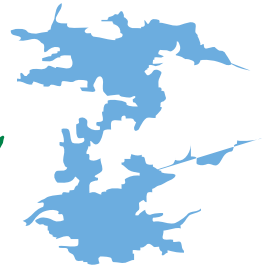


Lake WahWashKesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



– FALL 2020 –

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Well we got off easy with the water levels in spring 2020, thankfully, but other than that.... It was a very different summer and fall at the lake without our American neighbours and restricted social bubbles.

Due to Covid, the Directors were busy trying to adapt. The Directors met via teleconference and then transitioned to zoom meetings 6 times. We are fortunate that Terry Tweed can host using her business version of Zoom. Emails were also used to disseminate information and gather consensus on arising items. The Directors agreed to a virtual meeting using Zoom held on November 9, 2020 for members in good standing. The corn roast was also cancelled. Committee reports attached to the AGM agenda outline work that has been done on behalf of the Association's membership. The fall 2020 newsletter was postponed in order to update members after the virtual AGM.

The following changes should be highlighted. A joint memorial scholarship bursary was established adding Mike Maceina to the existing bursary for Duncan Robertson. A dedicated funding and water quality programme and committee was established.

We can only hope that life at the lake returns to normal in 2021.

Take Care Everyone

Lynn Brennan

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.lakewahwashkesh.ca

2020 AGM VIA ZOOM

The AGM is behind us!

Thanks to those who participated. We were able to meet quorum and had all of the reports carried. Summaries have been included in the newsletter. We are fortunate to have two new Directors – Steve Rauh and Chuck Thody. WELCOME! It will be great to have more people at the table to contribute to the Association's mandate on behalf of us all.

The zoom format was efficient but lacked the personal touch. The constitution was used to establish protocols along with the Government ruling on AGMs during Covid.

We hope we can return to the AGM at Bennett's Barn in 2021.

Lynn Brennan, President

UPDATES TO THE LANDING AND PARKING AREAS



The enlarged parking area adjacent to the former Bennett's Bay dump site. *See the article on page 12 for more information*

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

The 2021 Membership/ permit purchase form has been activated.

It's an easy to follow process!

NEW WAY TO PAY

NEW WEBSITE

www.lakewashkesh.ca

At the top of the home page:

SHOP PERMITS AND MEMBERSHIPS

You may now pick out the permits you wish to buy, and then pay for them with 3 options:

1. PayPal 


OR 2. Email transfer
treasurer@lakewashkesh.ca

OR 3.
Mailing a cheque
From the home page:
Scroll down to
"Download your 2021 membership/permit form here" download a form and mail it with a cheque

We Love Our Sponsors!

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE VOLUNTEER LIST

We are hoping to revive our membership in 2021. Potentially we could produce another Membership Directory with permission from participants.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED in specific areas to lighten the load on all of us. Volunteers will be asked to visit the cottagers in their designated area. Flyers will be provided to introduce cottagers to the great work that the WWKCA does for our wonderful lake and the benefits of becoming a member. All of this of course, will be dependent on Covid protocols.

Locations in red already have a volunteer but we still need 11 more! Please consider helping with this project to build a stronger lake community.

TOP LAKE

- 1 Lovesick Rapids to Deadman's Island, Shanty Bay & Caroline Island - Lori Easterbrook
- 2 East shoreline of Top Lake
- 3 Bennett's Bay
- 4 Islands towards Tracy Bay & Tracy Bay
- 5 Toronto Bay & Magnetawan River/Deep Bay
- 6 Indian Narrows
- 7 Ritter Narrows

THE BIG LAKE

- 8 Taylor Bay & Merritt Subdivision - Cheryl Costigan
- 9 Paddy's Bay & Arbor Vitae - Susie Schlegel
- 10 Amorak Trail Subdivision - Kathy Deuchars
- 11 Whitestone Bay
- 12 Parker's Bay
- 13 Shaker Lane
- 14 Lachlan side, Hayes Road & Bear Hug Lane
- 15 Shabbott's Bay Road
- 16 Bolger's Bay & Birch Island & West shore of Big Lake – Dilys Anne Hagerman

Please contact Lynn Brennan for more information
lynnmbrennan@gmail.com



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

The Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association needs many VOLUNTEER hands for the following:

1. The Water Quality Management Program: page 12

Contact John Gardner
jegkgw@jegkgw.com

2. The membership & promotion drive:

Contact Lynn Brennan
lynnmbrennan@gmail.com

3. Project members:

See the list of projects on the website
www.lakewashkesh.ca

4. Directors: Contact
lynnmbrennan@gmail.com

G & M Mechanical

Small Engine Repairs
Chainsaw Sharpening

New! Frozen range-fed chickens, pork and beef
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MAGNETAWAN WATERSHED HYDROLOGIC MODELLING

The disastrous flooding that occurred in April of 2019 in various parts of Ontario, including WahWashKesh, rekindled discussions concerning the management of the Magnetawan River watershed.

At the WWKCA AGM in August, people wanted to know what, if anything, could have been done to prevent or at least mitigate the flooding that damaged several seasonal properties on the Lake.

We still don't have a definitive answer to that question. The special advisor (Doug McNeil) brought in by the Minister of Natural Resources to review the occurrence absolved the Ministry (and its staff and their water level controls) of responsibility for the flooding, noting in his report that it "was caused by natural events (snow, rain, melting, wind) – no signs of human error or neglect". He did, however, recommend a number of areas where improvements to flood forecasting and mitigation could be improved. With respect to the Magnetawan River system, there has long been an argument that the portion of the watershed below Ahmic Harbour (which includes WahWashKesh) has never received proper attention in dam operations upstream because it lacks any control structures and because of the assertion that the outflow from WahWashKesh is severely restricted by the topography of Canal Rapids.

Through informal discussions in the fall of 2019, it became clear to several of us that it would be necessary to develop and test

a comprehensive hydrological model of the entire Magnetawan watershed in order to be able to determine if any measures to dampen the high fluctuations in water level could be effective, and if so, what those measures might be.

This led WWKCA member Dr. Dave Weaver to consult with a friend and colleague, Dr. Nicholas Kouwen - Professor Emeritus at the University of Waterloo and an expert on hydrological modelling. As a personal favour, Dr. Kouwen commenced assembling relevant data on the Magnetawan system and running it through hydrologic modelling software (known as WATFLOOD) that he and his graduate students had developed over many years, and had used to model other watersheds such as the Grand River and the Trent Severn Waterway.

When I raised this activity with them as a potential project, Whitestone Council authorized a delegation to the Minister of Natural Resources at the ROMA Conference in Toronto this past February to raise several issues we had with his Ministry. Most prominent among those issues was the lack of a comprehensive hydrologic model for the Magnetawan watershed to inform water level control operations and flood mitigation efforts on the part of

MNRF. The Municipality of Magnetawan and Armour Twp (both of whom also experienced Magnetawan flooding in 2019) supported our delegation, although their representatives were not present at the Conference. Dave Weaver and I prepared the presentation, which included some of Dr. Kouwen's preliminary results. CAO Michelle Hendry and I met with the Minister and several of his senior staff to present. Our ask was for a collaborative project with the Ministry's Surface Water Monitoring Centre, whose head is a former student of Dr. Kouwen's at Waterloo. The ADM who was present at our delegation promised to set up a meeting.

Following the OGRA Conference, where flooding was a hot topic, on March 10th MNRF Parry Sound District staff held a briefing for municipal representatives in Magnetawan at which they reviewed their existing flood forecasting processes and protocols and presented some information on dam operations in the district.

Because of the pandemic and the general disarray it has caused within the Government (and MNRF in particular), the promised [virtual] meeting to follow up on our delegation request did not occur until September 1st. Participants on behalf of Whitestone (all Professional Engineers) included Dr. Nick Kouwen,

Dr. Dave Weaver, Jack Gorrie (another former student of Dr. Kouwen's whose professional career was in water resource management and who now lives in Whitestone), and me. We presented the latest results of Dr. Kouwen's modelling efforts, which were received with interest by the staff of the Centre. We made it clear that we were not trying to criticize or lay blame, but rather to assist them in upgrading their current systems and processes, at least with respect to the Magnetawan watershed.

I am currently following up with the participants on next steps and other commitments they (MNRF) made. Notable among the latter is timely information on dam operations upstream that can be used to calibrate the models, and assess the potential effects of modifications to dam operating procedures on our lake level.

This will no doubt be a slow process, as the work is all being done by volunteers, and it involves building trust with both politicians and public servants. We will keep you informed.

George Comrie

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT SUMMARY

For your reference we have reproduced an excerpt of an MNR document here that sets out when permits are required and some nature friendly shore protection practices. We all love our lake and appreciate its beauty. Let's all think about these shore protection practices and what we can do to our own properties to ensure we comply and are helping the environment.

Here is a link to the MNR document for your future reference:

<https://kahshelake.ca/Resources/Documents/Discussion%20Forums/2015%20LarrogerRdPresentationPPCRA%20%5B40527%5D.pdf>

Keeping your shoreline beautiful

Here are some handy reminders that we included in our report last year:

- Shoreline buffer zones (20m from water)
- Keep it 90% natural/no lawns
- No clear cutting with a maximum of 10% of trees removed
- Exceptions include dead, diseased or hazardous trees
- No paving, walls or imported sand

Maintain your septic system

- Septics and outhouses at least 30m from high water
- Behind shoreline slope or in a hollow
- Not located on a slope >25 degrees on at slope peak

Respect night skies

- No flood lights/unshielded lights
- Keep light on your property only

We realize that part of the problem is that many people are not members of the Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association and therefore not aware of the by-laws, regulations and best practices. Thus, in conjunction with the WWKA drive for new members, we will also do some raising awareness. We will be including some handy references to building regulations and shoreline protection with the flyer to be circulated to cottagers.

*Helen Mallovy-Hicks,
Planning and Development Committee*



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IN THE WORKS

SHORE ROAD ALLOWANCES & DOCK PERMITS

An update on the Municipality of Whitestone's by-law, on the purchase of Shore Road Allowances and Dock Permits, will appear in the spring 2021 newsletter

Buckets and Hoes for Hire



- Roads
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- Ditches & Culverts
- Stump Removal



Jeff 705 305 1731
Larry 705 203 3350

Green Corner

by N. Glenn Perrett

DeWALT 12V/20V Max Jobsite Bluetooth Radio
www.dewalt.com (item DCRO28B)

The pandemic has resulted in many people renovating their homes and cottages and we have taken on the onerous task of staining our house. If you like to listen to music while you work you might be interested in the DeWALT 12V/20V Max Jobsite Bluetooth Radio (DCRO28B). The 8.25-pound (3.74 kilograms) radio (not including the battery and a battery isn't included with the radio) is a good AM/FM radio that is easy to carry. The radio contains six memory presets for each band and has a 3.5 mm auxiliary input for direct mobile device connection. The radio has Bluetooth wireless streaming up to a maximum range of 100 feet and it can charge a mobile device. The short antenna fits into a slot – when not in use – offering it protection. Protection is also provided by the roll cage. And while the radio efficiently runs on a battery, it comes with a detachable AC power cord.

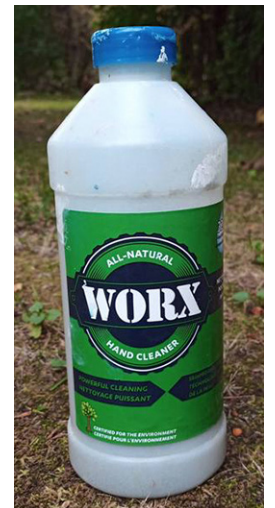
For more than a month we have been staining our 125-year-old, board and batten house. Needless to say, some days are particularly tedious and this radio makes the challenging task more enjoyable. The radio provides good reception clearly getting some FM stations that aren't nearly as clear on the other radios inside our home. The sound is good and the radio is easily moved around. And it lasted for many days on one battery (before needing to be recharged) when we used it with a fully charged 20V DeWALT lithium ion battery.



Irwin Tape Measures
www.irwin.com

An easy way to save on time and money is to use a quality tape measure when you work. The saying “measure twice cut once” is a good one to go by so that you don't waste valuable wood and other materials. A quality, long-lasting tape measure can also save you money in the long run as cheaper tape measures often break. We have gone through numerous ones over the years.

Hopefully our tape measure woes are over with the recent launch of Irwin Command Lock Tape Measures. These heavy-duty tape measures are impressive featuring an impact-resistant case, a thumb lock and a touch-button finger brake for control. The Command Lock Tapes have a reach up to 14' – which is handy when working alone – and the white blade is easy to read. The tapes also have multi-hook and magnetic hook options. The tape measures are available in imperial and/or metric lengths of 16' (5 metres), 25', 26' (8 metres) and 30' with the 25' and 26' tapes offered in the magnetic styles.



WORX All-Natural Hand Cleaner
www.leevalley.com (item 25K9032)

We have been using this hand cleaner for hard-to-remove dirt, grease and other things for some time and we like it because it is eco-friendly and effective! According to the Lee Valley website this “hand cleaner is the only one of its kind to be certified by Canada's Environmental Choice Program as well as Green Seal as being safe for both the user and the environment.” Directions for using this hand cleaner includes wetting your hands and applying a small amount of WORX powder cleaner and then scrubbing, rinsing and, if necessary, repeating. You don't have to apply much powder as you are supposed to get approximately 300 washes with the one-pound bottle.

We have used this hand cleaner on a variety of substances including grease, paint, stain and even sap from evergreen trees such as spruce and pine and it has performed admirably!

• WHITESTONE MAYOR'S REPORT •

2020 has indeed been an extraordinary year in Whitestone, and it's not over yet! By early March we were in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic, and responding with closed facilities and cancelled activities and programs. Some of our seasonal residents arrived early to sequester themselves away from the virus, while others (especially those living in the USA) never made it at all. I am happy to be able to report that west Parry Sound has thus far remained largely unscathed in terms of COVID-19 infections. I believe this is because our local health care facilities and emergency preparedness groups have been extremely diligent and proactive in preparing for the worst, and because our residents – both permanent and seasonal – have exercised restraint and followed the recommended protocols. But we are far from out of the woods yet, and so in spite of the discouragement and fatigue we are all experiencing coping with the pandemic, we must remain vigilant and stay the course.

In April we switched from face-to-face Council meetings at the Dunchurch Community Centre to electronic meetings using an audio conferencing facility. These virtual meetings, which are open to the public except for in-camera portions dealing with confidential matters, have worked well and have attracted better than usual public participation. The Ontario Government has enacted changes to the Municipal Act to make

electronic meetings a viable option on an ongoing basis. As a result, Council has decided to continue with virtual Council meetings for the time being. Even after we get back to face-to-face meetings, we intend to have in place the facilities necessary for any participant (Councillor, staff member, delegate, applicant, or member of the public) to participate electronically and to see and hear, and be seen and heard by, the other participants.



Council agreed to waive penalties and interest on the first two installments of 2020 municipal taxes in order to assist those residents experiencing financial challenges because of the pandemic. Notwithstanding, our municipal revenues have remained pretty much on budget. At the same time, we know that this has been a difficult year financially and logistically for many area businesses.

2020 would have been an MPAC re-assessment year. However, because of the pandemic, the provincial government suspended the reassessment; so our tax base

will remain fairly level for 2021. Encouragingly, the last few months have seen an increase in building permit activity, as some ratepayers seek to complete additions and renovations to their properties.

Our Municipality has attempted not only to maintain its essential services but, in a like spirit of optimism for the future, to proceed with as many planned improvements as possible. For example, we took advantage of the need to modify operations at our landfill sites to implement some important changes for the future. You can find out about these on the Municipality's website and Facebook page, and in our upcoming newsletter that will be mailed to all ratepayers in November.

The good news is that, in spite of physical distancing requirements, we have been able to proceed with and will complete several of the capital projects that were in plan for 2020 including:

- The addition to the Whitestone Library and Technology Centre in Dunchurch
- The replacement of the Audio system in the Dunchurch Community Centre
- Repairs to the boat ramp and Fire Department standpipe at the Municipal Office
- Resurfacing of sections of Balsam and Canning Roads
- Preparations for resurfacing of

Whitestone Lake Road next year

- The work at the WahWashKesh Landings

Late last year, the seven West Parry Sound Municipalities (including Whitestone) and two first nations applied for federal ICIP funding to assist with the construction of a pool and wellness centre in Parry Sound. A long-sought public amenity, this facility is considered essential to attracting families and economic activity to our area. Since then, a Citizens Advisory Committee has been working with design professionals to refine the functional requirements for the proposed facility. Watch for public information sessions and opportunities to provide your input on this

exiting project in the near future.

Additional opportunities have been announced for grants from the federal and provincial governments to assist with the impacts of the pandemic on our community. We are currently discussing potential joint funding applications with other neighbouring municipalities to facilitate (i) expansion of services at the Whitestone and Area Nursing Station, and (ii) improved internet connectivity [higher speed, lower cost, increased bandwidth] in our area.

Despite the discouragement of recent increases in COVID-19 infection rates in many parts of our Province and around the world, I

remain optimistic that 2021 will see a return to a less restricted way of life for most of us.

Please accept my best wishes for health and safety in the days and months ahead.

George Comrie, Mayor



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IN MEMORIAM

Marlene Bennett -
October 2019



Clifford Bennett
April 1972 ~ October 2020

Mike Maceina



On the evening of June 10, 2020 Michael John Maceina passed away at his son's home in Fairhope, AL. Mike was born on January 11, 1954 in New York City. He resided in many places but ended up calling Auburn, Alabama his home for almost 30 years. While in Auburn, Mike was a Professor of Fisheries for Auburn University and worked on various projects throughout the world for Auburn. His passions in life were his family, fishing, and hunting. Mike retired from Auburn University in 2010 and resided in Canada in the summer to fish and in the Auburn area in the fall and winter to hunt. Mike is survived by his only child Vaughn Maceina, his daughter-in-law Claire Marie, and his 2 grandchildren Sarah Nell and Thomas. A devoted father and fisherman Mike left this world peacefully and was loved and admired by many.

Arden Boyter

After slowing down over the last few years to a glacial pace, 'Ardy' finally came to a stop late in the evening on January 21, 2020. Arden had suffered a mild heart attack over the holidays and was recovering from bypass surgery, but the underlying conditions were too much to overcome and the recovery and rehab that we were gearing up for was not to be. For his two weeks in the hospital, he had the loving services of his 'family' nursing staff, Danielle (Trevor, Harper and Miley) and Melanie (Nick), his boisterous young adult roughneck grandsons (Tom, Laughlin and Gabriel), and the rest of us; June, Dana (Shari), Darren (Pam) and Steve (Vicki, Malcolm and Claire). He shared 61 years, and was lovingly cared for in the end, by June, his first and only love. He really did think he was with the best woman in the world! His four sons had, over the years, been a source of adventure (grief!) and given him cause for plenty of pride, although you had to hear about it third hand. It was noticed in his response to a nurse when asked how many sons, it was a firm four, with memories of #1 son Dave who had passed 17 years ago.

Arden had a gentle spirit, and an "oh Grampa!" sense of humour. No joke was too old! "How many o's in Fortinos"? He truly enjoyed spending time in his workshop building bird feeders, wooden toys, etc., and keepsake boxes for each grandchild. Years ago, we had the ultimate family project of building from the Canadian Shield up (on Lake Wahwashkesh) a boat access cottage; he and June had the whole thing designed, planned and supplies ordered, and then the workforce, family and friends, got to it. (He was one of Three Amigos in the north end of Wahwashkesh with friends Don and Frank.) This was after years of camping and canoeing adventures crisscrossing the country. He was a long-term Binkley United Church member, part of the great group of long-term friends and Square Dancers, and sang with The Albertones and The Periscopes (because they're always looking up!). He taught us how to fix washing machines, lawnmowers and how to wire a live electrical panel. He funded all this by working 35 years as an Electrician and then Foreman in the Cold Mill at Stelco, which he was glad to do for his family. Thanks 'Pops', we love you and we will miss you!



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LAKE WAH-WASH-KESH CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION BURSARY

In 2020, the Executive of the Association worked with Dianne Robertson and Mike Maceina to establish a new combined bursary that would honour both Duncan Robertson and Mike Maceina. Both parties agreed to this merger resulting in a bursary worth \$750.00 annually.

In 2020, there were two applicants. The successful applicant, Grace Hugill, plans to use the bursary

to pursue a career in psychology and to help people through difficult situations. Grace especially wants to work with children.

The bursary will be offered again next year. The deadline and requirements for applications are found on the Association's website. Any changes due to covid-19 will be communicated on the website.

Don Comrie



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WATER QUALITY REPORT SUMMARY

There are many people deserving recognition for ensuring that this important program continues.

Mike, with the aid of Terry, performed a great service for the Association. We may only truly appreciate the importance of this data in years to come.

- Mike's report that he was able to accomplish before his passing June 10, 2020
 - Cheryl, Tim & Pat Merritt who did the YSI testing this summer (2020)
 - An update on Phosphorus testing done by Rob Haddow
 - Brandon Smith's update on his willingness to tabulate the data and create a system of recording the results
 - The creation of a memorial fund in Mike's name to honour Mike and ensure the continuation of the Water Quality programme
 - Don Comrie for his efforts in coordinating the testing that was accomplished this summer
 - There is recognition of John Gardner becoming Chair of the Water Quality Committee.
- Please contact John Gardner at jegkwg@jegkwg.com if you are interested in supporting this cause.

These reports can be
viewed on the website
under
2020 AGM Agenda

WAHWASHKESH LANDINGS UPDATE

Immediately following the Thanksgiving weekend, work commenced on the upgrades to the WahWashKesh landings. Under the direction of Municipal Works Department staff, a contractor was engaged to cut trees and clear brush around the entrance to the former dumpsite at the intersection of WahWashKesh and Indian Narrows Roads, and around the Bennett's Bay Landing site. The Municipality has procured aggregate to treat the surface of the enlarged parking area, as seen in the attached photos.



The intersection of Macey Drive with the WahWashKesh Road is now being re-aligned and drainage improved. It is hoped that additional public handicapped parking spaces can be provided at the Bennett's Bay Landing.

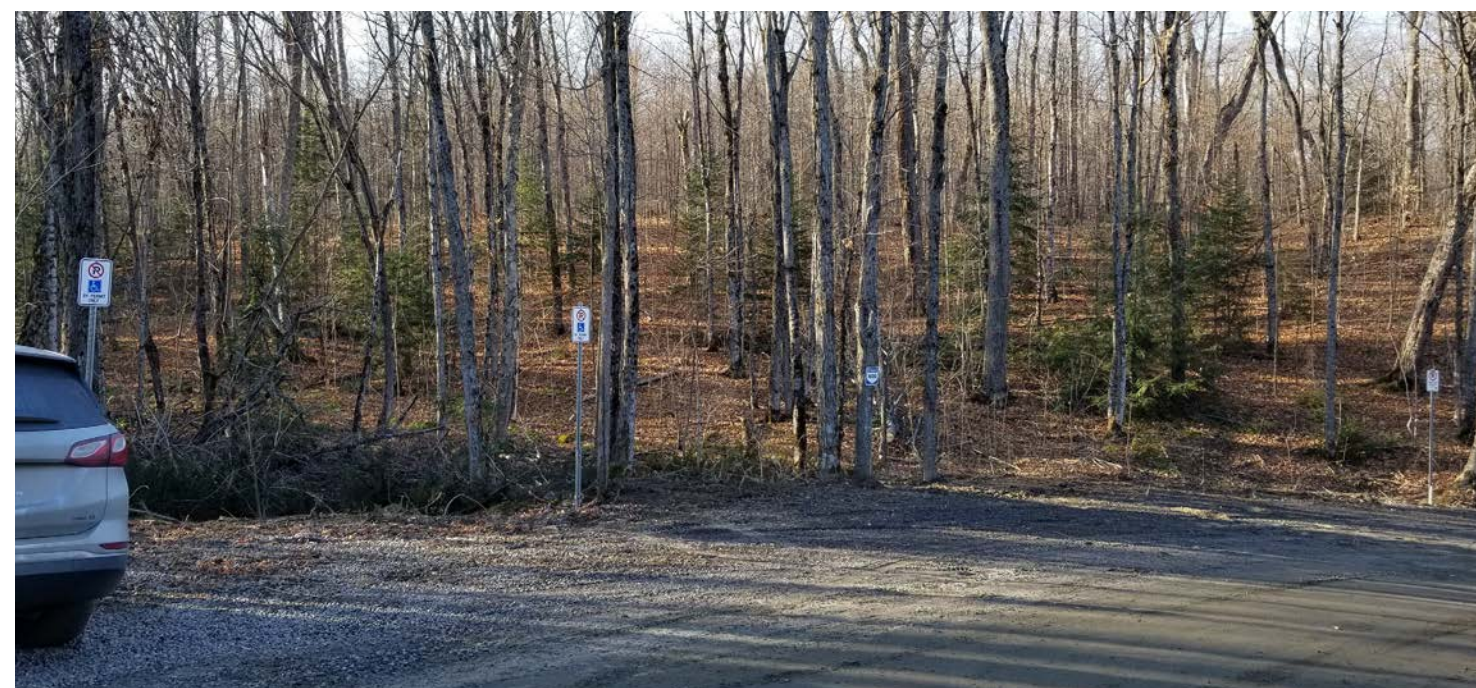
The next step in the project will be to expand, improve drainage, and apply gravel to the parking area at the Indian Narrows Landing.

The handicapped parking spaces at this landing will also be relocated and increased in number.

A note of appreciation to those ratepayers who relocated their vehicles and trailers so that this work can proceed unhindered. **And just a reminder... boats are not permitted to be left overnight at or adjacent to the landings.** There are a number of small boats pulled up on the shore beside Indian Narrows Landing, some of which have been there a long time and appear to be abandoned. In an effort to improve the appearance of the landing, these will be removed before winter to the former dumpsite, and if not claimed by next spring, disposed of.

New signage will be prepared for the parking areas next spring to advise users where to park their vehicles and trailers.

*George Comrie, Chair
WahWashKesh Landings Task Force*



NEW CHANGES TO THE AULD'S ROAD AND DUNCHURCH LANDFILL SITES

As of January 1, 2021 –

Clear/transparent bag program becomes mandatory



The clear bag program will help the Municipality achieve its goal of diverting hazardous and recycling material out of our landfills.

The clear bag allows Landfill Attendants to clearly identify any hazardous waste or recycling materials that should be diverted.

Residents that are not compliant with the use of clear/transparent garbage bags will have their waste rejected at the landfill site.

How will privacy issues be addressed?

Out of consideration for people's privacy, **one** opaque or solid-coloured "privacy bag" full of garbage is allowed to be placed inside the larger clear bag for personal items. These items could include: sanitary products, incontinence products, medical/pharmaceutical objects, and other personal items. The solid coloured "privacy bag" should be about the size of a grocery bag – no larger than 54.9 cm x 58.4 cm (21.6 in x 23 in.)

Do clear plastic garbage bags cost more than traditional black plastic bags?

Both clear and black plastic garbage bags are made from identical materials, so the suggested retail price should be identical. Disposal bags may be coloured/tinted as long as they are transparent and all contents are easily visible to landfill staff.

Where can I purchase clear bags?

Local stores in Parry Sound and Magnetawan including the Duck Rock Store in Dunchurch carry clear bags now or will in the near future, in a variety of sizes.

What if I have a medical condition and require an exemption?

You may apply for an exemption from the clear bag waste collection policy. To be eligible, applicants must submit an application along with proof of the medical condition verified by a medical professional to the Municipal Office. It is the responsibility of the resident to renew their exemption status each year. Please call the Municipal Office for more information on how to make an application.

I am a great recycler and already make an effort to recycle.

This will be an easy transition for you; the only change will be the colour of the garbage bag that you are use. This program will encourage residents who are not currently fully participating in the waste diversion activities and programs that are in place.

What happens when residents don't participate in the clear/transparent bag program?

Residents that are not compliant with the use of clear/transparent garbage bags will have their waste rejected at the Landfill. Education information will continue to be provided to remind residents of the importance of the program.



LANDFILL ACCESS PERMIT CARDS

Residents will also be required to show their Landfill Access Permit Card when using the landfill sites

Landfill Access Permit Cards along with our new recycling information guidelines were mailed to all property owners during the month of September 2020

Cashless transactions

The Municipality has moved to **debit only** transactions at our landfill sites

Whitestone Landfill Fees

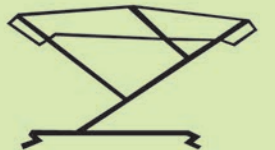
- Landfill Access Permit Card – One per property – FREE
- Replacement of lost card or one additional card per property - \$15
- One time pass for visitors - \$5 per bag

For more information, please visit www.whitestone.ca or call the Municipal office at 705-389-2466

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Book Reviews

by N. Glenn Perrett

Indians On Vacation

Thomas King, HarperCollins
2020, 286 pages
ISBN: 9781443460545

I've thoroughly enjoyed reading the Dreadful Water mystery series by Thomas King and was looking forward to his latest novel – *Indians On Vacation*. And what a great read this novel is!

Bird and Mimi have travelled to Europe to trace the steps of Mimi's Uncle Leroy who was there more than a hundred years earlier. Bird is Thomas Blackbird Mavrias whose father was Cherokee and mother was Greek. Mimi Bull Shield is Blackfoot from Alberta. Uncle Leroy, after getting into trouble, was forced to join a Wild West show that went to Europe and where he sent postcards from places such as Paris, Athens and Amsterdam. He took with him a medicine bundle and Mimi and Bird take vacations to the places Uncle Leroy sent postcards from so that they can follow his trail, hopefully learn what happened to him and maybe even find the medicine bundle. Their current adventure has taken them to Prague. Joining Bird and Mimi on their trip is the group "Eugene and the Other Demons." Bird has some issues and never far away are five of his demons who Mimi has given names to including Eugene (self-loathing) and the twins – Didi (depression) and Desi (despair). The dialogue amongst these, and other, characters is priceless!

King's novel is both interesting and very funny. Complementing the plot are references to actual places and things such as Charles Bridge and the astronomical clock in the Old Town Square. And being a res-

ident of Guelph, Ontario, both in real life and the novel, there are references to this scenic city as well. King's accurate observations about life, people and social issues also find their way into the story including the situation with refugees and the role of social services in Canada that took Native children from their families.

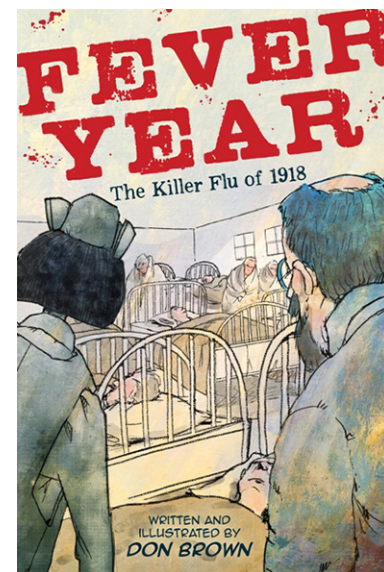
So take a break and accompany Mimi, Bird (and his demons) on a fascinating adventure in Prague. You will be glad that you did. *Indians On Vacation* may be the best novel that I've read! Highly recommended!

Harking

George Mercer, 2020, 282 pages,
ISBN: 9780987975485
ages: young adult+

I enjoy nature books and I also read numerous novels so it's not surprising that I've found George Mercer's "Dyed In the Green" series – which takes place in our national parks and where Mercer was a national park warden for more than 30 years – both entertaining and educational.

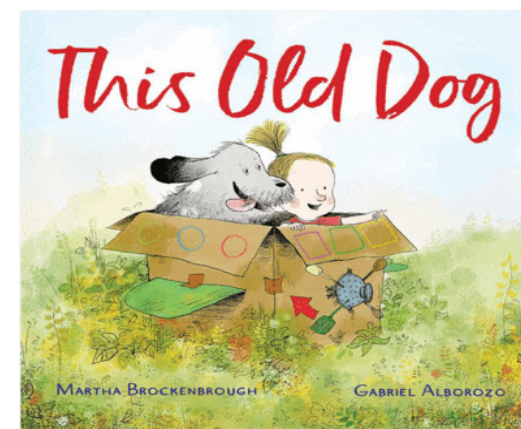
Harking is also set in a national park and it is Mercer's first young adult novel. Harking Thompson has a lot to deal with. Not only is she coming to terms with the death of her father who was killed in an avalanche, but she is finishing school and isn't currently close with her mother and brother. Adding to her difficulties is her fight to save a mother grizzly bear and her cubs who are at risk from a variety of sources



including humans. When some of Harking's male peers decide to mountain bike in a restricted area of the park and have a close encounter with the bears, the animals are transported to another area. Removing the bears from their home isn't ideal for them as it adds additional challenges to a life already full of difficulties.

As Harking helps the bears and the other animals who call the park home, she learns important things about love, life, loss and family.

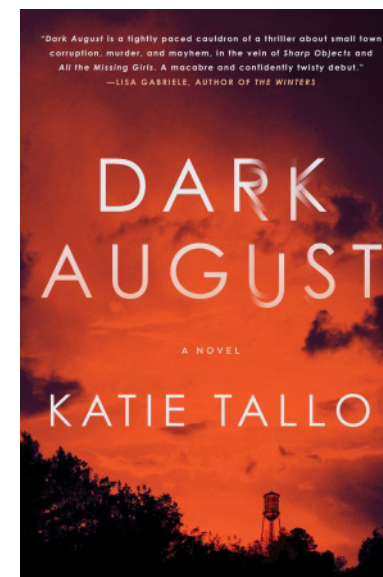
Mercer's novels are not only enjoyable, they inform the reader about our incredible parks as well as important issues pertaining to the environment and wildlife. In



Harking, Mercer addresses issues such as the negative impacts humans – especially uninformed visitors – have on wildlife in national parks as well as the devastating consequences that grain spills from trains have on animals, particularly bears.

The importance of reading and nature for children is immense and *Harking* not only addresses vital environmental issues, it is one of the best "young adult" novels that I've read!

Note: You can read sample chapters of this book or buy a signed copy at <https://georgemercer.com/>



Fever Year:

The Killer Flu of 1918

Author & Illustrator: Don Brown
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
2019, 90 pages, ages 9+
ISBN: 9780544837409

Fever Year: The Killer Flu of 1918 is a graphic novel that tells the story of the influenza pandemic of 1918. The book de-

scribes the stages of the influenza outbreak as it travels throughout the world, starting with (and focussing on) the United States when the U.S.A. first joined World War I. The graphic novel is filled with interesting information and facts relating to the "Spanish Flu", including how it inaccurately got that name. The narrative and pictures of the story effectively depict the horrors "The Killer Flu" unleashed on the battlefields and home front, through an American lens.

After reading this graphic novel I learned a lot of new facts and I found it interesting to compare and contrast the front-line stories of the Influenza Flu with the current pandemic that we are experiencing now in 2020. Graphic novels like this one are excellent ways to educate readers, especially reluctant ones, on important historical events while capturing their attention and improving their reading skills.

– Reviewed by Gleannan Perrett

Liberation

Imogen Kealey
Grand Central Publishing
2020, 373 pages
ISBN: 9781538733196

Looking for an entertaining war novel? *Liberation* is an exceptional read about Nancy Wake who works for the underground Resistance in France during World War II. After joining the Special Operations Executive in Britain, Wake parachutes into the Auvergne where she has to be accepted by, and lead, some of the toughest Resistance fighters in France. Her battles against the Germans who have taken over France are legendary, brave acts although acts that result in dire consequences for others – including her husband. But these valiant acts against the Nazis are significant in bringing an end to the war.

An excellent plot, interesting characters and good writing makes *Liberation* a joy to read. And the fact that it is an historical thriller adds to the story. Nancy Wake was a real person and an unsung heroine in World War II. At the end of the novel the authors (Imogen Kealey is a pseudonym of Imogen Robertson and Darby Kealey) added an Historical Note about this mostly true story where they say that they "...changed dates, altered the timeline of events, invented some episodes, omitted some individuals and created composite characters out of others." They go on to describe some of the changes that they made and provide more information on Nancy Wake who died in 2011.

If you are looking for a fascinating thriller you won't find many better than *Liberation*!

- continued -

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This Old Dog
Martha Brockenbrough,
illustrated by Gabriel Alborozo
Levine Querido
 2020, 34 pages, ages 3+
 ISBN: 9781646140107

This Old Dog is a heartwarming story about an old dog and a young girl and how their lives get more exciting and interesting when they meet and explore the world together. Initially, the old dog – who likes to take life slow – wasn't impressed when the girl was born as life speeded up. But, when the girl is old enough to walk they walk together outside where they take the time to smell the grass, roll down a hill and do other things before going to sleep.

Dogs greatly enrich our lives and this is beautifully captured by writer Martha Brockenbrough and illustrator Gabriel Alborozo.

Dark August
Katie Tallo, Harper
 2020, 439 pages
 ISBN: 9780062946045

Augusta (Gus) Monet is 20 years old and living with her criminal boyfriend when she learns that her last living relative – her great-grandmother – has died and left her an inheritance that consists of a dilapidated old house that is mortgaged and an old dog named Levi.

When Gus comes across some information from her mother's cold cases (her mother was a detective) and then sees a news story linked to the information, she decides to get involved in the old investigation. Her search takes her to a town that was deserted after a fire and which is still abandoned due to the presence of hazardous toxic waste. Her investigation takes her to a powerful and wealthy family resulting in her life being in danger.

There are several reasons why I enjoyed this novel more than the vast majority of mysteries that I have read. It is set in eastern Ontario including Ottawa, Elgin, Perth and the county of Leeds Grenville. The novel has a fascinating plot and features interesting characters. It definitely falls into that "difficult to put down" category, but I did put it down, begrudgingly, in order to make it last longer.

The story also features Levi the dog as one of its main characters. So *Dark August* isn't just an exceptional mystery, it is also a very good dog story. Doesn't get much better than that. Highly recommended!

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

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