



Monthly Digest Vol. 3 July 2026

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The past few months have once again been very busy for the Association. I'm extremely pleased with the response to our new communication strategy. Thanks to our Directors, **Maureen Lewis** and **Jessica Lock**, we've been able to share more information than ever through emails, newsletters, and social media. We now have **over 1,000 followers**, a significant milestone for our lake community.

With warmer weather finally arriving, we've launched our social calendar. A big thank you to **Paul Thomson** for once again organizing a full slate of activities for everyone to enjoy.

This spring was especially challenging as the lake reached a record flood level, and many residents are still dealing with the aftermath. I want to thank Paul for organizing the *Neighbours Helping Neighbours* initiative, and I'm grateful to all the volunteers who stepped up. The Municipality also supported our request for garbage bins at the landing and continues to allow no fee dumping for flood related materials.

The Whitestone Official Plan remains unfinished. A review of the current draft is expected in July, and we hope to provide additional feedback before Council approves it. While some of our concerns have been addressed, others remain outstanding. Once Council approves the plan, it will be forwarded to the Province for review. If our concerns are still unresolved, we will make a formal submission to the Province outlining the remaining issues.

Finally, I want to speak about membership. While our online following and event attendance have reached record levels, this hasn't yet translated into a significant increase in new members. I've spoken with several people who have rejoined after many years away, and I'm grateful for that support. Growing our membership isn't just about revenue—it strengthens our collective voice within the community and with various agencies and levels of government. If you're reading this newsletter, you're likely already a member. Please consider sharing it with neighbours and friends to help broaden our reach.

Rob Slykhuis – President



Summer is in full swing and we have many events planned for you. Mark your calendars with the dates above and come and celebrate our community! More information to follow on all events. Please follow us on Facebook/Instagram for our website at: www.lakewahwashkesh.ca for up to date information. Links below

First Annual Canada Day Boat Parade

Our First Annual Canada Day Boat Parade Was a Great Success, and what a fantastic day it was! It was wonderful to see so many people decorate their boats, dress in their Canadian pride, and come together to celebrate on a beautiful day on Lake Wahwashkesh.

The parade kicked off with everyone gathering at Indian Narrows Landing before setting sail through the Narrows in a festive flotilla led by our very own Two Loons. The creativity and community spirit on display made for an unforgettable celebration.

Congratulations to our prize winners:

- 🏆 Best Decorated Boat: Caz and Jim Ellis
- 🎉 Most Spirited Crew: Gary Green

A special thank you goes to Paul for grilling the most delicious hot dogs at the lake's first-ever drive-through hot dog stop. They were the perfect way to cap off an amazing afternoon!

Thank you to everyone who participated, decorated their boats, dressed in red and white, waved their Canadian flags, and helped make this inaugural event such a memorable one. We

are thrilled with the turnout and enthusiasm, and we're already looking forward to making the Canada Day Boat Parade an annual tradition.

See you on the water next year!





Chelsea Bun Bake Off Contest!

We wanted to give you a heads up - so you can start practicing. Following this year's AGM on Saturday August 1st, 2026 at Bennett's Barn will be both an Art Show and a Chelsea Bun Bake Off! We have shared with you in the past the Hayward's beloved chelsea bun recipe- and we are sharing it again. The contest does not require you to use this exact recipe - feel free to make it your own or use that secret ingredient that grandma used. Please let us know if you plan on competing. A sampling of a couple of your buns is all that we will need.

In Search of the Hayward's Chelsea Bun

A copy of the Chelsea Bun recipe was published in the Fall 2012 Newsletter but those who tried it reported that the buns weren't the same as they remember.

We went to the source to find out why, and discovered that there were some errors in the original publication.

Here is the official "Donnie-approved" version:

Dough

1/4 cup white sugar
1/4 cup shortening
1 1/4 to 1 1/2 cups milk (Donnie typically used 2% milk)
1 teaspoon salt
1 egg, beaten
4 1/3 cups all-purpose flour

Topping

3/4 cup brown sugar
3 tsp cinnamon
2/3 cup raisins
Butter. Lots of it! (Donnie never actually measured, but would estimate 1/4 to 1/2 cup according to taste)

1 package yeast

- Dissolve the yeast in 1/2 cup warm water with 1 tsp sugar, or follow the directions on the packet.

- In a large mixing bowl, combine sugar, salt and softened shortening. Gradually add the lukewarm milk. Add the yeast, one beaten egg and 2 cups of flour. Beat until well mixed, but not too long.



- Add the remaining 2 1/3 cups of flour. The mixture should form a dough ball but shouldn't be sticky. Add additional flour if needed. Place the dough ball in a greased bowl, cover and set aside until it doubles in size or 40 minutes for quick rise yeast. For instant or active dry yeast, leave for 60-70 minutes.

- Dust a board with flour and roll out to a 3-foot by 1.5-foot rectangle. Spread a coat of softened butter over the dough until well covered. Generously sprinkle the brown sugar, cinnamon and raisin topping.

- Roll from the 3-foot edge to form a roll 3 feet long. Cut into 1.5-inch lengths.

- Grease a 5" x 8" pan (holds six buns) or 8" x 12" for all 24. Sprinkle more brown sugar in the bottom of the pan. This will make the golden topping on the top of the buns.

- Bake at 400° degrees for 20-25 minutes until brown on top. Invert the pan on a cooling rack right away.

*Best served warm in a brown paper bag,
cruising across the lake in an old tin cup powered by
a 5hp Johnson or equivalent two-stroke motor*

Why become a member?

Your membership is an investment in the future of our lake community. By joining, you help support the preservation and enhancement of the lake's natural environment, ensuring it remains healthy and beautiful for generations to come.

A strong membership also gives our Association a stronger voice when advocating on issues that matter to lake residents. The more members we represent, the more effectively we can work with municipal, provincial and federal governments to protect our shared interests.

Beyond advocacy and environmental stewardship, membership helps keep you informed and connected. Through Association events, communications and volunteer opportunities, you will build relationships with fellow cottagers and contribute to the strong sense of community that makes Lake Wahwashkesh such a special place.

Together, we can protect, preserve and enhance the lake we all love. **Join or renew your membership today and be part of making a difference.** Please head over to our website at www.lakewahwashkesh.ca

Please note that you can also pay by Paypal - the auto renewal was not working as anticipated, so we have cancelled that. Many of you who have renewed may have received an email indicating this.



Did You Know?

You can pay your annual membership by e-transfer!

FAST
Send your payment in minutes.

SECURE
e-Transfer is a safe and trusted way to pay.

CONVENIENT
No cheque, no stamp, no problem!

Send your e-transfer to:
treasurer@lakewahwashkesh.ca

Thank you for supporting the lake!

The graphic features a scenic background of a lake with trees and a loon. The Lake Wahwashkesh Conservation Association logo is in the top right corner. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with icons for each benefit.

SPRING WATER TESTING

This Spring the Association once again went out and gathered 9 water samples for the Lake Partner Program that will be analyzed for the following: Total Phosphorus, Calcium Chloride and Sulphate. They also conducted water transparency testing. These tests are for the health of the lake and are collected in the spring to reflect the freshet and water coming into the lake. At the AGM, we are looking to present historical data to the members to illustrate the health of the lake.

Thanks to our Water Guru, Ross Lister and his support team - his wife Pennie and Rob and Mary Ellen Slykhuis.

You are still encouraged to test your own drinking water through the North Bay Parry Sound District Health unit 3 times per year. The Lake partners program tests for a different set of criteria on lake quality.



CONGRATULATIONS to Joan Evans - the winner of our WWK photo contest. Her gorgeous shot will be featured on our refurbished Website. Judges found her photo best depicted what we love about our lake.





SEPTIC SERENITY

FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association) has developed these Septic Slogans to help us maintain a healthy septic system and a healthy lake.

What goes in must come out

To allow waste water the time it needs to be treated in the tank, conserve water. Ensure the size of your system can handle the quantity of waste water you create. Many older septic systems may be grossly undersized for the current number of visitors to your cottage on any given day!

It's not a garbage can

Don't put garbage down your drain. That includes grease, oils, fats, and other non-biodegradable items.

Don't poison your poop processor

Always choose biodegradable, non-toxic shampoos, detergents, soaps, and cleaners. Many products in your cottage are loaded weapons for your septic system. Make septic-friendly product choices.

Nutrients not needed

Keep the input of phosphorus to a minimum. Use low-phosphate or phosphate-free cleaners.

An ounce of prevention...

Like all household systems, your wastewater treatment needs to be maintained. Regular maintenance includes ensuring that the tank is less than 33% full of solids (in the first chamber), cleaning the effluent filter at least annually, and visually inspecting the leaching field for liquid break out, odours or other signs of trouble. Excess solids means it's time for a pump out. Replacing a septic system (and repairing its impacts) is expensive; regular maintenance keeps thousands of dollars in your pocket.

Plants, not trees

Plant with caution in the nutrient-rich area on top of the leaching bed! Do not plant trees or shrubs within three metres of the tank or bed. Roots will seek out and crack your pipes. Shallow-rooted ground covers are ideal.

Location, location, location

Soils play a big role in how water travels from the leaching bed, what contaminants get absorbed/broken down, and how far they travel. Your septic system must be designed for the type of soil around your cottage. Make sure your system meets the rules (Ontario Building Code) that specify how far a septic tank and leaching bed can be built away from buildings, wells, and waterbodies
Additional online resources: <https://foca.on.ca/septic-systems>

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

