Wahwashkesh CURRENT

Monthly Digest Vol.5 August 2026

As another summer on Lake Wahwashkesh winds down, it is hard not to reflect on just how much our lake community has shared, celebrated, and accomplished together. From the difficult days following the spring flood to a summer filled with laughter, music, boats, baking, and good food, this has truly been a summer of **neighbours helping neighbours.**

The spring flood presented challenges for many around the lake, but it also brought out the very best in our community. Neighbours checked on neighbours, helped with cleanup, shared equipment and supplies, and lent a hand wherever it was needed. The generosity and willingness to help demonstrated once again that the strength of Lake Wahwashkesh is not just in the beauty of the lake, but in the people who call it home - whether for a weekend, a season, or all year round. The flood may have left its mark, but it also reminded us of the importance of looking out for one another.

And then came summer!!

We kicked things off with our first annual **Canada Day Boat Parade**, with decorated boats gathering at Indian Narrows and making their way around the lake. With plenty of red and white decorations, spirited boaters, the singing of O Canada, prizes and hot dogs from a floating dock, it was a wonderful way to celebrate Canada Day together on the water.

Our **Annual General Meeting** provided an opportunity to come together, catch up with friends and neighbours, hear about the work of the Wahwashkesh Conservation Association and look ahead to another year. The AGM also set the stage for a busy afternoon at Bennett's Barn, where our **Chelsea Bun Bake-Off** and **Annual Art Show and Sale** showcased some of the remarkable talent and creativity within our lake community. The Chelsea buns were a delicious reminder of our lake's traditions (thanks to the Haywards), while the art show gave local artists a chance to share their work and creativity. Congratulations to **Lynn Campbell** for winning the Chelsea Bun contest! Well deserved.

The fun continued throughout August with some of our favourite community events. **The Fishing Derby** brought out the competitive nature in our anglers both young and old on the lake!. The **Weiner Roast** brought everyone together at Straub's Beach for an easygoing afternoon of food, laughter and conversation. Our **Kids Regatta** gave the younger generation their chance to take over the beach and water proving once again that there is nothing quite like a summer day at the lake.

And finally, our **Corn Roast** provided a fitting summer finale. With good food, great company and plenty of stories shared around the beach, it was a wonderful way to celebrate the season and the community we built together.

Congratulations to our **2026 Fishing Derby winners:**

Under 16 - Felix Bremer - 31" Pike and Vinson Widmeyer - 13" Smallmouth Bass;

16+ Category: Gabriel Boyter -40" Pike, Sarah Ruah - 22" Pickerel and Ken Webb - 20" Smallmouth Bass

Most Honest Angler: Charlie Ruah - 8" Rock Bass - Because every fish deserves its moment!

A huge shoutout to the Busenhart family and their generous loan of Straub's beach and the Bennett family for the very kind use of their barn for our AGM, Art show and Chelsea bun bake off!

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who volunteered, organized, baked, created, cooked, decorated, participated, donated and simply showed up. Community events only happen when a community comes together - and Lake Wahwashkesh certainly did that this summer. Thank you to Paul Thompson and Jessica Lock for their leadership on all of these events - they could not have happened without you!

As we head into fall, we can look back on a summer filled with challenges overcome, traditions celebrated, and new memories made.

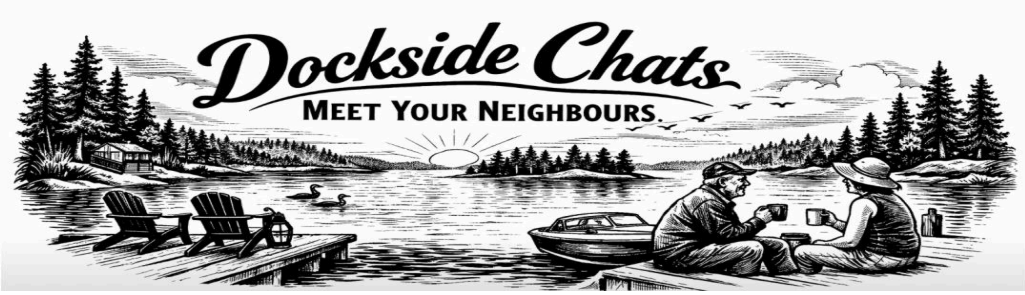
Cheers to another wonderful summer on the lake - and to the memories still to be made.









Six Generations of Robertson Roots on Wahwashkesh

“Any attempt to set down a record of the roots of the Lake Wahwashkesh Community as we know it, would undoubtedly reveal the prominence of the original William Robertson and his family”. *

**Lake Wahwahskesh: the Early Years*

Some families have been coming to Wahwashkesh for generations - and then there’s the Robertson family, who have now reached **six generations o**f enjoying life on the lake! To follow

the entire Robertson family tree would require a small novel, so for this edition, we are going to focus on one important branch: **Lynn Abbot Lennox.**

It All Started with a Cow…..and a Cottage

Lynn's great-grandfather, William Robertson, arrived in Canada from Scotland at the age of 20. After being diagnosed with tuberculosis, his doctor recommended that he head to California. William apparently had other ideas and instead chose to settle in Northern Ontario with his wife, Eliza.

The couple established a general store in Dunchurch, where William also became postmaster and sheriff. With six boys and four girls to keep entertained, the Robertsons decided their growing family needed a summer place where the children could enjoy the outdoors. In 1903 William purchased Crown land on Lake Wahwashkesh and eventually built "Selma" in the north end of the Big Lake.

And then there was the cow.

William decided that a family of ten children could certainly use a cow for fresh summer milk. So, in what may be one of the more unusual transportation stories in Wahwashkesh history, he launched the cow into the water at Harrison Bay and towed it behind the boat all the way to Selma. The plan worked beautifully…..until one morning when they discovered the cow was missing. Apparently, the cow enjoyed swimming as much as the Robersons did and had simply swam all the way back to the south end of the lake! Family folklore but possibly true?!

From Robertson to Abbot

William and Eliza's third son, Angus, returned from the First World War in 1918 suffering from gas exposure at Vimy Ridge. Despite his limited physical capabilities, he established a general store in Ardbeg in 1919, becoming Postmaster and Justice of the Peace. Ardbeg was then a thriving community supporting the lumber industry. One of the sawmills belonged to Angus's brother Lewis.

In 1927, Angus and his wife Jessie acquired the Ewin farm, stretching from Gooseneck to Wahwashkesh Lake. With Jessie taking the lead and physically working with several helpers, they cleared the forest to build the road that is now called McLennan Road to provide access to the lake, where they established a landing now called Lamarouex Landing. In 1930, they purchased additional property on Shabbot's Bay. At the landing, Angus built several small cabins to rent to tourists. In 1935, with Angus's health declining and the depression keeping tourists away, Angus and Jessie sold their large property but kept a lot with a gorgeous view over the lake. There they built their own humble cottage, Birch Haven, where they spent their summers. In 1954, the Robertsons cleared the trees and moved rocks to create a road as far as Birch Haven. This was the beginning of what is now called Shabbot's Bay Road. After Angus died, their son Donald assumed the title to Birch Haven. Three of Angus and Jessie's daughters and their husbands had built cottages of their own on the Shabbot's Bay shoreline, so this created a little Robertson family enclave with 10 children enjoying adventures together.

Lynn's Wahwashkesh childhood

Lynn Abbot Lennox is Beth's daughter, Angus Robertson's granddaughter, and William Robertson's great-granddaughter. She grew up enjoying exactly the kind of summers her

great-grandfather had envisioned. There were swims, canoe trips, and fishing off the dock. Grandpa Angus watched over the brood while they swam and bobbed about on an old tractor tube, from his vantage point in a big leather chair in his living room overlooking the dock. Grandma Jessie made pots of maple cream fudge on the wood stove. At about 11 years of age, Lynn and her brother Tim ferried themselves across the lake to visit cousins in a seven-foot punt powered by a whopping 1.7 horsepower motor, while their mother watched nervously with binoculars from the porch until they arrived safely.

Enter Wayne

When Lynn met and married Wayne Lennox, she wasted no time introducing him to Wahwashkesh. Wayne quickly became part of lake life, eventually serving for many years as President of the Wahwashkesh Conservation Association. Many of you know Wayne for his decades-long tenure with Cottage Life Magazine and the associated shows. His work was design/build/write, and many of his projects are right here on the lake. So, while Wayne may be known for building things, Lynn and Wayne have also helped build something much bigger: a strong sense of community and stewardship on this lake. Through their involvement with the Association, Wayne and Lynn made countless friendships on all parts of the lake, many of which continue today. Some of the fundraising projects that were required for major work fostered that sense of community... one such project was the cottage tour where participants could visit historic or new and interesting cottages all around the lake. That fundraiser is still talked about today. In the early 2000s, Wayne and Lynn helped establish standards for future development on the lake, and Wayne served on the local committee developed to oversee the amalgamation of several unorganized townships into the Municipality of Whitestone.

Six Generations and Counting

Both Lynn and Wayne are retired and spend the better part of five months at the cottage that Wayne built in 1990 on Shabbot's Bay. Their two children grew up enjoying the lake as Lynn did. There are now five young grandchildren, which brings us to the sixth generation of William Robertson's family enjoying Wahwasheksh. Not bad for a family whose lake life began with a cow!

Still Making Memories

Today, Lynn has what she calls her "joy job". She is a legal wedding officiant and has presided over many weddings, including many right here at the lake. Her warm, outgoing personality seems perfectly suited to helping couples say "I do".

Lynn and Wayne still treasure their simple lake traditions. Daily Scrabble and board games continue with their children and grandchildren for whom screen time is kept to a minimum, while nature walks, swimming, and good old-fashioned lake adventures are strongly encouraged. Papa Wayne's treasure hunts are a tradition the children look forward to every year.

We suspect William Robertson would be pretty pleased.

From a Scottish immigrant with a dream to a cow making its own way home, to children, grandchildren, and now great-great-great-grandchildren enjoying the same lake, the Robertson family story is woven deeply into the fabric of Wahwashkesh.

So the next time you are paddling through Shabbot's Bay, keep an eye out for the Lennox family. Give them a wave, say hello - and maybe ask Lynn about the maple fudge recipe. After all, six generations of Wahwashkesh memories are something worth celebrating!

William Robertson at 93 out for his daily paddle near his Selma property



Sixth generation of the Robertson family



Wayne in his workshop at the cottage and Lynn enjoying the front porch





Please note the following changes to Pleasure Craft Licenses:

Recent Changes To *Pleasure Craft Licences*

NEW** - Applies to all boats and is **now valid for 5 years

A *Pleasure Craft Licence (PCL)* is a document with a unique number.
This number **must** be displayed on both sides of the bow (front) of a pleasure craft.
Like a car's licence plate, it is used for identification but is not proof of ownership.
It helps police and search and rescue find important information during emergencies.

(NOTE: A Pleasure Craft Licence is different from a Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC).
A Pleasure Craft Operator Card is like a driver's licence for a car. You need one to operate a power-driven pleasure craft. It educates you on the basic boating safety rules.)

In Canada, if you are using your pleasure craft for recreation, *it needs a Pleasure Craft Licence* if it meets both of the following criteria:

- has one or more engines totalling at least 10 horsepower (7.5 kW), even temporarily
- is principally operated and maintained in Canadian waters

RECENT CHANGES to Pleasure Craft Licence (PCL)

- All new, transferred and renewed Pleasure Craft Licences are valid for 5 years
- $24.41 fee to apply for a new, renewed, transferred or duplicate Pleasure Craft Licence
- You must update your licence information within 30 days of a change in: name, address, phone number or email (no fee to update)
- Starting December 31, 2027, wind-powered pleasure craft over 6 metre long will need a Pleasure Craft Licence
- ***Licences currently without an expiry date now have an expiry date***

You can check your licence expiry date using your Pleasure Craft Licence number.
Older licences without an expiry date now have an expiry date as shown in this table.

Licence issue date	Licence expiry date
December 31, 1974 or earlier	March 31, 2026
January 1, 1975 to December 31, 1985	December 31, 2026
January 1, 1986 to December 31, 1995	December 31, 2027
January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1999	December 31, 2028
January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2005	December 31, 2029
January 1, 2006 to April 28, 2010	December 31, 2030

For more information on how to renew your ***Pleasure Craft Licence*** *please refer to the Government of Canada (Marine Transportation – Licensing a pleasure craft) website at:*
CanadaVesselLicensing

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