

**An Annual Newsletter**  
**Lake Weslemkoon**  
**Conservation Associates**  
**& Supporters**

[www.weslemkoon.com](http://www.weslemkoon.com)

Photo Courtesy of Ana Adriano  
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## Land Acknowledgement

Our beautiful lakes and surrounding lands are located in the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg Peoples covered by Treaty 27. As a community we share the responsibility to follow the principles of the Dish with One Spoon. As citizens we have the obligation to honour, care for, and respect the land, water, air, fire, animals, plants and our ancestors.

We are grateful for the opportunity to enjoy Weslemkoon Lake and recognize the contributions and historical importance of the Anishnaabeg Peoples, and are committed to acknowledging their direct descendants, the Algonquins of Ontario, as the rightful caretakers of the land upon which we live, work, play and enjoy.

As the LWCA, we are responsible for the stewardship of the community and the lands surrounding Lake Weslemkoon. We want to acknowledge that the land and water on which we play and enjoy sustains us, and is a gift from Mother Earth.

Thank you to Noreen from the Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini Algonquin First Nation office in Bancroft For advising us in the creation of our living land acknowledgement. We hope that you take the time to visit the First Nation Office next time you are in town to learn more.

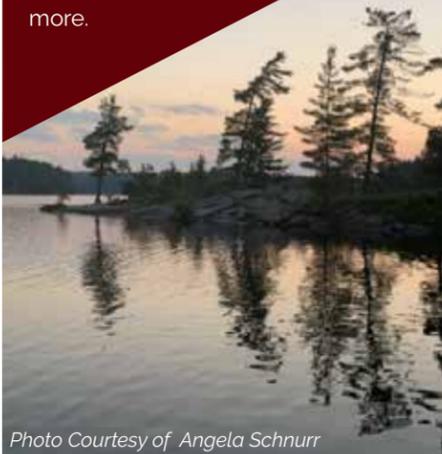


Photo Courtesy of Angela Schnurr

# Welcome to 2023 on Lake Weslemkoon, Otter Lake and the surrounding area!



**President's Address**  
**Melissa Tervit**

Although the "C" in LWCA officially stands for Conservation to me it also stands for "Community". I feel so blessed to be a part of the wonderful Weslemkoon community especially after last spring when after the windstorm we saw friends, neighbours and complete strangers working together to lend a hand, clear downed trees, feed and house people whose cottages were uninhabitable and check in on empty cottages and elderly folks. Being an active participant of a community is known to boost physical and mental health, and as we experienced, helps to assure safety. Resilient communities are able to come together and adapt which is something that is certainly needed due to the challenges that climate change and life in a rural area can throw at us. The LWCA has a few community building opportunities planned for this summer that we hope you will participate in including the Maker's Market on August 6, Docktails on July 8, and the AGM on August 12.

I wish to thank everyone who enhances our community by contributing dialogue and photos to our social media channels, participating in the events and contests, and volunteering with the LWCA on the Board of Directors, on committees, and by clearing trails. If you have a passion or interest we would love for you to share it with other members of the community. We would especially appreciate volunteers to take on the roles of Fish, Wildlife, Septics, Invasive Species and Emergency Preparedness advisors (or any other area that you think would be beneficial). All it takes is for you to keep abreast of important information in your area of interest and share it with

the other community members using the LWCA Facebook or Instagram channels, communiques or quarterly newsletter. For those of you who wish to take an even more active role we would love for you to join us on the Board of Directors or give a presentation at the AGM.

Another important "C" is Citizen Science, which in a nutshell is scientific research conducted with voluntary participation from the public. Organizations such as Bird Studies Canada and NatureWatch rely on observations made and reported by people who are out enjoying nature. Citizen science benefits researchers by adding much more data and observations than they could otherwise personally gather and allows us citizens to be a meaningful part of studies, where we can gain skills, knowledge and maybe even meet others with similar interests. There are many opportunities to participate in observing and submitting information on everything from plants, bees, birds and bats, weather, snow, ice in and ice out times and invasive species. I have used EDDMapS Ontario to log invasive species sightings, and also enjoy using the iNaturalist app to share and discover sightings of local plant and animal species. Project Feederwatch which runs annually from November 1 to April 30 is a fun and easy project to participate in. You can find a directory of Citizen Science programs under the Community Resources tab on the LWCA website where I am sure you will find a program that sparks your Citizen Science interest.

Thank you so very much for being a member of the LWCA. Please stay informed about important issues and events by checking your inbox for our Communiques, following the LWCA on Facebook and Instagram, participating in the Facebook groups and by signing up for the FOCA Elert. Have a wonderful 2023 and I look forward to seeing you on the lake!



Photo Courtesy of Barry Calhoun  
"Dog named Bear"

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## FUN FACT

What do you call a group of dragonflies?

A static swarm is when a bunch of dragonflies are feeding together at one location. A migratory swarm when dragonflies form large groups and move from place to place. I hope they stop by my place to eat my nuisance mosquitoes.

### Contact Your LWCA:



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Email: [info@weslemkoon.com](mailto:info@weslemkoon.com)

## LWCA Directors

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Paul Bottos

**Water Quality**  
Claire Vandervoort

**Lake Levels**  
Marty Blake



Anne Coulter

Every year we would try to pick enough berries for Grandma to make pies. The hope was to have enough for at least the Thanksgiving and Christmas pies, but if we were lucky, we'd pick enough for bonus pies during the summer.



Photo Courtesy of Kee Sakamoto

### Pastry:

5 ½ cups flour  
1 lb lard  
1 egg  
1 tsp salt  
1 tsp lemon juice or vinegar  
1-2 tbsp sugar (to taste)

### Blueberry Filling:

4 cups blueberries  
1 cup sugar  
1 tsp cinnamon  
5 heaping tablespoons flour  
Squirt of lemon juice

### To Make the Pastry:

Put flour in large bowl and cut in lard using a pastry blender or two knives until well blended.

In a 1 cup measuring cup, add egg, salt, lemon juice, and sugar. Fill up the cup with cold water. Mix well.

Add the liquid to the flour mixture and mix until all liquid is absorbed.

Roll out dough between two pieces of plastic or parchment paper with rolling pin to size of pie plate, and press into the pie plate. Use a fork to poke the crust in the bottom of the pie plate a few times.

Roll out another round of pie dough for the top crust - use a knife to add slits in the top. Place to the side.

### To Make the Pie:

Preheat the oven to 400F.

In a bowl, add sugar, flour, cinnamon and mix well.

Layer in the pie shell sugar, berries, sugar. Finish with the squirt of lemon juice.

Add top crust.

Bake for 5 min at 400F.

Without opening the door or removing the pie, turn the oven down to 325F and bake until done (about 45 min).



### Sandy Churchill

I am very grateful to have a cottage on Weslemkoon, but one of the main attractions of the lake for me was the intriguing shoreline for kayaking and canoeing. During Covid, it was difficult to find a companion willing to tent and kayak with me, however last fall an outdoorsy friend of mine found the time to join me for a 3 night camping/kayak trip on Weslemkoon. We kayaked and hiked the snakes and ladder trails created by the



Derecho! We made it to Canoe lake, Green lake, Buck lake, Pikes Peak, and Mink lake. We swam all of the lakes we visited and enjoyed lots of good conversation.

It is too easy to talk myself out of exploring the lake I love by camping, and too easy to say I am getting too old to sleep on the ground. The gift for the effort was time spent watching the lake change colours, rain storms drift by, sunsets, waiting for



the twilight stars to begin their reflections on the water, AND a companion to share it with!

I am planning on exploring more trails and paddling new bays and inlets of our lake in 2023. I hope I meet others from the lake who have tucked their tent into a corner of the shoreline to enjoy the gift of our lake.

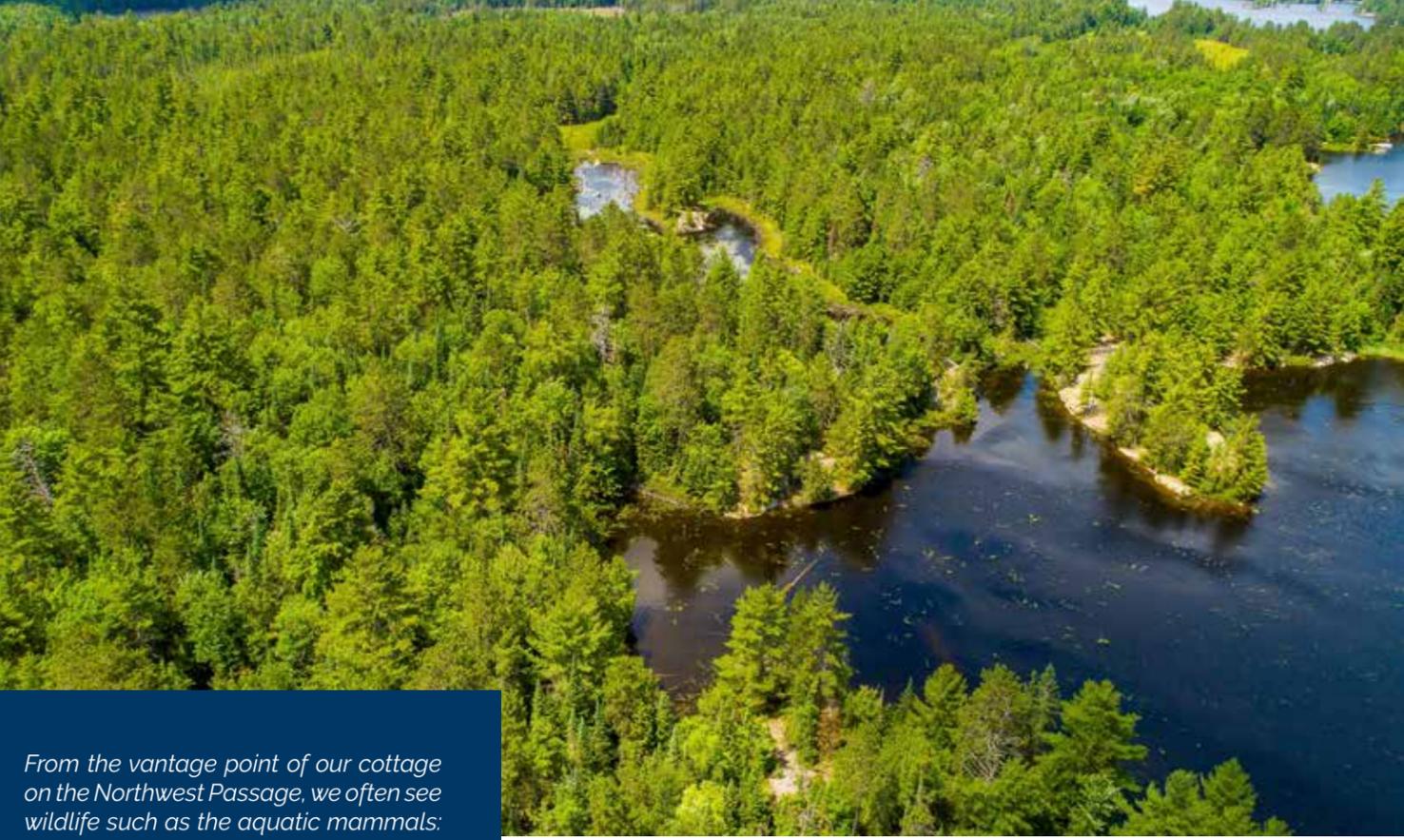
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Do you have a favourite recipe or tradition from the lake? Let us know!

Email info@weslemkoon.com to have your story shared in next year's Loon Call.

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Northwest view showing part of the passage and Lake "Eerie"

# WESLEMKOON WILDLIFE: ADVENTURES WITH A TRAIL CAMERA

Barrie and Huw Evans

From the vantage point of our cottage on the Northwest Passage, we often see wildlife such as the aquatic mammals: beaver, mink and otter. Occasionally we will see some deer and a couple of times we have been visited by a fox. A couple of years ago a moose crashed its way across the broad, shallow part of the passage from our side over to Big Island. Probably the most intriguing visitor to our cottage came over the winter so we didn't actually see it, only the evidence. During spring opening we discovered two large mounds of elk scat, barely 20 feet from the cottage.

We were initially undecided about whether this was moose or elk, but we subsequently decided that the rounder, flatter pellets were more characteristic of elk rather than the bullet shaped pellets of moose.

Across the peninsula from our cottage is Mackay Bay, but to the northwest of us are thousands of hectares of crown land.

We have often speculated about the creatures that might live there. The year before last Huw bought a good quality trail camera. The camera can be strapped to a tree, is motion activated and following activation shoots a 10 second video. We positioned it initially not far from

the cottage for a test. This past year, we positioned it in two places. Over winter we placed it on what appeared to be a clearing. We were unsure about whether the batteries would last but I guess we should have had faith in the Energizer bunny. In the spring, we positioned it by a small swamp of dead tamaracks which had been dubbed "Lake Eerie" by the previous owners.

The captures were sometimes quite predictable and sometime surprising. Not surprising were some small mammals: jack rabbits, squirrels and a racoon. More special was a pair of fishers. Along with mammals, we registered a family of wild turkeys.



Elk Scat

The motion detector was triggered mostly by deer, some large bucks and does with fawns. At night the camera shoots in black and white and there is a light that goes on.



Family of wild turkeys



Eye to eye with camera

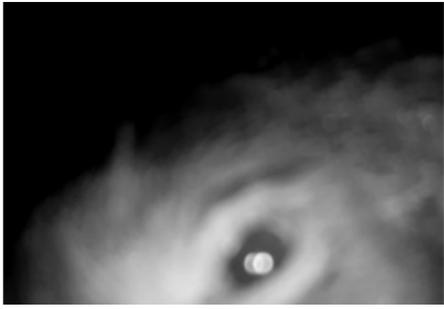
Some of the animals reacted to the light by freezing or approaching it with curiosity.

We were very excited about the appearance at night of a moderately sized black bear, who was quite inquisitive about the camera.

We repositioned the camera and captured more deer. But more interestingly, we captured two different animals, which have been the topic of much debate in our

family. There are differing opinions. Are they both examples of Algonquin wolves? Is one a wolf and the other a coyote or are they both coyotes? They are very different in their appearance and it would be interesting to hear others' opinions. Note that they were both in exactly the same location when filmed.

Algonquin wolves are unlike their western grey wolf cousins in that they are smaller and redder in colouration. There is also



Black Bear



Pair of Fishers

evidence of hybridization between eastern red wolves and coyotes (coywolves).

The camera is out now over the winter during our closed season and is positioned a little further north. We are greatly anticipating recovering and downloading the SD card to our computer in the spring to see what other creatures make our Weslemkoon wilderness their home. We are now quite careful to bring bear spray with us on our hikes into the bush!



Coyote or Wolfe?

# Canadian Flag Etiquette Fun Facts



Alison Myles

Each Spring the first of us to the lake gather to hoist and honour our Canadian flag, yes complete with the full singing of our National Anthem. There are many myths and mysteries surrounding flag etiquette.

While working with the Pan/Parapan Am Games, I became fascinated with the ceremonies team and their extensive knowledge. There are certain countries with the choice of flag version determined by the economic stability, specific time of day, position within a set and the specific nature of the event.

Two robust resources regarding all things flags include:

Flags Unlimited

<https://shop.flagsunlimited.com/pages/canadian-flags> and

Heritage Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/flag-canada-etiquette/flying-rules.html>

Here are just a few tidbits lifted from these two sites, have fun exploring:

- No alternative flag should be flown higher than the Canadian Flag.
- When displayed with another National

Flag, Provincial or Territorial Flag, company flag or pennant on a flagpole, the Canadian Flag must be featured to the left as seen by spectators.

- When displaying the Canadian Flag vertically, the flag should be placed so that the upper part of the leaf is to the left and the stem is to the right as seen by spectators from the front.
- Historically, during naval warfare, enemy ships may have deceived their targets by flying the colours of allied nations before hoisting their proper identifying flags just at the moment of attack. This may be the origin of the expression "to show one's true colours"!

# Fall 2022 Municipal Election Results

In Fall 2022, municipal elections were held in Ontario.

The LWCA provided questions to the candidates for response and circulated the responses received to the membership in advance of the election.

The Township of Addington Highlands is comprised of two wards:

Ward 1 consists of the geographic Townships of Denbigh, Abinger and Ashby, which is effectively the north half of our lake.

Ward 2 consists of the geographic Townships of Kaladar, Anglesea and

Effingham, the south half of the lake.

Council consists of a Reeve, a Deputy Reeve, and 3 Councillors. The position of Reeve is an elected position.

Two Councillors are elected from each Ward and the Deputy Reeve is selected in accordance with the Township's Procedural By-Law.

The following are those elected during the last election:

Henry Hogg, Reeve

Tony Fritsch, Deputy Reeve

Kirby Thompson, Councillor Ward 1

E. Helen Yanch, Councillor Ward 2

Ken Hook, Councillor Ward 2

As we close the cottage over Thanksgiving Weekend, we try to catch at least one sunrise. Last October, Lucy chose to do the same.

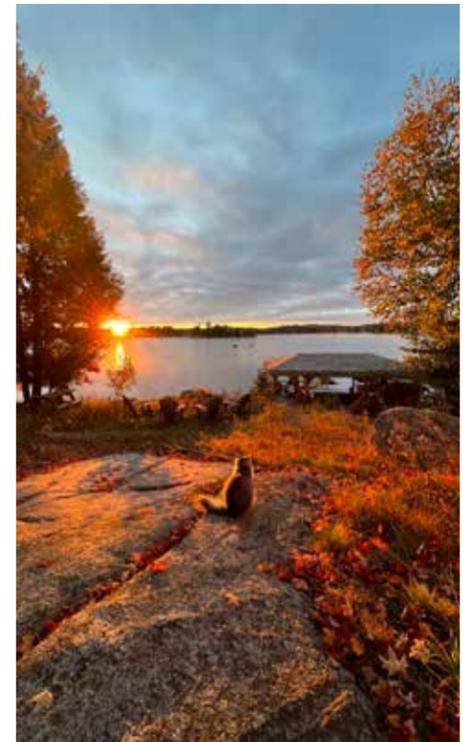


Photo Credit: Michèle Smith

## Snapping Turtles in Ontario

Did you know, snapping turtles in Ontario can live to be over 100 years old! When fully grown they can be 40 cm long and weigh up to 20 kg female snappers travel up to 8 km, one way, to find a sunny, sandy place to lay their eggs can hold their breath for more than 10 minutes during winter hibernation they can go up to 6 months without drawing a breath, instead taking in small amounts of water through the cloaca (turtle bum) from which they absorb a tiny amount of oxygen and release carbon dioxide

Source: [www.ontarioparks.com](http://www.ontarioparks.com)

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## FUN FACT

Did you know that only female ducks quack? Male ducks do not quack and instead give a quieter, rasping, one- or two-noted call. Ducklings make soft shrill whistles when alarmed.

In Passing

Andrew Cherrin  
Joanne Cope  
David Kim Fitzpatrick  
Lee Johnson  
Scott Morris

George Murray  
Eli Palfreyman  
Audrey Joyce (Jo) Walker  
Owen Dixon

Please notify Patty Milne by email ([patricia.milne@sympatico.ca](mailto:patricia.milne@sympatico.ca)) of any LWCA member passings.







Lynne Vegter

Fine Art Studio

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# 7 Interesting Forestry Facts

Photo Courtesy of Lynn Vegar

## 1. Severe Weather on the Lake

- Last May, a severe 'blowdown' event occurred throughout the region of Lake Weslemkoon. Damage was sporadic with some areas hit harder than others. The MNR in partnership with the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Team cleared, and where possible salvaged and recovered the considerable number of damaged trees in the region. Operators continue to work in these areas until they are cleaned up and expect to conclude salvage operations within 2 years.
- Many members experienced longer than expected power outages and may have experienced fuel and food shortages. It may be wise given the likelihood of future severe weather events to review your 'survival kits' that include water, fuel, batteries, etc. Also, considering alternative forms of power (generator, solar, etc) may be prudent.

- The addition of the winter season and its impact can create safety concerns when returning to the lake this spring (bent or leaning trees, hung up trees or limbs, overhead broken tops or limbs, accumulation of downed debris, etc.). Please take care around your cottage & property and reach out to neighbours or professionals for help if needed.

## 2. Forest Technology:

Better pictures of our forest by satellite will vastly improve the accuracy and timing of forest management: i.e., fire risks, insect disturbance, sustainable harvesting, etc. Technology keeps changing and there are new advances in geospatial data that can be explored:

- Canadian Institute of Forestry receives funding to establish the first national and interactive view of urban forestry geospatial data in Canada
- What is geospatial data and why is it important?

## 3. For Inquiring Forestry minds:

Take a look at topics from The Forestry Chronicle (A leading Canadian professional and scientific journal since 1925 with free access). Some recommended articles are:

- Warning: Natural and Managed Forests are Losing their Capacity to Mitigate Climate Change
- Understanding the effects of forest management on streams and rivers: A synthesis of research conducted in New Brunswick (Canada) 2014–2018
- How to put forest and conservation genomics into motion for and with Indigenous communities?

## 4. Invasive species (potentially) affecting our forest:

On Aug. 10, 2022, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency confirmed the presence of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) in Grafton, Ontario. The property owner has been notified of restrictions on the movement of hemlock materials (including logs, branches and woodchips), as a result of this confirmation. The current regulated area could be expanded once the CFIA has completed its survey work. You can read the full media release from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency online.

## 5. Forestry books for your cottage collection:

### Finding The Mother Tree

by Suzanne Simard,

### Killing Bugs for Business and Beauty

by Mark Kuhlberg,

### Trees and the Law in Canada

by Dr. Julian A. Dunster,

### The Lost Spells

by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris,

### Forests: a very short introduction

by Jaboury Ghazoul.

## 6. Download a Forestry-related podcast for your next drive to the lake:

From Freakonomics Radio, People I (Mostly) Admire episode 97: 'How smart is a forest?'

- Ecologist Suzanne Simard studies the relationships between trees in a forest: they talk to each other, punish each other, and depend on each other. What can we learn from them? (January 2023)

## 7. Connect with Forestry through Poetry.

"Loss is the tune of our age, hard to miss and hard to bear. Creatures, places and words disappear, day after day, year on year. But there has always been singing in dark time – and wonder is needed now more than ever." – Robert Macfarlane, Preface, The Lost Spells

### Oak

Out on the hill, old Oak still stands:  
 Stag-headed, fire-struck, bare-crowned,  
 Stubbornly holding its ground.  
 Poplar is the whispering tree,  
 Rowan is the sheltering tree,  
 Willow is the weeping tree –  
 And Oak is the waiting tree.  
 Three hundred years to grow,  
 Three hundred more to thrive,  
 Three hundred years to die –  
 Nine hundred years alive.

Ancient Oak hears with ancient ears,  
 Sees with ancient eyes; the snow  
 Of another winter, the glow of a  
 New sunrise.

Birch is the watching tree,  
 Cherry is the giving tree,  
 Ash is the burning tree –  
 And Oak is the waiting tree.

Three hundred years to grow,  
 Three hundred years more to thrive,  
 Three hundred years to die –  
 Nine hundred years alive.

Knot shows through silver grain,  
 Silver grain through bark;  
 But each fresh spring brings  
 Oak-green leaves again.

Holly is the witching tree,  
 Beech is the writing tree,  
 Elder is the quickening tree –  
 And Oak is the waiting tree.

Three hundred years to grow,  
 Three hundred years more to thrive,  
 Three hundred years to die –  
 Nine hundred years alive.

Macfarlane, Robert. "Oak." The Lost Spells, Illustrated by Jackie Morris, Penguin Random House, 2020.

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Photo Collection Courtesy of Angela Schnurr

The LWCA Catherine Rathbun Environmental fund is in memory of Catherine's deep devotion and love of the lake. We have here reprised her poem "Please", first read within the 1999 Loon Call newsletter, feeling it remains as ever relevant today as it was when first written. Here Jon Keeble shares a few notes in regard to Catherine's aspirational poetry.

"Catherine found the lake inspiring from infancy when her mom and dad cottaged for a month on the north shore in her grandad's boathouse second floor.

Dr. John and Catherine (Katie) bought Sears Island in the mid 50's and whole summers became possible (until ballet summer school arose).

Poems like the one from the Loon Call spontaneously appeared to her after the chores of opening the cabin which she inherited/purchased in the early 1980s."

# "Please"

by Catherine Rathbun

*Tread lightly on the land  
Dear Weslemkooners  
For our days are short  
But our shadow is long and threatening  
Think not so much of what will help you  
today  
But of what you will leave  
For the children of tomorrow*

*Will there be water so clean that they can  
swim without care?  
Will there be air so fresh that their nostrils  
will tingle with the scent of pine and soft  
earth?  
Will there be birds of the air like eagles  
who depend on the tall deep woods of  
old growth?  
Will there be magnificent ospreys who dive  
for sweet fish from the heights of the  
sky?  
Will there be loons calling in the night for  
the great grandchildren of tomorrow?*

*All these and more depend upon the  
legacy of our past.  
Our cities deprive us of our ability to move  
in harmony with nature.  
They hurry us, hurry us towards the grave  
And always with a sense of poverty.  
Advertised impoverishment,  
So that we will throw out what we have  
today  
In relentless search for a better tomorrow.*

*Our footprints are heavy;  
We leave a mark on the land.  
Three hundred to Five hundred chemicals  
now reside in our tissues that were not  
there in the 1940s  
A clean oven, a spotless dish, the whitest  
shirt.  
We lose touch, we rationalize.*

*So: Don't think as you throw the apple peel  
or bottle into the garbage  
That your 'bit' doesn't matter.  
For it is all our bits that make up the  
garbage dump.  
Learn how to compost, reuse, recycle.  
These are not philosophies but good  
sense.*

*Tread lightly on the land, dear friends.  
So the children of tomorrow  
Will know the treasure that is ours today.*

Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

- MARSHMALLOW
- WAKEBOARD
- ICECREAM
- PINECONE
- FIREFLY
- SUNSET
- BEAVER
- WAVES
- CANOE
- TROUT
- MOSS
- AXE



# Cottage Word Find

## Cottage Reads

Who doesn't love curling up with a good book at the Lake? Here are just a few recommendations for Cottage Reads from members of the board.

**The Clifton Chronicles,**  
by Jeffrey Archer

**Braiding Sweetgrass,**  
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

**The Golden Spruce,**  
by John Vaillant

**Moon of the Crusted Snow,**  
by Waubgeshig Rice

Have a recommendation? Share it with us on Instagram@LWCA\_Ontario or email us at info@weslemkoon.com

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June Winner: Alan Thomas

# PHOTO CONTEST 2022

## Photo Contest 2023!

We are changing it up a bit for 2023. There will be a photo contest running for each of June, July and August, with a different category for adults (18+) and kids (17 and under). PLUS a family photo contest that you can get started on immediately.

### Individual Challenges:

Submissions for the following themes are due at the end of each month, either by posting to Facebook with #LWCAphotocontest2023 or by submitting to [info@weslemkoon.com](mailto:info@weslemkoon.com)

#### June

Adults ~ "Dock Talk"  
Kids ~ "Friends"

#### July

Adults ~ "Here Comes the Sun"  
Kids ~ "Water Fun"

#### August

Adults ~ "Hikes & Views"  
Kids ~ "Going Buggy"

### Family Photo Challenge:

Have fun searching through Weslemkoon's natural environment for representations of letters that spell WESLEMKOOON. For example, you might see a twig that is an exact L, or a hole in a the ground that is a perfect O. Get your family to start searching as soon as you land at the lake this year, and snap and save each letter that you find. Submit all together by the end of Thanksgiving weekend to [info@weslemkoon.com](mailto:info@weslemkoon.com) Feel free to share your best finds on our LWCA Facebook page with #WESLEMKOOONphotochallenge

*Have fun!*



July Winner: Alice McGrath



August Winner: Lynne Vegter

## June

Alan Thomas submitted his photo for June's theme "Paddle On". He wrote "It was one of those rare days when the water was like glass until late in the day. Heather was paddling in her usual spot at the back of the canoe. Our friend Beverly, who was visiting with her husband Bill from Niagara on the Lake, was in the front. I was on my paddle board and had a camera with me (waterproof Lumix). I took the picture near our cottage in the North end. When I looked at the image on the computer, I thought it would be fun to post it upside down because the reflection was so clear."

Heather and I have been on the lake since 2013 and try to paddle most days. We are from the Ottawa area - "just beyond the fringe" for those of you who are acquainted with this old expression. If you see us in our old red canoe, give us a wave.

## July

This photo was taken by Angela Schurr and submitted for the July theme "after the storm". Angela has been going to Weslemkoon Lake her whole life. Her great grandfather and great great grandfather built the cottage on the lake after WW1. There has always been a big beautiful tree at the dock that provided shade for them, but unfortunately the storm in May knocked the tree down. As sad as it was to lose the tree it ended up creating a new view from the rocks.

Alice McGrath took a number of photos for the July category "A Child's View". She said, "My name is Alice McGrath, I am 7 years old. I was 6 when I took the winning photo of my cousin's dog George. We live in Edmonton, Alberta and go to our cottage on Lake Weslemkoon



July Winner: Angela Schurr

for 4 weeks in the summer. I like taking photos, drawing, swimming and playing with my cousins. I hope I can enter another photo contest, it was fun and I won a prize."

## August

Lynne Vegter submitted this photo for the 'Something Fishy' theme in August using her iPhone . The turtle is a frequent visitor when skinning the catch off the dock. Lynne has lived at the North shore of Weslemkoon since 2010, where she has a studio and paints wildlife like the snapper and playful otters in and around the Weslemkoon landscape. Both Lynne and husband Will are avid wildlife conservation enthusiasts who enjoy being a part of the lake community.

# May 2022 Derecho



Photo Courtesy of Neel Engineer

For those of us who were at the lake, May 21, 2022 will be a date that will be remembered for many years to come. What started out as a sunny, warm day, quickly turned into a nightmare of wind and destruction. The skies over the lake quickly turned from blue, to grey, to green as what sounded like a freight train of wind came towards the lake in the form of a derecho.

A derecho is a widespread, long-lived wind storm that carries the strength of tornadoes, but which continues in a straight-line of damage (National Weather Service, 2022). According to the Northern Tornadoes Project, the May 21, 2022 Ontario-Quebec derecho was the deadliest in Canadian history, with over \$1 Billion in losses, and some of the worst damaged areas located just south of Lake

Weslemkoon. While quickly rushing for what cover was available under cottages or inside where we could, many of us at the lake will recall concern for our families and friends around the lake. The lengthy recovery, clean up, and power outages saw many of our lake family collectively supporting each other.

Events such as the May 2022 derecho help remind us of the importance of safety planning and preparedness and ask ourselves, is the cottage emergency ready? Here are just a few things the Canadian Red Cross suggests that can be done right now to help prepare for emergencies at the cottage:

**Make a Plan:** Choose a safe meeting place inside the cottage away from windows or under the cottage for thunderstorms/tornadoes. Choose a meeting space away from the cottage in case of fire.

**Post Emergency Contact Information:** post emergency and non-emergency numbers (e.g., 911, Poison Control, Emergency Vet, Telehealth, out of town contact person) in easily accessible places so that all family members can access them

**Prepare an Emergency Kit: Basic emergency kits should include:**

- Water (at least 2L/per person)
- 72 hours worth of non-perishable food

with a manual can-opener (don't forget about your pet food!)

**First aid kit**

- Crank or battery-powered flashlights (with extra batteries)

- Crank or battery operated radio
- Extra keys to the car, boat, cottage
- Some cash in smaller bills
- Other items as needed (e.g., prescription medication, infant needs)

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



Photo Courtesy of Neel Engineer



Photo Courtesy of Neel Engineer



Photo Courtesy of Pat Bothwell

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# Makers Market 2022



The 2nd Annual Makers Market was held at Weslemkoon Marina on Saturday, July 16, 2022. We had a great mix of local vendors, some returning, and others were new. We drew an excellent crowd of visitors from Weslemkoon and nearby lakes and towns!

The 2023 market is on Sunday, August 6th, at Weslemkoon Marina. Please stay tuned for further updates! You can find these updates on the @LWCA Instagram and Facebook page as well as the Weslemkoon Community Facebook group.

Thank you to all who completed the makers market survey in 2022. We are considering all feedback as we plan this year's market. Our goal is to create an inclusive event for all Weslemkoon community members. If you are interested in being a vendor or have any ideas or suggestions for this year, please email [info@weslemkoon.com](mailto:info@weslemkoon.com)

Surrounded by natural beauty, our cottages are the perfect place to relax, play and reconnect. But right now, there is a critical gap in the level of diagnostic care provided in our cottage community and that puts you and your loved ones at risk.

A fast and accurate diagnosis can make the difference between life and death. A CT scanner is desperately needed by our Bancroft emergency room physicians so that they can quickly and accurately determine

what is wrong, taking the guesswork out of planning the best possible care. Those who live full-time at the lake may find themselves in need of ongoing testing should they have an unfortunate illness such as cancer, where regular monitoring is crucial to their treatment.

You may be surprised to learn that last year alone, there were over 900 ER and 1,000 physician referrals for CT's to Belleville General Hospital.

### An Example:

A patient arrived at the North Hastings Hospital ER by ambulance, complaining of severe abdominal pain. With no relief from medications, the Bancroft physician contacted general surgery at Belleville General, but was told that the patient needed to have a CT of the abdomen, before they would accept the patient. The Bancroft physician negotiated a CT scan with a radiologist in Belleville and the patient was transferred by ambulance with an RN escort. The Belleville General surgeon reviewed the CT results but could not manage the patient's

crisis. The patient needed advanced care that was not available at Belleville General. The RN who was still with the patient in Belleville and trying to manage the patient's pain, continued to assist as the very sick patient was transported by ambulance to Kingston.

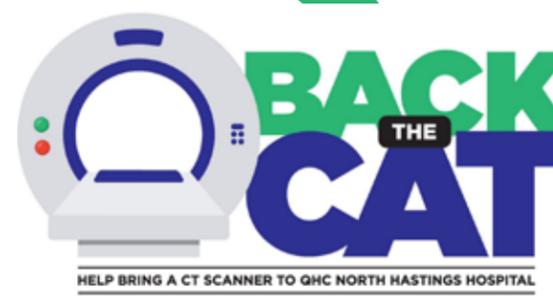
In Bancroft, your emergency room physician must decide where to transfer your care, choosing from a list of different locations with different capabilities. A CT Scanner in Bancroft will help your physician at QHC North Hastings Hospital make the right choice, getting you the right care, in the right location, when every second counts.

The North Hastings Fund Development team is committed to raising \$2.5 million for the purchase of this equipment and the necessary renovations to accommodate it. For better emergency care, for better continuing care and to support the teams who deliver your care, it's time to Back the Cat.

**How to give: Call 613-332-2825**

**Ways to give: Cash, Cheque or E-transfer**

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## LWCA Director Reports

Throughout the 2023 Loon Call you will find interesting articles, stories and pictures submitted by your LWCA directors about topics they are passionate about and their respective areas. Below are a few brief highlights from each of the different director reports, you can find the full reports on the LWCA website [www.weslemkoon.com](http://www.weslemkoon.com):

**Communications:** Started the new quarterly email newsletter (September, December, March, June). Watch your Inboxes!

**Water Quality:** Coliform levels increased significantly this year, most likely due to storms and climate temperature impacts. There are no immediate concerns or health risks.

**Courtesy Markers & Custodial Visits:** Replaced the Waddell floating beacon

with a fixed beacon. Welcome Mike Watson as the new custodian.

**Legal & Municipal Affairs:** LWCA volunteer group liaising with Township on Addington Highlands Regional Official Plan. New cottage numbering and naming, slowly being implemented.

**Lake Levels:** Remain consistent with previous years levels.

**Forestry:** May 2022 severe storms affected areas around the lake; goal is to salvage downed trees to support good forest management.

**Trails:** 5 thunderboxes created and installed. Thank you to everyone who supported!

**Community Relations:** Planned events for 2023 include the Maker's Market, teen

meet up, Docktails, AGM, and a virtual meet up.

**Membership:** In 2022, there were 246 members and friends of the lake.

**Interested in volunteering or becoming a part of the LWCA board?**

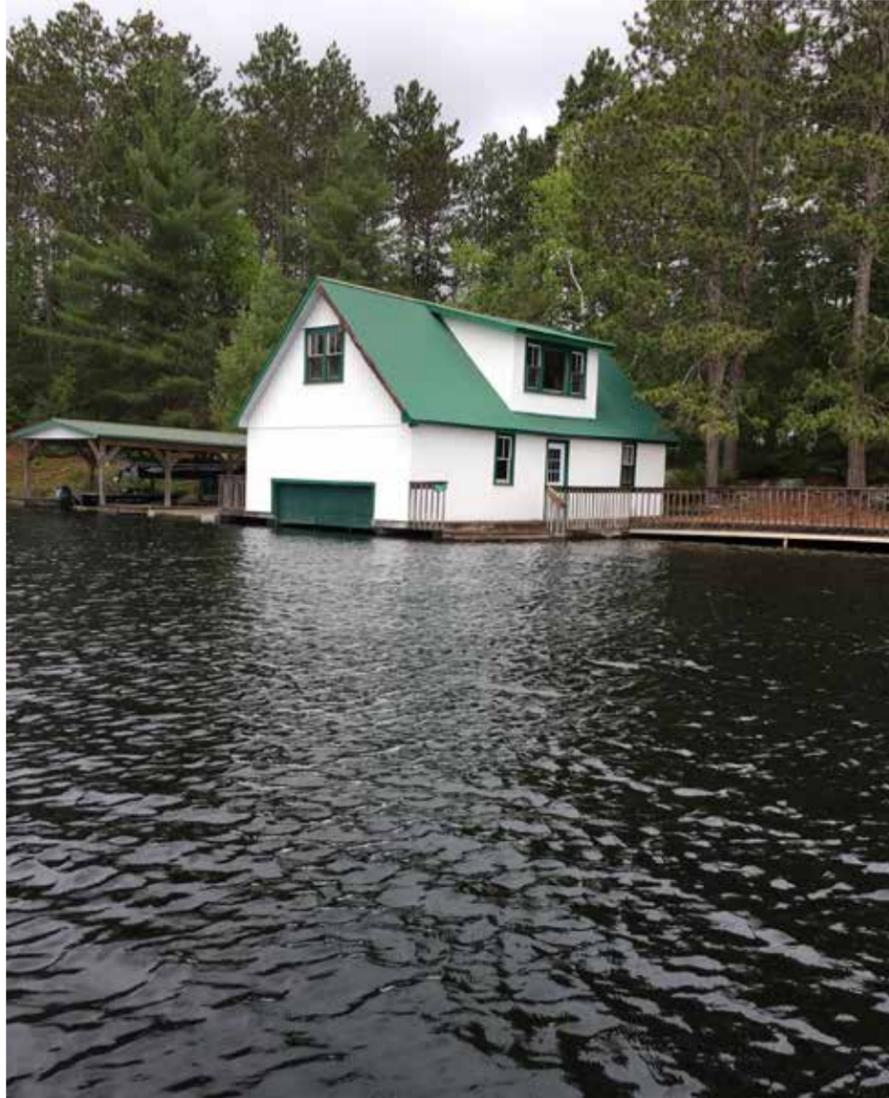
**Email [info@weslemkoon.com](mailto:info@weslemkoon.com)**

### FUN FACT

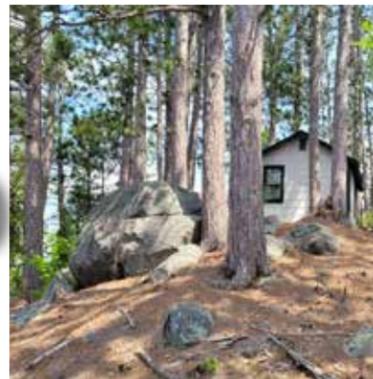
What is a Buck Moon?

During this moon time deer regrow their antlers, with the highest growth rate to occur at 7:39am July 3, 2023.

Information Contributed by Chris Raney, Cottage #755 and Reg Smith, Cottage #748



# High Rock Island



The original structure that was built in 1948 and finished in the summer of 1949, was the two-story boathouse including the docks, boat slips, and kitchen on the ground floor, with an upstairs dorm area. The boathouse was built by local craftsmen from around the lake, including the home-spun genius Ray Grant (a mechanic), Norman Sleeper (a carpenter), and Percy MacCrae (carpenter). Reg, who was about 11 at the time, would carry toolboxes and help out where he could. The piers of the boathouse and the logs under the boathouse came all the way from British Columbia specially ordered by Bates, and were delivered, and installed. The still-standing boathouse (they don't build things like they used to!) at the time had no electricity, but ran on kerosene lamps and stoves, with an actual icebox during the first year. Reg would go over to Ray Scott's icehouse (now Walker's) every week to pick up the ice to keep everything cool. Percy MacCrae would sometimes also bring slabs of ice every week that was cut through the winter. Because of the rock on the back of the island, the island became known as High Rock Island. Though sometimes now on maps and around the lake it may be called Raney's island, it has been and will always be High Rock Island.

Life at the lake in the 50's and 60's looked a lot different than it does today. Days were spent swimming and fishing, with the Raney's kids (Chris and Steve), Reg Smith, Rob and Dave Louden, and anyone else who happened to be visiting the island. Right after breakfast, the kids would be jumping into the water and swimming off the navy surplus swimming raft, later replaced by an actual swimming dock. When they weren't swimming, they could be found fishing, trying to find the "secret spots" for the best fish. There were not many cottages that could be seen from High Rock island (on Bear island, West Bay, and beyond) except for Scott's, McMurray's, Broad's, Massey's, and Watson's. If a boat went by during the day, it was a big deal. Most people who had boats on the lake would have 5 and 10 horsepower motors, with a few "huge"

25 horsepower, like Percy McCrae's. About once a week, Reg would take Chris and Rob down to the landing to fill up the gas and kerosene cans for the island. With a 10 horsepower green wooden punt, it would take what felt like half a day to get there and back. At the landing, they would park the boat at Percy McCrae's, and walk to the hotel, past the post office, and past Bill Smith's, to buy penny candy, chocolate bars, and spanish peanuts.

In early 1960, things were getting a bit cramped in the boathouse and so the "Honeymoon Cabin" was built on the back end of the island where guests could come and stay. From 1962-1964, Bates Raney built the main cottage with help from lots of local craftsmen around the lake, including names such as Beaudoin, Adams, and Hess. In 1964, High Rock Island was one of the first on the lake to get electricity. The "power plant" building was built behind the cottage that held two giant generators that would take over a gallon of gas every hour (sometimes up to four gallons) until at least 1am. Bates wired the cottage and boathouse for electricity and replaced all the kerosene lamps and stoves with the "new" electric versions. The hum of the generators was so loud it became a constant background noise while at the cottage until hydro came to the island. Even though hydro came to the lake in 1964, it didn't make it to West Bay and the High Rock Island until 1974, while

the rest of the lake was completed in 1986. Once the cottage was built, Bates retired and the Raney's got to spend the whole summer at the lake rather than the usual three weeks.

Bates Raney was an active member of the LWCA and was president for a few years in the 1960's. One year the AGM was even held at High Rock Island! Every year, Bates would host a BBQ steak dinner for friends on the lake. While the kids spent most of their time parking the boats (all four of them) for guests including Harv and Liza Gunter, Bates could be found at the small green BBQ cooking two steaks at a time for anyone who came. The adults were enjoying the steak and the trimmings on the deck, and the younger crowd got to spend time upstairs in the boathouse with a big bowl of popcorn. Every year, the Raney's would join the annual picnic wherever it was held (the dam, the battlegrounds/ beach, Little Weslemkoon), and Marjorie would take her famous Chili. Bates retired in 1965 and unfortunately passed away in 1968. Chris and Katie Raney have carried on the legacy of High Rock Island during most summers with their children Jennifer and Matthew, continuing the tradition of making the trek from New York for three weeks every summer. Reg and Mary Smith still make the lake their home for the majority of the year and live outside of Madoc, in Eldorado.



The Ellis family used to operate the Madoc dairy in the 1930's. There were four sisters, Bernice who married Doug Smith from Madoc, and Audrey who married Harold Louden from Peterborough. The other two sisters, Marjorie and Madeline, moved to New York City before the start of World War 2. Marjorie met and married Colonel Bates Raney in New York City. When the Dairy closed, the Ellis' moved to Peterborough, though Bernice and Doug stayed in the family home in Madoc.

Following WW2, Marjorie and Bates would visit the Canadian relatives in and around Madoc. On one of the visits, Doug Smith (who often came to the lake to fish with

Reg), brought Bates to Lake Weslemkoon to go fishing and camped on what is now known as High Rock Island. Bates loved the lake and the island so much that the next morning when he woke up he turned to Doug and said "I'm going to buy this island." And he did.

Over the course of 1947-48, Bates purchased High Rock Island (about 2 acres) for the total cost of \$80.00 (CAD) or \$40 an acre, as part of a land grant from the government. Part of the purchase was that a survey needed to be conducted for \$150, and a structure needed to be built within 18 months on the property. At the time, most people on or around the lake seemed to be people who grew up in the area.



## Four Loons Marina

- ▶ Indoor Boat Slips Available
- ▶ Trailer Site Rentals
- ▶ Cottage Rentals
- ▶ Garbage Disposal

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# Stargazing

By Veronica Harper

Stargazing is so interesting and easy, you just have to look up! Here are a few tips that help prepare and make the most of night sky watching during your time at the lake:

- Try to find a location on the lake hours beforehand where there are open views all around, or at least clear views in the direction of things you're hoping

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to observe. For example, the bright core of the Milky Way is generally seen toward the southeastern sky, so make sure nothing will be blocking your view.

- Check the calendar and the phases of the moon. The less moon the better.
- Use stargazing apps: There are many stargazing apps for your smartphone or tablet that will help you instantly locate stars, planets, constellations. Some do have subscriptions but there are free ones too. <https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/>
- Learn the constellations, planets and satellites. The easiest to view are The Big Dipper (Ursa Major), Orion and Cassiopeia for starters.
- Another beauty in the night sky are meteors. The Perseid meteor shower happens every August, and is my favorite time of the year to stargaze and we always see tons of "shooting stars" on these nights. Check on stargazing websites or apps for when exactly those will happen.
- You're likely to also spot many man-made satellites moving across the sky. Look for a slower moving light that looks like a star but moves in a straight line. This is a great time to play I Spy with the kids!
- And while mentioning that, get your kids and young family involved. Before stepping out into the night there are some great educational lessons or shows for kids to watch and plenty of pictures to even print and color to get them involved and excited.
- Come prepared with a comfy chair and dress for the weather. We always bring reclining chairs, bug spray, and a flashlight. If you have a telescope or binoculars, these can also be helpful, but aren't required.

These stargazing tips will hopefully help you have a fun-filled evening!

# 2022 JUNIOR LOONS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

By Sarah Baird Hebdon



My name is Sarah Baird Hebdon and last summer I helped the LWCA run the Junior Loons programs while helping to promote the LWCA's mission and goals for maintaining Weslemkoon Lake's environment and conservation. I also helped to clean all the campsites on the lake and make sure they are well maintained throughout the summer. For me the LWCA is special as I grew up coming to the lake my entire life, having grown up at my family cottage that is best known as the Baird Camp. I grew up with a family that always promoted and valued nature and learned to connect with the environment all around us. From learning to catch toads, identify mushrooms, go for long hikes to explore all the small lakes, fish, and more I feel very connected to the lake. I grew up with family always around, and many of them have sought out careers in nature and have dedicated their life to educating others. I was one of the youngest in my big family and connecting together amongst nature and the place we all call home that is Lake Weslemkoon

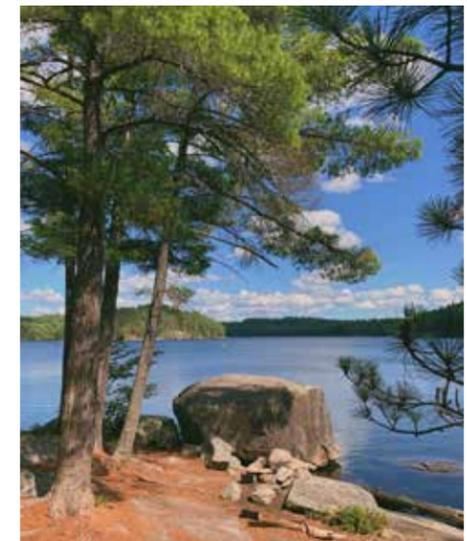
made me want to work for the LWCA and give back to the community here.

Having this experience growing up I believe it's so important to teach the next generation how important it is to respect and connect with nature and not take it for granted especially in a world where technology is all consuming and the urban lifestyle is ever expanding. We are so lucky to be able to have access to Lake Weslemkoon and connect with the environment it provides us with.

When I saw the opportunity to contribute to the LWCA and be able to help bring the community back together after COVID 19 pandemic, and to take an active role in helping to preserve our lake and the environment even in a small role, I jumped at the chance to apply. I was so happy to get the job and helped brainstorm and come up with activities for the Junior Loons that incorporated nature such as crafts like painting birdhouses and rocks, hiking to Mink Lake, designing a map of Lake Weslemkoon for the kids to draw and creating a scavenger hunt which was a big hit! I also saw the opportunity to have some high school kids on the lake to gain valuable volunteering experience and learn what it takes to run programs and maintain the lake. I was fortunate enough to connect more with my community through this opportunity and meet many amazing people. Every Saturday the volunteers and I sat at the Weslemkoon Lake marina and was able to interact with many passersby



and meet people who contribute so much to the lake and the cottagers. I also promoted how important it is to protect our lake through the washing of our boats to avoid transfer of invasive species to our lake from other lakes. Through all the activities and events, I had an amazing summer with the LWCA and got to spend more time at my favourite place in the world.





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Photo credit by Neel Engineer

# 2022 Treasurer's Report

Your board continues to be very active in spite of the challenges of the past few years. 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 bank GICs as follows:

- \$25,000 earning 4.65% compounded annually and maturing October 2025
- \$20,000 earning 5.1% compounded annually and maturing November 2024

Interest is lower this year because we forfeited 1 years' worth of interest at .65% to move to the higher rates. 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 \$425 (\$745 in 2021) and allocated interest of \$109 (\$154 in 2021). Expenditures from this fund were for water quality testing in the amount of \$1,305 (\$1,305 in 2021) and was approved at the 2018 annual general meeting as required.

The remaining unrestricted surplus of \$40,520 is available for the general purposes of the association.

Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association  
Statement of Financial Position  
as at December 31, 2022  
(unaudited)

ASSETS	2022	2021
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	12,776	36,418
Bank G.I.C.s	45,370	20,995
Inventory	486	513
	<u>58,632</u>	<u>57,926</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Water testing equipment-net	-	190
	<u><b>58,632</b></u>	<u><b>58,116</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; RESTRICTED FUNDS &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	216	175
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Catherine Rathbun Environmental Fund	17,896	18,666
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	40,520	39,275
	<u><b>58,632</b></u>	<u><b>58,116</b></u>

Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association  
Statement of Revenues & Expenditures  
for the year ended December 31, 2022  
(unaudited)

	2022	2021
<b>Revenues</b>		
Annual Fees	13,470	13,380
Loon Call Revenues	2,125	2,760
Federal Student Wage Subsidy	1,805	-
Interest income	243	310
Miscellaneous sales	40	510
Total Revenues	<u>17,683</u>	<u>16,960</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Meeting expenses	2,708	166
Bank & Pay Pal service charges	232	325
Bad debt expense	75	-
Cost of Misc. sales	27	172
Custodial Visits	2,078	3,384
FOCA	1,143	985
Insurance	1,899	1,703
Loon Call	2,649	2,760
New Shoal Markers	717	1,344
Shoal Marker Maintenance	2,200	2,050
Summer Student wages	1,910	-
Lake Activities-Social	352	380
Web Site expense	258	192
Environmental protection initiatives	-	1,070
Contribution to AED fundraiser	-	500
Amortization of water testing equipment	190	190
Total Expenditures	<u>16,438</u>	<u>15,221</u>
<b>Excess of Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<u><b>1,245</b></u>	<u><b>1,739</b></u>

Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association  
Statement of Changes in Net Assets  
for the year ended December 31, 2022  
(unaudited)

	Catherine Rathbun Memorial Environmental Fund	Unrestricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
Balance, Beginning of year	18,666	39,275	57,941	56,608
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over expenditures	(1,195)	1,245	50	588
Contributions	425		425	745
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<u><b>17,896</b></u>	<u><b>40,520</b></u>	<u><b>58,416</b></u>	<u><b>57,941</b></u>



Photo Courtesy of Angela Schnurr



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# 2023

## Calendar of Events

Photo Courtesy of Ana Adriano

JULY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Buck Moon
9	10	11	12	13 Dock Tales	14	15
16 National Ice Cream Day	17 1st New Moon Summer Solstice	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
AUGUST						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Makers Market	7	8	9	10	11	12 Annual General Meeting AGM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 World Mosquito Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Blue Moon (2nd Full Moon within 1 month)	31		
SEPTEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Treasure Hunt Tanglewood Marina
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## EDITORIAL & DESIGN

**Co-Editors:** Anne Coulter and Alison Myles  
**Graphic Design:** Pat Bothwell

Thank you to all who have submitted articles and pictures to our newsletters. Without you the newsletter would not be possible. Please help us, and submit your stories, short or long. All is appreciated. Take time over the summer and reflect what is important to you. We would love to hear from you.

Please submit all entries to: [info@weslemkoon.com](mailto:info@weslemkoon.com)

### 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!

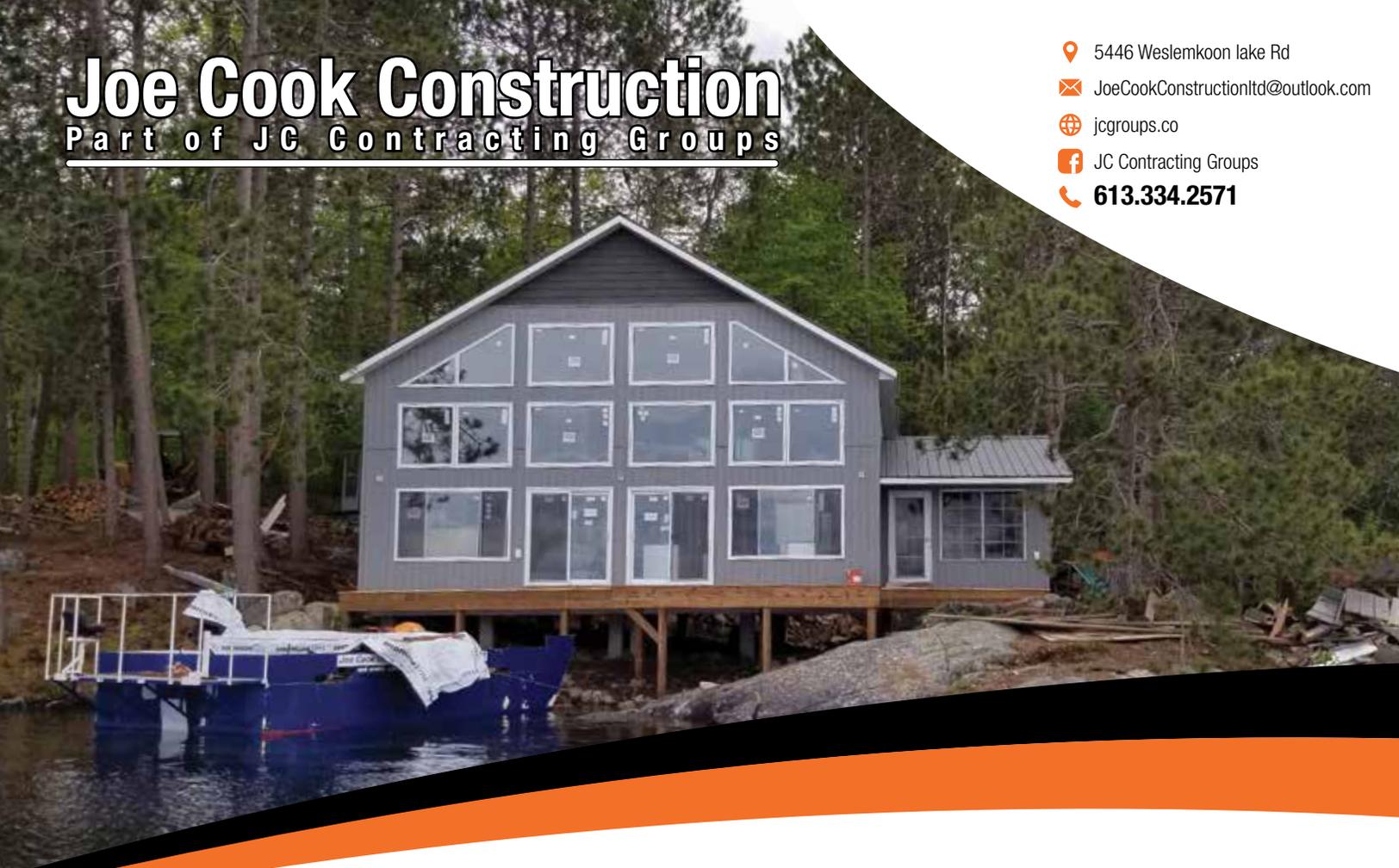
Remember that your membership fees fund our lake marker program, trail maintenance, running our water testing program, Junior Loons, coordination with the MNRF regarding lake levels, work with the Township to represent members, input into the Forestry Management Plan, as well as many special projects 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! Please address all questions to [info@weslemkoon.com](mailto:info@weslemkoon.com)

# Joe Cook Construction

Part of JC Contracting Groups

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## 🌐 New Construction

New Cottages  
Cottage Lifting  
Boathouses  
Renovations  
Spray Foam  
Barging Services



## 🌐 Docks

Steel Docks on Piles  
Cribs  
Floating Docks



**Building your visions. Creating your dream.**