



Monthly Digest Vol. 1 April 2026



Welcome to the first edition of the *Wahwashkesh Current*.

As mentioned earlier, we have moved away from the formal semi-annual newsletter format in favour of more frequent updates. Maureen Lewis and Jessica Lock have been doing an excellent job gathering information to share and have developed a standardized format that we will be using for regular posts on Facebook, Instagram, and in emails to our members.

Our goal is to keep everyone around the lake informed and connected by sharing updates on our activities—such as water testing, environmental initiatives, and social events—as well as fun facts, photos from the lake, and personal stories.

We've already received some great submissions from members, but we are always looking for more. If you have something you'd like to share, please send it to admin@lakewahwashkesh.ca.

Rob Slykhuis, President



Welcome to the first edition of “Dockside Chats: Meet Your Neighbours”! As we look to strengthen the sense of community around the lake, what better way to begin than by getting to know one another - even if it's from afar. Stay tuned.... Social opportunities are on the horizon.



This month, we're featuring Rebekah and Andrew Loverock and their two young children, Maisie and Ellis. While the Loverock's are relatively new cottage owners (they purchased Turkey Island in the Fall of 2024) their connections to Lake Wahwashkesh runs much deeper.

We all seem to find our way to this special place through friends, family - or sometimes just plain luck (though rumour has it, it used to be the fish!) Rebekah's story began back in 2005, when a university friend, Blake Strong, tipped her off about a summer job at Bennett's Marina as the "store girl". That opportunity turned into a memorable summer working with Ed and Marlene Bennett, learning the ropes, and just as importantly - forming lasting friendships. She quickly became part of a lively group of lake kids who had grown up spending their summers here, including Andrew Marks, Jessica Lock, Steven Disley and Andrew Fieder to name a few. Between the stunning scenery and a welcoming, fun loving crew, it wasn't hard to fall in love with Wahwashkesh.

With her energy, smarts, and can-do attitude, Rebekah soon became a favourite at Bennett's. In fact, Ed Sr. connected her with fellow cottager Mark Fieder, President of Avison Young. What started as an interview in the Fieder family cottage turned into a successful 20+ year career.

That same summer also sparked lifelong friendships - Jessica Lock even became Rebekah's roommate in Toronto for several years. Jessica and her family generously welcomed Rebekah to Scroggie's Island for many summers, creating a sense of belonging and connection that played a meaningful role in her love for Wahwashkesh and ultimately her journey back to the lake as a cottage owner.

When Andrew entered the picture - a bright business consultant - Rebekah wasted no time introducing him to the lake she loved. The couple enjoyed time on Scroggie's with Jessica and her family, and then began renting a cottage from the Bennett family, and as their own family grew, so did their dream of owning a place of their own. As luck would have it, when Dave and Yarinka Berto decided to sell their beloved Turkey Island property in the Narrows, word spread

quickly. They were hoping to pass it along to a young family who would cherish it as much as they had - and the Loverocks were a perfect fit. A true win- win.

These days, you will often find the Loverocks fishing off the dock, swimming, or gathered around a campfire on their beautiful point, taking in those classic Wahwashkesh sunsets. Many of Rebekah's longtime lake friends now have families of their own, creating a wonderful next generation of Wahwashkeshers to grow up together.

The Loverocks now live full-time in Collingwood, where they embrace winter just as enthusiastically - especially skiing. Ellis (6) plays hockey and baseball, while Maisie (4) enjoys dance and gymnastics. Come summer, Andrew and Rebekah are avid golfers, and the whole family loves fishing and boat rides...especially when they include a stop at Bennett's for ice cream. Talk about a full-circle moment!

And speaking of Turkey Island - its name comes with a story of its own. In the early 1900s, Jack Brownell settled the nearby mainland across the Narrows, along what was once known as the Indian Portage up to Graves Point. Not only did he grow fields of hay (hard to imagine!) as part of his homesteading but he decided to raise turkeys on the island just across from his property. Unfortunately, the turkeys did not thrive - but the name Turkey island certainly did! So the next time you are boating through the Narrows past Turkey Island (at the slow rate of speed required in such a narrow waterway :), wave to your neighbours the Loverocks!

SPRING FLOODING

Those of us on Lake Wahwashkesh are no strangers to the annual spring freshet. Each year, we expect the lake to rise - typically 5 to 6 feet above the dam - as snow and ice melt and spring rains arrive. This year, however, has proven to be anything but typical.

An exceptional winter brought deep snow and solid ice, giving many of us a season full of outdoor enjoyment. But as the thaw began, it was followed by persistent and heavy rainfall. Across Ontario, the impact has been significant, and here at Lake Wahwashkesh, we are seeing the effects firsthand.

Due to the lake's geography - with a single outlet through the Magnetewan river - Wahwashkesh has limited ability to quickly shed the large volume of incoming water from its many inlets. As a result, water levels have risen beyond what we typically experience. This year appears to have surpassed the 2019 flood level of 11'4". As of 8:00am on April 20th, Hobolink reading show levels at 11.84 feet above the dam (approximately 11'10"), matching the historic high recorded in 1998.

In response, the Whitestone Works Department has arranged for a supply of sand and sandbags for residents. These will be available at the large parking lot at the top of Indian Narrows Road on April 20, 2026. Please bring a shovel and be prepared to fill bags as needed. There is some cautious optimism - water levels have stabilized over the past 12 hours and are expected to begin gradually declining later today. There is no forecasted precipitation in the immediate future, so that should help our situation!

As many begin returning to the water, please exercise extreme caution. There is a significant amount of floating debris, and many properties are either flooded or at risk. Boat wakes, even small ones, can worsen damage along already vulnerable shorelines. Your care and consideration for neighbours during this time is greatly appreciated!

Hydro One also reminds residents that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. If water approaches electrical outlets, baseboard heaters or your furnace, please contact them at 1-800-434-1235 to have power safely disconnected. Do not enter flooded areas until power has been turned off.



HOBOLINK Water Monitoring System.

The Hobolink is a water monitoring system that provides us with a vital resource to track our fluctuating water levels, particularly this time of the year. You may access the link to the site on the front page of the Wahwashkesh Conservation Association website.

www.lakewahwashkesh.ca Please note: this vital tool is paid for through your annual membership to the Lake Wah Wash Kesh Conservation Association. Please sign up today!

WahWashKesh RX-3004

Latest Conditions				
	Measurement Label	Latest Reading	Time	Sensor SN
💧	At Last Connect	0 mm	April 10, 2026 07:40 EDT	1135611-1
🌡️	Air	0.36 °C	April 10, 2026 07:40 EDT	2226707-1
🌡️	Water temp	0.7329 °C	April 10, 2026 08:00 EDT	21933490-2
🌊	Feet Above Dam	7.0354 feet	April 10, 2026 08:00 EDT	21933490-1
💧	Last 24 Hours	9 mm	April 09, 2026 00:00 EDT	1135611-2



ICE OUT CONTEST UPDATED - Rocky's Wild Ride

Well folks....it's official - we have ice out! And what a ride it was.

This year's ICE OUT contest, hosted on our Facebook page in collaboration with the ever-creative Jim Ellis and Caz Marks, featured none other than "Rocky" - our trusty (and apparently thrill seeking) ice-out indicator. Built rock solid tough - but not *that* tough.

Rocky gave it his all, bravely standing watch as conditions shifted. But Mother Nature had other plans. Between rising water levels, gusty winds, and a good dose of spring rain, Rocky's fate was sealed. He took his first unexpected swim on the morning of April 17th, followed by one final, dramatic plunge at exactly 3:44pm. We salute his service.

We had nearly 90 guesses roll in - clearly everyone was eager to call it! A big congratulations goes to Amber Waterhouse, who came incredibly close with her guess of April 17th at 3:00pm. Nicely done!

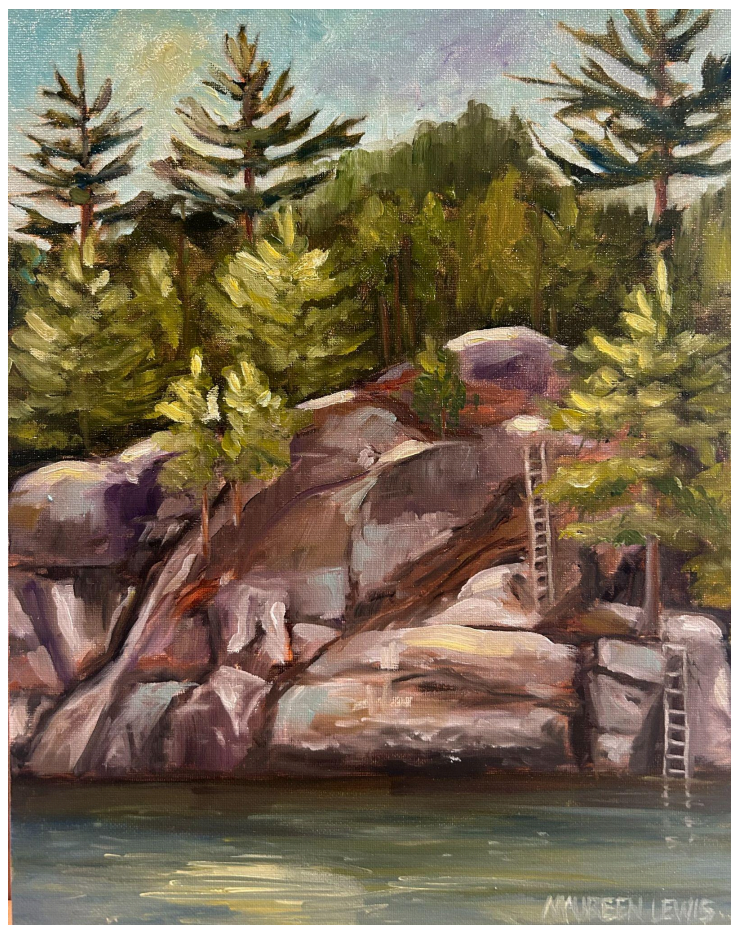
As of April 19th, the lake is mostly clear, with just a few stubborn patches of ice hanging on (we see you...). it was a heavy ice and snow year, which made for an extended snowmobile season - something many of you were more than happy about.

But now...it;s time to trade sleds for swims, and snow boots for flip flops.

Bring on summer - we can't wait to see you at the lake!

2026 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST

Support the lake you love - and help keep our community thriving. Renew your membership or join for 2026 by Monday, May 18th at 5 pm (May long weekend) and you will be entered to win this beautiful 11"x14" original oil painting by Maureen Lewis - inspired by the natural beauty of Lake Wahwashkesh. Your membership helps fund the Hobolink, water quality testing, membership to Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA) and many of our most loved traditions, including the Kids Regatta, Fishing Derby and the Weiner and Corn Roast! Every membership plays a part in protecting our shoreline, water, wildlife - and the memories we make here. Join or renew today! www.lakewahwashkesh.ca



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:



Lake Wah Wash Kesh Conservation Association



wwkconservation

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

C O N S E R V A T I O N A S S O C I A T I O N

