

# Lake Wahwashkesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

— SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER —



So far Wahwashkesh has experienced one of the nicest springs in a long time. The ice went out by the end of March and we put a boat in the water on April 2 and went up to the dam. There was a large patch of crystalline ice in the Upper Lake on the Eastern shore but otherwise the Lake was open. This after the summer of 2009 when we enjoyed the sixth wettest and twelfth coldest summer in sixty-two years.

After last year's AGM, Doug Elliott phoned me and suggested that we contact The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to see if the Association could get cheaper insurance for our group. At the Fall Cottage Life Show, I asked a Federation of Cottagers' Association representative if they knew of anybody who issued commercial general insurance for cottager's associations. They referred me to a firm in Mississauga who offer insurance to over 600 cottage and lake, road, nature, and Land Trust Associations. After much discussion and comparison and review by an impartial former insurance broker, I am pleased to tell you that the Executive cancelled the previous insurance and purchased the new policy. This results in improved coverage for Association events plus, Director liability, and saves the Association approximately \$1200.00 per year. Thanks to Doug Elliott for recommending that we investigate alternatives to our former policy.

I am also pleased to advise you that

arrangements to have the dam named "The Andy Vurma Memorial Dam" are proceeding. The Municipality of Whitestone has approved the naming of the dam and a suitable location for the plaque is being determined. The plaque, which will be



*April 2, 2010 – Water over the dam, photo George Comrie*

attached to the rock face on the right-hand side as you go down to the government dock in Bennett's Bay, will be dedicated after the AGM on July 31, 2010. We would like to thank the Bennetts for allowing the Association to attach the plaque to that rock. A luncheon of sandwiches and beverages will be served after the dedication and donations to defray the cost of the lunch will be accepted.

Please also note John Bray's kind words about Bob Musgrave. Bob was well known to many of our Lake and local residents and will be missed.

As we start to think about WWK for another year, please remember to send in your annual dues and purchase dock permits as required. We will be facing major

expenses in the future in regards to docks as described in Dalton Ferris' Dock Report.

In this Newsletter on Page 12 is a short questionnaire from the Magnetawan River Watershed Association. The Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association was one of the first groups to join the MRWA and we have supported it actively since then. Currently, Ed Bennett Sr. is our representative. We are asking all recipients of this Newsletter to take a few minutes and complete the survey. Then follow the directions to submit it either electronically or by mail.

We are also including a copy of "A Guide to Operating and Maintaining Your Septic System". As more and more people enjoy WWK and cottages become more elabo-

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rate and comfortable, there is a need for increased vigilance to maintain the quality of our lake and its water. I encourage everyone to read this pamphlet and keep it for future reference. You may remember that last summer a company from North Bay was prepared to do free water testing in the area by dropping a capsule down the toilet and then looking for dye in the water nearby in a few days. These capsules are available from Near North Laboratories in North Bay for approximately \$40<sup>00</sup>. To contact them, call 705-497-0550 or e-mail them at [www.nearnorthlabs.ca](http://www.nearnorthlabs.ca). Septic inspections and evaluations can also be performed by Ed Bennett Jr.

The Association is still looking for a volunteer to organize the archival material we have collected. By the time you read this, the fireproof filing cabinet should be in Bennett's Barn which will make it more accessible to whoever takes on this task.

On behalf of the Executive, may I wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy Summer!

**Don Comrie, President**

## DOCKS—2010

The Indian Narrows and Bennett's Bay docks will be installed quite early this year. The ice went out early – about April 1st – and the winter was quite mild – the spring run off seemed less than usual.

The docks wintered ok – some minor repairs at Indian Narrows will be done this spring – new tie rails, – repair ladder and I understand the anchor chain needs replacement.

New signs will be installed early this spring at both Bennett's Bay and Indian Narrows docks.

Please buy a permit if you are using either lake access point as we are trying to assemble the funds needed to replace the Indian Narrows docks – within a 5-7 year time horizon.

Be sure and take all your garbage with you and limit your parking at the docks to 2-3 hours at either dock.

If you have concerns and or input please contact any member of the dock committee.

Have a great year at the lake and we look forward to seeing you at the dock.

**Your Dock Committee**  
**Dalton Ferris, John Nelson,**  
**Guy Brunelle, Rod Bennett**

## Travel Advisory

Those of you who use the Bunny Trail should be aware that the re-surfacing was not completed last fall as planned and as a result there are (as of late April) some areas of loose gravel which can catch the unsuspecting driver by surprise!!! Use caution and "keep the shiny side up" Happy motoring.

**John Bray**

## Auld's Road

We regret to inform you that Bob Musgrave died on April 12 after a prolonged battle with cancer.

Those of you who use the Auld's Road Dump Site will remember Bob as the friendly and helpful attendant, recycler, and traffic director for the past several years.

He will be greatly missed for his friendly and caring manner and his wealth of local information.

**John Bray**

## Whitestone Area History Fair

We have been invited to participate in the Whitestone Area History Fair on July 24th, 2010 from 10 am until 3 pm. I have volunteered to put together a display for Lake Wahwashkesh. If any of you have memorabilia to include at the fair, or would be interested in assisting me, I would be grateful. Many of you have an extended history on our lake and could provide fascinating photos, stories and artifacts.

Please do keep the date marked on

your calendar to attend the fair at the Whitestone Community Centre.

**Lynn Abbott-Lennox**  
**lynnal@rogers.com**  
**705 325-4123 or Cottage 389-1445**

## Lake Plan Update

Your committee has worked over the winter to deal with organizational matters in an attempt to have a survey ready for mailing with this newsletter. Unfortunately, this has proven to be somewhat more involved than first imagined and, as a result we continue to wrestle with issues that must be resolved before we proceed further. Hopefully we will have more information to report at the AGM.

With this newsletter you will find a brief survey (on page 12) from the Magnetawan River Watershed Association (of which we are members) and you are encouraged to express your opinion.

**John Bray**





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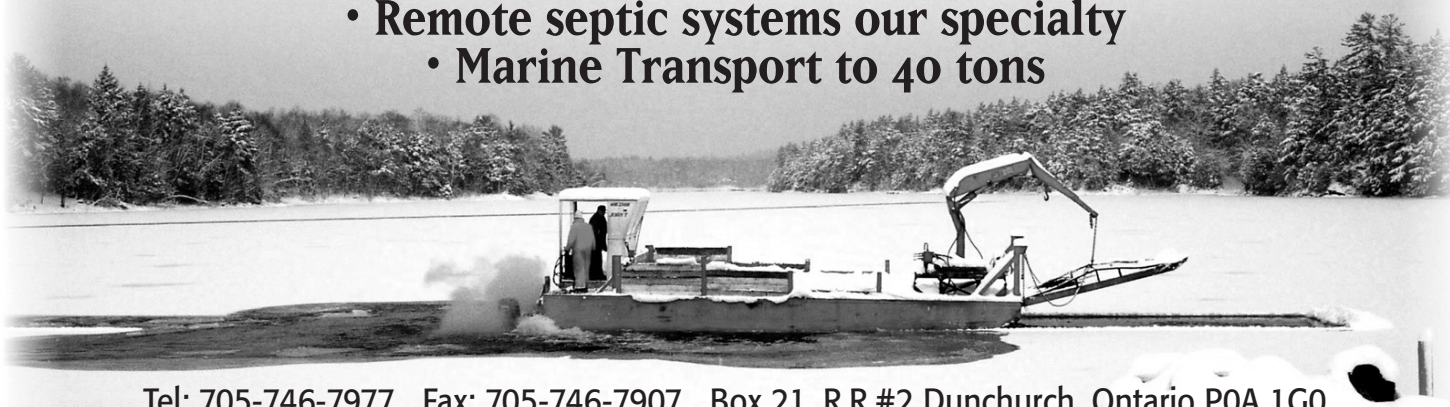
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# Event Calendar 2010

**Saturday,  
July 31**

**Annual  
Meeting**

**9:30am –**

Bennett's Barn

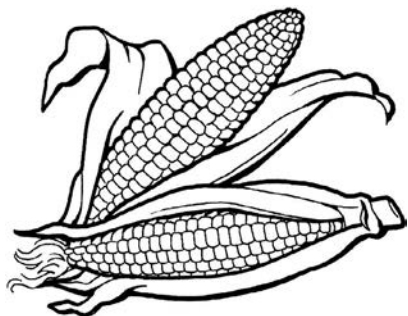
**Saturday,  
August 14**

**Corn Roast**

**4:00pm –**

Straubs Beach

*(Raindate: Sunday, August 15, 2-4pm)*



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# An Open Letter to the Municipality of Whitestone

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Council:

We have received your February mailing and Landfill Site changes. We appreciate the longer summer hours. However, lack of access outside regular hours is a problem. We do understand your concern re bears.

Both landfill sites are open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday 12:30-7:30. Some ratepayers are on water-access only properties and a trip to the landfill is a major excursion. Further, some may wish to leave seasonal properties on Monday, Wednesday or Friday and before noon if a long drive is involved. The prospect of driving 5+ hours with garbage in the car is not a happy option. Many of your ratepayers are seasonal visitors and this letter is to alert you to our needs.

Both landfills are open the same days and the same hours. It would make more sense for one of them to be open Monday, Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday and the other landfill to be open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday to give us an option all 7 days of the week. Also, one or the other should be open 9:30-4:30 some of the days. Twelve thirty is too late, if a visit to the landfill is enroute to Parry Sound or elsewhere. Staff for both York and Aulds sites should be familiar with both sites, so they have the advantage of arranging shift switches, if needed.

It is not too late to alter the Spring & Summer hours for 2010. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Jacquelyn Morgan

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  - Non-residents of Canada with a cottage, and any guests from outside Canada visiting at your cottage, must have the card in order to drive your boat.
- (Operator card or equivalent issued to a non-resident by their state or country will be considered as proof of competency)

***The fine for operating a power-driven pleasure craft without the required Pleasure Craft Operator Card - \$250***

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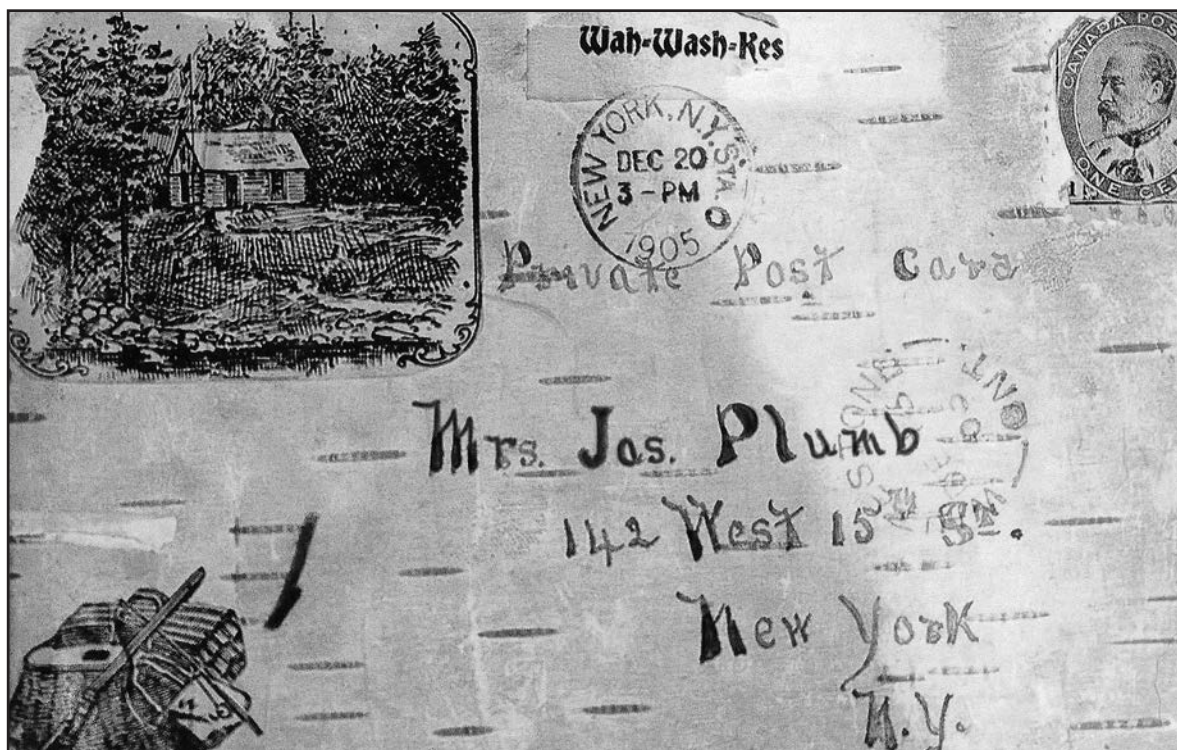


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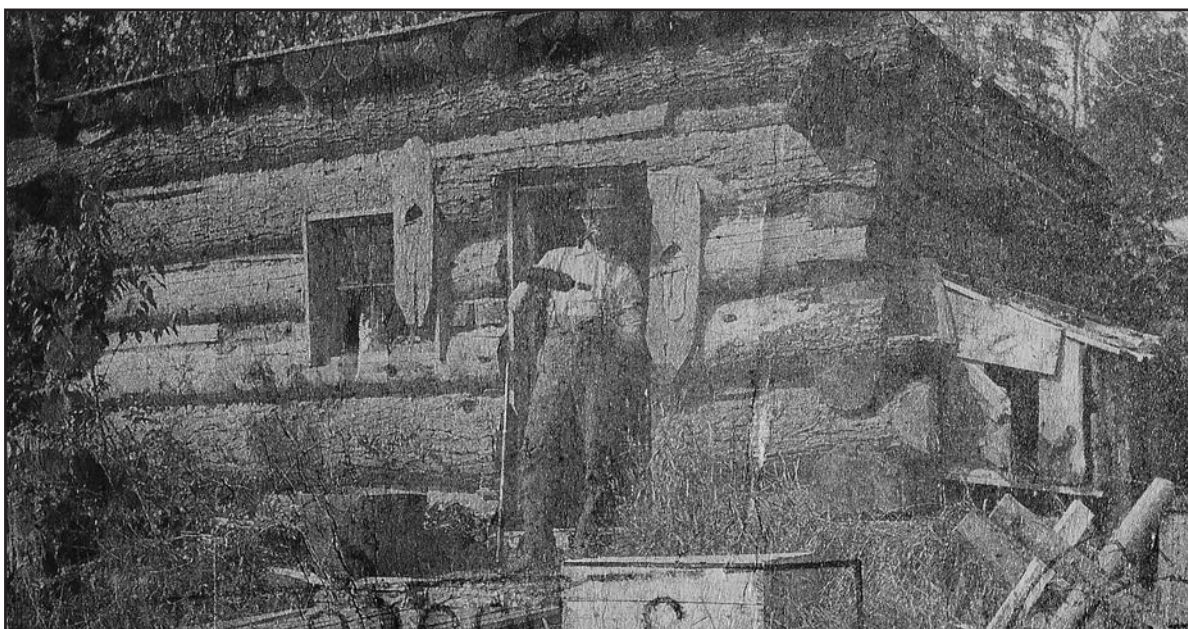
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## A Family History

Don Wood is working on his family history. He came across this birch bark postcard from 1905. If anyone has any information about the post card or the cabin, please contact Don at: [dkw2980@rogers.com](mailto:dkw2980@rogers.com)



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John.







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# Green Corner *by N. Glenn Perrett*

*Building, renovating and maintaining a cottage involves lots of material which negatively impacts the planet. It is important to research not only what building materials and other products are quality, but eco-friendly as well. The following are some products that I've been impressed with.*

## **Hanging Hummingbird Feeder**

Lee Valley – [www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com)

It's spring and hummingbirds will soon be returning - if they're not here already. If you're looking for a feeder for these fascinating birds how about the Hanging Hummingbird Feeder from Lee Valley? This hanging feeder features six feeding ports and holds 16 ounces (473 mL) of syrup. The lid is easily removed for cleaning. If you enjoy feeding hummingbirds you should check out this hanging feeder.

## **PotMaker**

Lee Valley – [www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com)

Every year we use plastic trays and pots to start our vegetables. Many of these containers only last a couple of years before they start to break apart. A more eco-friendly approach is to use the PotMaker to make 2.25" diameter pots for transplants and seedlings.

The PotMaker consists of a 2-piece wooden set that moulds newspaper into useful eco-pots that will naturally decompose in the soil. No glue is required either! We use it for vegetables as well as native trees we occasionally grow from seed. I quickly made a couple of dozen paper pots in about 15 minutes. This is one "green" product that will get a lot of use in our house.

## **Good Radios for the Cottage**

C. Crane Company  
[www.ccrane.com](http://www.ccrane.com)

Having a radio at the cottage is important. While you may not want to listen to the news, it is good to hear the weather reports and listening to music is important for many vacationing at the cottage. I remember getting poor reception during the day

at our family's cottage on Georgian Bay, but at night you got great reception from stations hundreds of miles away.

While good reception and sound are important, so too is having a "cottage radio" that is small and can easily be carried down to the dock or taken on walks. Two smaller radios that I'm impressed with from C. Crane Company are the CCRadio-SWPocket and the CC Observer. Both get good reception – especially for their size.

The CCRadio-SWPocket is a small radio (weighs 6.5 oz. and is 5"x3"x1.2" in size) that can easily be carried around. Besides good reception some of the features of this radio include: a power sleep button, display light, clock, alarm, ability to set 200 AM/FM and Shortwave stations to memory and much more. The radio runs on 2 "AA" batteries or an optional AC Adapter is available.

Want a slightly bigger radio, but still one that is easy to carry around? Try the CC Observer. This radio weighs a pound and measures 7.25"x5.5"x2". The wind-up emergency radio features an LED flashlight. The radio can be run off the built-in

rechargeable batteries, with 3 "AA" alkaline batteries, by winding it up or using an AC Adaptor (extra). You can even use the radio to charge some cell phones. Besides AM/FM you get Weather band which is important at the cottage. We use this radio when we go to the drive-in as the sound is very good.

## **Nature Clean Peppermint Liquid Soap & Liquid Soap Refill**

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

Using eco-friendly cleaning products is vital and Nature Clean makes the greenest, most effective cleaners that I've tried. Some of the reasons that I'm impressed with Nature Clean products is because they list the ingredients on their labels, they are improving their products - including the packaging, their ingredients are "readily biodegradable" and their products are not tested on animals. Frank T. Ross & Sons Ltd., which makes the Nature Clean line of products, is a Canadian Company.

We've used Nature Clean's Liquid Soap for years and now use Nature Clean Peppermint Liquid Soap. This soap is "infused with Peppermint essential oil". I like its ingredients: water, potassium oleate (natural coconut cleanser), glycerin (from vegetable source), sodium chloride (salt) and mentha piperita essential oil.

I like even more what it doesn't contain: petroleum ingredients, SLS & SLES, 1,4-Dioxane, PEG, Cocamide DEA, Phthalates, BPA, dyes, perfumes or any suspected carcinogens.

Nature Clean Peppermint Liquid Soap is a vegan product that is sulphate and paraben free. While using this environmentally-friendly soap helps the environment, you can further increase your eco-efforts by using Nature Clean's eco refill which uses "85% less plastic, as compared to 6, 500 mL Nature Clean Liquid Soap bottles". Even the refill box is unbleached and made "from 94% post consumer content."



# Book Reviews by N. Glenn Perrett

## **The Migration of Birds: Seasons on the Wing**

Janice M. Hughes, Firefly Books, 2009, 207  
ISBN: 9781554074327

Our rural home is also home to a variety of birds who live here year-round as well as those migrating north in the spring and returning in the fall on their way south. It is a joy and pleasure to watch these beautiful animals who share their space with ours – even temporarily. In her book *The Migration of Birds: Seasons on the Wing* Janice M. Hughes provides interesting information in the chapters: "Bird Migration through Human History", "The Five Ws of Avian Migration", "The Phenomenon of Flight", "Fueling the Journey", "Finding the Way" and "Migratory Birds in Peril".

Lots of nice photographs and illustrations complement the interesting text.

## **The Woodworker's Technique Bible: The Essential Illustrated Reference**

Paul Forester, Firefly Books, 2009, 256 pages  
ISBN: 9781554074884

Looking for an easy-to-use guide for working with wood? If you are, *The Woodworker's Technique Bible: The Essential Illustrated Reference* is a good guide. Featuring numerous colour photographs and a binding that allows you to lay the book flat, you can easily follow the instructions while working on the project.

Divided into several sections, Paul Forester looks at such things as tools, techniques, jointing and finishes including considerable

information on everything from buying wood and planning a workshop to measuring, sawing, chiseling, gluing and clamping.

## **Birds of Canada: The Complete Guide to Over 600 Species**

David M. Bird, consultant editor  
Dorling Kindersley, 2010, 512 pages  
ISBN: 9781553631200

Spring and fall is a wonderful time to observe the different birds who pass through on their way to their summer and winter homes. Combined with the resident species who live here year round there is a large number of species who are our neighbours - even if only for a day or two. To identify the different species and to learn more about them a good bird book is valuable - particularly one that is specific to your area (or country). A very good bird book that was recently published is *Birds of Canada: The Complete Guide to Over 600 Species*.

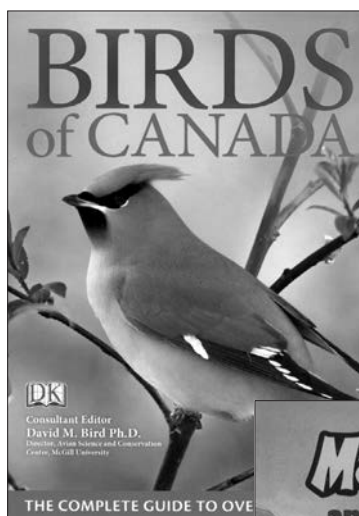
For each species there are various photographs and illustrations such as

adult (winter), adult (summer), immature and in flight. There are also range maps, similar species and information on length, wingspan, weight, social, lifespan and status. At the back of the book there is a section on "Rare Species" and "Vagrants" as well as an informative glossary.

## **The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge**

Joanna Cole & Bruce Degen,  
Scholastic Press, 2010, 40 pages  
ISBN: 9780590108263, ages 6+

Everyone learns a lot when Ms. Frizzle takes her students to the Arctic Sea to observe and learn about global warming. Besides becoming educated on climate change, the students also learn about alternative energies that will reduce global warming along with other ways that individuals can help to protect the planet.



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# Book Reviews *by N. Glenn Perrett*

## **Sheds Step-by-Step**

John D. Wagner and Bill Hylton,  
Creative Homeowner, 2009, 112 pages, ISBN: 9781580114394

Sheds can come in handy for a variety of uses. Sheds Step-by-Step not only describes how to build a shed, it provides guides "to building three popular garden sheds" - a saltbox garden shed, a gambrel yard shed and a gable potting shed. Topics covered include tools and materials, foundations, footings and more. Diagrams, material lists, photographs and informative text will help you create a useful and attractive shed.

## **Compact Cabins: Simple Living in 1,000 Square Feet or Less**

Gerald Rowan, Storey Publishing,  
2009, 216 pages, ISBN: 9781603424622

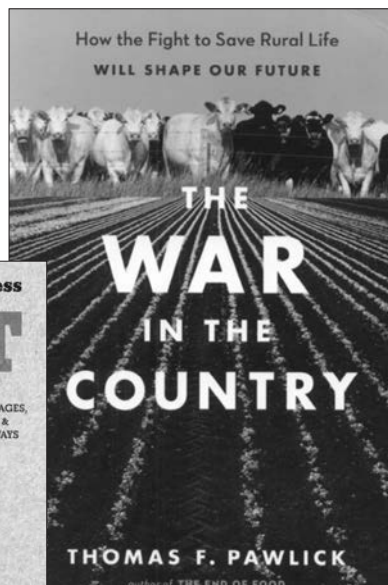
I've been looking for a book like this for some time. A book with lots of plans for eco-friendly, small cabins. While a few of the cabins are over 700 square feet, most are much smaller. The cabins are arranged by size, from the smallest to the largest, with the first cabin, "Micro Cabin" at 162 square feet. In all there are designs for 50 small cabins. Unfortunately, when it comes to cottages and homes many municipalities have a minimum size for cottages and homes which are significantly larger than many of the beautiful dwellings in this book. Too bad these local governments don't walk the walk when it comes to eco-friendly living.

With the various cabins options are given - such as if a pitched roof could support solar panels or if a deck can be converted to an open or screened porch. Lots of good information pertaining

to nature living with a small footprint is also included. When it comes to living with nature, smaller is better and Compact Cabins offers lots of small, attractive, efficient structures you can build for your nature retreat.

## **The War in the Country: How the Fight to Save Rural Life Will Shape Our Future**

Thomas F. Pawlick, Greystone Books,  
2009, 344, ISBN: 9781553653400



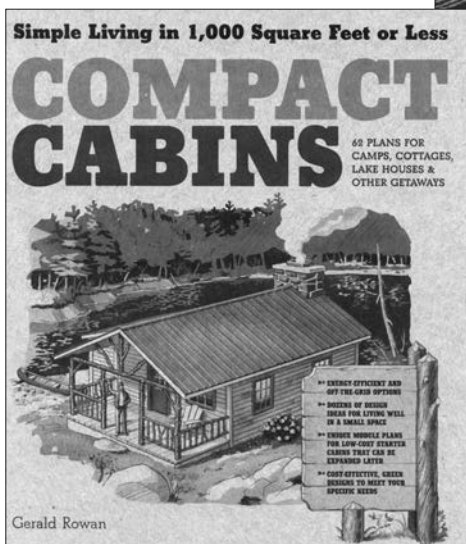
Thomas F. Pawlick's latest book - The War in the Country: How the Fight to Save Rural Life Will Shape Our Future contains many examples of rural life and the environment being decimated by government and big business. You can't help but become incensed and concerned about the irresponsible acts occurring in the countryside.

The issues covered by Pawlick include intensive farming and archaic mining legislation. Pawlick provides considerable information that illustrates that rural life and the health of the environment are in jeopardy if more people don't become informed about what is occurring in rural Canada and take action to right these wrongs.

## **The Green Blue Book: The Simple Water-Savings Guide to Everything in Your Life**

Thomas M. Kostigen, Rodale, 2010, 210 pages  
ISBN: 9781605294711

In The Green Blue Book, Thomas Kostigen provides lots of information on how we can better manage freshwater - which accounts for less than 1% of the planet's water. The chapter on "Foods and Beverages" is particularly sobering as it mentions the amount of water needed to produce various foods including 18.5 gallons for an apple, 6.5 gallons for a pound of carrots and a staggering 1,581 gallons for a pound of beef! By reading The Green Blue Book and reducing your water consumption (which could involve reducing your meat intake or becoming a vegetarian) you will be helping to protect this vital resource.





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## MAGNETAWAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION SURVEY

The Lake Wahwashkesh Conservation Association has been a member of the Magnetawan River Watershed Association (MRWA) for three years. Lake Wahwashkesh comprises approximately 26% of the Magnetawan River Watershed and so it is important that we maintain a strong voice in the Watershed Association. The MRWA is a not-for-profit organization created to positively influence the conservation, restoration, use, and responsible management of the Magnetawan River Watershed's water, land and natural habitats. The MRWA is conducting a survey to prioritize the issues/concerns for the Association to focus on. Responses will be anonymous; the survey will only show the total number of responses and the composite result.

Please either complete the survey below and mail to; Clinton Brooks, Box 26, Magnetawan Ont., POA 1P0 or go to the link <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FJHYSBV> and fill out the Wahwashkesh electronic version of the survey. I encourage every member to spend the few minutes required to complete this survey and send in your choices.

We are also planning to have a discussion at the Lake Wahwashkesh Conservation Association Annual General Meeting on July 31, 2010 of these same seven issues in order to set priorities for the Lake Plan Committee so come prepared to discuss!

***Thank you for completing the survey.***

**Don Comrie**

**Mail below survey to:** Clinton Brooks,  
Box 26,  
Magnetawan, Ontario,  
POA 1P0

**or go online to:**  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FJHYSBV>

1. MRWA members have raised the following as possible issues for us to work on. They are listed in alphabetical order. Please prioritize these in the order which you think is the most important (1) to the least important (7) for us to focus on. Each issue has to have a unique priority: there can be only one #1, one #2, . . .

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Algae/Aquatic Plant Growth							
Invasive Species							
Septic Systems							
Shoreline Development Capacity							
Shoreline Preservation							
Water Levels							
Water Quality							
Other (please specify)							



# Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association Memorial Scholarship

The 2010 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 2010 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, 2010. 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 2010.

## 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.

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**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  
2010 Membership Renewal**

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

**Rob Slykhuis - Treasurer**  
64 Milligan Street, Bradford, Ontario, L3Z 0A5



**Wahwashkesh Conservation Association  
2010 Dock Permit Decal**

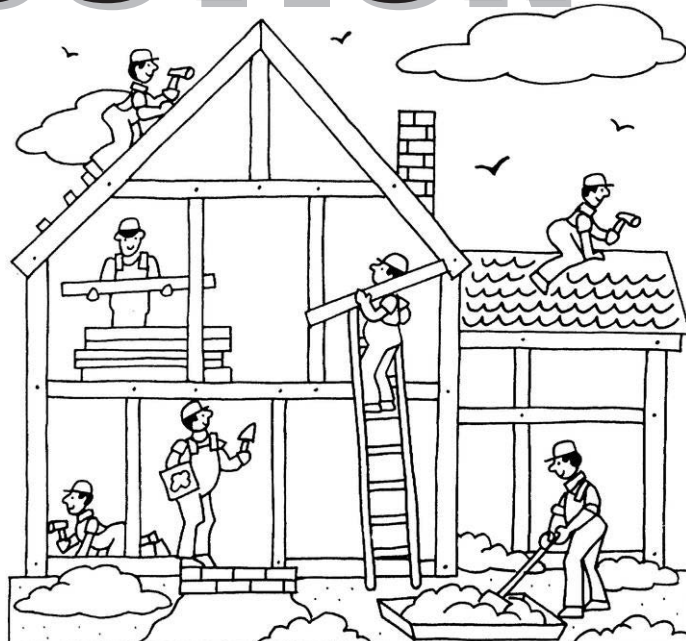
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## **2010 Wahwashkesh CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** (Please return this form with your cheque as soon as possible - \$35.00 per member)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Lake 911 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (       ) \_\_\_\_\_ CB Handle: \_\_\_\_\_

Cottage Phone: (       ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

2010 Memberships for the following individuals in your household @ \$35 each:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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## **2010 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.