

Lake WahWashKesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



– SPRING 2023 –

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

It has been a very busy year as all members know given the number of emails they have received from the Treasurer-Barb. Each of those messages have been generated after numerous volunteer hours have been put in on various topics that impact the lake. We have done our best to keep you informed as volunteers work behind the scenes on your behalf. The Parking Task Force and Planning & Development Standing Committee (PAD) have dedicated members to try and better the lake experience for us all.

This year was a far cry from what I was told would be my role as president when I took over from Don Comrie. But it was not the first time such events took up Director's time and efforts. The Longhorn subdivision/OMB was a major undertaking by the Association prior to the incorporation of Whitestone. Going forward we now have the Official Plan and Zoning By-law and Municipal decisions that impact Lake WahWashKesh. These decisions require input from the Association to look out for the best interests of our members and support our mandate.

Lynn Brennan

DIRECTORS NEEDED

The Board has been short 2 directors this year even with Peter Disley joining.

As a Board, we are looking for balanced representation from all parts of the lake, those with an interest or expertise in promoting our mandate, accounting background, fresh or recycled ideas, etc. The current Board has 3 members from the Big Lake, 1 from the Narrows and 3 from the Top Lake. Some of us have been directors for many years and are ready to sit back on the dock. If you are interested or want to recommend someone please contact Lynn Brennan – lynnmbrennan@gmail.com

It is helpful to have names prior to AGM so we can put a background description in the AGM package.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

3 WAYS TO PAY

1 - PayPal - Go to www.lakewahwashkesh.ca

top of the home page select:
SHOP MEMBERSHIPS

Add the number of memberships to the cart.
Select PayPal/credit card

OR 2 - Email Transfer
treasurer@lakewahwashkesh.ca

OR 3 -

Mailing a cheque

From the home page: Scroll down to "Download your 2023 membership/permit form here"

OR see page 16 of this Newsletter, and mail it with a cheque made payable to: Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association - P.O. Box 183, McKellar, Ontario P0G 1C0

****Memberships are no longer available at Bennett's store****

**THANK YOU for
your SUPPORT of
the ASSOCIATION**

Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 5, 2023

9:30 - 12 noon in Bennett's Barn

*Followed by Beer/Other Refreshments
and ART Show 12-1:30 (details still to come)*

There is another event in the Barn so we need to respect the 1:30 timeline

*AGM Agenda Package will be emailed to members.
Please bring your printed copy or saved document
on electronic device*

AGM Speaker – Ian Crawford -
Federation of Ontario Cottagers'
Associations (FOCA) Board Presi-
dent

FOCA Mission Statement: FOCA effectively serves and represents Ontario's lake associations, waterfront property owners and waterfront communities through education, communication and government advocacy

Strategic Priorities: Promoting healthy lands, lakes and rivers • Serving lake and road associations • Advocating for responsive Government • Championing affordable and safe rural living • Building organizational capacity and strategic partnerships • Fostering community in rural Ontario

HOBOLink

The Hobo water level monitoring systems (there are actually 2 separate systems) do not require calibration per se, but they should be inspected and re-launched annually.

Around the first of September, we go over to Bennett's store and check everything out, test the UPS, and pull the U20 (the original battery-powered unit that is still deployed as a backup) out of the lake, clean it, pull the data off it, and relaunch it (it has limited data storage capacity).

George Comrie



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Cottage Emergencies • FREE TRAINING •

We have partnered with the Whitestone Fire Department to learn basic training on how to respond to the following emergencies:

- How to support someone who is not breathing using CPR
- Participate in a demonstration of a defibrillator
 - How to use the Heimlich maneuver in the event of choking
 - Steps to take in the event of suspected drowning
- Wound care including how to address bleeding and burn care
- How to address a suspected broken bone
- Demonstration of how to respond to fire using a fire extinguisher
 - Steps to getting 911 support

Sat. July 22nd @ 10am

Whitestone Fire Station in Dunchurch
This is a FREE event and appropriate for ages 10 and over

*Following the training there will be a
bbq hot dog lunch*

**If you are interested in this event,
please register using this form:**

[To register click here](#)

There is space for only 30 people on this date. If there is significant interest we will endeavor to run a second session later in the summer

*****Please note:** This training may need to be interrupted in the event of an actual emergency in the Municipality. The intent of this event is to provide introductory experiences for emergency response - there is NO certification included in any of these topics***

Calendar of Events

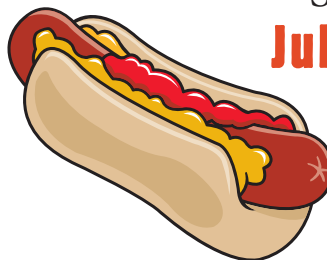
Weiner and Corn Roasts are
weather permitting.

Any time/date changes will be posted
on the Association website and Facebook
www.lakewahwashkesh.ca

Weiner Roast

Straub's Beach

July 15 @ 4:00



Annual General Meeting

Bennett's Barn

**Saturday, August 5
@ 9:30am**

- Coffee at 9:30am
- 12-1:30 Beer/other refreshments

ART SHOW • 12-1:30

More details about the Art Show
will be posted on the Association
website and Facebook page

Corn Roast

Straub's Beach

**August 19
@ 4:00**



WATER QUALITY

- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -

Rob Haddow and myself will be doing the 10 sites designated in the Lake Partnership Programme (LLP) on May 19, 2023. It is hoped that these 10 sites can also be tested throughout the summer for clarity. The O2 level will be tested in late summer by FRI Ecological Services. FRI has also been given data to put into a report for us.

The rest of the LPP program requires 10 volunteers – to take monthly Secchi disc readings for water clarity, an important indicator of water quality. The 10 sites are spread throughout the lake.

If interested in being a volunteer to do Secchi disc readings at one of these sites, please contact Lynn Brennan at lynnmbrennan@gmail.com

What Parameters are Sampled by the LPP?

(Taken from document by Lake Stewardship Coordinator, Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), January 2019)

Phosphorus – an essential element for plant life; however when there is too much of it in the water, it can lead to eutrophication and algal blooms

Calcium – calcium is needed by many aquatic organisms to live and grow. A shortage can impact many different species in a lake, from zooplankton to fish.

Chloride – chloride is a concern as road salt makes its way into our freshwater systems. Too much chloride can negatively impact aquatic life.

In addition, volunteers take Secchi disc readings. These readings indicate water clarity, an important indicator of water quality

The LPP team sends out hundreds of sampling kits to volunteers throughout Ontario between February-April. Volunteers use the materials in the kits to take water samples and Secchi disc readings in their lake. The samples are mailed back to the LPP team using the pre-paid return postage included in the kits. Water samples are unpacked, processed, and analyzed by the lab team at DESC. Analysis happens through the summer, and into the fall. The data is quality checked over the winter and released to the public in the spring

Lynn Brennan

Environmental Stewardship

The minutes of this committee are on the Municipality of Whitestone Website. The current committee members are made up of community groups with encouragement from various organizations. Ed Bennett and Lynn Brennan are members along with Councillor Bray and Councillor Nash.

The draft minutes of March 21, 2023 were revised by Council to include the following:

....THAT recommended revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee as follows:

- 1** - Key Duties and Responsibilities Remove: 2.4 Train Volunteers
- 2** - Constituency & Qualifications of Committee/Task Force Members to remove nine (9) members and insert twelve (12) members instead
- 3** - Encourage representation from the following: lake associations, conservation associations, road associations, community organization, First Nations, members of the public and others.

Let Lynn or Ed know if there are other priorities that you think the Environmental Stewardship committee might undertake.

Lynn Brennan

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are spreading

Hundreds of invasive species have infiltrated our lakes and forests. This puts our native fish, plants and animals at risk. After an invasive species arrives it is almost impossible to remove it. This can cause irreparable damage to important habitats and ecosystems.

Managing invasive species in Ontario

Ontario has prohibited and restricted a number of invasive species that pose a risk to Ontario's natural environment. The Invasive Species Act sets out rules to prevent them and control their spread. There are also federal invasive species rules that are enforced in the province.

Cottagers Action Plan

- **Use local firewood** - Firewood may carry an invasive pest or disease that could harm our forests. Avoid transporting it across long distances. Buy and burn local firewood instead.
- **Clean your gear** - Before heading to or from the cottage, be sure to clean all of your gear. Make sure your watercraft, trailers, bicycles, all-terrain vehicles and boot bottoms are free of plant material and seeds, including mud that may contain seeds.
- **Groom your pets** - Give your pet's coat a good brushing to remove any seeds or plant parts it might have picked up.
- **Never release your pets** - Never release aquarium plants or pets at the cottage or anywhere else. Some pets like goldfish are an invasive species.
- **Garden responsibly** - Choose native or non-invasive plants for your garden to avoid introducing or spreading invasive species. Avoid relocating plants from your home to your cottage garden, and vice versa. Do not dump yard waste in nearby natural areas as this can smother natural vegetation and spread invasive plants.
- **Remove invaders responsibly** - Read the Ontario Invasive Plants Council's Best Management Practice Series to learn how to safely dispose of common invasive plants and more about how to manage them.

Report Invaders

Call the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' Invading Species Hotline at Toll-free: 1-800-563-7711 to report an invasive species sighting or download the EDDMapS Ontario app to report an invader on the spot.

If you see a wild pig (any pig outside of a fence) or have information about a sighting, please report it through: wildpigs@ontario.ca; 1-833-933-2355; or on the EDDMapS Ontario app

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Summersides

April 14, 1927 - November 3, 2022



Margaret Johnston (Kylie) Summersides was born in Scotland and immigrated with her family to

Port Robinson where she grew up surrounded by three brothers, four sisters, and loving parents Margaret and Alec. She left home at a young age to work in the Welland hospital in order to help support her family. She would soon meet her life mate, Jim with whom she celebrated 75 years of marriage. Margaret was a brilliant crafter and hobbyist - able to take on any task and complete it with excellence. Sewing, gardening, knitting, quilting, cooking, decorating - were all part of her talented repertoire. She was always keen to share her skills with family and community. Family was an important part of Margaret's life. She was always happiest when surrounded by immediate family, siblings, nieces, nephews, and good friends. The door was always open for family and friends and there was always room at her table for one more. Margaret is survived by many nieces and nephews who will remember her fondly for the memories she helped them to create at the cottage. Much laughter was enjoyed by all. Margaret was a kind and giving soul who never spoke ill of another. Dearly loved, Margaret will be missed by daughter Sherry and son-in-law Jorg, son Rex and daughter-in-law Jacqueline, and cherished grandsons Ivor and John.

PARKING TASK FORCE

UPDATE

As noted in previous communications, the Municipality of Whitestone has taken over all responsibility for safe, accessible and viable parking for vehicles and trailers at the WahWashKesh landings.

The Council adopted this change with no user fees attached meaning that there will not be any parking permit purchases required for each landing. This is in keeping with other landing locations in the Municipality.

Signage is being altered to reflect the new direction as well as to clarify the different areas for parking if you have a vehicle, vehicle with trailer, etc. The Municipality has also amended their parking bylaw to support compliance with this change.

We are told that this will impact vehicles parking in the:

- No Parking-Emergency Vehicles Only area
- Vehicles parked in the Accessible Parking area WITHOUT a Provincial Accessibility permit
- and other vehicles/trailers not complying with the posted parking guidelines.

Please contact the Municipality at 705-389-1855 or the Bylaw Officer: BylawEnforcement@whitestone.ca 705-389-2466 Ext. 145 if you require further clarification

- NEW -

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

Conservation Association

Board Policies

The Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Directors have created two new policies with respect to their operations.

The first is a Governance Policy which sets out details regarding the operation of the Board as well as its relationship with Committees and Taskforces. The policy expands upon the content in the Association's Articles of Incorporation.

The second policy is a Code of Conduct. The document sets out expectations regarding the behaviour of Directors, Committee members and anyone else who is conducting work on behalf of the Association. These policies will complement the existing Conflict of Interest policy, and will complete the key policies that will guide the Association's work. The documents will be included in the Annual General Meeting materials.

Morton Camp Private Docking

Morton's Camp has secured private docking space on the west side of Bennett's Barge and closest to Main dock. There will be signage in near future indicating that this spot is a private dockage space.

LAKE DIRECTORY/ CONTACT INFORMATION

When my family first moved to the lake in 2001 we were able to get a directory of all of the lake addresses with contact names and a map of all the cottages. We found the directory very useful in being able to put names to faces and in contacting our neighbours. Accepting the fact that many of the residents have changed, and of course many haven't, Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association have been working to obtain current addresses and contacts for all of the lake residents. Several volunteers have been gathering this information and we are working to consolidate it.

The information we are looking for is: Name of Owner(s), email address, contact phone number and lake address (also referred to as 911 address).

If you are reading this newsletter you are most likely a member so we already have some contact information. Unfortunately we don't have the lake addresses and phone numbers. If you are contacted by one of our volunteers please provide that OR if you like, email directly to me at robslykhuis@rogers.com

What will we do with this information?

We want to assure everyone that all information gathered is confidential and used for the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Association only. One purpose, will hopefully be the creation of a new directory. If this does become a reality we will be contacting everyone to receive permission to publish their contact information.

A second purpose, will be to email updates, by either the Treasurer or Secretary on issues impacting lake residents. A recent example is the update on the parking and access development which was emailed to all members. (Note, this information is also posted on our website and facebook page)

However, In the future we anticipate a lot of discussion about the upcoming Lake Plan Review; and while we would like to have all residents as members of the Association, we do want to contact all property owners on this initiative.

Thanks for your support and looking forward to getting this completed soon.

Rob Slykhuis





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Book Reviews

by N. Glenn Perrett

The Spite House

Johnny Compton

Nightfire

2023, 261 pages

ISBN: 9781250891952

The Spite House is a very good horror novel that features a haunted house and a family curse that dates back to 1862. It also features a father, Eric, and his two daughters, Dess and Stacy, who are on the run and willing to do almost anything if it means that they can stay together and make enough money to survive. When Eric learns of an opportunity to stay in a haunted house for considerable money, he moves in with his daughters and things become terrifying and dangerous immediately. All Eric has to do is stay in the house and record everything that occurs. Sounds simple, but is it?

The Spite House is a well written, scary story with interesting characters that will entertain those who like to read about ghosts, spirits and things that go bump in the night.

The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary: Seventh Edition

Benjamin Korzec, general editor

Merriam-Webster

2022, 737 pages

ISBN: 9780877795957

Scrabble is a fun, educational game – and one that doesn't require batteries! It can, however, result in some disagreements when someone tries to use a word that may or may not exist. For this reason it can be a good idea to have *The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary* on hand and this Seventh Edition is the latest.

The book contains "more than

100,000 playable two- to eight-letter words that are acceptable under the rules of SCRABBLE". This edition also has more than 500 new words including spork and zonkey! Words include a short definition. Canadian and British spellings are also included.

The Secret World of Lichens: A Young Naturalist's Guide

Troy McMullin

Firefly Books

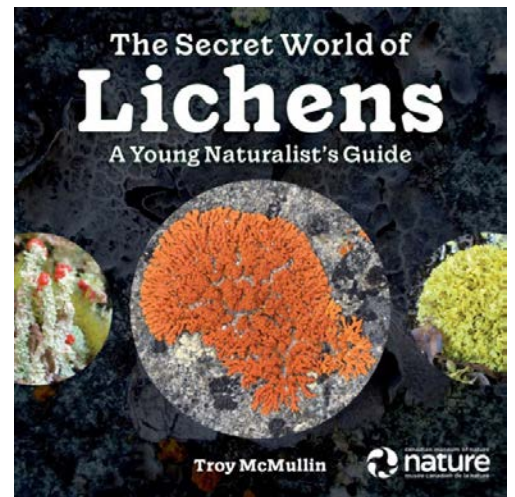
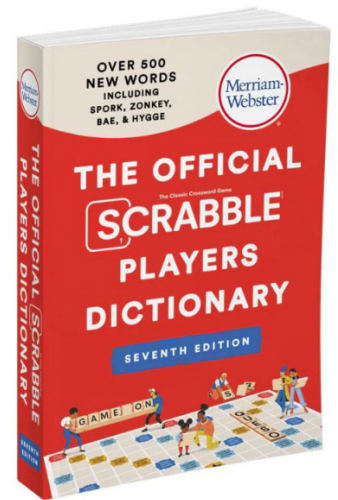
2022, 48 pages

ISBN: 9780228103998

ages 8+

Although often overlooked, lichens are a fascinating and important part of the ecosystems in which they live. Filled with beautiful, colour photographs of numerous species of lichens and complemented with interesting text by Dr. Troy McMullin, *The Secret World of Lichens* is a wonderful guide to these organisms for young – and not-so-young – naturalists.

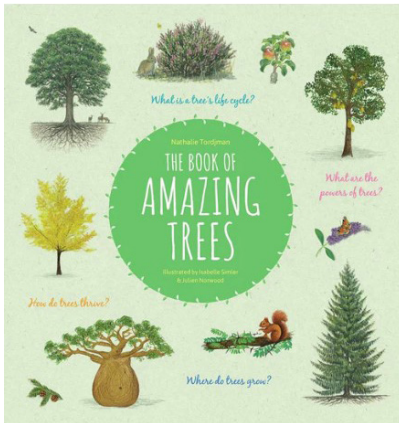
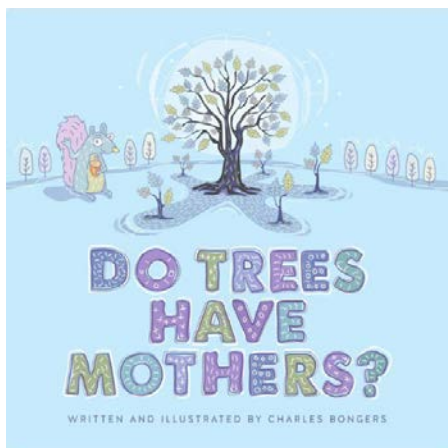
Reading this informative book you will learn that lichens are symbiotic organisms often made up by fungi and algae and/or cyanobacteria. Lichens are beneficial in many ways besides their spectacular looks including being food and homes for animals, providing nitrogen to soil and even being used by people in dyes, food and medicine. They also absorb carbon dioxide and are used to mon-



itor air pollution. Lichens are also some of the oldest living organisms on Earth with Yellow Map Lichen "estimated to be about 8,600 years old."

According to the author there are approximately 20,000 species of lichen around the world and in this guide he covers "38 interesting and beautiful species that are found from the Arctic to the tropics." Some of the species that I found particularly attractive and interesting in the book include "Fairy Puke Lichen", "Lungwort Lichen", "Maritime Reindeer Lichen" and "Elegant Sunburst Lichen."

Along with detailed captions and interesting text, this book promotes learning by bolding some of the words in the text which are then defined in the glossary at the back of the book.



Do Trees Have Mothers?

Charles Bongers

D & M Kids

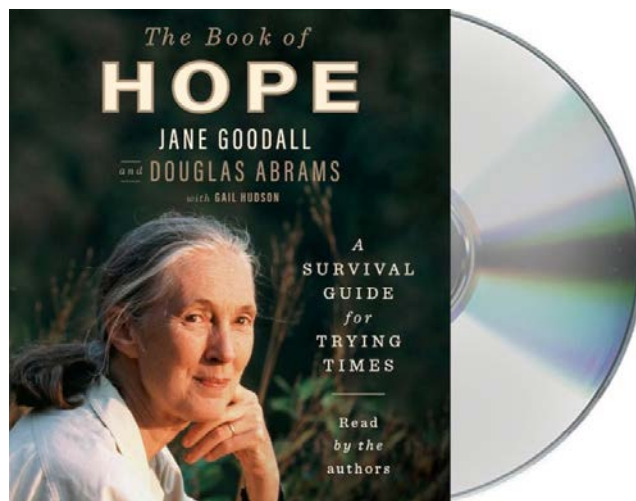
2022, 33 pages

ISBN: 9781771623254

ages 3+

Told by a squirrel named Nuts, *Do Trees Have Mothers?* is a beautifully illustrated picture book that informs young readers about how baby trees are helped by their mothers. Children will learn that “Mother trees teach their babies through their roots” and that they can also warn them about bugs who are in the area. Mother trees also “help others by cleaning the air and water.” Trees provide lots of other important things including food and shelter for animals.

Do Trees Have Mothers? is an excellent nature book inspired by the science of trees that introduces young children to the vital and fascinating world of trees!



The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times (audio book)

Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams
with Gail Hudson

Macmillan Audiobook

2021, 6 CDs

ISBN: 9781250817938

Celadon Books (hardcover edition)

2021, 253 pages

ISBN: 9781250784094

We are facing frightening times with climate change, a global pandemic and the loss of biodiversity and habitat. It is easy to feel overwhelmed and anxious. The future appears bleak with depression and despair a result for many. Our species' greed, selfishness and shortsightedness has certainly threatened the planet and all who live here causing many to wonder if there is any hope.

Fortunately, Jane Goodall, one of the wisest, most dedicated and caring naturalists on the planet, believes that there is hope for humans and the other species with whom we share Earth. Goodall, in discussion with Douglas Abrams, looks at the vital subject of “hope” and looks at her “Four Reasons of Hope”: the Amazing Human Intellect, The Resilience of Nature, The Power of Young People, and The

Indomitable Human Spirit.

In talking about why there is still hope – while admitting that time is running out – Goodall covers topics such as how we can be hopeful for the future, how we can encourage hope in our children and how acting to protect the planet leads to more hope. And while spreading the word of the importance of hope, especially in light of

our species' past, can be a daunting task, Goodall is the ideal person for the job. After all, not only has she accomplished many challenges from living through World War II to studying chimpanzees in Gombe, but she has fought for animals who are cruelly treated as well as for environmental protection sharing her views of how these can be accomplished including assisting humans and communities that are in need of help.

Goodall and Abrams do an excellent job of discussing the idea of hope often citing personal experiences. I liked the fact that Goodall prefers to provide stories, as opposed to statistics, of hope. These stories, often based on personal experiences, are fascinating and do provide the listener/reader with hope. Goodall and Abrams even touch on the topic of death and make this often frightening subject one that can be discussed without creating fear or anxiety.

The Book of Hope is a valuable tool in addressing the stresses and depression many of us experience on a regular basis providing us with hope of a better life and future. Both the audio book and the book have their benefits. I particularly like the audio book as Abrams' discussion with Goodall is a relaxing and pleasant listen as Goodall's voice is calming and her words are inspirational and offer

- continued -

hope. The book is also good as it includes photos throughout that complement the text. Both editions instill the listener/reader with confidence that our species can meet the large challenges before us.

Very highly recommended!

The Book of Amazing Trees

Nathalie Tordjman, illustrated by Isabelle Simler & Julien Norwood

Princeton Architectural Press

2021, 65 pages

ISBN: 9781616899714

ages 8+

Learning about trees is as fascinating as it is important and *The Book of Amazing Trees* is both interesting and educational. Aimed at children 8+, the book looks at trees including their bark, trunks, leaves, types – and more. How a tree grows is also included and there are ways to figure out the age of a tree, calculating the height of a tree and the diameter of its trunk. Roots, including the four types of tree roots, is also looked at as are leaves. There is even information on how trees protect themselves.

Other sections include seeds and flowers and there is an activity on “Grow a tree!” where kids (of all ages) can grow a tree by sowing seeds as well as starting a willow tree by cutting a willow branch, pushing it into the dirt and watering it. “The life of a tree” is also included.

I particularly enjoyed learning about how trees communicate with themselves and how they help each other and the section on “Record-breaking trees” is interesting and looks at trees with the biggest flowers (Magnolia), the biggest fruit (Jackfruit – some weigh more than 25 kilograms), the biggest trunk (Baobab) – and lots more.

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Photography

Tim Tofflemire

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THE STEAM TUG CAROLINE

By John Nelson, December 11, 2002

The Caroline was a steam powered tug operated by the Holt Lumber company in the early years of the twentieth century. It sunk in the Big Lake of WahWashKesh around December 1916 as it was being transported over the frozen surface of the lake, after being damaged a few weeks earlier before the water froze over. This paper describes some of what is known about the Caroline and her fate, and some ideas about if and how she might be located.

Guy Smith's Recollections

Mr. Guy Smith served as a boat hand and foreman for the Holt Lumber Company on Lake WahWashKesh around 1916. Mr. Smith died in January 1984 at the age of 99. He recalled in an interview...

...the night in late November, when he was aboard the steam tug Caroline on the Big Lake bound for camp in Bolger Bay. It was the last trip of the season. In the dark with snow falling, the boat got too close to the shoal off Miller's Point, struck the rocks, stove-in, and stranded on its side. Guy's brother was in the wheel house with the Captain. Guy was below with the Engineer. The tug was towing a Pointer (loggers' oar boat). As the tug settled on its side, Guy had just enough time to chop the frozen tow rope free and help the other three people into the Pointer with what belongings they could grab. They made their way to shore and being wet in freezing weather decided they should work their way out to Whitestone on foot, which they did.

At this point, Guy's story jumps a few weeks to the time the decision was made to salvage the tug. A crew went to the accident site with timbers and tackle to raise the Caroline by working on the lake ice. After considerable effort, the boat was



righted and lifted so that it could be set down on two long timbers to which it was chained. The plan was to skid the tug over the ice back to the camp in Bolger Bay where repairs could be done through the winter. For this job, a crew with blocks, cable, several horses and a Ford tractor were assembled and the move started. Not long on the way, as the assembly reached an area of deep water where sufficient ice depth had not yet formed, the tug went through the surface, broke free of its lashings, and sunk.

To the best of Guy's knowledge no effort was ever made to salvage the tug a second time. That is why, after 60 years, the Holt tug still lies on the bottom in deep water, somewhere off the mouth of Tracy Bay in the Big Lake (now called Hogsback Bay).¹

The Steam Tug Caroline

From the picture of the Caroline grounded well out of water at Miller's Point², we can make some estimates of her size, layout, and

construction. By making an initial assumption that the height of the after cabin is about four feet, scaled measurements of the photo can be made to make estimates of other dimensions.

She appears to have been a wooden vessel about forty feet in length, eleven feet in the beam, and probably had a draught of about four feet. She had a stern that appears to overhang the rudder and propeller. The after working deck was about fifteen feet long, and looks to have been covered in rope and miscellaneous material when the picture was taken. There seem to be scuppers amidships. She had a wheelhouse about five feet wide and seven feet high, and an after cabin about five feet wide and ten feet long with a roof about four feet above the deck. There seem to have been two small curved-front boards sticking up on either side of the wheelhouse, possibly name plaques. The smokestack rose through the after cabin roof. The rudder is clearly visible in the photo, and close examination of the picture reveals what may be one blade of what appears to be a three or four bladed propeller.

The picture seems to have been taken from ashore, presumably on Miller's Point. The lake appears to be frozen, and there are few clues about exactly which direction the

camera was facing. It looks to have been an overcast day and there are no distinct shadows, and even if there were we have no indication of the time of day to deduce direction from the position of the sun. The deck does seem to be illuminated, and in general the sun is well in the south late in the year, so the picture may be looking roughly north. If that's the case, it is consistent with looking towards Harts Point or Birch Island on the left, and the farther shore of Sunset Point on the right side of the photo.

There is no indication of where the hull was stove-in in the photo. The vessel is almost completely out of the water, but we have no way of knowing if the lake level dropped after she went aground or if she was pulled up onto the shore manually.

The Caroline was a steam powered tug, and may have had a compound engine, although it's possible that it could have been powered by a simple single cylinder engine or the most complex triple expansion engine. It might be reasonable to speculate that the boat was equipped with a 25 to 50 hp engine.

The steam may have been generated by a vertical boiler, and if so, we can surmise that it was located directly below the smokestack.

Where is the Caroline?

According to Mr. Smith, in the winter of 1916-1917 the Caroline was being skidded from Miller's Point to the camp in Bolger Bay, and sunk in the mouth of Hogsback Bay. He says the crew had progressed into an area of deeper water where the ice was thin.

If the camp they were headed for was in Bolger Bay as he says, then the most convenient route to anywhere in the bay would be through the shallow passage between Birch Island and Harts Point. According to the Canadian Hydrographic Survey Chart of Lake WahWashKesh (# 6026) the depth along the likely route in open water in the mouth of Hogsback Bay ranges from 21 to 38 metres. There have been reports that sophisticated fish finders have picked up a solid echo in about 25 metres



of water in the area, but no special effort has been made to definitively locate the Caroline's grave.

How can the Caroline be Found?

Lake WahWashKesh is an inland lake surrounded by deciduous and coniferous forest and the underlying vegetation found on the forest floor. Its water is heavily saturated with tannin and dissolved vegetable material which makes it almost opaque at depth. Reliable reports say that at depths of only 10 metres, visibility is restricted to only a few inches. Lack of visibility will make it difficult to find the Caroline manually very difficult.

However, modern underwater discovery techniques have recently become affordable. Foremost among them is Side Scan Sonar, a technique whereby a submerged "torpedo" containing sonar equipment is lowered and towed, and is connected to a standard personal computer where its images are received, stored and viewed. This equipment is very sensitive and can almost paint a picture of what it finds on the lake bottom. Coupled with a GPS, the Caroline could be discovered and its precise location identified and recorded.

Side Scan Sonar equipment now costs only a few thousand dollars and can also be rented, and GPS devices are commonplace.



A modern example of a Compound 20hp Steam Engine

Should the Caroline be Found?

Historical shipwrecks in Ontario are protected by legislation and regulation, but this has not stopped unscrupulous divers from locating and plundering wrecks. If the existence and location of the Caroline became common knowledge, then there is a significant

- continued -

risk that this fate could await her. One approach to protecting this important piece of Lake WahWashKesh's legacy is to refrain from discovering the Caroline's location. This would not, however, prohibit unprincipled persons from doing so independently.

Another approach would be to mount a project to positively locate the Caroline, beforehand having determined what protection and enforcement can be afforded by various government agencies for known wrecks of historical significance. This would have the effect of both identifying the vessel for future possible undertakings, and of formally identifying it for protection.

Finding the Caroline may bring unforeseen benefits in knowledge and understanding of our heritage, and in current opportunities to enhance the attractiveness of the area for all by sharing this knowledge.

Next Steps

The mission of the Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association is "the conservation of natural resources of the area so that the Lake WahWashKesh region will be a source of continuing interest to property owners and visitors". (Constitution of the Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association, June 12, 1954). Under this broad mandate, the Association might consider historical relics to be important resources to be conserved.

If so, the Association might wish to consider a project to locate and protect the Caroline for the benefit of not only today's lake and Municipality residents but for the future as well.

¹ *Lake WahWashKesh – The Early Years* (The Wah Wash Kesh Conservation Assoc. 1986), "Tales from Holt Lumber Company Days" pp. 98

² *Lake WahWashKesh – The Early Years* (The Wah Wash Kesh Conservation Assoc. 1986) before pp. 68

Wahwashkesh Lake's 'alligator'

The alligator Wawaskesh prowled the waters to Wahwashkesh Lake during the first two decades of the 20th century.

Each rattlesnake season here on the Georgian Bay shore I'm reminded of one of my informants back in the days when I collected oral history from old-time lumberjacks.

This man had worked on the Magnetawan River sawlog drive, so I asked him if he'd had any experience with alligators. "No, I never saw any alligators," he replied, "but when we got down near to Byng Inlet we sure had to watch out for rattlesnakes."



Photo courtesy of Rena Robertson

When I told him that I meant the steam-powered, wooden-hulled amphibious warping tugs, commonly called "alligators," that once towed masses of floating sawlogs across Ontario lakes, it led to more alligator anecdotes for my collection.

The vessel the man remembered was the Wawaskesh, which, early in the 20th century, collected sawlogs where the Magnetawan and Whitestone rivers entered Wahwashkesh Lake and turned them loose on the far side to continue their long float down to a sawmill at Byng Inlet.

The Wawaskesh was #52 of about 200 log-warping tugs built by the West & Peachey foundry of Simcoe, Ontario. The prototype, launched in 1889, was christened Alligator in recognition of its ability to winch itself overland as well as work in the water, and the name stuck to all that followed.

Standard-size, side-wheel models (later ones were screw-driven) like the Wawaskesh measured 32 feet in length and were powered by a 20 horsepower steam engine whose boiler consumed a cord of four-foot wood in a 10-hour working day. Jaunty paint jobs, usually a red hull and a contrasting white

superstructure, offset their ungainly lines.

Rooted in the hull was a spool holding three-quarters of a mile or more of steel cable. To tow a boom containing 40,000 or more sawlogs across a lake, the alligator paddled out the length of the cable, dropped an anchor attached to its end, then backed up to the boom, spooling off cable as it went. Then it hitched onto the boom and winched its way, at about one mile per hour, back to the anchor. The process might need to be repeated two or three times before the logs could again be set free in the river's current.

The Wawaskesh was built in 1903 for the Holland & Graves Lumber Company, which owned pine rights in central Parry Sound District and operated a sawmill in Byng Inlet, where the Magnetawan River enters Georgian Bay. I surmise it reached its destination the way most alligators did, by being loaded, in prefabricated pieces, aboard railway cars for shipment to the nearest railhead, which in this case would be Burk's Falls.

At railhead, teams of horses hauling sleighs usually delivered the components to the lake in question, where a West & Peachey crew assembled them into a completed alligator. A steamboat on the Burk's Falls-Ahmic Harbour run might logically have carried the Wawaskesh components over the first leg of the 50-mile journey.

About 50 years ago, I went to Dunchurch to interview Jim Canning, then in his nineties, about his time as captain of the Wawaskesh. Jim first gained experience with alligators on the Pickerel and French rivers, and later, while working on the Magnetawan for Sam Ritter, woods foreman for Holland & Graves, he was tagged to run the Wawaskesh.

"I guess maybe I wore that old alligator out," Jim said. "I was about 12 years with that alligator, and I could pull — I didn't care how many logs was in the boom."

Jim described the fine points of towing a boom of logs.

Too sudden an application of steam, or the boom catching on shore, for example, could result in broken boom chains and a scramble to catch and corral escaping logs. His crowning achievement was warping three million board feet of pine (at least 40,000 logs, assuming an average run of timber of that time and place) from the outlet of Gooseneck Lake in the south body of Wahwashkesh Lake, some five miles

north to where the Magnetawan River exits the upper lake. Two sets of narrows lie between the two basins, and at each one the logs had to be spilled from the boom, chased through, and bagged up again.

On some rivers, such as the French, alligators followed the log drive all the way down by hauling themselves over portages. Stout oaken runners on the bottom of the hull enabled it to winch itself overland on small-diameter logs thrown in its path. But the Wawaskesh spent her working life confined to Wahwashkesh Lake. When river driving ended, she was acquired by Harrisons, pioneers in the growing tourist business, and put to work carrying freight. Finally, after her engine and boiler were removed for reuse elsewhere, her hull was hauled ashore and left to rot.

By Huntsville Forester

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

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The RONA logo features the word "RONA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the letters is a stylized white graphic consisting of three parallel diagonal lines, resembling a mountain peak or a stylized 'A'.

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Green Corner

by N. Glenn Perrett

DeWalt Flexvolt 60V Max Cordless 20-inch Chainsaw Kit (Item DCCS677Y1)

www.dewalt.ca

A simple way to help combat climate change and protect the environment involves using tools that are both practical and more environmentally friendly. Five years ago I tried my first battery-powered chainsaw – DeWalt's Flexvolt 60V Brushless Chainsaw with 16" chain and bar and I've been impressed with the results. Although not as durable as my gas-powered chainsaw, this DeWalt chainsaw is much quieter and, more important, it doesn't use gasoline making it particularly important when cutting wood near wetlands.

Recently my wife Lynn and I have enjoyed using the DeWalt Flexvolt 60V Max Brushless Cordless 20-inch 4.0Ah Chainsaw Kit. The longer bar and chain compared to our first battery-powered chainsaw allows us to effectively cut larger logs and this saw appears to be more durable too.

Included in this kit are: DCCS677 Chainsaw; DCB612 DeWalt Flexvolt Battery; DCB115 Charger; Bar Sheath; Carrying Case; Sharpening File; Tensioning Tool. The Wrench is conveniently kept in a slot in the handle and the rugged carrying case effectively protects the saw and the other items in the kit. When the life of a battery is over make sure that you recycle it responsibly. If you take your DeWalt batteries to a DeWalt Service Centre branch for recycling you will receive a discount on the purchase of a new battery.

Last fall Lynn and I put this saw to good use cutting hardwoods and softwoods of various sizes. The saw



made quick work of elm, black cherry, cedar and birch logs that were from 4" to 10" in diameter. We also used this saw to cut up two pine trees (10" in diameter) and a white

spruce tree. More recently, we cut down numerous ash trees, up to 12" in diameter, that had died due the emerald ash borer. The length of time that the battery lasts

on a single charge varies with the size and type of wood cut. We usually get an hour or more cutting time with softwoods while a battery used for cutting larger hardwoods lasts from 45 to 60 minutes.

Included with this chainsaw kit is a comprehensive Instruction Manual. Read this manual before using your saw as it contains lots of important information including safety warnings, tool care, batteries and chargers, storage recommendations, transporting the chainsaw, cutting techniques, saw chain sharpening and lots more. Make sure that you read and follow all of the instructions in the manual.

Resolving To Be More Sustainable With This Kitchen Reno!

Concern for environmental issues like climate change and the destruction of vital wetlands and farmland to build large homes is increasing. But there are easy ways that we, as individuals, can drastically reduce environmental ills and a first step involves considering more eco-friendly ways to do things on a daily basis. My wife Lynn and I applied this approach when we renovated our kitchen recently.

Our galley kitchen has remained unchanged since we bought the 1895 house almost 35 years ago. The stained cabinets and cupboards are plywood, the countertop was old and damaged, the sink was also old and the taps were on their last legs. The wall behind the counter featured numerous layers of peeling wallpaper. Yikes! After considering various options for an eco-renovation, Lynn and I decided on the following which was not only environmentally friendly, but attractive and economical too!

Keep the Cupboards

While the cupboards are old, they are solid and in decent shape except where Ras, our Terrier-Beagle dog, ate part of a door when she was a puppy. Lynn filled the damaged area with wood filler, sanded the cupboards and painted them with a quality, black, water-based, low VOC paint from Benjamin Moore.

Out With the Countertop

There was no salvaging the countertop. We wanted to use a renewable, inexpensive material so we chose some black cherry flooring left over from a floor we installed 30 years ago and which we had stored in our

barn. For this part of the renovation we contracted a local, skilled builder who did an excellent job of building and installing the counter and installing the sink and tap. The countertop was finished with Osmo TopOil made from vegetable oils and waxes and which is used on food-contact surfaces. Cherry boards were also used to cover an area next to the ceiling.

New Sink and Tap

The taps had to go as they were damaged and had begun to drip a little. The sink was very old and had been repaired so it was also replaced.

Even with fairly standard items like sinks and taps there are ways to make “greener” choices. First, we chose a quality tap (like with the paints, it is preferable to use quality items) to help ensure longevity. We also selected a tap that offered only the features that we needed and would use as this further minimizes our impact on the environment. American Standard’s Delancey Single-Hand Pull-Down Dual Spray Function Kitchen Faucet (model 4279300.002) met these requirements and it features a “drip-free performance”, a pull-down spray head and, most importantly, a flow rate that saves water. And it works great. It is also made in North America.

For the sink we opted for American Standard’s Pekoe 29” x 18” Stainless Steel Undermount Double Bowl ADA Kitchen Sink (model 18DB6291800.075). Made with 18-gauge stainless steel, this sink is only 6” deep for easy accessibility. There are also “coordinating grids” that can be placed in each basin for added protection. We wash our dishes by hand allowing them to air dry and these “grids” are useful in washing our dishes in one basin and rinsing them off and then allowing them to dry in the other. I consider them useful drying racks that save on time and energy!

Wall Covering

The final part of the project involved stripping off the numerous layers of wallpaper and covering the walls with a protective, maintenance-free covering that would fit in with our 130-year-old house. For this we again headed to the barn where we had stored five 2’ x 2’ square pieces of old, rusty, tin tiles that we had bought for \$45. Lynn used a more eco-friendly paint remover made from soybeans that effectively removed the multiple layers of paint. Next, a primer coat was applied and then two coats of quality metal paint (BeautiTone Rustcoat – white gloss.) The re-

sults are stunning and the five pieces were just enough to cover the wall.

For each step of this kitchen reno we carefully considered ways to ensure quality work while keeping costs down and, most importantly, impacting the Earth as little as possible. Always looking for a “greener” way to do things is an important and simple way to help the planet.



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