

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

— FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER —



After the AGM in August, the Executive has been busy working on several projects. I

would now like to bring you up-to-date on some of them.

Many members of the Association and the Executive expressed repeatedly their concerns over the high water levels experienced on Wah-Wash-Kesh this Summer. Although the Executive invited a representative from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), who control the water levels on the Magnetawan River watershed, to attend the AGM, no-one was available. Since then your Executive have had countless e-mails with each other and the OMNR, and I can now advise you that a meeting with two representatives of the OMNR, five Directors and Andy Vurma and I will take place on Saturday, November 22nd, 2008 in Innisfil. The Directors have prepared a list of questions and the most frequently-asked questions will be our agenda. They will be forwarded to the OMNR so they can prepare for our meeting. Our basic question to the OMNR will be, why excess water from lakes further up the Magnetawan River system is dumped downriver resulting in water level fluctuations of several feet on Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh, while residents of lakes upstream enjoy levels rising no more than several inches. We will ask for a review of the whole flood management system and may request assistance in purchasing more monitoring equipment to better advise both the OMNR and the Association when fluctuations are occurring.

Enclosed in this Newsletter is an article from the Whitestone Fire/Rescue Unit which I ask everyone to read carefully. A situation arose this Summer in which a cottage renter made an emergency call but did not include the com-

plete address. Precious minutes were lost as a result. Please also fill out the "911" stickers which are enclosed and put one on your cottage phone, the other in a prominent place.

As the time of year approaches when we spend more time indoors reading, may I recommend "The Early Years". This is a compilation of anecdotes concerning the early years on Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh and the surrounding area. Many of the articles were gathered from people who lived during the early years and who were still able to accurately describe events and persons involved in various activities. Many of the contributors still have families cottaging on Wah-Wash-Kesh so there is a current connection as well. Anyone who has read this book with its many pictures will confirm its historical significance and yet it is easy to read. All for a mere \$15. Please e-mail me if you would like a copy mailed to you.

For some years there has been a concern among the Executive about the safe-keeping of Association records and archives. I am pleased to tell you that in response to a request from the Executive, The Municipality of Whitestone has agreed to provide the Association with space for a fire-proof, lockable, filing cabinet in a municipal building, likely the Grange in Dunchurch. I would like to thank Mayor Chris Armstrong for his support of this project. It is unclear at this early stage what documents and other archival material we will be storing but at least we now have a secure central repository. I know of several ex-Executive members who have boxes of Wah-Wash-Kesh documents in their basement (I have one too!) so we will advise more in the Spring.

I spent the last week of October at the cottage, taking a boat out of the water and generally making sure we are ready for Winter. My parents bought the cottage the year after I was born so we have enjoyed 60 years on Wah-Wash-Kesh. In my early years, there was no road in, no hydro, and the only water was what you carried up from the lake in a bucket. My Dad was a high-school teacher and he often taught summer school so that meant my Mom had two young boys under ten, no road, no phone, etc. In those days you could buy your summer food from

Eatons (all in cans) and they would ship it by rail to Ardbeg where Cliff Bennett would pick it up in the "Martha" and deliver it to the cottage. One year, the food arrived before we did and the food was stacked on the big rock in front of the cottage. Unfortunately, it rained heavily, and all the labels washed off the cans! Talk about culinary surprises! My Mother baked all our bread on a wood kitchen stove which she could judge the temperature of by looking at the fire. The dough, after rising, was put on the hot plate and baked. Delicious! The cottage itself is an 80 year old log building. Although it is two-story, the whole building except for the roof was built in one day in a building bee. It was originally meant to be the staff quarters for a large lodge which was to be built nearby. Unfortunately, after building our place, the owner got an infection and in 1928 without penicillin, he died. When the building was put up in one day, that evening a ladder was put up the outside and one down the inside, the ladies came with food, and musicians provided music for a dance after dinner. The good old days!

I love spending time at the cottage communing with nature. We often see deer, fox, beavers, and many wild birds such as grouse, partridge, and pileated woodpeckers.

I would like to thank the Directors for their hard work and support this Fall. They have contributed many hours of time and effort from their busy lives to address the issues faced by the Association.

May I wish everyone on behalf of the Executive a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

Don Comrie, President

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WEBSITE

www.lakewwk.ca

Golf Course Water Testing Update

In June of 2003, just before the launch of the golf course at Absolute Peace and Quiet Resort, the Association hired Azimuth Environmental to test the water around the site to provide a baseline chemistry profile for comparison with future testing. The 2003 results indicated nothing out of the ordinary in comparison with other Canadian Shield lakes.

In July of 2008 the same testing was repeated by Azimuth Environmental with the help of John Bray who provided water transport. Increases in Nitrogen species, Potassium, and Chloride are of interest in tracking fertilizer inputs though there are other sources. Nitrate levels have dropped, potassium is up slightly, and chloride remains the same. According to the report "The water chemistry continues to be representative of typical lakes on the Canadian Shield".

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Pat Ferris

***"I don't care to belong to a club that
accepts people like me as members." –
Groucho Marx***

Five years ago my wife and I were fortunate enough to become residents of Lake Wahwashkesh and were delighted to find out from our neighbour that there was an active association. In the time we have been here we have participated in the annual meetings and learned a lot about the lake and its history through the many people we have met. In our first year here we saw first hand the effects of the dock reconstruction. We followed with interest the input of the association into the Whitestone official plan, participated in the historic cottage visits during the 50th anniversary, and continually refer to the cottage directory as we travel around the lake.

Contrary to Groucho Marx' comments above we were really pleased to be able to become part of the Association and have a role in the future of our lake. Unfortunately the membership in general has dropped by half from 300 – 150. As an association we have undertaken to mail out letters to past lapsed members and do our best to encourage them to rejoin. Individually we can all help by approaching new neighbours, as Clare and Diane Ovenden did with us, and encourage them to join up. If you have any contacts that you would like us to approach feel free to contact me and we can add them to the mailing list.

Rob Slykhuis

Lake Plan Progress Report

At the last Annual Meeting it was decided that we should explore the idea of a Lake Plan for WWK. A committee has been formed and we are currently in the process of analyzing the information that is already available and what other material would be useful in this regard. If you have any material that you think might be useful and/or would be interested in joining the committee we would love to hear from you at jbray@sympatico.ca

For the uninitiated, a Lake Plan is an attempt to define in concrete terms the hopes and wishes of the residents with respect to environment, development, shoreline development and setbacks, light pollution and all or any other tangible and intangible factors that make the WWK lake experience enjoyable and valuable.

When a formal Lake Plan is completed, it is expected that it would be incorporated into the Official Plan of Whitestone and would provide guidance and direction for the planning decisions of the future regarding Lake WWK.

The Committee is planning to have a progress report to present at the next Annual Meeting.

John Bray

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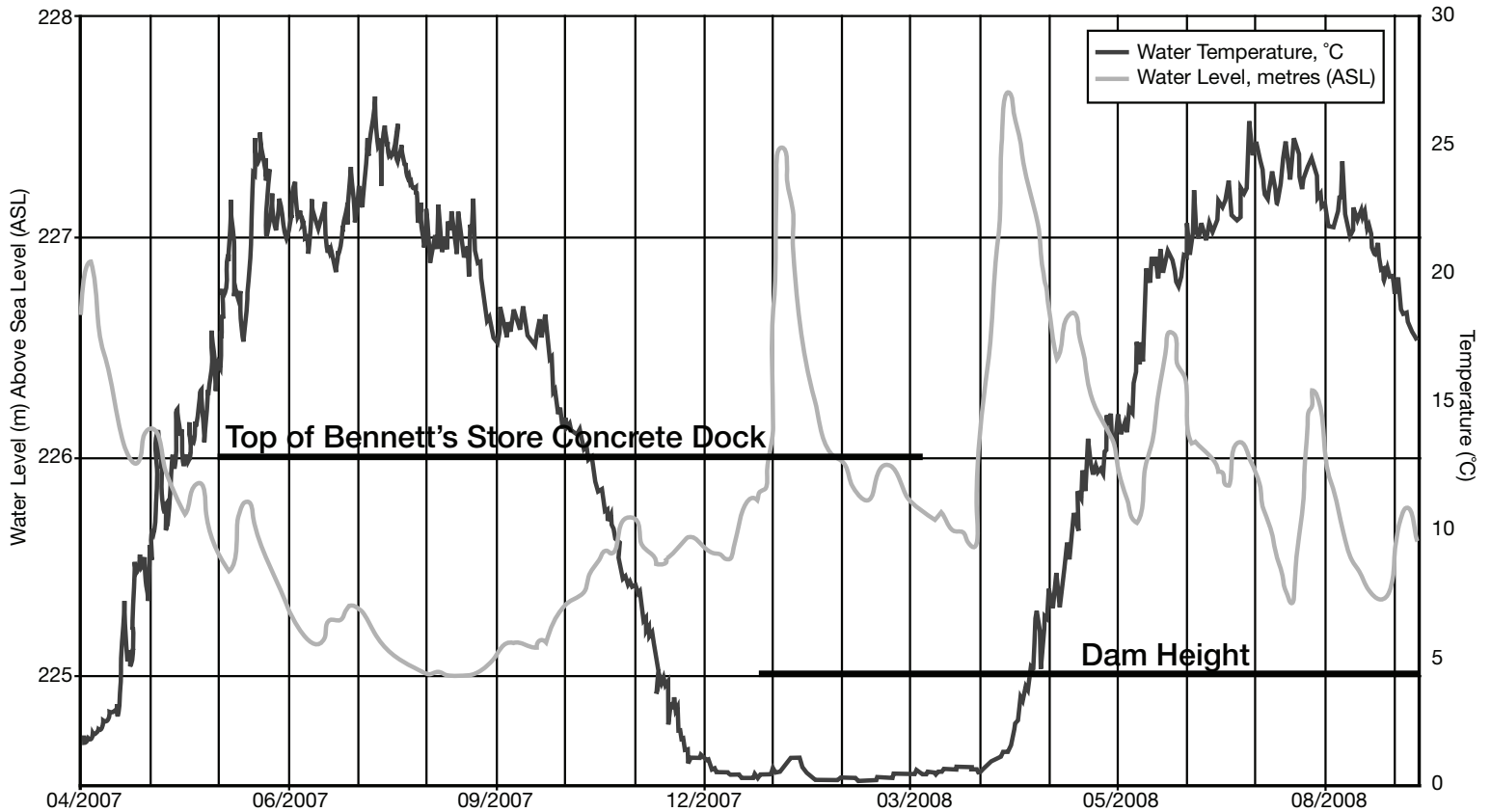
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Lake Water Levels on Wah-Wash-Kesh 2007 & 2008



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The Deep Bay/Farm Creek Loop

In June of 2008 my sister Jeanine and I set off on a short canoe trip around Wah-Wash-Kesh in search of early season Bass. While we certainly found the bass we were looking for we also came out of the trip with some new knowledge and a greater appreciation for our lake and the surrounding area.

Our route began at the Deep Bay Hunt Club and passed through Boundary, Wolf, and Island Lakes, ending with a paddle down Farm Creek back into Wah-Wash-Kesh. Time wise, the trip was 2.5 days and 2 nights, which left us ample time to fish.

DAY 1:

The Storm Before the Calm

We loaded our gear and the ATV onto "La-barge", tied our canoe on, and set off from Toggle Point early in the morning. As with last years trip down the Mag, my father was kind enough to offer to get us to Boundary Lake. The barge trip to the Deep Bay Hunt Club was uneventful and picturesque.

Landing at the Hunt Club, loading up the ATV, covering ourselves in bug dope, and heading down the rugged trail (more like a trench in spots) towards Boundary all went smoothly. Once we were deeper into the woods however, things took a turn. I suspect we may have been the first ones to take the trail this year as there were trees down along the way. If Dad had not brought his chainsaw we would have had a heck of a time getting around these. As you may recall, this was also a very wet spring, as a result, we had to winch the ATV out of muck holes on a couple of occasions. I mentioned that it was a wet spring but I'm inclined to think we got most of the water on this particular day! A deluge of rain hit us part way through the trail while we were removing another tree from the path. I actually have trouble recalling other storms where such a large amount of water fell in such short period of time. We strove forward however and decided

3/4 of the way to Boundary that Jean and I would portage the canoe the rest of the way. Up till this point the canoe was strapped to the ATV trailer but due to the roughness of the trail it started hitting the ground and was at risk of becoming damaged.

Portaging the canoe turned out to be an adventure in itself. Dad had gone on ahead with the ATV. Due to some building occurring on the shore of Boundary Lake we got off the main trail and had to bushwhack the remainder of the way to the Bear Inn at Boundary Lake. It was during this bushwhack that one of Jeanine's "Wal-mart Special" sandals lost its sole, which she decided to bring with her in one hand, while carrying a canoe on her head, swatting bugs, and likely wondering if I was being honest when saying I know where we are and it's not much longer.

We arrived at the Bear Inn to find dad waiting for us, the rain had stopped and we were thoroughly soaked but fortunately it was a warm rain. The air was balmy and full of the fresh scent of pine, the lake was calm and full of hungry Bass!

After bidding good bye to Dad, Jean and I warmed up with a shot of whiskey and headed out for some bass action. Within about 15 minutes we had enough bass for a nice shore lunch. The rain came and went in light spells as we paddled down Boundary towards the Wolf Lake portage.

We found the Wolf Lake portage blocked with a very large tree which we crawled under. Over the hill was Wolf Lake, we were really look-

ing forward to this part of the trip as neither of us had spent significant time fishing on this lake. We set up camp on an island about halfway down Wolf Lake and had our shore lunch. After lunch we went out for some more fishing. The strikes per cast had slowed down by this point in the day but I was able to catch the largest Largemouth I had ever caught, 6 lbs!

Upon returning to our base camp we set about making a fantastic dinner of breaded bass. I offered to have a look at Jean's fishing reel as she needed the line changed. After disassembling the reel a critical part promptly rolled into the water and was lost forever! So now poor Jean has lost her fishing reel in the middle of prime bass country, it must have been like losing her soul...oh wait, she already had lost her sole! As it turns out, we won't be needing our fishing rods for much of the remainder of the trip.

DAY 2: How to Get Lost in Familiar Territory

The portage to Island Lake is at the far end of Wolf Lake and as we found, it is marked by a partially sunken blue boat. Years ago, my father and I had taken this route with some friends on

a similar fishing trip in the late season, so I felt confident that it would be a quick jaunt over to Island Lake for some more fishing around the various islands and shoals. When I did this portage before, it was a clearly defined trail all the way to the end. Unfortunately, since that time, 4 wheelers had discovered the area and have left an intricate network of trails that apparently lead to everywhere but our destination. Thus began a 3 hour ordeal (the portage should have been half an hour at most) of following false trails, backtracking, and considering having to go back to Deep Bay via the trail we came in on.

Jean and I decided to have lunch while we considered what to do. After a lunch of sausage, gorp, and whiskey, we decided to give it one more try. We had thought that we checked all the different trails but in fact we had missed one that was difficult to see. This turned out to be the right trail, or at least a new one, but when the trail came out at Island Lake we were quite happy and it was high 5's all around! If you are inclined to try this portage keep in mind that the portage trail is a single line while the 4 wheeler trails are doubled up. There are areas where the 4 wheeler trail

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runs along the original portage and this makes it hard to differentiate the two.

Once on Island Lake the priority was to find the Farm Creek headwaters before setting up camp. It is easy to find if you stay on the southern shore, there is an inlet to the right of a large island where you'll soon hear the hiss of Farm Creek, thought I'm not so sure you would hear it with lower water levels.



There were a few other campers on the lake as well, some were just passing through while others had more permanent camping spots with cooking gear set up, I would guess for big fish fry's

Jean and I quickly realized we were very tired and sore and we both had naps after setting up camp. There were two ransacked turtle nests on our island, looks like a lucky raccoon sniffed out the eggs and dined very well. There was also an interesting double trunked birch tree that a beaver had taken on, only to give up before the job was done, leaving the tree with what looked like a new pair of boots.!

After a hearty meal of spaghetti and 'interesting' sauce and a discussion of the day ahead, we turned in and read ourselves to sleep.

DAY 3: Farm Creek Run

After a big bowl of oatmeal and some hot coffee, we packed up and headed straight for the entrance to Farm Creek. As mentioned before, the water was very high during our trip and Farm Creek was running at a good clip from the little bay where we stopped to scout the stream for a ways. I have some whitewater kayaking experience but neither Jean nor I have experience with a loaded tandem canoe on rapids, we decided to

track the canoe through any areas that appear to have quick moving water.

After the first few fast areas we entered the heart of the creek which was a beautiful, meandering paddle through a flat open grassy area. By this time, Jean had lost the other sole of her sandals and was finally on even ground, though with much less traction! Along the shores there were little clearings here and there where it

a p p e a r s herons must keep watch. We scared up two deer in the flats, they quickly bounded back into the woods.

There were beaver dams along the way and occasionally we had to track the canoe over them while balancing precariously on the edge of the dam.

There is a spot along Farm Creek where Cramadog Creek joins in on the journey to Wah-Wash-Kesh. The water was so calm at this junction that it wasn't obvious that two streams were merging and we actually started paddling up Cramadog Creek. After a while of paddling up Cramadog we clued in as the weeds and lilies underwater were pointing in the wrong direction. We quickly turned around and made a mental note to always keep an eye on the underwater weeds. Eventually we came to a chute where the water was too fast to paddle over. There was no obvious trail to follow along the shore so we just bushwhacked it. On our trip back for the canoe Jean found the actual trail which was back a ways from the chute. This chute emptied into a little calm area where a hunt camp was in view. Further down we had to track the canoe again, and then again a while down to enter into the expansion of the creek that takes the final plunge to Wah-Wash-Kesh.

The drop into Wah-Wash-Kesh was flowing quite quickly and it was a great opportunity to take some pictures. Once in Wah-Wash-Kesh, we

had a nice paddle back to Toggle Point where mom had roast beef, mashed potatoes, and gravy waiting for us.

Canoe trips, even short ones, are often great opportunities for people to discover things about themselves, and about how to read your environment. Learning first hand how to read the natural environment and then using that knowledge towards a positive end is a particularly gratifying experience. In the case of this trip, there were times when we thought we were lost, where we realized we were under prepared, and where we were faced with tough decisions. These are feelings that we all encounter in our daily lives of course but they become more poignant when we are away from all of the trappings of civilization. It is pleasantly surprising to realize how resourceful we can become when needed. Spending time in the wilderness and out of reach of immediate help affords us this opportunity. Canoe trips also provide us with great memories and reinforce our respect for the vast natural wilderness that makes up Canada's back yard.

Of course, I would not recommend going on a canoe trip deliberately ill prepared, to that end I'll leave you with a list of tips learned/re-enforced during our trip (this is not a comprehensive list)

- 1** *Invest in quality footwear, I use a good pair of Teva sandals for most trips*
- 2** *Bring some pain killers to take the edge off of sore muscles*
- 3** *Powdered Gatorade is great for a quick energy boost*
- 4** *Waterproof your maps, even if you think you know the territory*
- 5** *Become familiar with the use of a compass and map, even if you have a GPS you need a backup plan*
- 6** *Keep an eye on the direction underwater plant life in streams is pointing, it usually points downstream*
- 7** *Tracking a canoe down a stream is not as easy as it may seem and can quickly go bad when the water is fast, practice before hand to get used*

to it

8 *Bring a spare fishing reel, telescopic rod*

9 *Make sure your first aid kit is over-stuffed with quality bandages for foot blisters*

10 *Before deciding on a route, touch base with people who have experience in the area of interest*

11 *Bring more rope than you think you need and become comfortable with the following eight knots: Bowline, Trucker's Hitch, Clove Hitch, Overhand Knot, Fisherman's Knot, Improved Clinch Knot, Prusik Knot, Taut-Line Hitch (see "The Happy Camper: An Essential Guide to Life Outdoors" by Kevin Callan)*

Pat Ferris, November 2008

Crown Land Campsite Care

In the fall of 2008 we finished installing boom boxes and signs on the Lake WWK crown land campsites. Five sites are included: 2 in Tracy Bay, 1 behind Morgans, 1 on the north shore on a point near Truax Creek, 1 on the river just before Deep Bay.

Farm Creek Island was not completed because we are waiting to find out if it is crown land or private land-although it is a well-used campsite. As well the campsite on the point above the dam was not done as it is in the Magnetawan River Provincial Park and we are awaiting their approval. These sites are to be inspected in the spring and fall by the Association as part of our MOU with the MNR Stewardship program. The sites on Maple Lake will be completed in 2009. We had great support and assistance from Jennifer Brownlee of the MNR.

This stewardship initiative with the MNR is about the proper and safe use of crown land campsites and is not intended to encourage or promote the use of crown land campsites on Lake WWK and Maple Lake.

Dalton Ferris

Cottage Succession Planning

Whether you call it a cottage, chalet, camp or cabin, it's your family's special place to relax and enjoy the great outdoors. And for many families, it's a place filled with happy memories that's been in the family for generations, and will be for generations to come.

But keeping the cottage in the family from one generation to the next isn't always as easy as it might seem. There are many issues to consider, including how the taxes will be paid.

Consider ways to reduce taxes

When you pass along your cottage, you are also passing along a potentially large tax bill, which your beneficiaries may or may not be able to afford. Depending on their financial situation, your beneficiaries may be forced to sell the family cottage simply to cover the taxes. There are two main types of tax to consider – capital gains taxes and probate taxes.

Capital gains taxes

If your cottage has been in the family for many years, its value has probably increased dramatically. The property your family bought for a few thousand dollars might be worth a few hundred thousand dollars today. Even property bought within your lifetime might have experienced this type of exponential growth.

This increase in value can result in a very large, taxable capital gain, which is triggered when you pass along the property to anyone other than your spouse, including your children. However, there are several ways you can address this tax bill, and even reduce or defer it.

Calculating capital gains tax

When you pass along your cottage to anyone other than your spouse, the government views it as having been sold at current market value – a “deemed disposition.” The capital gain on this deemed disposition is taxable. The following example shows how there can be a \$68,512.50 tax bill in 2007 on a cottage purchased for only \$5,500 in 1977.

Deemed disposition in 2007: \$310,000

Minus purchase price in 1977: \$5,500

Total capital gain: \$304,500

Capital gains taxable (50% of total): \$152,250

Taxes payable at 45% marginal rate: \$68,512.50

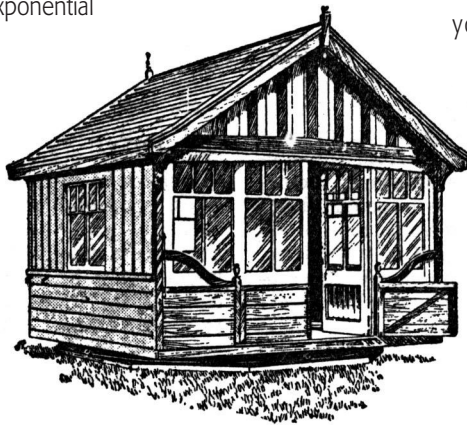
Gift the property ahead of time

Simply giving your cottage to your intended beneficiaries ahead of time is one way to defer future capital gains taxes. If you expect your cottage to significantly increase in value, consider giving it to your beneficiaries sooner rather than later.

Assuming property values will always rise, this will trigger a taxable capital gain from the appreciation of the property to date. The tax is payable in the year the gift is made. However, it should be a much smaller capital gain than the one that would be triggered in the future, assuming the property increases significantly in value. Any future gains will be taxed in the names of your beneficiaries, when they sell it or give it away at a much later date, and won't be included in your final tax return when your estate is settled.

Cover the tax bill with an insurance policy

The most common way for property to be passed on to the next generation is through a bequest made in your Will. When your property is bequeathed to anyone other than your spouse, it triggers a taxable capital gain, which your beneficiaries may not be able to afford. However, you can cover this tax bill through a life insurance policy, which provides a sum equal to the expected tax bill when your estate is settled.



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911 Emergency

By now everyone should have a valid 911 civic address and so with the new cell tower active, your local fire department and first response team have a few reminders for all residents of Wah-Wash-Kesh. With this years newsletter we are distributing stickers to all association members that we hope will be placed in a visible place in your home, preferably close to a telephone. When calling 911 from a cell phone, the dispatcher is unaware of your location and so it is important that everyone who uses your home knows what the civic address is in the event of an emergency. If your property is water access only, you should be aware of the closest boat launch and be able to give as much detail as possible to the dispatcher. We hope that you never have to use our service but in the event that you do, it is essential that you can help us have the quickest response time possible.

Bob Whitman
Whitestone Fire Rescue Chief

Consider this in an emergency...

Now that cell phone service is on the lake there seems to be a decrease in the chatter on the CB.

While the cell phone provides a great tool, to communicate to the outside world, in an emergency. The CB provides a great tool, to communicate to your neighbours on the lake, in an emergency. Unless you have all of your cottage neighbours cell phone numbers on hand, the only help you will reach is the outside emergency number. The CB can still be a valuable asset for assistance. Some neighbours can get to Bennett's Bay to meet and direct the First Response Team. Everyone that is listening may be able to help in some way.

In an emergency your first response should always be to contact 911. Your second call should be over the CB radio. **Everyone should also consider leaving their CB radio on all night.** Neighbours can be of valuable assistance to the First Response Team who may not know the lake too well, especially during the darkness of the night.



Hole-In-One

Sly Fox Golf Club had it's first Hole-in-One ever in the 2008 season. On August 30, 2008 **Virginia Ki** aced Hole No. 4 with her 8 iron. She was with the Kersch/ Brock family group and her witnesses were Kristoffer Kersch and Drew Brock. *Congratulations Virginia on a job well done!* Number 4 is one of our most difficult holes of golf.

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Closing Up

We closed in late September this year – we gambled with Mother Nature and lost – October was beautiful right up to Thanksgiving weekend. This year, as usual, we take a week's vacation in mid-September – and as usual, the weather was beautiful – it's our favourite time of the WWK year (except for the opening days in the spring!).

Closing the cottage is an undeniable reminder that time has passed – that time is passing. We are a year older – so are our friends and relatives – and our children. We were proud that our daughter came north this summer without us for the first time – she had to assume the responsibility of making sure everything was "hunky-dory" before setting sail for the city when she left. That event marks a change. Our Uncle Jimmy and Auntie Margaret closed up a couple of weeks earlier than in previous years – that's another change.

We cleared out all the liquid cleaning and foodstuffs and packed them for home at the end of our September week. The CB is quiet in September – the only folks on the air are the Bluejay and his Indian Narrows family the Beaver Lodge, the Redjay, Copper Top, and of course "774" – Donnie and Ken Hayward. We missed hearing Beehive's cheerful call – a silent operator now, our friend Bert Ellingham will be sadly missed.

We spent our days outdoors, mostly. It wasn't lonely up our way in the North End, more like an atmosphere of solitude compared with the summer months. None of our neighbours were in and at night we could see all the stars in the Milky Way. Our little solar lamps looked light the runway lights of a big-city airport! Each day was tinged with a growing sadness knowing that it was our last week.

We reflected on the season past: our boat didn't quit! We built front steps! We moved the

tools and building supplies out of the spare bedroom to the shed we built last year! We installed interior doors and drywall – making the bedrooms separate rooms for the first time! We even insulated the bedroom ceiling – wow, what a treat on those cool nights!

A week or so later, I returned for a day to close up for good. It has taken a couple of years to get the rhythm right – put the old three-wheeler away and winterize the carb – remove the batteries from it and the small boat, make sure they are full of distilled water and fully charged. Bring the outboard up to the shed and winterize it. Pull the wee boat up, well above WWK's high water-line.

Disconnect the water intake, drain the lines and blow them out with the compressor. Same with the washing machine. Make sure all the traps and pumps are full of that yummy looking pink antifreeze.

Gather up the tools needed over the winter back in the city. Pack up any last perishables of dry goods that might look tasty to a winter critter. Load up the boat. Make sure to follow my barge captain tutor's (Ed Bennett Sr.) advice for fastening the boat to the dock and ramp for transit to its winter repose. Wrestle the ramp floatation into place. Undo the chains connecting the ramp to the solid WWK granite shore. Push the ramp away from the shore – jumping on at the last moment as it drifts out from the land. Slowly pilot the huge contraption (fifty two feet long!) to the little bay where it will overwinter. This year, tie the dock to a tree with a long, long line with lots of slack – to try and prevent a repeat of the adventure it took this spring down to Deadman's! Tired but satisfied that all the I's have been dotted and all the T's crossed.

Then the final last, long, lingering look at the cottage as we slowly gather speed for the last

boat trip of the year – back to Bennett's marina – to say good-bye to Ed and family – let John know that he can pull the boat out anytime.

Like most WWK families, we treasure our connection and are sad to weaken it over the winter.

Then – to the car – and off we go – until the inevitable spring – when we will say we're here, we're here, we're back again for another year.

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

Dock Committee Report

This year we accomplished quite a bit. Probably the biggest thing was to finalize the three-way set of agreements between the Association, the Municipality of Whitestone, and the MNR. In a nutshell, the Municipality took out land use permits with the MNR for the Bennett's Bay and the Indian Narrows docks and dock areas. This brought them under Municipal control, and under the coverage of Whitestone's liability insurance coverage. At the same time, the Association entered into an agreement with Whitestone to maintain the docks – as we have been doing for almost 20 years now since the MNR got out of the dock business. We saw a 30% or so reduction in our liability insurance premiums as a result.

Several people signed up to assist with a report we need to email periodically to Whitestone so that they know "officially" that the docks are A-OK – many thanks to the folks who signed up at the 2008 AGM – I will get a note out to them for the 2009 season.

Late in 2007, we took delivery of an aluminum ramp for the Bennett's Bay dock. Made of 4 inch by 2 inch aluminum box beams, it went into service this spring. Many thanks to Connor Industries in Parry Sound for the excel-

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lent design and construction. And many thanks to Ed Bennett Jr. and his crew for installing the ramp.

Indian Narrows ramp suffered a bit of wear and tear in 2007, and once we saw the Bennett's Bay aluminum ramp, we decided that it was a good design for Indian Narrows as well. However, due to some comments that the Bennett's Bay ramp has a bit of deflection (bounce) to it, we asked Connor to beef up the size of the aluminum to 6 inches from 4 inches. The ramp was delivered in record time from Connor, and again Ed Bennett Junior installed it to the concrete abutment in Indian Narrows. We have one more job to complete next spring, and that is to install a steel mounting bracket (that our old friend John Kormos made for the Association) onto the first floating section so that we can put the ramp into place properly. The Dock Committee just ran out of time last year to get this job done.

I'd like to thank my friends and fellow Dock Committee members and workers for all their great work: Rod Bennett, Doug Hand, Kenny Hayward, Dalton Ferris, Pat Ferris, Randy McCulloch, Ed Bennett Jr., and Ted Heggart. We can always use more help, and many thanks to those at the AGM last year who volunteered – we will schedule a few half-day working sessions as early as practical next spring.

**John Nelson, Chairman,
Dock Committee**

Fish Committee Report

The members of the Fish Committee would like to extend our thanks to the group of volunteers who gave up much of their time, and backs, in helping move almost 50 tonnes of gravel. This time the Farm Creek area was picked as the recipient site. On hand were James and Jeff O'Neil, Blake Strong, Doug Hand, ----- Muchs, Bill Gray, Don Comrie and John Sinkovich. This spawning bed took several days to complete as rubble had to be trucked in, then loaded on Mr. Bennett's barge, roughly put in place by machine, and then hand placed into the river.

The fish committee would also like to thank Ed Bennett Sr and Ed Bennett Jr, for finding the time in their busy summer schedule to help complete this project.

On November 21st two more government grants were applied for. One for lake trout spawning in Parker Bay, and one to help find a monitoring program to gauge the impact of the efforts of the Fish Committee.

We would like to encourage anyone with fishing, or related items they think might need to be looked after, to contact the Fish Committee.

Finally, special thanks again to Don Comrie for looking after the completion of this newsletter.



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Matthew's Story

Thanksgiving at the lake is always special. We do not let closing-up tasks interfere with the celebration and traditions (that's a work time saved for the following weekend). We can dedicate ourselves to food, drink and fellowship.

Our daughter and son love the Thanksgiving weekend time, and at this stage in their lives, we cherish any time we can all get together. The place is alive with chatter; we delight in the challenge of board games old and new. Weather permitting, we take a walk back to Maple Lake for a picnic lunch. Some will even brave the "last (albeit brief)" swim of the season. On the Sunday, my husband Wayne and my brother Tim load the boys, the shotguns and 22s, into Tim's half-ton and head way back in the bush for an afternoon of shooting clay pigeons and tin cans.

Four neighbouring families work collectively to provide an always memorable feast: Pat and Jim Muncy host the event at their place; Judy Rhode (aided by her husband Jim) whips up her famous desserts; Karen and Tim Abbott prepare several casseroles; Wayne and I roast the turkey. Other family and friends are assigned any remaining tasks. The important moment of our event is the poignant blessing given by Judy.

But this year was both a time of thanksgiving and a time of sadness for us. Our 27 year old son Matthew left for Afghanistan in early May and his ten-month tour means that he not only missed

this entire summer of cottage life, but also his beloved Thanksgiving weekend – by far the most important celebration of his year.

We never dreamed when he was a little boy playing along the shore in front of his grandpar-

searching, he announced last year that he had decided to volunteer for a tour in Afghanistan. Since beginning his tour of duty he has been promoted to Captain. He believes sincerely that this is an important humanitarian mission and he wanted to be a part of it. Most of his time is spent inside the Headquarters in Kandahar Base, where his role is as "watch-keeper", tracking the movements and engagements of Canadian troops and coordinating responses. However, there have been forays into the more dangerous territory "outside the wire". Matt will never again take for granted the privilege of living in our beautiful and peaceful country.

I know that, just as we miss Matt's jovial presence, he misses us. But I have to admit that what he misses the most is the lake and the cottage. He is among the fifth generation of a rather extensive Lake Wahwashkesh family, and the water, earth and rock are in his blood. Because Wayne and I were both teachers, he was blessed with the opportunity to spend his summers up north. When

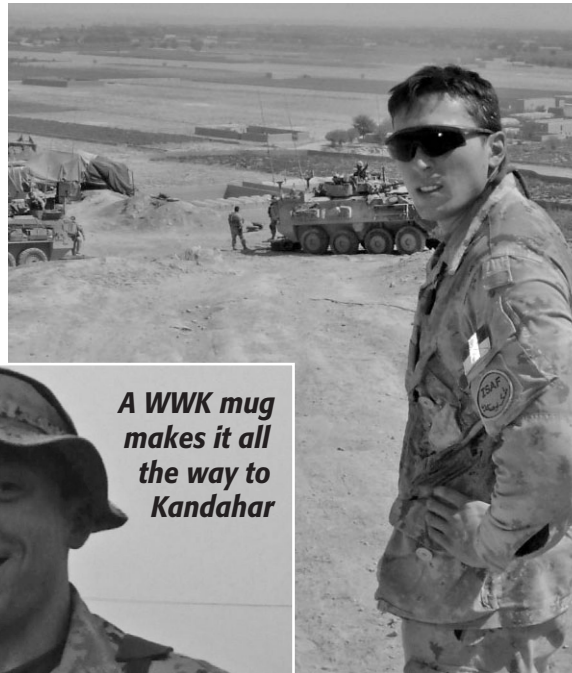
ents' cottage that this was a path he could follow. He has always had a love of the arts, having graduated from York's Film Program. Writing is a passion and he is well-published

he became a teenager, he wanted and was able to get work at the lake - at Camp MiaKonda and for a couple of local contractors. Now that he is grown, he rarely misses a chance to spend time at the lake.

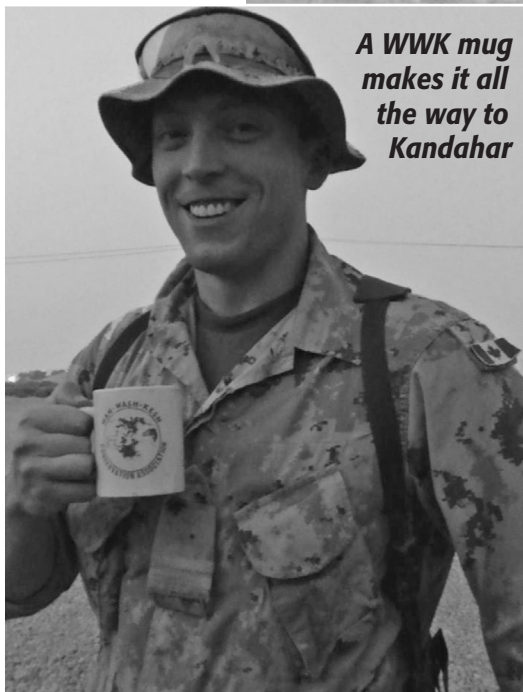
Though Matt is not often moved to tears, last fall before he left the cottage to head back to Petawawa for his training, he had to go down to the shore to collect himself and to bid farewell to the lake, knowing that he will not return to the place he loves most on this earth until after this challenging and life-changing mission.

The lake will still be here when he gets back.

Lynn Abbott-Lennox



A WWK mug makes it all the way to Kandahar



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Event Calendar 2009

Saturday, July 11

Wiener Roast

4pm – Straubs Beach

(Raindate: Sunday, July 12, 3-5pm)



Saturday, August 1

Annual Meeting

9:30am – Bennett's Barn

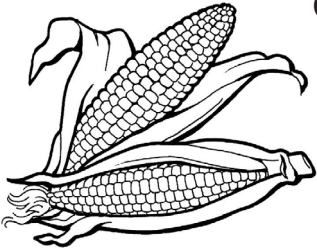
Saturday, August 15

Corn Roast

4pm –

Straubs Beach

(Raindate: Sunday,
August 16, 2-4pm)



Corn Roast 2008

on Wigston's Island



Book Reviews by N. Glenn Perrett

Numerous books have been recently published that are ideal for the cottage and provide great winter reading

Butterfly

Thomas Marent, Dorling Kindersley Limited
2008, 280 pages ISBN: 9780756633400

Butterfly is a striking book featuring more than 500 photographs of butterflies and moths in their natural habitat. The first section, "Identify" looks at a butterfly's wings, antennae and eyes, proboscis, thorax and abdomen as well as moths.

The next section, "Transformation", takes the reader on a visual display of the life cycle of the butterfly - from the egg, to the caterpillar, pupa and adult. The photographs are truly stunning - even the ones of the butterfly eggs. "Maturity" looks at things such as flight, feeding, migration, courtship and mating. The final section is on "Survival" and covers camouflage, disguise, eye-spots, tail decoys, chemical deterrents in larvae, chemical deterrents in adults and mimicry.

In most books photographs, if there are any, complement the text. Not so with *Butterfly* where Marent's photos take centre stage. This coffee-table book is a "must see" for butterfly enthusiasts!

A Natural History of Conifers

Aljos Farjon, Timber Press
2008, 304 pages
ISBN: 9780881928693

I like coniferous trees. Our home is surrounded by white spruce, red pine, white pine and cedar trees. These attractive trees provide food, shelter and homes for numerous animals, shelter for us and they're important for the environment.

In his book Aljos Farjon looks at topics such as what conifers are (it's not as straight forward as you might think), their evolution, distribution, human uses and conservation issues. Chapters such as "The Earliest Conifers" and "Why Conifers in Nature Are Important" are particularly interesting. For those with a strong interest in trees as well as those who want to learn about "the early history of life on our planet."

Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity

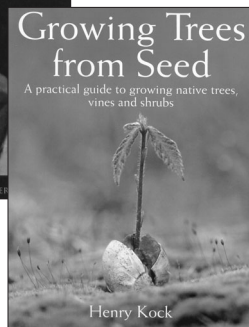
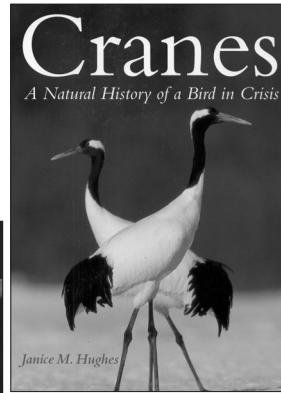
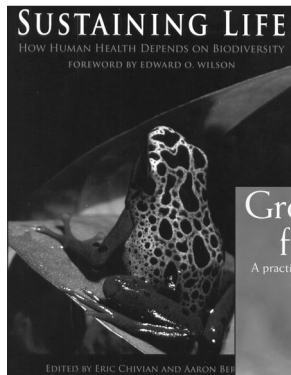
edited by Eric Chivian and Aaron Bernstein,
Foreword by Edward O. Wilson,
Oxford University Press
2008, 542 pages ISBN: 9780195175097

Those interested in nature, the environment or our own species will be interested in *Sustaining Life*. This book looks at "the relationship between biodiversity decline and repercussions for human

health."

Sustaining Life contains numerous beautiful photographs and informative text looking at things such as what biodiversity is, how biodiversity is threatened by human activity, natural medicines, biodiversity loss and human infectious disease and what individuals can do to help biodiversity. I particularly liked the section on protecting biodiversity in "Our Own Back Yards" where recommendations ranged from gardening with native plants and not using invasive plants or plants taken from the wild to not using pesticides, growing vegetables and feeding birds in winter.

The health of the planet and the species that live here depends on a rich diversity. Maintaining species diversity is vital and a good first step in ensuring species diversity is to learn about it.



Paddling & Hiking the Georgian Bay Coast

Kas Stone, Boston Mills Press
2008, 256 pages ISBN: 9781550464771

If you like your vacations to be environmentally friendly, nature experiences then you might want to check out *Paddling & Hiking* by Kas Stone. Divided into sections for: Killarney and the French River, Thirty Thousand Islands, Severn Sound and Nottawasaga Bay as well as The Bruce Peninsula. For each area Stone provides several hiking and paddling routes complete with maps for the mainland coast of Georgian Bay from Killarney to Parry Sound to Collingwood to Tobermory. Besides maps and interesting descriptions of the

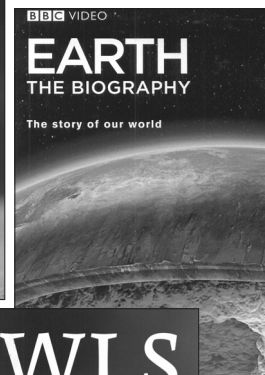
areas, Stone proves access points, trip planning and where to get further information making this guide a good place to start for those thinking of exploring Georgian Bay.

Earth: The Biography

(2-disc DVD set) BBC Video

If you are looking for an informative, interesting show for the whole family I highly recommend *Earth: The Biography*. This 2-disc DVD from BBC Warner is hosted by Dr. Iain Stewart and features approximately 230 minutes of phenomenal footage and incredibly interesting information about Earth's history.

Stewart looks at such things as volcanoes, atmosphere, ice and oceans and explains the roles they have played in the development of the planet. The images, many from some of the remotest spots on Earth, are breath-taking. As educational as it is entertaining.



Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens

Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2007, 288 pages
ISBN: 9780881928549

While terrestrial alien species don't cause the same concern as invasive aquatic species, they can cause considerable damage

to the environment. In his book *Bringing Nature Home* Douglas W. Tallamy provides considerable information pertaining to many serious impacts caused by alien plants. According to Tallamy, most plant eating insects are not able to consume alien plants resulting in serious consequences since so many animals depend on insects for food.

Tallamy points out the pressures that native wildlife are under as a result of environmental impacts caused by habitat loss and destruction as well as the introduction and spread of non-native plants. *Bringing Nature Home* is an important book that can significantly improve the health of the planet.

Growing Trees from Seed: A Practical Guide to Growing Native Trees, Vines and Shrubs

Henry Kock, Firefly Books
2008, 280 pages ISBN: 9781554073634

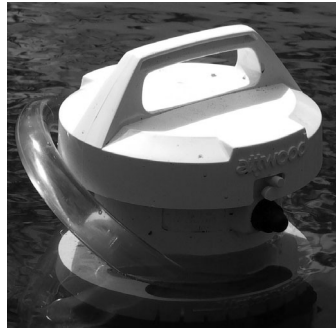
I've grown many trees from seed. Most recently

Green Corner by N. Glenn Perrett

Many things make a product "green." Certainly items that are well made and will last a long time can be environmentally-friendly. Items that avoid toxic chemicals can also be green. Items that prevent damage or extend the life of other products can also be eco-products.

Cordless Water Pump

With all of the rain and rapidly melting snow this past spring, one of our horse paddocks had considerable water in it. There was even some water in the hallway of our barn. We easily relocated much of this water with little effort or damage using the "WaterBuster Power Pump", a cordless water pump that we got from Lee Valley Tools Ltd. The pump attaches to a garden hose and operates using batteries.



Decorations for Our Green Christmas "Tree"

Lynn and I don't agree with killing a healthy tree to be used as a short-term decoration so many years ago we decided to create our own tree using branches from evergreen trees – many that required pruning. Our first "tree" was composed of several branches from white spruce, white pine and red pine trees. The tree had a main branch, five to six feet tall, along with some smaller branches. The branches were secured in a Christmas tree stand. In recent years our tree has been created with as many as three branches and often only one.

We decorate the tree with everything from environmentally-friendly decorations that will last indefinitely, such as beauti-

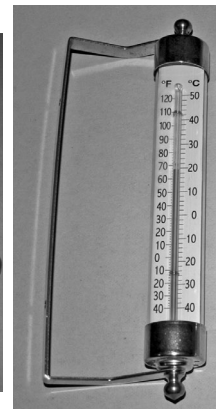
ful, quality decorations from Lee Valley Tools to items that our children have made from recycled items. The "Tin Christmas Tree Stars," "Jewelled Tinsel" and "Victorian Christmas Tree Tinsel" from Lee Valley come in sturdy containers while the colourful ornaments our children have made are special. LED Christmas lights finish off our eco-tree. When Christmas is over we put the tree outside near the bird feeder where it provides some shelter for the birds and other animals who visit the feeding station.

To help prevent our tree from quickly drying out, this year we are trying out two automatic tree watering systems available at Lee Valley – "Santa's Solution Auto-Stop watering system" and the "Christmas Tree Automatic Waterer" which uses a 2-litre plastic soda bottle (not included.)

CC Witness

www.ccrane.com

For those who enjoy technology there is the "CC Witness" from C. Crane Company. This quality little device is an MP3 recorder-player with built-in AM/FM radio that allows you to record and store radio programs, lectures and music. It has a built-in calendar and an alarm clock. It comes with an FM antenna, stereo earbuds and a USB charger/connector cable. You can also purchase the "CC Witness Accessory Kit" which includes a charging cradle, an AC adapter and a silicone cover for added protection.



Solid Brass Thermometer

To give you an accurate reading of how cold it will be at the lake this winter you might want to put a solid brass thermometer near your cottage. This quality thermometer includes an alcohol-filled indicator that can be read in both Celsius and Fahrenheit. The bracket holds the thermometer out from the wall for easy viewing.

Old-Fashioned Cookie Cutters

Another quality item from Lee Valley, and one which you can put to good use this holiday season, are the Old-Fashioned Cookie Cutters which include six festive designs: star, candy cane, Santa Claus, tree, angel and bell. The cutters are made of aluminum with wooden handles.

All products (except CC Witness) available at www.leevalley.com

I have grown 50 to 60 catalpa and honey locust trees which were planted around our property. While all trees have their benefits, native trees and plants are vital. In his book *Growing Trees from Seed* Henry Kock covers a wealth of knowledge pertaining to growing trees from seed including chapters on searching for seeds, preparing and planting seeds, "Restoring the Landscape" and much more.

Maintaining, and in some cases restoring, the environment with native trees and other plants is vital and *Growing Trees from Seed* is a wonderful resource to help achieve this goal.

Owls of North America

Frances Backhouse, Firefly Books

2008, 215 pages ISBN: 9781554073429

Owls of North America by Frances Backhouse is a very informative book about owls including looking at the 23 species found in North America. The profiles provide information on such subjects as: appearance, voice, roosting sites, distribution, habitat, feeding, breeding, migration and conservation. Distribution maps are also included. Seventy beautiful colour photographs complement Backhouse's informative and interesting text.

Cranes: A Natural History of a Bird in Crisis

Janice M. Hughes, Firefly Books

2008, 256 pages ISBN: 9781554073436

Cranes: A Natural History of a Bird in Crisis is a beautiful book about a beautiful bird and, unfortunately, a threatened one. According to author Janice M. Hughes,

"Cranes are among the most severely threatened of all bird families. Virtually all 15 species have suffered significant reductions in their geographic distributions and population numbers."

Hughes looks at the natural history of cranes as well as the decline of Whooping Cranes along with their modest recovery - including some of those responsible for helping to bring this tenacious bird back from the brink of extinction. Hughes includes the work done by pilots Joe Duff and Bill Lishman who have helped to establish a migratory population of Whooping Cranes in the United States.

After providing a detailed look at the plight of cranes in recent history, including the Whooping Cranes' increase in numbers, Hughes looks at 15 species of cranes.

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You can look for more information on the Transport Canada website at: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety/oc-faq.htm#3-1>

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1. Provide the dispatcher with this number
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Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

- _____
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**Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association
2009 Membership Renewal**

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

Rob Slykhuis - Treasurer
54 Tinatawa Court,
Kitchener, Ontario
N2A 3H1



**Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association
2009 Dock Permit Decal**

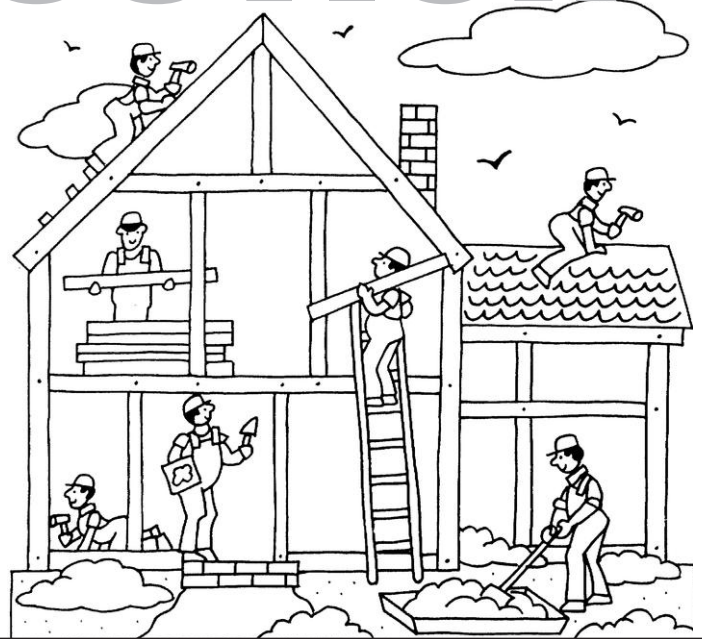
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(Please return this form with your cheque as soon as possible - \$30.00 per boat)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Number of boats @ \$30 each: _____

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