

An Annual Newsletter for all Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Associates and Supporters



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Custodial Visits & Markers
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Ian Mackenzie

Forestry & Trails
Bruce Magee

Septic & Wastewater
Patty Milne

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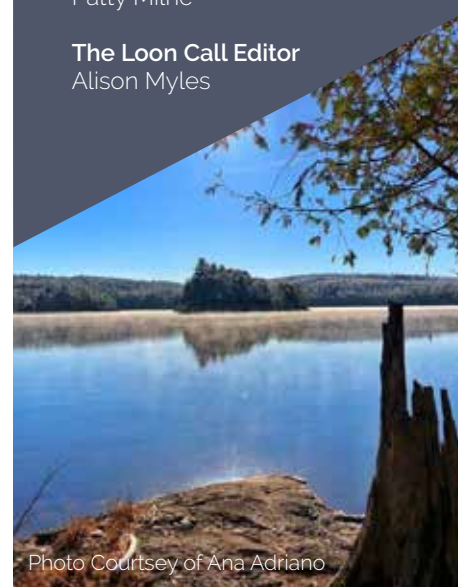


Photo Courtesy of Ana Adriano

President's Message - 2020

Hello everyone, what a challenging year 2020 has been. As I write this, it looks like we are headed into another provincial lockdown. I hope that you and your families are staying well. Although many people were working from their cottages, it certainly seemed quieter. We missed all of you who were not able to be at the lake this year, hopefully we will see you this summer!



One of the bigger events on the lake was the forest fire at Little Long Lake, just behind the cottages on the south side of West Bay. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests was very quick at responding to the fire, dropping in firefighters by helicopter who camped onsite until it was controlled and completely extinguished. I'm sure many of you walked in for a look afterwards, it was fairly extensive, but the good news is that by Thanksgiving many of the trees seem to be recovering.

It was a great year for our loons, many of the pairs were successful nesters with their offspring surviving for the fall migration. Many factors probably helped, the lake levels were stable, and we had a quieter lake in May and June.

In response to the concerns expressed about increasing boat speeds, Melissa has

put together "Go Slow, No Wake" brochures which are available at all the marinas. Our first VERY HEAVY steel speed limit signs from the Township arrived on Thanksgiving weekend, although they are currently living under my cottage, they will be installed at the north and south end of the lake near the marinas to remind people that by law the speed limit within 30m (100 feet) of shore needs to be kept under 10km/hr for ALL types of watercraft. We have organized trail clearing, kept the lake markers maintained, put together a response to the 10-year Forestry Plan, proceeded with increased water testing and added fire pump locations to our Directory. Please have a look at all the Director's reports for the updates.

Thank you to everyone who gives us their time to help out on the lake to make it the special place that we all love!

Best wishes to all, Patty Milne

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	ALL Emergencies, including Fire on private property	911
	MNRF to Report an active Forest Fire	705-754-1902 ex 5001
	Hydro One, (hydro emergency or power outage report)	1-800-434-1235
	OPP Non-emergency Bancroft	1-613-332-2112
	OPP Non-emergency Madoc	1-613-473-4234
	Bancroft Hospital, 1-H Manor Ln, Bancroft K0L 1C0	1-613-332-2825
	Belleville Hospital, 265 Dundas St E, Belleville, ON	1-613-969-7400
	TeleHealth Ontario, (free 24 hr. medical advice)	1-866-797-0000
	Poison Control Centre	1-800-268-9017
	Bell Animal Hospital, 222 Bell Blvd, Unit 7B, Belleville	1-613-967-9800
	After Hours Pet Emergencies	1-613-332-2112

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The Sublime and Mysterious Order of Cock-eyed Loons, a brief history.

By Jon Keeble

Mysterious is a pretty good description of the public perception of this "Order" on Lake Weslemkoon. On occasion, questions from newcomers and younger family members can be found on social media, often triggered by the discovery of a relative's certificate such as the one to the right.

In recent times the order has recognized significant service to the lake and is open to all residents.

That was not how it originated.

It started out as a diversion for party guests on Walker Island in 1924. Hosts Cliff Walker and his wife Elizabeth had guests undertake an initiation that included blind folds and plunging your hand into a bucket of worms (water and spaghetti) according to an article in the 1963 Loon Call. Mrs. Brandy Godwin, daughter of the Walkers, wrote of members self-declaring their high "fishermanship" and other positive personal qualities while other guests abetted the spectacle! Alcohol was probably available. The Walkers had prepared an ornate and ridiculous certificate which they issued to themselves and seven others.

Over the years others were added to the Order, fortunately including a teenaged John Rathbun who caught fish and did general tasks for the Walkers. He kept that certificate awarded in 1928 and so it survived a fire in 1935 on Walker Island that wiped out all the records of Cock-eyed Loons. The Rathbun certificate provided the template for new certificates when Dr. Howard Bevis (The Grand Ichthyophagic and Amphibious Loon) revived the order at yet another party in July of 1956. It remained an irreverent group with members imitating a Loon rising from the water, flapping of



arms and warbling...even as their boats passed. For unknown reasons the Bevis revival lapsed along with its records.

Then in the summer of 1971 lake resident Don Mackenzie renewed the Order, becoming newest Grand Ichthyophagic and Amphibious Loon. In the Spring 1972 issue of the Loon Call he recalled installing all the immediate past Presidents of the LWCA into the Order "in recognition of time and effort spent on our behalf". That established the new, more serious, criteria for induction to the Order which applies today to all inductees. Mind you, the "Loon salute" remains and recalls the nonsensical origins of the award.

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Photo Courtesy of Rosette Pineda

Don also sent out a call to gather the names of all past members which provided the base for the list that exists today that I started maintaining when my late wife, Catherine Rathbun (daughter of John) took over from Don in 2006.

We remain well aware of the gaps in that list and invite submissions from those who unearth certificates at home or the cottage. You can find our most up to date list of names on the LWCA website.

Membership

By Carolyn Calhoun

Thanks to all 250 Weslemkoon and Otter Lake LWCA supporters— we had 227 members and 23 friends of the lake in 2020 representing a modest increase over 2019. A special thanks goes out to all our American and international supporters who maintained their memberships even though they may not have been able to travel to our much-loved lake due to COVID restrictions. We hope you're able to return soon—you've been missed!

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM: Our membership incentive program is still in effect to encourage more new members to sign up. We offer a \$10 discount on membership fees if a current member refers a new member to enroll. Similarly, if a current member refers a new friend of the lake to join the LWCA we can offer a \$5 discount on their renewal fee.

AGM: Thanks to all attendees of the 2020 Virtual Annual General Meeting--our first ever! Thanks for Zooming with us!

DUES: "Reminder" that annual dues shall be payable by each member on or before the first day of May in each financial year (LWCA by-laws).

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR: It has been my pleasure and privilege serving as your Membership Director for the past 5 years. I thank my fellow directors for making this a pleasant experience. Please join me in welcoming Shawna Hiley as your new membership director. Shawna returns to the board after a brief hiatus; she served as Loon Call Editor for 3 years a few years back. Although she lives in Alberta for most of the year, her mind and heart are usually at the lake. You may reach Shawna via the Weslemkoon website.

FUN FACT

The Trillium (*Trillium Grandiflorum*) was officially adopted as Ontario's floral emblem in 1937. The adoption of the White Trillium grew out of a movement during the First World War to choose a national floral emblem appropriate for planting on the graves of Canadian servicemen overseas. Contrary to popular belief, it is not illegal to pick a White Trillium in Ontario. However, picking the flower can seriously injure the plant and it can take years to recover – so please don't pick them! For fun trillium facts visit <https://allontario.ca>.

GB Construction - Guy Boudreau Serving Weslemkoon Lake for 30 years

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Repurposing and Renewing Cottage Furnishings with Homemade Chalk Paint

By Carolyn Calhoun

Do you have "interesting" furnishings lying around your cottage or cabin that need a new look or new purpose? This commode chair (had to google its proper name as we always referred to it as a potty chair!) came with our cottage and I decided it was long overdue for an update--about 20 years overdue! I decided to repurpose it as an outdoor planter.

I gave it a quick clean with dish soap and water (if your item has heavy duty grime or grease buildup I suggest using Home Hardware's "Natura Safe Prep" which is a naturally derived, phosphate-free degreaser that performs as TSP without the harmful side effects). No priming or sanding is required with chalk paint (yahoo!). I then mixed up my favourite homemade chalk paint recipe (from <http://www.confessionsofserialdiyer.com>).

Dissolve 4 tablespoons of calcium

carbonate powder in 2 tablespoons of warm water. I like to use a little mini whisk to remove any lumps (Calcium carbonate should be available in drugstores. I order online from well.ca).

Pour this mixture into 1 cup flat latex paint and mix well. (I like to use Sherwin Williams "Colour to Go" paint pots in 901 ml size. These go on sale frequently making this a very budget friendly project). This allows you to choose any colour under the sun without a lot of waste.

Apply your chalk paint with a good quality brush and allow to dry (I like Purdy's or Simms).

Apply a second coat if required or embellish with stencils.

If you prefer an antiques look you can easily sand in spots where natural wear

would occur with 220 grit sandpaper.

I applied a sealer as well since this will be left outdoors. For normal indoor wear I usually apply a clear wax cream or beeswax product.

With just a few dollars, time and a bit of elbow grease you can easily transform dated vintage pieces into new cottage treasures. I have used this paint mixture to transform other 60's era colonial style wood furniture such as dressers, nightstands, tables, and captain's chairs with great results. Captain's chairs look awesome done in a matte black finish. Who doesn't have a captain's chair or two kicking around their cottage! All my chalk painted pieces have weathered well in an unheated cottage environment in case you're wondering. Here are some before and after shots.



Courtesy Markers

By Steve Latta

We had a relatively uneventful year in the courtesy marker department here at Lake Weslemkoon. The marker going into Otter Lake was replaced, and a few were repaired. As we do every year, two new lights were purchased and two older ones were recycled. Please remember that these are not navigational beacons, simply courtesy markers to help people avoid some of the known shoals and rocks on the lake. Thanks to those who assisted in locating the wandering marker from the northeast corner of Big Picnic Island in the fall when it came loose. And a special thanks to Marker Man Mike who made sure that we can all stay safely distant from the shoals and rocks. I don't think enough credit is given to this guy. He goes out and rescues markers that have come loose in bad weather. He is out in late fall removing the markers from the water and storing them for the winter while we are all nice and warm at home.

Happy and safe boating in 2021 You will all be pleased to know that every marker has tested negative for Covid-19. But I still recommend that boaters socially distance from them.



"Water Quality - Why Measure Light Levels?"

By Lisa Thompson

A big interest of Lake Weslemkoon cottagers and visitors, as well as provincial fish biologists, is the prized "jewel" lake trout population. Part of keeping the lake trout population healthy is ensuring that water quality in the lake is high, and that the lake's food web is able to provide a good food supply for the lake trout. At the base of the food web is the algae, or phytoplankton. Ultimately, happy algae = happy bugs = happy prey fish = happy lake trout.

Followers of the Loon Call will know that the LWCA has been measuring water quality in the lake for many years, and that we added measurements of the temperature and dissolved oxygen levels in the lake from surface to bottom several years ago. In late 2020 we added a new component to the water quality measurements of Lake Weslemkoon, the light level.

The underwater light level (also known as water transparency, water clarity, or irradiance) is important because algae need light to photosynthesize and grow. If underwater light levels are low, this may be a result of excess sediment in the water - tiny sediment particles block the penetration of the light through the water column, so that only the algae very near the water surface receive enough light to grow. In lakes that have very high nutrient

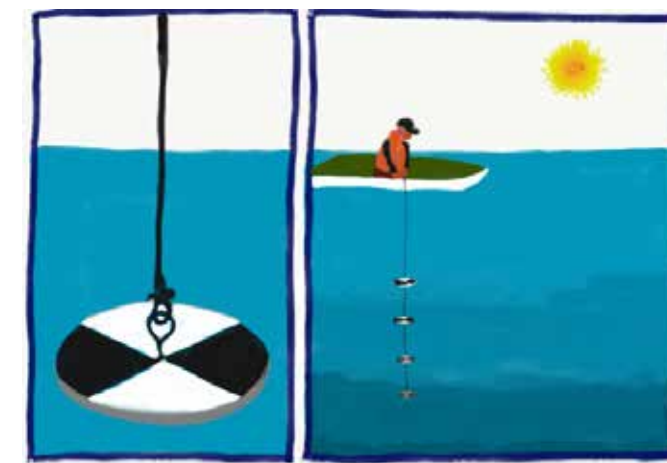
concentrations and warm temperatures, the algae themselves may become so abundant that the algae near the surface block the light and shade out their relatives below.

We (Ian, of course) started measuring the underwater light level in the fall of 2020. Fortunately, measuring the underwater light level can be done using a relatively simple, low tech, and inexpensive method, called a Secchi disk (pronounced SEK-kee, and named after its Italian inventor). It's a flat, round disk, about the size of a dinner plate, painted or made of plastic, with a black and white checker pattern on the top.

The disk is attached to a long rope with 1-meter markings on it. The disk is lowered over the side of a boat and the observer keeps lowering the disk until it just disappears from view. The depth at which the Secchi disk just disappears from view is called, not surprisingly, the "Secchi depth". This depth corresponds to approximately the 10% light level, where only 1/10 of the light reaching the water surface remains (all the rest of the light has been reflected or absorbed). So by doing a simple Secchi depth measurement, you can estimate how much of the water column has enough light to support algal growth.

The measurements in fall 2020 were just a test run, so we are not reporting the results

here, but Ian plans to include Secchi depth measurements along with the temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles in 2021. That will allow us to see how the Secchi depth compares around the different parts of Lake Weslemkoon and Otter Lake, across the seasons, and with other Canadian Shield lakes.



Graphic by Janice Mackenzie



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Keeping in Touch

The LWCA works hard to keep members informed through the following avenues:

1. **Communiques** - These are emailed as needed, throughout the year.

2. **Website** - www.weslemkoon.com is updated regularly. It contains a wide range of information - from dump hours to trail descriptions to membership.

3. **Blog** - Our blog is embedded in the LWCA website. They are informative and make for good cottage reading. Members are invited to write blog posts on issues and ideas that are relevant to cottage life. All blog posts are archived.

4. **Facebook** - There are two ways to follow us on Facebook. When you search "LWCA" you will see a page (loon logo) and a group (sunset logo). The page is open to anyone. "Like" it so that new information will come up on your feed. The group is only open to LWCA members. Ask to join and answer the questions. Our Facebook group is a good place to have discussions..

5. **Instagram** - We post members' photos of the lake, wildlife, and their habitats. If you are on Instagram give us a follow @lwca_ontario

If you ever have concerns about communications or are interested in contributing photos or stories, please email janicemackenzie@icloud.com



Weslemkoon's Who's Who - Faces of Weslemkoon - Mary Gunter

Every morning, rain or shine, snow, sleet or hail Mary Gunter heads out to her deck to take a photo of her tree and post the morning weather report, along with some words of wisdom on Facebook. Because to this Mary and her tree have become familiar to all, yet not really known to many. Mary is such a kind soul, and her history is intertwined with the history of Lake Weslemkoon. I wanted to get to know Mary better so that you may get to know her better as well. Here is her story..

Mary was born on Hinchcliff Lake. Her parents, Aaron & Peggy Cooney were loggers, who logged the forests by hand using first horses and wagons, then later an old army truck. It would have been hard, but fulfilling work; selectively harvesting the mature trees and dragging them out to be milled. Aaron and Peggy built a large house on the lake, where Mary, along with her parents, brothers and sister, aunt, uncle and cousins lived.

Mary went to elementary school in Gilmour, then to high school in Bancroft, making the long journey with 10 other kids on a panel bus with bench seats. Shortly after high school she married Bill Gunter and settled in Gunter. Bill's family has strong ties to Lake Weslemkoon; his parents, Verl and Alex Gunter built Four Loons Marina.

The lake at that time was not populated as it is today. There were some families living at the North end of the lake, where there was also a road into the lake. The Gunters however were one of the first families to settle at the South end. The families at the south end cleared and farmed their land, which was parceled into 100 acre sections. They even had cows on Nichol Island! There was no way to reach the South end of the lake by road, so the industrious families started to build a road out towards Gunter. Likewise the families from Gunter worked on building a road into the lake

and eventually they met in the middle. However, even with the new road it would have been a 2 day trip to Madoc at that time.

Verl and Alex eventually sold Four Loons to their daughter Maddy and proceeded to build Weslemkoon Lake Marina. Alex and Verl operated Weslemkoon Lake Marina until 1969 when it was sold to Walter McKinnon.

Mary and Bill moved from Gunter to live at Lake Weslemkoon full time in 1984. They had many happy years in their home, raising their kids, fishing in the summers, hunting in the winters and enjoying everything that full time life on the lake affords. After Bill passed away Mary continued to live full time at the lake. After many years as a caregiver to her parents, kids, and Bill, Mary is enjoying the solitude of living alone but really enjoys connecting with family and friends over Facebook and in person.

People love seeing the daily photo of your tree and reading your daily post. What inspired you to begin this tradition?

I started just posting the picture of the tree and the weather and a comment and Michele noticed that people were really enjoying it so asked if I could continue. So I said ok. I didn't post as much this summer because everyone was here. Although some of the people in the States have messaged me saying how much they miss the lake



so I will send them a picture. The nice thing about the tradition is that it has opened up a large friendship for me because sometimes I will meet someone and they will say "I know you from your posts!". It has been a great way to meet people on the lake, and bring people joy, and I enjoy doing it.

Why the tree?

Bill's mother had planted all the trees on the property - originally there weren't any trees here except a few birch. Vern and Roy planted all the trees on the property, including that one from the posts 50 or so years ago so they have significance to me.

You also organize the Bass n Gals tournament on the Lake. Tell us about the tournament.

The idea for Bass N Gals came from my friend Elaine Cuddy 24 years ago. There was a bass tournament happening in the park, and when Elaine had asked to join she was told that they didn't allow women to enter the tournament. So Elaine said "well, we'll have our own". So that winter she went home and organized, then came back and I helped her put it together.

That first year there were 12 of us. We continued from there on. When Bill was sick I had to step away from helping, but then I

started helping again when another of the ladies had to step away. I agreed to take it over. This was to have been the 24th year but we didn't organize it because we didn't want to pressure our sponsors since they were struggling (due to the pandemic).

The main objective of the whole derby is to get girls out fishing. You don't have to be an expert fisherperson to enter. I get really excited when a girl comes in and has hooked her first bass, and she is so proud to bring it in and get it weighed. That is what I am most pleased with; to get these girls out fishing and having fun.

Who is your oldest friend?

I have a few. I've known Frank since day one. Also Bernie Derry. She is a great lady. She's a sweetheart.

What is your favourite thing about living on Lake Weslemkoon?

It is the beauty, the solitude, and the good people here. I like being on the water. I love waking up every morning and looking out at the water; each day is different. Bill and I used to enjoy sitting here and watching the otter, the beaver and the mink. Bruno, our old big dog used to howl at the beaver. It's nice to go for a walk in the sun in the winter; the snow crunches under your feet. I love walking on the ice. Each season has it's special moments.

What is your least favourite thing about living on Lake Weslemkoon?

A North East wind in the wintertime. It brings the storms and the cold, and especially in

January, it's just not nice. It's great to live here full time, but you have to be prepared. Some people move here, but after a few years they cannot take it. It's a slower pace living here, but it's serenity.

Do you have a story about life on the lake that you would like to share?

Once during Franks' fishing derby I caught a 6 pound 10 ounce lake trout. Fishing with my daughters and grandchildren is the ultimate thing. I miss fishing with my husband terribly; we went fishing all the time together. But it is phenomenal taking the kids out and watching them catch their first fish. That's what I like.

For what in life do you feel most grateful?

Being here. Being able to meet people and share things with them and being part of the lake community.

If you had a magic wand, what would you change?

The anger and hate in the world. I try to please everyone and it doesn't work, but I really want everyone to be happy. That's my main thing.

What advice do you have for the Lake Weslemkoon community?

Please slow down when you boat by my house (laughing). Slow down in general and smell the roses.

Also, when the ones who know the lake are off the lake in the winter then everyone should be off the lake. Please stay home. Those of us who live here full time can't be responsible for your safety.

For many of us Mary is our daily lake weather report, dispenser of lake knowledge, words of wisdom and our eyes on the lake when we are far from our seasonal homes. Truth is Mary is a true community builder, uniting us all in our love of our lakes. The world needs more Mary.

LWCA Water Quality - Update On Trends

By Ian Mackenzie and Lisa Thompson



Photo: Liam and Will conduct the 2020 sampling, labeling and sorting

Editor's Note

Just last night I Zoomed with a collection of cottage friends, all counting the days until we can once again wave from the dock, and all giving recognition to how incredibly lucky we are to have our Weslemkoon. I hope this newsletter slips through the mail, brings a smile to your face along with a flood of lake memories. Once again it has been such fun in meeting many new members and compiling your stories.

I wish to share a huge shout-out to Pat Bothwell, who with her graphic talent has created this stunning newsletter edition we will cherish for years to come in thanks to her dedication. Living full time on Lake Wes Pat offers a perspective of this being her home. Often sending along photos of the changing seasons and sharing antidotes of her generational family years spent on the lake. Wow!

Alison Myles, Editor



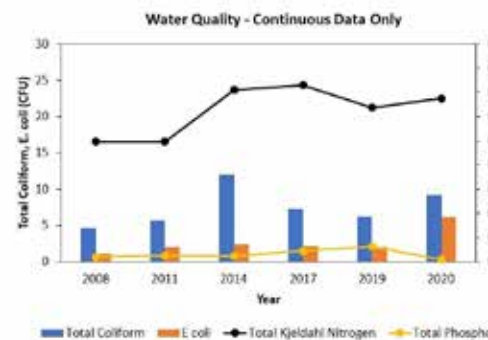
Chemistry Sampling - Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Coliforms, E-Coli

Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Coliforms, and E. coli testing was completed in August 2020.

Phosphorus and E. coli results over the years have been relatively stable (in 2020 the E. coli was a bit high due to heavy rain before sampling)

Phosphorus showed a marked drop among the 21 sampling locations in 2020 compared to previous sampling back to 2008. We don't yet know the reason for this decline and it's something we'll watch for in 2021.

TKN (Nitrogen) and Total Coliforms show a weak to moderate increasing trend over



the 12 year sampling history.

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Temperature readings taken during 2020:

Temperature and DO readings continue to show a healthy band of sufficiently oxygenated and sufficiently cold water for Lake Trout survival in the deep sections of Lake Weslemkoon (blue band on graph). Otter Lake showed a similar pattern.

Trends over time show some variation in the depth of the band but it continues to appear strong.

What We Residents are Doing to Support Water Quality

We believe the largest likely contributor to water quality that residents can influence is having a suitable, well maintained septic or holding system. The last several years have shown a real dedication to maintenance, with about 20 in 2018 and an impressive 34 water access residents in 2020. THANK YOU!

In addition, things we can do include: cleaning boat hulls and bilge before launching in Weslemkoon from another

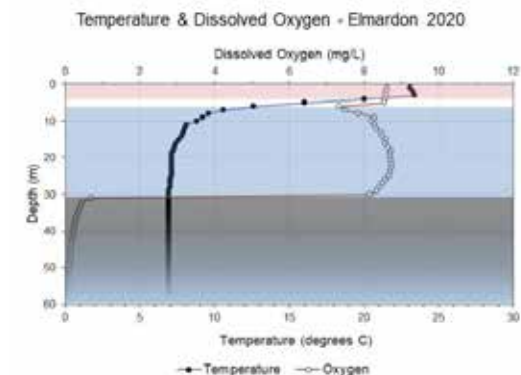
lake (to prevent bilge water from entering the lake, and to prevent invasive species from hitching a ride)

using biodegradable soaps and detergents and not washing people or dogs directly in the lake

maintaining our outboard motors to minimize leakage

keeping the important riparian zone; vegetation along the shore, well treed and soil stabilized

avoiding use of fertilizers which eventually find their way into the lake



Save the Wave!

Are you a boating waver or do you wonder what I am asking and why strangers are waving at you from their boat?

The wave is an old tradition that will hopefully be kept alive. The official name of it is "the boater's wave." I grew up in the 60's and we always waved at other boats as they went by, it was just something that you did. Needless to say, I am an unabashed waver.

The etiquette is that you wave as you pass by another powerboat, sailboat, canoe, jet skier, any watercraft really, and they wave back. Passengers are expected to wave also. No one really knows when the wave started or where it came from. Perhaps it has roots in naval history.

The wave has very loose meanings. It can be "Isn't this nice?" , "I have your back." or just a plain "Hello." It is a sign of solidarity on the water. I have noticed a small but growing number of people not waving or even making eye contact as they speed by. You certainly do not want to be one of those that we call "the non-wavers" (and you cannot pretend that you didn't see us). Think of "the wave" as a small gesture of friendliness and community, that it is just a fun part of the cottage experience. So let's keep the tradition alive on our lake and "Save the Wave!"



Photo Courtesy of Bryan Hultquist

Custodial Visits

by Steve Latto

While the spring of 2020 visits were a bit of an issue, the autumn visits went off without a hitch. Steve was able to visit every LWCA member's cottage and reports were made of any damage done.

There was a severe windstorm in the fall with a few trees down and all cottage owners were notified.

I ran into Steve in November while he was doing the cottage checks. We are fortunate that Steve is willing to take on this task on those cold November days to make sure

that our sanctuaries are safe.

I wish you all a safe and secure 2021 cottage season and look forward to seeing you on our beautiful lake.



Septic Report

by Patty Milne

The pumper was on the lake this year, a record 34 cottages were pumped. Kawartha Utilities (KUC) keeps a list of cottages that request pumping. Once they reach 13 cottages, they will schedule the pumper to come to the lake. To book a pumping, please contact KUC directly: phone 1-705-654-4000 or email: kus@nexicom.net.

In the meantime, we encourage everyone to have their systems checked, or to do it themselves. It is very easy to check, the LWCA web site has instructions under

the septic tab on how to do this yourself or you can contact Geoff at Citadel Home Inspections: telephone 1-613-334-9050 or email: citadelhomeinspections.ca. It is really important for the maintenance of your system and protection of your tile bed to have your tank pumped before the solids reach the outlet pipe.

Please check your system, a healthy septic prevents costly repairs to your system and keeps our lake clean, the lake trout depend on it!



Photo Courtesy of Bob Kays

Municipal Affairs

By Paul Bottos

I would like to take this opportunity to report to you regarding various matters which were dealt with by the L.W.C.A during 2020.

1. DEVELOPMENT ON THE LAKE

The L.W.C.A continues to receive copies of development applications in and surrounding the lake. The L.W.C.A looks forward to the continued receipt of this information from the Township.

2. COTTAGE NUMBERS

As you are aware the Township passed the new Civic Address By-law (you may obtain a copy directly from the Township on their website). The Township has indicated that the naming of islands on the lake has been a challenge and that it is awaiting information from the provincial body in order to confirm island names. During the past year the Township sought continued input from the L.W.C.A. and from people on the lake in regards to naming the islands. The by-law stipulates that addresses for properties on an island will consist of both a number and the name of the island and as such an official name for an island is required. This issue has arisen due to inconsistencies identified by emergency responders as they attempted to respond to calls on the lake. Lake Weslemkoon is expected to be the first lake in the Township to have its numbering re-done. The Township has not yet determined how the new "cottage number plates" will be installed but are considering the possibility of retaining a contractor to install them for consistency purposes. Please feel free to contact the Township should you have any further questions.

3. MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES

Your elected municipal representatives are as follows:

Reeve: Henry Hogg
Councillor: Ward 1: Tony Fritsch
Councillor Ward 1: Kirby Thompson
Councillor Ward 2: Helen Yanch
Councillor: Ward 2: David Miles

You may contact the Township as follows:

Address: 72 Edwards Street
P.O. Box 89
Flinton, Ontario
K0H 1P0
Telephone: (613) 336-2286
1-844-666-2286
Fascimile: (613) 336-2847
Website: www.addingtonhighlands.ca

4. WATER BUBBLERS

Questions in regards to the use and operation of water bubblers during the winter months to keep an area free of ice was raised again at the AGM. This issue has been discussed previously at the AGM and in the Loon Call and the L.W.C.A. wishes to once again remind persons that the Criminal Code of Canada provides that:

263 (1) Every one who makes or causes to be made an opening in ice that is open to or frequented by the public is under a legal duty to guard it in a manner that is adequate to prevent persons from falling in by accident and is adequate to warn them that the opening exists.

Accordingly, there appears to be two duties for persons who create such an opening: firstly to guard that opening to prevent people from falling in, and secondly, to adequately warn people of the opening. This is in addition to any civil liability that may attach as a consequence of such an act or omission. The L.W.C.A. advises that the above is not to be treated as being legal advice and is not to be relied upon as such and that people should consult with their own attorney for legal advice.

5. BOATING SPEED AND WAKES

The L.W.C.A. has followed up with the Township this past season in the hopes that signs would have been erected last year and the L.W.C.A. can advise that the signs were ordered and delivered by the Township at the end of the season.

Ultimately, however, boating speeds are a policing enforcement matter and boater etiquette is everyone's responsibility

6. CANNABIS BY-LAW

The Township brought forward a township-wide by-law in order to regulate cannabis matters within the Township, including in respect of: (i) the addition of new definitions related to cannabis; (ii) modifications to existing definitions to provide clarity regarding cannabis and related uses; (iii) identifying zones in which cannabis growing and production for commercial and/or personal use is permitted; and, (iv) the addition of performance provisions regarding the growing of cannabis for commercial and personal use. The L.W.C.A. provided feedback to the Township in regards to the proposed by-law, which feedback was, to a large extent, incorporated into revisions made to the by-law. For further information please see the by-law posted on the Township's website.

7. OFF ROAD BY-LAW

The Township passed a by-law (and repealing the previous by-law) dealing with the operation of off-road vehicles on municipal highways within the Township. The by-law sets out requirements for where such vehicles can be driven, under certain terms and sets speed limits for same (which speed limits may be different/lower than posted limits). For further information please see the by-law posted on the Township's website.

I trust the above keeps you informed as to the developments which have transpired in regard to municipal issues during the past year. Should anyone have any interest in the above noted issues or have any other issues which may be of interest or concern, please do not hesitate to contact the L.W.C.A in order that same may be raised and discussed.

Shout Out to Our Valuable Volunteers!

Thank you so very much to everyone who volunteered this year. We really appreciate the time and skills that you shared to make Weslemkoon and Otter Lakes such a wonderful community.

It takes many hands to develop and run our programs, plan, research and write our Facebook posts and blogs, and keep our trails and campsites safe. We would love for you to join us as a volunteer (it's a great way for High School students to earn volunteer hours!). If you are interested in helping out please fill in the volunteer form on the website.



FUN FACT

Look out Captain America, we have our very own rockin' shield! The geological region with the most lakes is called the "Canadian Shield". Glacial scrapes made in the land filled with natural water from ground springs, rain, and waterways to become lakes



Fine Art Studio

lynne.vegter@outlook.com

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Fine Art Studio on Lake Weslemkoon, McArthurs Mills, Near Bancroft
Open Studio Second & Last Weekends in July, August & September
Accept Commissions and Fine Art Prints Available



June "buildings and outhouses"



July "on the lake"



August "kids and dogs"



September "traditions"



October "Nature's Beauty"

During the summer of 2020 many cottagers and visitors to the lake took photos and submitted them to our monthly photo contest. Each month had a different theme. It was wonderful to see them posted to our LWCA Facebook group.

This page highlights the winning photos for each month. If you'd like to see the runners up for each month, go to our website and click on the Photo Contest page. <https://weslemkoon.com/photo-contest>

June "Buildings and Outhouses"

The winning photo was taken by Sandy Churchill. She took this photo of her cabin "Miigwetch" with her Samsung Galaxy 8 (no filter). She and her husband John bought the cottage in 2015 but were canoe lake cottagers before that. John's uncle had a cottage on the lake since 1947. They love to listen to the wind in the pines and share their place with friends. Sandy enjoys exploring the lake in her kayak and taking early morning solo paddles with her dog Bentley. Last winter was their first stay at Miigwetch!

July "on the lake"

Shannon (Koning) L'Ecuyer took this photo of her daughters Taylor and Avery L'ecuyer and their good friend Piper Swartz for the July contest "on the water". She took it with her Canon 70D. She has been a cottage visitor to Weslemkoon for 3 years, and loves to spend time with her family on the water and exploring the trails of Weslemkoon Lake. The rest of the

time Shannon lives in Chatham-Kent near Lake St. Clair with her husband Vince and their 3x busy children Taylor, Avery and Jared.

August "kids and dogs"

Glenn Pettifer took this photo of his flat coat retriever, Abby. He took it with his iPhone 6. Glenn has been a cottager on Weslemkoon for more than a decade and loves to kayak with lake friends and hike into Mink Lake. The rest of the time Glenn lives in Toronto where he works in health profession regulation.

September "traditions"

Cindy Howes took this photo of her son Phoenix mushroom hunting behind their cottage. She took it with her Nikon D7200. Cindy has been a cottager on Otter Lake her whole life, and loves to spend time with her family enjoying the quiet serenity of the lake. The rest of the time Cindy lives in Toronto with her husband Michael, son Phoenix and daughter Sage.

October "Nature's Beauty"

Ana Adriano took this photo with her iPhone. She's been on Otter lake since June 2019 - they had rented a cottage on Weslemkoon back in 2015 and fell in love with the place. Ana absolutely loves everything at the cottage - from fishing to hiking and just taking advantage of everything nature has to offer. In the off season Ana lives in Toronto with her husband Peter.

2020 Photo Contest Winners



Photo Contest 2021

The LWCA is hosting another photo contest this summer! It's open to anyone who 'cottages' on Lake Weslemkoon. You can enter by uploading your photo onto the LWCA Facebook group and tagging #lwcaphotocontest2021. It's wonderful to see the gorgeous photos posted over the summer months. If you are not on Facebook, you can email your photo to janicemackenzie@icloud.com

Our themes for summer 2021 are:

- ▶ June - Enjoy the Weather!
- ▶ July - Creepy Crawlies & Critters
- ▶ August - Games we Play
- ▶ September - The Old and the Young
- ▶ October - Cottage Work is Never Done

Winning photos are used as the lead banner on both the LWCA website and the LWCA Facebook group for the following month. They're also published in the next Loon Call. As a special bonus, winners are gifted a bottle of delicious maple syrup.

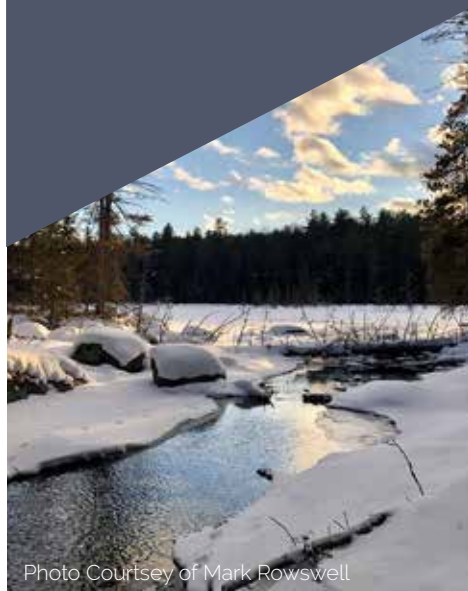


Photo Courtesy of Mark Rowsell

Out With The Old; In With The New!

By Pam Lawton

Our cottage is on the north shore of West Bay - it was originally built by the Belleville Group in the 1930's. Hmmm.

That's almost 100 years ago! Some things have not been changed! On May 23 this spring, we had a "bubble" of 5 at the cottage. "Hands up if you'd like a new outhouse." Four hands shot up! "Hands up if you DON'T want a new outhouse." One hand shot up - my husband's (Ken Senter)! So, I took over the planning (what?! - eek!!)

By June 6, we had looked things over, I had ordered "goods" from Rona in Bancroft, we had arranged for Frank (Smith) to: de-commission the old outhouse, dig a new hole, and deliver the order from Rona (excellent help and service). Ken asked: "Did you get a plan?" "What?" This was surely going to be interesting! We were going from the old 4'x4' to a new 4'x6'. That's all I knew!

How difficult could that be? - so I drew up a one dimensional image! By June 20, we were "cleaning up" the new hole, levelling the "footings" (? - I knew nothing!), putting in the base.



Regina Bay neighbour, Mike Defrietas, came to help. By June 27, my dear golf buddy and friend,

Sharon Bulins from Seagrave, was coming up. She would be the fore-woman! (Ken was not used to such fine carpentry!!) And wow! Did we get started! Relatives from Hamilton helped out in July, neighbours from across the bay - Paula and Steve -helped out. Sharon brought "help" from Peter for several week-ends, friends from Toronto helped out, friends from Oshawa helped out. I bought more "stuff" from Oshawa. By September 26, we were finished! It was truly a work of perfection (after correcting errors!!) and love! (- and education for me!) I LOVE the flooring: 2' x 6' (!!), of some laminate that doesn't even have to be glued down; Ken loves the vents; I learned about 1/4 rounding at the corners; Barry "designed" the interior; Taina gifted a smashing "winterized" toilet seat from Finland. - It's all gorgeous! We love our new out-house! - and we owe many friends BIG TIME!!



Sheridan Smith (1933-2020) In loving memory;

Sheridan was first introduced to the lake as a baby in 1933. His family originally shared Corby Camp with the Moore, Robertson families until the mid 1940's when his father built the log camp on the point just before Otter Lake. In 1997 Sheridan and Norma built their new cottage on "pine point" in Otter lake, where they have shared wonderful times with family and friends.

Sheridan was a long-time member of the LWCA and served as a director for several years. He had a keen interest in the history

of the lake and in particular the logging industry. He subsequently wrote an article in the Lake Book focussing on pioneer logging on Weslemkoon and surrounding areas in the 1800's.

He also had a fascination with wolves. If you happened to be in Otter Lake on a late August evening, you might hear him howling at the wolves in hopes they would answer him. When they did (and they did), we were all amazed.

Sheridan loved his slice of paradise in "God's Country" and took advantage of every aspect of it in every season. He enjoyed swimming, canoeing, sailing, fishing, hunting, hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and just relaxing with family and friends.

He was a man for all seasons and will be dearly missed.

FUN FACT

Look out Captain America, we have our very own rockin' shield! The geological region with the most lakes is called the "Canadian Shield". Glacial scrapes made in the land filled with natural water from ground springs, rain and waterways to become lakes.

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2020 Treasurer's Report

Your board continues to be very active in spite of the challenges of the past year. Actual expenditures, which reflect the varied nature of your board's activities, are in line with approved budgeted amounts for the year.

Surplus funds are invested in two bank GIC's of \$18,292 and \$20,873 which will mature December 2021 and November 2025 respectively. The GIC that matures in December 2021 earns 1.9% compounded annually. The second GIC is a 5 year variable rate GIC and interest is calculated on a simple annual basis starting at .5% in year 1 and gradually increasing each year to 1.25% in year 5. Interest is recognized on an accrual basis in these statements. The GIC interest is shared on a weighted average basis between the general fund and the Catherine Rathbun Environmental Fund.

The Catherine Rathbun Environmental fund grew by individual contributions of \$445 (\$1,470 in 2019) and allocated interest of \$247 (\$247 in 2019). Expenditures from this fund were for water quality testing in the amount of \$1,305 (\$1,305 in 2019) and was approved at the 2018 annual general meeting as required.

The remaining unrestricted surplus of \$37,536 is available for the general purposes of the association.



Ernst, Dave & Bill – later years

Banjo Bill & the Reverend – early days

Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2020 (unaudited)			
ASSETS	2020	2019	
Current Assets			
Cash	16,664	13,710	
Bank G.I.C.s	39,525	38,840	
Inventory	513	513	
	<u>56,703</u>	<u>53,063</u>	
Fixed Assets			
Water testing equipment-net	379	569	
	<u>57,083</u>	<u>53,632</u>	
LIABILITIES & RESTRICTED FUNDS & NET ASSETS			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	475	1,850	
Restricted Funds			
Catherine Rathbun Environmental Fund	19,072	19,685	
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	37,536	32,097	
	<u>57,083</u>	<u>53,632</u>	

Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2020 (unaudited)			
Revenues	2020	2019	
Annual Fees	13,358	13,135	
Loon Call Revenues	1,410	1,925	
Interest income	439	403	
Miscellaneous sales	415	336	
Total Revenues	<u>15,622</u>	<u>15,799</u>	
Expenditures			
Meeting expenses	181	1,980	
Bank & Pay Pal service charges	302	357	
Administrative & Promotional	110	286	
Cost of Misc. sales	113	110	
Custodial Visits	1,090	1,828	
FOCA	941	1,140	
Insurance	1,690	1,649	
Loon Call	2,047	2,650	
New Shoal Markers	664	653	
Shoal Marker Maintenance	1,940	2,960	
Lake Activities-Social	115	584	
Web Site expense	255	-	
Environmental protection-Wakewise Brochure	545	-	
Amortization of water testing equipment	190	190	
Total Expenditures	<u>10,183</u>	<u>14,387</u>	
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	<u>5,439</u>	<u>1,412</u>	

Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended December 31, 2020 (unaudited)				
	Catherine Rathbun Environmental		Total 2020	Total 2019
	Fund	Unrestricted		
Balance, Beginning of year	19,685	32,097	51,782	49,958
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over expenditures	(1,058)	5,439	4,381	354
Contributions	445		445	1,470
Balance, end of year	<u>19,072</u>	<u>37,536</u>	<u>56,608</u>	51,782

Remembering the Music of Mackie Bay

By Christa Myers (Robertson) #216

Mackie Bay, for me, conjures up images of bonfires, music, good friends (the wine, the beer, the whiskey – oh sorry that's a song). Anyways, my parents, David and Barbara Robertson bought lot #827 in Mackie Bay in 1967 and built a cottage. I was seven years old at the time and I and my sisters, Sandra and Karen, thought this was just awesome! We loved the lake and as luck would have it the folks who bought the lot next door, Ernst & Bridget Pegutter #826, had three kids as well (Ernie, Bernard & Linda). Life was good.


My father, being a music man (piano, accordion & guitar) played every Friday and Saturday night around a bonfire and we all sang, not great maybe, but we sang. The Pegutters joined us fairly regularly and if we were very lucky Ernst Pegutter played his concertina (even more rare were the times that Bridget Pegutter blessed us with a song – amazing)

A couple of years later the Weavers (Bill, Eleanor, Cindy & Rick) arrived at the bonfire having just bought cottage #829 from Walter McKinnon. My Dad thought he'd died and gone to heaven - Bill Weaver was not only a fellow beer drinker but also a very talented banjo and guitar player. Now the singsongs (we call them parties now) really got into full swing. "Banjo Bill" and "Reverend Robertson" played every weekend until the wee hours of the night.

Beryl Armstrong owned the cottage across the bay #835 and although she never joined us for a bonfire singsong she frequently commented on how much she enjoyed listening to the music. Perhaps that was polite code for "man you guys make a lot of noise" – who knows?

Over the years many Mackie Bay friends joined the fray including Dave and Jan Carr #860 whose giant pontoon boat enabled the musical party to become mobile. Doug & Diane Carr #830 were also frequent revellers, and Diane's wonderful voice and proficiency on the keyboard added a bit of class to any evening. But "Banjo Bill" and "Reverend Robertson" were the stalwart Mackie Bay music makers and we were lucky enough to enjoy their musical collaborations for over forty years. (Note – no one really knows how Dave got the moniker "Rev Robertson" as he wasn't

remotely religious let alone a Reverend). Unfortunately, Dave & Bill are no longer around to serenade us but the memories are just grand.



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Heath Cottage #350

1920 photo of the Reid family and Rev. Duncan Cameron, back row left, father of Nancy Dickinson*

By Eugene Heath and Family

In 1944, my parents, Harold and Carolyn Heath, visited my mother's Aunt and Uncle, Alma and Howard Bevis, at their cottage (#220) on Weslemkoon Lake. As with many visitors, my parents fell in love with the lake. They asked Alec Gunter to show them cottages that were for sale. They found the Reid cottage (#350) and liked it enough to consider buying it. The cottage had been built in 1920 by C.M. Reid, a hotelier from Belleville, and had not been used for about seven years. My parents purchased it in 1944 with another couple and, after a year or two, the wife of the other couple decided she didn't like it that much and my parents bought them out. We are very thankful!

My family and I have very fond memories of enjoying summers at the cottage since the mid forties. I don't remember missing a summer. My wife Sharen began coming to Weslemkoon in the mid sixties and also became a big fan of the lake. We were married in 1973 and Sharen and I acquired the cottage in 1990. Our daughter Naomi has been coming every year since she was born in 1975. Now her husband Veni and our grandson Manu love it just as much

and are spending as much time at the lake as they can.

It's always been a wonder to us how they built such a solid structure in 1920, hauling the material across the water or ice and building it with no power and tools of the day. The second floor has four bedrooms with closets. The main floor living/dining room is 24'x 28' and is supported by what looks like Douglas fir beams, 24" long, 13" high and about 3" wide. The main floor also has a kitchen, laundry/pantry, bathroom and a bedroom with an en-suite. In the late eighties, when power arrived, we removed the panel board and Sharen's father, a jack of all trades, wired the cottage. We then insulated and installed drywall. This took a few years of holiday and weekend work and we don't care if we ever see drywall again.

I've always said that a cottage is good for R & R...that's renovate & repair! As all cottagers know, this list never ends. Over the years we have installed new windows, finished off two additions as well as a bunkhouse. We replaced the screens with windows in the screened-in porch at the front of the cottage. We've always tried to

keep all of the projects in character with the original design. We've done most of the work ourselves as Sharen is just as good with a hammer and measuring tape as she is with a kitchen spoon. At the end of the day there's always the satisfaction of a good day's work.

The boathouse in the photo was built big enough to hold the Helen, a 23' Labrador fishing dory. It was pointed at both ends and powered by a large Chrysler Red Wing inboard motor that churned out 14HP. We kept it going for as long as we could. In the late sixties, when it was apparent the boat was beyond repair, a friend of my father's, who had helped with many other projects, offered to take the engine. We pulled the hull up on a breakwater for the winter while we decided what to do with it. When we returned the next spring, the boat was gone. It took a while to discover that the high water at ice-out had floated it around the back of the island and into a bay where it sunk. You can still see the outline of the hull there today.

We are thankful for this 100 year old cottage and we look forward to many more years of enjoyment!

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LAKPRENEURS

George and Elle Galambos from WestBay Lures

George Galambos (10) and Elle Galambos (8), Co-Owners of Westbay Lures both attend Elementary School in Dundas, Ontario. West Bay Lures makes, and sells fishing lures. Spinnerbaits, inline spinners, spoons, stick baits, and worm harnesses. Hear what they have to say about their enterprise...

We were inspired to start our business because of our love for fishing and something to do during COVID. And it is a fun hobby! Running a business has taught us: We've learned that you can not take too much time off and skip work, because if you do you will not have enough lures to sell. Our favourite part of running our business is making the lures with creative/colorful designs. We also like to test them off the dock, to make sure they work.

Our least favourite part of running our business is letting the lures dry after we paint them which takes a long time. Also when we make a little mistake, it can mess up a lure.

Our business goals are to make a little money and to make sure our customers are happy with our lures. We want to see people post pictures of them catching fish with our lures.

Our lures are on display at Weslemkoon Marina. We will also deliver to people on the lake, but there is a delivery fee of \$1.



Molly Henderson from Otter Cloth Clothing Company

Molly Henderson, whose family has a cottage on Otter Lake, lives in Madoc and attends Secondary school in Belleville. She and her family run Otter Cloth Clothing Company. Here are her thoughts on being an entrepreneur...

We custom make t-shirts, hoodies and other clothing products that have the names of many lakes around the area on them. We also personalize our apparel for people such as putting cottage names and quotes in our designs.

Our cottage is on Otter Lake and although there is lots of Weslemkoon clothing for sale there was nothing for Otter Lake so after doing some research on how to start a t-shirt business we realized that we could make some ourselves! After thinking about it for a while we finally came up with Otter Cloth Clothing Co. and we thought the name suited the theme perfectly.

Running a business has taught me about the importance of proper bookkeeping, tracking inventory as well as connecting with our customers through social media and other communication platforms. My favourite part about running this business



is meeting new people from other lakes and also keeping in touch with the people from our lake through all of the orders we have filled.

Although I love meeting the new people from around the area and creating these clothing pieces it can be very time consuming. With school starting it can be hard to fit everything into one schedule.

My business goals would be to continue to provide clothing to all of the lakes in the area and hopefully expand to other products such as hats, water bottles and even stickers.

If you would like to check out any of our products visit our Instagram page @ottercloth_ or Facebook Page @ottercloth. We also have a new website that we have just put together, www.ottercloth.ca

I had the opportunity to design a hoodie for Thomas Craig who plays Inspector Brackenreid on CBC's Murdoch Mysteries - from left to right myself (Molly Henderson, Thomas Craig and my brother Jack Henderson)

Alexis Tervit and Dairinn Milne from A&D

Hi, we're Alexis and Dairinn and we run A&D, an all natural, environmental business on Lake Weslemkoon. We are both 14 years old and have cottages on Lake Weslemkoon. We sell products such as bar and pump soap, candles, beeswax wraps and compostable dishcloths. We were inspired to start our business because we noticed on our lake that people were using products that hurt our lake so we started to make products that people could use without having to worry about the effect on our lake. From running our business we have learned that though natural products may be more expensive and harder to make, they are definitely worth it! Our favourite part of running our business is getting to talk to our customers and learning what we can change to better our products. We hope that you'll stop by Weslemkoon Marina next summer and take a look at our products! Our Facebook page is called A&D and we can be contacted @alexisdairinn for orders or product information.



FUN FACT

Hundreds of thousands of Ontario islands, lakes, bays and beaches don't have names.... Anyone can make a name submission for free, and it is then debated by the Ontario Geographic Names Board. Find out more on the CBC News site, search island names.



Lake Levels

By Marty Blake

Generally, 2020 was a gentle year monitoring the lake water levels with the biggest news being the replacement of logs in the dam. Damaged logs were removed and replaced in early April fixing a significant leak that caused the levels to drop quite low the previous year. I would like to thank Steve Latto for coordinating with MNR and monitoring the repair.

Many things affect the rise and fall of the lake. The quick rise in the spring is the main

concern for cottagers and is particularly bad when ice has not separated from our docks and can cause excessive damage. Flooding down stream and a bridge in the McArthurs Mills area are limiting factors in the amount of water that can be drawn from our lakes in the spring but MNR monitors the levels in real time and makes the necessary adjustments.

Forestry and Trails

By Bruce Magee



At time of writing this report (Jan 10, 2021) we have received confirmation from the Planning Team (Mazinaw Lanark Forestry Inc. MLFI, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry MNR, and the Mazinaw-Lanark Local Citizens Committee LCC) of our December 15, 2020 LWCA Stage Three submission for changes to the 10 year Forest Management Plan (FMP). The Planning Team will be deliberating on our submission for the month of January. As part of our submission, the LWCA has requested a meeting with a smaller executive team of the Planning Team in the month of January.

We will post and or e-mail you additional progress information as soon as we are able to have further discussion with the Planning Team. In the meantime, if you have not read the Stage Three LWCA submission please find it on our website. Please review it and send us any additional concerns you may have for our further discussion with the Planning Team.

In addition to our proposed January meeting with the Planning Team the next stages of their FMP are:

Stage Four: Review of Draft FMP. May July 2021.

Stage Five: Inspection of the MNRF – Approved FMP. August 2021.

The LWCA intends to continue to seek changes to the FMP as outlined in our Stage Three submission. Again, see the LWCA web site.

As reported to you in an e-mail on Saturday December 12, 2020... The good news is, due to the excellent letter writing of LWCA members and the work of your Board of Directors, the planning team (MLFI, MNR, and the LCC) have deleted their optional harvest areas that had previously surrounded both Lake Weslemkoon and Otter Lakes. On our website you can view the files: "Previous Optional Harvest areas.pdf", and "Map Summary Index.pdf" to see the areas that were originally designated and those that have been deleted. This has been confirmed with Joel Martineau, Management Forester, at the MNR Bancroft District Office.

The not so good news is we still have issues with the encroachment of forest harvest to the south end of Lake Weslemkoon, Mackenzie Lake, Mink Lake, Mink Lake Creek, Shiner Lake and Shiner Lake creek,

which flows into Lake Weslemkoon via Seymour creek. The LWCA Stage Three submission requests changes to these to these encroachments.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Forestry and Trails Director Bruce Magee at bruce.magee@gbb-inc.com

Trail Maintenance

We are very pleased to report that use of LWCA trails have seen significantly higher use during the summer of 2020. We suspect that this has been due to COVID 19 and a renewed interest in hiking and exploring the lakes surrounding Lake Weslemkoon and Otter Lake.

For the summer of 2021 it is the intent of your LWCA to continue with its regular maintenance of all trails with a focus on significantly improving the northern Buck Lake and Dutchman's Lake Trail, and the Ashby Lake Trail.

Also please note that the LWCA welcomes all social media postings about the LWCA trails and your Board of Directors sincerely appreciates insights and writings about the trails. A special thank you to Peter Dan and friends, as well as all other LWCA members who post on social media their explorations, hikes, and trips along the LWCA trail system. We have an exciting volunteer initiative planned for the summer of 2021 - a Trails Focus Group. Hiking the trails was a popular activity for many cottagers last summer - but we have learned that there are quite a few cottagers who do not know where the trails are located, how long they are, or what the terrain is like. To solve this dilemma we would like to bring together a (virtual) group to develop a guide to all our trails. As part of this project an Interactive Trail Guide to Mink Lake will also be developed which will include detailed descriptions of the flora, fauna and geology found along the Mink Lake Trail. Please sign up on the website to be part of this exciting initiative.

Some words from our youth volunteers...



"This summer my friend and I rode to many points on the lake to take water samples. What the researchers were looking for I can't remember clearly but I know it was for the betterment of the lake" Liam Ross age 16

The lake gives so much to everyone privileged enough to experience it. It has given us endless summer fun, beautiful views to enjoy, and is arguably the home to the best sunset on earth. That's why it's so important to me to make sure I am giving back to the lake. This summer I was involved with clearing hiking trails and content writing of the lake association facebook page. Weslemkoon is home to 11 amazing trails that cottagers and visitors



all enjoy. These trails lead to beautiful lookouts, crystal clear lakes, and showcase Ontario's beautiful nature scenes. Taking the time to clear the paths, and make sure they are safe & well cared for allows all of us to enjoy adventures, for years to come. This summer I was also involved with the LWCA facebook page. It is so important to stay educated on the do's and don'ts while cottaging on Weslemkoon. My goal is to help everyone understand the importance of respecting the delicate ecosystem of the lake and how to play safely on the water. I am so grateful to have a place to enjoy my summers and I want to play a role in keeping the lake healthy and safe for decades to come! Sophie Warlow



Hi I'm Thomas Tervit. I helped out a few ways on this lake over this past summer. I spent one day checking about half of the campsites on the lake for trash and collecting what I found so it could be properly disposed of. Another day I helped clean up a few of the small creeks leading into connected lakes and the trail to Little Lake Weslemkoon. I also checked the Geocaches to make sure that they were in the correct locations and contained everything required for successful treasure hunting. Overall there wasn't too much trash to pick up which is a great sign that people are leaving the trails with what they came with. I hope to see the same in 2021.

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Artists and Makers of the Lake

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Some of us enjoy spending our quiet time at the lake fishing, paddling, swimming, hiking, relaxing, and reading.

Others take advantage of the solitude and the inspiration of nature to create beautiful art.

Here is a sampling of pieces created at the lake.



Lynne Vegter

I love being by the lake as I am constantly seeing changes in our shoreline and in the bays I kayak around in taking photographs for my paintings and drawings. I feel aware of every shape and colour when I'm on the water looking at the bottom or snorkelling to see the schools of perch and baby bass around the docks. I will never tire of trying to describe how the lake and the life it contains makes me feel. I hope I can keep putting it down on canvas and board to share with you all.



Sandy Churchill

We actually got to stay at the cottage for 5 days in February and when not getting wood or sledding I went skiing. We were fortunate to be there during a full moon and cold nights. I took the photo when out skiing and painted it this spring! It sure makes me look forward to a good winter time at the cottage every time I look at it and recall the temperature and the quiet of the north west passage!

What inspires me about the lake is its shoreline, nooks and crannies to explore and photograph, often time is spent in reflection of nature. Does sound corny but so much of the shoreline being unspoiled is a treasure!!

Liz Sine

ISLAND POTTERY - preparing pots for smoke firing on the shore of Black Duck Island, Lake Weslemkoon. I named my small pottery business ISLAND

POTTERY because of the fact that my heart and soul are on Lake Weslemkoon. Although I have a studio at our home in Peterborough where I create my wheel thrown pieces, my favourite place to work is on the cottage porch looking out over the lake.

Shauna Proctor-Oleny

This is one of my custom commission pieces that I have completed for cottagers on the lake. My primary medium is watercolour but I do experiment with a multitude of mediums, some unexpected. Most of my artistic inspiration comes from my love of nature, animals and music so I certainly enjoy creating works while at the cottage where I am surrounded by the natural forces of our lakes. You can see more of my work at shaunap.ca.



Rauri Milne

This past summer I painted portraits of family members at the cottage, and decided to use plywood from under our cottage as my canvas. For this painting I was focussing on practicing technique. I think that maybe the slower pace at the Lake inspired me to notice the details in small things around me and expose vulnerable marks that I hadn't noticed before. You can see more of my work on Instagram @rauri



Brooklin Lowes

The work I make is influenced by what I see around me. In using channelled light from the sun as a material I can situate myself in the world around me and explore relationships though that.



Alexis Trevit

These painted rocks are part of a series that I was commissioned to create this past summer. This particular group of rock paintings are based on the Seven Sacred Teachings, which are First Nations' teachings on human conduct. Painting at the cottage is always relaxing and something that I enjoy doing, and the lake always seems to spark my creativity.



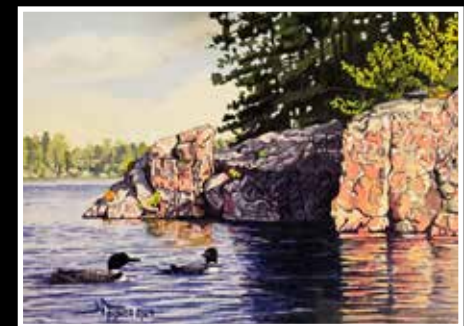
Janice Mackenzie

I enjoy making things - I always have. The cabin has always been a place where I've found the time to make things. Generally, they are things that I need, like a quilt to snuggle under when reading, or woven place mats to match the vintage dishware, or seat cushions for maximum sitting comfort. Other times I'm inspired to make things from leftover materials that are sitting around. The fish were made a few summers ago from leftover tin ceiling tiles and random bits of fishing lures. I already have a few plans percolating for this summer's projects!



El Evans

The cottage has always been a place where I take out my pencils and brushes and nurture my creative side. For a number of years after my parents bought our cottage in the late 90s, I was focusing on my studies, then on having a family of my own. Now that my kids are older I am able to return to my passion for the arts with more intention. Having the time to slow down and get into a flow state at the lake is a luxury I don't take for granted. I often take inspiration from photographs I've taken of the scenic views and wildlife visible from my deck or from the boat. I do custom drawings, watercolour and oil paintings. I also love creating custom pet portrait ornaments on slices of birchbark from our trees or from barn board leftover from the original cottage construction. @artbyelmaev on Instagram



Murray Pipher 1933-2015

A devoted Weslemkoon cottager and friend, with his wife Isobel and family.

"It's simply a great hobby..I paint because I enjoy it and like to share it with other people."

One Girl's Map Story

By Janice Mackenzie



When I was a child I spent all of my summers at the lake. Like other Junior Loons growing up on the lake, the majority of my interactions were between family members, close family friends and cottage families located around our cottage in Squally Bay. Most days were spent in the water, playing on the shoreline, doing crafts, and doing LWCA errands with my dad. Evenings involved games and reading stories before bed. My young life was fairly limited in reach, but as I got older I paddled to different places on my own, usually for a visit at a nearby cottage. Two of my favourite people to visit were 'grandmother figures': Rachel Edington from Bath North Carolina (#920, the cabin that I now own) and Fran Hawley from Oxford Ohio (#215). Rachel taught me how to do needlework when I was quite young. She had a lot of patience! Fran held my attention with puzzles and stories and baking sugar cookies. I loved them so much!

At that time the lake maps were drawn up by my dad, Don Mackenzie, from 1965 to 1993 (DRM on the bottom right). In the summer of 1974 a new lake map came out. I was 9. I offered to colour Fran & Bill's new map and they obliged me, likely a way to keep me busy, not a measure of any

talent. I was so proud to see it hung on their cottage wall.

This past summer, the summer of COVID, I finally got to know Glenn Pettifer who has owned the Hawley's cottage for over a decade. Each time I'd visit his cottage I'd bore him with another Fran & Bill story. When I told him about colouring an old lake map for them, he dragged it out from under the bed. It had been mounted on thick cardboard and on the back Fran had written the "shut down" rules for the cottage. He gave it to me and I've hung it proudly in my boathouse. It made my entire summer!

Vintage Map Colouring Challenge 2021

Is your cottage family a colouring kind of family? Do you like to be creative? Do you want to enter a contest and make memories at the same time? If so, this contest is for you!

The LWCA is running a colouring contest!

Not unlike Janice's challenge when she was 9, you'll be tasked with colouring a lake map. Since the current lake map is already coloured in, each cottage family who enters will be given a vintage 1965 lake map to colour.

Prizes will be awarded in 3 categories:

- a) the most colourful,
- b) the most creative based on a chosen theme, and
- c) the most precise.

Once cottage families complete their maps they are asked to submit a photograph of the map to Janice who will post it on the LWCA Facebook page. Photos of your family colouring the map are also encouraged! The contest starts in July (maps delivered on Canada Day weekend) and closes on August 31st. To sign up, email Janice with your cottage number. janicemackenzie@icloud.com



In Passing

Phil Rowswell #353 ▪ Fall 2020
 Shirley Davidson Davidson #869 ▪ Nov 2020
 Lori Miller #823 ▪ Dec 2020
 Sheridan Smith #5 ▪ Dec 2020
 Bev Johnson #680 ▪ Jan 2021
 Denise Freitas #742 ▪ Jan 2021
 Guy Austin #738 ▪ March 2021

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- Maintenance
- Diagnostics



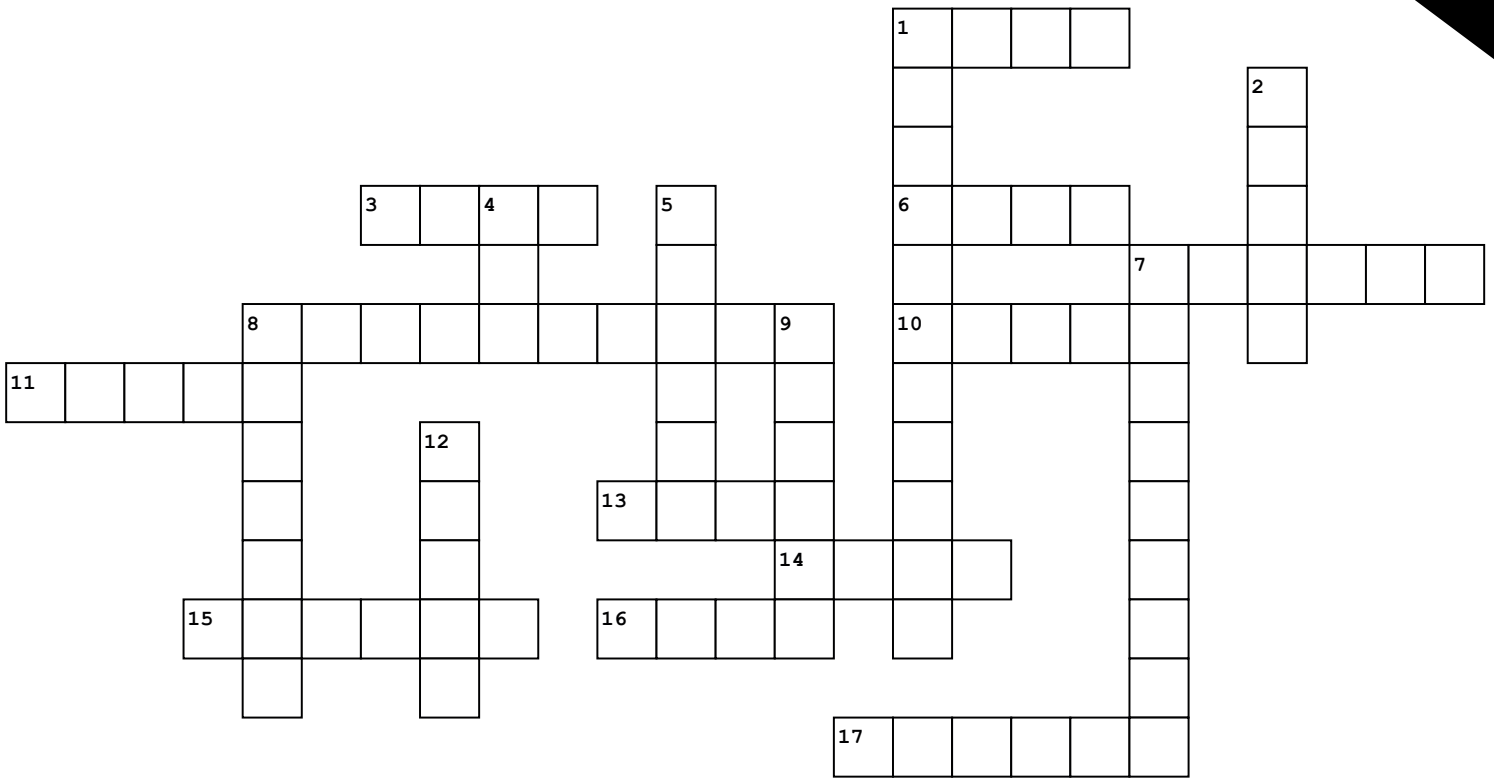
Docks

- Steel Docks on Piles
- Cribs
- Floating Docks



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Lake Weslemkoon Crossword



Across

1. perhaps an afternoon hike to this lake
3. tall proud tree type
6. alternate slang word for snowmobile
7. sound made when jumping in water
8. chemical element lake levels checked
10. famous author said to have visited the lake
11. boat propelled by paddle
13. a way of saying hi or water formation
14. that with an eerie evening call
15. running bank _____
16. perhaps not a frog but a _____
17. surrounded by water

Down

1. the perfect roasted treat
2. ear to ear summer expression
4. a sleep in the middle of the day
5. spot for a gas fill or ice cream
7. opposite of port
8. Ontario fruit summer treat
9. glacier made Canadian _____
12. Peak high up lake lookout spot

LWCA Membership

Thank you to all of you who have joined the LWCA! To all of you who have not had a chance to join or renew yet, we hope that you will!

Remember that your membership fees fund our lake marker program, trail maintenance, running our water testing program, Junior Loons, coordination with the MNRF regarding lake levels, work with the Township to represent members, input into the Forestry Management Plan, as well as many special projects such as the "Wake Wise" and "Camping" brochures. Even the lake maps are an LWCA initiative. Members also get a access to the LWCA website, our blogs and communiques, a copy of the Loon Call, listing in and a copy of the lake directory and custodial visits to your property in the off season.

It's great to be a Member!