allowing you to see (and print off a star chart for observing purposes) what the sky will look like from your cottage on a certain night.

Starry Night Backyard (Special Edition) has the same features as *Starry Night Beginner* with several exciting additions. For example, while you can change your location to anywhere on Earth with *Starry Night Beginner*, with *Starry Night Backyard* "you can travel around the Earth, the solar system, and even out to the stars!"

This special edition of *Starry Night Backyard* contains an 80-page User's Guide (a 72-page guide is included with *Starry Night Beginner*) as well as the very informative and interesting 240-page book *Starry Night Companion: Your Guide to Understanding the Night Sky Using Starry Night* by John Mosley.

Both *Starry Night Beginner* and *Starry Night Backyard* (Special Edition) contain lots of fascinating information, are user-friendly and easy to install. They also allow you to download the latest version from their website. If you enjoy stargazing, you'll want to visit www.starrynight.com

The Night the Stars Flew

By Jo Ellen Bogart, Illustrated by Ginette Beaulieu, (North Winds Press) 2001, 30 pages ISBN: 0439988667 (Ages 5-9)

There are so many wondrous things in nature, if we take the time to notice them. In *The Night the Stars Flew* Millie, a young girl, notices small, bright objects from her bedroom window. After encouraging her parents to follow her outside, Millie and her parents marvel at the numerous fireflies who fill the night air by the lake. Millie's parents remember past experiences involving fireflies and the family takes the time to enjoy this special night. *The Night the Stars Flew* is a gentle reminder of the importance of family and nature and to ensure that quality time is spent with both.

A Nature Lover's Book of Quotations

Compiled and Edited by Tom Crider, (Birch Tree Publishing) www.birchtreepub.com 2000, 271 pages ISBN: 0967943000

Preserving the environment and creating a greater respect for the natural world can be achieved in many ways – including sharing the wise thoughts of others. *A Nature Lover's Book of Quotations* is an excellent resource containing an extensive compilation of quotations on nature. Quotations by a particular person can be quickly located using the index. If you're looking for a quotation about a particular topic the book is divided into numerous sections including "conservation", "forests", "rivers" and "wilderness" – to name a few.

Whether you're searching for a specific quotation or simply want to read some insightful observations about nature, *A Nature Lover's Book of Quotations* is one book you'll want to check out.

Reptile Recap

As some may recall, Glenda Clayton of the *Greater Georgian Bay Reptile Awareness Program* gave an informative discussion after the annual general meeting this past summer. Her purposes were to increase our knowledge of certain species that share our environment and to encourage us to report sightings of specific reptiles.

Some species that can commonly be sighted around the lake are; The Eastern Hognose Snake, also known as, Puff Adder and/or Blow Adder and the Massasauga Rattle Snake. The Eastern Hognose Snake is classified as a threatened species. When frightened the hognose may raise its head, flare out its neck, and hiss. Failing this, it will play dead by lying belly up and sticking out its tongue. The snake is non-venomous and not inclined to bite, its main food source is toads.

The Massasauga Rattle Snake has been seen in our area by many of the people I have spoken to and should be given some consideration. Often this snake may be seen crossing roads or trails. Both Wayne Lennox and Ken Taylor have mentioned seeing them crossing the bunny trail and on trails. They are venomous and, thankfully, give a distinctive rattling sound when we get too close for their comfort.

Although the Awareness Program would appreciate information on any sightings there were some specific reptiles mentioned that are of greater interest. The Five-Lined Skink and the Spotted Turtle are two species that are easily identifiable as their names are indicative of their appearance. The Five-Lined Skink looks like a salamander that has contrasting lines running from its nose to its tail. The Spotted-Turtle has many contrasting circular spots on its shell and head. The Wood Turtle displays a light brown shell with rings similar to the cross-section of a tree. I've included some web links you may use to see actual pictures of these species. To report sightings you can use the following information, your input will be appreciated.

Pat Ferris

THE GREATER GEORGIAN BAY REPTILE AWARENESS PROGRAM

1-705-774-9000 or 1-866-277-6577

Fax: 1-705-746-8775

Email: reptiles@vianet.ca

Web Sites for Further Information:

www.terra-plex.com/sin

www.gbayreptiles.com

Shell Environmental Fund Grants WWK Cleanup \$4,210

Mark your calendars for August 9 and 10, 2003! That's the weekend scheduled for the Lakeshore Cleanup project!

The Shell Environmental Fund of Calgary, Alberta has approved the Association's application for a grant of \$4,210, getting our 2003 Shoreline Cleanup Project off to a flying start!

The Association is planning a two-part cleanup blitz or "Arbor Day" – a public shoreline cleanup of old docks, barrels, Styrofoam, and other rubbish, plus a facilitated pickup of heavy trash from private homes and cottages.

Because of Wah-Wash-Kesh's famous 3 metre water level rise during the spring freshet, there's lots of opportunity for flotsam and jetsam to drift away from its home and then get left high-and-dry in some lonesome bay. The Shell Environmental Fund grant will be used to subsidize the handling and transportation costs to allow volunteers to clean up these long forgotten and abandoned objects safely and efficiently.

The second part of the project is to pick up heavy or large "stuff" from cottagers and homeowners – you know, old fridges, stoves, washing machines and so on, maybe couches and chairs – "stuff" that's just too darn big and heavy to get across the lake in the trusty ol' 12 foot work boat! Even though this kind of stuff might not be visible, some of it can be a hazard. For example, old refrigerators can leak Freon gas (or worse) and the project will ensure that they are properly disposed of. We've applied for a grant from Environment Canada's EcoAction Fund to assist with this portion of the project.

For the second part of the project, we'll also be inviting folks to contribute \$25 per location to help cover the cost of municipal tipping fees and Freon capture fees. When you keep in mind that the Municipality of Whitestone must charge \$40 per fridge, \$25 is quite a bargain! I'll have more details in the Spring 2003 Newsletter.

Our funding applications have also been received by EcoAction, and we expect to hear from them soon. If our project is turned down, we do have some back-up plans but we might have to scale the project back a bit.

Finally, but most importantly, we need you! We will need up to 75 people to help. Tasks include scouting shoreline locations where junk is located, picking up trash, loading heavy things onto a boat or barge, helping unload a boat or barge and load a truck, and unloading stuff at

the dump. We also will need folks to help organize and run a volunteer recognition barbecue, be in charge of safety, maybe even baby-sit for volunteer parents, and so on. Please consider being a volunteer! It's a great way to fulfill your love for Wah-Wash-Kesh, a terrific way to get to know some of the bays and byways you seldom see, and an even better way to get to know some of your neighbours! If you want to help, please call me at (905) 318-6595 or e-mail at jsnelson@moun-taincable.net to volunteer!

John Nelson, Bennett's Bay

Is CCA Really That Dangerous?

Is pressure treated wood kid safe?

The question is not as easy to answer as one might think. There are two reasons why. On one hand the lumber industry has voluntarily moved to halt consumer sales of all lumber treated with chromate copper arsenate (CCA) by Dec 31, 2003. And this move has been backed up in the US by legislation that outlaws CCA consumer sales by January 2004.

That sounds serious, the kind of thing you'd do to deal with a dangerous health risk. But

when you look further the issue becomes less clear. Although CCA is being dropped like a hot potato, the official position of regulatory agencies remains the same as it always has been: that this material poses no unreasonable health risks.

And don't forget, these are the words of independent health watch dogs that do not stand to gain regardless of what is used to preserve wood. In fact we are specifically advised by authorities to keep using CCA while available, to leave existing CCA structures standing and to leave surrounding soil in place.

To answer this apparent contradiction I spoke with Richard Martin, a toxicologist with Health Canada. He explained that the voluntary industry actions halting the sale of CCA have at least as much to do with public perception as solid science.

"Ultimately risk equals outrage in the mind of people" explains Martin. And we do not want panic because there is nothing to panic about. When people are permitted to do their own safety homework, they come to decisions that they feel comfortable with".

So is CCA lumber safe when used properly? Would Martin use CCA wood to build a play set for his own children?

"Yes I have used CCA lumber for building and will continue to do so while it is available. During our on going re-evaluations of this product we have never found any evidence of problems associated with CCA wood *when it is handled correctly*."

"But if you still have concerns about existing structures, there is some evidence that application of penetrating oil stain reduces the leaching potential of the CCA compound. The last thing we want is for people to over react and tear down existing CCA structures. Its unnecessary and potentially more hazardous than leaving them alone".

The best source of information about safe handling of CCA wood that I have comes from a collaborative web site put together by Environment Canada, Health Canada and industry players. Check it out for yourself at www.ccasafetyinfo.ca or call Health Canada directly at 1-800-267-6315.

Steve Maxwell, Toronto Star, August 15/02

Last newsletter we published an article outlining the issues and concerns re CCA wood and so I thought it appropriate to now present this information on the same subject.

Dalton Ferris

Boating Reminder

The deadline to obtain the required Boat Safety Operator Card was Sept 15, 2002.

You must get your required testing done.

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

1-800-267-6687 or www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca for more information

Get The Card In 3 Easy Steps

from FOCA (Federation Of Ontario Cottagers)

**Try a free online boating safety course & practice test.
www.safetyafloat.ca & www.freecourse.ca**

Step 1: Study free online boating safety course or take the in-class course.

Step 2: Review your knowledge using the *free* online practice test.

Step 3: Take the Coast Guard accredited exam.

Fall 2002 ... the heartbeat

...of the West Parry Sound Health Centre Foundation

New WPS Health Centre in 2005

Did You Know?

- ..that 8 individuals were treated for Massassaga Rattler snakebites at WPSHC this summer?
- ..that it can take up to 18 vials of anti-venom to treat one patient.
- ..that visitors or cottagers to the area make up a significant portion of emergency visits in the summer months?
- ..that there currently is NO waiting room in the emergency department? So, how do you like the hallway?
- ..that the costs of purchasing and operating the much-needed CT scanner, will not be covered by government funding? We'll have to do that ourselves.
- ..that a generous gift from the 5 local Lions Clubs will allow Dr. Nixon to perform 288 cataract surgeries at WPSHC next year?
- ..that the annual RBC Parry Sound Dragon Boat Festival saw 40 teams participating, and raised \$62,000 for the new Health Centre in a unique partnership with Rotary? Why not consider entering a team next year?
- that more than 300 individuals have contributed cash or pledges of over \$1,000 to the campaign, with countless smaller gifts bringing the total to \$3,000,000 raised by the community for the new Health Centre?

...that we need your help – please make your personal investment today!

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association has pledged \$3000 (\$1000/year over 3 years) Your individual gift would be appreciated!

Premier Ernie Eves makes his first official visit home to Parry Sound, bringing good news for the West Parry Sound Health Centre on Monday October 7, 2002. He announced that the final stages of construction for the new health care facility will go to tender on Wednesday, October 9. Eves reaffirmed the province's commitment of nearly \$45 million to the project, with other funding being provided for the additional long-term care beds awarded in the spring of 2001. **MPP Norm Miller** also attended the event, adding his support and congratulations.

"Many people have been waiting for this day for many years", stated a ebullient **WPSHC Chair, Len Yauk**, who commended Mr. Eves, Mr. Miller, Parry Sound Mayor Ted Knight and the Reeves and Councillors of the 7 municipalities which have contributed \$10.6 million to the project on their foresight and persistence. He also announced the achievement by the Foundation and Campaign volunteers of \$3,000,000 in cash and pledges – half the \$6 million community goal realized in 2 short years.

Tony Fell, chairman of RBC Financial Group and Co-Chair of the **Give In A Heartbeat** Capital Campaign addresses members of the Sans Souci Copperhead annual meeting about the need for a new health care facility for the West Parry Sound area. Mr. Fell addressed 4 cottager associations during the summer, encouraging personal as well as group donations. As a cottager in the area for many years, Mr. Fell has had occasion to be grateful for the excellent service provided by the WPSHC. He is putting his considerable expertise in the fundraising area to assist the campaign. "We will all benefit from a new hospital", states Mr. Fell whose generous personal gift was one of the first campaign donations received.

Contact the West Parry Sound Health Centre Foundation:

16 James Street, Parry Sound P2A 1T2

705-746-4540 ext.317

www.in-a-heartbeat.org

You now have a *new* cottage address

Since the spring of 2002, the Municipality of Whitestone has undertaken a Municipal-wide program of establishing addresses for all properties, including those on and around Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh. These addresses are required for 911 Emergency services to be introduced in the Spring/Summer of 2003.

This means that if your cottage is road accessible, then your road now has a name (if it did not have one before), and your cottage has a number on that road! If your cottage is accessible only by water, then your "road name" is called 'Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh', and you also have a new number for your cottage! Finally if you are located on an island, then your "road name" is the name of your island, and you also have a number for your cottage.

The Municipality of Whitestone has ordered address numbers for all properties. For cottages on roads, you will receive a sign and a metal post that will need to be installed at the end of your driveway. For properties accessible only by boat, you will receive a much larger address sign so that it will be readable from a greater distance. This will make it easier for emergency staff coming by boat to locate your property. These signs should be mounted close to your dock, visible year-round from the lake and be mounted high enough that the spring flood does not cover or damage it. So what is your new number and address? For that you will need to contact the Municipality of Whitestone at (705) 389-2466, and ask for Muriel Junck. Also, you can send them an e-mail at whitesto@vianet.on.ca

Signs are expected to be available for pick-up at the Municipal office in Dunchurch, in the spring of 2003. If you would like to volunteer to set up some of these signs, contact Muriel Junck at the Municipal office.

Andy Vurma

See our updated website at: *www.lake-wah-wash-kesh.org*

Log onto our site and look around. Did you find what you were looking for? There is a place on our site for your comments and feedback. Tell us what you think. What could be improved? What did you like? What needs to be added? What needs to be removed? We want to hear from you!

Old Records:

WWK Conservation Association

For sometime now we have been wanting to collect and consolidate all of the old secretarial records of our conservation association from 1954-2002.

Jay Murdoch has volunteered to take on this challenge and will be trying to find these records wherever they may be. I know there are many former secretaries out there so pass on any information and ideas you have to Jay. Jay's address is RR#4, Grand Valley, Ontario L0N 1G0. Telephone 519-928-8509. Jay cottages at cabin 40 in Indian Narrows and is not far from the fire hydrant.

We know that Ginnie Sperry organized the records that she was able to assemble so whoever has those records please contact Jay. Additionally there are likely trunks around the lake with very interesting files under all the blankets, etc. We wish to have the records consolidated for our 50th anniversary in 2004.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Dalton Ferris

