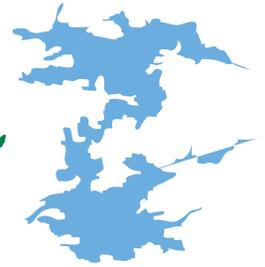


# Lake WahWashKesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



– FALL 2019 –

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

After a very wet and long-lasting spring when many cottages suffered flood damage, we were blessed with a lovely summer. Absent were the forest fires experienced the previous year and water levels stayed fairly consistent once summer levels were reached. The fall also has been very “open” with fluctuating water levels. The lake started to freeze over in early November but then warmer weather and windy days removed the ice. As of December, the ice is re-forming and there is some snow in the bush.

The Executive have been working steadily on several issues; please see several small articles inside this newsletter for details.

On behalf of the Executive, may I wish everyone safe, happy, and healthy holidays and all the best for 2020!

*Don Comrie*

## NEW PRESIDENT

As of January 1, 2020, Lynn Brennan will be the next president of the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association. Lynn has been a valuable member of the Executive for several years and has contributed much already to the work of the Executive. Lynn was elected president by the Executive in a conference call meeting in December in accordance with our Constitution. Please give Lynn all your support as she takes on this new responsibility.

Don Comrie will become past president.

*Don Comrie*

**We are working on a**

**NEW WEBSITE**

**[www.lakewahwashkesh.ca](http://www.lakewahwashkesh.ca)**

– more information on page 6 –

Paddy’s Bay - early November 2019



# TREASURER REPORT

The Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association 2019 financial year is coming to a close. Membership revenues are slightly lower than last year, however Car Park and Lake Access permits revenues are slightly higher. We also received a one-time donation from the Municipality of Whitestone for the new dock in 2018, which we did not receive again in 2019, resulting in lower revenues for this year. Expenses are also slightly lower, although one of the final expenses to record for 2019 will be amortization expense, which is expected to increase by approximately \$800 due to the new dock in 2018. Overall, a modest year end surplus is expected.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I'm looking forward to winter snowshoeing soon!

*Barb Cribbett*



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# • WHITESTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY • EXPANSION PROJECT

*The Whitestone Public Library would like to thank your Association for the donation, summer 2019 to our Whitestone Public Library Expansion Project.*

We would like to provide an update on the fundraising and the project.

We are on target with our grassroots fundraising from initiatives such as: donations from cottage, road, lake and conservation associations; from donations from individuals and small businesses; from book sales, silent auctions, luncheons, from a raffle held by the McKellar-Whitestone Lions Club; from selling of etched glasses and other initiatives from within the community.



We are thrilled to share with you that we have received a grant of \$150,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The application was a joint effort from municipal staff, library staff and volunteers. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded \$108 million to 629 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario.

The Whitestone Public Library offers more than books or computer access; they provide many community oriented activities. This includes cooking classes for men, senior craft days, a knitting club and other programming for both seniors and children, with expanded children's programming in the summer months. The Whitestone Public Library is committed to providing accessibility to books, computers, internet, e-readers, one-on-one technology training sessions, community activities and much more.

The expansion of the Library will approximately double the space currently available to patrons and provide room for a 'technology and business centre' to support the Community and local businesses.

An architect has been hired and is working with a team of staff and volunteers on the design. Watch for details on the Municipal's website.

*If anyone in your Association would like to donate, please do so by sending a cheque or dropping off your donation to the library at 2206 Hwy 124, Dunchurch, POA 1G0 or by donating online at [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org)*

*A tax receipt will be issued.*

Expanding and renovating the current library will ensure the programs and services provided

will continue to be offered and will flourish. The library renovation and expansion is "long overdue" but it will be a reality thanks to the efforts and contributions by many in our community.

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# WAHWASHKESH LANDINGS UPDATE

I am pleased to advise that the Municipality of Whitestone has just obtained a Crown Land Use Permit for an expanded parking area immediately adjacent to the intersection of WahWashKesh Road, Indian Narrows Road, and Macey Drive in McKenzie Twp. Last spring, our Task Force had identified this area near the former dump site as the best location to provide additional parking space for users of the landings.

Our next step will be to mark the perimeter of the area to be cleared, graded, and surfaced, and obtain cost estimates for the necessary work. The bulk of this work will not likely be completed until late spring, 2020.

In the meantime, Municipal Works Department staff have begun pushing back the perimeter of the intersection so that it can be plowed during the snow season. We are hoping to avoid a recurrence of the congestion and road blockages that occurred last winter, especially on the Family Day weekend in February. Users of this area to access the snowmobile trail are reminded to observe the NO PARKING signs.

**This winter, any vehicle that is parked in a NO PARKING area and obstructs municipal road clearing and emergency vehicles or access to private property will be tagged and towed at its owner's expense.**

Further work is required to improve signage in the area, and establish additional handicapped parking at the landing sites. Hopefully you will see improvements by the start of next summer.

*George Comrie, Chair  
WahWashKesh Landings Task Force*

# MAGNETAWAN RIVER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

George Comrie was at a meeting of area mayors and reeves this fall when the Reeve of Katrine, Mr. MacPhail, said that he would like to establish a Magnetawan River Conservation Association. George talked to Reeve MacPhail and said that the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association would be interested in such an Association. I contacted Reeve MacPhail and spoke to him at some length about what we had done as a member of the MRWA (Magnetwan River Watershed Association) and later as a member of POWR MAG. Reeve MacPhail indicated that there currently is no political will to establish another Conservation Association so it is unlikely to happen. I suggested that perhaps a letter-writing blitz to Mr. Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound - Muskoka might help. Reeve MacPhail was waiting for the "Flood Report" which just came out last week. There was serious flooding in Katrine and a state of emergency was declared.

I have spoken to the Executive about this and they fully support whatever we can do to move this along. Hopefully we can determine what the next step in the process is and move into it over the winter. Stay tuned!

*Don Comrie*

## 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.

## 2019 CORN ROAST . . .

Thank you to Peter Disley, family, and crew for organizing it again this year.

It was another beautiful day with a great turn out.





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NEW WEBSITE

[www.lakewahwashkesh.ca](http://www.lakewahwashkesh.ca)

## WEBSITE UPDATE

The Executive are currently working to hire a software company in Parry Sound to update our website on a regular basis. This would hopefully eliminate the old version or have a link which would automatically direct everyone to the new site. Lesley Hugill has found many of the missing newsletters in pdf format and these will be included under the "Newsletter" section.

We hope to make the website more interesting and more accessible to all who visit it.

*Don Comrie*

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# WATER QUALITY UPDATE

## FOR WAHWASHKESH LAKE

Water quality monitoring continued on Wahwashkesh Lake during the summer in 2019 with the water quality meter. Terry Tweed and I sampled three times from late June to the end of August and readings were taken at 11 stations throughout the lake. Measurements were made at every meter of depth from the surface to the bottom of the lake unless the bottom exceeded 30 meters (98 feet). This marks the 7th year of sampling water quality on Wahwashkesh Lake with the water quality meter.

Differences in water quality conditions were evident between 2018 and 2019 as 2018 was extremely dry and in spring 2019 water inflow into the lake was high which caused many cottages to be flooded. The amount of acidity or pH in the lake in 2018 was 6.7 (nearly neutral) because lower runoff occurred that contained tea-coloured water. Highly stained tea-coloured water coming into Wahwashkesh Lake is higher in acidity than lake water and the pH of the water in the lake averaged 6.4 in 2019.

Another predictable climate-induced water quality change occurred between 2018 and 2019. In 2019, all the rain and runoff we had in the spring caused dissolved ions (or salts) to be 7% less due to dilution compared to 2018. This declined was greater in the Top Lake as dissolved ions were 11% less in 2019 compared to 2018 due to

inflow from the Magnetawan River.

The best indicator of water quality measured by the meter is the amount of oxygen in the middle to deeper portions of the lake. The layer of cooler water is called the metalimnion (middle layer) and over the years, we have focused on taking temperature and oxygen readings from 26 to 49 feet (8 – 15 meters) below the surface at 2 stations in the Top Lake and 2 stations in the Big Lake. Over the past 7 years, oxygen levels in the middle layer of water in Wahwashkesh Lake has declined slightly over time (see Figure 1 below). On average, dissolved oxygen levels in the metalimnion have declined from about 10.4 to 8.5 parts per million between 2013 and 2019. Nevertheless, these oxygen levels are high enough to support all aquatic life including lake trout which is considered a

sensitive species to degraded water quality.

If oxygen levels are low in the coldwater layer, this would indicate the lake is becoming too enrich with phosphorus which feeds microscopic plant life, and water quality and water visibility would likely decline. However, long-term monitoring of phosphorus levels has remained unchanged for over 15 year in our lake.

Overall, water quality remains good in Wahwashkesh Lake. In 2020, water quality will continue to be tested and any changes documented. If you have any questions or water quality issues, please feel free to contact me.

*Mike Maceina*  
*maceimj@auburn.edu*  
*Water Quality Coordinator and*  
*Director*

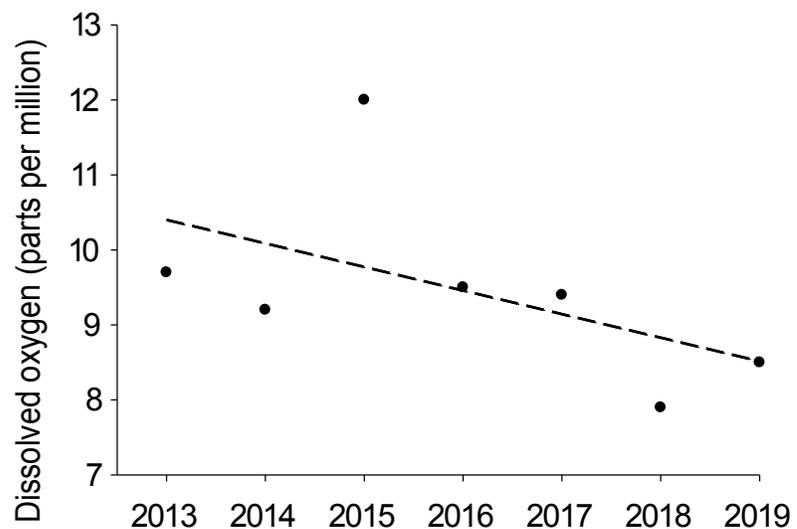


Figure 1. Average dissolved oxygen concentrations measured at 26 to 49 feet below the surface in Wahwashkesh Lake from 2013 to 2019.

# IN MEMORIAM

The Municipality of Whitestone announced the passing of Mayor Chris Armstrong on Monday August 5, 2019.

Chris Armstrong was first elected to Whitestone Council as a Councillor in 2003. He moved to the mayor's chair in 2006, was re-elected in 2010, again in 2014 and was acclaimed as Mayor in the recent 2018 election. Mayor Armstrong was enormously devoted to Whitestone during his years in office and he worked to promote the uniqueness of the Whitestone community, and helped move the Municipality forward in many ways.

Chris was a long-time dedicated member of the Whitestone Fire and Rescue Department and served as a volunteer on the department for over 30 years. Since amalgamation in 2000, he held the position of Deputy Fire Chief.

The Association made a donation to the West Parry Sound Health Centre in honour of Mayor Armstrong.



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# Green Corner

by N. Glenn Perrett

## DeWALT 20V Max Cordless 18GA Narrow Crown Stapler

[www.dewalt.com](http://www.dewalt.com)

Recently we tried out the DeWALT 20V Max Cordless 18GA Narrow Crown Stapler (item # DCN681D1) on a couple of projects and it came through with flying colours. This durable tool performed well and saved us considerable time and effort.

The first task involved securing hardware cloth under the eaves of our old barn in order to prevent raccoons from entering. The best way to co-exist with wildlife is to humanely exclude them from places where they are not welcome such as houses and other buildings. Securing hardware cloth was a reasonably large task, but this stapler made relatively quick work of fastening the hardware cloth so that it covered the openings where raccoons have accessed the barn in the past.

Another job where this stapler performed admirably was re-securing the siding to our house after we replaced an old window in a mudroom. The stapler quickly and effectively secured the pine siding in place once the window had been replaced.

In addition to the DCN681 narrow crown stapler, this package (DCN681D1) includes a lithium ion battery, charger and a kit bag. The stapler uses 18 gauge 0.25" (6.35 mm) narrow crown staples with a length of 0.5" (12.7 mm) to 1.5" (38.1 mm). The magazine capacity is 100 staples and the stapler weighs 5.7 lbs (2.5 kg).

*Note:* While battery-powered tools are handy, they are not without their risks. Before using this stapler read, and become familiar with, the instruction manual and follow all of the instructions (including safety warnings) for using, maintaining and storing the tool.

## Craftsman Multi-Purpose Inflator

[www.craftsman.com/](http://www.craftsman.com/)

This Craftsman Multi-Purpose Inflator has already been put to good use in and around our home. The battery-powered inflator (which can also be powered by an AC outlet or a car adapter) was conveniently taken to where our trailer was kept on our rural property where it efficiently blew up



the tires after being stored for the winter. It has also been used to inflate a football and we have used the hose attachment to blow dirt and dust. The inflator also has the ability to inflate car and bike tires (we've successfully used it to inflate a wheelbarrow tire) as well as things like air mattresses and pool toys.

The inflator is powered with a V20 lithium ion battery and the handy tool features: (i) high pressure/high volume output, (ii) on board accessory storage, (iii) psi setting (for automatic shut-off at the entered psi), (iv) a digital gauge and (v) three power modes (V20 battery/AC outlet/car adapter.) And at a little under five pounds in weight, this multi-purpose inflator is easily taken with you ready to use in a variety of situations.

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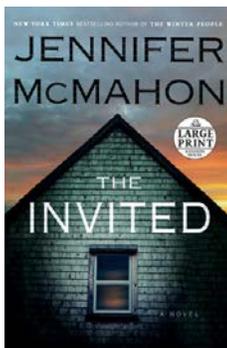


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# Book Reviews

by N. Glenn Perrett



## The Invited

Jennifer McMahon  
Random House Large Print  
2019, 559 pages  
ISBN: 9781984883223

Nothing like reading a good ghost novel at the cottage and *The Invited* is an excellent ghost mystery novel. Helen and Nate are teachers who abandon city life in Connecticut for a simpler life on the edge of a small village in Vermont. They purchase a 44-acre property with plans to build the house of their dreams.

Little do the new owners (who got the property for a very good price) know that the site of their new home has a dark, violent and haunted history. A century earlier Hattie Breckenridge had lived and died a gruesome death on the land that Helen and Nate now call home. In fact, several Breckenridge women met with suspicious deaths.

Wanting to incorporate local building materials – preferably materials with a history – into her new house, Helen finds items like an old beam from a school room, bricks from a mill and a mantel from a farmhouse. These objects all have a dark history and attract Helen into learning more about Hattie and her descendants. Helen and Nate don't move into a haunted house, they actually create one!

## The Magic and Mystery of Trees

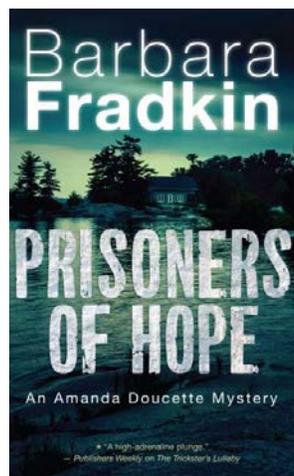
Jen Green,  
illustrated by Claire McElfratrick  
DK Publishing  
2019, 80 pages, ages 7+  
ISBN: 9781465479365

Trees are incredible, not to mention vital, and reading *The Magic & Mystery of Trees* will inform the reader just how awesome trees are. Sections on what a tree is, how trees live, types of trees and parts of a tree provide some basic tree information. Sections on roots, trunk, bark, leaves, flowers, seeds and “animal assistants” provide fascinating facts. Did you know that a big tree can “suck in over 100 gallons of water from the soil every day.”?

“Life after death” describes the vital role that trees play when they die and fall to the ground. And while trees appear to be quiet individuals, they are much more than that as described in the book.

“Trees are mysterious things. Recently, scientists have found out that the trees in a forest work together. They make friends and support one another. Trees look after their neighbors, and mother trees pass food to their children and older trees within the family.”

Complementing the interesting tree information is a section on planting a tree and a glossary. Very good book to educate kids (of all ages) about trees.



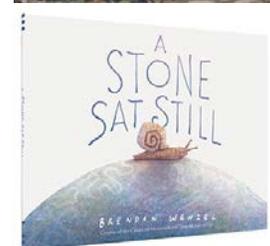
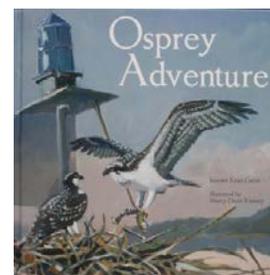
## Prisoners of Hope

Barbara Fradkin  
Dundurn  
2018, 336 pages  
ISBN: 97814599737648

I was interested in reading *Prisoners of Hope* because the setting for the novel – Georgian Bay near Parry Sound – is the general area where I spent many summers at my parents' cottage. The novel is an “Amanda Doucette Mystery” and sees Amanda plan a kayaking trip for abused families as part of her cross-Canada charity tour.

While kayaking and planning her trip with Ronny, the son of the guide she hired, they come across a woman in the water in distress. After rescuing the woman Amanda finds herself and her dog abandoned on an island. Both Ronny and the rescued woman took the two kayaks and left. Things become even more suspicious when Amanda learns that someone has died under mysterious circumstances on a nearby island. Is the death connected to Amanda being stranded?

*Prisoners of Hope* is an enjoyable mystery set on Georgian Bay in the Parry Sound area. For those familiar with the area, the story involves places like Franklin Island, Mink Islands, Pointe au Baril, Chippewa Club, Snug Harbour and Frying Pan Island.



# Book Reviews

....continued....

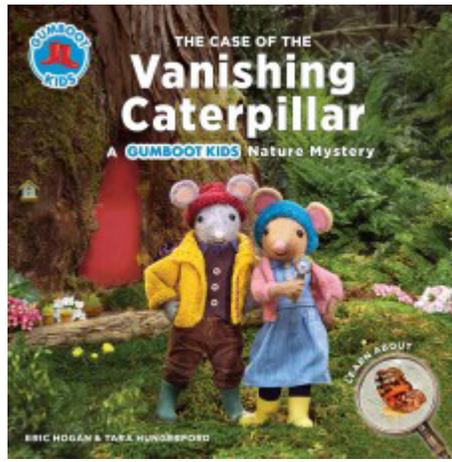
## Osprey Adventure

*Jennifer Keats Curtis, illustrated by  
Marcy Dunn Ramsey  
Schiffer Publishing  
2007, 2010, 32 pages, age 5+  
ISBN: 9780764336843*

If you travel much in Southern Ontario you may have looked up and noticed an impressive nest made largely of large sticks. Especially if the nest is located near a body of water. Chances are the nest is the home of ospreys, magnificent birds who are making a comeback after almost becoming extinct due to pesticides.

In *Osprey Adventure*, Jennifer Keats Curtis tells of another danger to ospreys – garbage. The story is based on the work of wildlife biologist Pete McGowan. The story sees Pete and his father investigate an osprey's nest that is composed not only of sticks, grasses and leaves, but also of garbage such as plastic bags. Worried about the young ospreys in the nest Pete's dad investigates it and finds one of the nestlings with fishing line tangled around his beak. Fortunately, the line is successfully removed from the bird providing a happy ending for this osprey family.

Besides the inspirational story, the author has written a section at the back of the book of how readers can help ospreys – and other animals – by discarding garbage responsibly and making sure that unused fishing line and hooks are thrown out in the trash where animals can't come into contact with it. Readers of all ages will enjoy the uplifting story with an important message and excellent illustrations.



## Peanuts Every Sunday 1976 – 1980

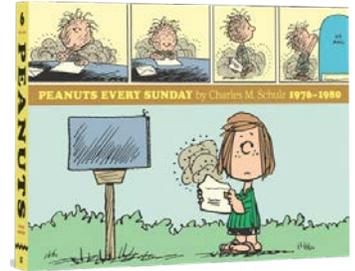
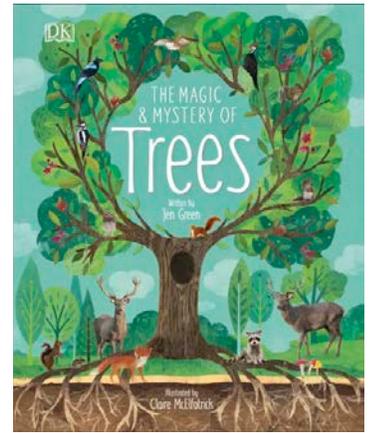
*Charles M. Schultz,  
Fantagraphics Books  
2018, 265 pages  
ISBN: 9781683961413*

I'm thoroughly enjoying reading Charles M. Schultz's wonderful Sunday comics from 1976 to 1980 and published in an impressive coffee table-style book measuring approximately 13.25" by 9.75". The large, colour comics are funny and a good way to relax from the stresses of life.

This impressive collection covers five years of Peanuts cartoons as they appeared in the Sunday comics and Fantagraphics book has done an exceptional job of presenting them in a beautiful book that you will want to leave out – or display – for others to enjoy.

You can't help but feel good reading about Charlie Brown and the rest of the Peanuts gang as they experience life's highs and lows. Baseball is a popular topic in the book as is the friendship between Snoopy and Woodstock. I particularly enjoy the comics about the seasons and the holidays – including those featuring the Easter Beagle!

The incredible artwork and funny ideas put to paper by Charles M. Schulz are a joy to read – and re-read. *Peanuts Every Sunday 1976 – 1980* is a timeless book for all ages!



## A Stone Sat Still

*Brendan Wenzel,  
Chronicle Books  
2019, 51 pages, ages 3+  
ISBN: 9781452173184*

A place can mean many different things to different animals. Told in rhyming verse *A Stone Sat Still* looks at how a stone is perceived by numerous animals. To a moose the stone is like a pebble while a much smaller animal considers it a hill. To a Canada goose the stone is a marker while to an ant it is a map. A rabbit considers it a haven while it is a stage to a cricket.

*A Stone Sat Still* is a good nature picture book that illustrates how something is perceived so differently.

## Gumboot Kids Nature Mysteries

Eric Hogan and Tara Hungerford

Firefly Books

2019, 32pgs, ages 3+

Looking for some fun nature books for your child? *Gumboot Kids Nature Mysteries* is a series of books aimed at kids 3 to 7 years old which was adapted from the award-winning CBC Kids program. Scout and Daisy gather clues about a nature mystery where they affirm their findings by verifying their evidence at the library.

**The Case of the Vanishing Caterpillar** (ISBN: 9780228101949) sees Scout wonder where his caterpillar friend has gone. After gathering clues, Scout and Daisy learn about a chrysalis, butterflies and a process called metamorphosis. And they solve their case. At the back of the book there are field notes that include descriptions for a butterfly's "antennae", "thorax", "abdomen", "legs" and "wings" along with an illustration of "A Painted Lady Butterfly" showing where these parts are located. Interesting facts about butterflies are also included. There is even a craft project of how you can make a butterfly out of flower petals and leaves.

Other books in the series are:

**The Case of the Story Rock** (ISBN: 9780228101925);

**The Case of the Growing Bird Feeder**  
(ISBN: 9780228101901)

**The Case of the Wooden Timekeeper**  
(ISBN: 9780228101963).

In these stories Scout and Daisy solve cases pertaining to fossils, sunflowers and the growth rings of a tree. At the end of each story there are interesting "Field Notes" as well as a fun "Nature Craft" that children can make.

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CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



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[treasurer@lakewwk.ca](mailto:treasurer@lakewwk.ca)

### *Newsletter Editor*

• Lesley Hugill  
2258 Yates Court,  
Oakville, Ontario, L6L 5K6  
905-339-6950  
[hugill.lesley@gmail.com](mailto:hugill.lesley@gmail.com)

### **MAIL**

Lake WahWashKesh  
Conservation Association  
P.O. Box 183,  
McKellar, Ontario  
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### **WEBSITE**

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