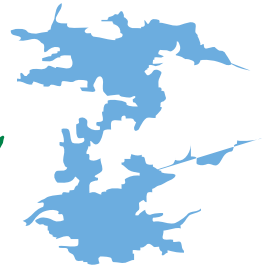


Lake WahWashKesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



– SPRING 2020 –

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

I have the privilege of being part of a great team on the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association. Although I was told it would be smooth sailing, who knew we would lose Mike as a director, and Covid-19 would change life as we knew it.

Don Comrie, as past president, continues to play a very important role and contribution to the Association. I learn important historical information every time I talk with him. Each Director adds their perspective to the decisions made on your behalf.

It is with deep regret that we had to accept Mike Maceina's resignation due to his health issues. His years of contribution and dedication to the study of the lake's water quality are greatly appreciated and has left us attempting to replace this huge hole by other means.

I will be counting on the support of the Directors, Project Leaders, and volunteers to continue with current projects and address future challenges so that we all continue to enjoy the many attributes of Lake Wahwashkesh. Updates of projects, bursaries, membership drive, recruit of volunteers and directors, educational articles and the advertisements of our sponsors provide valuable information to our members. Thanks Lesley for your dedication in putting the newsletter together and promotional material.

Lynn Brennan

BITTERSWEET MEMORIES

When I was asked to write a "farewell" article as past president, I hesitated. It is a bit like writing your own eulogy!

I have titled this article as "Bittersweet Memories" for many reasons. To be president of an Association of so many dedicated and willing Lake residents over the years has indeed been a blessing. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with so many talented and hard-working people. The Association has been well served by the many directors who have volunteered their time and expertise to preserve the Lake. I personally have been greatly helped by previous presidents such as John Nelson, Wayne Lennox, Ross Willett, and others.

The Association has accomplished much over the years. For several years we tried to establish an air ambulance helipad on the Lake. Now, in retrospect, it appears we were lucky not to

have spent the money, time, and effort in pushing for this. The Lake still needs an air ambulance base but in the current situation, this will not happen.

On the positive side of things, the Association actively supported the relocation of the Wahwashkesh Road from around Taylor's Bay to its current location allowing year-round access and much safer conditions. The Association worked for two years to get Pine Ridge Point renamed to Hayward Point in memory of Ken and Jean Hayward. The Executive have gradually changed and continue to change from a "hard copy" environment to an electronic age while still providing hard copies of documents to those who request them. The Association also replaced the dock at Indian Narrows' Public access point and plans in the future to replace the dock at Bennett's Bay access point. Thankfully the Municipality of Whitestone ap-

- continued -

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now up and running
www.lakewahwashkesh.ca

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

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It's an easy to follow process!

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OR 3.
Mailing a cheque

From the home page:
Scroll down to
"Download your 2020 membership/permit form here" download a form and mail it with a cheque


proved a \$3,000 grant to the Association to help with the Indian Narrows cost. In 2012 a YSI ProPlus water quality testing meter was purchased by the Association and extensive water quality testing has been done every year since by Mike Maceina and his assistant Terry Tweed. The Executive plan to carry on this testing and perhaps even expand it.

Despite the accomplishments listed above and many others, there is still much work to be done.

Please continue to support your Association, the Executive, and President Lynn Brennan.

Thanks!

Don Comrie, Past President




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MEMBERSHIP & PROMOTION DRIVE

The Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association would like to reach property owners who are not current members in order to ensure they know about the Association. This project will include: "A Mail Out Campaign" and also a "District Captain System".

Memberships, parking and lake access passes finance many worthwhile projects for Wahwashkesh property owners. It is important that we capture new members.

The membership project requires accumulating property owner's mailing addresses. The starting point is with the 2004 Directory compiled by Andy Vurma and the current membership list and roll numbers using the West Parry Sound Geographic Mapping system.

The district captain system requires volunteers in designated areas who would promote the Association and encourage membership. *An opportunity to get to know your cottage neighbours!*

The following are the proposed designated areas which will require a **minimum of 17 volunteers**. Hopefully, neighbours will be supportive and help divide the area. The promotional material will be given to each district volunteer. This important project will facilitate a connected Lake Community. Please contact Lynn Brennan to volunteer as a district captain. lynnmbrennan@gmail.com

Top Lake

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

The Big Lake

- 9 Taylor Bay
- 10 Paddy's Bay & Arbor Vitae
- 11 Amarak Trail subdivision
- 12 Whitestone Bay
- 13 Parker's Bay
- 14 Shaker Lane
- 15 Lachlan side & Hayes Road & Bear Hug Lane
- 16 Shabbott's Bay Road
- 17 Bolger's Bay & Birch Island & West shore of Big Lake



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 8

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.lakewahwashkesh.ca

4. Directors: Contact

lynnmbrennan@gmail.com

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COVID-19 UPDATE

• LAKE WAHWASHKESH AS OF MAY 1ST •

ALL ONTARIO FIRE BAN

Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
Ontario Reducing Risk of Fire in the Province

The Ontario government is taking action to protect people and communities from the risk of preventable human-caused fires and to ensure that the province's emergency response system remains strong during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Starting April 3, 2020, Ontario's entire legislated fire region will be designated a Restricted Fire Zone. Residents who live in an area with a restricted fire zone cannot have an outdoor fire—this includes burning of grass, debris and campfires, even when using an outdoor fire grate, fire place or fire pit.

"We are putting these important preventative measures in place now to ensure that our emergency responders are able to focus their efforts where they are needed most" said John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

This restriction will remain in place until Ontario's ability to respond to emergencies is no longer impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Ontarians can learn about the rules under a Restricted Fire Zone at ontario.ca/page/outdoor-fire-restrictions

- To see a map of Ontario's fire region, visit ontario.ca/forestfires



THANK YOU ADVERTISERS

Due to covid-19, we are doing our part to lessen the financial impact of this pandemic by postponing billing until the fall. We will continue to carry your advertisements in our newsletters this year and on our website.

Best wishes for good health. We appreciate your continued support of the Association.

SHORTER TERM PAIN FOR LONGER TERM GAIN

To all of our members who are unable to get to Lake Wahwashkesh under Covid-19 restrictions, including 62 plus American members, we hope some of the summer can be salvaged. Stay healthy
The Executive

Crown Land Camping is Prohibited

The use of public lands for the purpose of outdoor recreational accommodation is prohibited during COVID-19

Supporting West Parry Sound through COVID-19



To the Whitestone Seasonal Community.....

Now that the ice is out of our lakes, most of the snow is gone, and temperatures are going above freezing most days, I know many of you will be thinking about heading to the cottage. Maybe for a day or a weekend, just to check things out and to get a change of scenery from your social isolation. But before you make any plans, here are some things you should know.

The Corona Virus Situation in West Parry Sound

If you have been following the data on COVID-19 infections from Public Health Ontario, you may be aware that we have very few active (i.e., hospitalized) cases here in West Parry Sound. Most Ontarians have been following the advice from all levels of government and practising physical distancing and social isolation responsibly, and it ap-

pears that the strategy to "flatten the rate of new infections curve" is working. That's the good news!

The bad news is that the same strategy is likely extending the period of active infection further into the future. I would love to be wrong about this, but I believe the worst is yet to come to our area. Together with our first responders and social services agencies, our local health care system has been working

tirelessly to prepare for an influx of cases. Many of the folks who call West Parry Sound home are concerned that the migration of seasonal residents to cottage country will usher in a wave of new cases and tax our limited resources to respond to them.

Municipality of Whitestone COVID-19 Measures

With these concerns in mind, and in accordance with Provincial directives under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, the Municipality of Whitestone has taken steps to protect its staff and the public in our community by:

- Closing our facilities to the public until further notice;
- Cancelling planned recreation and social activities;
- Arranging for staff to work from home where feasible;
- Putting in place facilities to permit our Council, local boards, and committees to hold electronic meetings instead of face-to-face meetings.

I am pleased to advise that Council has agreed to waive penalties and interest on the first instalment of 2020 unpaid municipal taxes until May 28th to assist ratepayers with their finances during these difficult times.

Waste Management Changes

- Auld's Road Landfill Site will be open 9am-5pm Tuesdays and Saturdays only, with two attendants present
- York Street Landfill Site will be open 9am-5pm on Thursdays and Sundays only, with two attendants present
- Only household garbage and materials for recycling (glass, plastics, fibres, and metals) will be accepted - no brush, construction/demolition debris, tires, mattresses, boats etc

- The number of vehicles admitted to the landfill site at any one time will be limited to minimize human interaction and the possibility of infection

Lake Access Points and Boat Launches

Most recently, Council has decided to close public lake access points and boat launches in the Municipality to non-ratepayers, as a temporary measure until further notice. This measure has been taken to reduce potential risk of exposure to the virus on the part of users, and in recognition of the following restrictions:

- All of Parry Sound District has been declared a restricted fire zone. This means that no open air burning of any kind - including fires for cooking and warmth - is permitted, and that fire permits are not available.
- Most services that the public rely on - especially marinas and outfitters - are closed or restricted by Provincial order. If your boat is in storage, you may not be able to access it. Please respect the difficult position our marina operators and outfitters are in business-wise, and the fact that they and their families and staff are physically distancing/self isolating (as we are all supposed to be doing), and do not ask them for assistance at this time.

- As in other parts of Ontario, suppliers of goods and services including food, hardware and building materials, parts and service, etc, are operating with reduced supplies and staff, and restricted access to their places of business.
- Building and construction work is not permitted except for work on essential government services, or work under a building permit issued prior to April 4th, 2020.

- Health care and emergency resources in West Parry Sound are limited compared to major centres in southern Ontario and elsewhere. Many of our first responders are volunteers, and personal protective equipment is in short supply.

Please remember that social gatherings of more than five people are prohibited by Ontario Regulation 52/20. And please remember to practice physical distancing at all times, even when outdoors.

These measures may change as the evolving pandemic situation warrants. Please check the Municipality's website at www.whitestone.ca/covid-19-information

for the latest information before making any plans to venture to cottage country.

For additional COVID-19 information as it relates to West Parry Sound District, the following link www.parrysound.ca/en/inside-town-hall/coronavirus-covid-19.asp on the Town of Parry Sound website is a helpful resource.

This is indeed an uncertain and stressful time for all of us, especially those in our community who are unable to work or carry on their businesses because of the pandemic restrictions. Please do your part to help us weather this storm. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all of us safe. I look forward to communicating with you electronically for the time being, and to seeing and talking with many of you in person when it is once again safe to do.

*George Comrie
Mayor*



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Green Corner
by N. Glenn Perrett

Craftsman 20V Max 12" Chain Saw
www.craftsman.com
item CMCCS620M1

While battery chain saws are limited to what they can effectively cut, I like the fact that they are powered by a battery and not fossil fuels. This makes them appealing for various reasons including that they are better for the environment – particularly habitat that is more vulnerable to pollutants such as around wetlands.

Recently I tried out the Craftsman 20V Max 12" Chain Saw and it performed well. Since the saw is small I make sure to use it in situations where it can efficiently handle the task. First, it was used to cut up an aspen tree that had a diameter of 6 - 7" and the saw quickly produced a pile of logs for the wood stove.

Next, the saw was used to thin out a large lilac bush that hadn't been dealt with in over 30 years! There were a number of dead branches that needed to be removed along with some individual plants that had also died. The thick, dry trunks had to be cut and removed. The saw's compact profile is ideal for working in the confined area of the overgrown lilac patch.

This saw isn't made for cutting large (particularly hardwood) logs, but it is a good saw for cutting smaller logs and limbing branches. And since it is a battery chain saw I don't have to worry about transporting gasoline in the car when I take it to the cottage (the saw does require oil for its saw chain and guide bar).

The first time the saw was used the battery (the saw comes with one battery and a charger) lasted close to half an hour before needing to be charged. If you work for longer periods you might



also want to buy a pack of two batteries (item CMCB204-2). Some of the features of this chain saw include: 12" bar and chain with a bar cover; tool-free chain tensioning; auto oiling; bubble level for help with straight horizontal cuts. There is also a built-in hook that makes it compatible with Craftsman's Versa-track Trackwall System for storing tools.

I see numerous situations – both at home and at the cottage – where this chain saw will be put to good use. Before using the saw, read and follow all of the safety and operating instructions in the informative manual that comes with the saw.

Birds of North America: Deck of 52 Playing Cards
Photography by Gerrit Vyn
Mountainer Books
2020, deck of cards
ISBN: 9781680513028

There is nothing quite like playing a good board game or a game of cards at the cottage. This return to simpler times is good for the planet too as electricity, batteries or the in-

ternet are not required. And with the beautiful deck of cards “Birds of North America” you can enjoy your favourite card games while learning to identify 54 bird species (includes two jokers).

Each card features a beautiful photograph of a bird along with the their common name and scientific name. The cards are water resistant. The suit hearts features backyard birds while diamonds are shorebirds, clubs are waterfowl and spades are raptors. This striking deck of cards is ideal for the nature lover in your life who also appreciates a good game of cards!

Craftsman 20V Max Pole Hedge Trimmer

www.craftsman.com item CMCPHT818D1

If you require the use of a hedge trimmer and don't want a gas or electric one, you might check out this battery trimmer. We used it on the new growth of various trees including cedar and it performed well provided the branches weren't too thick or old. The instruction manual says that new growth branches can be cut up to 3/4" and to use the trimmer “only for cutting normal shrubbery around houses and buildings.”

This pole hedge trimmer has some good features (besides not running on gas or coming with a restrictive electrical cord) that include: battery with charger; up to 11 feet of extended reach; 3/4" cut capacity; 180 degrees pivoting head to reach varying angles in 5 positions; 18" dual action blades (with blade cover); soft grip on pole extension. The pivoting head allows you to efficiently trim the top of a hedge.

The detachable handle is easily connected to the trimmer and is easy and comfortable to use. The trimmer weighs close to 8 pounds (not including the battery.)

This tool will be used to trim new growth on cedar trees near our house as well as on new growth from branches that encroach on our trails at home and the driveway at the cottage. Make sure to read the instruction manual and follow all directions and safety warnings.

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WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
NEW • HONOURING MIKE MACEINA •

“Many of you know Mike Maceina as a WWKCA member of the Board of Directors, par excellence, for his knowledgeable reporting on water quality at annual WWKCA meetings, and as a friendly cottage neighbor and expert angler on the Lake. Unfortunately due to illness, Mike has had to retire from his duties and from his visits to the Lake he loved so much.

What you may not know is that Mike possesses a PhD in water quality, is widely published in that domain, and is Professor Emeritus in Fisheries at Auburn University in Alabama. For 10 years, and counting, he generously donated his time and considerable expertise to manage a rigorous, professional process of measuring and analyzing the water quality on Lake Wahwashkesh.

Maintaining a high quality of water in Lake Wahwashkesh is central

to the core mandate of the WWKCA, and to all of our enjoyment of this most special place in Ontario. To that end, the Association has created a dedicated “Lake Wahwashkesh Water Quality Management Program”, which will be named in Mike’s honor.

The program will be independently funded to ensure that we can continue the high standards that



Mike has set over the years, and organized around the following founding principals:

- Acknowledge the significance of Mike’s past body of work in this area
- Engage resources needed to continue water quality monitoring and measurement at a professional level
- Create general awareness of the critical importance of water quality as primary measure for health and well-being of the Lake, its ecology, and ability of cottage owners’ enjoyment.

John Gardner will be co-chairing the Program and Terry Tweed (who worked side-by-side with Mike in his data collection efforts over the years) will serve as WWKCA Board liaison.

Please contact John at jegkgw@jegkgw.com if you are interested in supporting the program with your time or treasure.

*John Gardner,
Co-chair, Lake Wahwashkesh Water Quality Management Program*

ASSOCIATION EVENTS

TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR....

<p>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</p> <p><i>Sat, August 1st, 2020 9:30am Bennett’s Barn</i></p> <p>PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THE “General Meeting Package” included with this email</p>	<p>CORN ROAST</p> <p><i>Sat, August 15, 2020 4:00pm Straub’s Beach</i></p> <p><i>Weather permitting. Any time/date changes will be posted on the Association website</i></p> <p>www.lakewahwashkesh.ca</p> 
--	--

• TWO BURSARIES • • FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION •

Many of you will remember that we have had a bursary for several years to honour the work and memory of Duncan Robertson. This bursary was limited to post-secondary school applicants entering an environmental studies field. Applicants must have been either a member of the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association or an immediate family member of an Association member. This bursary was for \$250.00 but few applicants applied for it.

The Executive of the Association would like to start a second bursary to honour the work and legacy of Mike Maceina. This bursary would be available to anyone entering post-secondary education, would have a value of \$500.00, and would be open to members and immediate family members of an Association member.

Diane Robertson has kindly agreed to widen the scope of Duncan's bursary to include all post-secondary education applicants.

The deadline for submission of applications is July 1 of each year.
Please submit the to the Associations President at lynnmbrennan@gmail.com
The Executive will decide who gets the bursaries.

The Executive hope by offering the two bursaries to continue to honour the work done by Duncan Robertson and Mike Maceina and to encourage post-secondary education and Association membership.

The application form for the bursaries will be available on our website or by contacting Don Comrie at donalldgcomrie@gmail.com.

Definition of "immediate family member": spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, niece, nephew, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, including adoptive relationships.

Don Comrie

• MAGNETAWAN • WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

A modern watershed management strategy should be concerned with such matters as conservation, water quality, and flood mitigation for an entire watershed. The Magnetawan River watershed currently has only a Dam Management Plan (most recently revised in 2002) which controls the lake levels of a few lakes upstream of Wahwashkesh, most notably Doe, Cecebe and Ahmic Lakes. The strategy is to maintain those lakes at constant target levels during the summer months using stop log control structures, apparently without regard for the effects such control has on the water levels in the rest of the watershed. It has long been obvious that the current Dam Management Plan is obsolete as a management plan for the Magnetawan watershed and the flooding in the spring of 2019 has provided the impetus to try to do something about it.

I spoke to a colleague who is a leading international authority on hydrologic modelling, Professor Emeritus Nick Kouwen (U Waterloo), about the possibility of developing a hydrologic model of the entire Magnetawan watershed. This could be used to demonstrate the effects of different control strategies upstream of WWK on lake levels and flooding downstream of the controls. It could also be used for prediction and possible mitigation of floods. Nick has developed such models for a number of watersheds across Canada, including 60 lakes on the Trent-Severn waterway and 25 lakes on the Rideau Canal system.

George Comrie shares these concerns and, in his capacity as Mayor of the Municipality of Whitestone, has access to government agencies which are essential if constructive changes to our watershed management strategy are to be made. George attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference 2020 in January and arranged a meeting on January 22nd with the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), the Honourable John Yakabuski, and several of his staff. In preparation for this meeting George created, with my input, a briefing note for the Minister which included our proposal to work with the MNRF to develop a hydrologic model for the entire Magnetawan watershed. The note included some preliminary graphs which demonstrated the progress Nick has made on this initiative and its potential value. By all accounts this meeting went very well and contacts have been made with the MNRF Surface Water Monitoring Group in Peterborough, the head of which is one of Nick's students.

In summary, excellent progress has seen made in the development of a hydrologic model of the entire Magnetawan watershed and we have had useful contact with MNRF including a sympathetic hearing from Minister Yakabuski. Follow-up meetings with MNRF staff are on hold as we deal with Covid-19. Our efforts continue.

Dave Weaver

WAHWASHKESH LANDINGS UPDATE

As noted in the last Newsletter, late in December the Municipality of Whitestone received a Crown Land Use Permit for an expanded parking area immediately adjacent to the intersection of WahWash-Kesh Road, Indian Narrows Road, and Macey Drive in McKenzie Twp. Last spring, our Task Force had identified this area near the former dump site as the best location to provide additional parking space for users of the landings.

By now we had hoped to mark the perimeter of the area to be cleared, graded, and surfaced, and obtain cost estimates for the necessary work; however, COVID-19 has intervened and delayed this task. We are still hopeful that the project can be substantially completed this year, although it won't be ready for the summer. The funds budgeted for it last year have been carried over to this year, and road work is permitted under the Provincial emergency orders.

Additional work will be required to improve signage in the area, and establish additional handicapped parking spaces at the landing sites.

*George Comrie, Chair
WahWashKesh Landings Task
Force*

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PERMITS AND WILDLIFE

• TIPS AND RESOURCES •

LAND USE PERMITS

Crown land work permits

When do you need a work permit for projects on Crown land and shore lands? In Ontario, the use of Crown land and shore lands is regulated under the Public Lands Act. There are some exceptions, including provincial parks and conservation reserves.

By law, you must get a work permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for certain activities on Crown land and shore lands before any work can take place. It is an offence to work on Crown land and/or shore lands without a work permit when one is needed.

This applies to any public land managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, including:

- Beds of most lakes and rivers
- Shore lands covered or seasonally inundated by the water of a lake, river, stream or pond. Seasonally inundated refers to the highest level the water reaches (typically in the Spring).

It does not apply to:

- Federal lands and water bodies (e.g., the Trent-Severn and Rideau Canal waterways)
- Private land, unless the work potentially affects Crown land, such as shore lands

Activities that do not require a work permit:

- Undertake minor road maintenance on public land
- Place a registered ice fishing hut on the ice
- Install a water line, service cable or heat loop for private residential use

- Remove a dock or boathouse that does not involve dredging
- Construct or place structures that do not contain living accommodation (bathroom, bar, covered deck) which are in physical contact with 15 square meters or less of the shore lands fronting your property (e.g. docks, single-storey boathouses)

Other activities are exempt, provided you follow the rules as laid out in the ministry's regulations. If you follow all of the rules, as indicated on the Ministry website, you don't need a permit to:

- Dredge shore lands previously dredged (within 5 years)
- Maintain, repair or replace erosion control structures on shore lands
- Relocate rocks on shore lands
- Remove invasive aquatic plants

Activities that require a work permit:

- Build a new erosion control structure or change the dimensions of an existing erosion control structure
- Placement of fill on shore lands (infilling lake or river bed, or building an erosion control structure) for any other purpose
- Create a new dredge or expand an existing dredge
- Construct a building or structure, except for building(s) registered for mining purposes
- Construct or place a structure or combination of structures that are

in physical contact with more than 15 square meters of shore lands (e.g. docks with large cribs)

- Construct a road, except where constructed under the authority of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act
- Construct a trail, except when constructed under the authority of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act or for mineral exploration purposes
- Construct a water crossing, such as a bridge, culvert or causeway, except when constructed under the authority of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act
- Remove native aquatic vegetation along the shoreline of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron and on the Canadian Shield
- If you conduct activities subject to exemptions but cannot follow the rules

In addition to a work permit, you may require authorization to occupy Crown land.

How to apply for a work permit?

A work permit application is reviewed and, if approved, issued free of charge by the ministry. Please contact the Parry Sound District Office at psdistrict.mnrf@ontario.ca

Other approvals

Before you start any work, find out whether additional authorizations are required. You should consult your local Municipality to determine if they have Official Plan policies or zoning bylaws in place that might affect, prohibit or control the construction and placement of a structure on Crown land and shore lands. You should also check with other government agencies that may have

an interest in your proposal (e.g. local Conservation Authorities, Federal Departments of Fisheries & Oceans and Transport Canada).

- Your local municipality/township
- A local conservation authority
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change
- Fisheries & Oceans Canada
- Transport Canada
- Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
- Other provincial ministries
- Ontario One Call (to see if hydro/gas lines could be impacted)

You may also want to discuss the project with neighbours before starting work.

If you wish to report any natural resource violations please call the MNRF TIPS line at 1-877-847-7667 Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO)

PROJECTS NEAR WATER

The Fisheries Act requires that projects prevent causing serious harm to fish unless authorized by the Minister of Fisheries & Oceans Canada. This applies to work being conducted in or near waterbodies that support fish that are part of or that support a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery.

In addition, The Species at Risk Act (SARA) prohibits the killing, harming, harassment, possession, capturing or taking of a species listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened; the damage or destruction of a residence or the destruction of any part of the critical habitat of a species at risk, unless authorized by the Minister who is responsible for the species in question. The Minister of Fisheries & Oceans Canada is responsible

for the protection of aquatic species at risk wherever they are found with the exception of areas administered by Parks Canada Agency.

A full list of species at risk can be found at: www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Maps of aquatic species at risks distributions can be found at: Aquatic Species at Risk Maps

You can find details of whether or not a review by DFO is required by visiting the following website:

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html

Seek advice from a qualified environmental professional if you are unsure about whether your project requires a review by DFO.

Contact a fisheries protection office near you if you have reviewed the information, sought professional advice and still have questions.

In all cases, it is your responsibility to ensure you follow any additional requirements from other federal, provincial and municipal jurisdictions and ensure compliance with the Species at Risk Act and the pollution prevention provisions of the Fisheries Act.

WILDLIFE

As mentioned above it is illegal under the Species at Risk Act federally, and the Endangered Species Act provincially, to kill, harass, possess or capture a species at risk. All reasonable measures should be taken to protect species at risk including having a project plan, and conducting projects at a suitable

time of year to avoid harm to a species. For example, dock construction should take place before or after the spawning season for any threatened species of fish, or after the egg laying season for endangered turtles. Erosion and sediment control should be applied for "in water" works. Protecting existing shoreline vegetation and/or restoring it after project completion is recommended. Further details can be found at the DFO web site above.

The Ministry of Natural Resources runs the Bear Wise program. Part of that program is the operation of a toll-free **Bear Reporting Line** (1-866-514-2327) 24 hours a day, seven days a week from April to November, with trained staff handling calls and determining the appropriate response. However, we are living in bear country and precautions must be taken to ensure bears and people are safe. Visit the Ministry of Natural Resources web site for information and tips to help protect bears and people.

www.bears.mnr.gov.on.ca

Generally, bears want to avoid humans. Most encounters are not aggressive and attacks are rare. However, if a bear is attempting to enter a residence, shows aggressive behaviour by stalking people, livestock or pets, please call 911.



How to prevent conflicts with bears

Bears usually avoid humans. But they are attracted into urban and rural areas to get food. They will topple bird feeders, ransack barbecues, raid garbage cans and even try to enter buildings. If they learn that they can find food where people live, bears will return again and again. Relocation and destruction are poor ways of trying to prevent conflicts with bears.

You can prevent conflicts with bears by following these steps.

1. Remove bear attractants

When bears pick up a scent with their keen noses, they will investigate it. If they find bird food, garbage or pet food they will return as long as the food source is available.

Garbage

- Garbage out only on the morning of garbage day, not the night before
- Garbage in containers that have tight-fitting lids and store it in a bear-proof location such as your basement or a sturdy garage
- Spray garbage cans and lids with bleach or another a strong disinfectant
- Take garbage to the dump often, if you do not have curbside pick-up

Bird feeders

- Fill bird feeders only through the winter months
- Put away feeders in the spring and instead, offer birds natural alternatives (e.g. flowers, nesting boxes, fresh water)

Pet food

- Do not leave pet food outdoors, in screened-in areas or porches

Fruits and berries

- Pick all ripe and fallen fruit from trees and shrubs on your property
- Plant non-fruit bearing trees and

shrubs

Barbecue

- Burn off food residue and wash the grill right away
- Empty the grease trap every time you barbecue
- Remove all utensils, dishes and food after eating

2. Avoid bear-human interactions

When out in bear country:

- Travel in groups of 2 or more (bears primarily attack people who are alone)
- Make noise as you move through areas where visibility is restricted or where background noise is high, such as near streams and waterfalls (e.g., singing, whistling or talking will alert bears to your presence, giving them a chance to avoid you)
- While outdoors, keep your eyes and ears open
- Scan your surroundings to check for bears
- Do not wear music headphones
- Watch for signs of bear activity (e.g., tracks, claw marks on trees, flipped-over rocks or fresh bear droppings)
- If you are out with a dog, leash it (uncontrolled, untrained dogs may actually lead a bear to you)
- Pay attention, especially if you are working, gardening or berry picking
- Occasionally

scan your surroundings to check for bears

- Rise slowly if you are in a crouched position so that you don't startle nearby bears

3. Take community action

It takes the local community to prevent conflicts with bears. You may be doing your part, but if your neighbour is not, you may still encounter a bear on your property as a result. Commit your community to becoming Bear Wise. Remind your neighbours to do their part by:

- Sharing this information with your neighbours
- Starting the conversation about how you can work together to prevent conflicts with bears (e.g. making sure the whole street waits until morning to put out garbage for collection)

4. Be prepared

When out in bear country:

- Carry a whistle or air horn
- Learn how to use bear pepper spray and carry it somewhere that's easy to access
- Consider carrying a long-handled axe, if you are in remote areas or deep in the forest

Links to additional information

There is a wealth of information on healthy shorelines and good lake stewardship practices.

Please explore the sites below.
www.muskokawaterweb.ca/loveyourlake.ca/

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Risk avoidance is a social responsibility that must be increased during our community's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

That message is being strongly shared by West Parry Sound Health Centre and other emergency service providers.

"Under the current precautions imposed by federal and provincial authorities, standing together in public less than six feet apart, gathering with people not normally part of your household, or even leaving your own home for local travel, should all be viewed as risk-taking behaviour," said West Parry Sound Health Centre Chief of Staff Dr. Terence Fargher.

"People must be made to understand the additional, and potentially extreme, risks that are now associated with boating, cottaging, camping, or traveling any further than your local grocery store."

All of the community safety systems that we usually rely on are equally exposed to the dangers of COVID-19: leaving them vulnerable to potential depletion of staff resources, constrained access to personal protective equipment (PPE), competing demands, and the requirement for expanded public safety priorities.

"What we normally assume to be an enjoyable recreational experience could become deadly, and accessing the services of local emergency responders will deplete scarce resources that are already in very short supply."

We are encouraging everyone in the community:

- Do not travel any distance outside of your local pharmacy, grocery store, or health care service provider. In particular, please avoid outdoor risks like boating, camping, cottaging, and other high-risk behaviours.
- Everyone in locations where social distancing cannot be maintained should be wearing a nonmedical mask or material (bandanna, scarf) that covers your nose and mouth.
- Practice all appropriate precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19, including frequent hand washing (use of hand sanitizer) with soap and water, maintain physical distancing, and do not gather with people not normally part of your household.

"We have a large population of vulnerable people in West Parry Sound, especially the elderly, who can be exposed to COVID-19 with serious or even fatal consequences," said WPSHC CEO Donald Sanderson. "We must all share in taking action to protect each other."



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Book Reviews

by N. Glenn Perrett

Cabin Porn Inside

Edited by Zach Klein, stories by
Freda Moon, Voracious
2019, 326 pages
ISBN: 9780316423090

Climate change and a constantly growing human population has resulted in a renaissance of sorts for smaller, sustainable dwellings (except with many municipal governments which welcome massive homes while making small or modest structures difficult – if not impossible – to build.)

In 2015 the book *Cabin Porn: Inspiration for Your Quiet Place Somewhere* was published and featured many fascinating, modest cabins. *Cabin Porn Inside* looks at more than 80 cabins and retreats from around the world with a focus on their interiors. The modest dwellings feature a variety of designs and structures providing excellent ideas for not only building a cabin that fits in with its surroundings but also ideas of efficiently creating the spaces inside.

Whether your interests are in building a cabin or you are looking for ideas to refinish the interior of a cottage or cabin, *Cabin Porn Inside* has lots of excellent ideas.

Bitten: The Secret History of Lyme Disease and Biological Weapons

Kris Newby, Harper Wave
2019, 319 pages
ISBN: 9780062896278

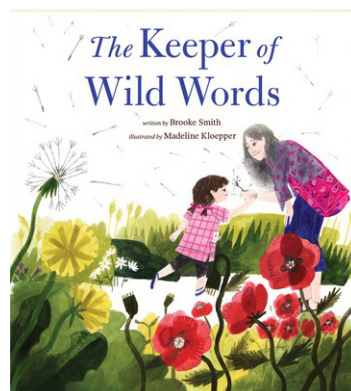
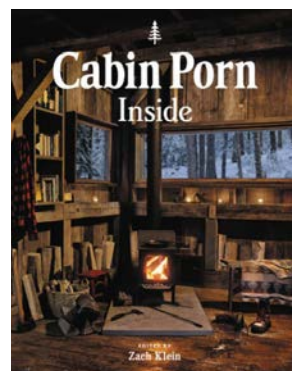
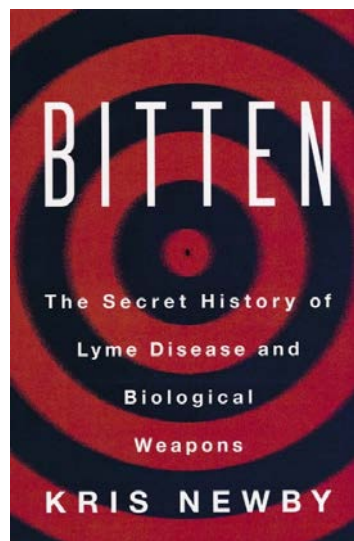
As someone whose family (both two- and four-legged members) has been bitten by ticks recently, I was interested in reading Kris Newby's book *Bitten: The Secret History of Lyme Disease and Biological Weapons*. Newby, a science writer, suffered the debilitating affects of Lyme disease

after being bitten by a tick. While investigating this disease, Newby met Willy Burgdorfer, the person who discovered the organism that causes Lyme disease. Burgdorfer worked at the Rocky Mountain Lab in Montana where he served "as its expert in growing bioweapon agents inside fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes."

Newby's research into Lyme disease and ticks takes a sinister, horrific turn when it appears that Lyme disease may be a result of a biological weapons race that began during the Cold War! According to Newby, Burgdorfer admitted as much in an interview.

"Shortly before his death, Willy was videotaped saying that he believed that the outbreak of tick-borne diseases that started around Lyme, Connecticut, had been caused by a bioweapons release." Newby mentions that this admission might explain why Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose and treat and why it is spreading far and quickly.

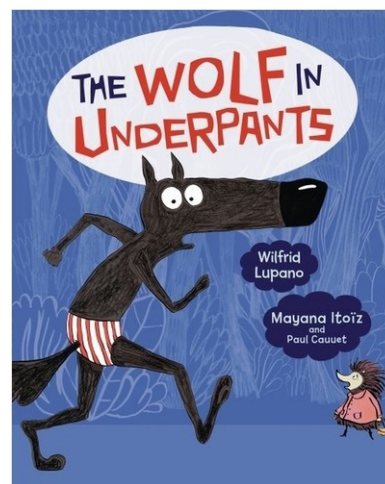
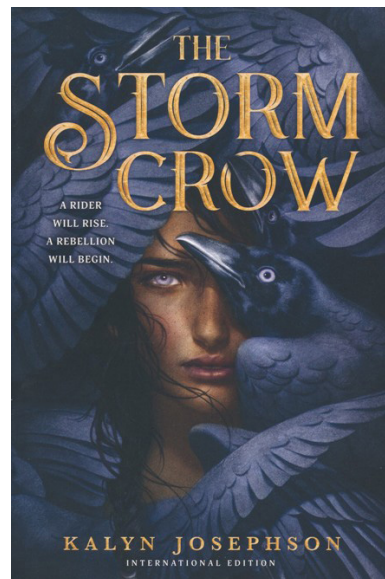
While researching and writing this book, Kris Newby turned up some disturbing information about things that have occurred that could put our health and the health of the environment in jeopardy. *Bitten* is a sobering, but important, read. Highly recommended!



Green Clean: Natural Cleaning Solutions for Every Room of Your Home

Jill Potvin Schoff
Creative Homeowner, 2019, 232 pages
ISBN: 9781580118316

Whether you are doing it for your own health or the health of the planet, minimizing our use of harmful chemicals is vital and a good resource to help you is Jill Potvin Schoff's *Green Clean: Natural Cleaning Solutions for Every Room of Your Home*. Schoff discusses her personal reasons for going green in Chapter 1 and these include the cumulative effects of many conventional cleaners, the burden these products place on the environment and how effective simple, non-toxic ingredients are in cleaning. Complementing the informative text and photos are numerous "Green Facts", sidebars and tips. The Appendix "Harmful Chemicals

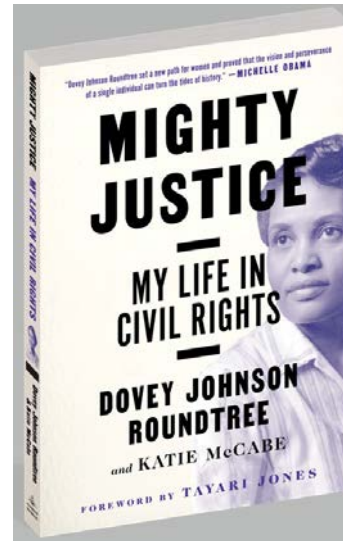


Found in Cleaning Products" is also an important read.

The Storm Crow

(reviewed by Gleannan Perrett)
Kalyn Josephson, Sourcebooks Inc.
2019, 338 pages
ISBN: 9781492699040
Ages: Young Adult

The Storm Crow is the first novel in the book series and the first novel written by Kalyn Josephson. The story takes place in a fantasy world where humans and giant, magical crows live in harmony. Rhodaire is a powerful country where eight types of elemental crows reside. The crows, along with their riders, are instrumental to Rhodaire's success, protection and quality of life. That is until another country invades slaughtering every



way of life. Now engaged to the prince and future king of the country that ruined her life, Anthia is feeling helpless with her country on the verge of collapse. Just when everything seems lost, she finds a Storm Crow egg bringing newfound hope. Anthia plans to secretly hatch the egg and organize a revolution.

The Storm Crow is one of my favourite books and I look forward to the release of the second book in the series – *The Crow Rider*.

Mighty Justice: My Life in Civil Rights

Dovey Johnson Roundtree and Katie McCabe, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2009, 2019, 275 pages
ISBN: 9781616209551

Mighty Justice: My Life in Civil Rights by Dovey Johnson Roundtree and Katie McCabe is an excellent autobiography about an incredible person. Dovey Johnson Roundtree was born in North Carolina in 1914. As you would imagine life growing up in the South at this time – and for the foreseeable future – was very difficult, especially for an African-American woman. But it didn't stop Roundtree from graduating Spelman College and joining the army where segregation existed in WWII. According to Roundtree, "Segregation defined every aspect of military life."

Always helping others and trying to

crow and destroying the country's way of life.

Anthia, the princess of Rhodaire and anticipated future leader of the riders, is left feeling hollow and depressed, at the loss of her mother, identity and

make the world a better place (which she was very successful at doing), Roundtree was also an ordained minister, a teacher, an attorney and a civil rights activist. Dovey Johnson Roundtree fought for others her entire life including fighting for integration in the army, racial fairness and she was an advocate for the welfare of young children – to name only a few of her many battles to improve the lives of others.

Inspiring and fascinating, *Mighty Justice* is an excellent example of how much good a person can do in a lifetime – especially when supported by others!

Scotty

Ken Dryden, McClelland & Stewart
2019, 385 pages
ISBN: 9780771027505

Looking for a good hockey fix with the NHL season and playoffs on hold? Enjoy a good sports biography or hockey book? Well, you get all of these with Ken Dryden's very good book *Scotty: A Hockey Life Like No Other*. In the "Author's Note" at the beginning of the book Dryden says that this book is one that he "needed to write" stating that his former coach, Scotty Bowman, "has experienced almost everything in hockey, up close, for the best part of a century..."

This is more than a book about interesting hockey stories and it is more than a good sports biography. It is both with the added bonus of the winningest coach in NHL history selecting his best eight NHL teams of all time and then having them "play" each other in a playoff format for the bragging rights of the best NHL team of all time! So what are the eight best teams selected by Scotty Bowman? In chronological order they are: Detroit Red Wings, 1951-52; Montreal Canadiens, 1955-56; Toronto Maple Leafs, 1962-63; Montreal Cana-

- continued -

diens, 1976-77; New York Islanders, 1981-82; Edmonton Oilers, 1983-84; Detroit Red Wings, 2001-02; Chicago Blackhawks, 2014-15. And Dryden asks the reader to resist skipping ahead to the end to see what team Bowman selects as the best of all time stating, “How Scotty gets there...that is the story.”

The Wolf in Underpants

*Wilfrid Lupano, illustrated by
Mayana Itoiz and Paul Cauuet
Graphic Universe, 2019, 39 pages, ages 7+
ISBN: 9781541545304*

If you have a child who is a “reluctant reader” you may be able to get him/her to read *The Wolf in Underpants*. After all this comic-type book has two things which appeal to kids – humour and lots of awesome illustrations.

All of the animals in the forest are terrified of the stories that they hear about the wolf who lives above the forest. Apparently, he has a frightening howl, crazy eyes and fangs “like ice picks.” The local newspaper even blames him for three more wolf attacks! And while everyone is frightened of the wolf, this scenario has allowed some to make money selling anti-wolf products. So things change considerably when the friendly wolf shows up in the forest wearing nothing but his striped red and white underpants and he explains why he wears them (he used to get “chilly buttocks”).

Aimed at kids 7 to 11, *The Wolf in Underpants* is a funny book with the important message that wolves, like all animals, are to be respected but not to be frightened of.

The Keeper of Wild Words

*Brooke Smith, illustrated by Madeline Kloepper,
Chronicle Books, 2020, 52 pages, ages 5+
ISBN: 9781452170732*

Brook’s grandmother, whom she calls Mimi, needs her young granddaughter’s help to keep some of her favourite words – wild words – from disappearing. Because if words aren’t used they can be forgotten. So Mimi calls Brook “*The Keeper of Wild Words*” and they set out to find and observe all of the words that Mimi has written on a list. They see animals like a wren, a butterfly, minnows and a porcupine as well as plants such as blackberries, dandelions, willow and lavender by visiting meadows, a pond, a forest and a brook.

This picture book was inspired when a dictionary “removed over 100 natural words from its pages.” Wanting to “sustain the language of the natural world” the author came up with this very good nature book. Complementing the story and illustrations is an envelope where children can keep their wild words!

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