

Lake WahWashKesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

— SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER —



President's Message

Welcome to spring! After another long, hard winter, the longer days and warmer temperatures are a welcome sight. Last year the ice went out at the end of April and this year it did the same. The water peaked at 8.6 feet

article about proposed testing for e-coli in Lake WahWashKesh, the relocation of the WahWashKesh Road article, and the proposed helipad site. Please read these articles and if you have any concerns, please contact a member of the Executive.

Please also see the flyer from the West Parry Sound Health Center Foundation regarding donations for equipment for the hospital. As we all grow older and hopefully spend more time at the cottage, the probability that we will need the services of the WPSHC increases.

On behalf of the Executive, may I wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy summer at WahWashKesh.

Don Comrie, President



above the dam as compared to 9.6 feet last year. The WahWashKesh Road was closed at Taylor Bay Beach again this year by the Municipality from April 17 to May 2.

Also included in this newsletter is the 2014 Membership and Permit Purchase Form. Please fully complete the information sections on the form since in the next couple of years the Executive would like to publish a new Directory with e-mail addresses and cottage phone numbers for each cottage. The Executive are also seriously considering making the newsletter and other correspondence available by e-mail since the cost of mailing a letter, not to mention a newsletter, is becoming prohibitive.

Of importance in the newsletter is the

2015 WahWashKesh Association Calendar

The calendar committee met on Wednesday, May 21 and selected the photos for the 2015 calendar. Thanks to all who submitted photos. So many of you submitted such great pictures it made the committee's choice very difficult! Lake WahWashKesh is indeed beautiful all year round. We hope to have the calendars available for sale at the beginning of July and the price will be \$15⁰⁰.

Enclosed with this newsletter an Annual General Meeting Information Package

Please keep this package until August 2, 2014 and bring it with you to the AGM in Bennett's Barn at 9:30 AM.

Enclosed in the package are various reports such as the Directors' Report, MRWA Report, Fish Enhancement Committee Report, and the Water Quality Report. This method of communicating the annual reports saves significant time at the AGM and also provides greater dissemination of the information.

In Memoriam

• **Audrey Kerr**, a long-time cottager in Harrison's Bay in the Big Lake, passed away March 29, 2014 at age 86.

• **Charles Stiles**, a long-time resident of the area, passed away on April 20, 2014 at age 80

Mystery Photo Calendar Winners!!

On the front page of the fall newsletter was a photo taken in a mystery location. Anyone who correctly identified the location by February 15, 2014 won a free 2015 Lake WahWashKesh Conservation Association calendar. There were three winners: Tim Stiles, Murray Hagerman, and Trevor McLeod. Congratulations! When the calendars are printed in the early summer, I will contact each of you.

Don Comrie

Relocation of the WahWashKesh Road

As reported in the fall newsletter, the Municipality of Whitestone was invited to apply for the infrastructure grant to relocate part of the WahWashKesh Road (from just before the first big hill to after the

sharp turn at the end of Taylor's Bay). The application was approved and the majority of funding is in place. The Municipality has assured ratepayers that the balance is covered by their road's budget. No actual work has been done that I am aware of to this date. We will keep you advised!

Helipad Update

Since the fall 2013 newsletter, some major progress has been made on this issue (at last!). Around Christmas, I received from Ed Bennett Jr. a map of the proposed site and the GPS coordinates for this third site. You likely remember that the Association abandoned the former dumpsite because of insurmountable obstacles relating to land use of a former dumpsite. A second site was then identified and a map and GPS coordinates were obtained for it. The OMNR in Parry Sound recommended that we not proceed with this second site because it might contain a rattlesnake habitat and had been used as a ATV route. The OMNR in Parry Sound suggested the area across the road from the second site down Indian Narrows Road. On March 18, 2014 a representative of ORNGE, who provide the air ambulance service to the Ministry of Health for Ontario, was in the area and was able to inspect the site. Many thanks to Ed Bennett Jr. who met

the representative and took him to the site. The ORNGE representative submitted a letter of recommendation for the site - noting that it needed to be leveled and trees cut down on the edge and on the approach path. This information was submitted to the OMNR who have forwarded the information to the Approvals and Licensing Section in their office.

It was first suggested in 2000 when the former dump site was decommissioned that an air ambulance helipad be established in the area and your Executive have been actively pursuing this for the last four or five years. The Executive have also just received a quote for solar lighting and cones for the proposed helipad. If we get approval to proceed, a presentation will be made at the AGM.

Finally some good news about this project!

True Gratitude to John Nelson

Earlier this spring the Executive accepted the resignation of John Nelson from the position of Past President. On behalf of the executive and all Association members, I would like to express to John our sincere appreciation for his many years of service to the Association. John served as President for several years and led the Association during the time the position of

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President was vacant. John also served on the Dock Committee and was a member of the Parking Lot Committee that orchestrated the establishment of the new large parking lot behind Bennett's. John's advice has been very valuable over the many years he has served Lake WahWashKesh. If you see him on the dock, please take a moment to thank him for his dedicated service. THANKS JOHN!

Don Comrie

2014 Membership Drive

Thank you to everyone who has supported the WahWashKesh Conservation Association by purchasing memberships and permits. These purchases go a long way to help all the initiatives that the association takes on. Once again this year we will be conducting a membership drive. Our focus will be to encourage all past and current members to renew again for 2014.

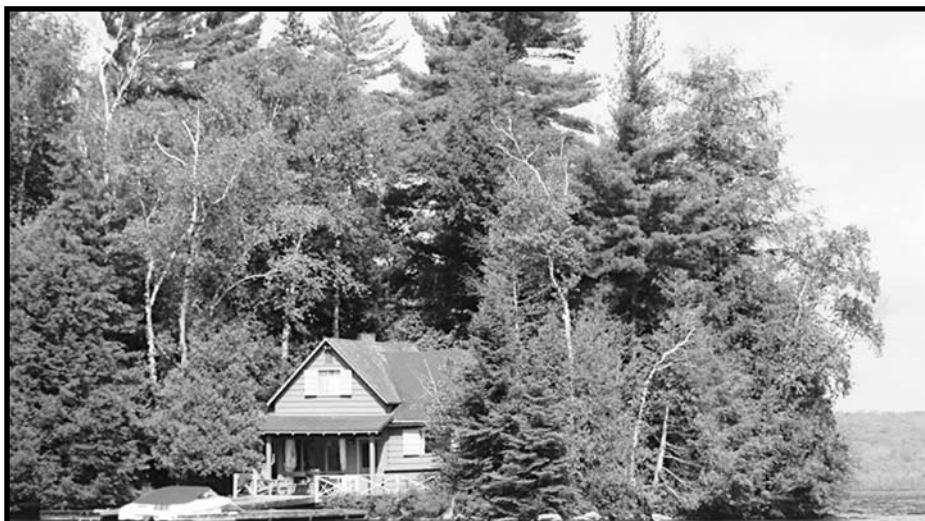
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS – We are looking for volunteers to canvas cottagers who have been members in the past but have not renewed for this year and also help to encourage them to renew Lake Access Permits at government docks. This is a great way for high school students to get their community volunteer hours. We are looking for 2-4 people. The hours can be put in anytime from Canada Day weekend up to and including Labour Day weekend. Interested parties should forward a brief resume to morgan@cinemasystems.ca

Please see the membership and dock permit forms at the back of the newsletter. *Thank you for you support.*

Morgan Millward

Magnetawn River Watershed Association

After the retirement of Ed Bennett Sr. as representative to the Magnetawn River Watershed Association (MRWA) at the end of 2012, there was no representative from the LWWKCA. It was a pleasant surprise early in 2014 to receive an email



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from Tim Abbott, a long-time cottager on the Big Lake. Tim has volunteered to be the Association's rep to the MRWA. Tim obtained copies of all the MRWA minutes and was looking forward to the MRWA AGM in June.

In the middle of May Tim and I received an email from the Executive of the MRWA recommending that the MRWA be dissolved and that MRWA members be encouraged to join POWR MAG (Protectors of Wetlands and Magnetawan River) or to have a meeting to discuss the proposal. Tim and I have discussed this recommendation and both feel joining POWR MAG, although it has good objectives, may result in the loss of some valuable progress that the MRWA has made. Although we have not made a final decision, we are leaning toward having a meeting to discuss this. We will keep you advised.

Don Comrie

Proposed E-Coli Testing on Lake WahWashKesh

You may remember that at the 2013 AGM a motion was passed for the Executive "to review coliform/e-coli testing". After a lengthy discussion concerning this issue, the Executive are proposing the following.

It was agreed that water quality is the prime concern of the Association and that the testing will be done in three areas, identified by test results taken last year by the YSI ProPlus Water Tester. The sites are Lovesick Rapids and Shanty Bay in the Top Lake, both of which showed the possible presence of organic material, and also a "control site" in the Top Lake near Straub's Beach. No testing for e-coli will be done in Indian Narrows or the Big Lake at this time because previous water tests by the YSI tester did not indicate any problem areas. Testing will be conducted on Mondays from approximately mid-June until perhaps the middle of August by Mike Maceina in these three locations and the samples will then be forwarded to Near North Laboratories in North Bay for evaluation. Once the results are obtained, a further meeting of the Executive will be held to determine how the results will be communicated to the Association members.

The Executive want to stress that this testing is designed to form a baseline since the Association has no previous records from e-coli testing and the testing is NOT intended to identify individuals or sites. The testing over the eight weeks is expected to cost approximately \$1200.00 plus boat expenses but the Executive feel that this is money well spent and will help us maintain our most valuable resource.

Again, just a reminder, that much of the pollutants in our water come from other sources such as beavers so no-one should drink or wash vegetables in untreated water. For further information about the potability of lake water, please contact your local health unit.

The Association is also looking for a volunteer to help Mike conduct these tests and the other YSI tests he performs regularly during the summer. If you are interested, please contact either Mike Maceina or Don Comrie by e-mail. (see pg 12)

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposed testing, please contact Mike Maceina or Don Comrie preferably before the testing starts.

Thanks!

Don Comrie

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Notes from the Treasurer

Part I – Fun with banking

The Canadian banking system is one of the safest in the world. We don't let unscrupulous mortgage lenders pawn off questionable loans to unsuspecting investors or other such deeds which were blamed for the 2008 financial crisis. And we certainly don't make it easy for conservation associations to change the named officers on an account. Our bankers are prudently suspicious when the likes of a Don Comrie march in to claim that there is a new Treasurer of the Lake WahWashKesh Conservation Association. Knowing that this could easily be the cover for an inter-provincial Maple Syrup smuggling operation they are extra careful to make sure that no form goes uncompleted. Only after all government issued photo ids are scanned, photo copied, sent to head office and triple checked will they allow the reins of this not-for-profit account to be passed on. This is safety and prudence in practice. It's no wonder Don declared earlier this year "We'd be better off hiding the money under a rock on the shore of the lake!" (Just don't forget which rock.)

Part II – 2013 Financial Results

Frustrations with banking paper work aside, the association had a successful 2013 in terms of finances. Membership dues more than paid for the basic operations of the association such as communication with members, water testing and maintenance of the parking facilities and dock. This allows us to both build up a larger capital base to deal future maintenance needs and consider new initiatives.

Rob Slykhuis was kind enough to carry on in getting the 2013 financials wrapped up and audited. The

2013 revenue, at \$17,114 was lower than 2012 due to the prepaid memberships previously offered. This effect will be less pronounced in 2014 as the prepaid memberships begin to run out. The expenses were also lower, due to decreased mailing costs. There were higher costs related to the water monitoring equipment in 2013 versus 2012, but this equipment has proved its worth already in identifying potential trouble spots. With the expenses related to the parking lot construction wrapped up the cash position of the association finished stronger in 2013, at \$10,001 versus \$4,090 at the end of 2012.

Part III – Joining the age of The Internet

I realize of course that "The Internet" is #SoTenYearsAgo and that now it's all about doing your banking, meeting your friends, Facetiming your boss, etc, on your phone from Starbucks while checking the twitter feeds and Instagram posts on the latest Rob Ford scandal. Nonetheless things move at a different pace at the cottage. We are not concerned about instantly blasting out what we had for breakfast this morning to the world (it was an omelette with mushrooms and bacon, if you do need to know.) But we do want to make the collection of membership dues easier on everyone than. As such we are in the process of setting up a PayPal account so that those who find it more convenient could pay this way instead of sending a cheque in the mail. This would save time for our members, and the executive. And hopefully this will allow us all to get away from banking paper work, the twitterverse and Rob Ford scandals and be sitting on the dock at the cottage sooner.

Mike Lewis, Treasurer

Event Calendar 2014

Annual General Meeting

9:30 am

- Saturday, August 2nd
- Bennett's Barn

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Green Corner *by N. Glenn Perrett*

This edition of Green Corner features numerous eco-friendly, convenient items - from humanely dealing with insects in the cottage to quality rope to organic soap that smells great. Enjoy.

BugBuster Insect Vacuum *www.sonictchnology.com*

We live in an 1895 house in the country so there are times when we have numerous flies in windows (particularly in spring) along with the occasional wasp, bee, stink bug and spider who need to be relocated outdoors. This BugBuster Insect Vacuum is awesome, gently sucking flies into the tube ready to be released back outdoors.

The vacuum runs on a 9V battery and can quickly suck numerous flies into the tube. Once inside there is a cap that goes on the end of the tube to keep them confined until they are released outside without

ronment.

I like this vacuum because it doesn't harm most insects (I wouldn't use it on a Daddy Longlegs Spider though) and quickly (without the mess) relocates them.

Note: In Canada I have seen this product available at www.amazon.ca



with four button cell batteries that "power it for 8-1/2 hours of continuous use."

Universal Solar Powered Battery Charger *www.ccrane.com*

I have reviewed this item in this column before, but since batteries charged by the sun work well in the bug vacuum I thought it was worth including again. I try to avoid products that use batteries, but when I can't (GPS comes to mind and the bug vacuum) I use rechargeable batteries that we charge using a solar battery charger from C. Crane Company. For years we have used this device, which charges "D", "C", "AA" and "AAA" batteries using energy from the sun!

Mini LED Clip Light *www.leevalley.com*

This mini LED light is very handy. The light is only 1-1/2" long and comes with a clip making it easy to attach to various items. We have attached one to a set of keys. The small, bright light is switched on or off by twisting the aluminum casing. The light comes

Vermont Soap – Patchouli Hemp *www.vermontsoap.com*

It is important to use eco-friendly products and Vermont Soap uses natural and organic ingredients. Recently our family used their Patchouli Hemp bars of soap with excellent results. This soap contains organic hemp oil and natural patchouli essential oil blend along with other ingredients resulting in a nice smelling, organic, long-lasting soap.

Vermont Soap offers an impressive selection of quality soaps (with a good variety of scents) and other products. Their individually packaged (boxes made of 100% recycled paper and vegetable ink) bars of soap are ideal to leave for guests. And if they enjoyed the 1960s, I recommend the Patchouli Hemp!



harming them. We use a rechargeable battery (that we charge with our solar battery charger from C. Crane – see below) which works well with this vacuum and which minimizes our impact on the envi-





Single-Braid Utility Rope

www.leevalley.com

Need any rope for the cottage or around the house? Lee Valley's Single-Braided Utility Rope comes in 1/4" and 3/8" diameters and is made in Canada. According to the Lee Valley catalogue the "general-duty rope" is lightweight and durable and "it won't absorb water or mildew as cotton ropes do and is an ideal rope for recreational boating". The rope comes in 50' hanks and in assorted colours.

Sigg Aluminum Water Bottle

www.leevalley.com

Although buying cases of bottled water is inexpensive, it is not good for the environment. This Sigg Aluminum Water Bottle is a good, eco-friendly vessel to hold water. The 1-litre, aluminum bottle features "a BPA-free inner coating" and an adapter cap that allows you to choose between a regular bottle-neck opening and a wide-mouth opening (for cleaning or



adding ice cubes). This quality water bottle is Swiss made.

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Book Reviews *by N. Glenn Perrett*

Starfinder: The Complete Beginner's Guide to Exploring the Night Sky

Carole Stott and Giles Sparrow
DK Publishing
2007, 2013, 128 pages
ISBN: 9781465414533

An informative book on observing the night sky for beginners, *Starfinder: The Complete Beginner's Guide to the Night Sky* covers the solar system and the universe including how to locate and recognize objects such as stars and planets. Included is a "directory of all 88 constellations" and a "month-by-month observation guide". There is also a planisphere ("a circular map of the stars with a rotating window on top" which "can be set to show the stars as they will appear at a particular time on any chosen night of the year." The planisphere also shows some deep-sky objects.

Complementing the informative text are lots of diagrams and photographs. *Starfinder* is a good book for the cottage as long as we keep the night skies dark. An important book on this subject is *The End of Night* by Paul Bogard



(reviewed in the Fall 2013 newsletter). To learn more about Whitestone's Light Pollution Bylaw go to: <http://www.whitstone.ca/bylaw/s/lighting.html>

The Bear Family & Me (DVD) BBC Earth

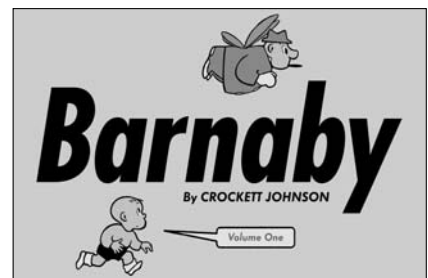
An exceptional documentary that cottagers and others who spend time in areas frequented by black bears should watch is *The Bear Family & Me*. The 3-episode program from BBC Earth has Scottish filmmaker Gordon Buchanan, with the help of biologist Dr. Lynn Rogers, following bears in Minnesota after earning their trust. Dr. Rogers has studied black bears for more than 40 years and this documentary provides considerable

information about these misunderstood and amazing animals. Highly recommended!

Barnaby Volume One: 1942-1943

Crockett Johnson, Fantagraphics Books
2013, 321 pages
ISBN: 9781606995228

Cartoon enthusiasts will enjoy the entertaining comic strip Barnaby that first appeared in newspapers more than 70 years ago and went from April 1942 until 1952. The main characters in Crockett Johnson's comic are Barnaby Baxter, a 5-year-old boy, and Mr. O'Malley, Barnaby's Fairy Godfather. Mr. O'Malley is a funny character with wings, an overcoat and a cigar for a magic wand. As a protector he isn't ideal as he is a bit of a con-artist who regularly leads Barnaby into trouble. The cigar-chomping Fairy Godfather does



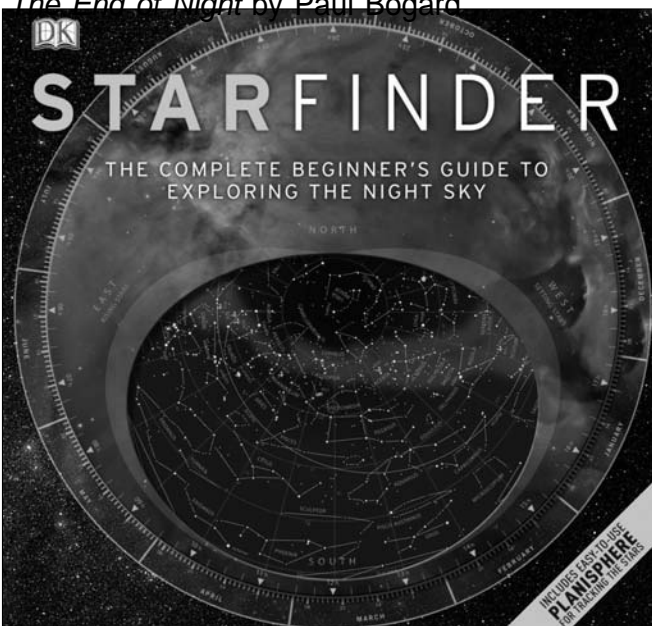
mean well though and Barnaby likes him. This first vol-

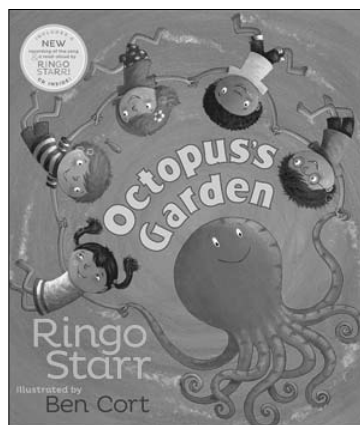
ume of the entertaining cartoon covers the years 1942 and 1943.

Octopus's Garden

Ringo Starr, illustrated by Ben Cort
Aladdin, 2014, 26 pages
ISBN: 9781481403627
ages 4+

In recent years there have been several songs made into children's books and The Beatles' song *Octopus's Garden* by Ringo Starr makes a fun story for kids of all ages. This picture book, which Ringo dedicates "to octopuses everywhere" takes the reader to an octopus's garden to enjoy the wondrous plants and animals who live in a "...little hideaway beneath the waves." Bright, colourful illustrations by Ben Cort complement the lyrics that generations





have grown up singing. A CD of Ringo singing the song and reading the story is included.

Peanuts Every Sunday 1952 – 1955

Charles M. Schulz
Fantagraphics Books
2013, 226 pages
ISBN: 9781606696928

An ideal book for the cotage is *Peanuts Every Sunday 1952 – 1955*. This impressive book features all of the colour strips of Peanuts that ran in newspapers on Sundays from 1952 through 1955. It is



interesting to see how Schulz drew his Peanut characters in the early years. This beautiful book would also make a nice gift.

MAD's Greatest Artists Dave Berg: Five Decades of "The Lighter Side of..."

Dave Berg
Running Press, 2013, 272 pages
ISBN: 9780762451616

Like many kids I enjoyed reading MAD magazine and MAD's paperback books. And Dave Berg was one of



"appeared in virtually every issue of the magazine for the next 41 years."

This nice, large coffee-table-style book contains many of Berg's funny cartoons that are chronologically presented in sections from the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and the 2000s. While most are black-and-white, some are shown in colour. Berg's sense of humour and artwork make for an entertaining book and tribute to one of MAD's best artists and writers.

Stars and Planets: Glow in the Dark

Carole Stott, illustrated by Peter Bull
Dorling Kindersley, 2014,
21 pages, poster & stickers
ISBN: 9781465414205
ages 5+

Children wanting to learn more about the universe should check out *Stars*

and *Planets: Glow in the Dark*. Aimed at children 5-8, the book covers many interesting things found in the universe such as the solar system, the Milky Way, galaxies, as well as numerous planets. At the back of the book there is a "Stargazing guide" with information and diagrams for five constellations. Complementing the informative book is



a poster and "100 Glow in the Dark Stickers".

Hawke's Outdoor Survival Kit

Mykel Hawke, Running Press, 2013
ISBN: 9780762447954

Outdoor enthusiasts will find this kit useful (not intended for children). The 88-page survival guide booklet written by Mykel Hawke contains information on such things as shelter, water, fire, food, first aid and more. There is also information on using the "Survival Multi-Tool"



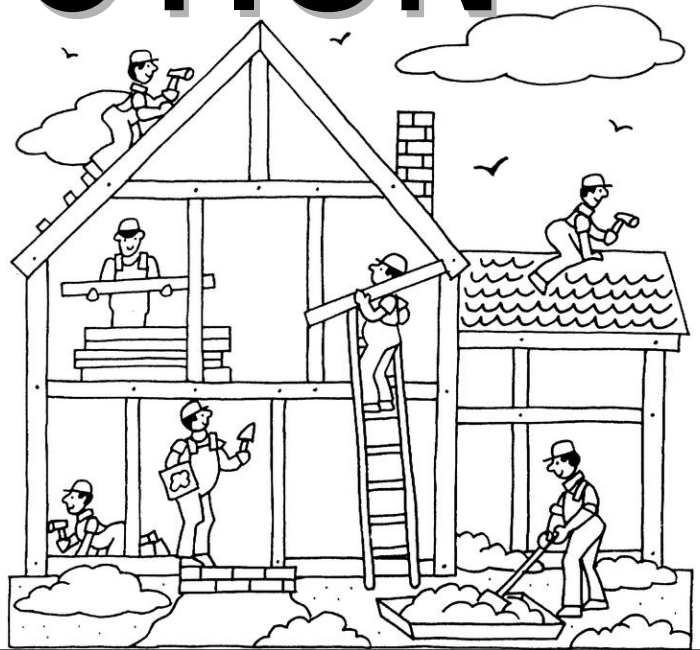
that is also included in the kit. The multi-tool features a compass, a whistle, a signal mirror, a water-

proof storage compartment, a magnifying glass, an emergency light, a thermometer and a lanyard.

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Clip this form. Fill in your lake address or your water access number. Place on your refrigerator and by the phone or C.B.

**9-1-1 EMERGENCY NUMBER
FOR THIS COTTAGE IS:
Lake WahWashKesh**

1. Provide the dispatcher with this number
2. Hang a white sheet on your porch