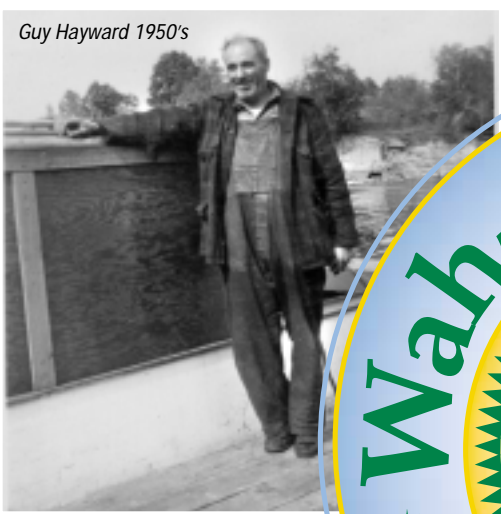


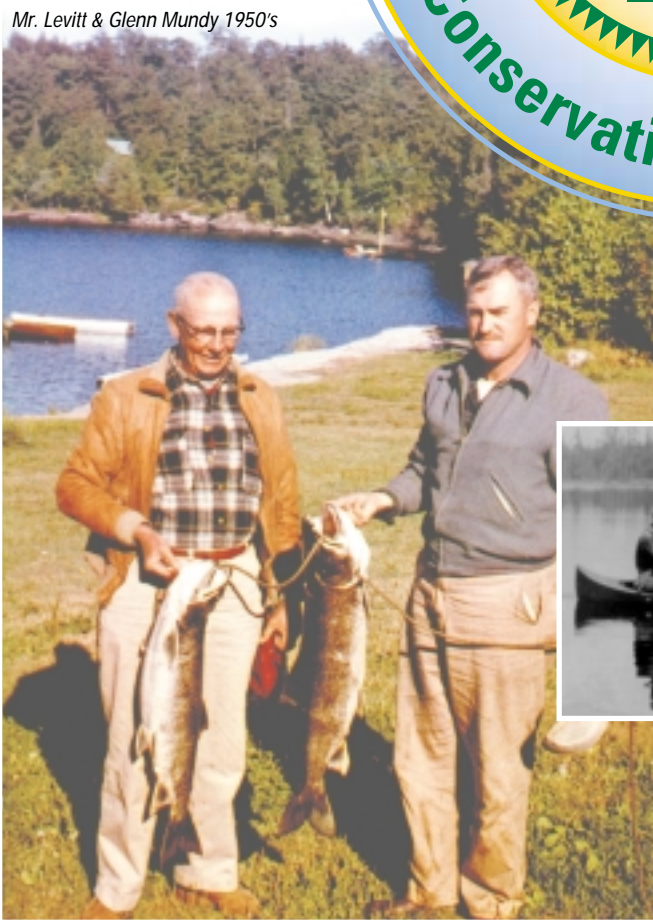
Farm Creek Log Chute 1943



Guy Hayward 1950's



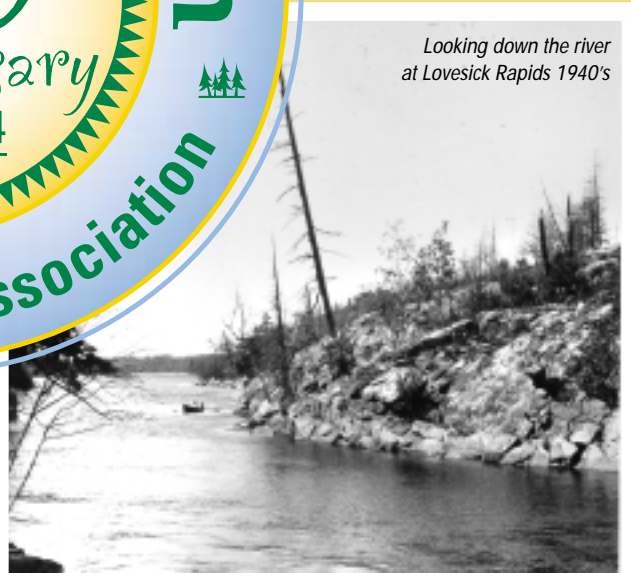
Mr. Levitt & Glenn Mundy 1950's



Tofflemire Photography



Looking down the river
at Lovesick Rapids 1940's



Island Lake 1911



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President's Message

Well, spring is finally here after a winter that seemed a bit more dreary than most. I don't remember too many days of crisp cold air and sparkling sunshine—mostly I recall clouds and wet snow! Over the winter the Board has been addressing some important specific issues, trying to discover and understand your views on the Association, and planning for the upcoming year.

I have mixed emotions in reporting to you that our Secretary, Terry Tweed, has resigned from the Board due to a successful influx of work to her career—Terry is a well-known film, television and stage actor, and teaches her craft at University in Ottawa. She has served long and well as Secretary and will be missed, especially because Terry's mother and father were founding members of the Association. We all extend our congratulations to Terry on her recent career success and our gratitude for her service to the Association—Thanks, Terry! We are also grateful to Dana Boyter who has stepped forward and volunteered to become Secretary—I know Dana will tackle the job with skill and enthusiasm.

One of the issues we had to deal with was insurance—unfortunately our former insurance broker dropped the ball and failed to inform us promptly that our insurance companies had some questions. The result of that was that our policies were “lapsed”, and we had to go on a mad scramble to find providers for the two policies we need—one to protect Directors and Officers from liability arising from decisions and actions we make in good faith, and another policy to protect the Association from liability arising from our activities, primarily related to operating the docks. We actually probably saved a few dollars as a result—we found a source for the directors' policy from “Volunteer Canada” at www.volunteer.ca that costs \$500 or about half of the going rate through a broker. Thanks to Ted Heggart, we have found a very helpful broker in Hamilton, J.A. McEdwards Ltd. who has placed our general liability insurance at about the same cost as 2003 or about \$2,700.

In February I wrote to everyone on our database inviting them to renew their memberships—thank you to the significant number of people who responded—early memberships really take a load off the shoulders of the volunteer directors who process the forms, have the stickers printed, and mail them out. If you haven't renewed yet—you might like to take advantage of the membership and dock forms on page 22.

Thanks also to the many people who took the time to return the survey questionnaire. As I write this, about 35% or about 120 people replied. The results have been input to a database and Andy Vurma is doing the detailed analysis, but two or three trends are very clear from looking at the raw data: Well over 80% of you rated the newsletter “very good” or “excellent” — thank you! Much of the credit goes to our editor Lesley Huggill. You also gave us some coaching—there were significant

totals of “fair” plus “poor” for Fish Enhancement, Water Testing, and Improve the Environment—telling us that you'd like to see us dedicate more resources to environmental issues. The Board will continue

to review the results over the coming weeks and the survey will be handed out and discussed at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday July 31, along with some ideas on how the Association can respond effectively to your input.

You also provided many thoughtful and insightful written comments. One comment that I fully agree with was this: we need to be “better assessing the collective will as opposed to that of a small vocal minority”. We hope the survey will help address that concern, but I'd also like to invite you to consider serving as a Director in future years. I believe that one of my jobs as President is to ensure a smooth succession, and I encourage you to contact me if you would consider serving on the Board at some point in time. I know that the current Directors value diversity of opinion because it brings the Association to the best overall decisions in the long run. The Association also needs input, from time-to-time, from people with specific skills—for example communications skills, writing skills, environmental, scientific and engineering skills, organizational skills, construction skills—you name it. Currently, we could use some help with accounting systems as we consider upgrading to a software package, and occasionally we need some consultation on minor legal matters.

Well, I guess all that's left to say is ... “Thanks!” — and — “See you at the Lake!”

John Nelson, Bennett's Bay

Recycling

Municipality of Whitestone

The Municipality of Whitestone has entered into an agreement with Muskoka Containerized Services Ltd. to accept recyclable products from a two stream recycling system as follows:

Stream One: Recyclable Fibres

- Newspapers • Magazines • Catalogues
- Telephone Books • Corrugated Cardboard
- Boxboard • Egg Cartons • Mixed Papers
- Office Papers • Brown Paper Bags

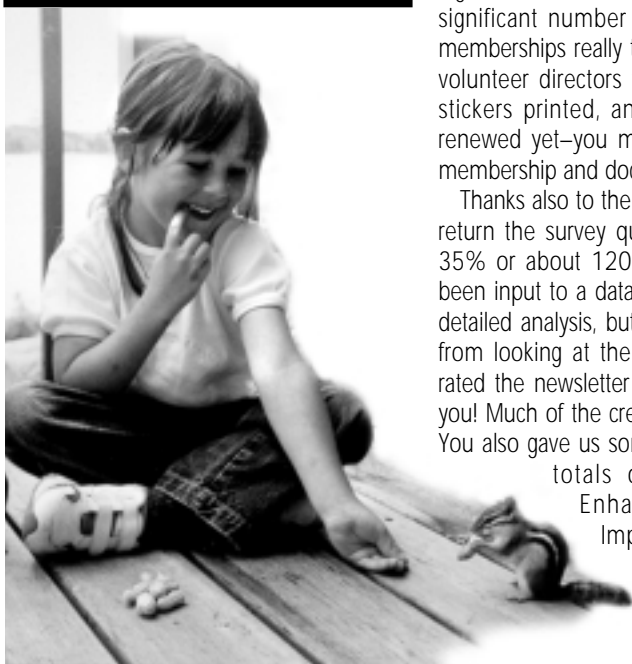
Stream Two: Recyclable Containers

- Glass Bottles & Jars • Metal Beverage Cans
- Metal Food Cans • Plastic Soft Drink Bottles
- Rigid Plastic Bottles • Aluminum Trays
- Aluminum Foil

This new collection system at the Auld's and York Street landfill will ensure that all recyclable material that you carry to the landfill will be recycled and **will not** be tossed aside into the landfill as has happened in the past. Please note that items such as soft plastic margarine containers are not accepted.

Don't forget that all hazardous materials such as used oil, solvents and batteries etc., should be taken back to your home town and taken to the appropriate facilities. These materials if thrown out with your regular garbage will end up moving into groundwater and will have long-term toxic effects to local wells, creeks, streams and lakes.

Dana Boyter



Nuisance Bear Management

The Association received the following letter February 10, 2004.

Dear Sir,

On December 17, 2003, Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay announced that MNR will implement a nuisance bear management strategy. The Ministry of Natural Resources is going to work with municipalities to develop a community-based program that will bring real positive change to this issue, right across Ontario. I am writing to provide more detail on the planned consultation.

Experience in other jurisdictions has shown the benefits of a comprehensive approach to nuisance bear management that emphasizes public education and community level prevention and mitigation practices. The MNR strategy will include action on public education, a 24-hour round-the-clock, toll-free number for reporting nuisance bear incidents, and a coordinated response. The strategy will outline what assistance will be available to municipalities to help prevent bear problems, including awareness and education programs and products. The strategy will also include detailed approaches to the development of bear proofing strategies for communities, removal and relocation of nuisance bears.

We will continue to keep you informed as details of the nuisance bear management strategy are developed over the next few months.

MNR is moving to provide action for people who are looking for a solution to this long-standing problem. The Ministry anticipates that these efforts will help protect the people of Ontario, their communities and the natural environment.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the numbers listed below if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely, **Bob Griffiths,**
District Manager
Ministry of Natural Resources
7 Bay St., Parry Sound, ON P2A 1S4
T:(705) 746-4201 F:(705) 746-8828

(Editor's Note: The Association will be inviting Bob to speak at the AGM and tell us more about the MNR's plans, Sat. July 31 in Bennett's barn.)



Dock Committee

Stewardship Agreement Renewed

The big item to report from the Dock Committee is that we have received agreement from the MNR that the Association will continue as dock stewards for the Bennett's Bay and Indian Narrows docks for another five years. Although we approached the MNR with a request that they consider taking on responsibility for all liability insurance, due to the Ministry's budget cut-backs the MNR will only be responsible for liability to the public—the Association must carry coverage to protect our own members.

Insurance Woes

Over the winter we went "insurance shopping" but there were few bargains to be found! This in spite of the fact that insurance companies' profits increased 263% in 2003! Our new insurance broker is J.A. McEdwards Insurance Brokers Ltd. in Hamilton, who have found a carrier who will provide \$1 million "Commercial General Liability" Insurance at an annual premium of \$2,700, about the same as the cost in 2003. It doesn't take a fancy calculator to see that insurance is the number one dock expense! We sell about 120 dock stickers at \$30.⁰⁰ each - \$3,600 is the projected dock income for 2004. About 80% of the insurance cost is related to the docks or about \$2,200 – leaving only about \$1,400 a year for maintenance and improvements. We had about \$8,300 in the Dock Fund at the start of 2004.

Indian Narrows Improvements

John Kormos has drawn up plans for significant improvements to the dock at Indian Narrows. The concrete abutment has broken away from the rock below so it needs to be repaired. At the same time we will be increasing the size and height of the concrete abutment to

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allow better access to the dock during periods of high water. John's design includes construction of an innovative steel truss ramp to the dock with sturdy wooden decking. The Association has applied to the MNR for a work permit and we hope to have the improvements completed in 2004. The cost of these improvements will be in the order of \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Bennett's Bay

The Bennett's Bay dock itself is in good condition, and the height of the concrete abutment is OK. However the abutment is tilted about 5-10 degrees towards the lake. The road down to the dock is pretty steep, and during a rainstorm significant amounts of sand and gravel wash away into the lake. The crib work holding back the gravel at the edge of the lake also needs work. The boat launch area is uneven with significant trailer navigation required to avoid rocks and to launch your boat. The dock is also next to Bennett's property, and in some cases drivers have encroached on it. In order to resolve these issues, we'll probably have to work with the Municipality of Whitestone who maintain the road. Last year the MNR made some funding available to the Municipality for dock improvements, and we understand that Whitestone did some grading and applied some gravel near our docks as a result. We plan to contact the Municipality, and suggest that we work with their engineering consultant to come up with a plan to improve the landing area. Next steps could include improvements to the boat launch. We plan to work very closely with Ed Bennett to ensure that everyone benefits from any improvements here.

Andy Vurma

"Crow-Duck":

Friend or Foe or part of the Ecosystem?

Many fish-eating birds, and in particular the Double-crested Cormorant or "Crow-Duck" have aroused suspicion and even hostility among fish harvesters, who believe that these birds are eating and thus reducing the populations of commercial and recreational valuable fish.

In Central Ontario the cormorant lives mainly in colonies on the Great Lakes and feeds primarily on small, largely non-commercial shallow-water fish. These include abundant species such as Alewife, Rainbow Smelt and Yellow Perch but also may include White Sucker, Pumpkinseed, Crappie, Bass and Stickleback. Bruce Pollard of the OMNR, Peterborough has suggested that cormorants may eat anything that is abundant and available.

The effects of toxic chemicals decimated cormorant populations from the 1950's to early 1970's. During this time in the Great Lakes, the Alewife and Rainbow Smelt populations underwent an unprecedented population explosion (1950's -1970's) with the decline of the Lake Trout (1940's-1950's). Since the early 1970's the cormorant population has exploded due to declining levels of contaminants and the abundant alewife population.

The main concerns and fears are that cormorants are feeding on: 1) sport fish like lake trout and salmon; 2) the same prey fish that large predatory fish need for food; and, 3) local supplies of pan fish such as perch and bass.

The first two concerns do not seem to be valid. Studies show that in Lake Ontario, the cormorant diet consists of less than 2% of trout or salmon. Also, cormorants consume only about 0.5% of the prey species as compared to about 13% taken by sport fish. The third concern is less clear. In northern Georgian Bay, fish harvesters see declines in local catches of perch and bass. As evidence they site the ease at which a "meal" of fish was caught ten years ago, before the birds increased. The OMNR is now undertaking a major study to evaluate the feeding habitats of cormorants in Lake Huron.

There are no records in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas of cormorants on Lake WWK and sightings are most likely individuals that have strayed from colonies on Georgian Bay or are stragglers from spring migration. Nesting sites are located in undisturbed areas and are made with sticks and other drift material and are on the ground, cliff tops, ledges and trees. Information and photos on nesting or roosting sites on Lake WWK can be forwarded to the OMNR, Parry Sound to the attention of Bruce Pollard. These birds are protected under the provincial Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act!

Dana Boyter

"Cottage Essentials"

Authored by our own

Wayne Lennox of Lake WWK

This new book is an everything guide for your cottage camp or cabin. I picked up one of the first copies at the recent Cottage Life Show and since have been scanning chapter after chapter. Most everything one could encounter at the cottage or in the woods is covered: first aid, chain saws, tree felling, plumbing, bears, tools, decks, critters, docks, closing up, the outhouse, the woodshed, sleeping outdoors, getting lost, fishing, boat motors, even some easy recipes and a few bartending tips.

I have already benefited from reading the tree felling and plumbing chapters!

This is a great book for cottagers to have at hand. Wayne's love for cottaging and nature shines through and this has resulted in a very pertinent choice of topics.

This hard covered 250 page book is \$19.95 and is published by Whitecap Books. The Whitecap website is www.whitecap.ca. Click on the "Craft and home category" and "Cottage Essentials" will appear. Chapters, Barnes and Noble and Amazon web sites also feature "Cottage Essentials" on their web sites.

Congratulations to Wayne for creating a very worthwhile-need to have book-for fellow cottagers and nature lovers.

Dalton Ferris, Toggle Point

WWK Conservation Association

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What you can do?

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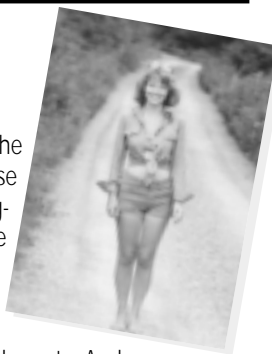
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Photos Needed for the Cottage Directory

We need your photos of the Lake to include inside the new cottage directory to be published this summer. These would be photos from all over the lake of the lake's geography and interesting features that we could place in the new Directory. A copy will be made and the original returned to you promptly.

We need your photos no later than June 15th!

So dig through your albums and drawers and send them to Andy Vurma. His address and contact information are at the back of the newsletter.



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Our History

The Wah Wash Kesh History Project

John Nelson in his "Presidents message" in the Fall Newsletter referred to the founding of the WWK Association 50 years ago and that the publishing of the "Early Years" in 1986 was an important step in recording the Association's history. Without in any way detracting from that important and enjoyable document. It is worth noting that currently, some members of our Association are also members of an even older WWK organization, "Morton's Point Camp" founded in 1903 and having just celebrated 100 years on the lake. (Technically the founders of the camp Robert M Morton, Edward Cambell Kenning and Donald Alexander Cameron first established their hunting camp on Cameron Island above Lovesick Rapids) but in 1910 the present site of the camp was purchased and construction of camp buildings was begun.

From 1903 a log book of the camp has been kept year by year and this log book together with pages of historic photographs has now been placed on the Internet with a link to the WWK Conservation Association's web page. An invaluable and fascinating addition to the history of the lake. If you want to know where Andy Vurma's old fridge wound up or where the Hiya-Hiya got it's name it's all recorded in the log books of the camp.

As mentioned in the Fall Newsletter, the Association is planning to mark the 50th anniversary of the Wah Wash Kesh Conservation Association by publishing a sequel to "The Early Years" with the publication date projected for the AGM in 2005. To meet that deadline we need the help of all the members.

The foundations of the history of the early years have been well laid but history can never be said to be complete and new contributions will continue to be received. Recently John Nelson was surprised and delighted to receive the contribution from Matt Volkenburg in South Korea which appears in this Newsletter.

Not all of us can look back over several generations of cottage life. With the reading of what we may consider "real history", we hope that our descendants will be able to look back over the generations and read our stories and look at our pictures and consider them to be part of the real history of WWK. In recording these memories and those of our children we are writing tomorrows history.

Most of us do not find it easy to capture memories whether on writing or with a camera.

To encourage the participation of as many member families as possible in the writing of the "sequel" (whether old timers or those who have come to the lake more recently) a "prompt sheet" will be distributed at the AGM and in subsequent News Letters. This sheet will offer suggested headings for contributions such as: why WWK? how did you hear about the lake? anecdotes about the trips to the cottage, getting lost at night on the lake or in an early morning mist, fishing stories, wild life encounters, plumbing problems, cottage cooking, parties and games everyone in the family, especially the children can take part and jog memories. The prompt sheet is merely to get the memories and stories flowing. With a memory captured write it down while it is still warm and send it to the President or put it on the WWK web page (directions will be given for doing this)

The contributions will then be worked into the finished document under a series of story headings. Families are encouraged to sign their contributions but if there are sufficiently extenuating circumstances anonymity may be granted!! While these contributions may be seen to be a more light hearted accompaniment to what some would regard as "real history". It should be remembered that history exists in our collective memories and these memories are why we treasure "Our Lake". The sequel to "The Early Years" is a continuation of that hunt for what makes up the treasure.

Jim Stopps

Tribute to the MacRae Brothers

Reprinted (with permission) from the Parry Sound North Star, Wed. Nov. 6, 1991

Flying Officer Dougald MacRae of Wah-Wash-Kesh Lake came to die in the crash of his bomber in the heart of Warsaw. That mission began, in southern Italy, in the evening of August 13, 1944.

On that same day his brother Jamie wrote a letter to his mother which he datelined "In a slit trench somewhere in France". It described the hot weather and terrain they were fighting through, the prisoners they were taking, including some of the fanatical Hitler Youth, and what it felt like to be caught in no-man's land under point-blank machine-gun fire. Toward the end Jamie's letter turns to spiritual matters, and drops just a bit of a hint that one or the other of his mother's sons might not come home again. Surely he could not have guessed that neither would.

"Somewhere" was the front lines of the Canadian ground forces poised to try and close the so-called Falaise pocket in Normandy, and trap a German army. Although hailed as an unqualified victory at the time, historians later began to argue that the operation was botched – by famed British General Bernard Montgomery, perhaps with help from one or more tiers of lower echelons. But for the MacRae family of Linger Long Lodge on Wah-Wash-Kesh Lake, Falaise was the final blow in a cruel and sudden personal catastrophe.

With a name like his it is no surprise that Jamie Duncan MacRae's first choice was the storied 48th Highlanders. Second best was the Hamilton-based Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and that is what he settled for. Going overseas must have been an especially difficult departure, for he left behind both his wife Rena, and infant daughter Gail. Before brother Dougie was posted to the Middle East the two managed to go on leave together, visiting Eilean Donan Castle, the seat of Clan MacRae in the inner Hebrides.

The 48th Highlanders landed in France on July 22, 1944, and went into action almost immediately. On

August 15, when the Allies' pincer movement had closed the distance separating American forces to the south and British, Polish, and Canadian forces to the north to 18 miles, Operation Tractable was launched to close the Falaise Gap. The Argylls were positioned at the cutting edge.

At the operation's launching, just one day after his brother died in Warsaw, Jamie was killed by enemy artillery fire, hit in the chest by a fragment of a shell which struck tree branches overhead, according to a comrade. The summer of '44 proved to be exceedingly bleak for the MacRae family of Wah-Wash-Kesh Lake.

When Dougie's disintegrating Liberator crashed and burned, by a quirk of fate his navigator, Englishman Lloyd Lyne, was thrown free and landed, unconscious, on an islet in the Bistula river. Taken prisoner, he survived the war and manages one of the Queen's farms, in Cornwall. Three years ago this month, Lloyd attended the unveiling, by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, of a bronze plaque affixed to a granite boulder placed by a grateful Polish population on the spot in Paderewski Park where the plane came down. It bears the likeness of a stricken warplane with the names of Dougie MacRae and the five who died with him inscribed on its wings.

(Editor's Note: In November 1991, the Dunchurch Legion unveiled a tribute to George Dougald MacRae and Jamie Duncan MacRae.)

By John Macfie

Stories Passed Down Through the Generations

My great grandfather, Albert Stuckey, came up to visit his relatives at Whitestone as early as 1890, when he was 13 years old. His aunt, uncle, and their children (some of whom had families of their own), had moved up to Whitestone some time before. While his family would move out to Alberta before the turn of the century, my great grandfather continued to visit the area for the rest of his life, eventually buying land on Wah-Wash-Kesh Lake that his descendents cottage on

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

today. I, like my mother and grandmother, all have fond memories of Wah-Wash-Kesh Lake that go back to our childhoods.

Albert Stuckey's community of friends here, both those who settled here before the turn of the century, as well as his friends from Toronto who he introduced to the area, have left their names on places throughout the lower lake. Taylor Bay, Somerville Bay, Harrison Island, Eberle Point, and Edgewood Road all bear the names of his close friends (or the streets they lived on in Toronto).

Unlike many people who have to rely on stories passed down through the generations to understand their ties to the area, I am lucky in that my great grandfather took dozens of photos with a glass plate camera. Years ago, my grandfather and uncle found boxes of glass plates, which a century ago were used in cameras to record images before the use of film. They were amazed to find dozens of photos, taken perhaps



The Taylor Family - circa 1909

between 1905 and 1910. Fishing trips, his colleagues in a shoe factory in Toronto, boating trips on Lake Ontario, photos of his friends and family, all of these were captured by my great grandfather. Perhaps most interesting of all, however, were dozens of photos of the Whitestone area at that time. Logging camps, homesteads, the results of fishing and hunting trips, the settler families he spent time with; all of these things have been preserved.

Of course, with the passage of a century, it can be difficult to identify many of the people. My grandmother remembers some of the people from her childhood days spent at Wah-Wash-Kesh Lake, and with the help of the 1901 census, I've been able to put names to some of the faces, and give an approximate date for some of the photos.

In the first photo, we see the Taylor family, who have a bay on Wah-Wash-Kesh Lake named after them (as well as another nearby lake). The 1901 census lists five family members, allowing us to identify, from left, daughter Bernice, two other children, and a baby, mother Hellen, son Francis, father Richard, another child and daughter Margretta (or Rita, as she was known). Judging from the age of the four younger children not mentioned on the census, the photo seems to have been taken around 1909 or 1910.

My great grandfather's cousin, who had lived in

Whitestone in the 1890s, reminisced about the Taylors in a letter decades later, so it would seem this family had lived in the area for quite some time. The census lists Hellen, the mother, as a Catholic of French descent, and Richard, the father, as an Anglican of Irish descent. They were, of



The Taylor Family - circa 1920

course, farmers.

Members of the Taylor family appear again in a later photo, taken perhaps around 1920. In this photo we see, in the back row, Mrs. Somerville, Vera Stuckey (my great grandmother), Rita Taylor, Frida Eberle, Mrs. Hellen Taylor, Mrs. Buchanan, and Mr. Eberle. In the front row is Albert Stuckey, Bernice Taylor, and a woman who remains unidentified. The Taylor family members have obviously grown older (I'm told that Bernice Taylor was only in the wheelchair temporarily).

We need to introduce the others in this photo. Members of the Eberle family were good friends of my great-grandparents. Mr. Eberle, who was of German descent, was a colleague of Albert Stuckey; he made orthopedic shoes. My great-grandfather introduced him to Wah-Wash-Kesh Lake, and he built a cottage on the point which now bears his name.

Mrs. Buchanan was another resident of the area. My grandmother remembers staying with her when she was young. Mrs. Somerville lived at this time with her husband, John, at a homestead on what is now Somerville bay. My great grandfather was very close to them, and took over a dozen photos of them and their homestead around 1910. And last, but not least, are Albert and Vera Stuckey.

This would have been taken a few years after my great-grandparents' wedding. They used to

come up to Whitestone often, and before buying land and building a cabin on what is now Edgewood Road, they stayed at the Somerville homestead. Other photos exist of them at various spots around the lower lake, often with long vanished logging dams and bridges in the background.

On top of these visual sources of information, however, exists another record. In the early autumn of 1918 Vera Stuckey, and their toddler, Jene, spent a few weeks staying with the Somervilles, as they often did. The letters she wrote to Albert, who had returned to Toronto to work, provide descriptions of Whitestone at that time.

Reading the letters, one becomes aware of how much they were at the mercy of the elements, and how far away they

were from urban centers like Toronto (or even 'the Sound'). Requests for medicine and shotgun shells are made. Plans to send a letter or visit friends are cancelled by rain. A letter is ended because a toddler wants to use the only pencil in the house. The arrival of a stack of '78 records livens the atmosphere at the Somerville homestead: "I never heard Uncle Johnny laugh so much before." I really enjoyed this story:

"Uncle Johnny [Somerville] traded one of his heifers for a milking cow last Saturday with Rita Taylor and we were planning all kinds of things that we would do when we got it, but he went out to get it on Monday and landed back about 3:00 without it – it just lay down on the road and stayed there so he had to give up his bargain." (Sept 10, 1918)

Not to fear though; their neighbours would give them milk. This latter photo, along with these letters, works to paint a picture of the community which existed at Whitestone back then. A trip to Parry Sound or Ardbeg meant that you would take your neighbours' letters to mail, and would come back with supplies for them as well. My great-grandmother's letters describe visits and dinners with the Eberles, Buchanans, Gordons, Leitchs, Harrisons, Ainsleys and the Taylors. Many of these people have left their names on landmarks around the lake; unlike most of the loggers and the visitors at the Inn, these people stayed and tried to make a

Our History

go of it there. That they were able to do so was due to the sense of community that grew up around people in similar, and often harsh circumstances. The latter photo, with members of four families standing in front of a log cabin someone called home, is a perfect example of that sense of community.

Matt Volkenburg

(Editor's note - Matt's family cottages on Chute's Bay at the bottom of Whistone Bay in the Big Lake. Matt teaches English in South Korea and send us this look back in time from halfway around the world!)

The Forest Near Our Cottage

It is September 21 and the first day of autumn. The sun is moving south and crossing the equator today. The sun is shining and it is a warm clear day in the Taiga. The woods are lounging in the weakening embrace of summer before the impending winter. A few Canadian Geese have begun to move south from where ever they spend the summer far to our north on James Bay.

The silence is deafening as hardly a breath of wind moves in the precincts of God's Chapel. The trail is clear and easy to move along. Frogs still abound along the edges of the holes filled with green, slimy water. Two eastern hognosed snakes are moving across the track from west to east in silent ripples of movement. Where are they going? Are they hunting for the frogs along the road? Are they moving to their winter hibernaculum. I can't tell which is the male and which is the female. They are not afraid as I study and photograph them. I will send a report of the sighting to the MNR. These endangered species are very important to the health of the biosphere.

My wife, Julie, and I love this walk especially at this time of the year. The nice weather, the lack of bugs, water still warm enough to swim in and the silence, compared to the August weekend, make the forest one of the best kept secrets of the north in autumn. The evenings are cool but a small wood fire in the fireplace is more than enough to keep comfy.

Here on Wahwashkesh we are half way between the equator and the North Pole in the boreal forest. It is a mixed forest yet we are in the climate classification Humid Continental Long Summer. We are in the Canadian shield. Our forest is only ten thousand years old. Born as the last remnants of the ice age retreated northwards. In fact we are still in a retreat mode. Now we are in the last days of our four month frost free season. Soon the frosts will trigger the deciduous trees to go dormant and rest until spring.

Mother nature has blessed us here on

Wahwashkesh. Our water is clean. The air is fresh and filled with spruce and pine scent. Here a person can think and reflect. There are no sirens or diesel bus noises. A solitary plane every so often or the sound of the train over



Fish fry 1945

Lovesick Rapids 1953



eight miles away are not that intrusive. Most importantly is the chance to teach the children an appreciation for this Canada of ours. Understanding our environment is critical to being wardens of our lake in the future.

As the afternoon progresses the sun is sinking. The venison barley soup has been simmering in the crock pot all day. The fire needs to be lit. A quick shower as the cottage warms and a glass of the rare Wahwashkesh wine as the national news comes across the satellite will be a perfect way to close a perfect day on perfect Lake Wahwashkesh.

Mike Szymanski

A 100th Birthday

When my children stand on our beach, from that vantage point they can see the summer homes lovingly built by their parents in the 1990's, their grandparents in the 1960's, their great-grandparents in the 1930's and, across the wide expanse of the "Big Lake", the cottage built by their great, great-grandparents. In 1903, William and Eliza Robertson, who had emigrated from Scotland in 1873, purchased a tract of land on Lake Wahwashkesh from the Crown and in 1904 they began to build a cottage, known as Selma. This historic old place still stands on the beautiful piece of property between Taylor Bay at the back and Selma Bay at the front. The islands near Selma were part of the original parcel, including the large island on which Arbor Vitae stands, that cottage having been built by William's son, Charles, and the island labelled Doret's Island, which some call Auld's Island.

William was the first storekeeper in Dunchurch and was the postmaster and sheriff there. His large family moved to "Deer Lake" for each summer, along with whatever provisions were required to sustain 10 hungry Robertson children throughout the two months. Sadly, Eliza died very young, but

William continued to bring the brood to the lake on his own. One favourite family story goes that each summer a cow was led swimming across the lake, noosed to a rowboat, all the way from Harrison's Landing to Selma to provide milk for the family. One early summer, the confused bovine decided on her first night there that she would prefer not to stay and while the family slept, she swam back to the landing. A family photograph of William shows him at 93 years of age, paddling his splendid old canoe out in front of Selma.

Selma still belongs to one of William's great-granddaughters, Kimberley Hull. Four of William and Eliza's grandchildren, Kathleen Strong, Myrtle Byrd, Beth Abbott, and Mona Bennett still spend time at the lake. Many great-grandchildren have cottages of their own, dotted all around the lake, and dozens more spend time at the lake every year. In 2001, baby Erin Lane spent her first summer at the WWK Lodge, followed shortly by baby Regan Parris who spent 2002 at her grandmother's cottage on Shabbott's Bay - they were the first of the sixth generation of the Robertson family on the lake. Would not William and Eliza be pleased with the legacy of love that we all share for our beautiful Deer Lake? Happy 100th Birthday, Selma.

Lynn Abbott-Lennox, Shabbott's Bay

The Wah-Wash-Kesh Lodge Celebrates 95 Years!

My grandfather, on Mother's side of the family, had a "house" on a big rock ledge by the French River. He and his wife and 3 daughters would drive to Toronto, then take a train to Parry Sound where they would get hotel rooms. Then they had to get onto a 3 AM train that took them to a "stop" where they would unload all of their baggage, get some breakfast from a woman at a nearby farmhouse, then get onto a handcar that would take them down to Key Harbour. Their Indian guide would meet them there with their launch and take them up the river to their cabin.

Grandpa Brown worried about having young children there, in case they might have an accident and

Bennett's Lodge 1949



couldn't get to a hospital quickly. So, in 1934, he started searching all around the area, near a railroad, for a nice lake or river closer to Parry Sound. He just happened to spot a farmer, chopping wood along the road, and asked him if there was any nice lake in the area. The man suggested Wah Wash Kesh Lake.

What a lucky break that was, since that "farmer" was Mr. Bennett Sr. - father of Clifford Bennett Sr. Mr. Bennett told him about The Royal Wah Wash Kesh Hotel, on a lovely bay in the lake. My grandfather wasn't able to go to see the hotel then, but he recommended it to my aunt, who called my mother from Ardbeg and urged her to come up there with the family. And they did.

My Aunt Harriet and her son Tom (about 13 years old) had taken a train up to Ardbeg, then had to wait to be picked up by Cliff at the RR stop. Cliff drove them past Little Joe's tiny store, back on a very narrow "road" that wound through the woods, over some logs that made a "bridge" over a marsh, and finally to a hill where they could see a small lake. They had to unload their belongings and carry them down a steep hill to a big rock ledge, where they could load up the boat that would take them across the bay to the hotel.

There was a telephone line that Cliff had installed from the hotel to the Little Joe's store, but the line often came down, so you couldn't count on it. Eventually the "Betsy" - the boat that would take them to the hotel - came into view, and they realized that they had to go across the big lake and then on through the Narrows, to the bay where the hotel was located - usually about an hour trip to Bennett's Bay!

The hotel was a frame 3 story building with a kitchen area attached on the right and an Ice House to keep the food cold. Huge blocks of ice, cut out of the lake in winter, were covered with sawdust to keep the ice from melting. It was really COLD in there!

There was a long wooden dock floating (no foam back then) where a few boats could be tied, and there was a separate float for a gas pump, but the dock would sink down and you would get your shoes wet if too many people were on the dock at

the same time. And that happened often when people went down to welcome their friends or to see them off for home.

There was also a long wooden walkway up to the porch steps of the Lodge. People often sat on those steps to enjoy a sunset or just to chat. The porch was wide and had a wonderful wooden swing that could seat at least 5 people! It had a big sloping padded backrest, and a padded seat that must have

been about 5 ft. long, so your legs were entirely on the swing. (It was hard to climb on, too.)

On the porch there was a huge bottle of water, turned upside down in a dispenser, so people could get a drink when they wanted one. We were a bit concerned about the water because it usually had green things floating in it! That water came from a Spring down the river and Cliff had to take a boat down to the spring often to refill all of the big bottles. He often let us kids go along with him on those trips, as well as inviting us to go with him to get the mail in Ardbeg. He liked having company. Cliff had an old car but he kept it running well.

The hotel had a nice big living room with a HUGE fireplace, a ping pong table, a pool table, two book cases (with some really old books) and a very small office that was closed off from the rest of the room. They sold some things there, such as candy bars and cigarettes. You left the money on a counter, since no one was monitoring "the store". Cliff trusted everyone to pay.

Off the living room was a big dining room that had beams across the ceiling, Mrs. Bennett had Cliff put cuttings of hemlock or cedar across them. (They smelled good but Mom always worried about them being dry and possible being a fire hazard). My Grandfather Brown always worried about fires in wooden buildings. He insisted that his children all know every escape route so Mom had us try sliding down the wooden log pillars from the second floor porch to the ground, to be sure we could get out quickly if there should be a fire.

Mrs. Bennett, Cliff's mother, was a wonderful cook. Her cookies were always delicious and she sometimes gave us one to taste as they were baked. She always had plates of those cookies on the dining room tables - morning, noon and night! She made really delicious pies, too. Mom had brought canned milk with cocoa for us to drink. She didn't trust the water unless it was boiled. There were always 2 young girls who waited on tables, cleaned, and helped as needed. The dining room was closed, except at meal times, when a bell was rung to announce that you could go in.

We kids loved to ring the bell!

Because we usually had a row boat, and only occasionally rented a boat with a motor, we often took a big basket of picnic food with us when we explored around the lake. We would sit on some nice warm rocks and enjoy the views. We also loved to go to Straub's beach to swim.

There were very few cottages around that part of the Top Lake and we usually went up in mid-August, so it was really quiet. Dad always said it was cheaper and more fun to go up to Wah Wash Kesh than to stay at home and pay the bills, since all the family had hay fever.

One August it was really cold and Anne discovered a small snake in the yard, so she felt sorry for it and took it in to warm up by the fire! (I didn't want to have anything to do with it!)

Two of our favorite people at Wah Wash Kesh were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schauer. They often went off on 2 or 3 week canoe trips and enjoyed telling us about their trips. They took 2 guides with them, so they had 2 or 3 canoes. Mrs. Schauer would often sit on the high rock near the water, by the wooden walk up to the hotel, mending the riding tents she always wore. She always wore hightop boots, too. (Probably because of the possibility of snakes!) They both liked children and loved to tell us about their trips.

Dad liked to fish - and he knew that we kids would like to try it - so he searched for a place where there were lots of fish biting - usually small rock bass fish that Dad would throw right back in to be caught again later! He taught us how to cast from the little rock islands south of the Mundy's cottage. We had lots of shore dinners, too, with big baskets of food, packed by Mrs. Bennett. And we loved to swim off the dock or at Straub's beach.

The hotel had no running water for bedrooms so there were 2 outhouses, well separated, on the hill behind the hotel—one for women and the other for men. It was spooky going out there if you were without a flashlight at night! The lights in the hotel were always turned off at about 10 pm (there were no regular power lines in to the lake then. Cliff had a generator that provided enough power for one bulb in each bedroom and more for the living room.). If there was a big Barn Dance the lights in the living room stayed on for a long time - till Cliff was tired and shut them off - usually after midnight. (Cliff loved to dance). People somehow would get the word that there was to be a Barn Dance and they came from all over the lake.

Ginnie Sperry

(Editors Note: The Sperry sisters, Anne and Ginnie, started coming to Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh in 1934 with her parents and grandparents. Ginnie graciously agreed to recap their fond memories of those happy days for this anniversary edition, in commemoration of the Lodge's 95th Anniversary which coincides with the Association's 50th! Readers may recall Ginnie's contribution to the Fall 2000 edition of the Newsletter.)

The last 50 years

We're very fortunate that Glenn Mundy went to the trouble of setting down his recollections of the Association's first thirty years. It seems remarkable that almost 20 years have passed since he told that story, and those two decades have been filled with activity and accomplishment by the Association. Over that period, membership has grown to well over 300 people and there has been a stable makeup to the Board of Directors but with a slow but steady turnover of people willing to contribute their time and talents.

One of those accomplishments was the lengthy project that culminated in the completion of the new Wah-Wash-Kesh Dam in 2002. For decades cottagers had been concerned about the alarmingly low water levels in the high summer season. By 1997, concerns were worrisome enough that a project to build a new dam was launched, spearheaded by Andy Vurma. What dedication! Fully five years, a small forest of paperwork, and several miles of red tape later the job was done at a cost of over \$600,000.

Also during this period the Association assumed responsibility for operating the government docks in Bennett's Bay and Indian Narrows. In the mid 1990's, both the Federal and Provincial governments were looking for ways to cut spending, and maintaining docks for cottage access was first on the chopping block. Up and down the shoreline of Georgian Bay, docks were handed over to the local township or simply removed, leaving cottagers to fend for themselves. Thanks to the foresight of Stan Harding, Eric Disley, John Kormos, Rob Gall, Jay Murdoch, Barry Kentnor and Ross Willett, the Association started negotiating with the MNR in 1996. The MNR assumed ownership for the Bennett's Bay dock site (they already owned the Indian Narrows dock) and in 1999 the Association signed a five-year contract to operate both docks as stewards for the MNR.

The 1990s also saw the Association involved in a more controversial project. Investors were starting to become aware of the beauty and value of Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh, and of its attractiveness to developers. At that time, McKenzie was an unorganized township, administered by the Province, with no local government, and hence no land use planning of any sort in place. Association members demonstrated their conviction that while development should go ahead, some reasonable guidelines on lot width and size, setbacks, and so on were necessary if the attractiveness of the lake was to remain unspoiled. That conviction was demonstrated by raising over \$75,000 in three years to fund the Association's legal fees in the eventual OMB hearings and follow-up procedures. It was during this period that the Association formally became an official not-for-profit corporation registered with the Government of Ontario.

Over the past few years, our newsletter has grown to 20 pages or so, and is eagerly awaited by city-bound cottagers in the fall and the spring. Also, the Association was – and continues to be – very supportive of the conservation reserves that the MNR has established to the north and to the west of WWK.

In 2000, a process to restructure municipal governments across Ontario resulted in the formation of the Municipality of Whitestone, marking the end of the era of the unorganized McKenzie Township. The Association played a role by providing insight and comments to the restructuring commission, and over the past three years have worked hard to influence the development of the Whitestone Official Plan as it effects the lake.

More recently, we have launched our website, organized a lakeshore cleanup project, continued with water quality monitoring, undertaken fish enhancement work, supported the introduction of 911 and enhanced telephone service, sponsored social events like the ever-popular wiener and corn roasts, poker runs, an art show and sale, and this year a cottage tour.

It's been a good half-century. Stay tuned for the next fifty years!

John Nelson, Bennett's Bay

The Lake WWK Conservation Association A Brief History

(Reprinted from "Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh – The Early Years, published by the WWK Con. Assoc. in 1986.)

The Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association came into being officially on August 12, 1954. Its purpose, to quote from the constitution that day being "to promote the property interests of the members and to cooperate with the Provincial Government of Ontario in the conservation of natural resources of the area so that the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh region will be a source of continuing interest to property owners and visitors for vacation purposes."

This inception was the result of several years of informal discussions involving a few dedicated cottagers who had concern for the lake and therefore the interest of all at heart. Those people, many of whom have passed on, who put the whole thing together and composed the full membership in that Charter Year were:

• **Clifford Bennett • J.P. Cannon • Aileen Clausen • Donald Comrie • Mrs. Hugh Gall • Loren Graves • Frank Griffin • Harry Haggerty • Charles McKenzie • Addie MacRae • Nettie MacRae • Glenn Mundy • John Patterson • Charlie Robertson • J.L. Ross • Mrs F. (Achsah) Schauer • G. Scroggie • Bill Sherwood Sr. • Donald Smith • Mrs. M. (Harriet) Soletz • Frank Squires Sr. • Herman Straub • Tommy Tweed**

Of this group, the late Dr. Frank Griffin is well remembered as the catalyst who sparked the organizing effort and became the Association's first President. In many cases the spouses of those identified above provided active support in those first years as exemplified by the late Jean (Mrs. Tommy) Tweed who served industriously for several years as the original Secretary-Treasurer.

Over the years, many others have contributed their time and means to the affairs of the Association in both official and informal capacity. To name them all would prove difficult.

Not unlike other organizations of its kind, the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association has experienced much variation in membership numbers and interest as well as accomplishments over the years. As C.H. "Hap" Schauer found during his prolonged spell as President (1960-65) it proved exceedingly difficult, despite his loyal efforts, to achieve objectives with Executive Council members residing great distances apart and meeting but briefly when summer vacation periods overlapped. Subsequently it was concluded that to be effective the Executive Council of the Association should have the bulk of its members resident within a reasonable travel distance from each other. In recent years this has more or less resolved itself by having Toronto as the Council focal

point except during summer when the lake becomes the location for the General Membership and Executive Meetings.

In the last few years the official paid up membership increased significantly. All areas of the lake are represented in the membership. Interest and activity also expanded due, in part, to a revival of concern over new and increasing influences bearing on the well-being of the lake and its community. Through 1972-81 a reasonable degree of consistency in Executive Council membership was attained. Notably A.A. "Bill" MacDonald served faithfully as President throughout this period.

A review of some of the accomplishments of the Association through its life thus far indicates that it is pursuing well the purpose set forth for it. In this regard it is worth note that the Association has:

- Maintained good relations with the Ministry of Natural Resources
- Contributed in early years to the cost of watchmen for Walleye Spawning periods at Lovesick Rapids as directed by the Ministry
- Conducted lake water quality tests and reported on same to members
- Carried out an extensive lake depth survey coupled with lake place names official identification, which together resulted in Federal Government production of a top quality informative map of our Lake
- Participated actively and costwise with the Ministry of Natural Resources in an intensive Creel (fish) Census for the Lake
- Together with the immediate property owners promoted establishment of a public wharf in Bennett's Bay by the Federal Government
- Arranged for General Meeting speakers and distribution of literature on subjects of relevant importance to property owners
- Published Bulletins and Newsletters to members and to non-member cottage owners as well
- Organized social activities for cottagers – wiener and corn roasts, dances, angling contests, etc.
- Prepared and published a Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Cottage Directory as well as this historical story
- Played a role in blocking a proposal by the Town of Parry Sound to annex an area which included part of McKenzie Township
- Organized a Federation of Magnetawan Valley Conservation Associations to oppose a move by the Province of Ontario to form a Regional Government within the District of Parry Sound.

Glenn Mundy, Toggle Point

(Editor's note: Glenn passed away in 1993. He served the Association in many capacities and often was the contact point with what was known then as The Department of Lands & Forests, now the Ministry of Natural Resources.)

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Give...

In a heartbeat



The construction of the new West Parry Sound Health Centre is pretty much on target, and also on budget. Some change orders are being considered, but work is progressing well. It is believed that we will be moving into the new facility in April, 2005. Following are some photos of the construction progress.

The \$6,000,000 Give in a Heartbeat Capital Campaign is gearing up for it's final year. To date over \$4,500,000 has been raised from the local community, individuals, businesses, corporations and cottagers. RBC Chairman Anthony Fell is managing the Cottager Campaign, and over 280 cottage donors have come forward with an average gift of \$3,122. This summer will see the big push for seasonal residents.

Over \$400,000 has been raised through special events, initiated by individuals, groups or the Foundation Special Event Committee. The most spectacular event is the RBC Parry Sound Dragon Boat Festival. It began in 2002 and we are currently planning our 3rd event. This is a partnership with the Rotary Club of Parry Sound, and \$146,000 has been raised in 2 years. Last year 1,000 participants paddled on 47 teams, and raised \$47,000 in pledges. The most significant aspect

of the event is the outstanding community support offered by and for the Festival. Non-profit organizations are encouraged to raise awareness and funds by attending, and many groups have helped in very many ways – it is truly a collaborative effort from which everyone benefits!

The excitement over getting into the new, state-of-the-art building is palpable; thanks to donors and supporters like you, it is getting closer to reality by the day. Our sincere thanks!

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Aerial view, taken February, 2004
Courtesy of PS Adventure Tours



FISH ENHANCEMENT

The rubble purchased last year for the pickerel spawning bed rehabilitation work did not get spread by the end of last year but is still available for us this Spring. We also did not lose the grant that covered the cost of the rubble from MNR as previously reported so that's good news!

A fishing derby is being organized for the Summer with pike as the prize-winning catch. Further details will be announced later.

Several WWK cottagers indicated on their surveys that improved fishing is of interest to them. We thank you for your support and anyone who would like to volunteer to assist us, please let us know.

The committee is trying to obtain more pickerel fry and fingerlings to be put in the Lake this Spring but at this time their availability has not been confirmed.

See you at the Lake!

Don Comrie



Official Plan WHITESTONE

The OP was passed by Whitestone Council on Nov 26/03. Its approval by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is still pending. I talked to Jim Coughlin the input coordinator at Municipal Affairs and he said he has seen nothing of real significance so far the would cause the Council approved plan to change—but added that getting the ministry OK's just takes time and we could see a few more months pass before the ministry of Municipal Affairs signs off. Mr Coughlin said he has a letter from the MNR saying that they will not challenge the 229.57M build above level in the plan—so that is welcome news.

Meanwhile the comprehensive zoning by law is being developed and the municipality is using the OP. There will be public meetings this spring or summer to present the zoning bylaw to citizens of Whitestone. The Association will be using Rick Hunter of Planscape to assist us in our evaluations and input into the comprehensive zoning by law process. Our main concern is that the new zoning bylaw is congruent with the OP and is in keeping with the spirit of the OP.

Our Association planning committee consists of John Nelson, Duncan Robertson, Bob Johnston, Wayne Lennox and myself along with Rick Hunter of Planscape (as needed). This committee's activities and mandate will wind down once the new OP and the new Zoning Bylaw are fully place. This will be reality because we will have an OP and a Zoning Bylaw and there will

be a Municipal Planning and Development Committee administering approved policies and bylaws.

Below and following you will find important clauses extracted from the OP-note. The OP numbering is included for easy reference to the OP. A reader then can go to the web site (www.whitestone.ca) and look at related clauses to ensure that what is presented here is not out of proper context.

The Whitestone Planning and Development Committee consists of Bill Church-Reeve, Councillors: Chris Armstrong, Don Carter, Sherry Green and Peter McEwen. Members at large from the community are Debra Brear-Chairperson, Ray Corneil and Greg Kowal. Any member of this committee can address any concerns you may have after reading the following OP extracts.

Section 3.0 – Goal of the Plan

The goal of the Official Plan for the Municipality of Whitestone is to preserve the high quality of life in the Municipality and to enhance that quality through preserving the natural environment while encouraging sustainable growth in all sectors to attract new citizens and visitors to the community.

Section 4.0 – Basis Of The Plan

4.04 - In many ways, the Municipality of Whitestone reflects the character of much of the District of Parry Sound. It has a small year round population, a large proportion of seasonal residents and a small assessment.

Whitestone Population	853
Permanent Dwellings	371
Seasonal Dwellings	1238
2001 Assessment (1998 market value)	\$163,392,505
Crown land (80% of land area)	56,783 hectares
Parks (includes Conservation Reserves)	16,321 hectares
Water	12,014 hectares
Patented Land	18,833 hectares
Total Land Area	91,937 hectares
Municipal Roads	106.45 km

Source: Statistics Canada, Assessment Records, MTIG

4.09 - The Municipality has undertaken an extensive electronic mapping program including a geographic information system. This new mapping system will be used as part of the Official Plan and zoning by-law documents and the information system will assist in the delivery of the land use planning and other municipal programs. Land use data has been added to this electronic mapping to be used in the Official Plan and Zoning Study.

Section 8.0 – General Development Policy

8.03 - Subdivisions

8.03.1 - Sewage Disposal - Where a subdivision proposes individual septic systems for new development on shoreline properties, the proposed lots must be assessed for suitability for said individual services. There must be at least two sites identified on each lot capable of servicing a minimum three bedroom dwelling or alternatively the proponent provide a report by a qualified engineer demonstrating the appropriateness of a single septic system site.

Shoreline development will be assessed for its effect on the trophic status of lakes. A clearance may be required demonstrating capacity for the development from the province or other qualified information source. This assessment should include the impact of any sur-

face drainage for the proposed development, where applicable.

Section 9.0 – Roads and Transportation

9.06 - Private Roads

9.06.1 - Private roads are the principal means of access for a large number of waterfront property owners. The Municipality has no jurisdiction over private roads. With the shift to market value assessment, the shoreline tax base pays a significantly larger portion of the Municipality's tax base. There will be pressure placed on Council to assume some of these private roads. Council may only assume these roads if they are upgraded to the appropriate standard.

9.08 - Shore Road Allowances

9.08.1 - Shore road allowances are present on a number of lakes in the Municipality. The Municipality is prepared to stop and sell these shore road allowances to the riparian land owners.

9.08.2 - That part of the shore road allowance below the controlled high water mark will be retained by the Municipality.

9.08.3 - That part of the shore road allowance identified as having any environmental feature will be retained by the Municipality.

9.08.4 - No shore road allowance will be stopped up and sold to the riparian land owner where it is used for access by an adjoining property owner or where the sale will have a negative impact on an adjoining property owner.

Section 11.0 – Housing & Special Land Uses

11.02 - Trailers

11.02.2 - It is the policy of the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone to place all lawful, existing trailers in a legal non-conforming status with the hopes that over a number of years these legal non-conforming uses will be converted to conventional dwellings permitted by the zoning by-law.

11.02.3 - Where trailers are being used as lawful single detached dwellings or seasonal residences and where these trailers are not assessed for taxation purposes, the Municipality will enact a licensing by-law to collect a fee in lieu of lost taxes for these trailers.

11.09 - Hunt Camps

11.09.1 - The Municipality of Whitestone is an area with a significant number of camp sites used for hunting and fishing. This plan recognizes that these camps are important to the recreational and economic base of the municipality. These uses often have special considerations that allow some flexibility in terms of access, building and related services. The Council of the Municipality of Whitestone may make specific provisions for hunt camps and fishing camps in any by-law implementing this Official Plan.

Section 12.0 – Natural Resources

12.05 - Wetlands

12.05.1 - The Municipality recognizes the importance of wetlands for fish and wildlife preservation. It is the Municipality's intention to protect wetlands and restrict development on, in or adjacent to, wetlands unless it is demonstrated that there are no adverse impacts on the wetland.

12.06 - Hazard Lands

12.06.1 - Historically, only Wahwashkesh Lake has been identified as having a potential flood hazard. Flooding on Wahwashkesh occurs annually during the spring freshet where fluctuations of 3 to 4 metres are natural because of the large numbers of inlets to the lake and the restriction at the outlet where the Magnetawan River is narrowed by a significant gorge. The summer level of Wahwashkesh is

controlled by a fixed dam with an elevation of approximately 224 metres above sea level. The theoretical flood elevation based upon the 1:100 year storm is established as follows:

Still Water: 229.14 metres
Wind upset: 0.43 metres
229.57 metres

The Municipality will adopt the newly established theoretical flood elevation of 229.57 metres. This flood elevation will be implemented in the zoning by-law.

Construction on the flood plain established by this 100 year flood level will require design approval by a Professional Engineer or Architect. The flood hazard must be considered in addition to other naturally occurring hazards such as wind forces, seismic activity, etc. Habitation areas must be above the "regulated flood elevation". Sewage systems are to be located above the "regulated flood elevation" unless permission is obtained from the approval authority.

Section 13.0 – Environment

13.01 - Environment

13.01.1 - The Ministry of the Environment has jurisdiction over water quality, soil contamination, waste management and air quality in the Municipality.

Section 17.0 – Lake Specific Policies

17.10 - Wahwashkesh Lake

17.10.2 - The water quality of the north and south basins of Lake Wahwashkesh are sensitive to additional shoreline development. In order to respond to the need to protect and conserve the natural features of the lake, the minimum new standards for the creation of new lots for the entire lake will be 100 metres of frontage and 0.6 hectares of lot area. The residual development capacity will change in the future as more up-to-date scientific approaches are used to determine an appropriate level of development capacity.

17.10.5 - The water levels of Wahwashkesh Lake rise dramatically during the spring causing potential flood hazards. It will be the policy of this Plan that the openings of any habitable buildings must be above the theoretical flood elevation as set out in Section 12.06.1. Foundations, footings and non-habitable structures should be adequately designed to recognize the potential for flooding at elevations lower than the flood elevation.

17.10.6 - In order to properly respond to a diverse number of issues that may arise during the development of properties along the shoreline of Wahwashkesh Lake, these properties will be designated as a site plan control area. Site plan control is a necessary and valuable tool to protect the character of the shoreline of Lake Wahwashkesh and to provide vegetated buffers to mitigate the impacts of development on the natural environment and the lake.

17.10.7 - Lake Wahwashkesh is known for its Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora. The lake is ranked in the top five of all lakes in Ontario for such flora. This has been extensively documented by the Natural Heritage League and the World Wildlife Fund in a 1989 study. Any development along the shores of Lake Wahwashkesh should have regard for its impact on this rare coastal flora environment and be directed away from Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora features.

Section 21.0 – Implementation

21.06 - *Existing Development Applications* - There are a number of applications for subdivisions or consents that predate the adoption date of this Official Plan document. The new policies contained in this plan may not apply to these applications so long as they are in compliance with current Municipal Standards for land use development so long as they have been accepted as 'complete applications' per the prescribed informa-

tion in the Planning Act and so long as the Council is satisfied that the general intent and purpose of the new Official Plan is maintained as far as possible.

21.09 - Zoning - The Municipality will be responsible for enacting implementing zoning by-laws that reflect current Official Plan policies as amended. Should any existing zoning by-laws contain provisions that do not conform to the Official Plan as amended, Council will take whatever steps are necessary to properly implement current Official Plan policies.

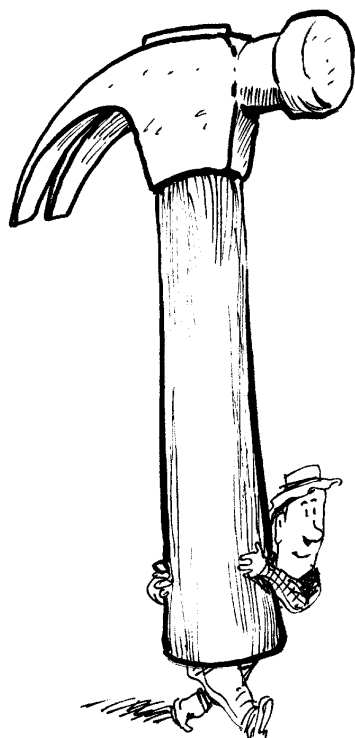
21.12 - Plan Review - Following approval of this Plan by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Basis, Objectives and Policies of the Plan shall be reviewed at least once every five years at a meeting of Council in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act. The Council of the Municipality of Whitestone shall, not less than every five years, hold a special meeting open to the public to determine the need for a revision of the Official Plan and in determining the need for a revision, Council shall have regard to the Provincial Policy Statement.

Section 22.0 – Special Policies

22.05 - Sleeping Cabins - Sleeping or guest cabins are permitted accessory uses so long as they remain subordinate and incidental to the main dwelling subject to the requirements of the Zoning By-law implementing this Plan. The Zoning By-law will include regulations that ensure that sleeping cabins are: subordinate in size to any residential use; retained as an accessory function (i.e. no cooking facilities); and restricted in number so as to preserve the principal residential use. (Note: I think this means one sleeping cabin per lot-going forward)

Hopefully this inclusion in the newsletter is useful having enhanced your OP understanding and or raised some new questions.

Dalton Ferris, Toggle Point



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Wah-Wash-Kesh Sounding Board

Our website now has an interactive bulletin board where people can exchange ideas, share opinions, and just keep in touch with lake residents all year round. From the WWK Home Page at <http://www.lake-wah-wash-kesh.org/>, select "Q&A" from the pull-down menu, then click "GO".

There are probably quite a few topics that members (and others) might like to discuss – lake hobbies such as birding, hiking, camping, and so on, environmental issues and projects like loon habitats, cormorants, water testing, perhaps issues of concern like water levels or planning and development – anything actually, that interests you.

The sounding board can also be a terrific place to share your special Wah-Wash-Kesh memories, and to get to know some of your neighbours by staying in touch even during the winter when many of us are stuck in the city.

Here's what you might find on the Sounding Board...

Pat Ferris shared this idea...

"Yellow Birch... twigs contain wintergreen oil, you can readily smell the oil if you break a twig apart... So Sara and I ventured into the woods to get some tea ingredients. We found some twigs and tried to prepare tea with them. The first batch turned out quite well...very interesting, an acquired taste..."

You never know what you will learn at the WWK Sounding Board! See you there!

John Nelson and Jim Stopps

Hydro One Connection Fees Increase

Cottagers wanting to be connected with Hydro One's distribution system should be prepared for a nasty shock. Under the new rules approved by the Ontario Energy Board, Hydro One provides practically nothing but the meter. The customer pays for everything else including a connection fee, a service layout fee, and an "Enhancement Fee" that can be several thousand dollars. And if a line extension is required to serve your cottage you pay for that too. If you want temporary service for construction power, your contractor has to provide all equipment and Hydro One will connect it for a fee of \$515.

Hydro One was asked a couple of months ago for an explanation and rationale for the new enhancement and other connection fees, but to date they have not responded.

Once connected of course, you pay a monthly service charge of \$32⁷⁰ plus about 8.4 cents for every kilowatt-hour you use. You've heard lots about the 4.3 cent rate cap. However, there are a whole bunch of other charges that bring it up to 8.4 cents.

All of this is making off-grid solar/wind power look more attractive. If gasoline or propane generators could be made quieter, they'd look pretty attractive too. So ask all the questions before going ahead with Hydro One grid connection.

FOCA would like to hear, via e-mail or phone call, from any member who feels they have been unfairly treated by Hydro One.

John McGee, FOCA Director at large

(Reprinted with permission from the Fall 2003 FOCA Report to Membership newsletter)

Whitestone Council Notes

From December 16, 2003 Council Meeting:

- Mr. John Woods of Bell Mobility made a presentation to Council regarding a wireless loop tower (for land telephones and cell phones) in the Wah-Wash-Kesh area and a cell phone tower in the Hwy. #520 -- Hwy. #124 area.
- Renaming of Islet in Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh to MacRae Rock -- Moved by P. McEwen, Seconded by S. Green, That Council hereby withdraws its Fireworks Rock Application and supports the renaming of Islet in Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh to the name MacRae Rock; and Further that a letter of support for the MacRae Rock be send to the Ontario Geographic Place Names Board. Carried

From January 13, 2004 Council Meeting:

- Received: Fax dated January 5, 2004 from Andy Vurma regarding the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Dam Replacement - Project Expenses and Funding.

From January 27, 2004 Council Meeting:

- Received: Letter dated January 12, 2004 from the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding transfer of ownership of the Wah-Wash-Kesh Dam.
- Received: Letter dated January 12, 2004 from Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters regarding cancellation of spring bear hunt.

From February 25, 2004 Council Meeting:

- Resolution from Village of South River - French-Severn Forest – 2004-92 Moved by D. Carter, Seconded by S. Green, That Council hereby endorses the resolution put forth by the Village of South River on February 9, 2004, to request the current protection afforded trails remain in the 2004-2024 Forest Management Plan for the French-Severn Forest. Carried
- By-Law to Change the Title for the Head of Council from Reeve to Mayor – 2004-94. Moved by D. Carter, Seconded by S. Green, By-Law 09-2004, being a by-law to Change the Title for the Head of Council from Reeve to Mayor, be given three readings, be taken as read, properly signed and sealed and numbered No. 09-2004. Carried

Wahwashkesh-Naiscoot Conservation Reserve (C326)

The Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy, which was approved by the Ontario Government in July 1999, identified the government's intent to create 378 new protected areas in Ontario. This included 63 proposed parks and conservation reserves in the Ministry of Natural Resources' Parry Sound District. We, on Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh, have benefited from this process. In addition to the large Island Lake Conservation Reserve which already borders the northern shore of our lake, the Ministry has recently added the Wahwashkesh-Naiscoot Conservation Reserve which borders the western shore (plans are still in the works to make the Magnetawan River, downstream from WWK, into a Provincial Park). This site encompasses the shores of Mud Lake, Maple, Cat, Bear, the south shore of Kashegaba, Bolger Creek, Bolger Lake, Miskoway Lake, Little Wilson Lake, and the eastern end of Naiscoot Lake (private property on several of these lake is, of course, not included). The Conservation Reserve extends 90 to 120 metres (300 to 400 feet) back from the shoreline of these bodies of water.



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As an interested party, the Association was invited to submit comments regarding C326. A committee was struck which included Dalton Ferris as chair, newly-elected director Dana Boyter and me. Naturally, since we all value the wilderness appeal of this area, we were immensely pleased to have yet another area protected from development (Conservation Reserves permit traditional recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping, etc; however resource extraction and new access roads are not allowed—technically). Yet, we all felt that the designation of this area as a CR, though a significant step, might only be a first one! We asked ourselves what could or should we do to enhance the value of these Conservation Reserves.

We decided to approach the Ministry with a suggestion. Most of us have camped somewhere on our lake or on the lakes in the area; like many of our members, over the years I have pitched tents on Lake WWK, Maple and Island Lakes. We are blessed to be able to enjoy this activity so close to home, but we agreed that many campsites suffer from overuse, and human waste and garbage problems. What if we were to partner with the Ministry of Natural Resources in maintaining area campsites? Certainly, this should be the responsibility of the MNR itself, but the sober reality is that money and manpower shortages preclude this kind of initiative. And in fact, in many areas "Friends of ..." organizations have been established to provide this very service as a way of helping out. This was the proposal that we forwarded to the Ministry and their initial response was indeed positive (naturally, this is very much in the preliminary stages).

Essentially, we suggested that we would provide both manpower and money (obviously more of the former would be necessary). We highlighted the following as a short list of possible goals for a volunteer group: identify existing Crown Land campsites; erect appropriate signage both at sites and at access points; conduct yearly or twice yearly cleanups; build and install thunderboxes (or kybo—basically, a mini outhouse); clear new sites (when old sites need to be closed for rehabilitation); and, most importantly, create an organization of interested and willing volunteers. For its part, we suggested that the MNR should assume all liability; provide the campsite and portage signage; confirm appropriateness of sites; confirm new sites; enforce rules, etc.

At this point, we are far from any agreement but we are looking for an accord in principle from the MNR. We did not want to rush into this, so we see this year as the planning phase with a possible kickoff in the summer of 2005. We further agreed that initially we would limit our activities to Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh itself and Maple Lake (possible expansion of the theatre of operation would be determined by initial success). More details will be available at the summer AGM, though we would appreciate any input from the membership.

Wayne Lennox

Whitestone and Area Nursing Station OPENS SOON!!!

Due to the unselfish dedication of its volunteer Advisory Committee/ Working Group, and the immeasurable financial assistance of individuals and groups, such as the Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation and Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association, the Whitestone and Area Nursing Station (permanent location in Dunchurch) is scheduled to be open by the end of April.

With the help of your Association's Dr. John Brennan, much of the Station's furnishings has been donated and is in place now. Recent contributions by the local Royal Canadian Legion Branch 394 has enabled the Working Group to recommend the acquisition of some of the equipment that is still required. The assigned Nurse Practitioner, Melanie Montpetit (working out of temporary quarters in Magnetawan) will be liaising with the West Parry Sound Health Centre to determine to what extent they can assign other equipment, supplies and furnishings. However, there always will be an ongoing need to raise monies for additional essential equipment, and to keep amenities in good working order/repair and up-to-date.

As of early April, as far as the building is concerned, all that exists to be accomplished is the provision of a handicap ramp and a suitable water supply. The latter, once in place, will require Ministry approval before the Nursing Station can be "up and running". However, the Volunteer Working Group, which has an effective relationship with the local Council, feels confident that the Station will be in operation as planned, with official opening ceremonies scheduled when consistent warmer, drier weather is evident (mid-May or June).

It's been a long haul for everyone who has

helped with this service to the community. The number of those who have helped in one way or another is too exhaustive to be accurately tallied. However, I know that there is a warmth and recognition in the minds of each of your Association members, that you have been involved with a very historic influence on the future of the residents of the Municipality of Whitestone.

In conclusion, I wish to re-emphasize the community's sincerest appreciation for your Association's individual and collective members, current and continuing assistance in this essential and worthy endeavour!

Don Carter, Chair,

Whitestone & Area Nursing Station Volunteer -
Advisory Committee/Working Group

French-Severn Forest Management Plan

All of us value the wilderness environment that is part of the Wah-Wash-Kesh cottage experience. Even those of us with road access, believe that we are in the "bush". However, extensive stands of timber may mean logging.

We are part of an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources management unit known as the French-Severn Forest which covers about 2.1 million acres (885,446 hectares) bordering Georgian Bay to the west, Algonquin Park to the east, and the French and Severn Rivers to the north and south. The OMNR has approved a 20-year management plan for this area (2004-2024); this plan was developed, with public input, by Westwind Forest (a non-profit organization that is funded by the Forest Industry; it operates under a Sustainable Forest License granted by the MNR). You can access their website at: www.westwindforest.ca.

How does this concern us? The Westwind site features a series of maps that highlight likely harvest

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areas for the period 2004 to 2009 (harvest plans are developed for 5-year terms). If you go to the Westwind site, click on Maps, scroll down that page to View FMP Maps, and then click on map 24 you will note that there is an extensive block of timber in the northeast corner of the lake (east of Straub's Point). Click on map 37 and you will note that there is a smaller block southeast of the Big Lake and almost due east of Maple Lake (those of us in the south will recall that Tembec conducted harvest operations in this area a number of years back). Tembec currently has the harvest rights to both of these blocks.

I contacted Joe Johnson of the Parry Sound office of the MNR to discuss the plan, and he indicated that he is 95% sure that there will be no harvesting operations this year (the Association and members with property abutting proposed harvest areas would have to be notified). Naturally, he could not say whether or not Tembec would log these areas in the future (he did hint that Tembec was not enthusiastic about the north-east block, but might consider a winter operation; as the other block is a vestige of that previous logging operation, they may or may not go back in to finish up).

Westwind's mandate is to manage the French-Severn Forest for the benefit of all stakeholders, including forest companies. Whatever our feelings about forestry operations in our own backyard, we need to remember that logging is a vital and necessary part of the local and provincial economies.

Wayne Lennox

Update on Renaming Islet to MacRae Rock

Last fall, the Ontario Geographic Names Board decided that the word "Squaw" was not appropriate as an official place name in Ontario. The Association formally asked the Names Board to rename the islet located in Indian Narrows just south of Absolute Peace & Quiet (formerly Linger Long Lodge) from "Squaw Rock" to "MacRae Rock". The new name was proposed to commemorate Jamie and Dougie MacRae of Linger Long Lodge, who both gave their lives in service to Canada in August 1944. Their heroic story is re-printed here with the kind permission of the Parry Sound North Star

and the author, historian John MacFie.

In response to the Association's request for support, Whitestone Council passed a resolution on December 16 2003 "that Council hereby withdraws its Fireworks Rock Application and supports the renaming of Islet in Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh to MacRae Rock". The Names Board included the Association's application on its February agenda, and we have every expectation that it was to be approved.

John Nelson, Bennett's Bay

Whitestone Fire Rescue Department

Letter from the Fire Chief

Hi, my name is Bob Whitman I am the Fire Chief for the Municipality of Whitestone. I was asked to write a little note, I hope it will help you get the help you need when you need it.

As many of you know we now have 9-1-1 service in the Municipality, this number may be used to report all fires and medical emergencies. If you are calling from a cell phone, radio phone or satellite phone you need to dial 389-2413. You should be able to dial 9-1-1 from a payphone. To assist us when calling in an emergency please remember, to remain on the line until you are told it is okay to hang up, speak clearly and calmly, also it would be a great help to be able to meet us at either Indian Narrows or Bennett's landing to help lead us to the emergency, this would be greatly appreciated by our responding personnel.

Fire permits are also required except for fires for cooking and warmth, however these fire must follow criteria so please pick up a copy of the Open Air Burning by-law. You can obtain a fire permit from the Haywards, the Loggers Lounge, Louise Woods, The Whitestone Store, Marg Hardwick, Kathy Whitman, the Municipal Office – see the website for phone numbers and locations.

I hope to be able to do some boat patrols on the lake this summer so if you see us, flag us down and say hi. We will have our fire boat at the annual meeting on July 31.

If you have any questions please contact me at 705-389-3302 or email me at fire.department@whitestone.ca.

Bob Whitman, Fire Chief



Relatively Fat-Less Salmon Salad

(Poor-Mans Smoked Salmon)

Determine the amount of each ingredient according to your tastes. This recipe is perfect for a quick and delicious light lunch at the cottage.

BASE INGREDIENTS

Canned Salmon
Chopped Green Onion
Diced Cucumber

DRESSING

Garlic Pepper Spice
Lemon Pepper Spice
Dried Zest of Lemon
Dill Weed
Liquid Smoke Seasoning
Dijon Mustard
Malt Vinegar or Lemon Juice
Magic Powder*

*Magic Powder is sold as "Vegeta" in the larger grocery stores and is a product of Croatia, it can be added to many things with wonderful results.

Put all of these ingredients into a dish and mix thoroughly. This concoction is ideal as a sandwich filling. It can also be served on a bed of lettuce with some low-fat cottage cheese, or just by itself. Enjoy! – And beware of the lurking bear.

An invention by Julie Ferris (Toggle Point)



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Happy Birthday to The Association!

ar, the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh
tion Association turns Fifty!
ope each of the events lined
o for the summer will allow
everyone to celebrate that
ccess.

We've tried to pack this
Special Anniversary Edition
Newsletter, with colour
cover, full of interesting articles,
with a bias toward looking back to the early days.
After the Annual General Meeting in Bennett's

barn on Saturday July 31, 2004, we'll share a light
lunch and – of course! – some Birthday Cake!

Early that afternoon, the first Cottage Tour will
kick off, or if you prefer you can attend a seminar
in the barn about Invasive Species presented by
the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.
Later in the afternoon, the Art Show and Sale and
complimentary Wine and Cheese reception will
round out the day.

On the next day, Sunday, you can browse for
just that gadget you need for the cottage at the
Rock n' Dock Sale, hosted this year by Arden and

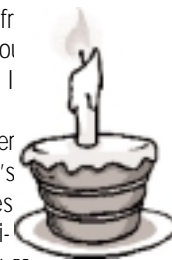
June Boyter with lots of support for
their neighbours in the Top Lake, about
kilometre up-river from Deadman's I
on the north shore.

On other dates, the annual Wiener
Roast and Corn Roast at Straub's
Beach will offer more opportunities
for lake fellowship and pleasant remi-
niscences about the last half-century of
the Association. **Look for all the details in the
event schedule on page 24.**

Happy Birthday, WWK CA!!

And many happy returns!

John Nelson, Bennett's Bay



housewares • sporting goods • games • puzzles • books
• collectibles • crafts • toys • housewares • games

Rock N' Dock Sale



SUNDAY, August 1st, 2004
(raindate Mon., August 2nd)

At Boyter's, (cottage directory
#7 or 911number 14291),
through Deadman's
Narrows, then straight
ahead

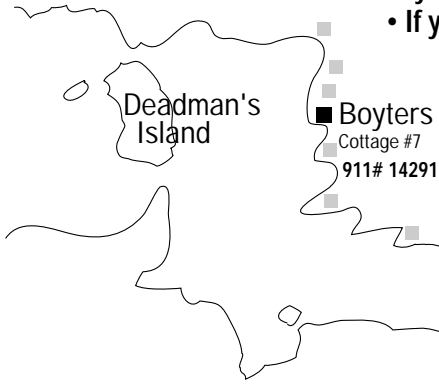
8:30am • Pancake Breakfast

9:00am • Flea market

11:00am • Lunch (dogs & burgers)

- Please save your odds and ends (no large furniture, appliances, clothing or old baby cribs/highchairs/walkers) and deliver to Boyter's cottage from 2-6pm on **Saturday, July 31st** after the annual meeting
- Start working on your craft donations
- Plan to bring the whole family for breakfast and lunch
- Dock space is at a premium, so you are encouraged to 'boat pool' if possible
- **10 volunteers are needed Saturday to set up and sort**
- **20 volunteers are needed Sunday to serve food and tend tables**

• If you can help, please leave a message with
Boyter's (905-528-9172) or a member of the
executive



**Our goal is to raise
\$1000 in one day!**

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classifieds are **FREE** for Association Members,
25 words, single insertion.

For Sale: *Marine Railway* - Sixty
feet. Will handle pontoon boat and/or
regular V-hull. \$3000.00 or best offer.
Must sell. Tel: 705-389-2570 or 416-
234-9566. Brian Swail - 23 Shaker
Lane, Big Lake

For Sale: *Wood Stove* - Cast Iron,
W28 x D26 x H33, with some sections
of chimney pipe, \$285. Suitable for
Workshop or Hunt Camp. We live off
of Lorimer Road, 10 minutes east of
the Bunny Trail. Call Jan or Phil
Bywater - Tel: 705-389-3445

Wanted: *Trailer* suitable to haul a
17ft boat. Home: 519-863-3606.
Cottage: 705-746-7939
dalton.f@cablerocket.com

Wanted: *4-wheel ATV or small
tractor* to haul things up from the
dock to the cottage. Stan Harding -
Home: 905-385-6645, Cottage: 705-
746-6765, CB: Snowflake, Indian
Narrows across from Turkey Island.

In Memoriam

- Elsie Haswell
- Mary Jane Perry

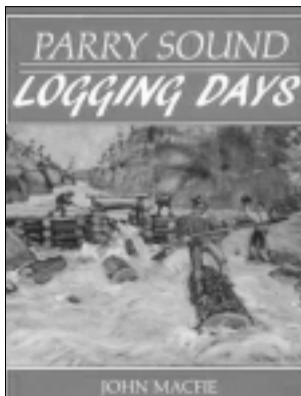
We apologize if we have missed including some-
one. You can advise John Nelson or any Board
member for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Book & CD Reviews by N. Glenn Perrett

Parry Sound Logging Days

John Macfie, The Boston Mills Press, 1987, 2003, 207 pages ISBN: 1550460552

History books are enjoyable to read at the cottage – especially books about local history. Parry Sound Logging Days by John Macfie contains considerable information about logging in the Parry Sound area during the latter part of the 19th century and into the 20th century. Numerous photographs add greatly to the text. References to Lake Wahwashkesh and other local landmarks are throughout the book. For example, with respect to Samuel Ritter, Macfie wrote the following.



"When Graves Bigwood ceased operations in the area, Ritter maintained his presence on the Magnetawan River with a much frequented summer cottage on Wahwashkesh Lake, where his name is commemorated in Ritter's Narrows." (page 13)

The majority of the book is comprised of stories from local lumberjacks who Macfie interviewed between 1962 and 1986 "...when the interviewees ranged in age from their sixties to middle nineties. Their combined memories embrace half a century of logging, from the 1890s, the high point of the pine era, to just before the internal combustion engine relegated the lumberjack to a minor role in the forest." (page 12)

Anyone with an interest in history will enjoy reading Parry Sound Logging Days.

Bird Songs, Eastern & Central North America (CD)

Houghton Mifflin Company, ISBN: 0618225943

Backyard Bird Song: A Guide to Bird-song Identification (CD)

Richard K. Walton & Robert W. Lawson

Houghton Mifflin Company, ISBN: 039597528X

We're fortunate to have many species of birds at Lake Wahwashkesh. However, identifying them isn't always easy. Learning to identify birds by their songs and calls can help and it's fun. Two CDs that can introduce you to numerous bird songs and calls are Bird Songs, Eastern and Central North America and Backyard Bird Song: A Guide to Bird-song Identification. Both CDs feature quality recordings and are part of The Peterson Field Guide Series.

Bird Songs, Eastern and Central North America features the songs and calls of 267 species of birds. The bird vocalizations on this CD are those songs and calls that are the most typical and frequently used by the species.

Backyard Bird Song: A Guide to Bird-song Identification contains information for identifying 28 common backyard birds. There is considerable information on the CD to help the listener identify such birds as the American Robin, Red-eyed Vireo and Downy Woodpecker by sound. A booklet included with the CD contains information on the bird species' physical descriptions and vocalizations as well as colour illustrations. These CDs would be good to play in the car on the way to and from the lake!

The Cottage Book: Living Simple & Easy

Carol Bass, photographs by Dennis Welsh

Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 2003, 168 pages

ISBN: 1584792752



Now that our cottage is up our attention will turn to finishing the interior and making it a comfortable and pleasant place to stay. The Cottage Book: Living Simple and Easy is full of ideas. Fourteen cottages provide numerous ways to finish living rooms, bedrooms, kitchens, bathrooms, fireplaces

and porches. The examples are simple and comfortable – two qualities that I like when it comes to cottage décor. The Cottage Book will be useful to anyone building, renovating or restoring a cottage.

More Books by Klutz!

Last fall I reviewed several books published by Klutz (distributed in Canada by Scholastic Canada Ltd.) Klutz books are good for the cottage because they usually involve an activity and the items needed. The Klutz Book of Knots (Ages 8+ ISBN: 0932592104) includes instructions for tying 24 useful knots. Five feet of nylon cord is included. Each of the board pages is die-cut allowing the reader to practice the knots, hitches and ties next to the illustrations.

The Footbag Book (Ages 8+ ISBN:

1570541906) contains information on equipment, types of kicks and instructions for this sport as well as games and tricks. The objective is to keep a small beanbag off of the ground using only your feet and lower body. Footbag is commonly referred to as Hacky Sack. Of course a footbag is included with the book!

Cat's Cradle (Ages 3+ ISBN: 1878257536) will provide hours of fun for many young cottagers. Complete with a tie-dyed string loop, this book contains instructions for five string games: Cat's Cradle, Jacob's Ladder, Cup & Saucer, Eiffel Tower and Witch's Broom.

Forest Plants of Northeastern Ontario

Karen Legasy, Lone Pine Publishing

1995, 352 pages, ISBN: 1551050641

Forest Plants of Northeastern Ontario is an informative, easy-to-use (includes colour-coded thumbtaps for major sections) guide for identifying plants. The book is divided into sections on trees, shrubs, herbs, graminoids (grasses, sedges and rushes), ferns and allies, mosses and liverworts and lichens.

More than 300 quality photographs and close to 350 line drawings complement the informative text. I've already used the book to identify the lichens that live on the rocks in front of our cottage and to learn more about the Wintergreen plant that lives at our nature retreat.

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Eliza and the Dragonfly

Susie Caldwell Rinehart, illustrated by Anisa Claire Hovemann, Dawn Publications 2004,

32 pages, ISBN: 1584690593, Ages: 4 – 10

Entertaining children's books for those rainy days at the cottage and for bedtime are good to have in abundance. When they provide accurate, positive messages about the natural world, they are very valuable.

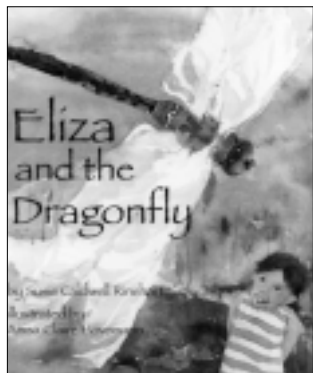
Eliza and the Dragonfly is a wonderful book for young children which tells the story of how a young girl, Eliza, and her Aunt Doris observe and learn about dragonflies at a nearby pond. At the pond they discover a dragonfly nymph whom they name Horace. They visit Horace often watching him through a waterscope Aunt Doris makes until the day Horace climbs out of the water on a plant stem, discards his shell and waits for his wings to dry before flying off to eat mosquitoes.

Eliza and the Dragonfly is both entertaining and educational and an ideal book for young cottagers.

The Okomi Series

Ages 2-5

Written by Clive and Helen Dorman and published by Dawn Publications in association with The Jane



Goodall Institute, the Okomi series consists of eight books for preschool children. These entertaining books are based on the work of Jane Goodall and feature Okomi, a baby chimp. The text was written with the oversight and

approval of Dr. Goodall. Children of all ages will enjoy reading about Okomi's adventures!

1 *Okomi The New Baby*, ISBN: 1584690445

2 *Okomi & the Tickling Game*, ISBN: 1584690461

3 *Okomi Plays in the Leaves*, ISBN: 158469047X

4 *Okomi Climbs a Tree*, ISBN: 1584690453

5 *Okomi Enjoys His Outings*, ISBN: 1584690550

6 *Okomi Wakes Up Early*, ISBN: 1584690569

7 *Okomi Goes "Fishing"*, ISBN: 1584690577

8 *Okomi Wanders Too Far*, ISBN: 1584690585

Cobras at Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh?

Raising its head from the ground with its neck spread like a cobra, the **harmless** Eastern Hog-nosed Snake does it best to scare away potential predators. This great actor is just one of Ontario's threatened species found in the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh area. Habitat loss, traffic mortality and intentional killing are threatening over half of Ontario's reptile species with extinction. To reverse this trend, reptiles need our help.

The Greater Georgian Bay Reptile Awareness Program (GGBRAP) is promoting awareness of eleven reptiles at risk in this area. The program provides educational materials and presentations on how to identify these reptiles, information on their natural history, and how people can assist in their conservation.

Reptiles at Risk in the Georgian Bay Area

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

Eastern Fox Snake

Eastern Hog-nosed Snake

Northern Ribbon Snake

Eastern Milk Snake

Five-lined Skink

Wood Turtle

Spotted Turtle

Common Musk Turtle

Common Map Turtle

Blanding's Turtle

One of our key messages is the importance of reporting sightings of these at risk reptiles. In comparison to many other species there is a lack of basic biological knowledge of our native reptiles. There is also limited funding for research. Your sighting reports for these reptiles will help focus research efforts. Sightings in this area can be

reported on our web site or by mail. We have received over 300 species accounts from cottagers and year round residents thus far! The program coordinator reviews each submission and forwards the information to the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC). The NHIC is a branch of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources that is responsible for housing information on species at risk in Ontario. Government biologists and scientists from academic institutions use this information for research and management of species at risk.

You can also help in the conservation and recovery of these species by your actions at home or at the cottage. Please consider:

- Help preserve natural habitat, especially shorelines and wetlands
- Drive carefully! Look out for turtles, snakes and other animals crossing roads
- Keep our reptiles wild. Do not take them home as pets
- Learn more about these species so that you can help inform your family and neighbours

If you are interested in receiving information or attending or hosting a workshop, please check our web site www.gbayreptiles.com or contact Glenda Clayton at 705-774-9000 or email reptiles@vianet.ca

Glenda Clayton
Greater Georgian Bay
Reptile Awareness
Program



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Cottage Tour 2004

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration, we are planning a tour of five remarkable cottages on our beautiful lake. This is your opportunity to view some of the properties you have boated by and always wanted to see! All funds raised will be directed to the continued good efforts of the Association. This should be an exciting and informative afternoon.

We are very grateful to the following cottagers for allowing us to tour their places: *The Derber family; Jim and Joannie Ripley; Jim and Cathi Muncy; The Schurmann family; The Marks family*

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2004, with a rain-date of Sunday, August 1st

Time: To *begin promptly* at 12:30 pm, and to end at 6:00pm with a "Wine & Cheese/Art Show" at Bennett's Boathouse. We are timing the event carefully so you will need to keep to the schedule we provide

Where: Meet at the Ministry dock in Indian Narrows

Who: Association members and their guests *only*, for security purposes

Price: \$25 per person

- Ticket numbers will be limited to 60. Since we expect that there will be a high demand for the tickets, and since a first-come, first-served approach would be unfair to those who live at a greater distance, there will be a draw of forms received by June 7; a waiting list of 12 will also be taken. If there are any tickets remaining, they will be available at the AGM, or you may call 705-389-1445 during the week prior to the AGM. The waiting list will be used to accommodate late-comers where possible. Ticket refunds will be given only where possible, by taking names from the waiting list.

- If your boat is rated for 6 and you are willing to drive, *your* ticket price will be only \$15.00; we will then add others to your boat in creating our groups of six. (We will give you the names when we meet at the Indian Narrows at 12:30). *Passengers will need to bring their own life jackets.* If you would like to put together your own "boat group" of six, please order the tickets and indicate this below.

- *For security purposes, *no* person will be permitted to tour without an identification indicating that they have paid, which we will provide at the Ministry dock at 12:30.

- *We are trying to respect the owners of the properties we are viewing. By creating groups of 6, there will not be more than 12 people at any cottage, and no more than two boats at any dock, at any time. This means that you must not bring more people in your boat than you have already pre-ordered tickets for. ***** Please do not include children under the age of 12 in this event, and please - leave your canine friends at home!*

Patricia Forbes, Lynn Abbott-Lennox, Sandra McCullough

See page 22 for Cottage Tour Registration Form



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How this applies to operators* of pleasure craft
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All operators of craft under 4 m in length,
including personal watercraft Sept. 15, 2002
All operators Sept. 15, 2009

*Applies also to non-residents of Canada and whose pleasure craft is in Canada more than 45 consecutive days. Operator card or equivalent issued to a non-resident by their state or country will be considered as proof of competency.

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Lake Partner Program Update

We are heading into another year as part of the Lake Partner Program put on by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). The Lake Partner Program generates an annual report based on data and samples taken by volunteers on a large number of Ontario lakes. The report compares the nutrient levels of participating lakes and is available to the public. The results for our lake in 2003 have been made available to us and were discussed in the last newsletter. The full report for 2003 has not been published at the time of writing this article but is expected during the spring season of this year.

The sampling and clarity readings for this year will be taken in the Top Lake, the Indian Narrows, and the Big Lake. In the past, only the Top Lake has been sampled so we can expect a better representation of our entire lake to arise from the data gathered over the course of this year. Kirby

Brock has volunteered to sample in the Big Lake while Rod Bennett has volunteered to sample in the Indian Narrows. Ned Riley and Dalton Ferris will cover the Top Lake.

Thanks to all of the volunteers, your sampling kits should be arriving in the mail during the month of April.

Pat Ferris, Toggle Point

Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association 2004 Membership Renewal

Please fill out the membership renewal form,
tear it off & MAIL it & your cheque to:

- **Duncan Robertson - Treasurer**
346 Kerrybrook Drive
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 3R1



Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association 2004 Dock Permit Decal

Please fill out the membership renewal form,
tear it off & MAIL it & your cheque to:

- **Duncan Robertson - Treasurer**
346 Kerrybrook Drive
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 3R1

Return by June 7 - Please attach your cheque (payable to WWK Conservation Association) to this form and send both to:
Lynn Lennox #309 - 30 Museum Drive, Orillia, Ontario L3V 7T9

If you do not hear from us, please accept our apologies but your name has not been drawn and your cheque will be shredded.

Sandra McCullough: 905-688-6091

Email address: _____

Be at the Indian Narrows at 12:30 promptly to be assigned to a group.

Cottage Tour - Lynn Lennox

(Please return this form with your cheque as soon as possible - \$35.00 per member)

Cottage Phone: () E-mail:

(Please return this form with your cheque as soon as possible - \$30.00 per boat)

Number of boats @ \$30 each:



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Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



**Saturday
July 10**

Wiener Roast

4pm Straub's Beach

(Raindate: Sunday, July 11, 2-5pm)

**Saturday
July 31**

Annual Meeting

9:30-12noon Bennett's Barn

Anniversary

Celebration *see page 17*

12-1:30 Sandwiches & Cake

Invasive Species *see page 5*

1:30-2:30 Bennett's Barn

Cottage Tours *see page 20*

12:30-6:00 Indian Narrows
Ministry dock

Art Show & Sale *see page 4*

6:30-9:30 Bennett's Barn

**Sunday
August 1**

Rock n' Dock *see page 17*

8:30am Boyter's Cottage

(Raindate: Monday, August 2nd)

**Saturday
August 14**

Corn Roast

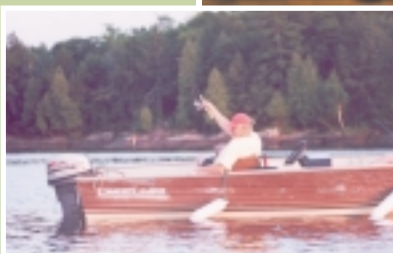
3-5pm Straub's Beach

(Raindate: Sunday, August 15, 2-4pm)

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



Winter 1960's



Straub's Beach 2000

