

Lake WahWashKesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

— FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER —



President's Message

Greetings from your Association Executive.

I am writing this at WahWashKesh where it is supposed to go to -3°C (25°F) tonight with showers (the showers might end up as the white stuff). Daytime highs are around +4°C (38°F) and all the leaves are off the trees.

Since the AGM, your Executive have been working on several issues and we'd now like to bring you up to date on them.

The Geographic Names Board, part of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, met on September 19, 2011 and reviewed our application to rename Pine Ridge Point to Hayward Point in honour of the Hayward Family. They had three options to deal with our file; approve it, deny it, or defer it. They chose to defer our application, in spite of the tremendous support for the renaming, because we failed to show "current local usage" of the name. As a result, a letter has been mailed to all members with an enclosed form requesting an indication of how many years each member has called Pine Ridge Point Haywards'. I ask that you fully complete the form and return it to me at the address indicated. I would like to have sufficient responses by the end of the calendar year to forward to the Board. They have indicated that they then will send out a survey to the responders and then resubmit our application to the Board when it next meets likely in the spring. I have already

received over 150 responses indicating lengthy current local usage. Please send in your form as soon as possible. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project.

As indicated at the AGM, verbal approval for the helipad to be



Don Comrie and David Berto

located on the site of the old dump at Bennett's had been obtained from the OMNR and the MOE. At the end of October, I was advised that Canadian Helicopters, the operators who provide for ORNGE the air ambulance service, have done a site inspection service on the dump site and report that a lot of trees around the perimeter would have to be removed. Your Executive will continue to work on this project over the winter and hope to have the site operational by next summer. I would like to express my thanks to Bob Whitman, Fire Chief for the Municipality of Whitestone, for his support and efforts to obtain these approvals.

Please see the important update on parking from Dalton Ferris in this newsletter.

At this year's AGM, Pat Forbes stepped down from her position as director. Enclosed is Pat's picture after being thanked for her service. Also there is a picture of David Berto being thanked for his years of looking after the corn and wiener roasts. A picture of the plaque for Glenn Perrett also enclosed. Glenn has written book reviews and the "Green Corner" for many years for the newsletter.



Pat Forbes



Plaque for Glenn Perrett

At the AGM a sign-up sheet was passed around for those interested in a fire extinguisher course, provided by the Municipality, to sign up. Unfortunately, insufficient people signed up to warrant the Municipality arranging the one hour course. We will make the offer again in the spring newsletter since we feel this is a very valuable course and is free!

Please also see the article by Jacquelyn Morgan later in this newsletter about the archives and a project involving the grave on Deadman's Island.

Finally, I would like to thank Lesley Hugill for again putting together a fine newsletter. Lesley contributes much to the Association through her talents in this regard. THANKS, Lesley!

On behalf of your Executive, I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season and all the best for 2012.

Don Comrie, President

GOOD NEWS! - New Parking for Bennett's Bay



New Parking

On October 27th we received word that the new proposed parking area had completed its approval journey/process through the MNR, etc.

Dean Timson (Land & Waters Technical Specialist) of the MNR will now take steps so that we can get both a clearing permit and a work permit. It is safe to say that the new parking lot site has been approved and we will start work once we have the needed permits. Included in this newsletter is a good "birds eye view" of the new parking lot site.

We are anxious to get site preparations underway but at this point we do not know when clearing can start. We are still hoping for this fall and winter!

**Dalton Ferris,
Ed Bennett Sr.,
John Nelson**

Handicap Parking

We are working with the Municipality to get a number of handicap parking spots at Bennett's Bay and Indian Narrows. Parking locations would be as close to the lake access locations as possible. A by-law would need to be passed so that the signs can be placed and then monitored so that only vehicles with visible handicap permits park in the designated locations. These signs should be in place for the busy parking season in 2012.

Dalton Ferris

Land Use Permit and Memorandum of Agreement

This agreement between your Association and the Municipality of Whitestone will be modified in 2012 to include all parking areas as well as the lake access areas at both Bennett's Bay and Indian Narrows. This change flows from the new parking area being added and from the fact that the current agreement is due for renewal in 2013.

The MNR is behind this agreement and its preparation. They have downloaded their responsibility to the Municipality by agreement. The Association in turn has a stewardship agreement for *Lake Access & Parking Areas* with the Municipality of Whitestone. All this is purely administrative information and will take place over the months ahead. It is understood that the new parking area will fall under the Municipality's current insurance coverage.

Dalton Ferris

Lake Access and Parking Fees

For the year 2012 there will be new permits provided and sold by the Lake WWK Conservation Association.

All permits will be sold through the current processes and at current locations.

We wish to keep administration of these permits as simple as possible and are relying on our common interests and cooperative spirit to make this initiative a success!

LAKE ACCESS BOAT PERMIT

The "Lake Access Permit" will replace the dock permit and will cost \$30. *These funds are used to maintain the dock area and docks at both Bennett's Bay and Indian Narrows.* We plan to replace the Indian Narrows docks in the future. *The Lake Access Permit allows access to the lake whether using docks or launching a boat. This permit does not allow long term boat parking at either dock.* We all have experienced frustration at times with long term dock "parkers"—although I noted this year there was more effort to minimize parking at the public docks. We are stewards of the lake access area by way of our agreement with the MNR and Municipality.

CAR PARKING PERMIT

This is a new permit effective 2012 and will cost \$25. *These new funds will be used to maintain the current parking areas and build the new parking lot.* The parking permit allows one vehicle to park on the current road allowance parking area or in the new parking area once it is available. This parking permit can either be mounted on your bumper or placed on your dash in a visible location. We are hoping for "good will cooperation"

on this initiative from all those who use the parking facilities.

For those who have a variety of family/members using parking facilities it is envisaged that several parking permits would be purchased and then be moved around among vehicles as needed.

If both a Lake Access and a Parking Permit are purchased by one person/family the combined cost will be \$50.

Dalton Ferris,
Ed Bennett Sr.,
John Nelson



Membership and Dock Permit Update

Now that we have the final information loaded into our database it looks like we attracted 39 new members in 2011. We also added 19 new dock permit holders.

For comparison here are the totals for the past three years:

	2009	2010	2011
<i>Memberships</i>	203	212	217
<i>Dock permits</i>	47	56	75

As you can see while we added 39 new members, our total membership only increased by 5. This is due to a number of members from 2010 who did not renew. In fact between 2009 and 2010 we have 70 lapsed members in our listing.

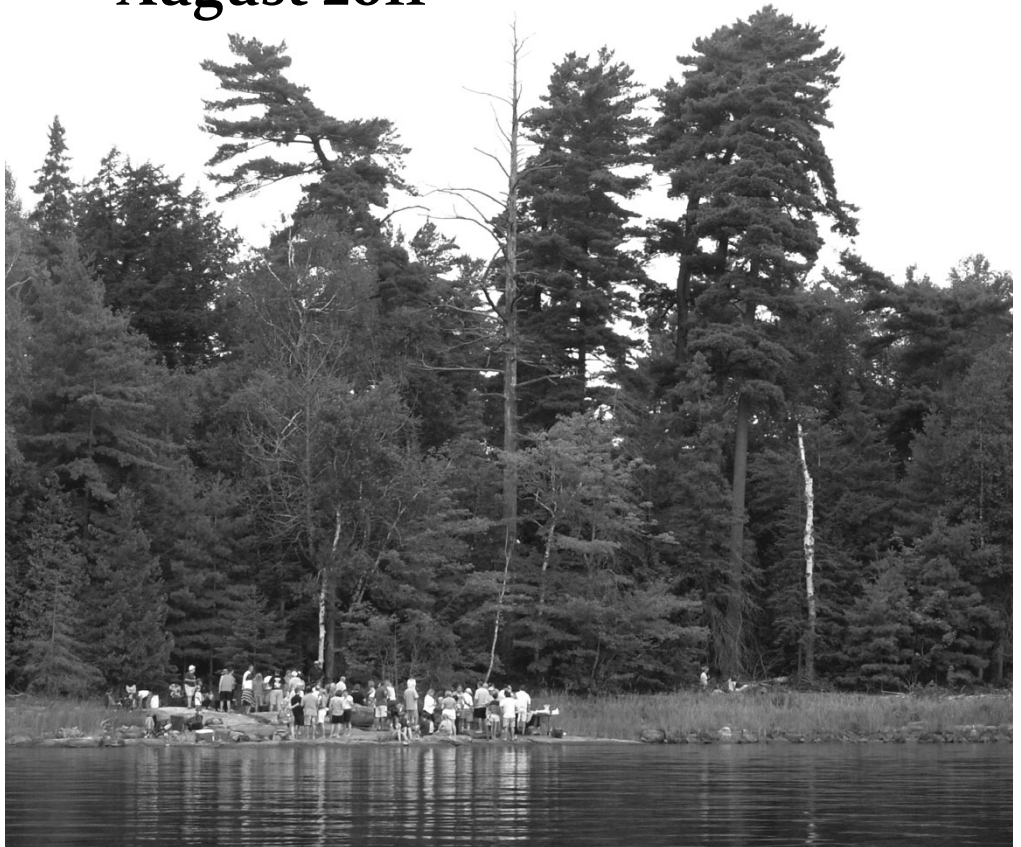
As part of the membership drive this summer we were interested in growing our database of members and potential members on the lake. With the very successful efforts of our membership team, we now have a current list of almost 300. If you are receiving this newsletter you are on the list as either a current member or a recent member from 2010 or 2009. If you are in either group please consider joining again for 2012.

Thanks for all of the hard work of our membership team, Patrick Merritt and Cheryl Costigan. Most of you met them as they made their way around the lake this summer. Because of their success in signing up new members and selling dock permits the Directors have decided, and Pat and Cheryl have agreed to do this again next year.

As the population of the lake continues to grow we look forward to having as many new members, and old one's, as part of the Association.

Robert Slykhuis

Corn Roast August 2011



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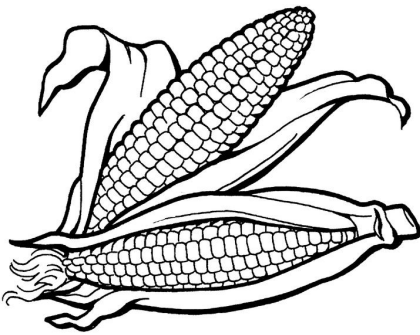
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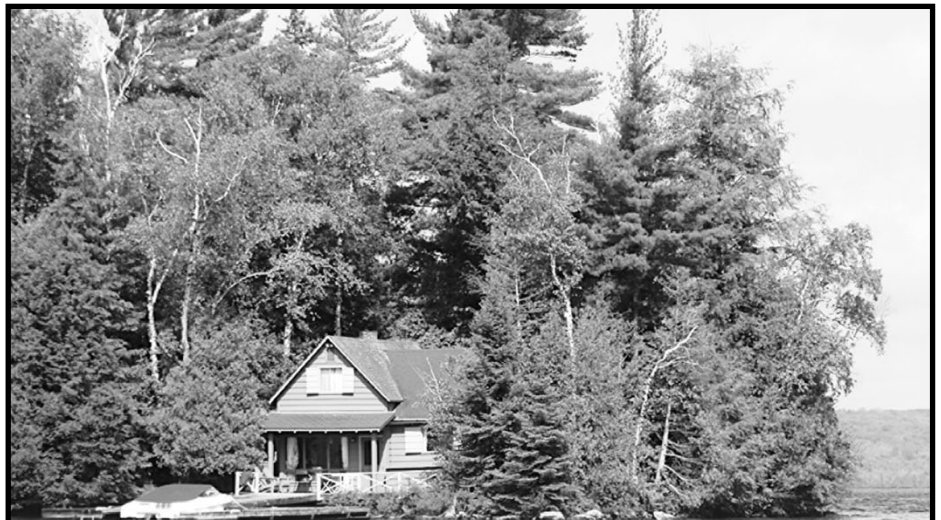


Corn Roast

This year Doug Marks planned and held the August Corn Roast. Many look forward to, and attend this event, as their time to meet friends from around the Lake.

Thank-you Doug.

You helped make everyone's summer at WWK special again this year.



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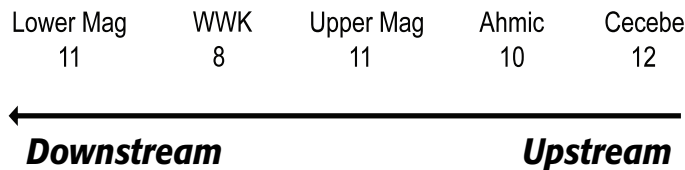
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Water Quality Trends in the Magnetawan River Watershed

Volunteers from the Magnetawan River watershed including WahWashKesh Lake have taken water quality samples in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment Lake Partner Program. This data includes total phosphorus which is the limiting nutrient to algae on Canadian shield lakes and water transparency. Increases in phosphorus will increase tiny microscopic algae (phytoplankton) in the water column, cause the water to turn greenish, and reduce the clarity or visibility in the water. A secchi disk is used to measure water transparency and will change with the amount of phytoplankton algae in the water.

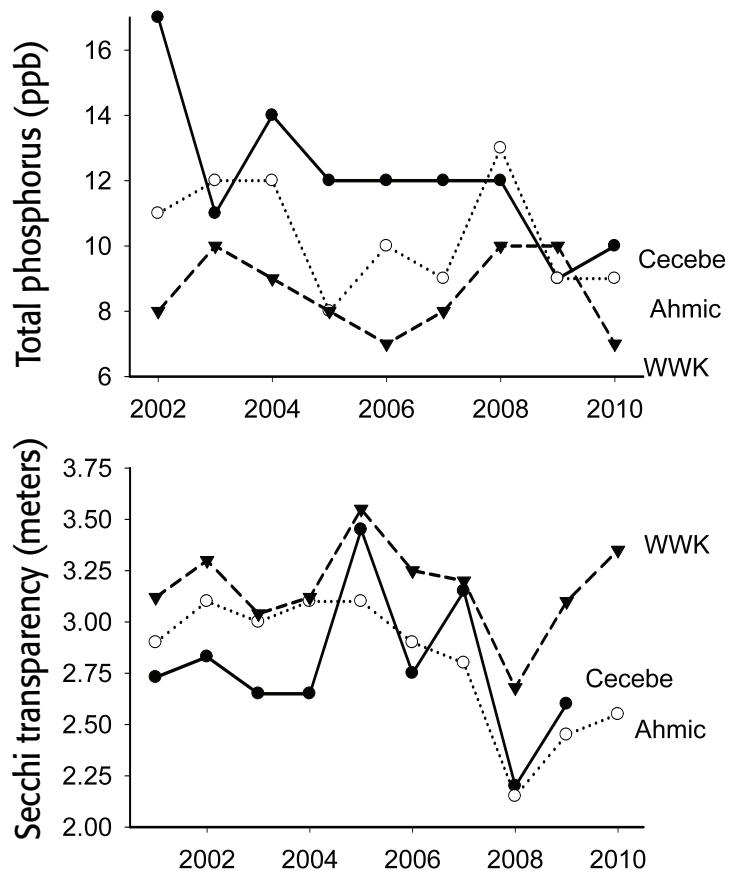
Upstream from WahWashKesh Lake, along the Magnetawan River, water quality data has been collected every year from Ahmic and Cecebe Lake since 2001-2002. On the Magnetawan River between Ahmic and WahWashKesh Lakes and downstream in the river below WahWashKesh Lake, phosphorus data has been collected, but over irregular intervals in the upper and lower sections of the Magnetawan River.

Below is a figure that presents average total phosphorus concentrations (measured in parts per billion, ppb) from Cecebe Lake going downstream through the Magnetawan River watershed that were collected from 2002 to 2010.



As you can see, phosphorus concentrations in WahWashKesh Lake at 8 ppb were slightly lower than at other sites in the Magnetawan River watershed.

A more comprehensive data base exists from Ahmic and Cecebe Lake that also includes water transparency that can be compared each year to water quality in WahWashKesh Lake. The figures in the right column plot average annual total phosphorus concentrations and water transparency from each lake from 2001-2002 to 2010.



From the graphs above, phosphorus concentrations were lower or the same in WahWashKesh Lake compared to Ahmic and Cecebe Lakes. Total phosphorus averaged 8 ppb in WahWashKesh Lake compared to 10 and 12 ppb in Ahmic and Cecebe lakes. Over time, phosphorus concentrations have declined in Cecebe Lake, but have remained relatively constant in Ahmic and WahWashKesh Lake. Water transparency (measured in meters) was either higher or the same in WahWashKesh Lake compared to the two upstream lakes. Water transparency averaged 3.3 meters in WahWashKesh Lake compared to 2.8 and 3.0 meters in Cecebe and Ahmic lakes.

Thus, from these data, water quality in WWK Lake is about the same or possibly slightly better compared to other water bodies in the Magnetawan River system. Further information would be needed to determine why water quality in Ahmic and Cecebe lakes is slightly less than in WahWashKesh Lake, but greater development, inputs from water treatment facilities, or other watershed characteristics are possible causes. Continued monitoring of water quality is important to detect if any changes do occur. Leaching of nutrients from faulty or non-existent septic systems and upstream inputs of nutrients is an issue that should be closely watch in WahWashKesh Lake.

Mike Maceina (maceimj@auburn.edu)
WahWashKesh Lake Water Quality Coordinator



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Green Corner *by N. Glenn Perrett*

Products can be "green" for a variety of reasons. Some are made from natural, non-toxic ingredients, others last for a very long time and can be recycled while others are made from sustainable material. The following are some eco-items I've been impressed with.

Old-Fashioned Table Hockey

(Lee Valley Tools www.leevalley.com)

Each summer when our children go to their grandparents' cottage they enjoy playing an old Munro table hockey game. Recently we got a table hockey game hardware kit from Lee Valley (item 50k40.01) that is patterned after the Munro hockey game produced in Canada during the 1930s to the 1950s. Lynn and our children will build the game which will become a fun family activity when they are done. The kit includes instructions, the hardware components and a full-scale template. You supply the wood and paint – although you can also purchase a piece of hardwood (item 50k40.03) for the playing surface from Lee Valley. Lee Valley's Table Hockey Hardware Kit is old-time hockey at its best!

Long-Handled Pruning Saw

(Lee Valley Tools www.leevalley.com)

I've enjoyed efficiently pruning dead branches with the Long-Handled Pruning Saw (item 09A03.55) from Lee Valley. The 39" handle and the 13" pruning saw blade reaches, and quickly cuts, most of the branches that I need to prune. If you want to make a custom handle for a saw you can purchase the saw blade (item 09A03.56) separately.

Algonquin Tea Co.

(www.algonquintea.com)

Ahh, the pleasure of a hot cup of tea on a cold winter's night. The Algonquin Tea Co. in Eganville, Ontario produces six eco-friendly, caffeine-free, herbal teas. Their "ethically wildcrafted" teas are harvested by hand in the Canadian wilderness or grown on their organic farm. According to their literature they "pick only as much as a deer might graze."

CCRadio-2

(C. Crane Company www.ccrane.com)

We live in an area where radio reception is usually poor. Fortunately, the CCRadio-2 gets good reception. The frequency coverage is for AM, FM, Ham and Weather Bands and the power source is an AC Power Cord or four "D" NiMH or Alkaline batteries. Some of the features of this quality radio that I like include: lighted display, clock, alarm, sleep timer, snooze feature and weather alert.

I'm currently trying out the CC Solar Observer and will review this eco-friendly radio in the spring issue.



Hello Fellow Cottagers

I would like to introduce myself and tell you a little about my experience here at the lake. My name is Carey Frew and I currently hold the position of secretary on the WWK Conservation Association.

I have been coming to the lake since 1966, the year I was born. Since that time, I believe I have only missed one year. That was a time in my teens when it was just not cool to spend any time with your family. How my life has changed! WWK is our extended family home, a place to get together and unwind with siblings and cousins.

Throughout my life there have been many changes, both painful and joyful, but through it all there has always been the cottage as stability, a strong sense of roots, grounding and mainly, wonderful family times. "The cottage" as we call it provides many needs for myself and my family.

As a child it was a place of wonder and endless fascination with nature: catching frogs, fishing for rock bass, swimming, building sand castles, rock collecting, gazing upon endless beautiful sunsets, picking blueberries. I have many wonderful memories of my beloved grandparents, Glenn and Mildred Mundy. Fishing and stacking wood in an orderly fashion are two skills that I learned from Grampa Mundy and enjoy still. How I loved looking forward to getting in the boat with Grampa to ride over to Haywards Store for bread and Chelsea buns warm from the ovens of Jean and Donelda. Little did my grandparents know at the time they purchased Toggle Point so long ago, what a legacy of family joy they created and is still going strong today!

Now, my children are blessed to be able to spend priceless quality time with their grandparents, Dalton and Julia Ferris, and experience the same joys and simple pleasures that I did as a child. I see the joy of anticipation in their eyes as we look forward to our getaways to WWK and I get to live my childhood again through them...what a treat! As the mother of two young boys and my work in the field of mental health nursing, life is busy, stressful and chaotic. In my mind though I can escape anytime, and I usually find myself laying on the beach at WWK with the sounds of the waves rhythmically lapping at the shoreline. The place is my refuge!

Carey Frew, Secretary

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Book Reviews by N. Glenn Perrett

This column contains useful books for the cottage, something for children and a festive title or two.

Peterson Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of North America North of Mexico (second edition)

Lawrence M. Page and Brooks M. Burr

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

2011, 663 pages

ISBN: 9780547242064

While there are numerous good field guides for birds, mammals and other animals, there aren't a lot of good guides for fishes. While I gave up fishing many years ago, I still enjoy watching these fascinating animals while canoeing or standing on the shore. In this second edition of the Peterson Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of North America North of Mexico there are 909 fish species.

There are black-and-white and colour plates as well as text and range maps. Whether you want more information on lampreys, sturgeons, gars, suckers, darters or bass you will find it in this informative field guide.

Decorating With Evergreens

Robert Waite and Gibbs Smith

2011, 128 pages

ISBN: 9781423622505

Decorating With Evergreens provides lots of ideas for "sprucing" up your home or cottage for the holidays. Sections on wreaths, garlands, centerpieces, door and window treatments and Christmas trees combined with some

interesting history pertaining to Christmas decorating makes this a book yule enjoy!

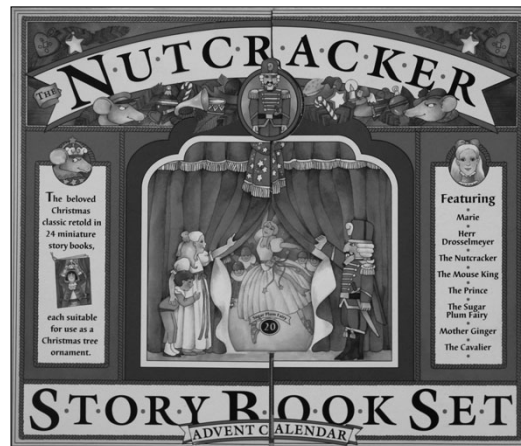
Nutcracker Story Book Set Advent Calendar

Workman Publishing Co.

2011

ISBN: 9780761163381

Children can count down to Christmas and learn about the Nutcracker with this interesting advent calendar. Each day contains an ornament that can be hung from the tree. Each colourful ornament is actually a miniature story book and the 24 story books in this calendar tells the story of the Nutcracker. Nice holiday keepsake.



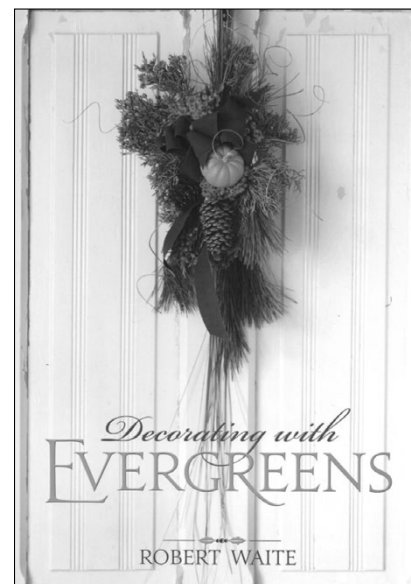
Cabin Companion

Larry Bleidner and Gibbs Smith

2003, 160 pages

ISBN: 9781423623137

Looking for a place to record important cottage information for yourself and visitors who use your cottage? With sections pertaining to the cottage and areas to write instructions and other information about your



nature retreat, this volume can be a good resource. There are places to list hospital information as well as electrical, plumbing, water, heating and more. There are even spots to write about hiking, recipes and entertaining.

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Book Reviews *by N. Glenn Perrett*

Guest Book: Living With Books

Cico Books

2011, 92 pages

ISBN: 9781908170118

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Living With Books contains approximately 92 lined pages with a ribbon book mark that is sewn into the binding. You will enjoy reading the comments from guests over the years in this stylish keepsake guest book.



Ansel Adams 2012

Engagement

Calendar

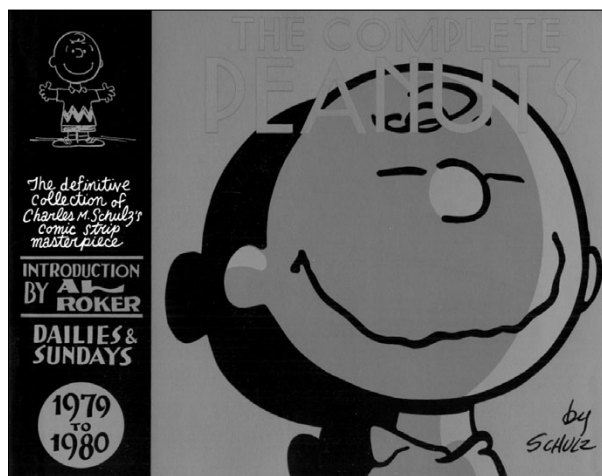
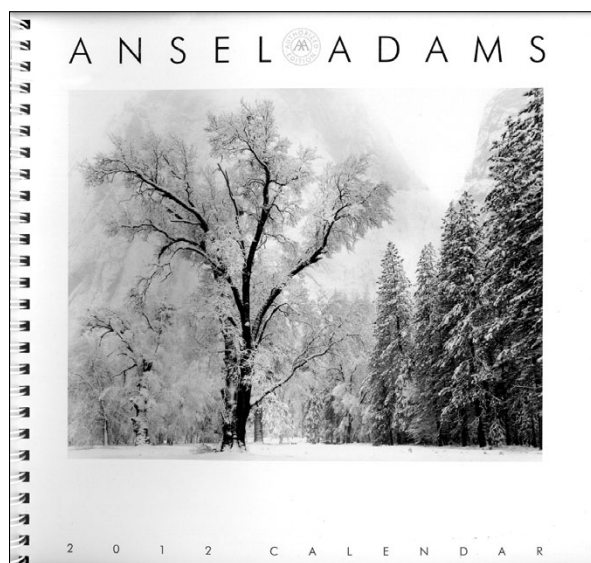
Little, Brown and

Company

9780316129596

The Ansel Adams 2012 Engagement Calendar contains 50 reproductions of Adams' beautiful photographs of the American Wilderness.

Each page contains a week with



the lined days broken up into "a.m." and "p.m." Throughout the calendar are photos of national parks and other scenic natural areas.

The Complete Peanuts: 1979 to 1980

Charles M. Schulz

Fantagraphics Books

2011, 323 pages

ISBN: 9781606994382

Reading cartoons at the cottage is a great way to relax and the latest volume of The Complete Peanuts covers the years 1979 and 1980. Some things haven't changed. Snoopy is still a World War I flying ace and Peppermint Patty is still having difficulty in school. Some things have changed including a time when Lucy actually catches a fly ball and when she doesn't pull the football away when Charlie Brown goes to kick it. Woodstock is featured in many of the

comic strips as he goes on a diet and is called for jury duty. The strips with Woodstock and Snoopy together are particularly funny. This latest collection of Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts cartoons would make a nice gift.

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Archives

A water-proof, fire-proof file cabinet houses archival material for the Lake WahwashKesh Conservation Association at Bennett's Landing. An effort is being made to gather and preserve pertinent information in archival quality notebooks.

You are all invited to help with this project so that the 50+ years of history of the WWKCA is available for future generations. I am attempting to gather all the Newsletters and the minutes of the Annual General Meetings. As they are being filed each notebook will have an index to facilitate later research. The newsletters include historical material, items about the lake residents, and accomplishments of the association.

We have all of Andy Vurma's documents about the dam construction. But we are lacking AGM minutes and many Newsletters. We have all the newsletters from 1993-2009 with the exception of Spring 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002 and fall 2007. If you have newsletters or AGM minutes to share, please send hard copies by surface mail, to Jacquelyn Morgan, 490 Canboro Road, R.R. #3, Fenwick, Ontario, L0S 1C0.

Jacquelyn Morgan

A Look Back - from the Fall 2001 WWK Newsletter

RECOGNITION

At the 2001 Annual General Meeting we recognized three very worthy friends, lake supporters and Association supporters – **Eric Disley, Pat Murdock and Ginnie Sperry**. Each was presented with a beautiful recognition plaque that included a Gary Dimmick watercolour and beautifully scripted expression of thanks.

The service these lake citizens represented goes back to the early sixties and extends right up to the most recent past. These were most deserving recipients and again we are grateful for their presence on the lake and their involvement in our lake community.

Now we would appreciate your thoughts on who the directors should consider for recognition in 2002. Pass your suggestions along to any director. Recognition decisions for 2002 will be made at the February directors' meeting.

Dalton Ferris

Pat Murdock



Eric Disley



Ginnie Sperry



The Haywards in front of their store – 1990



Farm Creek logging chute – 1943

Fish Enhancement Committee

First of all we would like to thank those Association members who donated specifically to this committee and to those who supported us at the AGM by purchasing the alcohol for sale after the meeting. \$250⁰⁰ was raised in this way and helps us when we need to make up shortfalls between actual costs and the government grants we apply for to complete our projects.

We are working on two major projects this winter and next spring. The first will occur shortly when the lake temperature falls to 10°C and the lake trout begin spawning. Ken Webb has kindly agreed to monitor the one trout spawning bed that has been rehabilitated during the spawning season and actual fish counts will be taken by observation from shore. Unfortunately, this has to occur in the middle of the night so there is some inconvenience and risk. Thanks very much, Ken Webb.

The second project is to monitor the pickerel spawning beds in the spring. This project is much more costly and labour intensive since there are four spawning beds mostly accessible only by boat. The monitoring again must occur twice nightly and two or three times per week once the ice has gone out and the water reaches approximately 5°C.

The good news is that the OMNR has accepted our CFWIP (Community Fish & Wildlife Improvement Project) applications for purchasing safety equipment for the people doing the monitoring; the equipment will remain the property of the Fish Enhancement Committee. A second application will also be submitted to cover the costs associated with the spring monitoring except for the personnel costs. These will have to be borne by the Association but can be paid out of the Committee funds.

The Committee is looking for groups of two individuals who are interested in checking the spawning beds in the spring. A small amount of remuneration will be paid to those involved and costs will be reimbursed. Anyone who is interested should contact a member of the committee.

Thank you for your continued support of the Fish Enhancement Committee.

Ken Taylor (Chairman), Ed Bennett Sr., Don Comrie

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Deadman's Island

"Deadman's Island got its name from the grave of a Mr. Jack McCloud," wrote John Swift in *Lake WahWashKesh the Early Years*. This past summer, my grandchildren and their father went exploring, searching on Deadman's for this grave. They found it, but in a neglected state.

I proposed that the Association under-


take a project to tend and mark this part of Lake WahWashKesh history in a more permanent fashion. The information we have is that Mr. McCloud was a "river driver" killed in an accident near Burnt Chutes around 1900. This was in the days of logging and floating the harvested logs down the "Mag". As I understand it, a river driver was one who worked with dynamite to blow apart log jams.

Mr. McCloud was buried on the island now known as Deadman's.

A 1973 letter written by Molly Swift, great aunt of Debra Swift Hummel, contains this paragraph:

I always liked Deadman's because the view from it was so sightly. Uncle Herbert and I used to land right on the rocky point not far from the grave of the Dead Man. At the time there was a

– continued –



SUNSET OVER DEADMAN'S ISLAND

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cross at the foot of his grave, which had the inscription,

"Canada mourns one of her favourite sons."

There is a discrepancy about the inscription, since John Swift wrote that it was: *"Canada mourns one of her sons."*

This is also the inscription remembered by Ken Hayward.

I have talked with Debra Swift Hummel, current owner of Deadman's, and her response was, "I would certainly be supportive and appreciative of the Association's effort to place a memorial plaque at the site."

During an October 18, 2011, directors' meeting, the idea was given approval in principle so that contacts can be made and research begun. Debbie reports that her father wrote that the original cross was washed away in the high water of the 1930's. From Kenny Hayward she learned that as a child he remembers the original cross with boots hanging from it. Ken also said to Debbie that he recalls another grave with a cross and boots hanging from it further down river, on a bluff near Deep Bay. Lake residents are invited to share related history.

Jacquelyn Morgan, director

Thank you to.....

Ed Bennett Sr., John Nelson, Dean Timson of the MNR, the Municipality of Whitestone, Ed Bennett Jr. and the Association Executive. They all deserve our thanks for the time and assistance they offered in developing our new parking and lake access plans. I know that with everyone's cooperation and continued assistance we can complete the implementation of the plan in 2012.

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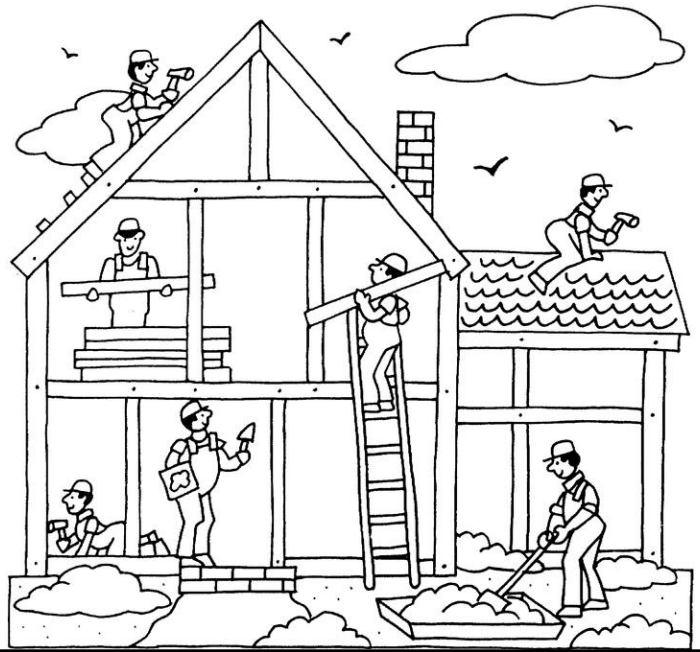
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