

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

— SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER —



During the Fall and Winter months, your Executive has been actively working on several issues. This is an update on those items.

Four Directors, Andy Vurma, and I met with two representatives of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) on November 22, 2008 to discuss with them the high water levels that occurred on Wahwashkesh during 2008. Steve Taylor and Nick Paroschy both provided us with valuable insights into how the water levels on the Magnetawan River system are managed and listened to our concerns.

As a result, a partnership agreement has been struck. Please see Andy Vurma's articles for the results of this meeting. The agreement does not preclude future high water levels on Wahwashkesh but does give us and the OMNR the ability to forecast these events and advise cottagers when they may occur.

The fireproof filing cabinet has been purchased and should be installed in the Grange by the time you are reading this. Already I have received three boxes of archival material. If you have historical records of the Wahwashkesh Conservation Association or historical material concerning the surrounding area that you wish to have sorted and filed in this central repository, please contact me. The Executive are looking for an archivist or someone with record management experience to sort through the material that is donated and file it. Anyone who is interested in working on this project, please contact one of the Executive.

I am pleased to announce that Ed Bennett Sr. has agreed to be the Wahwashkesh Conservation Association representative on the Magnetawan River Watershed Association. Ed's knowledge of the area and his work on the Magnetawan River Operating System project for the OMNR will stand him in good stead for this position. Thanks Ed.

Back in the Fall your Executive was asked to write a letter of support for the Municipality of Whitestone in their bid to obtain funding from Building Canada Fund for a reconstruction project for the Bunny Trail. A letter of support was written and recently I received a thank you letter

from Chris Armstrong, Mayor of the Municipality. The Municipality of Whitestone has been approved to receive \$926,123.⁰⁰ from the Building Canada Fund and, with the municipal portion of \$463,061.⁰⁰, the total cost of the reconstruction project is \$1,389,184.⁰⁰. Construction is due to begin in June 2009 and be completed in September 2009. The reconstruction is expected to greatly improve ratepayer and visitor safety.

On behalf of the members of the Association, I would like to thank all the Directors for their hard work and dedication of time and talents that has occurred over the Winter. Thank you!

I would also like to express a special note of appreciation and thanks to Andy Vurma for all his work on the water monitoring system. Andy has guided the Executive carefully through the initial stages including the meeting with the OMNR last Fall and has been instrumental in the purchase, preparation of the cost-sharing agreement, and installation of the permanent monitoring station. Mere words cannot express our gratitude and thanks properly. Thanks Andy!

Best wishes to all for a safe, happy, and healthy Summer.

Don Comrie, President

New Water Monitoring Station for Wahwashkesh

In partnership with the MNR, the Association is installing a new water level monitoring station in Bennett's Bay, to provide direct information regarding lake water levels. The data from the current water level logger is downloaded infrequently, whereas the new station will provide "real time" data allowing the height of Lake Wahwashkesh to be known daily.

Although the MNR attempts to moderate inflows of water into our lake, there is currently no way for the MNR to directly measure the impact of releasing water upstream into the Magnetawan River on the level of Lake Wahwashkesh. This new station will now provide this capability. The data gathered (water level, lake temperature, air temperature and rainfall)

will be available to the MNR daily and will also be seen through the Association's website for the benefit of our members.

The MNR and the Association have agreed on a cost sharing arrangement whereby the MNR has contributed a one-time payment of \$2,000 and the Association has paid \$1,400 that includes the first year's cost of the cellular communications needed to make this station operational. Subsequent yearly cellular fees will be about \$400 and will be paid by the Association.

All of this equipment has been purchased and we are in the process of installing it. The expectation is that this new monitoring station will be operating by the Victoria Holiday weekend on May 18, 2009. A big THANK YOU goes out to Ed and Cathy Bennett who have volunteered to build the enclosure for the monitoring station. Also they will be providing the station with AC power.

The partnership with the MNR is for an initial period of about 2 years during which time the relationship between upstream water releases and the level of Lake Wahwashkesh will be monitored. The Association has also agreed to consult with lake residents to determine the levels at which high water is a concern.



Start of installation of monitoring station equipment in box built by Ed Bennett Jr.

A review of the data and the input from lake residents on high water levels of concern will take place at the end of the initial period. The Association would then expect the MNR to formally establish water level thresholds for Lake Wahwashkesh as part of the Magnetawan River Operating Plan.

Andy Vurma

Your Input is Needed on High Water Levels

With the establishment of the new water level monitoring station, the Association needs your input to determine the levels at which high water is a concern.

Once we have agreement on these high water levels, the new water monitoring station would be set to automatically send out an alarm message to the MNR. Then the MNR has agreed to limit the release of water upstream, when possible. We are asking for your input on the high water levels that would be of concern to you during each of the seasons listed below.

The **cottage season** (mid May to mid Oct) is when most people use their cottage. The lowest level of the lake is when it drops to the sill of the dam and can be considered as zero feet. If the lake rises to the height of Bennett's store dock concrete abutment or to the height of either of the public docks, then the lake has risen one metre or about three feet above the sill of the dam.

The **spring season** (March to mid May) is when the snow melts, the ice on the lake disappears (typically in the 3rd week of April) and spring rains are abundant. The lake experiences the "spring freshet" with significantly increased inflows of water. In 1998, this was very dramatic as the lake level rose about 15 feet higher than the dam. Warm temperatures, melting snow, and heavy rains along the whole Magnetawan River watershed caused this 100-year event!

The **fall season** (mid Oct to mid Dec) is when the weather gets colder. There are increased rains, which turn into snowfalls, and the lake begins to freeze over. This is a time of year when we see an influx of hunters for moose and deer. Most cottagers have closed their places for the winter by mid October, whereas hunting continues into November.

The **winter season** (mid Dec to Mar) is when the lake has frozen over and heavy snowfalls and very cold temperatures are common. Depending on the thickness of the lake ice, snowmobiles travel across the lake as part of the many trails in the area. But it is also possible to have higher lake levels in January! For instance in January 2008, rain and warm temperatures caused our Lake to rise 7.5 feet higher than the dam.

Please fill out the yellow form attached to this Newsletter and send it to:

**Treasurer - Rob Slykhuis,
54 Tinatawa Court, Kitchener, Ontario, N2A 3H1
as soon as you can.**

From your perspective, please provide the height of water above the dam that is of concern to you during each of the four seasons. Provide your input in the following format...

"I feel that lake water levels higher than the following would be of concern to me:

- During the cottage season '___' feet or more above the dam;
- During the spring '___' feet or more above the dam;
- During the fall '___' feet or more above the dam; and,
- During the winter '___' feet or more above the dam".

Please explain each choice.

This will be an agenda item at our AGM on Saturday August 1st.

Andy Vurma



John Bray installing the air temperature gauge on May 5



Andy Vurma, John Bray, and Phil Bywater.
Installation crew plus Don Comrie on May 5



Rain measuring unit held by John Bray

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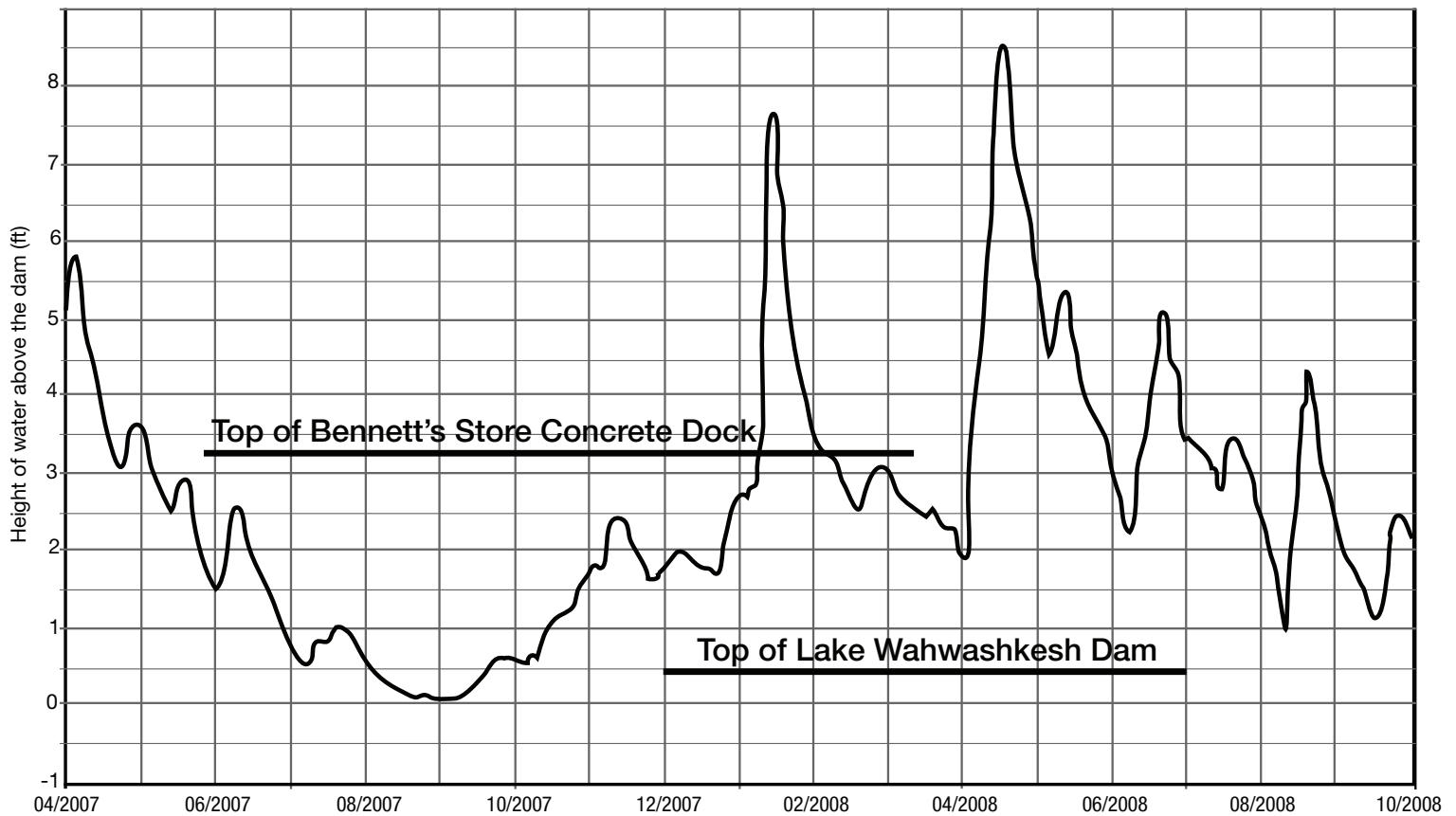
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To the Dump, to the Dump, to the Dump, Dump, Dump!

There are possible misconceptions among Lake Wahwashkesh cottagers about what actually happens to the refuse we take to the Auld's Road Landfill Site. I talked at length to Floyd Thomson, the Facilities Manager for the Municipality of Whitestone, to gain an understanding of the realities of where everything goes - and why.

Our Auld's Road landfill site has a limited lifespan. Once the limit for the site is reached, as determined by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of the Environment, the site may be considered for expansion or will be shut down completely. The township leases the site from the MNR under five-year contracts and it is never certain that there will be a renewal, depending on the health of the site, among other considerations. The cost of opening a new site would be a huge burden for taxpayers, and would take time to develop. Having to use a "transfer station" in the meantime would also be extremely expensive. It is in all of our best interests to extend the life of our current site in the best condition possible. *How do we do that?*

First of all of course, we all know that cutting down on what we dispose of in the first place is a no-brainer. Use rags for cleaning, cloth napkins rather than paper, china rather than disposable plates, and buy products that have as little packaging as possible and can be used over and over - it all just makes sense. But reality dictates that there is bound to be some "refuse" from day to day life.

Compost your vegetable matter if at all possible, well away from your dwelling, remembering that animals are most likely to be attracted to meat or to sweet foods. The resulting composted matter is rich in nutrients for your garden and for the forest itself. Floyd says, "What comes from the ground should go

back to the ground" - a good mantra.

So, what happens to our current recycling and garbage?

1. It seems that much of our cottage furniture, including appliances, has migrated from our homes in an already tired state and then eventually find its end-of-life time, not at our home landfill sites but at the cottage area dump. Such big bulky items are piled to one side and then trucked to the big McDougall Landfill Site near Parry Sound. Of course, there is a cost associated with that process.

2. Clean lumber and brush get burned on site. Painted or pressure-treated wood cannot be safely burned because of the potentially toxic results and must also be shipped to the McDougall Site.

3. Scrap metal from the big bin on the right of the driveway is loaded up and shipped to a scrap dealer in Parry Sound at no cost to us. This metal is not being buried - not taking up valuable space in our landfill and is being re-used! Scrap metal prices fluctuate greatly, but even when the prices are down, the dealer has not charged us for removal.

4. Our big recycling bins on the left, the ones where we all stop to visit with our friendly and always helpful landfill technician, Bob, are also helping to postpone the need for a new or bigger landfill site. The cardboard and paper products go into one side of the bin and the remaining recyclable items - glass, aluminum, and plastic go into the other side. Muskoka Containerized Service picks up the full bin and drops off an empty one about once every week to a week and a half in the busy summer months. The items are all sorted and recycled in Bracebridge. The prices for the end products fluctuate - sometimes the market is high but also sometimes

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low. There is a cost to us for this service also.

5. The remaining garbage is compacted, bull-dozed and covered in sand brought in for this purpose. Depending on how busy the season, this takes place from seven to twelve times per summer.

This system is the most cost-effective method of dealing with what we think of as "garbage" from our cottages. Our most pressing need is not just to save taxpayer dollars by prolonging the life of our current landfill site, but to be environmental stewards for our area.

Floyd Thomson made it clear that any written suggestions for improvement to the system would be welcome. You can reach him by email: facilities.manager@whitestone.ca.

I thank him for his input here, and I also thank Liliane Nolan, the Chief Administrative Officer, for reviewing the piece for details.

Lynn Abbott-Lennox
lynnal@rogers.com

Lake Plan Project

Your Lake Plan Committee has been working over the winter assembling information that could be used if the Lake Plan Project is approved and it is our intention to make a presentation at the Annual Meeting on August 1st.

We have collected some interesting historical documents and other general information about WWK but we are sure that there are more out there that would be useful to us so if you have any we would be pleased to hear from you. We would also welcome additional volunteers to our committee.

Your input is most welcome.

John Bray,
Lake Plan Committee

Do You Pass the Gas Test Before Leaving The Dock?

The age of innocence is over. To keep yourself and your passengers safe, do not leave the dock before checking the contents of your boat's gas tank. Running out of gas part way across the lake is an inconvenience at best and life-threatening at worst.

Late October, my husband and son-in-law went to Wahwashkesh to prepare for the annual deer hunt. Our is a water-access location, so the boats were taken to the landing with full gas tanks in readiness.

Alas! On their arrival the second week in November, they began the trip across the lake with two loaded boats. After leaving Bennett's Bay, both outboards sputtered - *the gas had been stolen*. Oh well, that's a theft of only \$40 or \$50, right? Wrong! In November, most cottages are boarded up and temperatures are dangerously cold. What if it had been night or storming or a punishing wind? How quickly a survival situation could have developed.

Ken Hayward offered assistance. But one of the boats had been coaxed to our dock where fuel was replenished. It then rescued the other boat with my husband and grandson aboard.

"Once upon a time..." we could leave our boats, gas, cars at the landing with confidence. There is now a fine line between trusting and naive, between innocent and stupid. To play it safe, we will no longer jump in the boat and depart before **passing the gas test!**

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

Jacquelyn Morgan



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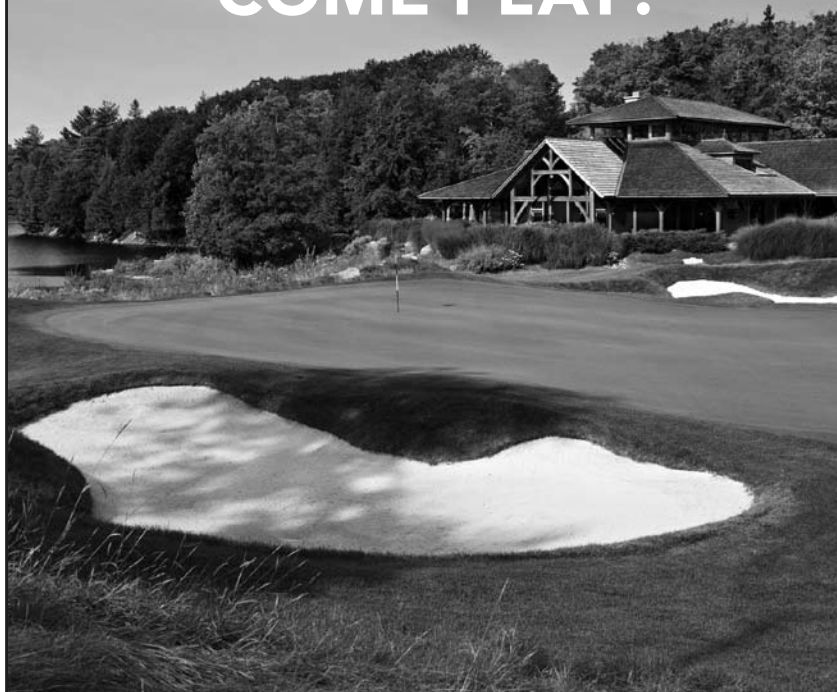
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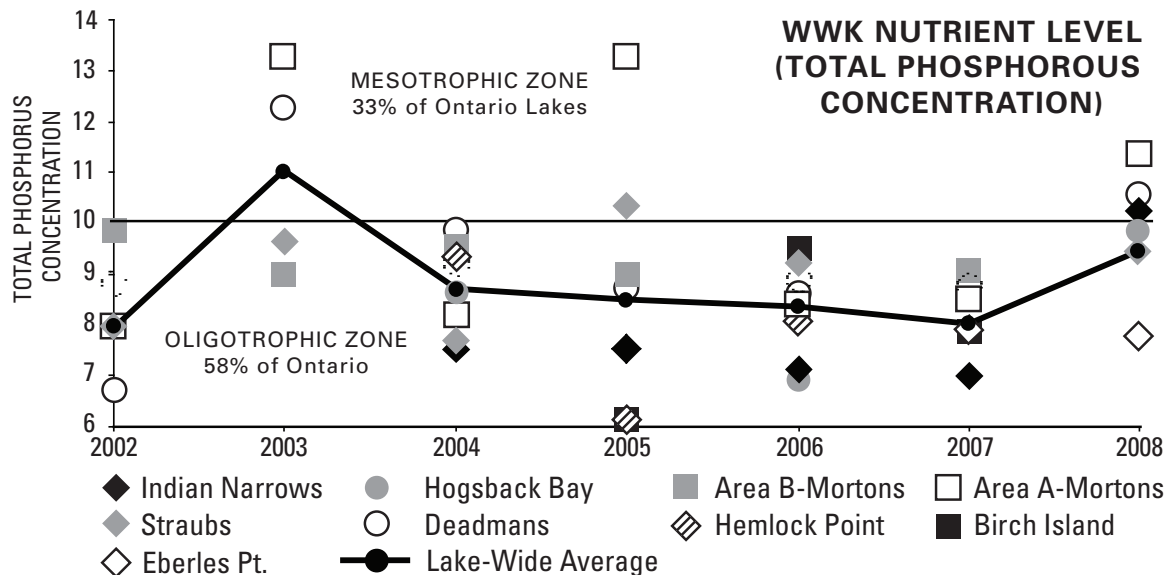
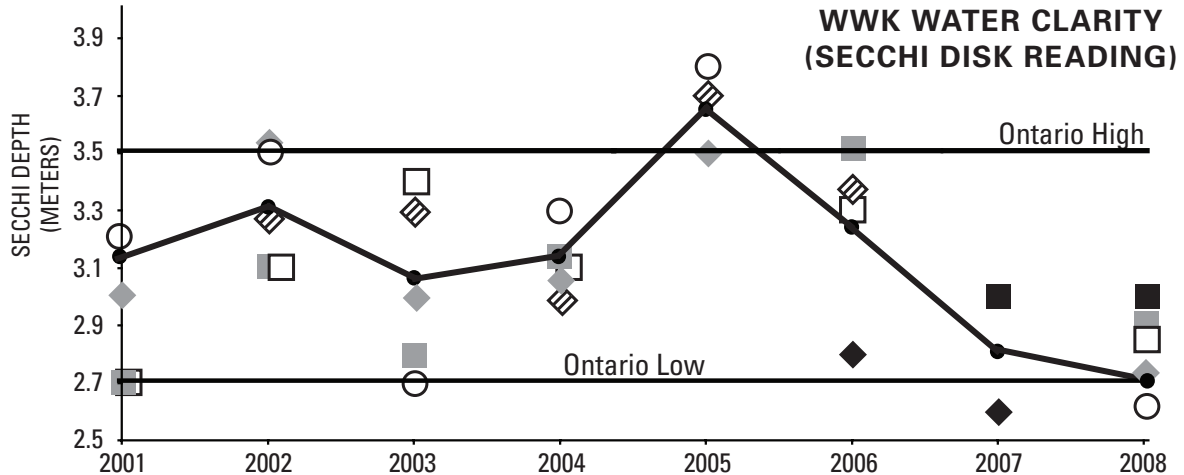
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Lake Partner Program Update

Average Total Phosphorous readings were at a 5-year high for 2008. Correspondingly, average Water Clarity readings were at an all time low. This is most likely due to the above average rainfall we had in 2008. Beverly Clark of the MNR had indicated that for a lake like ours, the largest factor effecting Phosphorous levels and Water Clarity would be the amount of run-off. Rain and melt-water leach Phosphorous and other substances out of the soil and deliver it to the lake basin.

Pat Ferris



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West Parry Sound Health Centre

The Association has received a request from the West Parry Sound Health Centre for donations which will be used to continue the process of setting up EMPI, the provincial Enterprise Master Index which is a continuation of the electronic health record system. Since the West Parry Sound Health Centre is the only emergency department on Highway 400 between Barrie and Sudbury, its importance is evident. Please support the West Parry Sound Health Centre as you deem appropriate. Your Executive will be discussing at a later date if we will recommend at the AGM that a donation be sent on behalf of the Association. Thank you.

Don Comrie, President

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

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The West Parry Sound Health Centre is purchasing an integrated digital system that will save time and save lives by providing quick access to crucial patient information.

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Please Help Us Help You: The West Parry Sound Health Centre has secured grants from both the federal and provincial governments to offset the cost of installing EHR. But to bring this medical info highway from dream to reality, we need to raise \$1,000,000. This can't be done without your help.

Donations can be made through:

Website: www.wpshec.com

Mailing Address:

The West Parry Sound Health Centre Foundation
6 Albert Street, Parry Sound, Ontario, P2A 3A4
Phone: 705-746-4540 ext 3348

Toll Free: 1-888-262-0436

Email: cknox@wpshec.com

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General Inquiries or donate by phone:

Cathy Knox, Financial & Administrative Officer
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Royal Wah Wash Kesh Hotel

Lila and Edward Clinton Bennett were not looking ahead 100 years when they opened the Royal Wah Wash Kesh Hotel in early 1909. They had property on Ahmic Lake for such an enterprise, but when the railway reached Ardbeg (then Deer Lake Station) in 1906, they were persuaded by Lila's father Almerin Truax to build near his summer fishing camp located on the eastern tip of Bennett's Bay.

It was a tremendous undertaking – no cars, no trucks, and no power, not even much in the way of roads. Lumber was hauled from Robertson's mill near Ardbeg and McAmmond's mill north of Maple Island in the winter on horse drawn sleighs. Most other supplies not made on site were brought by train to Ardbeg and by water and horse drawn wagon to the building site.

The original hotel was a three storey frame structure set on cedar posts and large flat stones. On the first floor there was a large kitchen, a dining room for seventy people and a large common area with a large stone fireplace. In one corner of the common room was a small office which sold cigarettes and candy. It was also a summer post office; Wah Wash Kesh had its own postal stamp in those days. On the two upper floors there were rooms for about fifty guests. When the main construction was complete, beds and other furniture were ordered from the T. Eaton Co. in Toronto. They were

shipped to another Deer Lake in North Western Ontario and a small panic ensued until they could be located and returned. That, in part, would explain why the family has an ongoing

interesting stories to tell about the baggage and about the trip to the hotel. If we could only know.

Fishing was the main activity and row boats were the order of the day. There were a couple of small (three to five horsepower) power boats and one steam launch. In the morning they would tie all the row boats together and tow them out to whatever spot they wanted to fish. They were left for the day and picked up with their catch in the late afternoon. It would be interesting to note that the fisherman would not be returning to a cocktail hour. Lila had strong temperance beliefs and there would be no alcohol in her hotel – if she knew about it.

Much has changed, including the fishing. Four generations have continued the business, each making changes to fit the times. Many good and enduring friendships have been made and many happy years spent here. What does the future bring? Another hundred years? We hope so and look forward to it with interest and happiness.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



commitment to have the lake known as Wah Wash Kesh and not Deer Lake.

Most guests travelled by train in the early days. They would be met at Ardbeg, transported down Gooseneck lake, across a portage with a horse and wagon to Wah Wash Kesh and then by steam launch to the hotel. Since this was not a quick trip, most people came for a stay of three weeks or a month and arrived at the Ardbeg station with steamer trunks and all manners of strange baggage, I imagine there would be some



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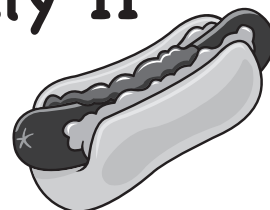
- Powered watercraft includes watercraft fitted with any size motor – even a trolling motor
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You can look for more information on the
Transport Canada website at:
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety/oc-faq.htm#3-1>

Event Calendar 2009

Saturday, July 11
Wiener Roast
4pm – Straubs Beach
(Raindate: Sunday, July 12, 3-5pm)

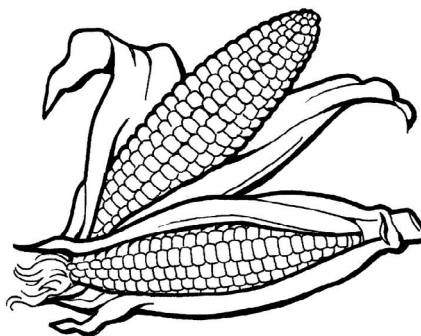


Saturday, August 1
Annual Meeting
9:30am – Bennett's Barn

Saturday, August 15
Corn Roast

4pm –
Straubs Beach

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



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Book Reviews by N. Glenn Perrett

Birds of North America

Francois Vuilleumier, editor-in-chief
Dorling Kindersley, 2009, 744 pages
ISBN: 9781553631033

If you are looking for a good bird identification book that you can carry around in the field, this isn't it. But, if you want a substantial "bird book" filled with beautiful photographs, range maps and information then *Birds of North America* may be for you.

Birds of North America contains more than 650 bird species. Some of the features covered for each species include: description of the species; voice; nesting; feeding; length, wingspan and weight; lifespan; status; flight patterns; maps and much more. Short chapters on topics such as evolution, anatomy and flight, migration, courtship and mating, nesting and eggs and identification are both interesting and informative.

The section on "Species Guide" looks at 27 groups of birds ("654 most commonly seen birds in the North American region") from loons, rails and cranes to owls, wood-warblers and woodpeckers. "Rare Species" looks at more than "60 less common birds". There is also a list of "Vagrants" – those species "that occur only very rarely in North America."

The book finishes with an informative glossary. *Birds of North America* is an impressive reference guide for anyone who likes these incredible animals.

Animal Life

Dr. Charlotte Uhlenbroek, editor-in-chief
Dorling Kindersley, 2008, 512 pages
ISBN: 9780756639860

A good reference book on animals is *Animal Life*. Full of photographs of fascinating animals, *Animal Life* covers many topics in the areas of "Animal Kingdom" (i.e. evolution, animal history, animal groups), "Animal Anatomy" (i.e. skeletons and muscles, body coverings, senses) and "Animal Behavior" (i.e. living space, defense, society, communication, intelligence).

A detailed glossary complements the information throughout the book making this a good reference book for students of all ages.

Frogs

Nic Bishop, Scholastic Nonfiction, 2008, 48 pgs
ISBN: 9780439877558, (ages 7+)

Children of all ages will enjoy soaking up the information provided in *Frogs*. For example, did you know that "Frogs are found on every continent except Antarctica"? Were you aware that the frog's tongue "is coated with sticky mucus and shoots forward with deadly aim to snatch prey"? Another interesting piece of information about these amphibians is that "About half of a frog's bones are in its feet".

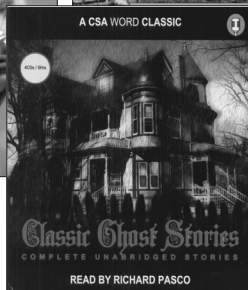
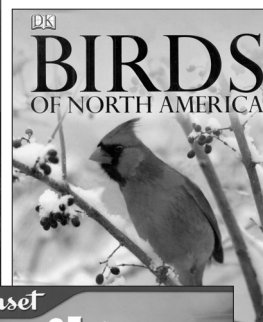
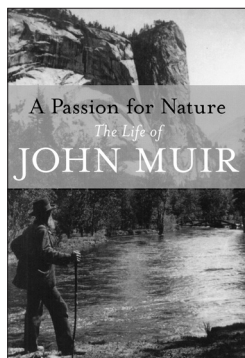
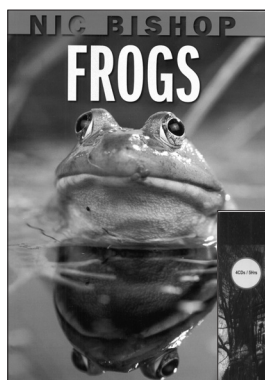
Children will love learning about frogs with the interesting information and striking, colour photographs -

and parents will enjoy learning along with them. A glossary of terms at the back of the book helps parents explain some important words in the book.

DIY Quick Fix: Over 100 Helpful Tips and Techniques for Repairing and Improving Your Home

Julian Cassell, Peter Parham, Jon Eakes
Dorling Kindersley, 2008, 160 pages
ISBN: 9781553630968

If you own a home or cottage "do it yourself" books can be valuable. *DIY Quick Fix: Over 100 Helpful Tips and Techniques for Repairing and Improving Your Home* is full of repair projects divided into sections on "Alterations and Repairs", "Kitchens and Bathrooms", "Decorating and Finishing", "Outdoor Repairs", "Electrics" and "Plumbing and Heating". The book lays flat so it is easy to follow the instructions which are complemented by colour illustrations.



Good DIY Information from Sunset Books

Sunset Books have just published numerous books for those who like to do the work themselves including:

Built-Ins (ISBN: 9780376011176),
Trimwork (ISBN: 9780376012708),
Tiling (ISBN: 9780376016805) and
Wiring (ISBN: 9780376015969).

My wife Lynn just finished making beautiful pine book cases surrounding a bay window in our home. A bench in front of the window provides useful storage space. With *Built-Ins* we are getting more ideas for our home and cottage. Lynn has also been creating some of the trim in our cottage so *Trimwork* will also be a valuable reference guide for us. And while we don't plan on doing any electrical or tile work ourselves, the books *Tiling* and *Wiring* are also good to have on hand.

Encyclopedia of Space

Heather Couper and Nigel Henbest
Dorling Kindersley, 1999, 2009, 304 pages
ISBN: 978075665157

Lake Wahwashkesh is an ideal spot to watch the universe and a good reference book is the revised and updated *Encyclopedia of Space*. The book is divided into sections on: Observing the Universe, Exploring Space, Planets and Moons, The Stars, Galaxies and Beyond and Practical Stargazing. Whether you want to learn about Mars, the moon, the Earth, black holes or comets you'll find interesting information, complemented by quality photographs and diagrams.

Totality: Eclipses of the Sun (Third Edition)

Mark Littmann, Fred Espenak, Ken Willcox
Oxford University Press, 2008, 341 pages
ISBN: 9780199532094

Totality: Eclipses of the Sun takes a fascinating look at eclipses of the sun including what causes a total solar eclipse, monuments testifying to earlier civilizations' knowledge of astronomy, "Anatomy of the Sun" as well as other topics including capturing an eclipse on video. This interesting guide looks at past, present and future eclipses. Lots of stunning photographs.

Bath Party! Bathtime Book and Puppets

illustrated by Simms Taback
Blue Apple Books, 2009,
12 pages
ISBN: 9781934706305, all ages

Teaching children about the importance of books doesn't have to end at bathtime. *Bath Party!* is a fun, waterproof book that encourages children to "swish like a fish", "bark

like a seal" and "wiggle like an eel". The waterproof pages contain simple text and colourful illustrations of many animals including a lobster, a frog, an octopus and a penguin. Also included are two frog puppets, one adult size and one for a child, that allows parents to play with their children at bathtime.

SpongeBob Goes Green! An Earth-Friendly Adventure!

Molly Reisner, illustrated by Stephen Reed
Simon Spotlight, 2009, 24 pages
ISBN: 9781416949855, ages 6+

Residents of Bikini Bottom get a lesson on global warming when Mr. Krabs gets SpongeBob to release more carbon dioxide so that it will become hotter and more people will want to use Mr. Krabs latest investment – a pool for paying customers. By releasing

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.

greenhouse gases, SpongeBob and Patrick endanger Bikini Bottom forcing residents to leave. Fortunately, by planting trees and conserving energy the residents of Bikini Bottom are able to restore the health of their community.

Classic Ghost Stories

read by Richard Pasco
CSA Word, 2009, 4 CDs
ISBN: 9781934997185,
ages 14+

A good ghost story goes well at the cottage – or even on the trip to the cottage and the 4-CD audio book *Classic Ghost Stories* contains 11, unabridged stories read by Richard Pasco. The haunting stories in this collection are: "The Judges House" (Bram Stoker), "Dracula's Guest" (Bram Stoker), "To Be Taken with a Grain of Salt" (Charles Dickens), "The Upper Birth" (F. Marion Crawford), "Who Knows?" (Guy de Maupassant), "The Furnished Room" (O. Henry), "The Open Window" (Saki), "My Own True Ghost Story" (Rudyard Kipling), "Called" (P.C. Wren) and "When I was Dead" (Vincent O' Sullivan).

A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir

Donald Worster
Oxford University Press,
2008, 535 pages
ISBN: 9780195166828

A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir is an interesting biography about a fascinating person and environmentalist from his birth in 1838 to his death in 1914. You will learn about the many positive things that Muir did for the planet including helping to establish Yosemite as a National Park, founding the Sierra Club and promoting the importance and protection of the environment. Complemented with interesting photographs, *A Passion for Nature* is a good book about an important environmentalist.

The Original Waspinator (www.leevalley.com)

Last summer I was stung three times at the cottage. I was stung again at the beginning of November when I was refinishing a door at home. Not wanting to harm the wasps who are only protecting their homes and not wanting to use toxic chemicals either, I opted for an eco-friendly, humane alternative. My brother told me about the Waspinator which he claims works so I've decided to give it a try (I'll let you know how it goes.)

Since wasps are territorial, hanging a Waspinator can discourage them from staying in a specific area. You can hang the fake wasp nest outside your cottage, down at the dock or take it with you on picnics.



Eco-Futon Bed from Bowers (www.bowers.com)

Our dogs' comfort is important. And, this comfort doesn't have to be too costly to the environment. Bowers Pet Products have a new dog bed that will keep your canine companions happy while ensuring that you keep your carbon footprint to a minimum.

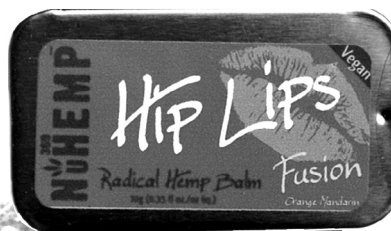
Bowers Eco-Futon is a simple, comfortable dog bed made from "eco-tech" polar fleece. Our dogs, Duchess and Gracie, tried out the extra large (28"x42"x3") bed. "Eco-tech" fleece is made from "post consumer recycled pop bottles" and, according to Bowers, this particular bed diverts more than 30 plastic bottles from landfills. Besides the warm, comfy "eco-tech" fleece, the bed

features rugged waterproof nylon on the bottom.

Eco-Futon beds are easily cleaned by washing and drying the bed on cool settings.

Tabletop Tarp (www.leevalley.com)

When I start growing vegetables indoors in April I often make a mess and I can also get the tables where I'm working messy and wet. This spring I discovered the "Tabletop Tarp" which consists of polypropylene and "sidewalls" to keep



the mess inside the tarp. This mini tarp is ideal for potting plants, making models (during raining days at the lake) and other potentially messy tasks.

NuHemp Hip Lips (www.nuhemp.com)

Being environmentally friendly isn't just about the eco-products that you use around the house and cottage, it also applies to personal care products. Hemp is a very green, renewable plant that contains essential fatty acids, antioxidants and other good things. Located in Guelph, Ontario NuHemp makes four lip balms from natural ingredients such as

hemp seed oil, sunflower oil, mango butter and grapeseed oil. Avail in four flavours, these hemp balms are "made with certified organic ingredients".

Lights from C. Crane Company (www.ccrane.com)

We've been using some of C. Crane's LED light bulbs for several years. Not only have we been pleased with them, but all still work. A new light bulb from C. Crane Company is the "GeoBulb LED Light Bulb". This light bulb (for indoor use) is expensive, but consider what this eco-bulb does. GeoBulbs put out as much light as most 60-Watt incandescent light bulbs, yet they use less than 8 Watts of power. This results in considerable savings to run Geobulbs. According to the box the bulb comes in, based on running a bulb 12 hours/day for a year at 12.1¢/KwH, a GeoBulb only costs \$3.97 compared to \$6.89 for a CFL bulb and \$31.80 for an incandescent bulb. GeoBulbs come in 3 styles with the equivalent of 40 (Warm White), 50 (Soft White) and 60 (Cool White) Watts – each using 7.5 Watts. The bulbs, which give off a nice light, do not contain mercury or lead and have a "30,000-hour life span"!

An inexpensive handy device is the "Photon X-Light Micro Keychain Light" from C. Crane Company.

This small LED light attaches to your keychain and features a glow-in-the-dark button, brightness control and safety features – including four safety beacons (slow, medium, fast and SOS). This light is good for emergency situations and for finding the car or door key holes in the dark (no need to leave annoying porch lights on when you go out at night!)



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Membership Drive Update

With the goal of increasing our membership the last newsletter was sent to our complete database, including past and present members. A letter was included asking for previous members to think about coming back on board. First I would like to apologize to any of you who are members but received the letter anyway. There was no intent to accuse you of not having paid up you were just caught up in the general mailer. I will say that the response so far to our membership drive seems to be positive. We did receive 2009 renewals from past members who hadn't renewed in 2008. We even received a couple of payments for 2008 renewals as well. So thank you. There were also a number of returned envelopes so we will use this to amend our list for future mailings.

In total we now have over 100 memberships paid for 2009. This is a great start and I'm confident that after the spring newsletter we will increase our total members beyond the 2008 total. Please do your best to get your renewals in, and of course dock permits, to help keep our association relevant.

Rob Slykhuis, Treasurer



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Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association Memorial Scholarship

The 2009 Scholarship is in Memory of *Duncan Ritter Robertson*

The applicant must be a secondary school graduate planning to pursue the first year in a post-secondary program with an emphasis in an environmental field. The applicant must be in the immediate family (spouse, child, grandchild) of a current member of the Wahwashkesh Conservation Association

The 2009 scholarship amount is \$500.00

Applicant's Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Full Address: _____

Cottage Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Name, cottage address, and your relationship to a current member of WWKCA: _____

What career do you hope to pursue? _____

To which college or university and in which program have you been accepted? _____

Why have you selected this school and this program? _____

Outline your interests and involvements in environmental affairs: _____

Signature of applicant: _____

***Please note that the application deadline is June 30, 2009. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

**Please note that the award will be granted only upon receipt of proof of enrollment in your program of studies as of commencement of classes in September 2009.

Regulations for Scholarship Application

1. The application must be completed on the reverse form.
2. The Scholarship will be awarded to the candidate who best qualifies under these headings:
 - a) Academic achievement
 - b) Academic goals
 - c) Environmental involvement
 - d) Lake Wahwashkesh Conservation Association membership connection
3. A committee of two Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh CA directors along with a member or delegate of the family of Duncan Robertson will select the recipient. There will be only one recipient.
4. The Scholarship may not be deferred and must be applied to the education costs at the college or university and in the program stated in the application, and in the year in which the scholarship is awarded.
5. Should the applicant's circumstances change and affect the applicant's eligibility for an award, the onus is on the applicant to inform the President of the Association.
6. The applicant's secondary school official academic transcript must be included with this application.
7. A letter of reference from a member of the staff at the applicant's secondary school that supports the applicant's academic and environmental involvement must be submitted along with this application.
8. The completed application should be addressed to:
Scholarship Committee
Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association
c/o Lynn Abbott-Lennox
55 Museum Dr. #607
Orillia, Ontario L3V 7T9

Documentation Check-list

- Completed application form
- Official academic transcript
- Reference letter

Clip these forms. 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
-

**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
-

**Wahwashkesh 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



**Wahwashkesh Conservation Association
2009 Dock Permit Decal**

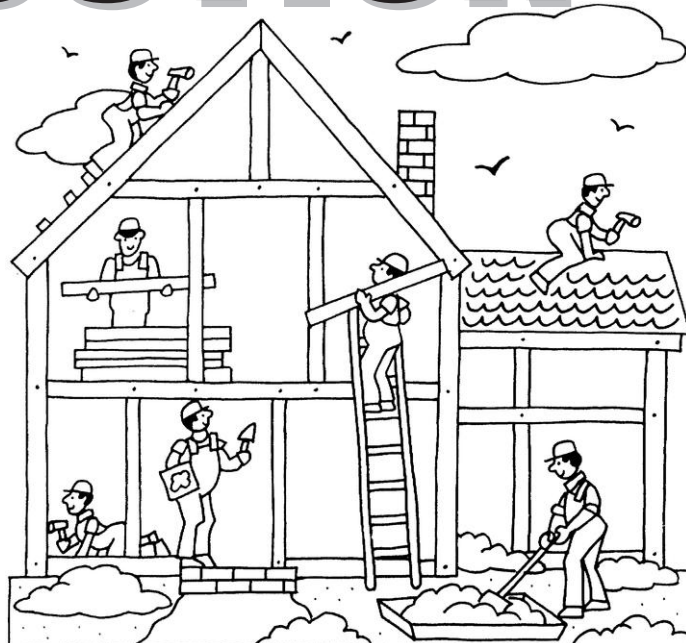
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tear it off & MAIL it and your cheque to:

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

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Name: _____

Home Address: _____ Lake 911 Address: _____

Telephone: () _____ CB Handle: _____

Cottage Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

2009 Memberships for the following individuals in your household @ \$35 each:

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

2009 DOCK PERMIT DECALS - for all Indian Narrows Dock & Bennett's Bay Dock users (Please return this form with your cheque as soon as possible - \$30.00 per boat)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Number of boats @ \$30 each: _____

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