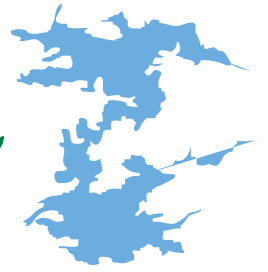


Lake WahWashKesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2017



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a beautiful fall last year, Lake WahWashKesh put up with a half-hearted winter. There was a beautiful snowfall on October 25; all the trees were covered with snow for a few days but the snow did not last and the ice did not form on the lake until early December. Despite several periods of intense snowfall after that (which resulted in many "snow days" for the kids and stress for the parents), snowmobiling was seriously curtailed by poor conditions. This spring, with lots of rain, has contributed to high water levels late. The Association Executive continues to work to improve water quality, parking around Indian Narows' and Bennett's, and the availability of current information about the lake. To improve this last item, the website was updated and reformatted early in this year. The Executive are in the process of engaging a local lady to provide updates to the website every two weeks throughout the year. This may include pictures (such as those of the high water just before the Victoria Day weekend) or text such as the announcement of Anne Sperry's passing. Please check the website regularly for updates on current conditions.

Again this year we are including with the spring newsletter the AGM Information Package. Please keep this package and bring it with you to the AGM on Saturday, August 5 at 9:30 AM in Bennett's Barn.

This method of communication of annual reports not only saves printing and mailing costs but also reduces the amount of time spent at the AGM.

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

Don Comrie

LOON NESTING RAFT UPDATE

The ice went off Lake WahWashKesh in most areas on April 15 and 16, approximately a week earlier than usual. The loon raft was put back in the water and anchored in its spot on April 17. Early in the spring, four

more logs were added to the flotation under the raft so that it would provide a more secure and dry nesting area. Also moss with a little bit of soil underneath it was placed on top of the raft to provide a more realistic nesting area. Despite our attempts, the loons are still swimming in the bay but not nesting on the raft. There are a pair of large white ducks

who frequently rest on the raft but are not nesting on it either. I guess the "hot" real estate market has not hit the loon nesting market yet!

Don Comrie



2016 ASSOCIATION FINANCES

The final entries for the Association's 2016 fiscal year end are nearly complete, and I'm happy to say that, again, our finances will close in a positive position.

As I noted in the 2016 fall update, revenues continue to exceed expenses. We are also thankful to receive a donation from the Talen family in memory of Kathryn Cook. The donation was utilized to cover the costs to construct a loon raft for Lake WahWashKesh. Don Comrie has made a tremendous effort to "operationalize" the raft, which includes a fair amount of muscling the raft in and out of the water. Thanks Don for your hard work on this project!

Expenses were generally in line with 2015, although as I mentioned in the fall newsletter, new batteries were required for the Hobo Link monitoring system for the lake.

A few members have made use of our PayPal capabilities this year. Thanks to Mike Lewis for setting this up for us!

I have a few more entries to make and a final check of the numbers, and everything will be off to the auditors. 2016 Lake WahWashKesh Financial statements will be ready for the AGM.

See you all soon!

Barb Cribbett

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

You can download and mail in a
**Lake WahWashKesh
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from the WWK website


www.lakewwk.ca

The form is available on the
bottom of the Home page

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Green Corner

by N. Glenn Perrett

BugLit LED Micro-Flashlight

www.leevalley.com

Wow! There are many uses for this cool-looking flashlight that can be used "hands-free". The LED flashlight has a high, low and flash mode and uses two 3V lithium button-cell batteries. Since the flashlight features "four flexible steel wire legs" it can be hung from an item or wrapped around an object such as a tent pole. Comes with a removable carabiner that allows you to hang the flashlight from a backpack or keychain. The flashlight is available in three colours: green (item 68K06.78), blue (68K06.76) and red (68K06.77). Replacement batteries are also available (68K06.90).

Tree Leather Wallets

www.leevalley.com

Looking for durable, inexpensive wallets not made of leather? These traveller's wallets are sewn from tree leather – paper products made of "industrial-grade, FSC-certified kraft paper". According to the Lee Valley website the paper "is made from pulp that is processed in a way that leaves the long fibers unbroken, taking advantage of their natural strength and resilience."

Recently I was given a "Tree Leather Tote Bag" and I was impressed with its durability so I decided to try the wallets made of paper. As a vegan I am pleased to see products not made of the skin of animals and these tree leather wallets are very good.

The Tree Leather Card Wallet (item 09A09.37) measures 4.25" by 3.25" and features a removable 10-leaf transparent insert that holds up to 20 cards. The wallet closes with a

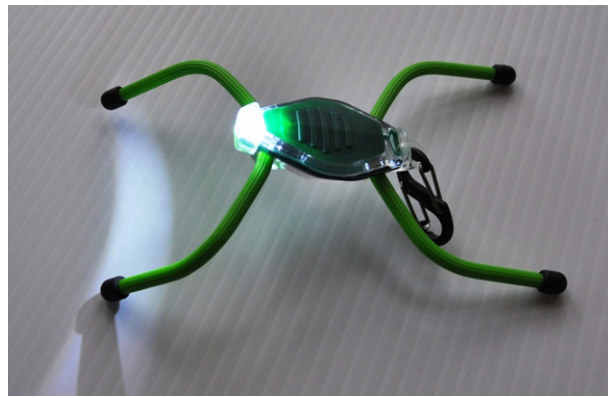
steel snap.

The Tree Leather Passport Wallet (item 09A09.35) is a little more than 4" wide and 5-5/8" high and features pockets for the passport cover along with card sleeves and an open-side pocket for things like a boarding pass or itinerary.

There is also a Tree Leather Document Wallet (item 09A09.34) which is a portfolio-style folding sleeve that features snap closures and a zippered spine allowing access to paperwork contained in the wallet.

If you are interested in all three of these you can purchase them as a set – Set of 3 Tree Leather Traveller's Wallets (item 09A09.40).

There is also a Tree Leather Classic Billfold Wallet (item 09A09.38) which is a slim wallet – 3.75" high by 4.75" wide (folded). The interior of the wallet contains pockets for cards. Nice slim design.



Garlic Press

www.leevalley.com

Over the years we have used various products to mince garlic but the best device has been the Garlic Press available from Lee Valley (item HK329). This stainless steel press is easy to use and effectively minces cloves of garlic quickly and with minimal waste. Hand wash only. Nice kitchen tool for the house or cottage.

In Memory of ... Anne Sperry

Anne Alexander Sperry, 89, a life-long Akron, Ohio resident passed away peacefully on Friday April 14, 2017 after a short illness. She was the daughter of the late Robert A. and Doris B. Sperry, and the sister of the late Virginia Sperry.

Anne led an amazing life. Born November 9, 1927, Anne attended Old Trail High School, graduated from Wheaton College in Norton, MA and received her Master's in Education from Kent State. Much of her life was dedicated to children in her roles as both teacher and principal. Anne taught at Old Trail School, schools in Morenci, AZ, Menlo Park, CA, Beachwood, Ohio and Kent State University before finishing her career with Akron Public Schools as a principal.

Anne's interests were wide and varied. She loved music and was happiest if she could find a group with whom to sing and harmonize. Anne loved animals and especially studied birds, identifying many by their calls. She became an adept wood carver, carving many animals she observed in nature. Like her

father before her, Anne loved the challenge of repairing most anything. She was never far from any number of tools and her ingenuity and cleverness led to many creative fix-it solutions. Anne was an active member of the Junior League of Akron and Delta Kappa Gamma. She adored her 3 nieces and her great nieces and nephews, making certain to spend yearly vacations with all of them. Her favorite place to spend summers was at her cottage on Lake Wah-WashKesh in Ontario, Canada. A tradition she enjoyed for 80 years.

Fiercely independent, Anne lived in the family home until November 2016. She spent the last few months of her life at Brookdale Senior Living in Akron. Anne is survived by her sister, Roberta Schweiger; her nieces, Katie (Carsten) Sorensen, Christy (Brian) Buckingham, and Beth (Brian) Hutchinson and grandnieces and grandnephews, Maddie, Gia



and Nick Sorensen, Ivis and Kaiya Buckingham, and Jacob and Levi Hutchinson.

A memorial donation from the Association was sent to the West Parry Sound Health Center Foundation in her memory.

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Enclosed with this newsletter an
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION PACKAGE

Please keep this package until August 5th, 2017 and *bring it with you to the AGM* in Bennett's Barn at 9:30 AM

Again this year, the Executive are sending out several of the reports which previously were presented at the AGM.

This not only increases significantly the dissemination of this information (more people get the newsletter than attend the AGM) but also reduces the amount of time spent at the AGM.

2017

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9:30am • **Saturday, August 5th**

- Bennett's Barn

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THE General Meeting Package

CORN ROAST

Saturday, August 19th

- 4:00 pm
- Straub's Beach

Weather permitting - If there are any changes, they will be posted on the website



BURSARY

Post-secondary Environmental Course

\$250.00

Once again this year, the Association is offering a \$250.00 bursary to students who have been accepted into a post-secondary institution in an environmental course.

Application deadline is July 1, 2017

Please contact Don Comrie for further information.

WAHWASHKESH 2018 CALENDARS

The Executive have noticed a decline in the demand for calendars over the last few years. As a result fewer are being printed this spring.

We plan to have them available by the July long weekend for the same prices as last year.

The Executive would like to thank Tofflemire Photography for contributing so many pictures this year.



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Book Reviews

by N. Glenn Perrett

Curing Tuberculosis in Muskoka:

Canada's First Sanatoria

Andrea Baston, photography and
photographic editing by Candis Jones
Old Stone Books Ltd.

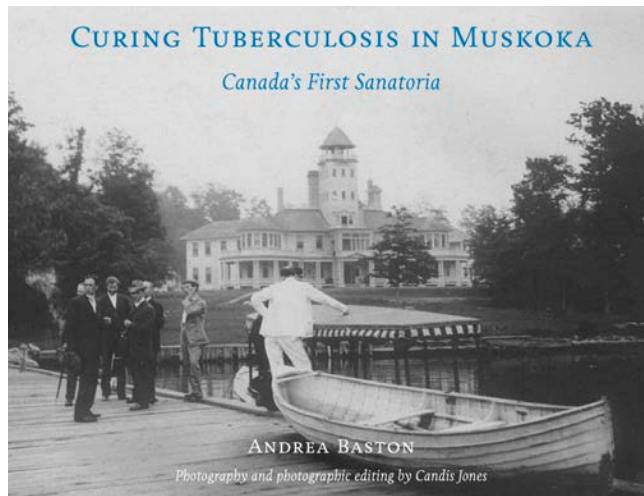
2013, 240 pages,
ISBN: 9780992090319

Muskoka is a scenic place enjoyed by permanent residents, cottagers and vacationers. It also has an interesting history including the important role that it played in fighting tuberculosis. This story is beautifully captured by Andrea Baston's well-researched book *Curing Tuberculosis in Muskoka: Canada's First Sanatoria*.

Gravenhurst was the site of Canada's first tuberculosis sanatorium – the Muskoka Cottage Sanatorium. Built in 1897, this was Canada's first tuberculosis sanatorium and the third one in North America. After the Muskoka Cottage Sanatorium was created, other sanatoria located in Gravenhurst followed. These facilities included the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives (1902), the first to operate free of charge to the poor, as well as the Minnewaska Sanatorium (1909), the Calydor Sanatorium (1916) and the Muskoka Hospital (1923).

Curing Tuberculosis in Muskoka is the fascinating account of how these hospitals, and those who worked in them and supported them, helped tuberculosis patients for more than six decades. It was believed that an important part of a successful recovery involved spending time outdoors and getting lots of fresh air as explained by Andrea Baston in her book.

"Spending time outside was believed essential for killing the tuberculosis germ. During the early years at the Muskoka Cottage Sanatorium, patients spent an average of eight to thirteen hours outdoors every day, depending on the season."



Those interested in the history of Muskoka or health care in Canada will want to read *Curing Tuberculosis in Muskoka*. Numerous photographs complement the interesting text.

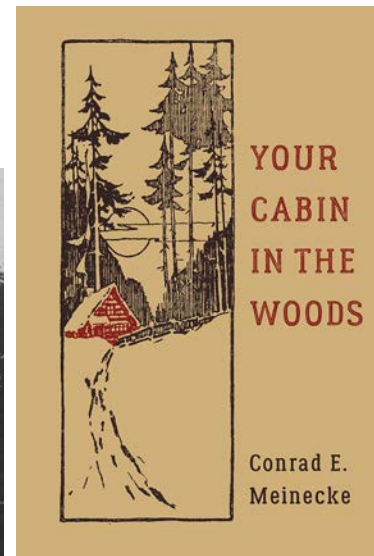
Your Cabin in the Woods

Conrad E. Meinecke,
illustrated by Victor Aures
Black Dog & Leventhal

2016, 288 pages, ISBN: 9780316395502

I've always preferred homes in nature and small homes over big ones so I enjoyed reading Conrad E. Meinecke's *Your Cabin in the Woods* which promotes lots of practical advice about building a cabin and living in the wilderness. This beautiful "heirloom edition" contains Meinecke's two books "*Your Cabin in the Woods*" (originally published in 1945) and "*Cabin Craft and Outdoor Living*" (published in 1947).

Meinecke starts off discussing his cabin and how many people it can accommodate. The interesting information also contains lots of quality illustrations and plans. Meinecke built cabins as a hobby and he "constructed scores of cabins scattered throughout the United States and Canada." Next, he provides infor-



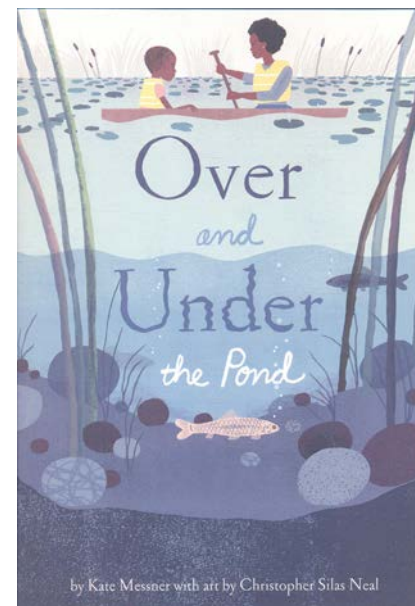
mation on one, two and four room cabins along with other dwellings. There are related topics on cabin tools, notching logs, drainage and grading, fireplaces, lighting, rustic furniture, flagstone floors, landscaping, reforestation, making maple syrup, feeding birds, making trails, cooking – and lots more.

If you like the idea of living simply in nature you will want to read *Your Cabin in the Woods*.

Short for Chameleon

Vicki Grant, Harper Trophy Canada
2017, 245 pages, ISBN: 9781443448987
ages teen/young adult

An entertaining, funny novel for teenagers (and adults) is *Short for*



Chameleon by Vicki Grant. The story sees two teenagers – Cam and Raylene – who help an elderly lady, Albertina, try to deal with a tragic crime that harmed her family years ago. In order to get revenge for Albertina, the two

teenagers have to go up against a nasty criminal. Cam's and Raylene's families have also had some sad experiences and the two teenagers slowly warm up to each other as they help Albertina.

Prior to meeting Albertina and Raylene, Cam's life centered mostly on helping his father who runs the "Almost Family Surrogate Agency" where they hire themselves out as family members or friends to others who require someone to accompany them to a function. It's definitely a weird job but Cam and his dad are very good at it.

Besides the funny and interesting storyline of helping Albertina, *Short for Chameleon* is a nice novel about friends, family, life and helping others. The entertaining novel includes positive messages. Highly recommended!

Birds Make Nests

Michael Garland
Holiday House, 2017, 32 pages,
ISBN: 9780823436620, ages 4+

Birds Make Nests is a good nature book for kids of all ages that shows the different types of nests used by various birds. Close to 30 species of birds are featured – along with many of their nests. The book starts off with a mute swan and her babies and ends with a common loon with two babies on her back. In between these birds you will see such birds as painted buntings, osprey, ruby-throated hummingbirds, great horned owl, Atlantic puffins, Bal-

timore oriole, great crested flycatchers, wood ducks – and many others!

Michael Garland's beautiful woodcut illustrations will hold a reader's attention as he/she learns about the types of nests used by a variety of birds.

Over and Under the Pond

Kate Messner,
illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal
Chronicle Books, 2017, 42 pages
ISBN: 9781452145426, ages 5+

Looking for an educational nature book for young children? *Over and Under the Pond* is an interesting look at the plants and animals who live in an around a pond and how they are all connected. Young readers will marvel at the animals found above the pond and will learn about who lives below the pond. Some of the animals featured in the book include crayfish, turtles, beetles, fish, blackbirds, moose, beaver, tadpoles, minnows, dragonflies, raccoons – and lots more.

At the end of the story there is information about the pond ecosystem as well as additional information about the animals in the book.

Excellent book for children interested in nature – and even better for those who haven't yet learned how awesome the natural world is! Highly recommended.

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