

Lake WahWashKesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

— FALL 2012 NEWSLETTER —



President's Message

The Executive and members of the Association would like to welcome any new members who joined at the Annual General Meeting, or after, and also the two new advertisers in this edition, DTR Enterprises and LM Chimney Services. We hope that this issue brings everyone up-to-date on the current issues facing the Association and cottagers on Lake WahWashKesh.

At the AGM, a letter from Mr. John Jackson was read concerning a proposed by-law for the Municipality of Whitestone that would require anyone renting their cottage for less than a thirty-day period to be zoned commercial. This was a contentious issue for cottagers and a motion at the AGM asked the Executive to send a letter to the Municipality supporting this proposal. After consideration, the Executive decided to conditionally support the proposal but requested that a committee of lake representatives in the Municipality be formed to investigate other options. The Municipality is still dealing with this issue but a court challenge in the Town of Blue Mountains was denied by a senior court.

As many of you know, this year there have been several sightings of bald eagles and sandhill cranes around Lake WahWashKesh. We interpret this as a sign that the lake is still healthy and perhaps improving.

I spoke to a representative of eBird Canada at the Fall Cottage Life Show and they were very interested to hear of the sightings. There is a website for

more information and to report sightings; the website is <www.ebird.ca> or at <volunteer@birdscanada.org>. There is also a program for loons. Visit <www.birdscanada.org> and look for the Canadian Lake Loon Survey.

There are several valuable articles in this newsletter including updates on the Magnetawan River Watershed Association, proposed changes to the



2013 annual general meeting, and an update on the proposed helipad site behind Bennett's.

There is also an extensive article about the proposed spraying of the herbicide garlon RTU by Hydro One due to begin in the spring of 2013.

There are multiple links attached to both sides of this discussion and I urge all cottagers to carefully consider this issue before granting approval to Hydro One.

We would like to thank John Neilson of the Garden City Hunt Club for getting us the Hayward's recipe for butter tarts and also a big THANKS to Donelda Hayward for allowing us to publish this recipe so everyone can enjoy these delicious treats!

At left is the picture of Donelda Hayward, Mayor Chris Armstrong of the Municipality of Whitestone, and me, congratulating Donelda on the approval of the name change from Pine Ridge Point to Hayward Point.

Please also keep the enclosed Membership and Permit Application Form to renew your memberships and obtain the necessary permits for 2013.

Thank you and on behalf of the Executive may I wish everyone a happy and healthy festive season and best wishes for 2013!

*Donald G. Comrie
President*

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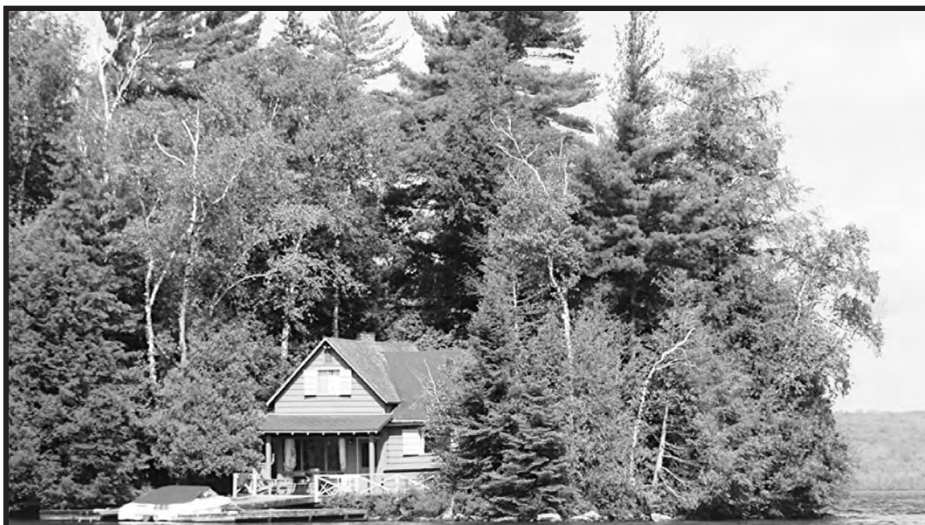
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Fish Enhancement Committee Report

We would like to thank all those who supported the fish committee at the AGM through donations and purchase of the alcohol for sale.

Since the report at the AGM, the committee has been investigating other means to monitor the trout and pickerel spawning beds in the lake. This is the result of the poor and inconclusive results from the trout spawning bed monitoring done in 2011 and the pickerel spawning bed monitoring in the spring of 2012. Both of these monitoring sessions consisted of individuals or teams going out in the middle of the night occasionally in severe weather and dangerous conditions to physically count fish on the spawning beds when the water temperature is in the correct range for spawning. Not only were these results inconclusive but also the monitoring was expensive even though we had a CFWIP grant (Community Fish and Wildlife Improvement Project) to cover the majority of the costs. We attempted to set up a meeting with the committee and the OMNR rep in Parry Sound but partly due to personnel changes in the OMNR and our own time limits, this did not happen. We are considering having a few dedicated volunteers for next summer who would keep detailed records of their catches and submit those records to the committee and the OMNR.

The chairman of this committee, Ken Taylor, has asked to temporarily step down from his responsibilities as chairman. The committee hopes to work together for a year or so without a chairman to continue to improve sport fishing on the lake.

Ken Webb, a cottager on Lake WahWashKesh, has kindly agreed to monitor the trout spawning bed again this year. Ken does this on a volunteer basis and checks the spawning bed in front of his cottage in the middle of the night with a bright light. Ken has already started monitoring since the lake temperature is below 10C at which point the trout may begin spawning at any time. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Ken Webb for his efforts.

Ed Bennett Sr., Don Comrie

Update On Proposed Helipad Site

At the beginning of August, 2012, the Association Executive were essentially at an impasse concerning the proposed helipad site on the former dump site behind Bennett's. Partially because the former dump ceased operations in 2000 so most information concerning the closure has been lost. Partially also because we could not determine who had information left concerning this closed dump. We could not determine even the basic information necessary to begin the application process with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

The OMNR in Parry Sound had a file on this site but felt that we were wasting our time in trying to get approval for this site so they strongly discouraged us from continuing.

On September 18th, I convened a meeting at the former dump site; present at the meeting were a representative from the MOE in North Bay who had been invited by the OMNR, the OMNR rep and his area supervisor, Bob Whitman, Fire Chief for the Municipality of Whitestone, Ed Bennett Jr., and me. We discussed the site and alternative sites and other proposals.

We learned at the meeting that at the time of closure, most of the garbage was removed by truck and taken elsewhere, likely Auld's Dump and then huge amounts of sand and soil were trucked in and the site was buried.

We also learned that although the Municipality requested the MOE to officially close the dump in 2005, through a closure process developed by an engineering firm, this closure proposal was never processed although it was sent to both the MOE and a month later to the OMNR. The OMNR has agreed to reactivate this request for official closure.

The important issue for us to prove is what was removed from the site or what is left. Anecdotal statements on this issue differ. I first went to Adam's Brothers in

Parry Sound since I thought they were the most likely firm involved; senior employees there remembered the project but said Adam's Brothers were not involved. Peter Keck said he sold the sand out of his quarry to Fowlers Construction who trucked the sand in to the site. They remembered doing the project but have no documentation left. Fowlers referred me to the Municipality who do have a file on the site but there is no record in it of what was removed from the dump site. This is our current position.

We have several options. Firstly we can

The important issue for us to prove is what was removed from the site or what is left.

continue to try and find documentation verifying what was removed. If that

is impossible, then we have to go to the MOE and ask what we have to do to get approval for the application. This might involve test wells, an engineering survey, or other tests which might be economically impossible for our Association. At that point we would abandon this site and approach the OMNR for a land-use permit for another site. The OMNR has said that they would issue the Association a land-use permit for any other piece of land they own to be used as an helipad but I still feel strongly that the former dump site is the best location providing water access for most of the year and it is also right beside one of the busiest snowmobile trails in Ontario so it may prove valuable in the winter.

Your Executive will continue to work on this project. We have the support of an Association member who designs and builds helipads in Canada for a living. We also have the support of the safety inspector for ORNGE air ambulance fleet in Ottawa. I am convinced that someone has the information we need but so far we have not identified them. We will keep you advised of any attempts or progress we make.

Don Comrie, President

Lake WahwashKesh Conservation Association Archives

We thank Lesley Hugill, Linda Vurma and Dalton Ferris, all who have provided materials towards assembling a complete archival record of the Association. The most important items are the Newsletters over the years and the Minutes of the Annual General Meetings.

The early newsletters and minutes of AGMs are missing. We ask for your assistance in gathering this historical material. The Association was formed in 1954 and there must be some records out there in cottages or homes of long-term lake residents or cottagers. We have nothing from 1950, 1960 or 1970 except for one 1977 letter from the Executive. The record for the 1980's is also blank except for the 1980 Cottage Directory, Spring Newsletter and Winter Newsletter.

All 1990-1992 materials are missing. We have both 1993 and 1994 newsletters, but lack the AGM minutes. For 1995 we have neither Newsletters nor AGM minutes. From 1996 onward, the file is complete with the exception of the 1999 and 2004 AGM minutes.

If you have in your possession any of these missing materials will you please share? I would appreciate it if you would make photocopies and mail to me by surface mail either the originals or the copies.

Thank you for any assistance you are able to provide. We really wish to compile as complete an archive as possible so future generations will have historical facts available.

Jacquelyn Morgan

490 Canboro Road, R.R.#3, Fenwick, Ontario, L0S 1C0

Proposal: Additional Water Quality Monitoring on WahWashKesh Lake

Over the past 11 years, volunteers have collected water quality data on WahWashKesh Lake as part of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Lake Partner program.

The data collected has proven valuable to monitor water quality trends on our lake.

These data include water transparency that is usually collected twice per month between June and September and total phosphorus from a single water sample collected in late May-early June. This sample is mailed to the MOE laboratory to determine the phosphorus level. On Canadian shield lakes including WahWashKesh Lake, phosphorus is typically the limiting nutrient to algae. Excessive levels of phosphorus cause microscopic algae and other plants to increase causing a decrease in water clarity.

The Executive of the WWK Conservation Association along with the members, approved this at the 2012 AGM, and we plan to purchase a water quality meter to collect additional water quality data from our lake. Other Conservation/Lake and Cottage Associations in the Magnetawan watershed upstream from WahWashKesh Lake have purchased and started using this meter to monitor water quality. The Professional Plus meter was developed and sold by Yellow Springs Instrument Corporation, who manufacture a wide variety of water quality measuring instruments that are used world-wide. The meter will measure temperature, oxygen, dissolved ions, pH (acidity), ammonia

nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, and the biological oxygen demand. The meter will measure these parameters from the surface all the way down to 30 meters deep.

These measurements will assist to determine if water quality conditions are changing in our lake. If oxygen concentrations decrease in the middle and lower depths of the lake, this can indicate algae production has increased in the upper surface waters which is not a good sign. Dissolved ions measures variables such as calcium, sodium, chloride, potassium, phosphorus and other minerals. An increase in dissolved ions may be an indicator of degraded water quality and may be

These measurements will assist to determine if water quality conditions are changing in our lake.

linked to changes in pH or the amount of acidity in the water. In 2008 in WahWashKesh Lake, the pH of the water was about 7 which is neither acidic or basic and is a good level to be at. After phosphorus, nitrogen is the next limiting nutrient to excessive algae production and this meter will measure ammonia and nitrate nitrogen. Higher nitrogen levels could indi-

cate too many nutrients coming into the lake or can be caused from septic leakage around our lake. Finally biological oxygen demand measures total microbial biological production, and serves as an indicator of organic pollution. This meter does not measure phosphorus as samples must be sent to a laboratory, and the phosphorus is digested and isolated from the water before being read.

The Professional Plus meter costs about \$3400 and the Executive is using some of the calendar sales profits, pledges by individuals, and funds from your Conservation Association treasury to hopefully purchase this meter this spring. Our plan is to coordinate sampling with others groups in the Magnetawan River watershed and to share data.

All of us living on our lake wish to maintain the pristine conditions and the purchase and use of this meter will allow us to detect if degradation of water quality has occurred. If degradation does occur, the meter can help pinpoint the source or sources and assist to fix the problem.

*Mike Maceina
Director and Water Quality Coordinator*

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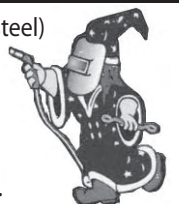
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Proposed Changes to the 2013 Annual General Meeting

The Executive and I, and I'm sure most of those who attended the 2012 AGM, feel that the meeting was just toooo long!

I also received four complaints from members who basically expressed the same sentiment. It is not that we are providing unnecessary information or that we are wasting time, we just have too much information to pass along in one meeting. Thankfully one of the complaints also passed along a recommendation to shorten the meeting (THANKS!) which we have altered and expanded and, as an Executive, have approved for the 2013 AGM.

The proposal is this. The spring 2013 newsletter will contain the agenda, the treasurer's report, the water quality report, the Fish Enhancement Committee Report, and the MRWA report. We are also looking at other reports that could be included. This would eliminate the time spent on these reports and would also mean that many more people (the newsletter is mailed to approximately 300 people whereas usually only 100 people come to the AGM) have the important information concerning the Association in advance. This allows people to peruse the information more carefully and thus formulate better questions.

This also means that members have a hard copy of the agenda and various reports for their records. For example,

Rob Slykhuis will get up to give the treasurer's report and will ask if there are any questions. At the end of the questions, he will move adoption of the report, get it seconded, carried, and then that is finished.

We anticipate that we can reduce the meeting length by at least thirty minutes and perhaps more by introducing these changes.

We are also considering purchasing some new audio equipment in the spring so everyone can hear and only the person with the microphone will be allowed to speak.

This is just advance notice that there will be an AGM package in the spring newsletter containing various reports and the agenda which you will want to peruse and keep for the AGM.

Thank you for your support of the Association.

Donald G. Comrie, President

Parking And Lake Access

During the year 2012 your Conservation Association created a much need additional parking area for water access cottagers. This new parking lot cost about \$29000 and has now been completely paid for by your Conservation Association.

Fees are now charged for parking of cars and trailers. These user fees will remain in place only until the parking lot investment has been recovered by the association. We will rely on our his-

torical accounting records to determine when parking fees are no longer required. We should be prepared for pay back to take 5-7 years.

In 2013 we plan on adding gravel to the bottom end of the new parking area and spreading the large stones along the south side so trailers can be pushed between the stones. ***More considerate parking of trailers is required – one way to accomplish this is to park trailer unhooked from vehicles.***

The Indian Narrows dock was repaired in 2012 and a much needed heavy anchor and chain added. Overall this dock is not in great shape and will need replacing soon. The work in 2012 is a "life extender" only. Although this work did cost money it was not charged to the association. I would like to thank my able dock repair helper Guy Brunelle for his construction guidance and assistance. We do have a large dock committee but this was a fairly small job so the larger committee was not called upon.

Thank you to all those who helped with the planning of the new parking lot and to CE Bennett Ltd. for a good and timely construction effort! The benefit of additional parking was quite obvious this past summer. *Thank you as well to all cottagers who supported the parking initiative by buying required permits. We hope to earn your continued support!*

Dalton Ferris

Chairperson—Parking and Lake Access Committee

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Magnetawan River Watershed Association

Since the report at the AGM, the MRWA has been busy. The MRWA arranged for exhibits and representatives to be at three fall fairs in the region; Dunchurch, Magnetawan, and Burks' Falls. At these fairs, the MRWA had a booth and brochures to bolster awareness of the organization and its objectives. Many visitors were given information and some became "Friends of the MRWA" for a minimal fee.

The MRWA is also organizing a schedule of water testing on the lakes of the watershed for next year and the four lake associations (including WahWashKesh) who will have testers will cover their lakes and the other lakes and will share the information gathered with the other lakes, the MRWA, and the OMNR. The Magnetawan River System is one of the largest watersheds in Ontario and yet is one of the least monitored.

As you probably know, the Lake WahWashKesh Conservation Association intended to purchase in 2012 a YSI Professional Plus water quality tester; however when our finances were significantly depleted by the construction of the new parking lot, the purchase was deferred until 2013. A motion was made and carried at the AGM that \$5.00 from each calendar sale would go to a special fund towards the purchase of the tester. We are now approximately two-thirds of the way to reaching the \$3400.00 goal and anticipate purchasing the tester in the spring of 2013.

Ed Bennett Sr., who has been the representative from the Association to the MRWA for three years, has asked to be relieved of this responsibility. Ed has served faithfully for three years as our rep and he brought an excellent knowledge of the waterway and local administration to the MRWA. On behalf of the Association and its members, I wish to thank Ed for his contribution, efforts, and wisdom that he has given to the MRWA for the these years.

If anyone who is an Association member is interested in taking on this task, please contact me. We usually have one or two meetings per year and the rest of our work is done by e-mail so it is not an onerous responsibility.

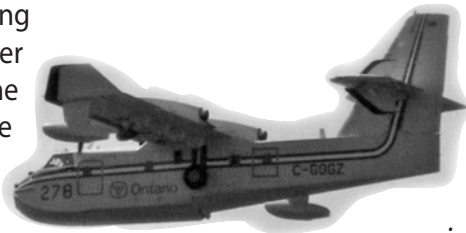
Thank you for your support of the MRWA and our efforts to ensure that the whole watershed has good clean water.

Don Comrie

Forest Fire!

We are very thankful for a quick response by fire fighters on August 1, 2012. We were also thankful for a still day with no wind. That afternoon I was preparing food for an evening party. My son-in-law asked for the phone number to report a forest fire. I heard him say there was a column of smoke about 2km north east of our location (Lookout Point on the north shore of the top lake at Deadman's Narrows). These are very scary words sitting at the edge of a tinder-dry forest following a month long drought. My thoughts were, "do I prepare to evacuate or continue to prepare for a party?"

A helicopter arrived and was soon joined by a spotter plane. A large water bomber followed, scooped the water from the lake, flew over us just above the tree tops to drench the fire. After several passes, the effort was successful. This was an exciting afternoon spectacle for our grandchildren, all of whom realized how potentially serious this situation could be.



However, we were dismayed to see curiosity seekers on the water interfering with the plane and the important job that it was trying to do. These 'boaters' were approaching too close as it tried to reload with water, and causing possible danger to both themselves and the pilot. Worse than ignorant, this action was reckless and dangerous.

Thankfully, no one was hurt and the forest fire, which was about two hectares, was extinguished.

p.s. - We had the party, complete with a full moon and no mosquitos.

Jackie Morgan





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Life Long WWK Conservationist Honoured by The Queen

Doug Elliott, a former WWK director and fellow cottager for over 55 years, was recently awarded the "Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal".

The medal was created to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne, the medal honours those who have made a significant contribution to their community.

Doug was recognized on Sept 5th in Welland, where he was born on April 5, 1925 and still resides. Myself, Linda

Vurma, my sister Susan Baltjes and her husband Jolle were actually enjoying a morning coffee that beautiful day on our dock at Lake WWK before our drive to the evening ceremony honouring Dad and 13 area citizens. It is interesting to note that several cottagers on WWK, especially the Top Lake, boat access types like ourselves have their roots in the Niagara area too: the men coming first as fishermen and hunters. Today extended families trek from their scattered locations to

enjoy precious family time, summer friends and the beauty of the natural heritage of WahWashKesh.

Doug was nominated by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority for his life time commitment and "pioneering role as a conservationist". He began in his youth as a junior member of the Welland Anglers Association and then joined the Welland Outdoorsmen Club of which he was president in 1952. In the late 1950's, about the same time we built on Lake WWK, he was part of a forward looking group who promoted the idea of establishing a Conservation

Authority in Niagara to play a lead role in much needed post-war land stewardship and watershed projects.

As a founding member in 1959 Doug continued to serve on the Board of the NPCA for 38 years, seven of those as chairman. The NPCA in their submission for nominating Doug, particularly cited his key role in the acqui-

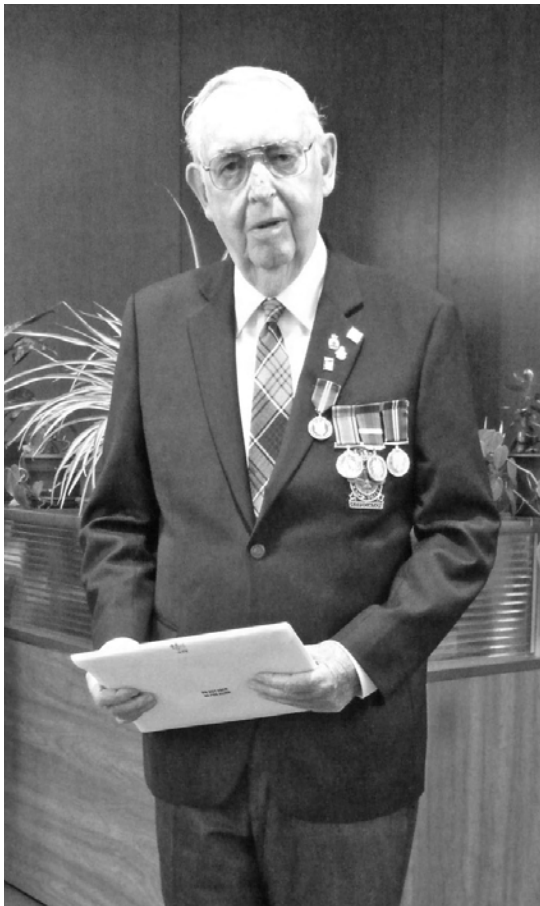
teer of the year, having contributed the most to further conservation in Ontario, by The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, most recently in 2008.

Another aspect of Doug's contribution, centres around his commitment as a WWII veteran and member of the Canadian Legion Branch 612 Fonthill....raising \$8000 in coffee money for our Canadian troops in Afghanistan, as well as promoting the designation of the "Veteran's Way" portion of Hwy 20.

Lake residents will also remember and be thankful for another project in which Doug was involved, when in August 2005, MCrae Rock was named and dedicated in a stirring ceremony and plaque unveiling, complete with the pipes and drums of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

It is another fall now. We have put up the shutters, brought the boats up and turned off the water for 2012, after a family Thanksgiving weekend at the cottage. Doug, at 87 can be very proud of his Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Linda Vurma



sition and stewardship of some of the most precious land resources in the Niagara area; Chipawa Creek, Binbrook, the Wainfleet Bog, Long Beach and Ball's Falls... an impressive legacy of natural regions being preserved for our benefit. Welland River watershed remediation and protection has also been one of Doug's life-long goals.

Doug has TWICE been awarded the Gord Blake Memorial Award for volun-



Hayward's Chelsea Buns

(Makes 2 dozen)

Dough

1 package of yeast
1/2 cup water
1/4 cup + 1 tsp white sugar
1/2 cup shortening
1 tsp salt
1 cup milk
1 beaten egg
4 - 1/3 cups all purpose flour

Topping/Pan Bottom

3/4 cup white sugar
3 tsp cinnamon
2/3 cup raisins
butter or margarine

- Sprinkle yeast over 1/2 cup of water, stir in 1 tsp of white sugar and set aside until yeast dissolves.

- In a large mixing bowl combine 1/2 cup of shortening, 1/4 cup of white sugar, and 1 tsp salt. Gradually add 1 cup of lukewarm milk.

Add yeast, 1 beaten egg, and 2 cups of flour, beat.

Add remaining flour (2 - 1/3 cups). Mixture should not be sticky, add additional flour if necessary.

Place in a greased bowl, cover and let rise to twice the size OR about 40 minutes (for quick rise yeast) or 60-70 minutes (for instant or active dry yeast).

- Dust a board with flour and roll out to approximately a 3' long X 1.5' rectangle. Spread with a coat of softened butter or margarine. Sprinkle generously with cinnamon and sugar, and scatter raisins.

- Roll up across the 3' length to create a 3' long roll, then cut into 24 buns (about 1" to 1.5" wide).

- In a 5"x8" pan generously brushed with butter or margarine sprinkle additional sugar in the bottom of the pan (which will then become the caramelized top of the bun). Place buns in buttered pan, 6 per pan.

- Preheat oven to 400° and bake 20-25 minutes until browned on top. Set aside to cool and remove from pan while warm.

Donelda Hayward ... July 2012

*The only thing missing is the boat ride back to the cottage !!!
Enjoy !!!*



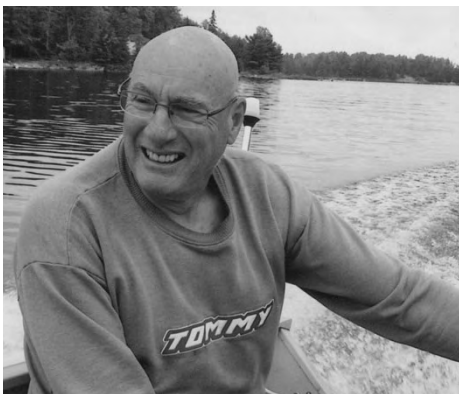
Goodbye to Long-Time Cottagers

Doug Hand, 68, passed away suddenly on October 9, 2012, at his cottage on Shanty Bay, his beloved summer residence.

Visitation was held at Cudney Chapel in Welland, Ontario on Wednesday, October 17 followed by a service on October 18.

Doug, known as "Scooter", had enjoyed spending time at Lake WahWashKesh since childhood. Well-

known and a good friend to many on the Lake, he enjoyed a golf game, helped with the docks and, following his retirement from GM, had



often assisted Ken Hayward with boats and deliveries.

The Lake WahWashKesh Conservation Association sent a tasteful floral tribute expressing deepest sympathy and condolences. The family requested donations be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association should you wish to offer a personal memorial.

Ruth Haggerty passed away peacefully in her sleep on November 25th, 2012 at the age of 83.

Ruth had been coming to Lake WahWashKesh since she was a child. Back in the days when Guy Hayward used to take them across the lake in his old wooden boat.

The family had a cottage in Shanty Bay where Ruth, and her new husband Harry, honeymooned in 1947. The Haggertys and Easterbrooks then built a new cottage together in 1957 near Lovesick Rapids. Ruth continued to love coming to the cottage for over 65 years until her health prevented it.

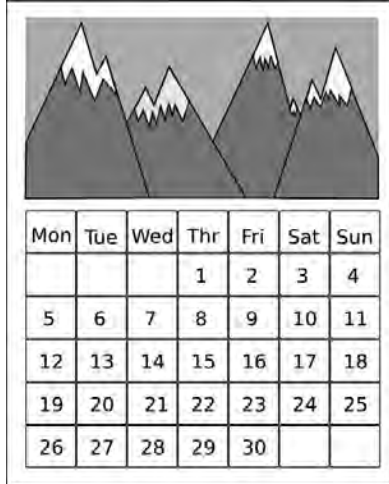
The funeral service was held December 1st in Fonthill, Ontario.



The Second WWKCA Calendar

With the huge success of our first ever WWKCA calendar, we're looking ahead to a 2014 calendar!

We are, again, looking for landscape pictures depicting all of the months of the year at the lake. Again, we are starting the calendar in december (2013), so we have lots of opportunity for off-season cottage pictures. This year we had an overwhelming number of sunsets submitted (they make good pictures!)...take a good look at the picture you want to submit and think twice... we had room this year for some of the sunsets on the back page, but there are lots of other aspects of the lake to photograph.



to work as well in the printing
3 - One photo per person so that everyone gets a chance to have their photo in the calendar

4 - Include the photographer's name, the photo's location, and the month the photo was taken (this makes our job much easier when we have to sort the pictures for each month)

5 - Include, also, a short note giving

the wwka permission to publish your photo

Submissions will be accepted up until the middle of June 2013 then we go to the publishers. By giving everyone lots of time, we are expecting a great representation of all areas of the lake.

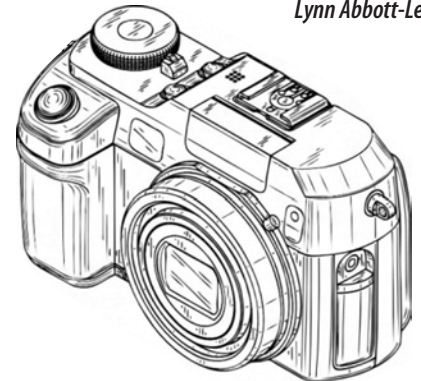
Send your photos to:
patriciaforbes@rogers.com

Remember that christmas is coming! We still have 2013 calendars available. Contact Rob Slykhuis by email or mail (see the board of directors information on the back page of this newsletter).

We are looking forward to receiving your fabulous pictures! Have a joyful and safe holiday season. See you at the lake!

P.S. I apologize to Hagen Materne for not mentioning your name at the AGM as the photographer of the cover picture for the 2013 calendar.

*Your calendar committee
 Pat Forbes, Elsa Richards and
 Lynn Abbott-Lennox*



The rules for submission are as follows:

- 1** - Horizontal orientation (not vertical, because they need cropping and so lots of good detail gets lost)
- 2** - Jpeg format. The photos we used this year were, usually, ones taken with ordinary cameras and cellphones. If the resolution of the picture is too high, it doesn't seem

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Notes from the Treasurer

For 2012 there were changes made to the Dock Permit/Lake Access Fees. With the implementation of the car parking and the combination Car Park/Lake Access Permits the standard dock only permits dropped from previous years. However when we consider the combined and dock only permits we have seen an increase from 75 to 92 with an additional 123 Parking Permits sold.

The new parking lot was constructed with the intention of financing through a parking permit system. As discussed during the annual meeting the costs for this were higher than anticipated with total to date at \$26,685 and some additional work still required, bringing the expected total to ~\$30,000. Due to the temporary strain this had placed on our Association finances a special appeal went out to ask for advance payment of parking, lake access and membership fees. This campaign raised \$6,000 which more than adequately covered our short term financial issues. Thanks to those who helped out.

With respect to the financing of the parking lot, dedicated revenue received to date from the parking fees and share of the combined permits has totaled \$5,940. We will continue to track the parking revenues to ensure that

this is paid separately from the general revenue and to be able to discontinue the charges once the debt is retired.

This was the second year we have had the assistance of Pat Merritt and Cheryl Costigan in working on the membership drive for the lake. As you can see the results have been excellent, reaching 249 paid memberships for 2012. In addition to increasing our paid memberships their efforts have also helped us to improve our database of properties on the lake. So in addition to paid up 2012 members we are again

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Memberships	203	212	217	249
Dock permits	47	56	75	25
Car park/lake access				67
Car parking				123

able to track the 60+ members from 2011 who were not able to renew this year. By copy of this newsletter we hope that they will have the chance to again join up in 2013.

Along with the membership drive Pat and Cheryl also spent some time at the two public docks selling Lake Access and Parking Permits. Our hope was that this would raise awareness to the Association's efforts to raise funds to keep these docks maintained for all who use them. *Please join me in thanking Pat and*

Cheryl for the hard work they have done to further the goals of the Association. While we will not renew the membership drive next year we expect this effort will pay dividends for many years to come.

At the annual meeting it was agreed that we would dedicate \$5 from the \$20 cost of calendars toward the purchase of a water quality tester for the lake. While sales of calendars have been fairly steady we still have quite a few left so please place your orders as soon as possible. Combined with the donation and commitment made at the annual meeting of \$1450, we expect to raise enough to purchase the tester in the spring. I will report on total calendar sales in the spring newsletter and hope we will sell out before then.

Feel free to forward any comments or questions regarding the finances of the Association to me directly at my email address below.

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Hydro One – Use of Garlon RTU

Make An Informed Decision

As most of you know, Hydro One has contacted homeowners around Lake WahwashKesh who have hydro lines on their property to request permission to clear the brush under the lines and remove any threatening trees along the edge of the right of way. This will occur in two stages in 2013. Of concern to some members of the Association is the herbicide they propose to use called Garlon RTU. This liquid herbicide is very effective in controlling suckers regrowth from cut stumps. The chemical name for Garlon is Triclopyr and it has been extensively used in North America since 1979. The herbicide does not kill brush and trees on contact, but slowly kills these plants by upsetting the physiology of these plants. The herbicide is registered by the federal government and permitted for use when following the correct label and application guidelines.

We conducted some research on Garlon and mixed messages were found concerning the toxicological effects on animals and humans and the environmental effects of this herbicide. The label warns if you apply this herbicide, keep the spray away from you skin and eyes, and protective gear should be worn. The label warns that Garlon is “toxic to aquatic organisms” and this “chemical may result in contamination of groundwater particularly in areas where soils are permeable (e.g., sandy soil) and/or where the depth to the water table is shallow “

(see the following two links to read the safety label for Garlon, and toxicity information);

http://www.ivmexperts.ca/pdfs/Garlon_RTU_Label_English.pdf

http://www.ivmexperts.ca/pdfs/Garlon_RTU_MSDS_English.pdf

http://www.ivmexperts.ca/pdfs/Garlon_RTU_Facts_English.pdf

These strong warnings to us would make us wonder why Garlon is even permitted for legal use in Canada. Further information provided on Garlon by manufacturer Dow Agro out of Calgary provides a different message that Garlon is safe and is non-toxic to aquatic organisms when normal application procedures are followed.

Further information all indicates that Garlon is not a carcinogen to humans. Oregon State University (OSU; independent opinions) put out a fact sheet on the toxicology effects of Garlon by gathering all available information.

See link with fact sheet: <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/triclotech.pdf>

With any herbicide, rapid breakdown is very desirable to minimize any risks. In plants, Garlon has a half-life (after this time only 50% of the chemical formulation still persists) in 3 to 10 days and in water in 1 to 10 days. Thus, after two months Garlon is completely gone. However, the half-life in soils ranges from 1 to 90 days. In the laboratory, Garlon has been exposed and fed to animals, and its toxicity is considered low. Human volunteers even ingested Garlon with no

effects and similar to other animals, Garlon is rapidly removed from the body (see OSU fact sheet). Direct exposure to aquatic life showed a mixed bag of results, but Garlon is only registered for terrestrial use and is illegal to use in water. No doubt, if you placed fish directly in this liquid herbicide they would die. Some of Dow Agro claims that Garlon is non-toxic to aquatic life come from the fact they assume very little of the chemical will reach the water and if Garlon does enter water bodies, the chemical degrades quickly.

We recommend all cottage owners with Hydro One right-of-ways be aware of the accurate facts and environmental risks of Garlon applications on their property. Besides private property, Hydro One will use Garlon on public right-of-ways so the chemical will be used in our watershed. Below are some links published by the popular media on Garlon use, its effects, and the controversy.

<http://www.cottagecountrynow.ca/news/local/article/811957>

<http://www.manitoulin.ca/2011/07/06/mto-abandons-use-of-garlon-herbicide-on-manitoulin-island/>

<http://www.manitoulin.ca/2011/11/30/garlon-is-back-hydro-one-seeks-permission-from-landowners/>

<http://bruceonthebruce.wordpress.com/2011/08/09/suicide-or-herbicide/>
(blog with safety data sheet)

<http://sutroforest.com/2011/02/25/more-garlon-for-glen-canyon-park/>
(see “Why Worry” section)

<http://www.pesticide.org/get-the-facts/pesticide-factsheets/factsheets/triclopyr>

<http://www.ont-woodlotassoc.org/pdf/Landowners%20Guide%20%20Controlling%20Invasive%20Species.pdf>

<http://spforests-service.wordpress.com/herbicides/>

<http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/mendocino/toxics/Triclopyr-English.htm1>

We have heard many cottagers have refused to allow Hydro One to apply Garlon on their property. This is your right, as with any chemical or drug, some risks always exist. Alternatively, Hydro One can remove regrowth using mechanical methods (recut, brush hogging, etc), but these methods are much more expensive. The Association recognizes the necessity of Hydro One to do this required maintenance work but as a “conservation association” we feel strongly the need to protect our environment. We hope Hydro One responds to you if you have questions and to the Executive on the issues we have raised.

Donald G. Comrie, President and Mike Maceina, Director

The Association posed the following questions to Hydro One. Below is their response:

Please find attached the answers to the questions that you asked on behalf of the Lake WahWashKesh Conservation Association. It has been suggested that I include the following links to include in your newsletter.

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_decisions/e91-02/index-eng.php

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_decisions/rrd2006-02/index-eng.php

(1) Did Hydro One get a special permit to use garlon RTU for this project and if so, what does the permit allow?

Unlike other pesticide products and/or applications, a specific permit is not required by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to apply Garlon RTU in Ontario. However, the application must be performed by licensed personnel following product label guidelines. The employer of these applicators must hold a valid Ontario Pesticide Operators Permit. In addition, the recommendation to perform a Garlon RTU application (or any pesticide application) must be made by a certified, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) individual. Hydro One conforms to all these requirements.

(2) What is the shelf life of garlon RTU?

The manufacturer does not indicate an expiry date for Garlon RTU stored in its original packaging.

(3) Have any other chemicals been applied to the hydro right of ways in the last ten years and if so, what are their names and shelf life? How do they react with garlon RTU?

Records indicate that Garlon 4 was the last product used in the Dunchurch F1 Feeder in 2001. Garlon 4 is the predecessor to Garlon RTU. There would be no interaction with these products on the ground, as there would be no lasting effects from a treatment occurring over a decade ago (half-life is a maximum 90 days).

(4) What training do Hydro One employees receive in the application and use of garlon RTU?

Pesticide training is extensive and ongoing at Hydro One. Applicators are required to hold a valid Ontario Applicators or Technician license. Applicators must attend annual in-house training referred to as "Module 12". This is a two day course and includes a hands-on field component conducted by experienced field trainers. In addition, crews are randomly audited by both internal and MOE staff to assess competence and compliance with health, safety and environmental regulations. Also, the Hydro One Forestry Technician staff, who create the work details for the labour crews, are required to be certified by the Ontario Integrated Pest Management Council and complete annual educational courses to maintain their certification.

(5) Is garlon RTU to be sprayed only on cut tree stumps or is it to be sprayed in any area where the mechanical clearing equipment cannot reach?

Both. If permission is granted by the landowner, Garlon RTU will be used to control resprouting woody species by applying

a small amount of herbicide directly to cut stumps following manual or mechanical cutting crews. Where stems are too small to be cut, or where mechanical equipment cannot reach, a small amount of product is applied to the lower portion of an uncut stem at about knee-height. A foliar or broadcast application is not being used in this location.

(6) What procedures and policies are in place in case there is an accident or spill involving garlon RTU or any other chemical? Is the Ministry of the Environment automatically called in each case?

The Ministry of Environment requires notification if a spill occurs that is greater than what would be released into the environment under normal application operations. Hydro One vehicles and job sites are equipped with spill containment kits. Employees are trained to deal with spills and to notify their supervisors, the Spills Action Centre and the MOE if an unreasonable release of herbicide occurs.

(7) The label for garlon RTU indicates the chemical is toxic to aquatic organisms. How much of the chemical do you estimate will reach the waters of Lake WahWashKesh?

Minimal to none. Hydro One uses herbicides with a proven track record that, once applied, move little in the soil and degrade quickly. Hydro One also maintains herbicide buffer zones around water to eliminate the chance of contamination.

(8) What about health risks to terrestrial animals such as turtles, pets, and humans? After spraying are signs posted to stay out for a number of days? Signs are posted in urban areas after spraying; is this practice followed in this case (eg. don't swim or allow livestock to drink water)?

Hydro One uses herbicides that have shown to pose a low threat to human health and terrestrial animals. Hydro One is required to notify the public of a pending herbicide application by use of newspaper advertisements or local signage. Signs to avoid swimming or drinking water are not required as these products are not applied to water.

Hydro One recognizes the value that herbicides contribute to a vegetation clearing program that aims to reduce tree contact with overhead power lines. These products can be used safely when label and government regulations are followed. The elimination of resprouting woody species under power lines allows for greater access for maintenance, power restoration during storms and outages, reduces power loss and blackouts and increases public safety by removing unsafe tree-to-wire situations. Future maintenance costs can be reduced by the permanent removal of tall growing brush while allowing low growing compatible vegetation to flourish and dominate the right-of-way.

If you have any other questions please feel free to contact me: Jeff Barks, Forestry Technician - Hydro One Forestry Services • 705-938-1000 • email: jeff.barks@HydroOne.com

Green Corner *by N. Glenn Perrett*

In this column eco-friendly products include quality items that last a long time as well as items associated with environmentally-friendly activities; in some cases they are both!



WR-2 Wooden Radio and Senta 40 Wooden Headphones (C. Crane Company)

I'm trying to minimize the plastic that we use. Two very good products made of wood that I'm delighted with are the WR-2 Wooden Radio and the Senta 40 Wooden Headphones from C. Crane Company. The attractive radio sounds great and gets very good reception. Some of the features of the digital AM/FM radio include a clock with alarm, backlight, headphone jack, line-in for an MP3 player and a remote control. This wooden radio is ideal for the cottage - or home.

I'm also thoroughly enjoying the Senta 40 Wooden Headphones which sound great. The lightweight, adjustable headphones come with a 4-foot fabric cord and feature a folding design that allows them to store in the carrying case that they come with. The ear cushions are comfortable allowing me to use them for extended periods.



Mini-Spade (Lee Valley)

Campers, canoeists and gardeners will find this Mini-Spade useful. Originally used as a compact tool for camping, it can also be

used as a trowel. Campers will find it useful for digging a "mini-latrine" or putting dirt on a campfire to ensure that it is out. The durable trowel is made of stainless steel and comes in a nylon sheath that can hold the trowel on a belt. The versatile mini-spade is approximately 9 inches long and folds to 5.5 inches when not in use.

Gingerbread Mold (Lee Valley)

Gingerbread houses are fun to eat,



but they are also fun to make. This Gingerbread Mold from Lee Valley is a "non-stick cast iron mold" that makes two styles of houses - a log cabin and a Victorian house. Two moldings are required for each house.

The mold comes with instructions for using gingerbread or chocolate and a recipe for the gingerbread and icing. By using different decorations you can make tasty houses for occasions other than Christmas. Nice activity for a rainy day at the cottage!

Gift Ideas from Planet Dog (Planet Dog)

Looking for Christmas gifts for your "best friend"? Planet Dog has lots to choose from including their attractive tartan (with white Berber fleece cuff) Classic Canine Stocking. This stocking has lots of room to hold toys and treats. Since our Terrier/Beagle mix dog enjoys

soft squeaky toys, we've included a Planet Dog Squeaky Snowman Buddy which is made of fleece with recycled fill.



Men's ReForge ion-mask Shoes (Teva)

The last few years our family has hiked numerous trails. Recently I got a pair of Men's ReForge ion-mask hiking shoes from Teva and they are very good. Not only are they relatively lightweight and comfortable, but they keep my feet fairly dry in wet conditions as they are water repellent (not waterproof). These are good hiking shoes in warmer weather - and at the cottage.



C. Crane Company
• www.ccrane.com

Lee Valley • www.leevalley.com

Planet Dog • www.planetdog.com

Teva • www.teva.com

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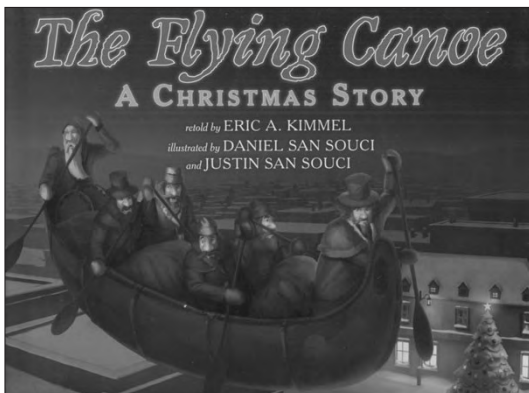
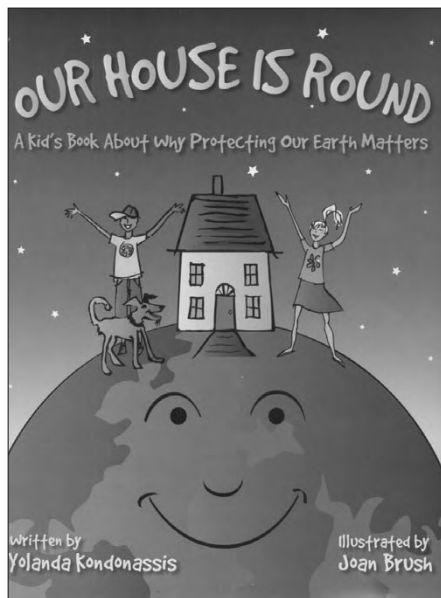
Book Reviews by N. Glenn Perrett

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

Our House is Round: A Kid's Book About Why Protecting Our Earth Matters

Yolanda Kondonassis,
illustrated by Joan Brush
Sky Pony Press
2012, 48 pages, ISBN:
9781616085889
ages 4+

A good book to educate young children, and their parents, about the environment is *Our House is Round: A Kid's Book About Why Protecting Our Earth Matters* by Yolanda Kondonassis. Not only does the author say what activities can help the health of the planet, but also how these efforts help the Earth and why they are important. Colourful illustrations will hold a child's attention as he/she learns about protecting the environment. An "Earth-Smart Dictionary" and a "Messy Planet Action Plan" at the end of the book complement the text.



The Flying Canoe: A Christmas Story

retold by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by
Daniel San Souci and Justin San Souci
Holiday House
2011, 32 pages, ISBN: 9780823417308
ages 4+

If you're looking for a children's book about Christmas and which features a canoe this book is for you. Retold by Eric A. Kimmel, *The Flying Canoe: A Christmas Story* is about a group of Voyageurs who are far from home on Christmas Eve. Things get interesting when a mysterious man arrives at their campsite with an offer that they can return home to Montreal for Christmas on the condition that they do not speak to one another until they reach their homes. Soon the canoe is skimming over tree-tops traveling over Lake Nipigon, Fort Mackinac, Lake Ontario and the Saint Lawrence River. This is a fun Christmas story with excellent illustrations.

Gifts of the Crow: How Perception, Emotion, and Thought Allow Smart Birds to Behave Like Humans

John Marzluff and Tony Angell
Free Press
2012, 289 pages, ISBN: 9781439198735

Gifts of the Crow: How Perception, Emotion, and Thought Allow Smart Birds to Behave Like Humans is an insightful and fascinating look at birds - particularly members of the avian family Corvidae which includes nut-crackers, jays, ravens, magpies and crows. The authors have gathered considerable information on corvids from studies and observations including language, insight, passion, grief and awareness illustrating how these birds are similar to humans.

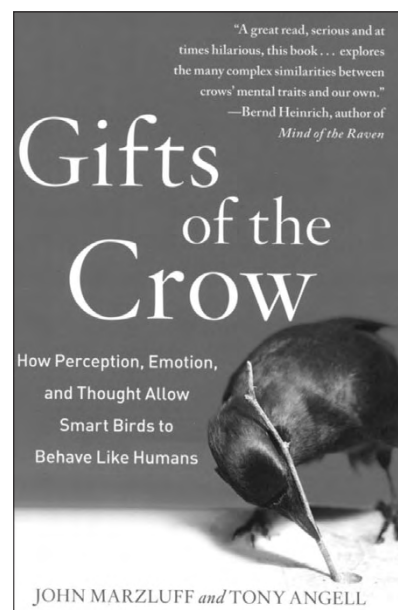
"Corvids assume characteristics that were once ascribed only to humans, including self-recognition, insight, revenge, tool use, mental time travel, deceit, murder, language, play, calculated risk taking, social learning, and traditions."

When comparing the brain size of corvids to humans and other animals these birds fare well.

"A human brain weighs about 1.3 kilograms (three pounds), or 1.9 percent of our total body weight...raven brains account for 1.4 percent of their body mass, while the New Caledonian crow's is a whopping 2.7 percent."

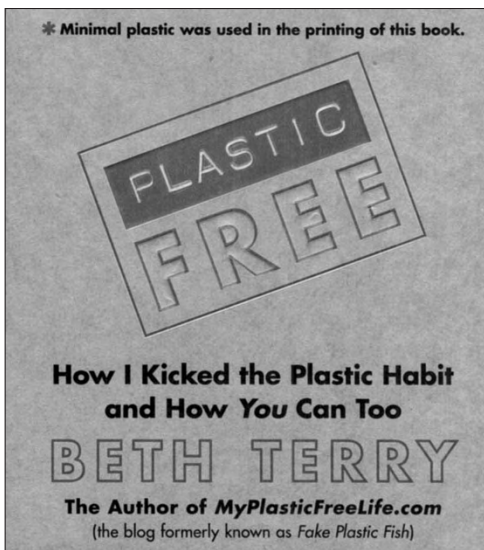
Besides their intelligence, I thoroughly enjoyed reading about how corvids enjoyed having fun, which included ravens sliding down snow-covered roofs, hooded crows using plastic lids to slide down roofs and ravens using pieces of tree bark as surfboards to ride the winds.

Gifts of the Crow is an interesting book about fascinating birds.



**Plastic Free: How I Kicked
the Plastic Habit and How
You Can Too**

Beth Terry
Skyhorse Publishing
2012, 344 pages, ISBN: 9781616086244



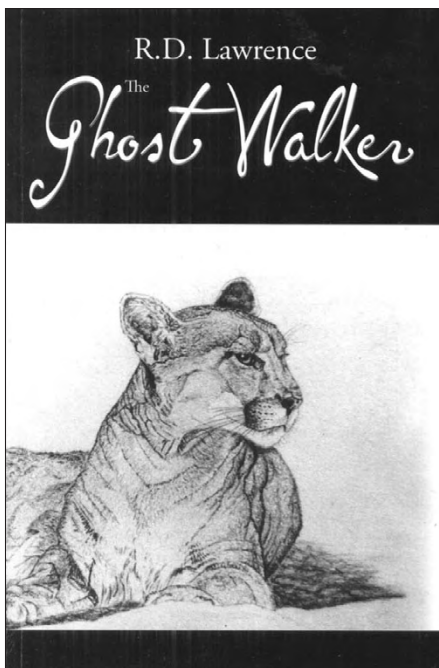
When it comes to pollution, plastic is a big problem. Not only is it commonly used for everything from bottles and bags to computers and televisions, but it doesn't readily break down. While it is very difficult to eliminate plastic from our lives, Beth Terry does show how we can significantly reduce our dependence on this material. She also illustrates why using plastic is such a bad idea and what are good alternatives and where to get them. If you think that the problems pertaining to plastics are exaggerated, consider that one part of the ocean is "...a floating island of plastic twice the size of Texas" that affects numerous species killing an unimaginable number of animals and that "...Americans now consume about 34.6 billion single-serving (1 liter or less) plastic water bottles each year."

Drastically reducing the plastic in our lives is vital and Plastic Free is a good resource to help achieve this.

The Ghost Walker

R.D. Lawrence
2012, 1983, 188 pages, ISBN: 9780973838008
www.MadeInHaliburton.ca

Cougars have been in the news lately with sightings in various parts of Ontario. Those interested in learning more about these incredible, and elusive, animals can read R.D. Lawrence's book *The Ghost Walker* which was republished this year. This excellent wilderness adventure occurred in 1972 and 1973 when Lawrence followed a male cougar for 10 months in the Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia. With Lawrence's detailed accounts of the area and his activities the reader is taken along on the fascinating experience where the author experiences some dangerous moments, including disturbing a hibernating Grizzly Bear during a storm, while studying the cougar and earning his trust. Lawrence's knowledge and observations of animals and the environment make this a wonderful read for those interested in nature.



Event Calendar 2013



Corn Roast

Saturday,

August 17

- 4:00 pm
- Straub's Beach

Annual General Meeting

9:30 am

- Saturday,
August 3rd
- Bennett's Barn

DUNCAN ROBERTSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship is in honour of the late Duncan Ritter Robertson, who demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the preservation of the natural resources on Lake WahWashKesh.

The scholarship will be awarded to ONE applicant who:

- Must be a secondary school graduate enrolling in the first year of a post-secondary program with an **emphasis in an environmental field**.
- Must be in the immediate family (spouse, child, grandchild) of a current member of the WWKCA.

The executive will choose the recipient who best meets the criteria • **The scholarship amount is \$100**

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cottage Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

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? _____

Outline your interests and involvements in environmental affairs. (Please feel free to use a separate piece of paper for more space)

Signature of applicant: _____

Please note that the application deadline is **June 30**.

The completed application should be sent to:

Wahwashkesh Conservation Association - Duncan Robertson Scholarship 2013
c/o Don Comrie - Association President
Ste.501 - 44 Longbourne Drive, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9R 2M7

Lake WWK Web Site Statement of Purpose

Ever since I rebuilt the lakewwk.ca site in 2007, I felt that we needed some sort of policy outlining the reason the Association has a website. Therefore, I am proposing this statement of purpose, which I will eventually put on the website. However, before I do that I welcome your input and suggestions for improving the statement.

Please e-mail me at kathryn.cook@georgiancollege.ca

The purpose of Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association's website is to provide the following:

- A presence for our association on the World Wide Web
- Foster a sense of community among members
- Promote membership for both new members and returning members
- Promote our events and programs
- Publish news about recent events
- Facilitate communication among members and with the executive

We will develop the Lake WWK website using the most recent standards and practices as published by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). We will maintain our site based on the following best practices:

- Use valid HTML and CSS based on the most recent HTML and CSS specifications
- Make certain the site is accessible for users with disabilities
- Ensure the site is mobile device friendly

In addition, we will use a writing style that is concise, scannable, and objective as well as include the appropriate use of headings, lists, and highlighted words (Nielsen, 1997). We will include links to other sites, but only when they are truly relevant to the work we do for the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association. Finally, we will avoid the use of Flash and drop down menus because of compatibility and accessibility issues.

Reference: Nielsen, J. 1997. How Users Read on the Web. Retrieved from <http://www.useit.com/alertbox/9710a.html>

For those of you who know a little about HTML, the first bullet point under best practices means that I will have to do a rebuild when HTML 5 becomes the new standard in 2014. Thanks in advance for your input!

Sincerely, your Webmaster

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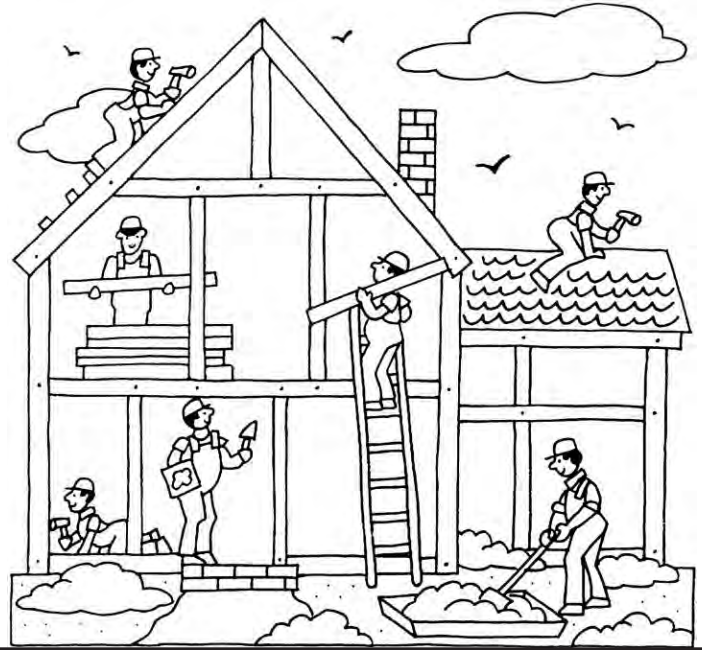
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Clip this form. Fill in your lake address or your water access number. Place on your refrigerator and by the phone or C.B.

**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**