

Lake WahWashKesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



ELECTION 2018 EDITION

After a late spring which saw the ice go off Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh around May 6, a hot and dry summer arrived with several forest fires in the area. A total fire ban was in effect for several weeks, you could smell smoke on a daily basis, and water bombers could be seen filling up with lake water.

On October 22 municipal elections will be held throughout Ontario. Most of us know a relative who gave up their life for our freedom to vote so **PLEASE VOTE!** There are several different ways to cast your ballot; they are contained in your voting package. Please see the responses from the candidates to questions sent to them by the Association prior to the All Candidates' Meeting and a short recap of that meeting.

Your Executive has been very busy this Fall with several issues. Please note the articles inside. Attached to this newsletter is a 2019 Membership/Permit Purchase with the new fees approved at the AGM in August (pg 23).

A special thanks to John Nelson who researched the

tax information concerning Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh and confirmed it with the Municipality (pg 18). This should help to clarify this issue. Thanks John!

On behalf of the Executive, I wish everyone a great fall and happy holidays. See you at the Lake in the spring!

Don Comrie

DOCK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Many of you will remember Al Gilewicz who was a director starting in 2002 and who served for 6 years. Al has recently retired and is interested in becoming more involved again with the Association. Al contacted the Executive and offered his services. Currently we are running with a full slate of directors so there is no position open for Al at this time. Mike Maccina has been Dock Committee Chairman but because he does all the water quality testing on the Lake, his plate is already full. Al has kindly agreed to take over as Chairman. The transition will take place over the winter months. *Thanks Al!*

WWK QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL CANDIDATES

In September each candidate for Whitestone Council was sent several questions concerning Lake WWK and various policies. Please find the candidates' responses to these questions in this newsletter

(starting on page 4)

Be informed and VOTE!

Many thanks to Lesley Hugill and her team for developing these questions and getting them out to the candidates.

I attended the All Candidates' Meeting on September 29 in the Dunchurch Community Center. All candidates were there except for Ken Corbett who sent his regrets. Mayor Armstrong was there and received congratulations on his acclamation. All candidates answered several questions and demonstrated that they had "done their homework". Several issues were raised such as internet security in the Municipality and the need for better communication in the Municipality. There were also several comments and questions about the dumps and possible solutions.

Don Comrie

WWKCA FINANCES

The Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association 2018 financial year has been a very active one! We have a new asset on the books this year - \$15,117 for replacement of the Indian Narrows Dock and repairs to the ramp on the Bennett's Bay Dock (final adjustments pending)

A grant of \$3,000 received from the Municipality of Whitestone has helped our bank balance recover from the costs of the docks. In addition, revenues from memberships and car parking/dock fees are up by \$1,000 from last year. All good news!

Calendar sales are currently sitting at \$740. Printing costs for the calendar was reduced by over \$500 from last year by reducing the number of calendars printed, and with good sales anticipated by Thanksgiving, we should breakeven for 2018.

Advertising revenue is coming in earlier this year, due to the efforts of Don and Jeanine, and is already sitting at \$715 for 2018. More revenue is anticipated by the end of the year.

Hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving, and if you haven't bought a calendar, please do!

Barb Cribbett



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2019 LAKE WAH-WASH-KESH CALENDARS

The Executive ordered 100 of the 2019 calendars which we have been selling all summer. There are approximately 30 left at Bennett's Store. If you want to purchase a calendar after Thanksgiving please contact Don Comrie. Shipping and postage may be required plus the calendar cost. If we do not sell most of the calendars we may be in a "loss" position which may mean the cancellation of future calendars. *Please support your Association!*

Don Comrie

ANOTHER PARKING ISSUE

As we all know, the parking problems at both of our public access docks is an ongoing issue. But along with the necessity for more available parking spaces in general, there is another particular problem – accessible spots for those who are disabled, or who have great difficulty in making their way to and from the docks. At the moment there are only about 2 or 3 spots at each landing for those with disability permits. The Association wants to make a case for more of these disabled parking areas, but to do this we need to have real numbers to take to the Municipality. We are inviting all of us who have these disability permits in our cars to let us know. If you have a permit, would you please e-mail either Don Comrie or Terry Tweed with your information.

The e-mail addresses are:

Don Comrie

donaldcomrie@sympatico.ca

Terry Tweed

tweed43@sympatico.ca



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WWK Questions for Council Candidates

The following email was sent to each of the Candidates running for Councillor in the 2018 election

The Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association (WWKCA) represents seasonal and full time property owners on Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh.

If elected, what would be some of your long term plans to deal with the ever increasing development on Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh with regard to some of the following:

A. Public access to the water, dock maintenance, dock capacity – For the last 18 years the WWKCA members have paid for and maintained two public dock areas, used by both cottage owners and ever increasing use by the general public. In 2017 the WWKCA raised \$12,000 to purchase a new public dock in the Indian Narrows. Replacement of the Bennett's Bay public dock will be a necessity in the near future. We also continue to have issues with not enough parking spots, long term parking of boats at the public docks, and recent high water levels have created issues with safe access to these public docks in the spring.

B. Better control of lake levels - The WWKCA was responsible for working with all levels of government for the approvals necessary for the installation of a new dam built in 2002. After procurement of partial funding from the government, our membership then raised \$37,000 (plus an additional \$18,000 for an initial study) towards the building of the new dam, necessary to eliminate dangerously low navigating water levels. While the new dam has helped with low water levels we have never been successful in getting the Provincial government to coordinate the discharge of water from upriver. There is strict maximum level control on lakes up river which causes an extremely high variation of low and high water levels on Wah-Wash-Kesh.

C. Car/trailer parking facilities - Car/trailer parking has been an ongoing issue since approximately 2000. Since 2004 the WWKCA has met with the Municipality about car parking/trailer parking and boat dock issues. In 2010 the WWKCA formed a committee to look into issues with car/trailer parking. As a result of that Committee, in 2012 the WWKCA paid for the site clearing and building of a new parking lot to improve our parking at a cost of almost \$30,000. Despite the addition of this new parking lot we continue to struggle with not enough car/trailer parking for water access cottages.

D. Waste disposal – For several years the WWKCA has asked for changes to access of the Auld's Road and Dunchurch dump sites. The current setup is not compatible with most cottagers needs. The WWKCA had suggested staggered days for the two dumps i.e. When one dump is open one day the other is closed, rather than both dumps being both open on the same day. The option of Transfer Stations was also suggested for the convenience of being able to access the dump sites at any time. Both options have been turned down by Whitestone Council.

E. Public roads vs. private roads – For those owners who have cottages with road access there seems to be an imbalance of which roads are maintained by the Municipality and which roads remain as private/unassumed. Surrounding Wah-Wash-Kesh there are private roads that are built at the same standard as other maintained roads but the Municipality will not take over the maintenance. Is there any thought to improving/expanding the network of roads that are maintained by the Municipality?


Some of the WWKCA accomplishments, initiatives and involvement with regards to land use, forestry and water quality.

- When 3 subdivisions were proposed to be developed on Lake WWK, the Association hired a Lawyer and a Planner to help establish property development rules such as lot size, frontage and building setbacks
- When the Provincial Government was creating Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy the WWKCA was sought for input regarding the boundaries of these reserves
- 1997 WWKCA was invited by the Ministry Of Natural Resources to participate in forest management planning process for Crown Lands and this continues today
- Creel census, fish habitat rehabilitation, spawning beds and restocking of fish
- Monitoring of purple loosestrife and zebra mussels
- Monitoring shoreline activity, over the years the entire shoreline of the lake has been videotaped
- Performing MOE water quality testing, we currently perform our own water quality testing several times a year
- Performing counts for the Ontario Loon Lakes Survey
- Participated in organized shoreline cleanups
- Our Executive or Members have represented the WWKCA on many community boards and committees such as: Local Roads Board Committee, Whitestone Planning Committee (Official Plan), Magnetawan Flow Study Committee

The Responses From All Seven Candidates

Unedited and in alphabetical order

George Comrie

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- [George Comrie for Whitestone Council](#)

A. The Municipality has appreciated and benefited from the willingness of the Association over many years to take initiative and responsibility with respect to maintenance of the public docks (and associated parking, as well as the Andy Vurma Memorial Dam). These facilities are owned by the Municipality, and are maintained by the Association under agreements. I see the Municipality assuming a greater share of the associated costs of this work in the future.

With this in mind, and recognizing that demands for docking and parking on the part of those accessing the upper lake continue to exceed their available supply, Council agreed recently to establish a task force with Association appointees to review the parking and docking situation at Indian Narrows and Bennett's Bay and identify potential solutions for improvement. I expect Council to give this matter priority in the coming year.

B. I think it is safe to say that we on WahWashKesh will never achieve water level consistency anything like that of Ahmic and Cecebe Lakes. We simply drain too large a basin, and our outflow is severely restricted by the narrowness of the Magnetawan River above and below Canal Rapids. That said, I have long advocated that we should be applying political pressure on the provincial government to relax its (MNR&F's) control of the level of Ahmic Lake, so as to avoid having the river between Ahmic and WahWashKesh dry up one week and flood the next – in other words, make those upstream of us share the pain of the inevitable water level fluctuations more equitably.

To achieve this will require firm and consistent political pressure similar to what we brought to bear to secure external funding for the reconstruction of the WahWash-Kesh Dam. We should also re-establish the Magnetawan River Watershed Association to identify and advocate for the common interests of the entire watershed in terms of water quality and environmental protection.

C. Once again the Association is to be commended for taking the initiative to improve parking for those accessing their properties on the upper lake by water. The Municipality of Whitestone recognises its responsibility to contribute to solving these access problems, and remains open to using its resources, influence, and by-law making powers to that end. As I mentioned in my response to topic (A) above, a task force is being formed with representation from the WWKCA to address these concerns.

D. While I realize that we are still a long way from having waste disposal facilities available on a daily basis, Council has responded positively to requests from the WWKCA and other ratepayer groups to extend summer hours and increase coverage on long weekends.

The last time the request to stagger the hours of the two landfill sites was considered, it was felt that staggering them would provide little additional benefit to Whitestone ratepayers, since most use only site. (Residents in the Dunchurch/Whitestone Lake area, for instance, are

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unlikely to use Auld's Road landfill site). However, this suggestion will be reviewed again.

Because both of our landfill sites have limited capacity, we will inevitably (in my opinion) be transitioning them towards becoming transfer stations. It is highly unlikely, however, that they will ever be unmanned; so I do not see 24/7 access to them in the cards. In the meantime, we will be encouraging more recycling of waste, and improving the efficiency of our waste disposal operations.

E. Road maintenance – especially year round - is an expensive proposition in the north. Given the Municipality's large geographic area and extensive road network relative to its small population and limited tax base, assumption of most private roads would be prohibitive, and unfair to the majority of ratepayers who would never use them. When the Municipality assumes a road, it is responsible to maintain that road to a certain standard defined in By-Law. Private roads that are not on municipal road allowances and/or have not been constructed to municipal standards are especially problematic to assume and maintain.

Recognizing Whitestone's resource limitations, Council established several years ago a road grant protocol to provide modest assistance to groups of ratepayers maintaining shared private roads. The amount of assistance available varies according to the length and number of users of the road. Many road groups take advantage of this assistance.

In addition, Council regularly reviews roads with high volumes of public use with a view to improving them and/or upgrading their maintenance status. In some cases (such as the WahWashKesh Road) we have been able to obtain grants from higher levels of government for this purpose. As the Municipality develops further, I expect the network of assumed roads will expand slowly, especially since developers are now required to provide deeded road access to new lots. However, I believe we have to assume that many private roads will remain outside that network for the foreseeable future.

I am happy to hear from ratepayers on WahWashKesh and to discuss your interests and concerns. Thank you.

Ken Corbett

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A. I don't agree the lake association should be responsible for maintaining public property. The landing should be maintained and funded using property tax money. I am curious to know how it is insured. Are we (WWKCA) liable for claims? There should be lighting, life-rings etc.. this should be a safety concern for all of us. The municipality has a responsibility to maintain standards and complete inspections monthly of all of public launch's. Parking needs to be addressed as development continues to expand.


B. First let me comment on the fundraising that took place for this project. To raise \$37,000 is no small feat. As a fulltime resident of WWK I am familiar with the water level fluctuating from week to week. We need to have a voice on the Magnetawan River Conservation Authority. I don't have a lot of knowledge but agree we need to have more input on the water levels. Due to the nature of compression taking place on the Magnetawan river outflow, this may be something we can never change.

C. See comments above regarding parking. This is something we need to be looking years in advance. The commercial opportunity exists for seasonal paid parking. I don't think the municipality can continue to provide parking on shore. There are several locations on the lake that provide both docking and parking for a fee.

D. This is something I am very concerned about. The landfill is being poorly managed and is both polluting our watershed and a complete eyesore for local residents. If you look deep into the forest the garbage is everywhere including the waterways flowing into Gooseneck and Wahwashkesh. I agree completely the days open should be staggered at both sites. I also think we could do a better job recycling. Education is key here. The opportunity is there to recycle however if you look at waste, a good portion is not recycled.

E. Private unassumed roads are owned and maintained by the owners. The municipality offers a yearly road grant allowance and this should be utilized. I currently live year round on a private road and we as a group install culverts, new gravel, and do the regular maintenance. This is something I needed to consider before I purchased the property. I don't think the municipality would consider purchasing these private roads and offer year round maintenance. Most cottages are three seasons and not used in the winter.

Beth Gorham-Matthews

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[Beth Gorham Matthews - For Municipality of Whitestone Councillor](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you at your AGM and now for the chance to address some of your specific concerns. I think the WWKCA has done a tremendous job as guardians of the lake. It is a huge undertaking for volunteers to do all that you have with regards to water testing, fundraising, monitoring the dam, caring for the docks, etc.

A and C. I think the Task Force the Municipality announced will open many doors to addressing some of the issues you have surrounding dock use and parking. It is important that the municipality, WWKCA, surrounding businesses and property owners all work together to find a solution to the dock and parking issues. Without this collaboration there can be no resolution. If the Municipality is going to continue to allow development on the lake, the needs of the current users need to be resolved first.

B. As far as water levels are concerned, the new dam has created a much safer and useable lake. The widely fluctuating high and low levels of the past are gone. While it is inconvenient to deal with the high levels in the spring and after large rain falls, I am not sure what can be done with respect to that. The lake itself is at the bottom of a long system of waterways. Council may or may not have the ability to influence what takes place at other areas along the system.

D. I have not heard the suggestion before of staggering days at the land fill site to increase access to the landfills. I have researched this and most of the municipalities surrounding us that have multiple landfill sites do this. Our incumbent Councillors should have the rationale for you on why they have not looked at this idea seriously but it does have merit. In my research, transfer sites are traditionally misused and abused and likely aren't a reasonable solution at this time.

E. I think the issue of private vs. public roads is a confusing one to look at without some historical reference to begin with. Before all the little townships in the area were amalgamated into one, each had its own system of roads that they maintained and were responsible for.

They were grandfathered into the entire system when they formed our current municipality. The standards were different at that time in terms of what they would maintain. Under today's regulations the municipality requires a set standard before they can legally assume a road. While you may look at some of the roads they maintain and say it is not up to the code now expected from new roads, it is true, and may seem unfair. The road grant protocol was established in light of this and is aiding people to get their roads improved and hopefully to a standard where-by they can be assumed at some point.

I would love to hear from WWKCA at any time. I don't want to be the Councillor you see every four years. I hope we can develop a relationship that allows us to continue to make this a great place for all local and seasonal residents to enjoy.



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Joe Lamb

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A and C. Both these questions and concerns are inter-related so I will attempt to tackle them together. In terms of the new dock at Indian Narrows your Association asked Council for a \$3,000 donation towards the cost and this was approved. I supported this. I see no reason that when the Bennett's Bay dock needs to be replaced or expanded that a similar request for assistance would not be met favourably.

In terms of the parking and related issues this is a very serious matter that needs to be addressed. We do require that any new water access lots secure deeded parking on land but that does little to solve the current problems. I attended your Association meeting in August and came to more realize the extent of the problems. Council set up a task force in June to investigate and bring back potential solutions to Council. The task force includes members of your Association, staff and Council. I am confident that viable options will come forth from the group. I know how frustrating these issues can be but they are not easy to address. There are public and private issues involved and we need to all work together to find solutions. Believe me when I say this issue is on my radar and it can and will be fixed to the extent that I have a vote on Council.

B. We own the dam and your association inspects it etc. As far as I know there is little we as a Municipality can do to with respect to water levels since the issue as far as I know is a Provincial matter. Your Lake is of course part of the Magnetawan River system. There is a group in Magnetawan that meets on occasion to discuss issues. As far as I know Councillor McEwen and Mayor Armstrong have attended some of these meetings. I am open to any

suggestions your group may have on this subject.

D. Waste disposal and our landfill sites. I have no problem with staggered days between our two landfill sites. I can't recall this issue coming to a vote of Council. I also can't recall your organization making a formal request to do so. I caution however is this what you really want? Will people on your Lake drive to York Street rather than wait until the next day or vice versus? Our Landfill sites are open more days than any other Municipalities in the area. I suggest that if staggered days are what the Association wants that they send a formal request to Council. Also with respect to Auld's there are many other residents who are not members of your Association that I would want to hear from on this.

I have many other issues with respect to our Landfill sites both in terms of practices and sustainability but that was not your question so I will leave it at that.

E. We have a duty and responsibility under our Official plan to work towards equal services for all residents including road ownership. There are about 100 km of assumed roads and 200 km of unassumed/private roads. 45% of households are on unassumed/private roads and 55% on assumed roads. Our budget (Operating and Capital) this year for assumed roads was about 2 million dollars or \$20,000 per km. We have a road grant system to assist unassumed/private roads. The budget for this unique program this year is \$78,000 or \$389 per km. It is clear that assumed roads are very expensive to maintain. I played a major role in developing the road grant system and am very supportive of the program.

Having said that our Official plan and bylaws clearly outline what the standards are for assuming a road, for example minimum widths, a turnaround area for snow ploughs etc. If the roads you mention meet these standards they should come forward to Council and request that we assume them.

Joe McEwen

- councillor.mcewen@whitestone.ca

A. I am hopeful the new task committee of cottagers and Council as proposed, will bring forward recommendations for Council to consider. The boat and car parking issues in my opinion require a shared solution between both parties. Boat parking needs time limits, posted. Council does recognize these issues, however at present no budget line exists.

B. I am very familiar with water fluctuations on WWK Lake. I conducted a study for, then Ontario Hydro prior to installing power to the North end. Spring levels are extreme as the Mag River rises. As for Summer, low levels, I support Council notifying MNRF and other control authorities to request more equitable distribution of water. I actually discussed this issue with a retiree from MNRF this past summer and he explained that timing of water release is very difficult over extremely dry or conversely over a wet summers.

C. This issue is common at several locations in our Municipality. It appears there is an increasing number cars and equipment in both summer and winter. It is a big challenge and expense to plough snow around private vehicles and equipment. Presently Municipality staff do not perform work on private property. I am interested to hear suggestions around expanding parking areas for Council to consider.

D. This concept of alternate days was studied some time ago and it noted that extra staff was needed, thus increased costs and the review also sited that the increased service outcome was less than anticipated. Council presently has a request to staff to review our Landfills with respect to longevity. It is an opportune time to re-visit your requests.

E. The present approach to take over roads as per the Official Plan requires that those served by these roads bring them up to Municipality Standard at their expense. I feel many roads have been improved considerably with the Road Grant assistance and Associations kicking in funds. An assessment of those roads you deem exceptional may reveal that some can qualify at modest improvement costs.

A little data which demonstrates the enormity of our road system:

- 115 private roads, 129.8 total length
- 11 seasonally maintained roads, 18.23 km. Typically sub-standard in travel width, surface structure, drainage and alignment
- 85.4 km of year round roads. Includes 21.5 km of hardtop such as Bunny Trail.

Tracey Shantz-Sears

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A. Assessments and reviews need to take place to look at how best to improve the current issue of both land and boat parking. Regarding boat parking issues, feedback is needed so informed decisions can be made by the new council to best rectify these problems. Is there space for additional docking? If so what is the cost, and can it be implemented?

B. About the high-water levels on Lake WWK, my understanding that the Provincial government decisions to lower the lake water is affected by how it affects the water level of the lakes it flows into. My understanding is that some of these lakes have water level buildings that are fixed and if the water is released too quickly could potentially flood these buildings. Yes, while we want to try and maintain a reasonably consistent water level this must be done without adversely affecting other lakes. Talks with the Municipality and Provincial government need to take place to discuss how to best help everyone involved.

C. I feel that there needs to be a look at how many water access residents there are that require parking, and how many parking spots are currently available? Are these permanent parking spots for the residents? Are there designated spots for visitor parking for these residents? At the last general meeting in August a discussion was made to split the parking spots into designated areas of 1 hour loading and unloading, 4-hour parking and overnight parking spots. Was this implemented, and is this a possible solution? How much land is available for the parking? Can signs be posted marking the parking areas? Have you looked into by-law enforcement? What about parking passes for occasional users that could be sold on line, or at the Whitestone office? These funds could be used to further the finance of other parking spots. These are all matters that need to be looked in to. There is a need to consult with the residents as to what is actually needed to help everyone, because what has gone on in the past is clearly not working and we need to solve the problem.

D. Dump hours need to be set up to serve all residents of Whitestone both seasonal and permanent. Our cur-

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- Shantz-Sears continued -

rent landfill sites need improvement. My goals if elected are to look in to ways to improve the current situation without raising taxes or incurring a deficit.

E. Changing of private (un-assumed) roads to public (assumed) can come at quite a cost to tax payers. Road improvement grants have been offered to help residents on private roads keep them maintained and even improve them. The Municipality of Whitestone needs to work on a way to allow for improving our private road without incurring an increase in our taxes.

I look forward to the opportunity of working with you to help resolve these issues.

Brian Woods

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First off, I would like to thank the Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association for the questions they have asked and commend them on the valuable work they do in terms of conservation of our environment.

A. Dock maintenance at any and all public launch points should not rest solely on Cottage Associations. If it is a public access point, the Township should be doing their part to upgrade and maintain these launches and docking facilities. Improperly maintained docks/launches are a legitimate safety concern for all who use them. Unsafe facilities leave us open to liability claims.

B. While at a friend's cottage on WWK, I was amazed at how much of a variation of water levels it has at different times of the year. The fact that membership raised funds in order to construct a new dam to eliminate dangerously low water levels is quite an accomplishment. It is a true testament to what the solidarity of rate payers can accomplish. In regard to getting the Provincial Government to coordinate the discharge of water from up river my advice would be to keep up the pressure. There is strength in numbers and the squeaky wheel is the one to get greased. If elected, I would be interested in discussing more with WWK Conservation Association members on this topic to see what ideas can be presented to further deal with this matter.

C. Vehicle/Trailer parking is a definite issue at WWK and many other area lakes. When lots for properties were initially subdivided, I feel that parking was never taken into consideration. This is an ever-increasing problem that

needs to be addressed. I attended the WWKCA annual meeting and had the opportunity to discuss the parking and docking issues with some of the membership. I was told by one member that these issues have been a constant problem since the 1980's. I was pleased to hear that council had agreed to develop a task force to discuss options to deal with these issues. In all honesty, my first thought was why has it taken this long to discuss and resolve parking and docking issues? This is an ever-increasing problem that will not be resolved without constructive dialogue from all affected parties. I am hopeful that the task force will come up with solutions to help resolve this issue, but the reality is, this is not something that can be fixed overnight and will take time to fully rectify.

D. As I have been talking to rate payers, the garbage disposal facilities are an issue for everyone. It is not hard to see the problems we face when entering either of the landfill sites. Both landfill sites need a complete overhaul as far as I am concerned and we all need to look at new ways to manage our waste. I have many ideas on how our landfill sites can be updated and managed more efficiently. As far as the issue of access not being ideal for seasonal residents, I would suggest that many year-round residents feel the same way. I do feel that the current schedule is easy to remember (T,T,S,S Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday) however, if it is not serving all members of the community equally, we should examine other available options. The idea of staggered days could be an option, I think that council could put out a poll question on our social media platforms that ratepayers could respond to in order to get a sense of how the ratepayers in general feel about a new schedule. If the ratepayers were in agreeance with a new schedule, we could implement a pilot project and see if a different schedule would be beneficial to all in the community.

E. The expansion of maintained roads within our Township is vital to positive growth in my opinion. Any expansion of maintained roads would encourage more year-round residents to our area and give seasonal residents the option to spend more time at their secondary residences. Construction and maintenance of private roads are quite costly to all who own properties on them. Owners on private roads spend large sums of money in order to bring these roads up to standard. When the standard is achieved, the Municipality should examine every avail-

- continued -

- Woods continued -

able avenue to take over the maintenance of these roads. If elected this is an issue I would like to discuss with fellow councillors.

In closing, if elected, I would like to work closely with the WWK Conservation Association to ensure that these issues are addressed. I would ensure that a good working relationship is established moving forward so that any concerns could be addressed as they are presented.

If you have any further questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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FRENCH - SEVERN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

You may remember that I attended an Information Center at the Bobby Orr Community Center on May 4 2018 at stage 3 of the planning process. The OMNR & Forestry, Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc., and the Parry Sound Local Citizens' Council have announced dates for Stage 4 Information Centers on October 26th at Utterson Community Hall and October 27th at BOCC. The BOCC Information Center will be held from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. This stage is to allow comments on the draft FMP and MNR's preliminary list of required alterations.

At the information center in May. I was told unofficially that although there are two areas around Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh where companies have the right to harvest, the first has no access roads which makes it difficult to get the logs out and the second area was harvested several years ago and so has little timber of value.

I plan to attend the information center and will advise of any changes. From the maps available it appears that most of the harvesting will be done down around Lake of Bays. I could not get copies of the maps because they were not "final" maps and so might change. I suspect it will be the same this time. I will keep you advised.

Don Comrie



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ORDER OF WHITESTONE

– Donelda Hayward –

*The order of Whitestone is presented to residents of the
Municipality of Whitestone who have contributed to its quality of life.
The community's highest honour for volunteer achievement!*

For those of you that do not know Donelda, she has been a long-time volunteer with the Ardbeg Community Club. She has lent her amazing baking and crafting talents to the club for decades. There isn't a cottager on WahWashKesh Lake that hasn't been touched in some way by the Hayward family, whether it be going to their store, or getting a helping hand around the lake.

Cramadog Snowriders has benefited for years through the family's generosity in allowing them to use the Hayward property in Ardbeg, which is in close proximity to the snow-mobile trails, to store their groomer and sleds.



Donelda is not one to draw attention to herself, but she represents what makes this community and her generation special. She is a role model for us all, in her quiet way of being there for the community. It is fitting that Donelda Hayward be the first recipient of this award. She sets an example to which we call all aspire of how we can treat each other well and help where help is needed. We thank Donelda for her many years of contributing to her community. They speak volumes!

Printed from the Whitestone Newsletter

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WATER QUALITY UPDATE FOR WAHWASHKESH LAKE

Water quality monitoring continued on Wahwashkesh Lake during the summer of 2018. Terry Tweed and I sampled three times from early July to the end of August and readings were taken at 11 stations throughout the lake. Measurements were made at every meter of depth from the surface to the bottom of the lake unless the bottom exceeded 30 meters (98 feet). This marks the 6th year of sampling water quality on Wahwashkesh Lake with the water quality meter.

Differences in water quality conditions were evident between 2017 and 2018 as 2017 was a very wet summer with lots of inflows coming into the lake and 2018 was extremely dry. The amount of acidity in the lake was much less in 2018 because less runoff occurred that contained tea-coloured water which has higher acidity than lake water. In 2018, the pH of the water throughout the lake was 6.7 which is nearly neutral. In 2017, all the rain and runoff caused the amount of dissolved ions (or salts) to be less due to dilution compared to

2018. Water temperatures were about 2°C higher in 2018 than in 2017 due to less rainfall, runoff, and cloud cover. Water clarity or how far down one can see in the water in Wahwashkesh Lake was about 2 feet greater in 2018 compared to 2017, so visibility in the water was better in 2018.

The best indicator of water quality measured by the meter is the amount of oxygen in the deeper portions of the lake. The deep coldwater layer of the water column is called the hypolimnion and over the years, we have focused on taking temperature and oxygen readings from 26 to 49 feet (8 – 15 meters) below the surface. Over the past 6 years, oxygen levels in the coldwater layer of Wahwashkesh Lake have remained the same and are relatively high. If oxygen levels are low in the coldwater layer, this would indicate the lake is becoming too enriched with phosphorus which feeds microscopic plant life, and water quality and water visibility would likely decline.

Overall, water quality remains good in Wahwashkesh Lake. In 2019, water quality will continue to be tested and any changes documented. If you have any questions or water quality issues, please feel free to contact me.

Mike Maceina
maceimj@auburn.edu
Water Quality Coordinator and Director



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Green Corner

by N. Glenn Perrett

Radius Root-Cutter Transplant Spade

Lee Valley www.leevalley.com

Each spring I dig numerous trees where we live, many of which are transplanted elsewhere on the 25-acre property. Many of the trees are growing too close together and relocating some provides the trees with a better chance for a long life. For more than two decades I have used a quality spade and it has been my preferred tool for digging trees... until I discovered the Radius Root-Cutter Transplant Spade! (item PG117) What an awesome shovel for successfully and efficiently digging trees!

This spade has several good features including the 13"-long carbon steel head "with broad steps." The tip of the spade has a bevel-edged notch making it easier to dig into the soil. The narrower tip also makes it easier to dig out trees that are in close proximity to other trees and also helps in digging smaller trees and seedlings. The blade of the shovel effectively slices through the ground. On each side of the blade there is a row of sharp teeth that cuts through roots. The spade's large circular handle is comfortable.

This past spring I dug numerous spruce, aspen and balsam fir of various sizes and the trees were all successfully dug with good root balls. I don't like change, but this transplant spade has quickly become my favourite shovel for digging trees!

DeWalt 1800 Watt Portable Power Station and Parallel Battery Charger

DeWalt www.dewalt.com

With power outages seemingly on the increase thanks to climate change, having a power station that runs on batteries is a handy item to have. The DeWalt 1800



Watt Portable Power Station with Parallel Battery Charger (DCB1800B) operates on four DeWalt 20V Max batteries.

The station can also be kitted with three DCB204 batteries and one DCB606 battery (DCB-1800M3T1).

We have used the power station for a variety of uses including plugging lights and a kettle into during power outages. Having a light to read by or to play board games by as well as a source to boil water for a cup of tea makes power outages much more enjoyable (or much less annoying). We also use the portable power station to trim the grass on our cottage driveway using a whipper snipper. The whipper snipper saves us considerable time, but it is electric and the extension cords don't don't reach from the electrical outlet on the cot-



tage to the driveway. The power station has performed very well with all of the tasks that we have assigned it. We plan on staining our house with an electric paint sprayer and this relatively light, easy-to-carry station will come in handy once again!

There are myriad uses for this portable power station including providing power to areas where noise is restricted. It also



with strong locking couplers. The comfortable handle features a rubberized coating for a good grip. The sharp blade is 13.5" long, made of chrome-plated steel and features a hooked end.

Quality Tool Sharpeners

www.leevalley.com

Recently I checked several tools that I found to be quite dull and in need of a sharpening including my axe, hatchets, pruners, spade, scissors and pocket knife. There is a large selection of sharpeners on the market that can effectively sharpen a variety of large and small tools including the following.

For my larger tools, including my axe and spade, I use a flat file and the 10" Mill Bastard File (item 62W33.23) does a nice job on my splitting axe, hatchets and a spade that I use for digging and transplanting trees. The single-cut flat file not only sharpens these items but also removes any burrs or nicks in the blade.

A small, compact sharpener that is easy to carry with you is the Diamond Sharpening Stick (item AG705). This sharpener features a half-round sur-

branches that are almost 20' high!

The sections of the pole saw, which weighs approximately 4.5 pounds, are made of aluminum joined

face to sharpen serrated edges and a flat surface for sharpening pruners, loppers and scissors. The easy-to-use tool quickly sharpened our kitchen scissors as well as some pruners.

I also incorporated a water stone into my sharpening arsenal. While I still need to practise using the 1000x/4000x Water Stone Combo, Standard (item 60M50.04) it did a nice job on my pocket knife. This is a good water stone for someone using a water stone for the first time. The 8" x 2" x 1" combination stone features 1000x on one side and 4000x on the other providing you with "a self-contained sharpening system".

If you are looking for a small sharpener to take with you to quickly and effectively sharpen a variety of tools, my favourite is the Universal Sharpener (item 09A03.32). This sharpener features a sub-micron carbide blade which "shaves the steel". Easy to use, I've found that it provides a sharp edge to knives. Recently I used it to effectively sharpen one of my hatchets. It can also be used for sharpening curved blade pruners, axes, scissors – and more!

Drink Holster

Lee Valley www.leevalley.com

Ever feel like you don't have enough hands as you juggle numerous things? This Drink Holster (item 68K10.12) adjusts to fit most containers with diameters from 2-5/8" to 3-5/8". The holster features side panels and a "hook-and-loop flap closure." According to the Lee Valley website, "The sturdy hook-end clip secures over any belt or strap up to 2-3/8" wide.

The holder can be rotated 360 degrees and has "eight detents so you can position it to keep your drink upright while you're on the go." This handy holder is especially convenient to carry water in a water bottle while hiking as you can attach it to a strap on your backpack where it is easily accessible.



comes in handy when you go camping and you don't want to totally "rough it."

As with all power tools make sure that you take the time to thoroughly read through the instruction manual and take all safety precautions.

Telescoping Aluminum Pole Saw

Lee Valley www.leevalley.com

We are fortunate to share our home with numerous trees. The trees in the yard and those next to the trails occasionally require some pruning and the Telescoping Aluminum Pole Saw (item PB170) allows me to stay on the ground (I'm not good with heights) while I remove dead or damaged branches. The saw is very durable but easy to carry and hold and also easy to extend to its full reach of over 13'. This allows me to reach

WWK PROPERTIES CONTRIBUTE 19% TOWARD WHITESTONE TAXES

At the last two AGMs, I was interested in a statement that “we pay 75% of the taxes in Whitestone”. I think the speaker meant that all the seasonal residents in all of Whitestone pay most of the taxes. Being a bit of a data geek, I thought I’d smoke into the numbers.

According to the official assessment data, seasonal residents’ properties in all of Whitestone actually account for 78% of the assessed value of residential properties in the municipality. So the speaker was right on.

But that made me wonder – how much do we, WahWashKesh residents, contribute to the tax base of Whitestone?

In 2018, 381 properties in the 11,783 acres of and around WahWashKesh Lake account for 19.4% of the assessed value of land and residential properties of the Municipality of Whitestone.

It was easy to get the facts – data about the number of properties and their assessed value is available to municipal officials. Councilor Joe Lamb responded to my request for information within 5 days. At his request, staff pulled up the numbers, and then double checked with MPAC.

	Wah-Wash-Kesh Area		Whitestone Total		WWK Percentage	
	# Properties	Assessed Value \$ Millions	# Properties	Assessed Value \$ Millions	Properties	Assessed Value
Vacant Land	100	\$ 11.81	849	\$ 62.96	11.8%	18.8%
Residential	281	\$ 96.06	1832	\$ 494.36	15.3%	19.4%
Total	381	\$ 107.87	2681	\$557.32	14.2%	19.4%

Total White-stone Seasonal	1427	\$ 384.40	As a percentage of Whitestone Residential (1832 properties, \$ 494.36M)	77.9%	77.8%
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Many thanks to Councilors Joe Lamb and George Comrie, Mayor Chris Armstrong, and Whitestone staff for sharing this information quickly and clearly.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES BENEFITTING WAH-WASH-KESH RESIDENTS

Thinking about the taxes we pay led me to ponder the servicers that we get. A partial list of services paid for by our taxes includes:

Police – the municipality pays a substantial levy towards the OPP. I’m grateful that they patrol our lake; in August my boat was inspected as I left Bennett’s Bay, and the officers mentioned that they had confiscated booze and coached a number of boaters and jet-ski operators that very day. The OPP has been helpful to the Association at our AGMs, and I’ve been grateful for their quick and professional response at a family tragedy on WWK when my father-in-law passed away.

Emergency – our volunteer First Responders receive municipal funding. I’ve personally called 911 four times in the past fifteen years for help with friends and family in life-threatening distress, and no matter what time of the day or night, our emergency crew has been there to help my loved ones and friends. They’ve also always been very quick to respond effectively to bush fires on WWK over the years. Thank you.

Roads – road maintenance and improvement take a lot of money. Recently, the WahWashKesh Road was im-

proved to bypass the hills and low spots near Taylor Bay, and the Bunny Trail is now paved. I’ve watched huge truckloads of gravel being brought in and graded on the WWK road this year.

Planning & Building Officials – Whitestone has robust planning, land use, and building bylaws developed over the course of the first few years of the municipality’s existence, with significant input from the WWK Conservation Association. Having bought vacant land in 2003, and then having designed and built our cottage, I have direct experience with the process of site selection (setbacks and elevation), plan approval, and periodic inspection. I was grateful that both previous building inspectors were both diligent and helpful, and made sure that I met all the requirements.

Waste Management – We may not be happy that we don’t have dump access seven days a week. But we do have two dumps and we do have recycling, a far cry from the pre-Whitestone days where we used the WWK dump with runoff only a few hundred metres from both the Big Lake and the Top Lake. If we really want more convenience, then we need to engage our councilors in constructive discussions, helping them decide what other services to reduce, or how much of a tax increase we’re prepared to accept.

Parking – The municipality cooperated with the WWK Association to enlarge parking areas near Bennett’s Bay, and they responded positively and quickly when the Association requested no-parking signs and handicapped spaces. There’s a tie-in to Planning as well – now, newly-severed boat-access properties require permanent, deeded parking spac-

es. And they’ve agreed to participate in the task force to seek more solutions.

Docks – Whitestone provided the Association with a \$3,000 grant in 2018 for dock improvements. For the past ten years, the municipality has borne the cost of liability insurance for the docks, which used to cost the WWK CA about \$4,000 a year. Our docks need maintenance every year, and that requires volunteers from Association members.

The Dam – Whitestone assumed ownership and responsibility for the new dam, including for liability insurance, and eventual maintenance.

*John Nelson, former Past President,
Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association*

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Book Reviews

by N. Glenn Perrett

Science Comics: Bats

Falynn Koch

First Second, 2017, 122 pages

ISBN: 9781626724082, ages 7+

Children with an interest in nature or animals will enjoy this very informative graphic novel about bats. *Science Comics: Bats* contains both a story along with numerous sidebars about these fascinating mammals. The story pertains to a Little Brown Bat whose wing is injured by a human. The bat is taken to be cared for by Rebecca, a veterinarian who specializes in wildlife. While in the hospital recuperating, the Little Brown Bat makes lots of friends and learns about the other bat species. When the bat has healed he is released on a farm where the farmer has built bat boxes so that the bats have a home where they eat numerous bugs. This greatly benefits the farmer – and the planet – as he doesn't have to use as much pesticide to protect his crops.

In addition to the entertaining story, there are numerous sidebars that inform the reader on various bat topics including echolocation, bat anatomy, how bats regrow forests, pollination, White-Nose Syndrome, bat boxes – and lots more!

Designed like a comic book and featuring excellent illustrations, the reader will learn incredible bat facts while enjoying the story. For example, the reader will learn that there are more than a thousand species of bats, there are 500 types of plants that need bats to pollinate them and that bats are as small as two grams and as large as having wing spans five to six feet across! Bats have many benefits including eating vast amounts of bugs (did you know that Little Brown Bats consume 600-1,000 insects in an hour?), pollinat-

ing flowers and creating forests.

At the end of the book there is information on installing bat boxes at home, volunteering and working with bats along with books about bats and an informative glossary.

Science Comics: Bats is an entertaining and educational graphic novel that will hold the reader's attention and is an ideal book for the cottage.

Fat Cats

George Mercer

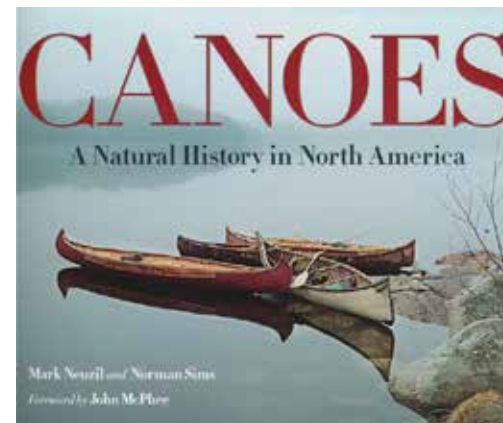
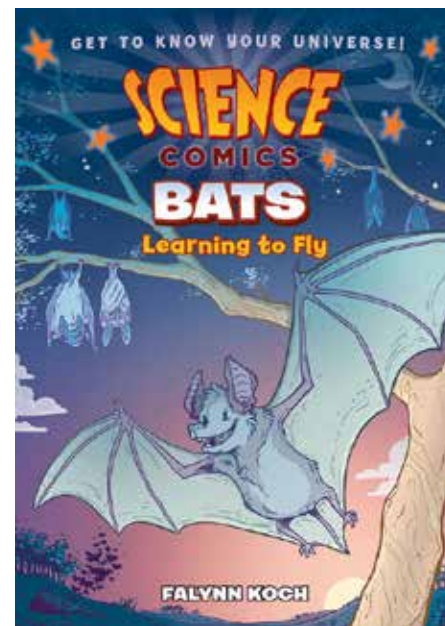
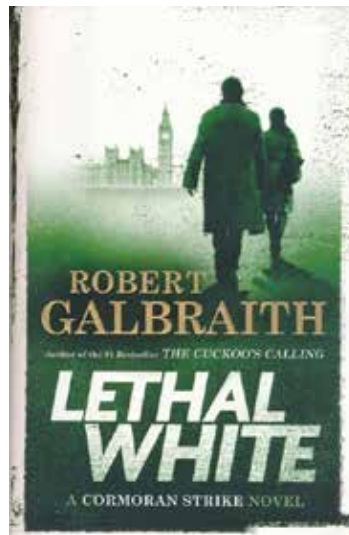
2018, 279 pages, ISBN: 9780987975461

Fat Cats is the fourth novel in George Mercer's entertaining and informative "Dyed In the Green" series. Set in our national parks, the novels provide both an interesting story along with information about the wild places protected (mostly) by our national parks.

Set in British Columbia's Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, this book looks at the important roles that large predators play in ecosystems and the environment. Issues and conflicts occur when a cougar swims to an island that is mostly privately owned but which is 20% within a new national park reserve. The island is also severely impacted as it is overpopulated by both native blacktail deer and non-native fallow deer. While the cougar efficiently starts reducing the number of deer on the island, some of the island's residents – mostly hunt-

ers – voice their opposition to this new feline neighbour.

As is often the case, fear and greed wins out over reason and knowledge and a ruthless cougar tracker and trapper is hired to kill the cougar. Knowing the important role that the cougar would play in helping with the deer overpopulation problem, Park Warden John Haffcut fights to allow the big cat to stay on the island. Unfortunately, politics and possible legal issues, along with some frightened islanders and the hunters who don't want any competition put up roadblocks into Haffcut's ecologically sound approach to dealing with the deer problem. Compounding the already dicey political issue is Haffcut's no-nonsense approach to things. Somewhat like a bull in a china shop, Haffcut doesn't suffer fools gladly. If he is not careful his well-meaning but brash approach will have repercussions with his partner, Anne, who is



the park superintendent, and their plans for a national marine conservation area.

If you enjoy nature as well as a good mystery consider adding *Fat Cats* to your reading list! You can check out George Mercer's books, and where to get them, at: <http://georgemercer.com/> <https://georgemercer.com/purchase-a-book/>

A Stick Until...

Constance Anderson

Star Bright Books, 2017, 31 pages

ISBN: 9781595727787, ages 3+

You may think that a stick doesn't have many uses, but you would be wrong. In her picture book *A Stick Until...* Constance Anderson looks at how sticks are used by many animals including humans. Elephants use branches as flyswatters while gorillas use sticks as walking canes. A stick can act as a spoon for chimpanzees collecting termites while alligators use sticks to capture birds who are seaching



for material to build a nest. Male egrets even present sticks to female egrets as a gift. Sticks are also used for games with humans and dogs.

At the back of the book there are "Notes" providing more information about the animals featured in the book. Nice illustrations complement the text. *A Stick Until...* is a good nature book for children.

Canoes: A Natural History in North America

Mark Neuzil and Norman Sims

Fitzhenry & Whiteside

2018, 372 pages, ISBN: 9781554554386

The canoe is my favourite mode of transportation so I'm always interested in reading about this eco-friendly vessel with a fascinating history. In *Canoes: A Natural History in North America* Mark Neuzil and Norman Sims have provided an interesting look at dugout canoes, birch-bark canoes, all-wood canoes, wood-and-canvas canoes and synthetic canoes as well as canoe tripping, the fur trade and "The Human-Powered Movement."

The interesting text is complemented by numerous photographs, drawings and paintings – including many old photos – makes this an enjoyable read for those who enjoy canoes, nature or history.

Spring After Spring: How Rachel Carson Inspired the Environmental Movement

Stephanie Roth Sisson

Roaring Book Press, 2018, 31 pages

ISBN: 9781626728196, ages 4+

Rachel Carson is one of the most influential people pertaining to the environmental movement and *Spring After Spring: How Rachel Carson Inspired the Envi-*

ronmental Movement is a good picture book educating children about this inspiring biologist, environmentalist and writer. The story describes how Rachel Carson was fascinated with nature and how spring was her favourite time of the year. Young readers will learn how Rachel initially wanted to be a writer but became a biologist – although she went on to write important books including the classic *Silent Spring*.

In addition to the interesting story and good illustrations, there is more information in the "Author's Note" as well as the "Notes" sections at the back of the book. Highly recommended!

Lethal White

Robert Galbraith, Mulholland Books,

2018, 650 pages, ISBN: 9780316422734

If you enjoy a good mystery the latest book in the "Cormoran Strike" series by Robert Galbraith (a pseudonym for J. K. Rowling) is out. *Lethal White* sees a troubled young man visit private eye Cormoran Strike and informs him that he might have witnessed a crime when he was a child. Looking into this possible crime, while working on other cases, keeps Strike and his business partner Robin Ellacott busy. Their investigations take them through the backstreets of London and even into Parliament. Interesting characters, a good plot and captivating places make this fourth book in the very entertaining series an excellent read.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

You can also download and mail in a
Lake WahWashKesh Conservation Association Membership form
from the WWK website

www.lakewwk.ca

The form is available on the bottom of the Home page

For those that are comfortable with **interact electronic transfers or payment via PayPal** you can use these two approaches to transfer money to the association via *treasurer@lakewwk.ca*

However, you would need to also send an email
to tell us what specifically the money is for

MEMBERSHIP/ PERMIT FEES

At the AGM in August, a discussion was held concerning the two-tier membership fee that was approved at the previous AGM. Although the Executive is in favour of a fee review, the two-tier system seemed to cause confusion and angst. Don provided a brief review of the history of the membership and permit fees which revealed that prices have stayed the same for 16 years. It was then proposed that the membership fee and each permit fee be raised \$5. A sample order sheet for 2019 was displayed on the screen and then approved by the members. Attached is a pdf of the 2019 Membership/Permit Purchase Form which can be printed and completed and mailed. We also hope in the near future to have a "fillable" version of the membership/ permit purchase form on the website which can be linked to PayPal once completed. This should help make the process faster and easier.

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Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



2019 MEMBERSHIP and PERMIT PURCHASE FORM

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Lake 911 Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cottage Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would prefer to receive news and information from the Association by

Hardcopy: ☐

Email: ☐

Membership @ \$40 each: _____ Total \$ _____

Names of each individual: _____

Parking Permits @ \$35 each: _____ Total \$ _____

Lake Access Permits @ \$40 each: _____ Total \$ _____

\$10 SAVE Combined Parking/Lake Access Permits @ \$65 each: _____ Total \$ _____

Trailer Parking Permit @ \$30 each: _____ Total \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

By completing and signing this form, you agree to receive email correspondence from the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association

Signature: _____

☐ *I wish to unsubscribe from receiving email correspondence from the LWWKCA*

*Cheque or money order made payable to:
Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association
P.O. Box 183, McKellar, Ontario P0G 1C0*

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