

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

– SPRING 2003 NEWSLETTER –



AUGUST 9 & 10 Shoreline Cleanup Project is "Good to Go!"

The *Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh 2003 Shoreline Cleanup Project* is nearing the final stages of planning! Volunteers have been busy building a "blueprint" or project plan to make sure things go smoothly on the weekend of August 9 and 10. By working backwards from the last step – dumping trash at the landfill site – they've tried to anticipate the things that must happen to get there. "It's a bit like doing the whole project ahead of time" said Blake Strong, volunteer planner. "Except it's easier – there's no heavy lifting the first time through!"

It seems like only yesterday that Debbie and I were picnicking in a quiet bay and noticed an old dock smashed high up on the shoreline – but it was actually back in the summer of 2001! On that warm and peaceful day, we wondered where the old lumber came from – until it dawned on us that the spring flood probably had something to do with it.

On the other hand, it seems like a long time ago that I was looking out over the lake, talking with some folks, when the idea of a cleanup project first came up – but it really was only a year ago, and what a busy and productive year it has been. The good news started when the Shell Environmental Fund (SEF) of Calgary, Alberta approved the Association's application for a grant of \$4,210 in October 2002! You can learn more about the SEF at their website at <http://www.shell.ca/code/values/environment/sef.html>.

Also in October, the Whitestone Council passed a resolution endorsing the project. Then, in December, we received a letter from the Honourable David Anderson, P.C., M.P., the Minister of the Environment, congratulating us on the approval of our project for a grant of \$5,760! EcoAction's website is located at http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/intro_e.html.

With cash-in-hand to cover trucking, barging, and fridge disposal charges, we're off to the races! The project has two parts. One is the cleanup of all sorts of stuff that has drifted ashore and come aground on public or unpop-

ulated shorelines. The other is the pickup of large items at private cottages – things like old fridges and stoves, or washing machines, or tanks – the kind of stuff that's just too hard to get into the trusty old workboat or trailer.

How will the project work? First of all, we are inviting folks to volunteer! We've divided the lake into zones, and we've asked current volunteers to invite others in each zone to volunteer.

There will be three types of volunteers:

- **Support worker (planning, BBQ volunteer)**
- **"Scout" (locating debris throughout July)**
- **Cleanup worker (collection on Aug 9 & 10)**

Then, throughout July, the "scouts" or "spotters" will cover a portion of the shoreline (using their own boats) and using a map (provided), they will record the location of debris washed ashore. The spotters will be eligible for a fuel subsidy of \$10.00. They'll drop their maps off to me or Blake Strong before or at the Association's Annual General Meeting.

On the weekend of the cleanup, on Saturday August 9 and Sunday August 10 at 9:00am, volunteers will assemble in Bennett's Bay near the dock. From there, they will be directed to work with the barge crews or independently if they have appropriate boats and equipment. Again a fuel subsidy of \$10⁰⁰ will be available to folks using their own boats to recover trash and bring it back to the dock. The first fifty volunteers will receive a pair of leather work gloves courtesy of Bell Canada!

After the Saturday August 9 cleanup, we'll hold a barbecue at Straub's beach – and we'll need folks to get that organized, transport food, and generally take charge.

People are invited to volunteer by using the forms included in this newsletter mailout. There are three forms – one for volunteers, one for minors between the ages of 14 and 17, and one for folks who would like to request the pickup of junk from their cottages. *Please try and mail the forms back to me at*

the address on the bottom of the form as soon as you can. You can also drop them off at our cottage, Cabin 11 in Bennett's Bay, across the lawn just opposite the store, hidden in the trees. Also, we'll have a supply on hand on the mornings of the cleanup. By the way, there is a small charge for pickup of cottage junk – \$25⁰⁰ per cottage.

There's another part to the project – the Association will be placing garbage cans at each dock. The cans are for miscellaneous litter, like the fast food wrappers and pop cans in the car when you arrive from the city! They're not for cottage garbage – we'll still need to make the trek to Auld's Road or the York Street dump on the way home! Maintenance of the trash cans will be provided courtesy of C.E. Bennett Ltd. in Bennett's Bay, and by Absolute Peace & Quiet Resorts in Indian Narrows. Many thanks to Ed & Marlene and Herb & Shirley for stepping up to this job.

I'm looking forward to the project – I figure I'll get to meet lots of new people I've never known before, and help keep our beloved lake beautiful at the same time. I hope you're looking forward to it too! Don't hesitate to contact me at (905) 318-6595 or jsnelson@mountain-cable.net if you have any questions!

John Nelson, Bennett's Bay

WWK Conservation Association

Art Show & Sale

Saturday, July 26, Bennett's Barn
2:00–5:00 & 7:00–9:00

Free Admission! Meet the Artists!
Complimentary Wine & Cheese!

Fish Enhancement Committee

Although some of the information from the 2002 Synoptic Trapnet Survey Report was communicated to you in the 2002 Fall Newsletter, we now have the Summer 2002 Intensive Creel Survey Report. I have attempted in this insert to combine results from the above two reports and also include some comparisons with both the 1987 Trapnet Survey and the 2001 Victoria Day Holiday Weekend Creel Survey.

First I would like to thank Eric McIntyre, Parry Sound Area Fisheries Biologist with the MNR for compiling these reports and making them available to the Committee.

The 2001 Victoria Day Holiday Weekend Creel Survey was conducted on May 19 to May 21, 2001 by Ed Bennett and Bill Auld. Fifty-five interviews were conducted comprising approximately 265 hours of angling effort. The catch was 60 walleye, 10 smallmouth bass, 7 pike, 1 lake trout, and 2 whitefish. Almost all of these were harvested except for 5 pike.

The Summer 2002 Synoptic Trapnet Survey was conducted by the MNR from July 15 to August 1, 2002 and was to assess the status of walleye and smallmouth bass populations. Statistics for size and population of walleye, smallmouth bass, and pike indicate these populations are "approximately average" for the Parry Sound area. However, when compared with the 1987 Synoptic Trapnet Survey, walleye populations have decreased significantly, smallmouth bass have decreased somewhat, and northern pike have increased significantly. The 2002 survey also confirmed the presence in WWK of black crappies, a sport fish which will likely have a negative impact on a number of near-shore fish populations including walleye.

When WWK is compared to 18 other Parry Sound area lakes, WWK is ranked thirteenth. This means there are six lakes in poorer condition than WWK and twelve in better condition. Of the 14 assessment categories for walleye, smallmouth bass, pike, and black crappies, six are rated as "C-" or lower and there are no "A"s. When compared with the 1987 Trapnet Survey, depending on whether you view pike as an asset to the lake or not, ALL assessment categories are "C-" or lower.

The Summer 2002 Intensive Creel Survey was conducted from June 26 to September 2, 2002 by J and J Environmental under contract with the MNR. J and J Environmental, the MNR, and The WWK Conservation Association wish to thank all anglers who generously participated in this survey. Results indicate that the lake trout fishery has diminished in all aspects (effort,

catch, harvest, fishing quality). WWK was divided into eight areas, all of which were surveyed twice each working day, either from 7am to 2pm or 2pm to 9pm. Almost 50% of all fishing effort was directed at walleye, followed by smallmouth bass (35%), pike (9%), lake trout (4%), and largemouth bass (2%). The average walleye caught was 17.4 inches long and weighed 1.7 pounds, smallmouth bass averaged 14.2 inches and weighed 1.3 pounds. The release rate for smallmouth bass was 76% and for pike 90%! In comparison with creel surveys done in 1980 and 1983, fishing effort was done by more than 50%. This may be the result of greater conservation awareness, dissatisfaction with the "slot size" for lake trout or fishing quality has become so poor that anglers have switched to alternate species.

All of the above indicates that the fish populations in WWK are either diminishing or are threatened (except for pike and black crappies). The committee is hoping to obtain approximately 20,000 walleye fingerlings this Spring for release into the Lake.

Anyone wishing copies of the above reports, please contact me.

Don Comrie

Annual Meeting and Dam Celebration

Again this year the Annual Meeting will be held in Bennett's Barn on Saturday, August 2, 2003 starting at 9:30am sharp. Our goal and plan is to have the Annual Meeting completed by 11:30am. This will mean good management of our agenda both as to what is included and as to how much time each agenda item is allowed.

Completion of the "Dam" is a major success for our Lake and our Association and so we would like to hold a celebration of sorts after the Annual Meeting. This celebration will recognize those who contributed to the success of the "dam project" and allow everyone a time for socializing after the annual meeting. We see the dam celebration starting at 11:30am and extending to 1pm or so.

The Association will provide food and drink at no charge—in the form of hot dogs and hamburgers and pop so that no one has to rush back to their cottage for lunch. This should give us all a comfortable time to socialize and congratulate and chat. We expect the "fish committee" will be in attendance with their usual offering as well.

Of course we will need assistance to make this social aspect of our meeting a success so if you would like to help please let me know.

Dalton Ferris

9-1-1 Emergency

It is expected that 9-1-1 emergency service will be up and running this summer.

If you want to know your new civic address, look on your Tax Bill. Most Tax Bills will now show your civic address for 9-1-1.

The Municipality has volunteers that have been installing road names and civic numbers on the highway right of way, where accessible. This is being done under the Ministry of Transportation encroachment agreement allowing installation of signage. MTO will install the signage for road names off Hwy#520, both public and private.

Because of liability insurance, the Municipality CAN NOT install signs on private property. This would include private roads, islands and water-accessed properties...in other words, most of the properties on Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh! *It is the responsibility of each property owner to install the civic address signage on his or her property.*

If your property has road access, you will receive a post and a sign. If your property is only water accessible, then you will receive an oversized sign, which you can post on your property appropriately. For Island properties, you will also receive an oversized sign as well as a sign with your Island name. Island properties will need to post both signs. For those on the Lake, remember to post your signs where they are clearly visible to an approaching boat. In an emergency, it is important to know where you are. Also, if your sign is to be in place year round, ensure that it is high enough above the water level so it will not be damaged or removed by the spring flood.

Please contact the Municipal Office to obtain your sign. Signs are available now. Lake residents will have three choices to obtain their signs...

- 1) From the Municipal Office in Dunchurch;
- 2) From the Ardbeg Fire Station, if requested in advance; or
- 3) At the Association's AGM in early August. The Municipality will have any remaining signs there for pick-up.

If you have any questions, the Municipal Office can be contacted by phone at (705) 389-2466 or by fax at (705) 389-855 by e-mail at whitesto@vianet.on.ca or at info@white-stone.ca

Andy Vurma

Art Show and Sale

Saturday, July 26

The Association is sponsoring an **Art Show and Sale** in the afternoon and evening of July 26, 2003, in Bennett's boathouse.

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh has been a fond destination of artists for many years. Most people are familiar with the story of A.J. Casson's visits to the lake in the early 1930's. Although the whereabouts of his Wah-Wash-Kesh sketches and canvasses is unclear today, Mr. Casson long kept clear and fond memories of his visits to the lake.

Our lake has been the spiritual home of other talented artists, notably Gary Dimmick who passed away last year. Gary's paintings touched the hearts of Wah-Wash-Kesh folk, and many a city and lakeside home are graced by his beautiful watercolours and prints. Gary was passionate about our lake, and that passion was visible both in his work and in his generosity; he dedicated a percentage from his one man art show and sale to the Association.

Gary's passion resonated with sculptor Albert Gilewicz from Parkers Bay. Early this year he proposed that the Association sponsor an **Art Show and Sale** in the tradition of Gary's events. "If it weren't for Gary, I most likely would not have pursued this event" said Albert, "I think it would be a nice tribute".

Albert has contacted several Wah-Wash-Kesh artists, and is organizing the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association **Art Show and Sale** on Saturday, July 26, in Bennett's barn. "I've communicated with Peg Summers, Tim Tofflemire, Jane Heggart and Rodney Meyers" said Gilewicz. "All of them have indicated a willingness to participate. So far, including myself that makes 5 artists!"

Albert encourages everyone to come visit Bennett's boathouse July 26th for a showing by what he calls "the Lake's own *Group of Seven*". This will be a group showing of watercolors, oils, mixed media, photography and sculpture from 2:00pm until 5:00 and later from 7:00pm until 9:00. Admission is free. Join the artists for complimentary wine and cheese, conversation and art. Meet the artists! Browse the work! Use it as another reason to ask your boss for a long weekend at the lake! A portion of the proceeds from all sales will generously be donated by the artists to the Association.

John Nelson, Bennett's Bay

Golf Course News

In the fall newsletter we had fairly extensive coverage of potential impacts of a golf course on the local lake environment. We and the Schmidts have made a significant attempt to be reasonable and to work cooperatively with each other to minimize environmental impacts resultant from the new golf course.

This year we are conducting "Baseline" water testing to establish the state of local waters in and around the proposed golf course. Azimuth Environmental will conduct these tests and will prepare a suitable report. The cost of baseline water testing is quoted to be \$2500 and this cost will be shared by your Association and Absolute Peace and Quiet. Further annual testing will be in the range of \$6000 which is well beyond our means and so we are looking for outside funding sources.

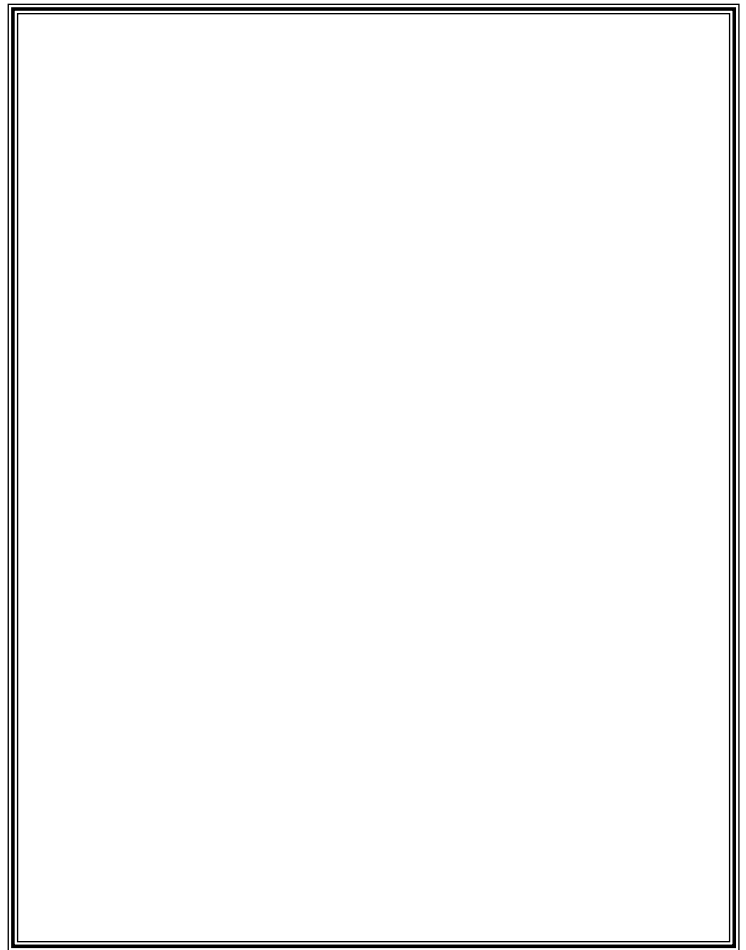
Absolute Peace and Quiet has always said their course will be very modest and will use very small amounts of costly fertilizer and that

the golf course layout will take into consideration environmental concerns *Re:* run off and the shoreline. You will note that we have included a brochure from "USGA" about possible positive impacts of a golf course. In working cooperatively with Herb and Shirley I thought it only fair that they have a chance to communicate with our membership and so at their suggestion the "USGA" flyer has been included in this spring mailing.

Happily we have a very good relationship with the Schmidts and they are sincerely doing all they can to be good neighbours and citizens of our Lake community

Of course there are a variety of views about the golf course and its effect and those views in some cases will never be reconciled. The Association has chosen a cooperative, constructive, neighbourly approach to minimizing the environmental impact of the golf course and so far we are pleased with how things are going.

Dalton Ferris



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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LAKE PARTNER

As you are aware we take secchi disc readings at four locations on the Top Lake. These readings are taken several times throughout the summer. As well, in May we take water samples at four Top Lake locations and the samples are sent to an MOEE approved lab for phosphorus and dissolved carbon analysis.

Our "total phosphorus" readings were under 10ug/L this year and our dissolved carbon reading was 7.7. During the first week of July our secchi disc readings averaged 4.0.

We are awaiting the Lake Partner consolidated results for both 2001 and 2002. This will compare us with 400 other lakes who participate in the Lake Partner program. We will provide reports at the annual meeting—on the information table—assuming the Lake Partner results are published by this summer. Explanatory information will be provided as well to enhance a broader understanding for those who are interested in knowing more.

Having our total phosphorus below 10ug/L is a big improvement for the Top Lake as in the past the results were often much higher—maybe the septic work around the lake is having a positive effect on lake waters. The lab used this past year is a far more accurate facility than that used in the past as well—so will see what 2003 brings before claiming an improvement trend is underway.

We are seeking samplers for the Big Lake this year. Calling 1-800-470-8322 will get you included in the program and a sampling kit with complete instructions will be provided by mail or the e-mail is lakepartner@ene.gov.on.ca. Sometime this year Lake Partner results are to be posted on the MOEE website as well so watch for that.

Thank you to Ned Riley of Morton's Point for coordinating the sampling that Morton's does for Lake Partner.

Dalton Ferris

Ode To Wahwashkesh

The sweet scent of clover in the air
Warm breezes teasing thru my hair

The tingle of the sun on my face
Mosquitoes all over the place

Water lapping gently on the rocks
The rolling thunder beneath the dock

Raise your glass for a round of cheer
We're here again for another year.

© Debbie Nelson, Aug. 2000

Messing About in Boats

"Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats" said the Water Rat in Kenneth Grahame's classic 1917 story *The Wind in the Willows*. I instantly believed Ratty when I first read about Mole's adventures over 40 years ago, and I believe him still more today.

It won't be long before we can all start messing about in boats again this year. I always get a special thrill when I take our little skiff out for the first run of the season. It seems to be as anxious to leave the dock as I am, and it leaps to the throttle with an eagerness to fly that equals my own. There's usually no particular place to go this early in the year, and in early May, before fishing opens, my skiff and I often have the lake almost to ourselves, just happy to be riding the waves again, free as the gulls that squawk at us from Register Rock. Generally we come across Kenny and the girls, moving back to the Lake from Ardbeg, and Jim and Marg Summersides, and other early birds, and usually there's somebody at Trail's End keeping a loving but sharp eye on marine traffic and life jacket compliance!

After a spin around the Top Lake, my little skiff and I wheel around Turkey Island, and after a quick glance at Grandma and Grandpa's place, we're off through Ritter's Narrows, with a silent tip-o'-the-hat to the Walking Boss. The spring wind freshens as we scoot across the Big Lake; maybe we'll stop and contemplate the majesty of Whitestone Chutes as the spring flood peaks.

This year, we'll have two boats to mess about in. Santa Claus left a bright red canoe under the Christmas tree for Debbie, and it's been waiting patiently in our backyard until it too can dance the ripples. I'm pretty sure the canoe wants to head north and skirt Pickerel Rock on a journey into Driftwood Bay and the little falls that tumble down from Truax Lake. I'm pretty sure it's dreaming, even now as it's getting its winter coat of city grime washed away by the spring rains, dreaming about a trip over to Indian Narrows. I wouldn't be surprised if it wasn't hatching plans, even as we speak, to make an expedition across the Top Lake to explore the nooks and crannies of Shanty Bay. Who knows? Perhaps someday even the mysteries of Farm Creek, and beyond, may be revealed to this new red canoe, just named "Serendipity".

Yup! Ratty was right: There is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats!

John Nelson, Bennett's Bay

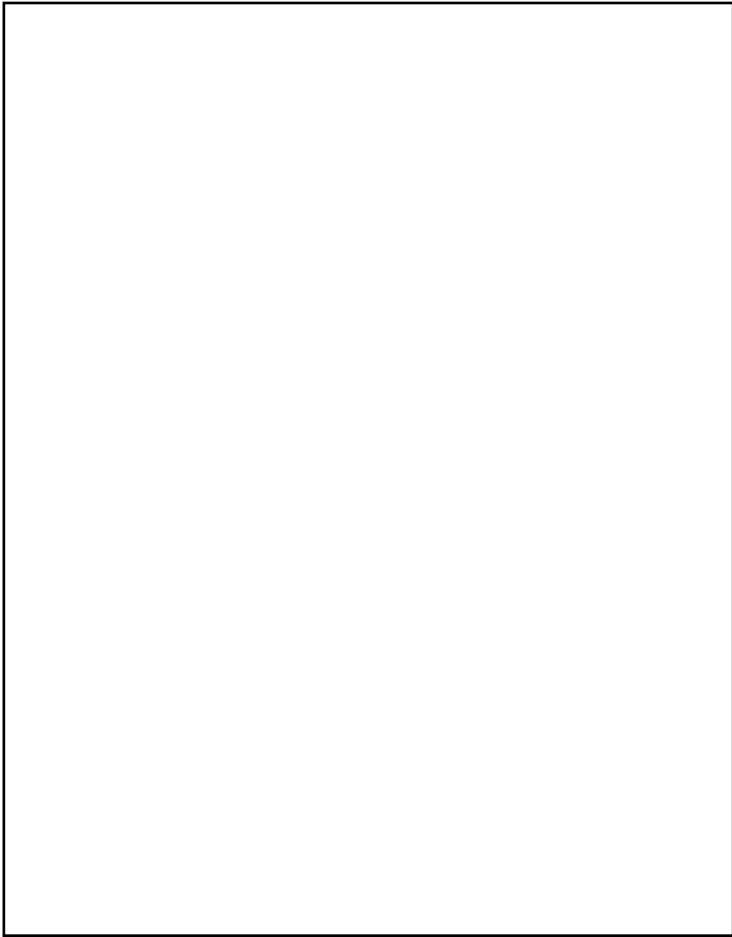
Newsletters by E-mail

If you are interested in receiving your copy of the Association's newsletter sent to you by e-mail, please contact Diane Ovenden at covenden1@cogeco.ca

This format is best suited to those of you that have a high speed internet connection. As an example, our Fall 2002 newsletter, which had a great number of photographs, took up 1.8Meg of space. On a dial-up internet connection, the time for this file to download would be very lengthy.

So let Diane know if you are interested and we will omit the paper copy and only send you the electronic version.

Andy Vurma



It's Clean-up Time!

***Wah-Wash-Kesh 2003
Shoreline Cleanup Project
Saturday & Sunday
August 9 & 10***

Sign up to be a Volunteer Today!



MUNICIPAL NEWS

- MUNICIPALITY OF WHITESTONE -

TAX DEPARTMENT

Tax payments can be made in person at the Municipal Office, by regular mail or post dated cheques. An after-hours drop off box is located outside the Municipal Office, 21 Church St., Dunchurch, ON. Please make cheques payable to the Municipality of Whitestone. Tax payments must be received by the Municipal Office by the due date. Online banking is available with TD Canada Trust, Royal Bank, CIBC, Scotia Bank and National Bank of Canada using your roll number as your account number. TD Canada Trust uses 11 characters for the account number and the remainder use 19 characters, therefore if your roll number is 4939010009028000000 for TD you would have to eliminate 4939 and the last four zeros.

PLEASE NOTE: As of January 1, 2003, authorized by Bill III, all properties having outstanding taxes for two years are eligible for Tax Registration. The Municipality of Whitestone will be enforcing this requirement as of January 1, 2004.

Persons who have acquired property but have not received a tax bill should contact the Municipal Office (705) 389-2466. Failure to receive a bill does not relieve a taxpayer of the responsibility for payment of taxes nor from the penalty for late payment.

2003 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The 2003 Election will be held as VOTE BY MAIL. Nomination Forms are available at the Municipal Office—you will need a picture identification card with \$100⁰⁰ in cash, money order or certified cheque. In late September or early October every ratepayer will receive a VOTE BY MAIL package. It will contain a sheet of instructions which must be read carefully to complete the enclosed documents including your ballot.

CIVIC ADDRESSING

Most Tax Bills will show your civic address for 9-1-1 implementation which Bell Canada tells us will happen in late June or early July.

The Municipality has an encroachment agreement with the Ministry of Transportation to install signage on the highway right of way. They will install the signage for roads off Hwy #520, both public and private, and on Municipal Roads. Because of liability insurance we cannot install signs on private property. It is the responsibility of each property owner to install signage on their property. Please contact the Municipal Office to obtain your number and where applicable a post.

Volunteers will be installing the road names and numbers as early in the spring as weather permits. The early winter caused a delay in the installation.

Note the above information is published at the request of the Municipality of Whitestone

In Celebration of the Old Nipissing Road

by Helen Stewart (Arrow Printing & Publishing, Burks Falls) 2000, 125 pages (privately published)

In the 1850s, the Canadian government built 20 Colonization Roads into the forests surrounding the Magnetawan and Petawawa rivers to provide access to the large stands of white pine, and to entice settlers to clear new farms. The Old Nipissing Road was one of them. Starting originally at Rosseau, you can still drive the road north from Hwy. 518 to Magnetawan. From there, only vestiges of the Old Nipissing Road are left to its terminus at Commanda.

The story of the Old Nipissing Road is a story of incredible human effort and endurance, as men and women, far from their Old World homelands, contended with the cold and the heat and the rocks and the trees to scrape a meagre living from the thin soil of the near north. Many of their homesteads and settlements are now nothing more than memories, although their spirits live on in village names, crossroads, and ghost towns.

After travelling by stage or wagon from Toronto to Gravenhurst, settlers would take the steamer Wenonah or Waubamick across Lake Rosseau to its northern lakehead. Wagons departed from here for Lake Nipissing, trailed by settlers on foot, including one woman who carried her baby all the way to Magnetawan.

In Celebration of The Old Nipissing Road tells the tale of the loggers, the settlers, their villages and their industries. For a time, small communities thrived every seven miles or so, a day's journey by team. Blacksmith shops, planing mills, wagon factories, hotels, and general stores all found customers. Homes, barns, schools and churches sprang from the forest as the pioneers built a new life. Steamers plied Lake Cecebe and Ahmic Lake. But the land of the Almaguin Highlands is not kind to settlers, and as the forests were logged out and as Highway 11 pressed north, as farms failed and people moved, as the train and automobile changed the way of life, slowly the homes and communities were abandoned, and the villages disappeared, and the road in places was gradually reclaimed by the forest.

Helen Stewart has captured the story of these Canadian pioneers through interviews, documents, and evocative descriptions of the farms and villages along the Old Nipissing Road. The book includes many photographs and maps to bring some of the stories to life. After reading the book, you may feel (as I did!) like planning a day trip from the cottage to explore the paths

trodden by our forefathers as they built the foundations of the land we spend our summers in today.

In Celebration of The Old Nipissing Road is available at the Municipal office in Magnetawan and at the "Downtown Store" for \$13. For an additional \$3.00, this interesting book may be obtained by mail from the author by writing to P.O. Box. 212, Magnetawan, Ontario, POA 1P0.

John Nelson, Bennett's Bay

Official Plan Whitestone

We are preparing this update in mid April and so much may have happened by the time you receive this newsletter.

We have had conversations with Jim Coughlin from Municipal affairs in Sudbury who has the responsibility of coordinating the "one window" provincial government input to the draft official plan. Jim met with the municipality, John Jackson and the MNR during this first week of April to provide provincial input. This provincial input is extensive and it includes briefs from many ministries. The input from Mr. Coughlin included certain mandatory inclusions and also recommended inclusions. The outcome will be a redraft of the draft official plan and we suppose the appropriate planning and council meetings to approve the new draft.

We also understand that the "flood elevation" to be include in the OP is still a point of debate with the MNR wanting 230.57 and the Municipality arguing for 229.44 or less. The Association has taken a strong position on this and is in support of a lower flood elevation—in fact we recommended 228.3 the elevation of the 1998 flood. We appreciate the Municipalities efforts on this matter and are in strong support of their efforts.

We can only speculate as to how long this process will take. It is our guess that the newly drafted OP will be approved by Whitestone Council in late April or sometime in early May.

After approval of this draft by council there is a 90 day window for further input from anyone. It is our/my understanding that all those who attended and registered at the public meeting last summer will receive a draft of the "official plan" and can offer further input

The Association has contracted with a planning firm in Gravenhurst who do business under the name "Planscape" to review the OP and offer suggestions that will improve the OP draft. We budgeted \$2000 for this in the 2003 budget that was included in the Fall/Winter newsletter. This is a small amount of money so likely the review will be more of a policy overview as opposed to a clause by clause analysis. This review we hope will be completed for the Association during the 90 day window mentioned above.

Development of a "comprehensive zoning bylaw"

will take place once the new OP is in place and will involve a public meeting process over the summer months. The zoning bylaw provides "on the ground" meaning to the "Official Plan" Policy.

Looking back on this "Official Plan" development has been underway since before the last municipal election in November 2000. It seems that enough time and resources have been spent by the Municipality to get to the draft OP stage. We are hopeful this planning process will be concluded before the next election.

Keep an eye on the municipalities website for more current status

Your Association Planning Committee
Bob Johnston, Duncan Robertson, Wayne Lennox and Dalton Ferris

Telephone Service Update

Bell Canada's Service Improvement Program (SIP) for the Wah-Wash-Kesh area is in the engineering planning stage, according to a Bell spokesperson. "We're completing the technical analysis and we expect to start detailed design in a few weeks" he said. "We're looking at two or three technical solutions – we want to pick the one that will provide the best, most reliable service in the most cost-effective way."

Last September, Bell officially launched its four-year program that will make basic phone service available to many "unserved"

areas in Ontario and Québec. Customers will be required to pay up to \$1,000 (plus applicable taxes), and in general Bell expects to serve a locality within three months of receiving a customer's \$200 non-refundable advance payment following notification that their locality is scheduled to be served. Bell points out, however, that construction can take up to a year for wireless technologies.

Bell has confirmed that they have received the Association's list of Wah-Wash-Kesh residents who may be interested in getting phone service. "The info is very helpful" said another spokesperson. "Once we get the names and addresses the notification letters can be sent to the various property owners. As soon as the technical decision has been made we will be sending them out."

More information is available at Bell's website at www.bell.ca/sip, or by contacting Bell's SIP Business Office at 1-866-713-7496 weekdays between 9am and 5pm, or by writing to Bell Canada, 100 Wynford Dr., Floor 5 Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1K4, Attn.: SIP

John Nelson, Bennett's Bay

WWK Conservation Association Art Show & Sale

Saturday, July 26, Bennett's Barn
2:00–5:00 & 7:00–9:00

Free Admission! Meet the Artists!
Complimentary Wine & Cheese!

GARDEN CITY HUNT CLUB

A little history of the Garden City Hunt Club, who celebrated their 90th year on Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh in November 2002, with a party during the deer hunt trip.

1938

In 1912 a doctor from St. Catharines, by the name of Dr. A. D. Ludwig talked Edwin Secord and James Stewart into going deer hunting at Big Deer Lake, later named Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh.

They purchased a large tent (16 by 20), and packed enough supplies to last 2 weeks into wooden boxes. They left by train from St. Catharines, making a change in Toronto, then rode all night. They would arrive at Ardbeg early the next morning. Mr. Hayward would meet them and take them to Haywards for breakfast.

After breakfast they would load everything

and taken to an area where the Morgan's now reside at Lookout Point. This is where they hunted for 2 weeks. There was no shortage of deer; each hunter had their limit. This became a ritual that was followed for some years by as many as 6 hunters.

Glad Secord made his first trip in 1919 on his return from active duty in World War I. By this time they were hunting from Glasgow Point, where Ross Willett's cottage is today.

In 1932 they started travelling by motor vehicle, in those days it was a two day trip, stopping in Bracebridge overnight. Apparently the roads were not quite what they are today.

In 1936 the present property was purchased for the healthy sum of \$50⁰⁰. The next year the first cabin was built, called

the "Red Onion". Also in 1936 the group of hunters formed the Garden City Hunt Club.

In June of 1952 fire destroyed the Red Onion, the general feeling was campers carelessly dropped a cigarette in a pile of sawdust near

the veranda. Plans were immediately drawn up for a new cabin which was constructed in 1952. Also in 1952 Gordon Klager became a member and has been coming to Wah-Wash-Kesh for 50 years.

Over the years they hunted and fished with great success. The stringers full of pickerel make you envious of the times.

Members have come and gone and at present we have 8 members. And the place gets pretty well used from May to November.

Fred Arbour

1953

onto a lumber wagon pulled by a team of horses, and taken to Gooseneck Lake where they would load everything onto a boat and barge. From there they were met by Mr. Harrison and traveled again by horse and wagon to Harrison's Landing on Big Deer Lake. There they were met again by Mr. Hayward

1997



Starting The Cottage Season

Well for sure this is the time of year when everyone with Wah-Wash-Kesh in their being, starts to think about going to the lake, being at the lake, and of course planning the things they want to do most at the lake in the coming season.

We hope to be there for the first week of May to open the cottage and enjoy spring at the Lake. Opening up seems easy now—get the pump going—check a few things—turn the power on—watch for mice—reposition the dock—as Tim will already have it close—get the chairs out—put the flag up. The bugs are not bad yet—so it is time for a beer while gazing out over the beautiful lake and shores—Oh I usually check to see if the neighbours are in as well—and determine the lake level compared to the prior spring—make a few remarks in the cottage log book.

We are water access so Ed will have the boat ready—sometimes a little rum helps with that—not too much though as Marlene already has a big list for Ed and he always keeps on the move—even if not much is being done—John is moving docks around and getting boats ready—the new Lake season is underway at the Bennett's Bay.

Usually in early May a fire is needed in the morning and evening so that preparation is taken care of. Now it is time to get the workshop opened up and functioning—this entails getting the ATV fired up—of course my fingers are crossed re the battery strength—so far it has always easily started

Now for a trail ride back into the bush—along and over the power line—through the swampy areas and gradually up the steep grades to the uplands beside Truax Lake and eventually over to the little falls in Driftwood Bay—not many leaves out yet so things are drying up—we always see deer and moose signs—and are always on the watch for bird. Usually we park on the uplands with a lunch and enjoy the beautiful silence, sights and smells of spring. It certainly is an uplifting experience to tour the bush around Lake WWK in the early spring.

After a day or so at the Lake a boat tour is in order—we like to go down the river—see who is in at Morton's—then back over to see the Hayward's—we also like to see Lovesick—we always note whether Ross Willet is in or not—we are happy to find things as we expect them to be.

After a couple of days we usually start a

"want to do" list—this list is both about projects and about little adventures on the Lake and in the area—this year we want to fish at Boundary for a day or two—go to Science North—go out on Georgian Bay—walk down to the tin shack—have some friends up—build a new dock ramp—do some fun things with my grandsons—read a few books—walk back to Watson lake from Toggle Point—oh and keep Association business in its place.

What a wonderful cottage season ahead! I have deliberately not mentioned black flies and mosquitoes.

Dalton Ferris

A Perfect Moment

How do you take with you a perfect moment?
You hold it in your heart.
How do you remember
When there's too much to remember?
You breath it in...
...hold it.
Just as your life will one day be gone
This moment, too, will be somewhere beyond
So don't be a fool and wait for another
Celebrate – both you and the moment, together.

© 1994 Gary Dimmick

The Pioneer

Asleep in his hemlock coffin,
Alone in his silent grave,
Deaf to the music of whispering pines,
That over his head in the soft wind wave.

Close to his fields unfurrowed,
Near to the untravelled road,
Far from his home in this new found place,
He finally rests in his northern abode.

Did he pine for his ancient village?
Did he long for the lights of the Strand?
Did he fondly remember the bloom of the fields,
Of his faraway green and pleasant land?

As he struggled to carve out a homestead,
From the rocks and the swamps and the trees,
Fighting the heat and the cold and the bugs,
That brought many a man to his knees.

Did he triumph or was he defeated?
Did his homestead live on through the years?
Or did it return to the forest and marsh,
Putting waste to his blood and his tears.

Now he lies in his hemlock coffin,
Bestilled in his lonely grave,
Deaf to the sound of the whispering pines,
That over his head in the wind still wave.

© John Nelson 2003

Creating a Species Inventory

In 1989 Cathy J. Keddy and Mirek J. Sharp wrote a report entitled Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Conservation in Ontario. In this report rare Atlantic coastal plain plants were found on Lake Wahwashkesh. Are these plants still found in the area? How abundant are they? Where are they located? We really don't know.

There are also several animals living in the Lake Wahwashkesh area who are classified as "Species at Risk." These include the Massasauga Rattlesnake, the Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, the Common Five-lined Skink and the Red-Shouldered Hawk. What other rare animals reside at Lake Wahwashkesh? Since it is important to get to know your neighbours, we felt that we should make an inventory of those plants (including trees) and animals (including fishes, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, insects) that make Lake Wahwashkesh such a special place. If you would like to help us create a list of all the species found in the Lake Wahwashkesh area, please send a list of species you've observed, where you saw them along with your name and address to: Dalton Ferris at 55 Stover St North, Norwich, Ontario, N0J 1P0. Tel: 519-863-3606 or e-mail dalton.f@cablerocket.com

Please do not pick plants or harm any species.

Glenn Perrett

See our updated Website at

www.lake-wah-wash-kesh.org/

Work continues on improving our Association's web site, filling in missing information and updating content.

Give us your feedback on your suggested improvements sent by e-mail to: vurma.family@rogers.com

Andy Vurma

Appealing Your Property Assessment

Got a new assessment notice? You don't like the new value?

Make a date to go see the assessor. The first thing you need to do is to get an assessor in the office responsible for your property to describe your property to you. It's one of 4.2 million in Ontario.

Do they have it right? Check it out in terms of the characteristics: road access in winter, steepness of lot, shoreline, age and size of main buildings and out buildings, fire protection, services etc. Is there a place like yours in the area to compare the assessed values? In my opinion, you have a better chance of change at that office than if you go to appeal.

If you still wish to appeal, make sure you get it and the fee in on time. See your notice for details. To go through the municipal rolls and come up with the "com parables" is a lot of work and necessary for your Assessment Review Board (ARB) hearing. If you do this—prepare—prepare—and hope.

The Assessment Cycle

Assessment Year: 2003 Taxation Year: 2004
Valuation Date: June 30, 2003

Assessment Year: 2004 Taxation Year: 2005
Valuation Date: Average of 2003 & 2004

Assessment Year: 2005 Taxation Year: 2006
Valuation Date: Three year rolling average

For more information, call the MPAC Contact Centre 1-866296-MPAC
or visit www.mpac.ca.

Reprinted and presented with the approval of FOCA

MPAC Appeal Process

What can you do if you disagree with your assessment notice? You may contact MPAC to discuss your assessment or verify details about your property. If you still have concerns, you may ask MPAC for a reconsideration of your assessment. There is no fee for a Request for Reconsideration (RFR) and the request may be made at any time during the year. You can download the form from the MPAC website at www.mpac.ca.

Please note that the deadline for asking for a reconsideration of your 2002 assessment for the 2003 taxation year is December 31, 2003. If the reconsideration process results in a change to your assessment, it will be made. If not, you can file a formal complaint to the Assessment Review Board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent tribunal of the Province of Ontario. Both the property owner and MPAC will be asked to appear at a hearing to present evidence to support their arguments. The decision of the Board is final and binding on both parties.'

The ARB appeal deadline is March 31, 2003. There are specific application forms and associated fees with this approach. An appeal can be launched before, during, or after an RFR has been submitted but must be withdrawn if an RFR successfully deals with your concerns prior to an appeal hearing. Similarly, an RFR will not be processed if an appeal has been heard at the ARB.

You can find out more about assessment appeals on the ARB website at www.arb.gov.on.ca or by calling their toll free number at 1-800-263-3237 or 416-314-6900.

By John Kenny, Director, Taxation Committee

Reprinted from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation website

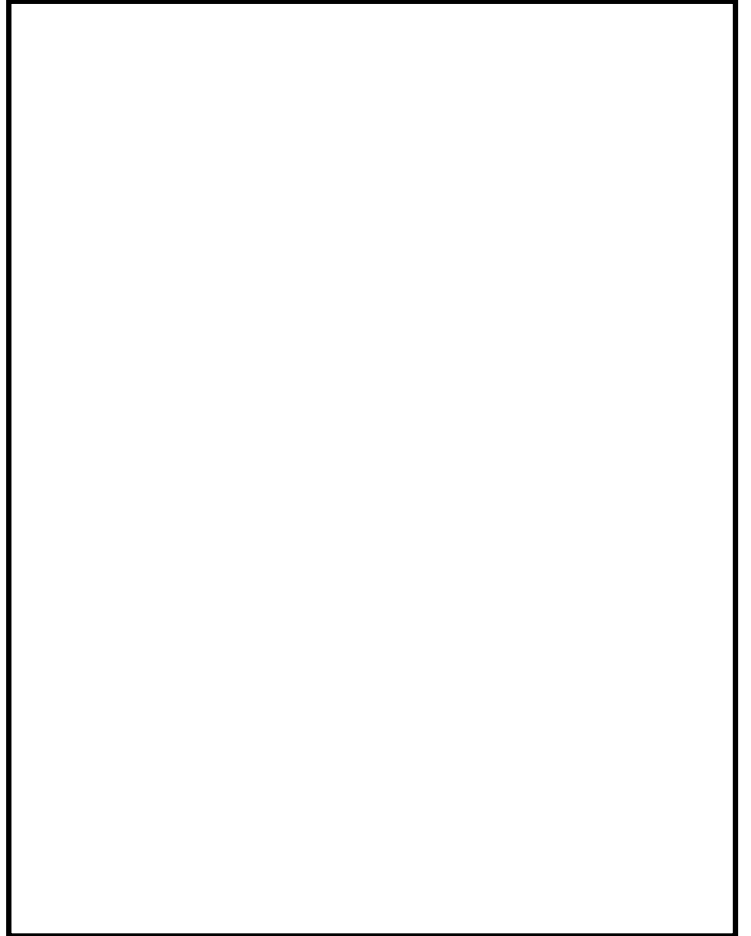
New Cottage Directory

Our last Cottage Directory was published in August 2000, and over the last 3 years, it has become outdated.

This summer we plan to publish a new Directory, which includes your new civic address in the Municipality of Whitestone. This is the same address that will be used by 911 emergency personnel to find you on the lake. We are now waiting for the municipal addresses for Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh to be sent to us by the Municipality of Whitestone, so that we can include them in our Directory.

Look for the new Directory to be on sale at the 2003 Annual General Meeting.

Andy Vurma



2003

Sat. July 12

Wiener Roast

4pm–Straubs

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

Sat. July 26

Art Show & Sale

2-5pm and 7-9pm

–Bennett's Barn

Sat. August 2

Annual Meeting

9:30am–Bennett's Barn

Dam Celebration

11:30am–1pm

–Bennett's Barn

August 9 & 10

Shoreline Cleanup

9am–Bennett's Landing

Sat. August 16

Corn Roast

3-5pm–Straubs

(Raindate: Sun., Aug. 17, 2-4pm)

Director's Meetings

Jul 05, 2003 - 10:00am

at Toggle Point WWK

Aug 02, 2003 - 9:30am

Annual Meeting at Bennett's Barn

In Memoriam

Marietta Madeline Tersigini

The Tersigini family has cottaged for many years on Tracy Island.

Harry Haggerty 1921 - 2003

Harry went to his friends cottage on Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh in 1945. He liked it so much he had to have his own place there. Soon he, Gord Easterbrook, Ken Shapland and Guy Hayward, were busy building - the cottage went up in 1946. Harry loved to fish. He would spend hours sitting trying to tame the chipmunks into eating peanuts off his shoulder.

Please use the services of our advertisers!
Don't forget to mention you saw their ad in our newsletter!

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

Don't forget to pick up your free copy of...

"Welcome to Whitestone" 2003 Municipal Directory

For information on: • Municipality of Whitestone • Area Cottage Associations
• Local Events • Interest Groups • Emergency Numbers • Plus Area Businesses

An invaluable source of information! Available at....

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Municipal Office | • Duck Rock Resort | • Hi-way General Store |
| • Library | • Bennett's Landing | • Logger's Station House |
| • Dunchurch Marina | • Maple Island General Store | • LLBO Trailer |
| • Duck's Nest Restaurant | • The Bridge Resort | • Quiet Bay Restaurant |

A Community Project Sponsored by the Hagerman Ratepayers Association

West Nile Virus - *What You Can Do!*

New details are being released about the true extent of last summer's West Nile virus (WNV) outbreak. Doctors now count at least 13 deaths and at least 1,000 more cases linked to West Nile across Canada. And people are getting much sicker than experts had anticipated. One complication for some patients was a polio-like paralysis. Others suffered debilitating muscle weakness and 80 per cent of them required rehabilitation or extra care when they returned home from the hospital.

Fortunately only 1 in 300 people bitten by an infected mosquito displays WNV symptoms. These symptoms are usually flu like and mild. Only 1 in 100-150 of those infected will become seriously ill. One of these, 3-15% will die from encephalitis or meningitis.

Experts are calling last year's West Nile outbreak the largest mosquito-borne disease outbreak in Canada since St. Louis encephalitis moved across North America nearly three decades ago. Results of a recently completed study show the human toll of West Nile was more serious than anyone anticipated.

Experts are also predicting a WNV epidemic spike in the number of cases this summer. During the three years from 1999 to 2001, 149 cases of WNV, including 18 deaths were reported in the U.S.; in 2002, about 4000 cases were confirmed with 252 fatal infections. The spread of the virus is also linked with the migration of the continents bird population. The infected birds are transporting WNV to nesting grounds all over North America.

What does this mean to the cottager who has struggled with the pesky and now dangerous mosquito for years? Urban solutions such as pesticide spraying and removing standing water are all but impossible around the vast lakes, ponds and marsh areas of Northern Ontario.

To Protect Yourself From Mosquitoes

- Stay indoors from dusk to dawn.
- Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants in the evening and early morning.
- Use an insect repellent: Concentration of N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide (DEET) should be no greater than 30-35 percent for adults and no greater than 6-10 percent for children.
- Apply the repellent sparingly, and only on exposed skin surfaces or on top of clothing. Heavy application and saturation are unnecessary for effectiveness. Repeat applications only as necessary and according to label directions. Do not apply repellent to children's hands, or near the eyes or mouth.
- In Canada, DEET products are not recommended for use in children under 2 years of age. For more information go to: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphbdgspsp/publicat/info/repell_e.html
- Burning citronella candles: Candles should burn outdoors for at least 2 hours in order to create an effective 'cloud' of citronella scent. Never leave burning candles unattended.

Another option to help with the mosquitoes are bat houses. ***Did you know...that one small brown bat can eat thousands of mosquitoes each night!*** Bats play key roles in keeping a wide variety of insect populations in balance. Bats, like many other animals, also suffer from man's destruction of their natural habitats. By placing a bat house at your cottage or home, you can provide a quality roosting habitat for bats. Bats that live in our yards, in addition to eating pests, serve as natural insect repellents. Many insects, especially moths, can hear bats from over 100 feet away and attempt to avoid them by leaving the area.

Lesley Hugill

Books and Things For The Cottage by N. Glenn Perrett

There are many ways to help the environment. Becoming more informed about the natural world and acting responsibly to protect it is one way. Another important step involves using products that have less of an impact.

The following books and products can help conserve the wilderness.

The Freeplay® Plus Radio/Light

Recently I acquired The Freeplay® Plus Radio/Light from the C. Crane Company. This quality eco-radio, which also features a white LED light, can work four different ways: **1.** by winding up the generator; **2.** using the built-in solar panel; **3.** charging the built-in rechargeable battery pack with AC adapter (optional) and **4.** using stored excess power from the other power sources. A few days after receiving the radio/light in the mail our power went off for several hours. The radio worked great and the light is bright. The Freeplay® Plus Radio/Light is great any time, but particularly valuable during power failures or down at the dock or beach.

C. Crane Company web: www.ccrane.com
tel: (800) 522-8863

Eco-Products from Ecowise

Ecowise features numerous environmental-friendly products – including items for feline and canine family members. Many of the items are made from hemp, a plant used for many products and which can be cultivated in as few as 100 days, is good for the soil and which can be grown without pesticides and herbicides. Three items that are great for the cottage are The Green Pen®, Hemp Coffee Filters and the Green Disk.

The Green Pen® contains a casing derived from corn starch and when composted turns

into a rich fertilizer. This pen was chosen as the official pen of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. For several months I've used a hemp, reusable coffee filter from Ecowise. This easily cleaned filter helps the environment in many ways as it makes those bleached, paper, disposable filters unnecessary. (Hemp tea bags are also available.) **The Green Disk** is an unused computer disk that was destined for a landfill site that Ecowise has collected from software companies. The disks are erased, formatted, triple-tested, labelled and repackaged.

Ecowise web: www.ecowiseproducts.com
tel: (709) 753-9473

Quality Pet Products for the Car & Cottage

Bowers Pet Products offers an impressive selection of pet beds along with home and vehicle accessories for companion animals. Our dogs love Bowser's luxurious "Donut Bed" which features an outer ring and a removable bottom cushion that doubles as a travel or crate mat. We've used Bowser's "Bucket Seat Cover" for nearly a year and it's both comfortable and practical repelling pet hair, dirt and moisture. Bowers offers many other items, including a "Car Seat Cover," that will make your "best friend's" trip to the cottage and their stay there very comfortable. Contact Bowers for more information and to locate a dealer near you.

Bowers Pet Products www.bowers.com
tel: (877) 269-7377 (905) 677-6655

There are lots of other simple ways to help the environment. For example, using travel mugs eliminates the incredible garbage generated from disposable paper and Styrofoam cups. Learning more about nature is another important way to protect the environment. The following books educate and help to create a greater respect for the natural world.

Silent Spring (40th Anniversary Edition)

By Rachel Carson
Houghton Mifflin
(Distributed in Canada by
Thomas Allen & Son Ltd)
2002, 378 pages
ISBN: 061825305X

Written more than 40 years ago, Rachel Carson's classic book *Silent Spring* had a profound effect on the environmental movement. Unfortunately, our use of deadly chemicals to combat harmless insects and plants in gardens, lawns, forests, golf courses and other places continues. How can our species continue to justify threatening other species and the environment so that we can have a lawn free of dandelions or a manicured surface devoid of weeds and bugs on which to hit a little white ball? Obviously much still needs to be done regarding our species learning to live in harmony with the other species on Earth. A good start in this educational process is to read *Silent Spring* which was recently published as a "40th Anniversary Edition."

Carson's vital message about the dangers of

using chemicals to fight insects and plants is as relevant today as it was more than four decades ago. Carson's well researched book provides numerous examples of chemicals used in reportedly safe amounts that caused irreparable and devastating damage to entire ecosystems and the species who lived there. As Carson states in her book, "Can anyone believe it is possible to lay down such a barrage of poisons on the surface of the earth without making it unfit for all life? They should not be called 'insecticides,' but 'biocides.'"

Carson also provides considerable information showing how everything is connected. When referring to water pollution she makes the following observation.

"In the entire water-pollution problem, there is probably nothing more disturbing than the threat of widespread contamination of groundwater. It is not possible to add pesticides to water anywhere without threatening the purity of water everywhere."

Silent Spring is, without a doubt, a "must read."

My Favorite Tree:

Terrific Trees of North America

Written and Illustrated by Diane Iverson

Dawn Publications 1999, 64 pages

ISBN: 1883220939

Ages 4 – 12

Our species' relationship with trees hasn't been a positive one. Vast, diverse forests are obliterated for quick financial gain. Ancient woodlots are cut down in the name of "progress". We even arbitrarily label some species of trees, like poplar and Manitoba Maple, "weeds" even though they provide vital roles like removing pollutants from the environment, stabilizing the soil, providing oxygen as well as providing food and shelter for animals.

Let's hope that our poor relationship with these magnificent beings isn't passed on to future generations. Books like My Favorite Tree:

Terrific Trees of North America can help develop a respect by our species for trees. In her informative and entertaining book Diane Iverson looks at 27 trees native to Canada, Mexico or the United States. Tree traits (habitat – including a range map, height, bark, leaves, flowers and seeds), wild animals who benefit from the tree species and interesting facts make this a great book for people of all ages who are interested in nature – and a "must read" for those who aren't!

Quality Nature Guides from Lone Pine Publishing

Considerable information about nature is available in identification guides. Guides written specifically for a certain area are particularly valuable. Lone Pine Publishing offers numerous nature guides about Ontario's flora and fauna. Some of these are listed below.

Forest Plants of Central Ontario

(ISBN: 1551050617)

This valuable guide contains species' descriptions, colour photographs and drawings of nearly 700 species of plants found in central Ontario.

Wetland Plants of Ontario

(ISBN: 1551050595)

More than 475 species of wetland plants contained in sections on trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses, sedges, rushes, aquatics, ferns & allies and bryophytes are featured in this informative guide.

Trees of Ontario

(ISBN: 1551052741)

Trees of Ontario contains a handy "Pictorial Guide" of the trees as well as an informative introduction. 213 species of trees are covered in sections on "Needle Leaves", "Alternate Broad Leaves" and "Opposite Broad Leaves".

Weeds of Canada & the Northern U.S.
(ISBN: 088864311X)

This guide contains more than 175 weed species. Considerable text, hundreds of colour photographs, an illustrated glossary and an index to common and scientific names helps us learn about these often misunderstood plants.

Mammals of Ontario

(ISBN: 1551053217)

Mammals of Ontario looks at 78 species of mammals in Canada's second largest province – everything from badgers to woodchucks.

Birds of Ontario

(ISBN: 1551052369)

This colour-coded guide features quality colour illustrations of 318 species of birds in Ontario. Information on size, status, habitat, nesting, feeding, voice and similar species is also included.

Ontario Birds: A Field Guide to 125 Common Birds of Ontario

(ISBN: 1551050692)

Ontario Birds features informative text and colour illustrations of 125 species of birds in Ontario. Sections on "Seasons of Birdwatching", "Birding Optics", "Birding 'by Ear'", "Keeping Bird Notes" and "Bird Feeders" also provides useful information.

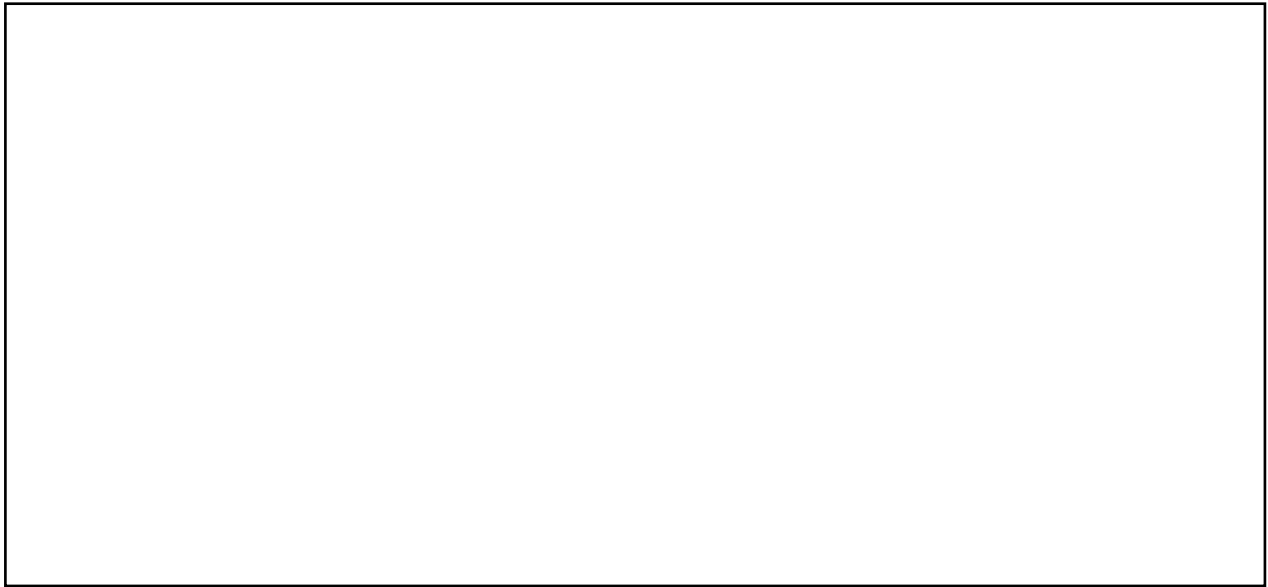
Animal Tracks of Ontario

(ISBN: 1551051095)

Even if you're not lucky enough to observe your animal neighbours you'll know who they are with Animal Tracks of Ontario. Information on tracks "walking", "trotting" and "running" along with length and width of prints and considerably more is included in this pocket guide of animal tracks for mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles of Ontario.



to the new West Parry Sound Health Centre



It s official! Health Minister Tony Clement announced Feb. 17 that EllisDon will begin construction on the new West Parry Sound Health Centre in just a few weeks, with completion scheduled within 24 months.

Over \$3,000,000 has already been raised from the West Parry Sound community – half way to the \$6 million goal. The new West Parry Sound Health Centre will have a **CT scanner**, new programs, and the modern facilities and equipment we all expect and deserve. The need is urgent, the project is a reality, the time is NOW! Be part of this major investment in our community

Please, give generously to the "Give in a Heartbeat" Campaign!

Some Special Events you won't want to miss:

April 17, 2003 - Log Cabin Dinner Gala. The new owners Cathy and Paul Crepeau will provide a sumptuous gourmet meal, exquisite service and delightful entertainment.

May 23 & 24, 2003 - Art Show and Sale at BOCC. Special opening Gala and Auction May 23. Initiated by the arts community, in partnership with The Friends, this promises to be an exciting event. Don t miss the hand-painted Muskoka chairs!

June 20 & 21, 2003 – 2nd Annual RBC Dragon Boat Festival in partnership with Rotary Club of Parry Sound. 40 teams participated last year, as well as hundreds of spectators. More than \$60,000 was raised for the WPSHC. Plan your team today!

July, 2003 - House Tour in partnership with the Festival of the Sound.

WEST PARRY SOUND HEALTH CENTRE FOUNDATION

16 James Street, Parry Sound P2A 1T2 705-746-4540 ext.317 or 1-888-262-0436

www.in-a-heartbeat.org

The Dam Project Reaches \$600K

It is hard to believe that it was six years ago, when I was elected as a director for the first time, that I proposed that we should make a concentrated effort to rebuild our crumbling dam.

Four other members (Ted Heggart, Kirby Brock, George Comrie and Eric Disley) also had the same passion to tackle that dream. In that first year, we met every other month, generating idea after idea on how to move forward. When the University of Western Ontario's Civil Engineering Department took on our Dam as a 4th year project, we were absolutely delighted. After all, what did we know about building a dam? The two UWO teams that worked on our dam project provided us with a great deal of understanding on what needed to get done.

In the second year, we collected \$27,000+ in fund raising from our generous membership. And then in year three, we took a bold leap of faith when the membership agreed to spend most of this funding on a preliminary engineering study for the new dam. The Ministry of Natural Resources has already told us very clearly that our Lake was not a top priority, and that the MNR was quite prepared to walk away. Although we risked losing all the funds we had gathered, we felt that by showing the Ontario Government that we were serious, we would

eventually get their support.

A period of intense lobbying followed including a letter writing campaign to our Member of Parliament. A very significant event occurred during that period. Ernie Eves (who was the MPP for the Wah-Wash-Kesh area) was being interviewed on the local Parry Sound Radio Station, when Jean Hayward called "on air", and put Ernie Eves on the spot by asking if he would support the rebuilding of our dam. He said that he thought that would be a good idea! Now I am summarizing his response based on Jean Hayward's recollection, because we tried unsuccessfully to get a copy of his actual comments. Nevertheless, it seemed that from that point forward, the momentum changed in our favour. MNR came on side and provided us with initial funding to complete the detailed engineering study.

We were also able to convince Ontario Hydro to contribute \$25,000 and also the Municipality of Whitestone agreed to take over the ownership of the dam from the MNR, once it was built. And finally in August of 2001, FedNor agreed to support us as well!

Construction began in the Fall of 2001 and had to be suspended due to high water. Construction continued the following summer completing in Sept. 2002. This project was never easy and the construction phase proved no exception, when it was discovered that the bedrock at the bottom of the river where the dam was to be built was much lower than expected. This meant that the amount of concrete needed to build the dam doubled! And since the concrete was the

majority of the cost, the price of the dam nearly doubled. In fact, we are still negotiating the final cost of the dam with the contractor. So if you add up all costs since this project started, which would include the preliminary design, detailed engineering, tendering, construction, the engineering consultant's efforts and the costs incurred by our Association, the project now stands at about \$600K!

We have been very fortunate to have a very supportive MNR and FedNor since the project began construction, as these extra costs will be fully funded. The Association in turn has agreed to provide further funding of \$10,000, which we have been able to do through prudent money management by our Treasurer, Duncan Robertson. So we are into the home stretch and by the end of 2003, we expect all costs to have been paid and all project requirements to have been met.

Where is that Champagne bottle?

Andy Vurma

Membership Committee

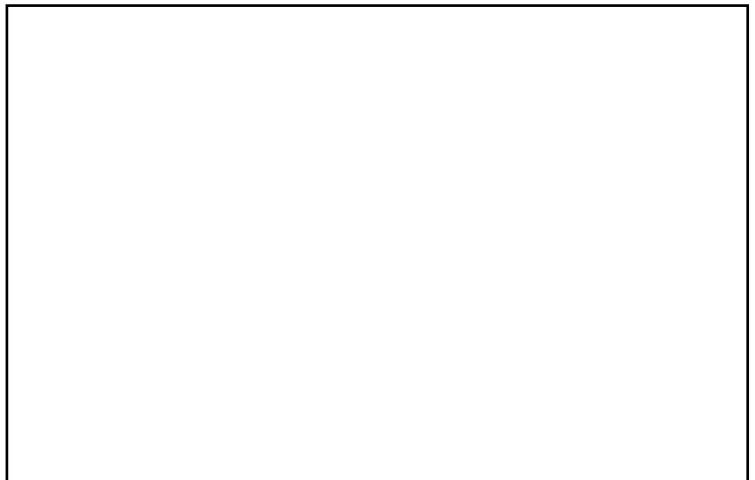
Spring has arrived and all are anxious to get to the cottage. A new lake brochure and membership form will be launched this spring and available at convenient places on the lake, dumps and local stores. I am always looking for volunteers to help stuff envelopes for the twice yearly mailings, only an hour of your time would be needed. Call or e-mail me if at all interested.

The Committee is looking into Lake Association Merchandise being available to the public in the near future. Any input on what you would like for sale would be greatly appreciated.

A "Know Your Neighbour" program is being studied for the summer, with a look towards establishing a neighbourhood watch program in the future.

As always, any ideas or suggestions are greatly appreciated and assistance of any kind would be greatly rewarded.

Diane Ovenden



Lake Wah-Wah-Kesh Conservation Association

ANNUAL ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Date	Director #1	Director #2	Director #3	Director #4	Director #5	Director #6	Director #7	Past President
'98-08-01 AGM	Andy Vurma	Wayne Lennox	Duncan Robertson	Ken Taylor	Dalton Ferris	Michael Busenhart	Gary Kindree	Ross Willett
'99-07-31 AGM	Andy Vurma	Wayne Lennox	Duncan Robertson	Ken Taylor	Dalton Ferris	George Ross	vacant	Ross Willett
'00-08-05 AGM	Andy Vurma	Terry Tweed	Duncan Robertson	Ken Taylor	Dalton Ferris	George Ross	Ted Heggart	Wayne Lennox
'01-08-04 AGM	Andy Vurma	Terry Tweed	Duncan Robertson	Ken Taylor	Dalton Ferris	Diane Ovenden	Ted Heggart	Wayne Lennox
'02-08-03 AGM	Andy Vurma	Terry Tweed	Duncan Robertson	Ken Taylor	Dalton Ferris	Diane Ovenden	Ted Heggart	Wayne Lennox
'03-08-02 AGM	To be elected	Terry Tweed	Duncan Robertson	John Nelson	Dalton Ferris	To be elected	To be elected	Wayne Lennox

Notes:

1. All directors' positions are for a 2 year term. The bolded boxes above indicate the elected directors' positions for that year.
2. Since only 6 directors were elected at the 1999 AGM, the vacant director's position was filled at the 200 AGM for a term of only one year.
3. Effective 2000-08-05, through a change in the constitution approved by the membership, the number of directors was increased from 7 to 8 to include the position of **Past President**. The position is a Director's position and continues until such time as the current **President** retires and becomes the **Past President**.

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