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# An Annual Newsletter

Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Associates & Supporters

# President's Message - 2024

Janice Mackenzie



As we eagerly anticipate another season at the lake, our gaze is fixed on the summer ahead, filled with hopes for ideal weather—a harmonious blend of refreshing rain and abundant sunshine.

Yet, the inevitable reality surfaces that certain elements beyond our control can impact our lakeside enjoyment. Reflecting on last July, the intrusion of smoke from Ontario and Quebec's forest fires affected the lake's air quality, leading to necessary fire bans due to the heightened pressure on firefighters.

*Fun fact, I wrote that first paragraph by putting 5 of my bullet notes into ChatGPT. So cool! But as nice as it sounds, it's not my voice. I'll continue with my own prose...*

Who knows what challenges and concerns we will have in the 2024 cottage season? How will we respond?

I've been thinking about Steven Covey's "circle of concern" concept. This is a model in which he explores how human beings can focus their energy and attention. He wrote about this idea in his book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" way back in 1989. I think that it's interesting to consider cottaging challenges through this model.

The idea is that all of our concerns go into a circle of concern. These can be any concerns we might have. Next, a circle of influence nestles inside that circle. This is a narrowing of the first circle into the concerns that we think we can do something about, either directly or indirectly. The third circle is the circle of control, an even smaller circle that represents things we can do something about directly.

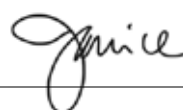
At the lake, one of our concerns that we have no control over is the weather. We are upset by the weather and talk about the weather, but ultimately we cannot exert any direct control over what is happening in the skies. If we are proactive in our circle of influence, however, we can consider how we can prepare ourselves for bad weather,

gathering supplies that we might need. These don't negate the storms but they can influence how we experience them. Finally, in the circle of control is our attitude about the weather, which we can choose. Covey says that if we focus on things outside of our influence, we risk raising our stress levels and often end up falling into accusations and blame. He indicates that proactive people focus on their own "circle of influence" rather than on the things that they can do nothing about.

Here's what I'm getting at: The LWCA focuses on the things that we can influence at Lake Weslemkoon. For example, we can influence decision making / policy related to Forestry, water levels & municipal issues. We also make an effort to influence cottager behaviours by providing information and resources on various topics in various ways. We are focused on how our influence can protect the lake and the environment for the enjoyment of all the wildlife, cottagers, owners and visitors. What we are NOT is an organization that polices people's activities on and around the lake. Do we notify the MNR if a cottager reports suspicious logging activity? Yes. We can use our influence to encourage action from them. Do we track down and talk to boaters about their wake or speeding? No. But we can post signage.

As LWCA members we can influence our neighbours. Sometimes by example, sometimes by sharing tidbits of information. But we can also have courageous conversations with them. Have you ever had one? Perhaps someone is dredging around their dock and you are concerned about the effects on wildlife. Perhaps there's been a very late night party that kept you awake till 2am. One courageous conversation might just change the behaviour. How to do that? On Instagram I follow @danharris who says to state your positive intention when you are about to have a difficult conversation - tell the person why you want to have the conversations first (e.g., "I'm about to say something tricky, but the reason why I'm doing this is because I really care about x, and that's why I'm doing it.") Diffuses the focus from them to you.

There's no doubt that there are going to be many challenges and concerns at Weslemkoon in the future. As you consider them, also consider your influence.

Cheers! 

## 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 Veronica Harper



Photo Courtesy of Alison Myles

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# West Bay Weslemkoon Winter

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BY ALISON BROWN



Our family went to the cottage just after New Years for some winter fun. Winter can be a very enjoyable time of year at Weslemkoon, but as we know, it comes with its challenges. Our cottage is towards the end of West Bay and like most, is water access, but on mainland. There are a few options to get there in the winter. The easiest, if ice conditions permit is to drive the truck, from the south end, right to the boat house or take a snowmobile that same way. A few trail options exist from the south end to either hike in or snowmobile in through the forest, but those can be tough. This year we came down from the north end, by taking Mississippi Rd, past Green Lake, then onto the trail that brings you to the tip of West Bay. We had a local test the ice for us, so we knew we had enough good black ice for a small snowmobile to take us over the short distance to our place.





A big bonus, is that we had our friend start the fires, so the cottage was warm when we got there.

The first two days, the ice was almost like glass with very little snow on it. This was heaven for the kids. My son skated and played hockey on the ice for at least 6 hours a day. We had no net, so we had to get creative. There is a high flat rock just out from our place, that he could shoot pucks at. It snowed a bit, so we shoveled off a rink at my place and we had another shoveled off and flooded at our friends place at the end of the bay. He had a makeshift snow fence net set up, that worked great. My daughter and I went for a nice skate around Rockwell Island, while George continued working on his hockey skills.

If we needed to get back and forth between our place and our friends, we skated or walked over the ice.

That weekend we watched A LOT OF HOCKEY. If we were not playing hockey or skating, we were watching the World Junior

tournament, or the Leafs. We even had an old VHS on of Don Cherry's Rock'em Sock'em Hockey. In all, it was a very "Canadian" experience and we can't wait for our next. We love Weslemkoon in the winter!

The Galambos Family



# Four Loons Marina

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Alison Myles

**The Loon Call**

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Mike Swartz

Jason Preston

Susie Mitchell

# Keep it Natural

Patty Milne



*Photo courtesy of Scott Adams*

Weslemkoon is a very rare and special body of water designated as a highly sensitive Lake Trout lake. It is an oligotrophic lake (low levels of nutrients, high dissolved oxygen levels, and typically deep areas with very cold water) capable of supporting a Lake Trout population. The Lake Trout is the only major, indigenous sport fish species in Ontario that is adapted to oligotrophic lakes. Its slow growth, late maturity, low reproductive potential and slow replacement rate make it susceptible to a variety of stresses. Because the Lake Trout is a sensitive species that is adapted to a narrow range of environmental conditions, it is an excellent indicator of the health of our lake's fragile aquatic ecosystem.

Lake Trout lakes are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of human activities, including exploitation, enrichment from cottage septic systems, acidification, species introductions, and habitat destruction. The MNR controls, monitors and adjusts the water levels to suit the trout spawning cycle. The lake level is lowered annually in the late summer/early fall so as not to disturb the spawning beds (underwater gravel shoals near shorelines). Once the trout eggs are laid in these shoals, no adjustments should be made to the water levels. Needless to say, these areas near the shoreline are critical to the survival of the lake trout. You should never change the natural shore or damage any of these shoals.

Most properties on the lake are zoned RLS (rural limited service) with a few properties at the north and south ends as RU (rural residential). For all properties on the lake the Addington Highlands zoning by-law section 4.7 requires that:

ii) All buildings and structures, including septic tank disposal systems and tile fields, and non-naturally occurring landscaped open space shall be setback 300 metres from high water mark of Ashby, Ashden (Ashby White), Barnard, Buckshot, Crystal, Effingham, Fox, Grimsthorpe, Joeperry, Long Mallory, Rainy, Weslemkoon, and Simpson lakes.

Furthermore, the Addington Highlands Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy states:

Vegetated areas adjacent to watercourses, lakes, rivers and wetlands serve an important function including: protecting the riparian and littoral zones and associated habitat; preventing erosion; siltation and nutrient migration; maintaining shoreline character and appearance; and minimizing the visual impact of development among others.

Shoreline vegetation shall be maintained in a predominantly natural state with tree cover and ground vegetation retained as development occurs in order to continue to serve these functions. Shoreline buffers should be composed of natural vegetation (not grass) with a broad corridor of undisturbed vegetation and shall have minimal trail access.

### **Moderately and Highly Sensitive Lake Trout Lakes:**

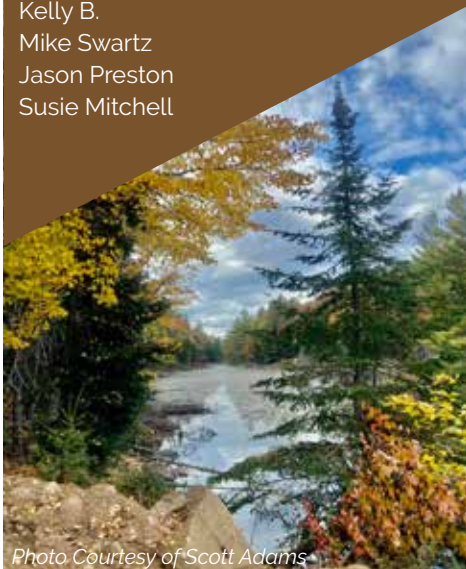
Natural vegetation buffers should be at least 30 metres in depth measured from the high-water mark. Maximum clearing for access should be no more than 9 metres.

### **Best Practices**

A key component in protecting the lake

### **Pat Bothwell - Design Lead, Loon Call 2024**

*We wish to acknowledge the incredible graphic talent and efforts of Pat Bothwell. While looking out toward Weslemkoon, living at the lake full time, Pat has shared her talents in designing and sharing another beautiful keepsake newsletter for us all to treasure. Thank you Pat.*



*Photo Courtesy of Scott Adams*



## *Aides Island Shoreline*

Sherry Graham artist at: [fineartbysherrygraham.ca](http://fineartbysherrygraham.ca)

and water quality is to keep your shoreline healthy. The best shoreline is the natural shoreline. Naturalized, vegetated shorelines with native trees and shrubs reduce surface run-off that could contain soil/sediment, fertilizers, pesticides (although no one is using these near our lake, right?), septic leachate, animal waste. Pollutants result in algal blooms, weed growth, loss of fish and wildlife habitat and potential water contamination.

The natural shore absorbs nutrients, traps sediment and encourages filtration.

### **Shoreline DOs and DON'Ts**

Don't – use any chemical based fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides on your property. The nutrient phosphorus harms clear, free water by creating algal blooms. This process, known as eutrophication, turns the water green, clouds the water, causes odour problems, and depletes the oxygen

for fish and other species, effectively suffocating them.

Do – maintain a natural shoreline. Naturally vegetated land with native grasses, shrubs and tree roots anchor the soil and prevent the shoreline from being washed away. These plants act like sponges, removing impurities found in rainwater runoff, such as soil, pet wastes, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, fuels, leaves, litter and septic output.

Don't cut down trees near shore in the riparian zone (setback from watercourses with natural landscape). This zone is protected under the zoning by-laws and provides a vital function in filtering run-off before it enters the lake and protecting your property from erosion.

Do – create pathways and walkways using a "softscape" such as wood, absorbent pea gravel or woodchips and a meandering

or terraced path to delay the inevitable runoff.

Don't – replace natural plants with grass. Manicured lawns, with their shallow roots, encourage erosion and allow as much as 55% of the unfiltered runoff to reach our lake.

Don't – disturb the lake bottom. The area from the water's edge to where the sunlight no longer penetrates to the lake bottom acts as a home or food corridor to 90% of all the fish and aquatic wildlife species on the lake. By leaving logs, rocks and plant material in the water, good algae, spawning fish, ducks, loons, turtles and crayfish can live, hide and feed upon the billions of microorganisms that this "debris" provides.

Get more tips here: <https://foca.on.ca/shoreline-owners-guide-to-healthy-waterfronts/>

# Northern Lights Aurora Borealis

By Veronica Harper

Seeing the Northern Lights, Aurora Borealis, with your own eyes is a bucket-list item for astronomy lovers and travelers alike. Fortunately, for people in the northern hemisphere they occur frequently, you just have to be at the right place at the right time to see these swirling rivers of greenish-blue light. They move and dance unpredictably and they can last for several hours, filling the sky with glowing and dancing curtains of green, pink, yellow and orange lights. Green is the most common aurora color and red is the rarest. They can last for several hours, filling the sky, or show up just briefly and last for a few minutes.



What are the Northern Lights? In simple terms, the auroras can be explained as an interaction of the solar wind, particles and the Earth's magnetic field.

To explain in more detail, when solar particles ejected by the sun move through the Earth's upper atmosphere, they crash into atoms and molecules of gasses such as oxygen and nitrogen. These collisions cause the atoms and molecules to give off light. This light is an aurora. An aurora's colors are determined by the different gasses that give off the light.

It was the great Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei who coined the name "aurora borealis" in 1619 after the Roman goddess

of dawn, Aurora, and the Greek god of the north wind, Boreas. The earliest suspected record of the northern lights is in a 30,000-year-old cave painting in France. Since that time, civilizations around the world have marveled at the celestial phenomenon, ascribing all sorts of origin myths to the dancing lights. One North American Inuit legend suggests that the northern lights are spirits playing ball with a walrus head, while the Vikings thought the phenomenon was light reflecting off the armor of the Valkyrie, the supernatural maidens who brought warriors into the afterlife.

As we are here on the lake, the best time of year to see the northern lights is between

September and April, when the sky gets dark enough to see the aurora and the most action usually happens between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. Don't forget there are few smartphone apps you can download to keep you updated; my personal favorite is AuroraAlerts. They are designed to alert you if there's a change in conditions that make viewing the lights possible using NASA data.

To photograph auroras, here are a few things I personally would recommend

- Always use a tripod.
- You'll want to use a camera with a wide angle lens and the ability to take long-



exposure photos (I use a Nikon Z6 and a wide 20mm f/1.8 lens)

the shutter speed to avoid blurring the image.

they were taken we couldn't see the northern lights with the naked eye, just a slight glow on the horizon. It was the faint pillar of lights that shot straight up from the north, looking almost like a town a few miles away, that caught my attention. I couldn't believe what I saw when I looked at my photos. Despite the faint glow we saw, the pictures showed a beautiful, vibrant aurora that gave us a beautiful show!

- Adjust your aperture, ISO settings and shutter speed to capture dark, long-exposure shots (I start with aperture set at f/2.0, the ISO1200 and I use 10-15 seconds shutter speed).
- If the aurora is very active with lots of movement, you may need to shorten

- Set focus to infinity (the farthest point).

Again, this is what I start at, every setting will change because of your surroundings, the brightness of the aurora, and the lens and camera make.

As for the photos I'm sharing, on the night

# Share Your Cottage Chronicles

Calling all cottage owners! We are embarking on a fascinating journey through time, and we need your help to weave the rich tapestry of history that lies within your beloved cottages. Cottages built in 1950s or before will be 75 years old next year. Share memories that make your cottage a treasure trove of history. From architectural tales to family traditions, each cottage has a narrative waiting to be uncovered. Join us in preserving these snapshots of the past by submitting the history of your cottage.

Together, let's unveil the hidden tales behind these cherished havens.

Submit your cottage history and be a part of this captivating chronicle!

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

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# Mothers | Daughters



Like mother, like daughter. Neither my nine-year-old daughter nor I love hiking. Other than an annual trip to Mink Lake, I cannot say we do much of it. But we both have a competitive nature, so last summer's Goosechase challenge had us not only hiking but also volunteering to help with trail clearing. We were not confident enough to try chain sawing our way into High Dam Lake, so Elaine Hardy, Trail Director, generously assigned us the much less intimidating task of clearing some of the remaining brush along the Canoe Lake trail.

The week before, my daughter and I escaped a rainy day on the lake and went into Peterborough to see the new Barbie movie. We stopped by Home Hardware to pick up a can of spray paint for trail marking. We were surprised and excited to find a can of spray paint called "Barbie Pink." The owner told us he'd had the colour for a long time, but that it was flying off the shelf this summer because of the movie. We bought a can and headed back to the lake.

The next afternoon, with our pontoon boat tied to a tree at the start of the trail, my daughter and I set out to do our job. It was a wet and buggy afternoon, and my daughter's enthusiasm for scoring points on the Goosechase app quickly got overshadowed by the reality of pruning pine branches and getting bit by mosquitoes. But the trail marking was a hit (so much so that I had to remind my

daughter that not every tree needed a Barbie Pink dot on it). When folks hike the trail and see the dots, I hope it will make them smile to know that the dots were made in the summer of 2023 - summer of the Barbie movie - by an amateur "crew" enjoying a mother-daughter week at the cottage.

Mother-daughter weeks are a beloved ritual at our cottage, going back to my teen years when my mom and I started coming up just the two of us. We were more stay-in-the-cottage type girls - cross-stitching, quilting, sewing projects, paint by numbers, watching the hummingbirds, baking and puzzling were our favourites.

My mom got the idea to start "podging" the puzzles we completed each summer and hanging them on the cottage walls. (Is "podge" used as a verb by other families, or just ours?) I thought this aesthetic made us look a bit loony, but now, 30 years later,

I am the one buying more Mod Podge at the Stedmans in Bancroft to keep the tradition going. Wall space is growing scarce.

It has been 10 years now since my mom's last trip to the cottage. Rather than lament her cancer diagnosis, she focussed on spending as much time as she could on the lake. We went on boat rides and picked blueberries for muffins. We were still piecing together a quilt then made out of all of my grandmother's sewing scraps. It includes fabric from clothes my grandmother made for my mom and her sisters when they were in high school. My aunt and I finally finished that quilt on a cottage closing weekend years later.

My mom was an early bird. I like to sit out on our deck early in the morning like she did and watch the mist burning off the lake. The mist is like a visual acknowledgment of what it feels like to miss her. The mist and my memories linger as the sun warms the surface of the lake, but not for too long. I have to get back into the cottage to give morning cuddles and make pancakes. I am the mother now. There is a new generation of memories to be written down in the cottage journal. I bought the journal for my mom one year for Christmas and I continue to write in it each mother-daughter week.

In memory of Nancy Danch  
March 30, 1951-September 20, 2013



# As Busy As A Beaver

By Alison Myles

The phrase 'busy as a beaver' echoed through my mind as we stumbled upon this gnawed collective of trees near the Little Wes trail this past summer. Wow, they certainly are incredibly industrial creatures. Through my continued research I have learned there is a variety of reasons beavers will gnaw and fall huge trees, including efficiencies in travel, food, teeth sharpening etc. I like to think of this woodland space as perhaps where beaver 'whittle and chat' sessions take place. Imagine what gossip they are sharing about all of us! My respect for these smaller yet mighty beavers continues to grow (and furthers the argument as to why they may remain proudly the Cdn national animal rep!).

Here is a great reference link <https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2015/AugSept/Animals/Beavers>

Please share what you learn as you study beavers. A reminder to please explore best environmental options for beaver proofing your trees, allowing trees to grow and flourish, not to have chicken wire grow into the trees or chemicals spoiling our waterways.



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# Grandkids at the Lake



Special times with the grandkids @ the cottage.

Spring break starts it off.

Poppy plows a huge hill, which the kids shape into a toboggan run. Followed by igloo building.

If time permits & weather co-operates, some skating.

All you need is water fun during the summer.

First time, driving the boat. 4x4, tractor.

Dress-up events days, always provide very inventive costumes.

The cottage holds special memories, that last forever.

Darnel Nicholls

## In Loving Memory



**Mitch William Watson**

April 3, 2002 - March 21, 2023

In the brief time Mitch graced our lives, he embodied the essence of living. His joy was found outdoors, navigating the winter landscapes on his snowmobile and basking in the summer sun at the cottage, where boat rides and jet skis were his chosen dances with the waves. His infectious humor and one-liners echoing through the moments he cherished.

He possessed the rare gift of connecting with everyone, effortlessly weaving conversations that left a lasting impression. Hours were devoted to planning his dream truck, a testament to his passion for the tangible dreams that fueled his spirit.

Around bonfires with his buddies, under the starlit sky, Mitch found solace, laughter, and the perfect soundtrack to his vibrant existence. Smart and funny, he was a beacon of warmth and intelligence in our lives.

Taken too early, Mitch remains a beacon of what it means to live life to the fullest. In his short time, he was the maestro of moments, leaving behind a legacy of laughter, dreams, and the enduring warmth of his spirit.

Missed deeply by his parents, sister friends, and girlfriend, Mitch was not just a brother and a son; he was the spark that lit up their world. In the comedy of life, he played the lead role, and even though the curtains fell too soon, the laughter lingers on.

Mitch, you weren't just one of us; you were the best of us – the maestro of mirth, the captain of camaraderie, and the navigator of never-ending adventures. Until we meet again, keep the skies laughing up there. Your loss is immeasurable.

# Reflections from some Cockeyed Loons

By Stuart Inglis

## 100 Years of Flapdoodleism

**On July 25th, 1924 the Sublime and Mysterious Order of Cockeyed Loons was created, as the membership certificate says, "for social upliftment". Over the last hundred years just over 200 Weslemkooners have attained the "prescribed degree of Optical Obliquity" and have been duly initiated with "Looniferous Rites and Scenic Investiture". For many, the arm flapping, loon-call trilling ritual of initiating new members is the highlight of our AGMs.**

The Order has had an on and off again history but has been going on strong since 1971, when Don Mackenzie took over the helm as Grand Loon. He was followed by Catherine Rathbun, and Stuart Inglis is currently holding the honoured position. For an excellent history of the Cockeyed Loons see Jon Keeble's long version of it in the Lake Book and a shorter version in the 2021 Loon Call.

Above the fun and silliness lies the importance of recognizing the good people on the Lake that go above and beyond in helping keep our Lake and environs clean and pristine now and for future generations. Whether the service is rendered by being on the Lake Board of Directors, volunteering for social activities such as the Junior Loons or donating their professional time, the Cockeyed Loons is our way of showing our appreciation for the good work being done. Without such people our Lake would not be as great as it is now. Let's not take them for granted and keep the tradition of the Sublime and





Mysterious Order of the Cockeyed Loons going for another 100 years.

*Don was the second Grand Loon after Howard Bevis. He wanted the continuation of an old tradition. Don believed that ritual is important; it touches a deeper part of people."*

Joyce Mackenzie

*"Over my lifetime I have earned a couple of university diplomas and a few professional membership certificates. By far the one document that I am proudest of, however, is my Mysterious Order of Cockeyed Loons certificate. It was not granted by an institution like the others, but rather it was bestowed by my fellow Weslemkooners in*

*recognition of volunteer service towards the betterment of the lake. It is the only one still framed and displayed. This alone should be sufficient to inform anyone who cares to know what the honour of being a Cockeyed Loon means to me."*

Mike Benson

*"What this most means to me is the recognition given to the value of the environmental conservation done by LWCA. In this regard, probably the single most important thing we strive to do is to preserve our water quality. I am proud of the awareness raising and specific initiatives developed during my tenure as the Water Quality director, such as Get Pumped and having Lake Wes considered a sensitive lake trout lake for planning and resource*

*management purposes. The issues are even more critical now for the ongoing work of LWCA. It is important for us all to appreciate that the lake is not just a place for us to use as we wish for recreation and water sports, but to respect that for generations of the indigenous Algonquin peoples it was a sacred place and it is now our responsibility to preserve it for future generations."*

Barrie Evans

*"Spawned in the aftermath of the sad times of World War I, the Order of the Cockeyed Loons sought to bring a little giddiness back to the Lake society. Through the Great Depression and World War II and through the economic boom of the last half of the 20th century, induction into the Order of the Cockeyed Loons provided a humorous conclusion to the Annual Meetings. Now that times are turning in a more serious way, I feel it is very important to continue the tradition of this silliness. Who has not laughed or at least smiled at the Induction Ceremony. May the tradition continue."*

Dan Derumaux

*"The Order of the Cockeyed Loons shows that FUN is a big part of the lake. It represents that we are not always serious, still young at heart and not afraid to be silly. It is FUN."*

Glen Hogg

*"As a long time cottager on beautiful Lake Weslemkoon, I was delighted to become a member of the Order of Cockeyed Loons, but do wish that more cottagers could be so honoured, as their commitment to our lake has made it the vibrant place it is today. In reality, we are all Cockeyed Loons."*

Bob Bourne





# "ATVing Around the Lake: Because Who Needs Paved Roads Anyway?"

By Tracy Bothwell-Perkins

Photo Collection Courtesy of Dave LeBlanc & Pat Bothwell

Buckle up for a tale of laughter, dust clouds, and a dash of chaos as we embarked on a ATV-ing adventure around our beloved lake. The day began innocently enough, with our trusty ATVs revving in anticipation of the wild ride ahead. Little did we know that nature had some surprises in store.

The trails, once pristine paths of perfection, bore the scars of a recent derecho's wrath. Twisted branches played hide-and-seek with our convoy, and uprooted trees stood like misplaced sentinels, as if to test the resilience of our four-wheeled companions. It was an obstacle course straight out of an action movie, and our ATVs, usually dignified steeds of the off-road, found themselves tiptoeing through

a storm-induced labyrinth of chaos.

As if dodging nature's obstacle course wasn't amusing enough, our convoy soon found itself engulfed in a dusty conspiracy. Swirling clouds of dirt transformed the once-clear air into a dusty wonderland, turning our trail into a gritty adventure. Goggles became our prized possessions, shielding us from the relentless onslaught of mud, dirt and dust. Eating dust became an unintended delicacy, a taste of the great outdoors that seasoned our escapade with a touch of unexpected spice.

But what's an adventure without a bit of mudslinging fun? The bogs, usually innocent puddles, transformed into our





mischievous playmates. Some of our ATVs, perhaps feeling a bit too adventurous, found themselves stuck in mud puddles, turning the trails into a slapstick comedy of off-road misadventures. Laughter echoed through the woods as we lent helping hands to our temporarily immobilized comrades, turning the mud escapade into a bonding moment amidst nature's mirth.

Meet Cooper, the canine off-road enthusiast who decided that ATVs weren't just for humans. Tail at full throttle, Cooper hopped onto the ATV, claiming his seat as if it were a custom-designed doggy throne. Attempts to coax him off the machine were met with a resolute stare that said, "This is my ride now, folks." It turned into a comedy

of canine determination as Cooper, with ears flapping in the wind, proved to be the ultimate ATV aficionado, making it clear that when it comes to off-roading, no one does it quite like man's best friend. The trails had a new four-legged daredevil, and Cooper's joyride became the stuff of neighborhood legends, leaving us all in stitches as we tried to convince him that, despite his enthusiasm, he was still a bit too short to reach the handlebars. As we navigated the labyrinth of hilarity, the trail opened up to reveal breathtaking scenery. The lake sparkled like a hidden gem, framed by the lush greenery of the woods. The woodsy aroma filled the air, creating a sensory masterpiece that elevated our adventure to a level of pure

enchantment. It was a reminder that even in the midst of chaos, nature's beauty could still steal the spotlight and leave us in awe.

In the end, our ATV adventure around the lake turned into a riotous comedy of errors, with dust as our confetti, wildlife as our audience, and the trails as our stage. The damage from the derecho became a mere subplot in our laugh-out-loud narrative, as we learned to dance with the chaos and embrace the unexpected with grins on our faces. With every twist and turn, our ATVs became chariots of hilarity, and the sound of laughter echoed through the woods, turning our great adventure into a story we'd tell with a smile for years to come.

# Book Recos from Lake Wes Readers

How lucky we are when often we can escape within a book while at the lake. In sharing a few current reading notes with "booky folk" during the AGM, here are a few recos passed along.

**Elizabeth Hay – Snow Road Station /**  
Penguin Random House Canada

**Untethered Soul – Michael A. Singer /**  
New Harbinger Publications

**Cobalt: Cradle of the Demon Metals, Birth of a Mining Superpower –** Charlie Angus / House of Anansi Press

**The Knot Tying Bible: Climbing, Camping, Sailing, Fishing, Everyday –** Colin Jarman / Firefly Books

Every reader enjoys something different. Recommendations vary widely based upon personal tastes. If you find a favourite please share.



## NEW S'mores - in a cone!

A new way to enjoy our favourite bon fire treat!

Stuff an ice cream cone with your choice of marshmallows, graham cracker and chocolate pieces. Wrap cones in foil and hold over the fire heat as you would your regular s'more, allowing time for the contents to melt into a gooey treat. Yummy! Be creative!

Do you have a unique s'more recipe? Please share!

## Volunteer with the LWCA

Reach out to [info@weslemkoon.com](mailto:info@weslemkoon.com) to get involved!

# CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



## Neil Joseph Hogg

August 5, 1956 - September 6, 2023

Today, we gather not to mourn the loss of our dear friend but to celebrate the life of a man who took neighbourly deeds to a whole new level. When I moved to the lake full time, I quickly discovered that behind every successful lake life, there was a man with a ready smile, and the uncanny ability to rescue you from all sorts of calamities.

Neil was the kind of guy who became everybody's lakeside saviour and

snowmobiling superhero. Or at least he was mine.

When it came to snowmobiling, he wasn't just a guide; he was a one-man search and rescue team. I've been stuck in more ditches, beaver ponds, and once, I swear, a snowdrift that was plotting against me. Neil was always there with a grin, a winch, a load of friends and a story to tell afterward.

They say knowledge is power, and this man had the power of a thousand small engines. Need your lawnmower fixed? He had a trick. Boat motor acting up? He'd have it purring like a contented kitten in no time. I now own more trickle chargers than I know what to do with—all thanks to his unwavering dedication to keeping everyone's engines running smoothly.

He was a great dad and grandfather. His family meant the world to him, and his warmth extended to everyone he met. If you had a problem, he had a solution. If you needed a laugh, he had a joke. If you were stuck in a beaver pond, well, he'd probably have a chuckle before pulling you out.

So here's to a man who lived life with gusto, helped us all find joy in the little things, and taught us that a good sense of humor and a willingness to lend a hand can make even the coldest winter days feel warm. We'll miss you, our lakeside hero, but your legacy of laughter and helpfulness will echo through the pines for generations to come. Cheers to a life well-lived!

Pat Bothwell

# Loons on Weslemkoon

by *Patty Milne*

Thank you once again to all the volunteers who helped out with our informal loon survey. The early ice melt with stable water levels were favourable to our loons and it looks like a great year for chicks! There were 10-12 adults, not including Otter Lake, I assume 2 adults in there. The lake had 5-6 baby loons, maybe the early thaw allowed the eggs to hatch before the lake got too busy. This is the first year since we have been on the lake that we have seen a pair of babies in West Bay, the adults seem to have relocated their nest which may have helped.

It was amazing to be on the lake the day the ice left (I hiked into our cottage) and to find a loon already there. Apparently, loons follow the ice melt north from the southeastern states, hopping from open lake to open lake.

Please remember that loons build their nests very close to the shore edge, help keep our loon eggs safe by remembering to not boat or jet ski close to shore from late May until early July and watch your speed as wakes can easily swamp these low-lying nests.

Please do not disturb nesting loons, if a loon leaves its nest, depart the area immediately as the loon will return once it feels safe.

There are a number of collective nouns for a group of loons: asylum, cry, loomery, raft, and water dance. Although generally a pair has its own territory (typically every bay on our lake seems to have a pair), they will gather in the middle of the lake for loon "socials" in the early morning. I once witnessed what seemed to be the entire loon population gathered off 5 Islands early one morning.



# BEST IN SHOW

We are proud to feature Lynne's winning decollage of photos, having won Best In Show in Bancroft's Juried Art Show in December. Thank you Lynne, for continuing to share your beautiful lake inspired artwork with all of us.

"Photos were taken on our kayak trips in and around Aide Creek and the bay at Hartsmere Road and Wolf Marsh. It includes paintings I did of the painted turtles, lake trout, water lilies, the blue heron and photos of the five lined skink on her eggs, gracing our lake with its

rare sighting. The shorelines in and around the many bays provide endless painting possibilities for me to document in many different mediums including oil, watercolour, photo encaustic and clay."

Lynne Vegter, Cottage 111



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*Jen Danch June Winner*

## Photo Contest Highlights



*Amie Aungsuma July Winner*

Last summer we had another series of photo challenges that ran from June to August.

Jen Danch was the winner of June's contest "dock talk" with a photo of her very muddy dog Honey. Jen snapped the photo on her iPhone before tossing Honey in the lake to rinse off. Jen has been cottaging on the lake since the mid 1980's. Long before the invention of smart phones, her dad was a professional photographer for Angel Photographic Studios. We think that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree!

Michaela Lott (16), is one of the 5th generation of Lotts. She has been cottaging on Squally Bay since birth, in a cottage built by her grandparents. Michaela enjoys frequent trips to the family cottage year round where she gathers with friends and family. At home Michaela is an academic student, belongs to advanced 4H beef club (working with heifers and bulls and attending shows in both Canada and the US). Michaela works full time at a local kennel during summer vacation and part



*Michaela Lott July Winner*

# Summer 2023

time during the school year. Michaela has a special gift with animals and baffles her family with this gift.

Amie Aungsu said of her winning photo for July's theme "here comes the sun". She says, "I woke up early in the morning, hoping we might see some Moose in the shallow waters around Otter Lake. Although the Moose remained hidden, we were entertained by a family of Beavers. As we headed home for breakfast, the sun started to appear. We were treated with a very special lake sunrise that took my breath away".

Robert McGrath used his drone to take the winning photo for August's contest "hikes & views". The photo overlooks Regina Bay, which is where his cottage is. He has been cottaging on Weslemkoon for 25 years, starting at the Henderson cottage on Aides Island prior to purchasing in Regina Bay in 2018. He comes from Edmonton every summer to enjoy the best lake in Canada. He enjoys using the drone to capture images of the lake.



*Robert McGrath August Winner*



# Goosechase Challenge Summer 2023

By Melissa Tervit

The 2023 Weslemkoon Summer Challenge Goosechase saw 10 teams compete to complete challenges such as "Clear a Trail", "Complete your Lake Protection Workbook", "Get Crafty"

and "Make a New Friend". It was a tight race between Mackie the Dog, Captain Wesley MeKoon, McGrathVentures and Mack Crew but it was Danch's Den who secured the title of Summer Champs by completing 20 challenges to win a team

set of "Goosechase Champs" t-shirts and bragging rights. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and to Weslemkoon Marina for donating the t-shirt prizes. Here is a pic of Danch's Den with their "Favourite Food Truck" entry.



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# The Story of the Loon and the Eagle

By Barry Evans

After a few years without any loon babies evident in our part of the lake, we were delighted in July to see that the pair that inhabits the Northwest Passage and Mackie Bay had produced an offspring. This was especially pleasing as we are aware that the loon population in general is declining and that it is a reason to celebrate when our lake produces young ones. We looked forward to following its infancy until the time when we have to leave the cottage, which will be followed sometime in the fall by its migration with all the other loons. Over the weeks, we became quite protective of this family, warning away boats if they appeared to be approaching too fast or too close.

On the afternoon of the August long weekend we were startled by the terrifying sound of intense, persistent and totally heart-rending distress calls from the two loons. We then saw the reason in our bay.



*Loon and Baby in NW Passage, Last Week of August 2023 photo courtesy of Barry Evans*

A bald eagle was circling low over the birds, diving and splashing as the predator attempted to snatch the young loon. The two adults were flapping their wings and attempting to fend off the attack; but it seemed that their efforts would be in vain.

Without too much forethought, in a state of high anxiety, I rushed to our boathouse, started up the Lund and hastened towards the site of the confrontation. Thankfully, the eagle started to circle higher and then took off across Big Island.

I am aware of the ethical dilemma of intervening as I did. Should I have let nature take its course? Did I interfere with a loon's natural ability to protect its young? It is wonderful that there is a resurgence

of the bald eagle population on the lake. The eagle has to eat; although I certainly didn't want it to have the baby for its lunch on my watch. I emailed a couple of friends who are knowledgeable ornithologists to solicit their opinion. They opined that they might have done the same thing. They also said that they had heard one report of a loon piercing the heart of an eagle with its sharp beak.


As of today, the young one is showing some white breast feathers and is able to dive for itself, although we do see it still being fed fish by a parent. We hope that it will safely make its fall journey to Chesapeake Bay and will be coming back to Lake Weslemkoon next year.



*Lynne Vegter*  
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The August 6, 2023 Maker's Market at Weslemkoon Marina was more than just a showcase of local craftsmanship; it was a celebration that forged connections within our community. The event brought together a diverse range of artisans and local businesses, each contributing their unique creations and fostering a sense of community spirit. Beyond celebrating the beauty of handmade goods and highlighting the range of talent and interests in our community, the event underscored the importance of supporting local makers and businesses, reinforcing the sense of unity among neighbours, and the joy of making new friends.

# MAKERS MARKET

By Melissa Tervit

2023







**Communications Directors**  
Melissa Tervit &  
Janice Mackenzie



**Forestry Director**  
JP Murray



**Indigenous Liaison**  
Alida Stevenson



**Trails Director**  
Elaine Hardy

# A Few Who's Who Of Our LWCA BOARD

## Communications

Janice and Melissa share the communications portfolio. They aim to: keep members informed about LWCA related events that are happening at the lake, engage the Lake Weslemkoon community by asking for feedback and sharing alternate perspectives, and provide interesting and educational material about environmental and cottage related topics through the use of the email, quarterly newsletters, Instagram, Facebook and the LWCA website.

If you have a suggestion, comment or question about content being communicated, you can reach the communications team at [info@weslemkoon.ca](mailto:info@weslemkoon.ca)

## Municipal Affairs

*Paul Bottos*

The Municipal Affairs and Legal portfolio director is involved in assisting the LWCA Board regarding matters that involve the municipality of Addington Highlands and the County of Lennox and Addington. This typically includes interacting with these municipalities and providing comments on various municipal

matters that are of interest to the LWCA and includes such things as: new by-laws, official plan amendments, zoning by-law changes, development applications and regularly receiving notices from the municipality of Addington Highlands and reviewing such notices. In addition, the director also assists the LWCA Board relating to matters of legal interest and concern and provides some guidance regarding such matters.

## Forestry

The mandate of the Forestry Director is to work with forestry organizations around Lake Weslemkoon and Otter Lake to proactively initiate solutions and communications to maintain and improve the water quality of the lakes and shoreline land values by improving the forest ecology and riparian zone around the lake.

- Liaises with and is informed by the Forestry companies and Ministry of Natural Resources – Forestry (MNR) about forestry activities that affect Lake Weslemkoon, and actively participates in negating those activities that will harm Lake Weslem-

koon (e.g., water quality, sustainability and biodiversity of the lake/riparian zone), and affect landowner property value around the lake (e.g., view-scapes from harvest activity).

- Proactively seeks advice and solutions to improve the health of the forest and the riparian zone around Lake Weslemkoon, and as a result, positively impacts the lake's water quality and ecology.
- Communicates forest health and riparian zone improvement solutions to the lake community (e.g., articles in the Loon Call, presentations at AGM, one on one with the lake community).
- Supports/initiates the implementation of forest health and riparian zone solutions to improve the natural environment/ecology around the lake (e.g., tree seedling planting initiatives, forest and environmental management practices via educational hikes and discussion with members).

## Indigenous Liaison

The Indigenous Liaison works

to: help improve knowledge and understanding and build meaningful and respectful relationships between the LWCA, lake residents and members of Indigenous communities with connections to the lake encourage information exchange at meetings and planned activities with lake community but importantly, also with the Algonquins of Ontario and the Algonquin communities involved in the land claim settlement agreement being negotiated with the Crown that will welcome the Algonquin back to Lake Weslemkoon.

## Trails

- Conducts and coordinates trail maintenance by volunteers.
- Coordinates construction and installation of thunderboxes at priority sites on and around the lake.
- Provides information about trail status and promotes good practices regarding trail use (e.g., packing out all garbage, not putting garbage in thunderboxes) to members through LWCA communications.



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# 2023 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 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 \$410 (\$425 in 2022) and allocated interest of \$633 (\$109 in 2022). Expenditures from this fund were for water quality testing in the amount of \$2,178 (\$1,305 in 2022) and was approved at the 2018 annual general meeting as required.

The remaining unrestricted surplus of \$41,368 is available for the general purposes of the association.

## Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2023 (unaudited)

ASSETS	2023	2022
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	15,580	12,776
Bank G.I.C.s	47,552	45,370
Inventory	486	486
	<u>63,618</u>	<u>58,632</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Water testing equipment-net	-	-
	<u><b>63,618</b></u>	<u><b>58,632</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; RESTRICTED FUNDS &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	5,489	216
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Catherine Rathbun Environmental Fund	16,761	17,896
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	41,368	40,520
	<u><b>63,618</b></u>	<u><b>58,632</b></u>

## Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2023 (unaudited)

	2023	2022
<b>Revenues</b>		
Annual Fees	12,558	13,470
Loon Call Revenues	2,460	2,125
Federal Student Wage Subsidy	-	1,805
Interest income	1,550	243
Miscellaneous sales	350	40
Total Revenues	<u>16,918</u>	<u>17,683</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Meeting expenses	2,588	2,708
Bank & Pay Pal service charges	174	232
Bad debt expense	-	75
Cost of Misc. sales	242	27
Custodial Visits	4,667	2,078
FOCA	1,158	1,143
Insurance	1,949	1,899
Loon Call	2,566	2,649
New Shoal Markers	-	717
Shoal Marker Maintenance	1,259	2,200
Summer Student wages	-	1,910
Lake Activities-Social	703	352
Member communication	764	258
Amortization of water testing equipment	-	190
Total Expenditures	<u>16,070</u>	<u>16,438</u>
<b>Excess of Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<u><b>848</b></u>	<u><b>1,245</b></u>

## Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended December 31, 2023 (unaudited)

	Catherine Rathbun Memorial Environmental		Total	Total
	Fund	Unrestricted	2023	2022
<b>Balance, Beginning of year</b>	<b>17,896</b>	<b>40,520</b>	<b>58,416</b>	57,941
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over expenditures	<b>(1,545)</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>(697)</b>	50
Contributions	<b>410</b>		<b>410</b>	425
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<u><b>16,761</b></u>	<u><b>41,368</b></u>	<u><b>58,129</b></u>	<u><b>58,416</b></u>

# Reg Corey



## Lake Weslemkoon Local Talent Highlight

Lake Weslemkoon is host to many local creators and artists, who we like to highlight here within our seasonal newsletter. Reg Corey is a name you will find popping up on Facebook or hear of through local events. Reg Corey is a seasoned solo musician.. guitarist/vocalist having performed at many venues from Algonquin Park to Prince Edward County and from Toronto to Gananoque. He has performed live on Trent Radio.

“Over the past few years I have been hired to perform at some special events. Two in particular .. an Anniversary and an 80th Birthday Celebration just prior to the pandemic. Both were very memorable .. plenty to eat, folks were very appreciative. They really knew how to put on a party. From the birthday party I was able to secure another gig in Toronto. ....a great thing for a musician.”

Reg can be reached at 613-848-0226, on Facebook @ Reg Marj Corey or by email... [regcorey@sympatico.ca](mailto:regcorey@sympatico.ca)



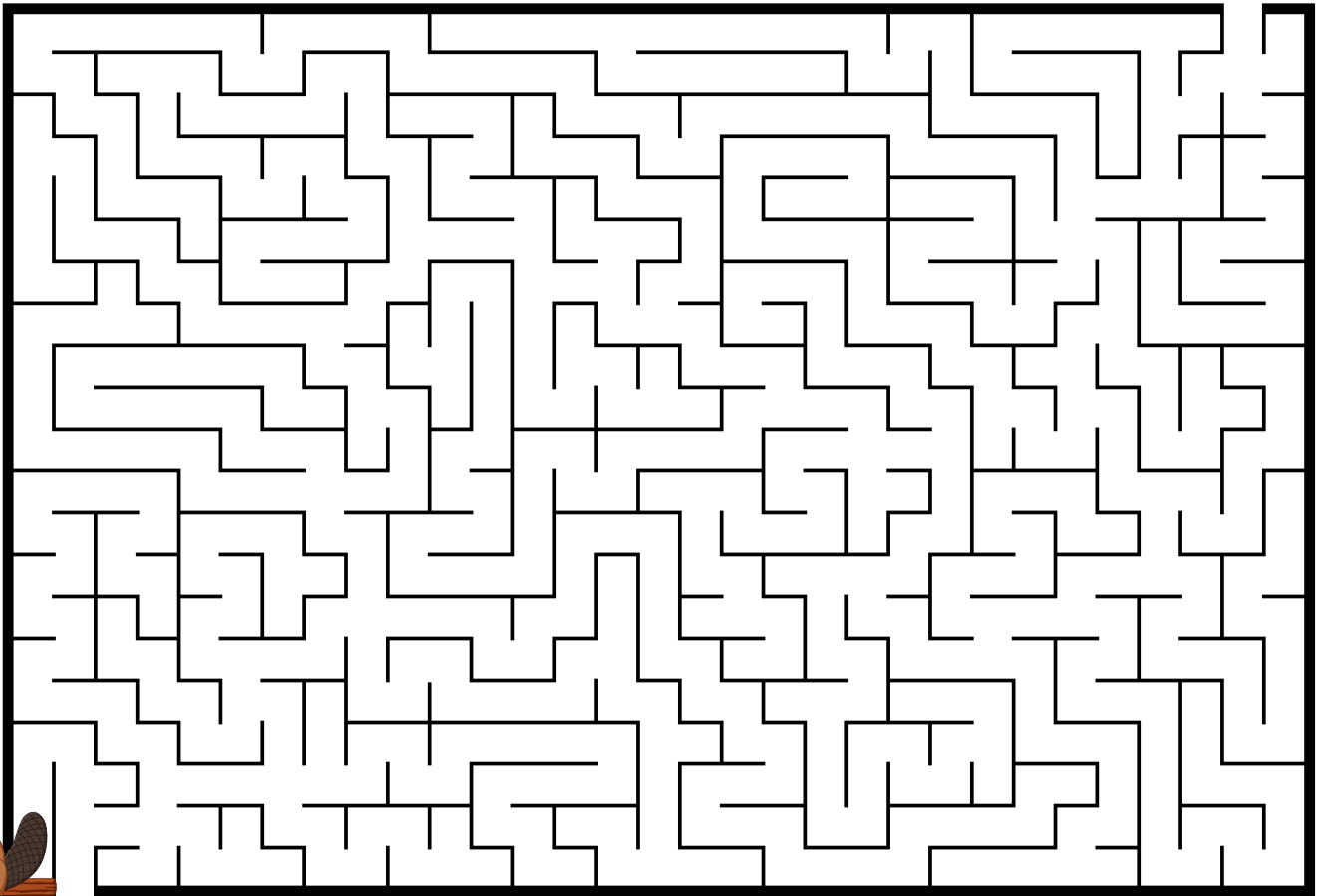
## In Memory Of



**Carol Dale Inglis (née O'Flynn)**  
October 23, 1934 - February 9, 2024

**W**hen Carol came to Lake Weslemkoon in the late fifties, she was young and with a young husband and children. The sixties were spent picnicking, blueberry picking, lots of bass fishing and of course, hosting great Lake parties with lots of great food. In the early seventies, the family moved to Saskatoon and that meant an epic 3-day road trip to the Lake every summer. It became part of the joy of the Lake experience. She was initiated into the Cockeyed Loons in 1976 to 1990 for her kindness and skill as a nurse for helping people injured on the Lake: removing fishhooks, cuts, campfire burns and the like. Along with her surgeon husband, Fred, they saved Ms. Andrews from bleeding out after being sliced up in the head by a prop. And into the eighties, nineties, the two thousands, teens, and until this year 2024 Carol loved being at Lake Weslemkoon. In all, she spent time on the Lake every single summer over 60 years. She will be remembered as a great friend and fun neighbour. She will be dearly missed by all that knew her.

# Maze Runner



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## Going For Gold! Annual Treasure Hunt

The annual 2023 Weslemkoon Olympic Treasure Hunt was welcomed back in full swing at Tanglewood Marina! A favourite day of the year for Lake Weslemkoon families, this year's hunt was hosted by the incredibly creative and enthusiastic McGrath family! In true "Olympics" theme and spirit, contestants were challenged with adapted 'cottage' athletic disciplines, including; cup pong high jump, toothpick letter pole vault and water noodle javelin! Medals were awarded for a variety of skills including potato sack racing, noodle hurdles and trivia. The community post-hunt potluck is always a highlight in catching-up with lake friends! The Myles/Mackenzie/Norris Olympians Team took gold, and look forward to hosting the 2024 Treasure Hunt. Watch for notice and be sure to sign-up with your family and friends.

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

### Interesting Fun Facts

Did you know that one small piece of lead can kill an adult loon? Take some time this summer to go through your tackle box and swap out your old lead tackle and lead shot for lead-free options to help protect our loons and eagles from lead poisoning. Lead tackle can be dropped off at Weslemkoon Marina where it will be sent for safe disposal.



## In Passing

Eli Palfreyman  
Lee Johnson  
Joanne Cope  
Bernadette Robinson  
Carol Dale Inglis

George Murray  
David Kim Fitzpatrick  
Mitch Watson  
Neil Hogg  
Hugh Westren



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# 2024 Calendar of Events

Photo Courtesy of Ana Adriano

JULY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 MOON LANDING 55th Anniversary	17	18	19	20
21 NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY	31			
AUGUST						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 LWCA AGM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 TREASURE HUNT
SEPTEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 NATIONAL READ A BOOK DAY	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## 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)

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