

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

— FALL 2005 NEWSLETTER —



President's Message

Debbie and I closed up at the end of September this year - a bit earlier than last year, but then we were awful cold last October in the new cottage - as we build, it's still a bit like living in a big cardboard box with only a couple of space heaters! This year, two of our cousins from Scotland were visiting and they helped me pull the little boat up, and take the dock over to the little bay for the winter. I appreciated their help most of all with carrying stuff down to the boats - I had forgotten how much stuff we haul back and forth each spring and fall - tools - perishables from the fridge - the list goes on! Our cousins really worked for their Canadian vacation!

When we got home, we found our assessment notice - a bit of a shock because it was up 300% from May when MPAC declared that we were now occupying it. Dalton Ferris has written a very helpful article in this newsletter - and as you have heard from the news, the Ontario ombudsman has taken issue with the whole MPAC process. You can bet that I've received many many emails and calls from Association members about this - the Board believes the best thing we can do is for everyone who believes their assessment to be incorrect to file a request for reconsideration - also make darn sure that MPAC has the facts straight - I heard from one water access cottager who does not even have hydro that MPAC listed their cottage as winterized with forced air heating!

We owe a big debt of thanks to Mike and Nancy Busenhardt for their very generous gift of the use of Straub's Beach to Lake residents - thanks Mike and Nancy - we appreciate your kindness. Also to Ross and Patty Willett for organizing the Wiener Roast and Corn Roast - and to all their many helpers. Also to Jim Summersides, Doug Elliott, and Duncan Robertson for organizing

the MacRae Rock Memorial - thanks guys - a very dignified and moving ceremony. And to many others I haven't listed here due to approaching "Oldtimer's" disease...

Now we do have some things that need to be worked on - the most pressing (to me) is that we failed as an Association to elect a full slate of Directors at the Annual General Meeting this summer. We've made some real strides in the past decade - much due to volunteer Directors. Sometimes I'm struck by the contrast between our failure to elect all the required directors, versus the number of calls and emails I receive asking the Association to do something on



some issue or another - anyway, I hope you will give this some thought and consider getting in touch with me or any director with your personal offer to volunteer some of your time and experience to your Association.

Well, that's about it from this end - hope you all have a good winter - see you at the Lake!

**John Nelson, Stillwater Cottage,
The North End**

MacRae Brothers Memorial Dedication

The MacRae Rock Memorial dedication to Dougal and Jamie MacRae, who gave their lives during the Second World War, took place on August 20, 2005 on the site of the original MacRae home, in the Indian Narrows. Of the 100 people in attendance, fourteen were members of the MacRae family, led by Audrey Nichols, elder sister of Dougal and Jamie, and now in her 97th year.

The pipers and drummers from Jamie's regiment, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, played a very moving rendition of Amazing Grace preceded by Scottish music, and then concluded with the March Past of the Air Force and the Argyll's, better known as "The Campbells are Coming".

Members of Branch 394 Royal

bronze plaque provided by the WWK Association created a memorial to the MacRae brothers that the residents of Lake Wah Wash Kesh can visit with considerable pride.

Herb and Shirley Schmidt of Absolute Peace and Quiet (the current owners of original MacRae property) were most agreeable and gracious hosts. Past-President Dalton Ferris carried out master of ceremonies duties admirably. President John Nelson, on behalf of the WWK Association, thanked those who had made the memorial and the day's proceedings possible.

Following the ceremony, the Association provided lunch and refreshments. Transportation to the memorial from the Indian Narrows dock was by John Kormos and John Nelson.

The MacRae Memorial committee made up of Duncan Robertson (with family support), Jim Summersides and Doug Elliott met several times; exchanged many telephone calls, e-mails and letters over more than a year of planning the event.

Friday began with a work-party to get things ready at Absolute Peace and Quiet, which

the afternoon storm promptly blew apart. All was rectified Saturday morning and thankfully before the ceremony began, the weather cleared and all enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

The members of the WWK Association should remember this day with considerable satisfaction knowing, that the sacrifice of the MacRae family has finally been recognized and remembered at the lake.

**Jim Summersides,
Doug Elliott & Duncan Robertson**

Custom Building Renovations and Design

LAKELAND CONTRACTING

SERVING PARRY SOUND & SURROUNDING AREA

Est. 1975

Homes and Cottages

- New built or renovated
- Docks • Decks • Roofing

Siding & Eavestrough

- 5" seamless eavestrough
- Soffit and fascia
- Vinyl and wood siding
- Prefinished wood or cement siding



705-378-0544

238 Oastler Park Drive, R.R.#2, Parry Sound
dave@lakelandcontracting.com

www.lakelandcontracting.com



Come Home to
**COMFORT
& WARMTH**

**Visit us for our advice, our
quality brand names & our unique
& unusual antiques & collectables**

Fabric & leather sofas, sofa beds & futons,
mattresses, bedroom furniture, quilts & blankets.

Painted, rustic & reclaimed furniture, area rugs,
unusual collectables & quality antiques.

Ask about custom orders and take advantage of
our **FREE delivery, set up & disposal**



17 Parry Sound Drive, Parry Sound, ON P2A 2W9

Tel: 705.746.5100 Toll Free: 1.800.633.9066

www.harrisfurniture.ca sales@harrisfurniture.ca

Fish Committee

The Committee has obtained funding for pickerel spawning bed rehabilitation work at Whitestone Chutes. OMNR has indicated that approximately \$1,000 to \$1,200 will be available for the Committee under a CFWIP (Community Fish and Wildlife Improvement Program) grant. The round rubble will be purchased this Fall and stored over Winter and put into place next Spring after the spawning is over around May 24th. The Association has agreed to cover the balance necessary to complete this project which will be approximately \$1,000.

Please remember to submit your Creel Records to either a member of the Fish Committee, or to Bennett's Store or mail them to Eric McIntyre at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Parry Sound.

Thanks!

**Ed Bennett, Dalton Ferris,
Ken Taylor, Don Comrie**

**The following article was
published in the Toronto Sun
on Friday October 14, 2005**

Cottager on the hook for cost of fighting fire

THUNDER BAY -- A 78-year-old man who lit a campfire that sparked a small forest fire has been ordered to pay the \$10,000 cost of putting it out.

Ohio resident Harry Shoup pleaded guilty to lighting the campfire at his cottage just east of the northwestern Ontario community of Wawa in May 2004.

Two ministry of natural resources fire crews and a water bomber were dispatched to put out the fire. **By CP**

Tiny Bubbles - in the lake!

The 2004 Membership Survey includes in Appendix D verbatim comments from replies. Two comments were "Creating and enforcing...guidelines for cottages that pollute..." and "...soap foam is a local problem..."

It is hoped that all cottagers are good stewards of the lake and adjacent environment. In this 21st century aren't we all careful about using only phosphate-free detergents and bio-degradable soap? Laundry detergents are now largely low in phosphates, but did you know that this is not true for detergents for automatic dishwashers? These can be a significant problem.

So, what is that foam? It may be naturally produced by microorganisms during the process of organic decomposition. This process results in a "surfactant", which reduces surface tension of the lake permitting the formation of "suds". This is largely air and water whipped by the wind, and most noticeable after a windy day. You can check to see if the foam on your shore line is natural or caused by careless neighbours. If it has an earthy or fishy smell it is natural. Detergent foam, however, will have the familiar perfumed smell.

This was prepared with assistance from the Minnesota Lakes Association lakes@minnlakes.org & Grey-Bruce Public Health at publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Jacquelyn Morgan

Sly Fox Golf Club *Ready for Business*

We are happy to report that the new **Sly Fox Golf Club**, at Absolute Peace & Quiet Lakefront Cottages, was completed this fall, and will be open for play, in 2006 - hopefully before the Canada Day Weekend.

It's a 9 hole executive-length course, (4 par 3's & 5 par 4's) and features some spectacular holes, that bring WWK Lake into play.

**Herb and Shirley Schmidt
Absolute Peace & Quiet**

We Love Our Sponsors!

Throughout this newsletter you will find advertisements placed by many local businesses. These advertisements generate needed revenue for the Association to support our goals and programs.

Please use their services and let them know you saw their ad in the newsletter or on the WWK website.

Wiener & Corn Roasts -2005

There wasn't a big attendance at the Wiener Roast, but those who attended enjoyed the tasty hot dogs. After a dry, hot summer there was a complete fire ban, so the wieners were cooked on a propane cooker, then put on BBQ to sizzle up.

Just before the end of the event the skies opened up and everyone enjoyed a warm shower. There were no complaints as it was a welcome relief.

After a couple days of heavy rain, the weather co-operated again in August and we were able to hold the Annual Corn Roast. There was a great turn out and it was rewarding to see such a large crowd. The corn was cooked to perfection by Stu Price. There was also an added treat at this year's feast - the left over sandwiches and beverages brought over from the MacRae Dedication.

Many thanks to all the people who helped make both events a success. With special thanks to: Frank

Camenzuli, Bert Ellingham, Tim Maheu, John Neilson, Stu and Janine Price, Steve and Kelly Rauh, Carroll, Matt and Rod Russell and last but not least the corn huskers - Mark Camenzuli and Kylie Crawford.

Once again many thanks to Marlene Bennett for an excellent job taking care of all the necessities for these two functions. Also Eleanor Arbour for supplying the posters.

These events are held at Straub's Beach and we would like to thank Nancy and Mike Busenhardt for allowing the Association to use their beach.

Many thanks to all who made donations and again this year there will be no cost to the Association. Thank you for your support and assistance and we look forward to seeing you all again next summer.

Ross and Patty Willett



Lupal Island Fire

The following letter was forwarded to the Association for publication.

This is a very difficult letter to write. It seems impossible to properly express our thanks. I have tried over and over to say thank you to everyone who helped out with the fire but I am sure I am leaving out many people and I'm sorry because we would like to thank everyone.

Wayne Kikkard and everyone in the narrows who were first on the scene, the firefighters and fellow cottagers who bravely fought the fire, the people who graciously offered us food, clothing and somewhere to stay. Jay Murdock for staying to help out in any way needed, the OPP who were wonderful and everyone who phoned and emailed us to express their sympathy and offer help if needed.

We will miss very much going up to the lake to snowmobile this winter but hope that we can start construction on the new Loopy cottage next summer. Again Thank You! Cottagers are a special group of people.

**Darrell, Kim, Breanna
& Lauren Lupal**



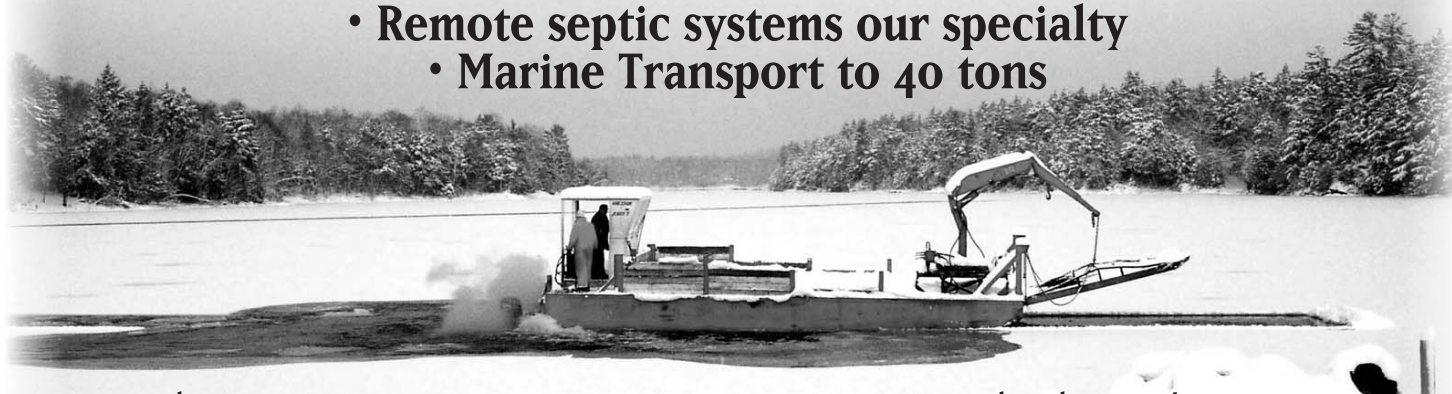
C.E.Bennett Limited

• *Wah-Wash-Kesh Lodge & Marina* • *General Store* • *Gasoline & Oil*

General Contractors for Water Access & Remote Locations:

- **Boat Service & Storage** • Excavation • Concrete • Framing
- Frost Free Plumbing • Heating • Electrical • Roofing • Landscaping
- Docks • Shoreline Restoration

- **Remote septic systems our specialty**
- **Marine Transport to 40 tons**



Tel: 705-746-7977 Fax: 705-746-7907 Box 21, R.R.#2 Dunchurch, Ontario P0A 1G0

NEW Walleye Regulations on the Way!

The Ministry of Natural Resources has embarked upon an ambitious initiative to re-write the Ontario Fishery Regulations for 2007 (See "New Ontario Fishing Regulations ...").

A component of that initiative is what the Ministry is calling "The Southern Region Walleye Review". One of the objectives of the review is to come up with recommendations for new walleye regulations that provide optimal angling opportunities while respecting the conservation needs and sustainability of the walleye resource.

The Ministry has an extensive data base for walleye populations in the Southern Region. (A comprehensive summary of the walleye state of the resource in the Southern Region can be found at www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/pubsmenu.html#fish). This data base formed the foundation of a modeling exercise conducted by the Ministry to come up with scientifically based and biologically defensible recommendations for walleye regulations in the Southern Region.

Numerous regulatory options were run through the model and it soon became apparent that the depressed state of walleye populations in the Southern Region requires very restrictive regulations to stem the decreasing trend in walleye abundance and stabilize populations at existing levels. As a consequence the following regulatory options are currently being proposed:

- **Minimum size limit of 50 cm (19"). You can only keep walleye greater than 50 cm in total length.**

- **Maximum size limit of 40 cm (15"). You can only keep walleye less than 40 cm in total length.**

- **Protected slot size of 40-65 cm (15" - 25"). Fish in the slot are released.**

- **Protected slot size of 35-55 cm (13" - 21"). Fish in the slot are released.**

The above options assume a 4/2 catch limit (i.e. sport fishing license daily catch limit of 4 and a conservation license daily catch limit of 2).

Many walleye anglers will be dismayed and perhaps frustrated at the restrictive nature of the above options. Notwithstanding, fisheries science tells us this is the bitter medicine required to achieve the modest objective of stabilizing walleye populations and main-

taining what we currently have. Anything less would continue the declining trend of our walleye populations. Admittedly, this assessment is based on a broad landscape approach for the average walleye population in the Southern Region. On some individual lakes these regulations may be more onerous than is required, whereas on others they may not be restrictive enough. Unfortunately the large number of walleye lakes throughout the Southern Region (over 400) does not allow us the luxury of managing these lakes on an individual basis.

The Ministry plans to conduct targeted consultation with stakeholder groups in the fall of 2005. Early in 2006, the Ministry will seek widespread input from the general public. A web site will be set up to disseminate information and facilitate the submission of comments electronically as well as by traditional means.

Eric McIntyre (MNR)

NEW Ontario Fishing Regulations and Implications to the Existing Winter Sanctuary

In mid-October, members of the Fish Committee met with the Ministry of Natural Resources to discuss implications to Wahwashkesh Lake from the Ministry's intention to re-write the Ontario Fishery Regulations for 2007. This mammoth task is part of the Ministry's "New Ecological Framework for Fisheries Management" initiative. It is intended that sport fishing regulations will be easier to understand and ultimately more user friendly as a result of this initiative.

The Ministry will be proposing new regulations for all fish species based on the recently approved "Fisheries Management Zones" (formerly called "Fishing Divisions" in the Recreational Fishing Summary). Standard zone wide regulations and exceptions will be as per recommendations brought forth in Regulatory Guideline documents (a.k.a. "Tool Kits") that the Ministry is formulating for each species. This will potentially result in regulation changes for most species in Wahwashkesh Lake – as well as the entire province. The only exception to this will be lake trout, as current regulations are already contained in the Lake Trout Tool Kit and an intensive review for this

species in the Southern Region of the MNR (of which we are a part) was previously conducted in 2000.

One of the guiding principles of this exercise is to maximize angling opportunities, while respecting the conservation needs and sustainability of the fisheries resource. To this end, the Ministry is endeavouring where suitable, to remove existing sanctuaries in favour of closed seasons. This change would still protect the species for which the sanctuary was instituted, but allow angling opportunities for other species not requiring additional protection. Consequently, one of the key items of discussion between the Ministry and your Fish Committee was the elimination of the existing winter sanctuary on Wahwashkesh Lake and replacing it with a winter closure for lake trout. This would prohibit the harvesting of any lake trout during the winter season, but allow angling for other species such as northern pike, lake whitefish, walleye and black crappie.

Although there are obvious benefits to anglers with this proposal, the Ministry and the Fish Committee have two concerns. The first concern is that the existing winter sanctuary has also benefited the walleye population and subjecting it to winter angling in addition to the open-water season will result in a significant increase in fishing pressure and harvest. Although this is a very legitimate concern, commencing in 2007, angler harvest will be much reduced by the introduction of new walleye regulations which we anticipate will be very restrictive. (See additional article on proposed new walleye regulations in this issue.)

Consequently, the options for new walleye regulations in effect address the concern of increased fishing pressure and harvest of walleye from winter angling.

The second concern related to winter angling is the unintentional capture of lake trout during the (new) closed winter season for this species and post-release mortality associated with having to release all lake trout caught. The scientific literature suggests post release mortality of lake trout is approximately 15%. Although this mortality can be reduced through angler education of effective catch and release techniques, it can not be eliminated. Consequently, a winter fishery even with lake trout being closed will result in some mortality of lake trout.

There are a few options to address this concern: The Ministry would be obliged to monitor the incidental catch of lake trout and the population. If future

Expert • Professional • Experienced



**McNabb Home
Building Centre**

Formerly Beaver Lumber

**From Foundation to Roof,
your Complete Building Supply Centre**

*Same great service and products,
only the name has changed!*

**22 Seguin Street, Parry Sound P2A 1B1
(705) 746-5825 (705) 726-2147 1-800-810-0156**

McKellar
marine services
Tel: 705-389-3814 Fax: 705-389-1021

- BOAT SALES
- SERVICE
- ACCESSORY STORE
- INSIDE STORAGE AVAILABLE

Fly-in Repair Service Available
www.mckellarmarine.com

MERCURY
The Water Calls

MERCURY
MerCruiser

assessment results indicate the sustainability of the lake trout population is in jeopardy, additional regulatory protection would have to be applied to lake trout. As regulations are already very restrictive, this could possibly result in a year-round closure of lake trout. (This is only a possibility, not an inevitable outcome.) If assessment indicates the population is stable or increasing, existing regulations would remain in effect.

If the incidental catch of lake trout and resulting post-release mortality is considered unacceptable, the current sanctuary could remain in effect on "The Big Lake" (south basin), where the lake trout population is largely confined. However, this does not follow the objective of the Ministry's streamlining and simplification initiative.

So, we want to know what you think. This proposal is by no means a "done deal" and your input will be a large factor in determining whether it will be implemented or the status quo retained. The Ministry is requesting that comments be made in writing for documentation purposes. Comments should be submitted prior to March 1, 2006 and directed to:

**Ministry of Natural Resources, 7 Bay Street,
Parry Sound, Ontario, P2A 1S4**

**Attention: Eric McIntyre, Fisheries Biologist
or email: Eric.McIntyre@mnr.gov.on.ca**

Or if you wish, comments may also be submitted to one of your Fish Committee members: Don Comrie, Ed Bennett or Ken Taylor. After March 1, 2006, the Fish Committee and MNR will reconvene to review comments and select a preferred management option in this matter.

Property Assessment Process

Most of us have received a rather shocking assessment notice providing a much increased assessed value of our cottage property as of January 1, 2005. This will be the assessed value for tax year 2006. All Ontario properties will now be assessed as of January 1 of each year. Assessed values attempt to mirror real market values for your property. Many may have disagreement with the value assigned to their cottage property.

MPAC does all assessments in Ontario and bases its values on inputs such as real estate sales, building permit values and the pertinent details defining your

property. This data base forms the foundation for determining assessed values as of January 1 of each year.

Regarding information the MPAC web site is www.mpac.ca – searching this site can be very informing so I suggest that you check out the site – if you do not have web access then use a friend or relative for access.

The Parry Sound office can be reached by dialing 1-705-746-9303 and ask for customer service – if you are armed with your roll number you can verify that your property is properly defined in the data base and make corrections if you needed.

Enclosed with this newsletter are the following forms:

- **REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**—this form allows you to have your assessment reviewed and reconsidered and can be filed up till **Dec. 31, 2006**.

- Also enclosed is a **"NOTICE OF COMPLAINT"** form. This is a more formal review and you must pay \$75 for this. This ends up in a hearing process where you or your designate must attend and present your case to the assessment review board. Note: at the time of mailing only the 2005 forms were available so these are included – changing the dates will likely be sufficient to use this form for 2006. **The "notice of complaint" must be filed by March 31, 2006.**

The MPAC web site allows you to learn particulars of your property under the "About My Property" tab – to get this info from MPAC you must call 1-866-296-6722 and register – via email. You will get access particulars – this allows you to check out other properties as well as your own.

Other Municipalities

Residential assessment increased in other municipalities as well:

Whitestone increased by 41.63%

Mckellar increased by 36.68 %

Magnetewan increased by 33.53%

Armour increased by 31.81 %

Archipelago increased by 43.59 %

Obviously there are others who will have property value questions – I guess this means we are not an exception.

Property Tax Implications

The cost to run our Municipality is increasing along with everything else. If our Council effectively manages the 2006 budgeting process then we could anticipate a 2-4% expense increase in the 2006 budget. This could mean that on a residential basis the 2006 mill rate could reasonably be expected to decrease by about 37% leaving the Municipality with a 4.6% increase in revenue to cover the 2006 expense increase.

Remember also that 2006 is a Municipal elec-

tion year!!

Generally about 70% of our tax \$ is for the Municipal services and about 30% is for Education – as an example my assessment went up 100%. As a result I am expecting my taxes to increase about 35% overall—providing Council does a 2006 budget that includes a 2-4% expense increase –some of the increased assessment is offset by a reduced mill rate and education will likely stay about 30% of the total.

Of course the reality is that we do not really get much in the way of Municipal services—and I am happy with that – I do not want lights-garbage pick up-sidewalks-limited fire protection and instant 911 response and the like – my preference is the quiet unserviced shores of our beautiful wilderness Lake – and I am willing to pay for that via taxes that mismatch the provided services.

Personally I think the 2003 assessment did not reflect fair market value—that assessment was too low—now I feel we are caught up and in some cases have gone beyond market value.

Property Values

If your assessment is a value that you would be satisfied receiving from a real sale—then the assessment is probably in the ball park. I realize though that it is difficult to take the emotion out of a family cottage sale - real or imagined. This is a test—that's all—and you need to take the test before you take action re the assessed value of your cottage property.

I have been assured by MPAC that water access properties see at least 30-35% less assessed value than comparable "drive to" properties but at the same time water access properties are harder to visit and so may be visited by an MPAC inspector less often or not at all. So call MPAC customer service and make sure your property is correctly defined in their data base.

Action Plan

- Call MPAC customer service in Parry Sound to make sure your property is properly described in the data base
- Use the forms provided by the Association to request a reconsideration—further, file a notice of complaint on the provided form if you wish to do more
- Browse the MPAC web site for info—register with "About My Property" for comparables and more detail
- The Association attended an Oct 12/05—presentation to Council by MPAC—for educational purposes
- The Association visited the Parry Sound Assessment Office at 10 Miller Street to discuss assessment issues in general
- The Association is contemplating inviting MPAC to our 2006 Annual meeting to discuss the assessment process and emerging trends
- The Association is also contemplating inviting the Municipality to our Annual meeting to compare 2005/2006 budgets and to compare 2005/2006 mill rates—and the resultant tax implications

Other actions will no doubt occur and we will be sure you are further informed via the spring newsletter—all input is welcome.

Dalton Ferris—Association Past President

Century 21 Granite Properties Ltd.

**For all your real estate needs call
Bill and Tina Greig
Associate Brokers**

Call toll free: 1-877-894-8735 Phone: 705-389-3739
E-mail: tina@greig.ca

Visit our website at www.greig.ca

Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da

a small summer camp for girls
where lifetime friendships begin!



Pam Lamont Owner/Director
756 Mineral Springs Road
Dundas, Ontario L9H 5E3
Toll Free: 1-877-642-5663
Local: 905-648-9382
Fax: 905-648-1305

Visit our website at www.miakonda.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

John Nelson - 23 Searle Street,
Hamilton, Ontario, L9A 2V6
(905) 318-6595 (home)
(905) 575-0041 (work)
jsnelson@sympatico.ca

Past President

Dalton Ferris -
800 Chieftain, Unit 1115
Woodstock, Ont, N4T 1T8
519-536-9954 (phone & fax)

Treasurer - Chris Downes -

11 Ommadawn Lane, RR 2,
Dunchurch, Ontario, POA 1G0
(416) 809-7361 (cell)
cdownes@direcway.com

Secretary/Director -

Dana Boyter - 24 Granton St.,
Hamilton, Ont, L8S 3C2
905-525-7655 (home)
dboyter@cogeco.ca

Director - Rod Bennett -

55 Robinson St.
Collingwood, Ontario, L9Y 3L8
705-445-9946 (home)
rod.bennett@sympatico.ca

Director - Mike Szymanski -

Apt 806, 300 Sherk Street
Leamington, Ontario, N8H 4N7
(519) 326-9181 (home)
szym@wincom.net

Director - Don Comrie -

Suite 501, 44 Longbourne Drive,
Etobicoke Ontario, M9R 2M7
(416) 241-5353 (home)
don.comrie@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

**- VACANT SEAT -
we need
a volunteer!!**

Advertising/BusinessDirectory

Rod Bennett - see above

Newsletter Editor

Lesley Hugill - 2258 Yates Crt.,
Oakville, Ontario, L6L 5K6
905-847-8748 (phone/fax)
leshug@cogeco.ca

Webmaster

Pat Ferris - 55 Avenida Street,
Markham, Ontario, L3S 4J6
905-294-6873 (home)
patferris@rogers.com

WE'VE GOT YOUR LUMBER.

*Hardware & building supplies
for all your needs!*

**MAGNETAWAN
BUILDING CENTRE LTD**
- WE DELIVER -



- Gift ideas & toys • Bedding & potted plants • Hanging baskets
- Water pumps • Paint • Plumbing • Electrical • Forney welding supplies
- "Exchange a saw blade" • Culligan water • Propane filling station

Tel: 705-387-3988

Fax: 705-387-4712



**THE NORTH LANDING
RESTAURANT**

at

*Whitestone Lake Resort
Main Lodge*

*406 Whitestone Lake Road
Dunchurch, Ontario
705-389-2770*

www.whitestonelakeresort.com

BIGGER & BETTER TO SERVE YOUR BUILDING NEEDS

Value & Service You Can Build On!



*Locally Owned & Operated for
over 27 Years!*



Membership & Advertising

We currently have a membership base of approximately 250. This mailing is based on subscriptions received throughout last fall, spring and summer. Please find toward the end of this newsletter forms for both Membership and Dock Permit Decal Renewal. You will notice that your payment goes to Chris Downes your treasurer. He then creates receipts and I mail you this along with your Membership and Dock stickers. This will be the basis for next Fall's mailing.

Dock permit sales are down at about 70 for the year. We encourage members to support the voluntary dock permit program as it pays for improvements and maintenance to the docks at both Bennett's Bay and Indian Narrows. While we encourage members to purchase Dock Permits through the mail system as you do with memberships, they will also be available in May at both Hayward's and Bennett's Stores.

The Association appreciates our advertisers. We feel they get great exposure through our newsletter and we hope that members will patronize them for services they may require.

Finally, if anyone is missed for whatever reason or prospective members would like a copy of our newsletter, please e-mail, phone or write me. Effective communication is an essential element of a strong association.

Rod Bennett

2005 AGM

Thank you all for attending the 2005 Annual Meeting. It's always an interesting day and for some of us the only chance we seem to have to chat with some lake friends. We were a little more long winded than last year and managed to push things into the afternoon.

The highlights included: direction to the Board to appoint an auditor (as per the Constitution); the election of two out of three Directors: Don Comrie and Dana Boyter; the parting of three Directors: Andy Vurma, Duncan Robertson and Ted Heggart (thanks as always); some touching history on the MacRae brothers; a few more tidbits of local stories and a request from the History Project; announcement of the new bench at Indian Narrows in memory of Stan Harding; all bills paid - Dam update; a very interesting and thorough Fish Committee update and, a passionate yet humorous discussion on bears and dumps.

Again, thanks for coming out and any suggestions on how we can make the AGM better please call a Director or become one!

Directors Elected to Board Positions

The most recent Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association Director's meeting was held on Oct 14, 2005 and four positions on the executive were to be filled. The positions were; President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Three directors agreed to take on their previous positions and the vote was unanimously passed. John Nelson agreed to stand as President, Chris Downes agreed to stay on at the Treasurer position and Dana Boyter agreed to stay with the Secretary position. With Andy Vurma retiring as Director as of the 2005 AGM, *the Vice President position was vacant and remains to be filled.* The executive is still on the hunt to fill the final Director position. ***Interested persons should call a member of the executive before they loose out - We're a fun bunch!***

Dana Boyter

GEORGIAN RENTALS



Bill Robinson Henry Thornton Paul Bushey

3 Queen Street, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 2W1
(705) 746-5243 • (705) 746-7368

Fax (705) 746-6129

O/B 832395 ONT.INC

PETER KECK CONSTRUCTION LTD.



- **Licensed Septic Installer**
- **Sand, Gravel & Topsoil**

**Located at the corner of Hwy 520
& Wah-Wash-Kesh Road**

R.R.#2 Dunchurch, Ontario P0A 1G0

E-mail: squiker@vianet.ca

tel: 705-389-2974

fax: 705-389-2974

Green Corner by N. Glenn Perrett

With Christmas just around the corner this is a good time to review some useful products that are environmentally friendly.

LED Christmas Lights & Timers (Canadian Tire)

If you're looking forward to a bright Christmas without huge hydro bills you may want to check out the various LED Christmas lights and timers available at Canadian Tire. The line of indoor and outdoor Christmas lights by NOMA is impressive and features various colours of LED bulbs as well as mixed colours and even some that change colour!

LED lights have many benefits compared to the older Christmas lights including the fact they use much less electricity. According to one package electricity costs are reduced by 80%-95% compared to incandescent lights.

LED lights are long lasting, relatively durable and they are cool to the touch. By using appropriate timers by companies such as Intermatic and Woods you can further reduce hydro costs by setting lights to come on and go off when you want!

Freeplay Lifeline Radio (C. Crane Company)

It is important to have a quality radio on hand for emergencies and the Freeplay Lifeline Radio is an impressive wind-up short-wave radio that also works on solar energy. The solar panel is removable allowing you to keep the radio in the shade or indoors while the solar panel is in direct sunlight. Designed to withstand harsh conditions, this radio gets good reception.

As impressive as this radio is, the best thing about it is that for every Freeplay Lifeline Radio purchased from the C. Crane Company, one will be donated to the Freeplay Foundation (www.freeplay-foundation.org) to help orphaned children in Africa. The children use the radios to access information and educational programs. The Freeplay Lifeline Radio is not only an eco-product, it's a humanitarian one as well.

Premium Woven Doormats (Lee Valley)

Some products are good for the environment simply because they last a long time. Lee Valley Tools Ltd. has an excellent doormat that is woven from polypropylene rope. These mats are resistant to rotting and they are also mildew proof. Best of all they help to remove mud, dirt and snow from shoes and boots and they're easy to clean

with a hose. We are pleased with our mat which we put in our mudroom. These mats are for use on non-slip surfaces.

MotoMaster Eliminator PowerBox 800 & MotoMaster Eliminator Folding Solar Panel (Canadian Tire)

I've tried to be more prepared for emergencies since much of north-eastern North America was cast into darkness on August 14, 2003. The MotoMaster Eliminator PowerBox 800 and the MotoMaster Eliminator Folding Solar Panel are not only great for emergencies, but for saving electricity. The



The Freeplay Lifeline Radio along with the MotoMaster Eliminator PowerBox 800 & MotoMaster Eliminator Folding Solar Panel

folding solar panel is lightweight, easy to carry and efficiently recharges the PowerBox 800. The solar panel captures energy from the sun and converts it into 12V DC electricity where it is stored in batteries and then converted, when needed, into 120V household electricity using a power inverter. Once charged, the PowerBox 800 can power tools, laptop computer, household items and other things. We plugged a lamp into this power pack and it was still burning bright after 14 hours. The Eliminator PowerBox 800 contains a built-in AM/FM radio with digital alarm clock as well as a light.

OUR FOREST

We are very fortunate to have and enjoy and use the forest that surrounds us here on Lake Wahwashkesh. We on the lake are exactly half way between the Equator and the North Pole. We are located in a climate zone known as Humid Continental Short Summer. Our natural vegetation classification is Mixed Forest. But in reality we are in a transitional zone which merges the Mixed Forest and the Boreal Commercial Forests. The Boreal Commercial Forests are the most extensive forests in Canada covering the greatest area and grow mainly in the Sub-arctic Climate zone to our north.

We receive about thirty three inches or eighty-three centimeters of precipitation per year. Over the last ten years I have been measuring the amount of acid rainfall and it consistently shows very acidic in nature. But when I measure the lake water for acidity I get an acceptable reading which reflects normal slightly acidic rainwater.

Our soil here around the lake is very poor. It falls into the category of Podzolic soil. This is the normal soil for the Canadian Shield. It is infertile and acidic. This is caused by leaching of the nutrients out of the soil and being carried away by ground water which is one reason why we have darkly tinted lake water. The soil here is very thin and in many places only inches deep. Occasionally we are able to find deeper pockets of soil as a result of glacial scouring and erratic deposition of sediments for any number of reasons.

Ten thousand years ago the lake was covered by a layer of ice up to two miles thick. This ice scraped the surface of the Precambrian Shield in this area and deposited much of the soil further south

in what is known as the Great Lakes Lowlands. As one travels south on the highway 400 we drive off the Canadian Shield into the Great Lakes lowlands just a little north of Barrie.

According to the various books of reference on trees found in our area we should see about forty types of trees commonly growing in our forest. These numbers are very open to debate depending on the books that one might use. Around my own cottage I can find perhaps eighteen tree types.. Where are the rest? Some of them will be found growing in the more southerly warmer areas of our vegetation zone. Some trees prefer to have deep soil to grow in and others have a preference for alkaline soil rather than acidic soil. So even though the reference books list so many trees that should grow in our climate zone and vegetation zone in reality the differences within this sector is so great that it would be impossible to find them all in one acre or even square mile around our lake.

One of the best aspects of our forest is the fact that it is a big lung for this planet earth. It makes oxygen. It extracts carbon dioxide. It also regulates the flow of rainwater once it has fallen and releases it slowly into the drainage system. The plants in the swamps and marshes filter the water and extract pollutants from the water such as chemicals and heavy metals. We extract lumber and firewood. It is a home for the Whitetail Deer and the Black Bear as well as a score of fish, birds and other animals.

We are very lucky to have our forest and understanding it is very important for the future.

Michael Szymanski

ROSS WINDOWS & DOORS

**High Performance...
Engineered Excellence**

Vinyl & Wood Windows & Entrance Doors

Casement • Single & Double Hung • Sliders • Awnings
Bays & Bows • Patio Doors • Insulated Entrance Systems

Energy Efficient & Maintenance Free Vinyl

Practical, Strong & Durable • Easy to Operate
Local Manufacturer • New Construction or Renovations

746-2495

7 Mall Drive, Beside the Parry Sound Mall

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

Rock N' Dock Sale

SUNDAY, August 6th, 2006

(raindate Monday, August 7th)

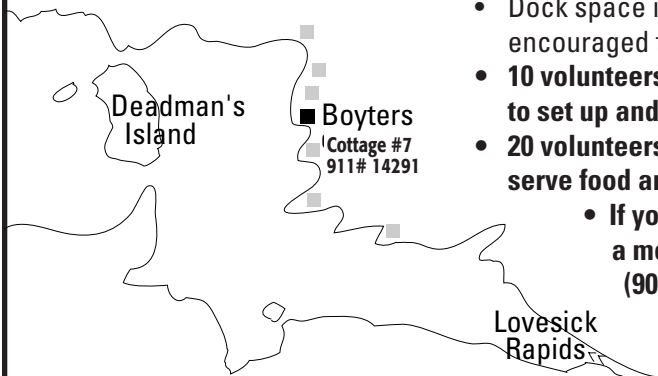
At **Boyter's**, (cottage directory #7 or 911number 14291),
through Deadman's Narrows, then straight ahead

8:30am • Pancake Breakfast

9:00am • Flea market

11:00am • Lunch (dogs & burgers)

- Please save your odds & ends (no large furniture, appliances, clothing or old baby cribs/highchairs/walkers) and deliver to Boyter's cottage from **2-6pm on Saturday, August 5th 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



Event Calendar 2006

Sat. July 15

Wiener Roast

4pm–Straubs Beach

(Raindate: Sunday, July 16, 3-5pm)

Sat. August 5

Annual Meeting

9:30am–Bennett's Barn

Sun. August 6

Dock N'Rock Sale

8:30am–Boyter's Cottage
(see map at left)

(Raindate: Monday, August 7)

Sat. August 19

Corn Roast

4pm–Straubs Beach

(Raindate: Sun., Aug. 20, 2-4pm)

In Memoriam

• Bill Easterbrook,

passed away on September 27 at the age of 79. Beloved husband of Eva. He had been coming to WahWashKesh most of his life and has a family cottage in Indian Narrows.

• Jean Hayward, passed away on July 12th at the age of 74.

A constant, warm and cheerful fixture on the Lake her entire life.

She is missed greatly by all who enjoyed her smiling face at the store.

One of our family's many early memories of the Lake, when our children were growing up, was of Jean's delicious birthday cakes. Lori was the lucky one in our family with an August birthday.

The instructions to Jean were always the same - white cake, white icing, jam filling and enough pink roses for the number of girls we had vacationing at the cottage on that particular day. What anticipation during the boat ride over to pick it up. It was always warm, beautifully decorated and carefully transported in a cardboard box. Jean was always bubbly and cheerful when we came to pick it up and obviously very proud.

So delicious were her birthday cakes, when our puppy Velvet joined our family, we were delighted to know that she also had a summer birthday, and we celebrated with two of Jean's cakes for many summers.

Don & Pat Easterbrook, Lori, Lesley & Julie



1990

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

Winter Reading by N. Glenn Perrett

Ferns of Northeastern and Central North America (Peterson Field Guides)
Distributed in Canada by Thomas Allen & Son Limited, 2005, 421pgs., ISBN: 0618394060

This newly revised, full colour field guide provides the reader with considerable information about ferns including the life cycle of the fern, fern habitats and conservation as well as colour photographs and line drawings for numerous "true ferns" as well as "fern relatives." Ferns will be a valuable addition to your field guide collection.

Wild City: A Guide to Nature in Urban Ontario, from Termites to Coyotes
McClelland & Stewart Ltd., 2004, 344pgs.
ISBN: 0771085699

Life at the lake for most cottagers is over for another year. People have returned to their urban residences. For those who want to learn more about their urban, non-human neighbours this is the book.

As with their earlier books (Up North and Up North Again), Doug Bennet and Tim Tiner have written an informative and entertaining book about plant and animal species that we're likely to encounter. Written in a highly readable fashion, Wild City includes sections on birds, creepy-crawlies, fish, mammals, reptiles & amphibians, plants, trees, day sky and night sky. Special sections include bird gardens, butterfly gardens, wetlands, forest edge and alien invaders. Subjects such as clouds, rainbows, planets & comets and stars & constellations complement the information on plant and animal species.

Wild Paws series

Scholastic Canada Ltd., Ages 7-10

Bobcat Rescue ISBN: 0439989833
Lonely Wolf Pup ISBN: 043998985X
Bunnies in Trouble ISBN: 0439989841
Orphaned Beluga ISBN: 0439989868
Cubs All Alone ISBN: 0439961289

The Wild Paws series by Susan Hughes is excellent for young readers interested in animals and nature. The books in this series feature Maxine Kearney, her friend Sarah and Abbie. "Max" and Sarah volunteer at the Wild Paws & Claws Clinic and Rehabilitation Centre which is run by Abbie.

In *Bobcat Rescue*, *Lonely Wolf Pup*, *Bunnies in*

Trouble, *Orphaned Beluga* and *Cubs All Alone* Max, Sarah, Abbie and various others help numerous animals in trouble. In *Lonely Wolf Pup* Max, Sarah and Abbie attempt to reunite a wolf pup, who has been trapped, with his pack while *Cubs All Alone* tells of how Max, Sarah and Abbie help two bear cubs whose mother has been shot.

The Wild Paws series provides entertaining stories about animals for children. Not only is there considerable information about the rescued animals, but also information about the environment and wildlife rehabilitation. An "information sheet" about the species of animal rescued in the story is included at the back of the book.

Firefly Books for Star Gazers

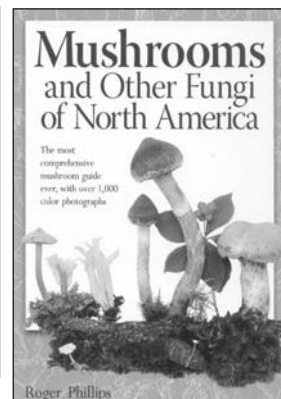
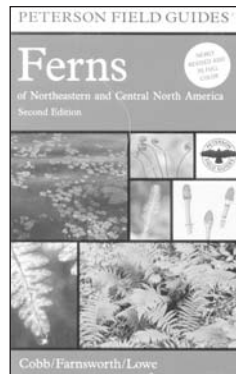
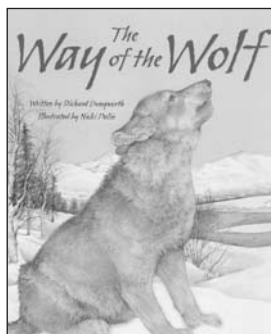
The cottage is a great place to observe the universe and Firefly Books publish excellent astronomy books. Serious star gazers will be interested in *The Firefly Encyclopedia of Astronomy* (Firefly Books, 2004, ISBN: 1552977978, 472pgs). This impressive reference book features contributions from hundreds of astronomers and contains "1,750 entries, 375 color and archival photographs, and 215 color diagrams and tables." The history of astronomy, astronomer biographies, information on space missions as well as practical advice on various subjects, such as using binoculars, are contained in this encyclopedia.

Another informative book about the night sky is *Night Sky Atlas* (Firefly Books, 2005, ISBN: 1554070260, 128pgs). Written by Robin Scagell, this book provides considerable information to locate, observe and learn about the stars, the moon, the planets, the constellations and more. Either of these books with their colour photographs and maps and informative text would be a welcome addition to the cottage library.

Mushrooms and Other Fungi of North America

Firefly Books, 2005, 319pgs. ISBN: 1554071151

For those into mushrooms I recommend



Mushrooms and Other Fungi of North America. This guide contains more than 1,000 photographs of common mushrooms found in North America. There is also information on collecting mushrooms, poisonous species, poisoning symptoms, edible species, drying mushrooms and much more.

The Way of the Wolf

Scholastic Canada Ltd., 2005, 24pgs.
ISBN: 0439952638, Ages 4-8

While reading about how Kolta the wolf looks after his younger siblings while the rest of the wolf pack is off hunting, children learn about wolves and how the wolf pack looks after all of the wolves within the pack. A section at the end of the book provides information on the other animals in the story as well as wolves and how they have been given an unfair and inaccurate image of being dangerous, evil animals. It is important to teach children about how important and beautiful wolves are and this impressive book with embossed illustrations can help to convey this vital message.

The Weekender: A Cottage Journal

Viking Canada, 2005, 238pgs., ISBN: 0670064297

If you're gathering your winter reading to help keep you entertained until you return to the cottage in the spring you will want to get a copy of Roy MacGregor's latest book. MacGregor has been keeping a journal at the cottage since the summer of 1983 and this entertaining book is about his cottage life. The Weekender includes some of MacGregor's columns from The Globe and Mail, the National Post and Cottage Life, along with new material, and covers topics that most cottagers can relate to.

Dunchurch Marina

11 Marina Drive, Dunchurch Tel: 389-9961

Prop Repairs
Boat covers made or repaired

Authorized Pelican Pedal Boat & Kayak Dealer

Boat/Motor, Canoe & Tube Rentals

Service & Repairs to all makes & models

Pick up & delivery available

SUZUKI MARINE

Authorized Dealer

www.dunchurchmarina.com

Storage
Winterise Motors/ Shrink Wrap & Go

Water Tube, Skis Waterskies, Kneeboards & Accessories

Parts & Accessories

The Downtown General Store Ltd.

A complete line of
Dry Goods • Wearing Apparel

Including our
"World Famous" Sweat shirts & T-shirts

• Toys • Souvenirs • Gifts

Groceries & Fabulous Meats

705-387-3800 **MAGNETAWAN**

The Ice Harvest

For many members, the buying of local Maple Syrup and the picking of Blueberries, are part of the annual cycle of events on the lake. But with the coming of domestic refrigerators in the 1930s another annual event "the harvesting of ice" on Lake Wah Wash Kesh declined and ceased.

Year round residents, like Cliff Bennett, harvested ice from the bay for use in the hotel and stored it in a large ice house behind the lodge.

However, most residents with ice houses depended on the Hayward family to fill the house during the winter to provide ice for use throughout the summer. Among those having ice houses were Linger Long Lodge which had a large log building which took 500 blocks of ice, Tracy Lodge, Deadman's Island, Clausen's, Scroggie Island and Deep Bay.

To fill these and other ice houses Guy and Ken Hayward cut about 2000 blocks of ice every winter. Before cutting the ice the Haywards would go into the ice houses to estimate how many blocks of ice would be required and look at the suitability of the lake ice as close to the ice house as possible. A thickness of at least 6 inches was needed with no open water in the neigh-

bourhood (ice for Linger Long sometimes had to be taken from a place in Indian Narrows because of the problem of open water closer to the lodge).

Ice was cut from the lake with a gasoline powered cutter. After two parallel cuts were made in the ice about 15 inches apart with the mechanical cutter individual blocks were formed by repeated cuts at right angles to the machine cuts with a single handed ice saw. Finished blocks were about 15-16 inches square with the depth varying with the depth of the ice at that particular spot.

Removing the ice from the water began by the man handling the ice tongs kicking two places for the heels of his boots so that he could heave on the block without slipping into the water. The helper then pushed down on the far end of the block causing the near end of the floating block to rise and be grabbed by the tongs.

Because the under side of the blocks varied in shape, an axe mark was placed on each block so that they could be fitted together in the ice house in the same order that they came from the lake.

The blocks were moved on a sled drawn by a team of horses and pulled up the slope to the ice house. Boards were laid from the sled to the door of

the ice house and the blocks pushed from the sled up into the house. The blocks would be fitted together "as tight as bricks" leaving a space between the ice and the walls to be filled with sawdust. All the joints in the ice were covered with snow and finally a thick layer of snow was packed on top of the mass of ice. The blocks were then allowed to freeze together. After freezing the team would return and the ice would be covered with a deep layer of sawdust.

Generally three men formed a team. Guy Hayward would cut and Ken Hayward and a helper (who usually supplied the team of horses) would get the ice onto the sled and into the ice house.

It took about two weeks around the middle of March to get the ice houses filled. If work was started earlier, before the weather had begun to warm a little, there was a risk of the gasoline cutter freezing in the ice.

Thanks the Hayward family for the information in this short note which, together with other contributions from members, forms part of the history project of the Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association. It is hoped to archive the history project on the Association's web page.

Jim Stopps

Distress Alert

While at the Lake, on June 24 we heard on our CB an early morning distress call. Someone was ill and the caller was seeking assistance. Two responders tried to get the necessary information to summon the appropriate help. Three boats responded, as did the ambulance. However, the first people went to the wrong cottage.

A cottage faced with an emergency should **tie a white sheet to the porch post or railing** as a distress signal. This is more readily visible from a distance than the assigned 5-digit 911 number. This is especially important if the CB transmission is not clear. Further, it should be universally recognized as a distress signal and acted upon by a passerby. In the event of a power failure such an alert could be a lifesaver.

In an emergency, it is important to give the 5-digit 911 cottage identification number. Not everyone using the cottage will have it memorized. **Write or post it prominently by the CB or phone as well as having your 911 number posted prominently on your property.**

Let's stay safe and take good care of each other.

Jacquelyn Morgan

911 number signs are available free of charge, from the Whitestone Municipal Office. Emergency Services focus solely on the 5-digit 911 number when called.

Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association 2006 Membership Renewal

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

• **Chris Downes - Treasurer**
11 Ommadawn Lane, RR 2,
Dunchurch, Ontario
P0A 1G0



Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association 2006 Dock Permit Decal

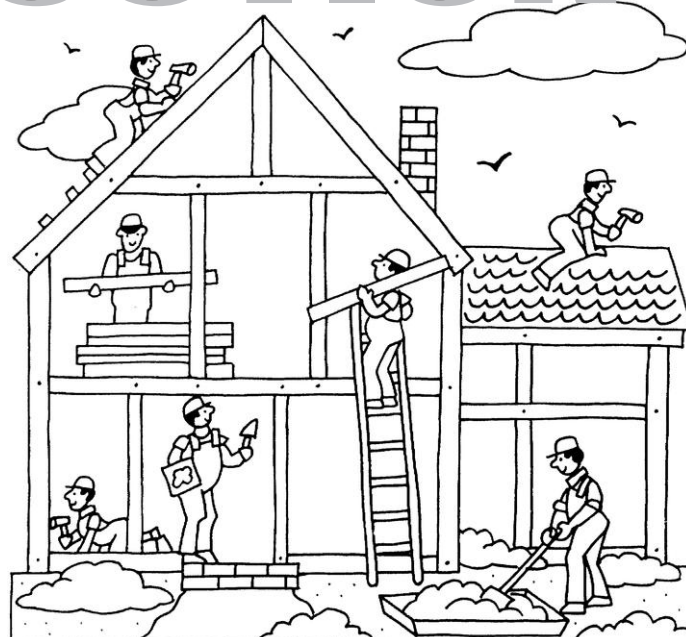
Please fill out the membership renewal form, tear if off & MAIL it and your cheque to:

• **Chris Downes - Treasurer**
11 Ommadawn Lane, RR 2,
Dunchurch, Ontario
P0A 1G0

Tim Stiles **GENERAL CONSTRUCTION**

**Custom Homes & Cottages
Renovations/Additions
Custom Kitchens
Decks & Docks
Foundations
Security Checks**

**RR#2 Dunchurch, Ontario POA 1G0
Tel: (705) 389-1726 ■ Fax: (705) 389-1546
E-mail: tsstiles@hotmail.com**



2006 WAH-WASH-KESH CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
(Please return this form with your cheque as soon as possible - \$35.00 per member)

Name: _____

Home Address: _____ Lake 911 Address: _____

Telephone: () _____ CB Handle: _____

Cottage Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

2006 Memberships for the following individuals in your household @ \$35 each:

50th Anniversary Cottage Directory: Purchase _____ at \$10⁰⁰ each = \$ _____

By returning this form, you acknowledge the Association's Privacy Statement.

2006 DOCK PERMIT DECALS - for all Indian Narrows Dock & Bennett's Bay Dock users
(Please return this form with your cheque as soon as possible - \$30.00 per boat)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Number of boats @ \$30 each: _____

By returning this form, you acknowledge the Association's Privacy Statement.