

Lake Wah Wash Kesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION PACKAGE

Saturday, August 2 • Bennett's Barn • 9:30am

Again this year the Executive are sending out several of the reports which previously were presented at the AGM. This not only increases significantly the dissemination of this information (more people get the newsletter than attend the AGM) but also reduces the amount of time spent in the AGM.

Please keep this section and bring it to the meeting.

PROPOSED HELIPAD ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2013 was another frustrating year in our attempts to establish a helipad on Lake WahWashKesh. After the Executive decided to abandon the former dumpsite, an alternate site was chosen and the GPS coordinates and a map of the site were forwarded to the OMNR in Parry Sound. After some length of time, it was recommended to us that this site would be rejected since it might contain a rattlesnake habitat and had been used as an ATV trail. Late in the fall of 2013 the OMNR recommended a site across Indian Narrows Road from the second site and we are actively pursuing this option.

Please see the helipad report in the spring newsletter for up-to-date information.

FISH ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee's plans for this year did not work out exactly as planned! During the spring and early summer, volunteers were sought to do a creel survey. Measuring boards, sample forms, and watertight clipboards were provided to anyone who would complete the survey. Not only did we not get enough volunteers but also some of the measuring boards and other equipment was not returned at the end of the season. If you have any of this equipment, please return it to Mike Maceina or Don Comrie. The committee met once over the winter and a meeting is planned in May for this year's projects.

Ken Taylor (Chairman), Ed Bennett Sr., Mike Maceina, Don Comrie

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors met once during the winter by conference call and held a face-to-face meeting early in the summer. The major issues the Executive had to deal with in 2013 were the serious financial shortfall resulting from the construction of the new parking lot. Also in the spring we had made a commitment to purchase the YSI Water Tester at an approximate cost of

\$3700.00. Thanks to the many supporters of the Association who purchased multi-year memberships and permits, we were able to start the summer with a moderate bank balance and testing was started with the YSI water tester. The water testing has indicated two areas of concern, which hopefully will be further investigated in 2014. Approximately 85 people attended the AGM and almost the same number attended the corn roast two weeks later on a beautiful, warm, Saturday afternoon.

Don Comrie

MAGNETAWAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT

Unfortunately the Lake WahWashKesh Conservation Association did not have a representative to the MRWA in 2013 and I was unable to attend the one meeting they had in June, their AGM. The minutes from that meeting indicate that there was good discussion of several topics including: silt runoff from the Burks' Falls Solar East project and water testing at the site of the graphite mine in Kearney (which is due to recommence operations in the fall of 2013). A new membership fee structure was adopted allowing individuals to become members for \$10.00 and families for \$20.00. Fifteen members attended the AGM.

Don Comrie

WATER QUALITY UPDATE

During the past 13 years, volunteers from WahWashKesh Lake have taken water quality samples on the lake in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment Lake Partner Program. This data includes *Total Phosphorus* which is the limiting nutrient to algae and plant production on Canadian shield lakes such as WahWashKesh and water transparency. Increases in total phosphorus in the water will increase tiny microscopic algae (phytoplankton) in the water column, cause the water to turn greenish, and reduce the clarity or visibility in the water. A secchi disk is used to measure water transparency. In WahWashKesh Lake, water transparency will change with the amount of phytoplankton algae in the water. Also around our lake, the watershed is dominated by conifer trees, and tannins from terrestrial vegetation leach into the lake. This causes the water to appear slightly tea stained or brown and this is a natural process.

Since 2002, average total phosphorus concentrations in WahWashKesh have ranged from 6 to 10 parts per billion (ppb) and upward and downward trends were not evident (see Figure 1 below). In 2013, phosphorus concentrations were higher compared to most years. Besides 2013, high phosphorus concentrations were also measured in 2003, 2008, and 2009. Over time, most individual total phosphorus concentrations were in the oligotrophic range (low nutrients), with a few concentrations in the mesotrophic range (moderate nutrients). Since 2001, average annual water transparency has ranged from 2.7 to 3.5 meters and similar to phosphorus, trends over time were not evident (see Figure 1 below).

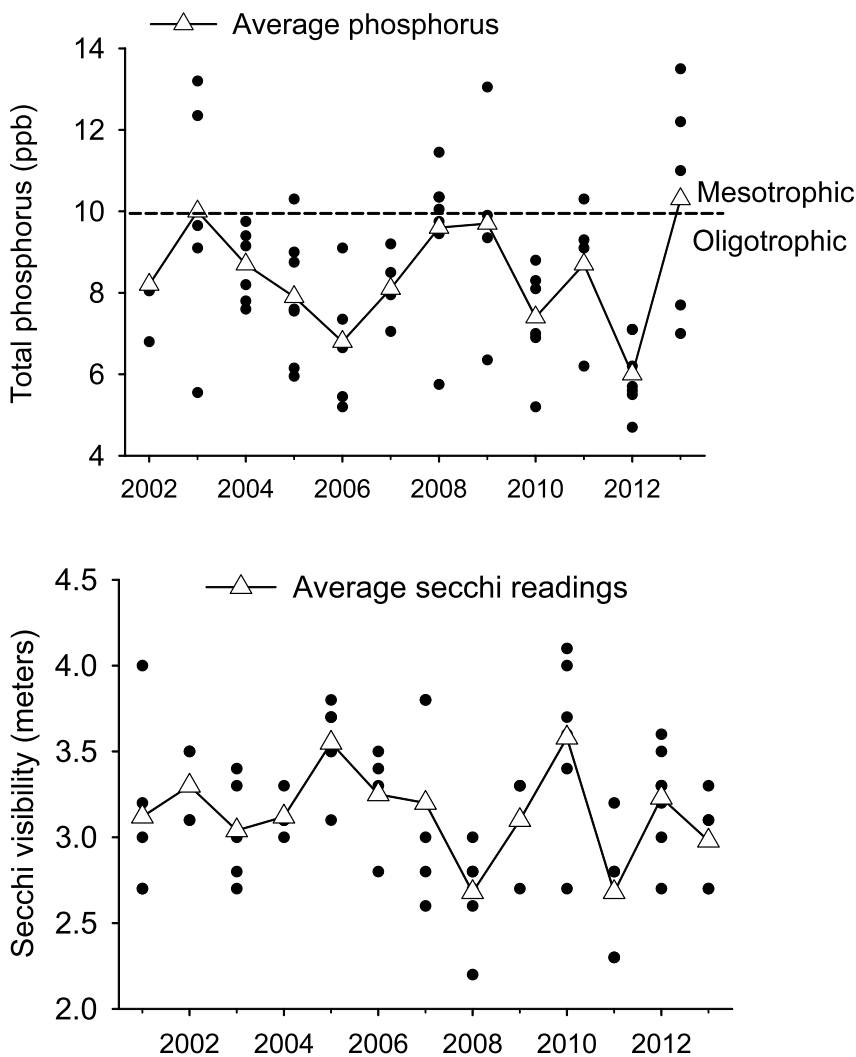


Figure 1. Top graph shows individual and average annual total phosphorus concentrations (parts per billion; ppb) in WahWashKesh Lake from 2002 to 2013. Each dot represents a single measurement. The bottom graph shows water transparency measured in meters with a secchi disk from 2001 to 2013. Individual measurements are the dots and represent about 4 to 5 readings made between May and September each year from one location on the lake.

A similar pattern of higher phosphorus concentrations was also observed in Ahmic and Cecebe Lakes in 2013, which are upstream on the Magnetawan River system (see Figure 2 below). Generally, phosphorus concentrations in WahWashKesh Lake have been lower than those measured in these two upstream lakes. In 2013, water transparency or

water clarity was about 0.5 meter greater in WahWashKesh Lake compared to Ahmic (see Figure 2 below). Water clarity data for Cecebe Lake was not provided in the Ministry of the Environment Lake Partner Program database for 2013. Over time, water clarity has been greater in WahWashKesh Lake compared to Ahmic and Cecebe Lakes. Interestingly among these three lakes, annual fluctuations in phosphorus concentrations and water transparencies mimic or parallel each other among these three lakes. I suspect annual climatic conditions (possibly dry versus wet years) have a similar influence on water quality on these three lakes in the Magnetawan River system.

Finally, in Gooseneck Lake, which drains into Slip Bay on the south end of WahWashKesh Lake, phosphorus concentrations were lower in 2013 than those measured in WahWashKesh (5.5 versus 10.3 ppb). Over time, phosphorus concentrations have tended to be lower and water clarity about 0.5 meters greater in Gooseneck Lake than in WahWashKesh. Lower phosphorus levels and greater water clarity would be expected in Gooseneck Lake as the water shed is smaller and this lake is upstream of WahWashKesh Lake.

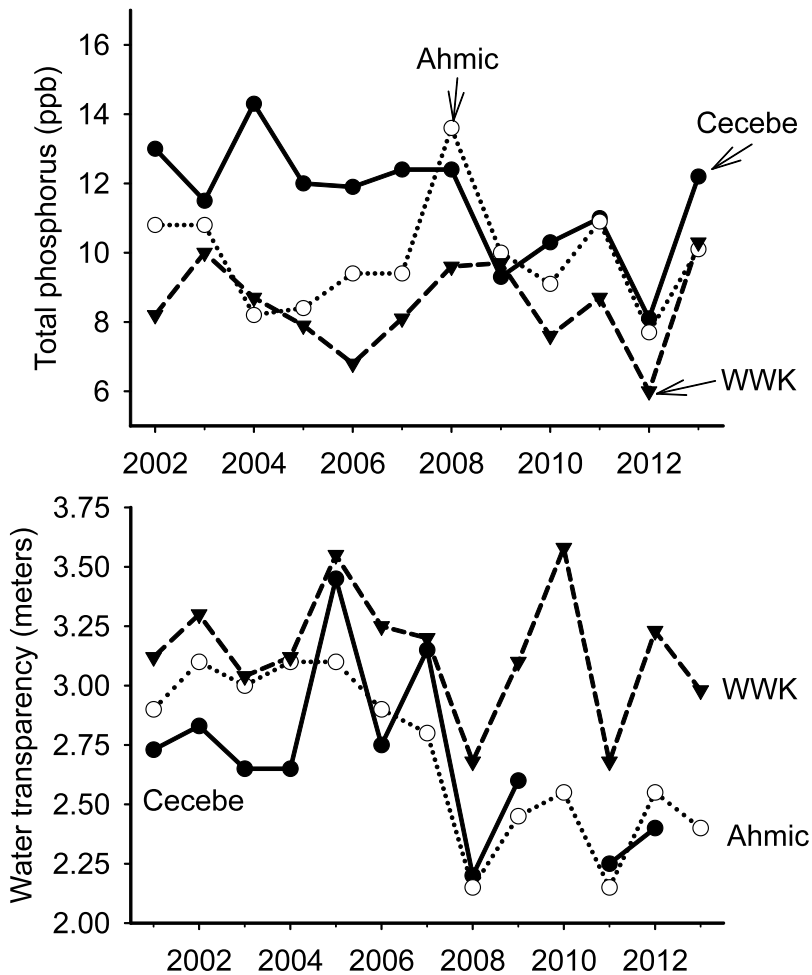


Figure 2. Mean phosphorus concentrations (top graph) and mean water transparency (bottom graph) in Ahmic, Cecebe, and WahWashKesh Lakes from 2001 through 2013.

Continued monitoring of water quality in WahWashKesh Lake is important to detect if any changes do occur. Leaching of nutrients from faulty or non-existent septic systems and upstream inputs of nutrients are issues that should be closely watched.

Currently, we have only two volunteers collecting water quality samples on the Big (South) Lake and we could use at least two more volunteers. Only 2-3 hours each summer are needed to do this task.

If you wish to be a water quality volunteer or want more information, contact me or log onto to: http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/local/lake_partner_program

*Mike Maceina (maceimj@auburn.edu)
Director and WahWashKesh Lake Water Quality Coordinator*

WahWashKesh (WWK) Conservation Association Annual General Meeting - 2013

Bennett's Barn August 3 2013 9:30 am

Present: Don Comrie, Rob Slykhuis, Mike Maceina, Jackie Morgan, Kathryn Cook, Morgan Millward, Carey Frew

Regrets: John Nelson, Anna Small-Adams

1. Don Comrie welcomed those in attendance and thanked Ed and Cathy Bennett for providing the location. Housekeeping details, announcements, information desk reviewed.
2. Introduction of Directors
3. Moment of Silence: for those that passed away in the past year: Mary Ellen Johnston, Doug Hand, Frank Squires, Ruth Haggerty, Mona Bennett, Tom Woeber Sr., Lewis Morgan, Ross Willett, Doug Elliott, Gord Murdock, Naomi Mallovy, and Norm Percy
4. Approval of Agenda: moved by Ken Taylor, seconded by Terry Tweed, all in favour. Appointment of Carey Frew as minute taker, all in favour.
5. Approval of 2012 AGM minutes: Jeanine Ferris moved, seconded by Nancy Lou Ferrell, all in favour.
6. Business Arising: Neil Jessop, road condition
7. Director's Report: Motion to ratify actions of Directors for the previous year, Terry Tweed, seconded by Don Easterbrook, all in favour. Thank you to directors.
8. Treasurer's Report: Rob Slykhuis presented a slide report on financial results. 2012 Federal Tax Return submitted. Financial statements prepared and approved by Charles Durocher, CA. Capital Assets, currently \$26,686. Cash year end, \$4090. \$10,300 has been raised by the new parking lot. Total Revenues, \$28,078, but with major expense of the parking lot. Cash position should be increased by end of this year. Mike Lewis moved to approve the report, seconded by Terry Tweed, all in favour.
9. Appointment of Auditor: Charles Durocher, CA for year 2013, moved by Randy McCullough, seconded by Jeanine Ferris, all in favour.
10. Election of Directors: Don showed a slide of past directors to 2005. Introduction of new nominees: Mike Lewis; moved to elect as Director, by Rob Slykhuis, seconded by Jackie Morgan, all in favour. Jeanine Ferris; moved to elect as Director, by Jackie Morgan, seconded by Kathryn Cook, all in favour.
11. Recognition: Jackie Morgan, Rob Slykhuis, Carey Frew, for significant contributions, either through long and dedicated service or by a special project that benefits us all.
12. Water Quality: Mike Maceina. Update included in the Annual Meeting Package. Mike described use of new YSI water quality metre, and locations of monitoring nine sampling locations. Anna Small-Adams is acknowledged as donating \$1000 in memory of her father William Small toward the purchase of the instrument. To summarize, WWK water quality is excellent and is cleaner than Ahmic and Cecebe. There is a water quality difference between the Top and Big Lake. 3 volunteers are requested for a volunteer fish study. Opportunity for questions re: jellyfish, catfish, oxidation reduction potential, and changing water quality in Shanty Bay. Someone questioned why has water quality in Shanty Bay been changing? Now they get sick when they drink it and did not used to be this way. George clarified that lake water should never be ingested without first boiling or treating it. Mike clarified that the factors affecting water quality in Shanty Bay include unique characteristics of the bay, and possibly the accumulation of

organic material through beaver and human contamination. Public Health labs will not test untreated or lake water. Mike indicated he would try to get some fecal coliforms samples analyzed from Shanty Bay. Another person questioned if there was a baseline done. Mike stated a baseline study was only done for the golf course and a post-study was done for water quality. Terry Tweed made a motion for the board to review coliform/ e-coliform testing, seconded by Helen Mallovy-Hicks, all in favour. Mike Maceina moved to approve the Water Quality Report, seconded by Don Easterbrook, all in favour.

13. Proposed Helipad Site: Don has obtained a rough quote from a geophysical engineering company of approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000 for the helipad to be built at the former dump site. There would be numerous years of environmental testing required. Don commented that there would be many other conditions involved and obstacles encountered are unsurmountable. Don provided photos and GPS coordinates to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) of a potential site near Indian Narrows Rd, however it would likely be denied as it is a potential rattlesnake habitat. MNR suggested a spot near the dump site, but would have to be 500m away. Ken Corbett suggested using private property or a dock-landing pad, and not involving MNR. Someone asked if the golf course was considered. The site would require water, road and snowmobile access. ACTION: further exploration is required.
14. Fisheries Enhancement Committee: Report included in the Annual Meeting Package. Randy McCullough moved to accept the report, seconded by Rob Gall, all in favour.
15. Magnetewan River Watershed Association (MRWA) Report: Included in Annual Meeting Package. Fred Arbour moved to accept the report, seconded by Rod Bennett, all in favour.
16. Mayor Chris Armstrong: Revision of Official Plan forwarded to provincial government.
Diane Roberts is contact if you want a report.
Road: barrier was added lakeside and ditch was filled inside. Mark Feeder identified this as a very important access point in the municipality, feels this is a band-aid solution and questions if the municipality has a long term plan, such as diverting the road? Mayor stated there is a road management plan for the municipality and there are grant available for municipalities for major projects. Mayor stated there is ad for a new road superintendent, job opening.
Landfill status: exit gate shall be locked when dump closed, hours clarified.
Rental of Private Residences: less than 30 day rentals not allowed. Council aware there are more owners renting than in past. Owners complete rezoning application form, to have a site-specific residential rental rezoned, for rentals less than 30 days, at a cost of \$1000. Application may be accepted or turned down, and can be appealed by neighbours. Two applications have been made.
Water Quality: according to the North Bay Mattawa Association (NBMA) water can be tested, Floyd Thompson is the person to speak with.
Helipad: consider somewhere on Highway 520, in municipality of Whitestone. Should speak to fire chief. Agrees with not involving MNR. Bill Helmers asked Mayor Armstrong if there would be a tax incentive for a property owner.
Someone else asked if taxes would change, the mayor says no.
17. New Business: Mayor Armstrong covered this in item 16.
18. Announcements: Date and location of corn roast announced. Rod Bennett as the new dock committee chairman. Volunteers are needed please see Rod. Jackie commented on being especially thankful to Mike Maceina to his expertise and time. Terry moved to adjourn, seconded by Carey, all in favour. Adjourned 11:35 am.