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Photo Courtesy of Veronica Harper



# An Annual Newsletter

Lake Weslemkoon  
Conservation Associates & Supporters

# 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

## President's Message - 2025

These days there is the temptation to look away from what's happening in the world and in our communities. The climate crisis, a seeming loss of empathy for those who are different or less fortunate, a polarization of opinions within our society - these have many of us very worried. What to do?

I suggest that at the lake, where we feel safe and calm, we can first focus on taking care of our own well-being. Our physical, mental and emotional health are in need of care. Time with family and friends can help us to reflect on what is important. We can focus on supporting our youngest members - those who truly face an uncertain future - and making good memories with them, for a solid foundation.

We can also continue to take care of our lake and our forests as the Algonquin did before us. As the years zip by and the planet continues to warm and change, this lake and surrounding land will become more and more of a haven for us. We simply must take care of it, and you can help. Being a part of the LWCA and LWCA discussions is a great start. Reading the newsletters and then sharing information with your family members about things such as invasive species, or reminding your neighbours to do small things like keeping soaps and cleaners out of the



lake - these have an impact. Getting involved in the lake community is another way to take care of our lake and forests. Consider joining a group on a Saturday morning to help clear a trail or using your skills to build a thunder box. There are many ways to help take care of our precious lake and gorgeous forests. Thank you for all that you do already.

Finally, I believe that we need to take care of each other, our lake community members. What can taking care look like? It could be as simple as slowing your boat right down when passing a canoe or helping someone dock their boat at the landing. Taking care can also be supporting our new cottagers as they learn about lake life. Or supporting elders who may need a hand with a dock or toting groceries up from the boat. I'd like to propose that we set up a community chat in our LWCA Facebook group so that members who need help with something can ask, and members (and Junior Loons) who can help, can speak up and volunteer their services. Watch for this community chat called #takingcare

This summer, let's take the time to regroup and refocus our energies. Let's all take care.

Janice Mackenzie

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### Contact Your LWCA:



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*Don Mackenzie (Grand Loon) and Mike McGrath*

I was adopted by a wonderful family in the sixties and partnered with an 18 horse Johnson motor. We had a lot of fun together although I certainly was not very beautiful - flat bot-tomed, flat chested and my make-up was Tremco Red rusty. The family took good care of me and lifted me out each fall and lovingly scratched my bottom.

An early memory involved the annual wood cutting week-end when I would be loaded with fire-wood to be taken to Black Duck Island. On one occasion I was loaded very full from Squally Bay and as we entered the open water of North Shore I began to imbibe with the waves and in danger of sinking had to be run at full speed on to the beach where I was bailed and unloaded. Whew!

On another very cold late November morning as I rested on the shore I heard great laughter from the cottage. One of the occupants was an extremely strong snorer and had been assigned to the unheated porch and when he wakened was told by the cook that breakfast would be another half hour. Good he replied and held up a mug with his teeth frozen in.

One day while fishing for lake trout (yes they were plentiful back then) the skipper was using copper line and it touched both terminals of the open battery for the 18hp. ZAP!

Gone was hook, line and sinker and I learned few new words.

Although I enjoyed being the transport for fun times with three children in the summer I was also conscripted for work and recall having had a cold weather experience at Caverly's Landing. The ice had to be broken to

put the motor on and then lumber piled on my bow to allow me to be an ice breaker as we noisily made our way to Squally Bay.

As I grew older I was passed on to another family and later found myself at a metal recycling center but in good company with the frame of a 57 Chev snuggled next to me. I have not yet reached the recycling/cremation stage but it will happen and we may meet again on Lake Wes. You may not recognize me because I may be a crowbar or an anchor by then but it has been a good life for a steel boat.

By Ian Sine

## Memories of a Steel Boat on Weslemkoon



*Photo Courtesy of Amie Augsuma*

Byron Johnson on Weslemkoon in 1974, submitted by his wife Jennifer and in-laws Maureen & Melvin Johnson, Cottage 647, West Bay. They still have one of these life jackets hanging in their 1968-built cottage.



Photo Courtesy of Eric Olinger



Photo Courtesy of Joyce Mackenzie • Liz Sine, Ian Mackenzie, Joyce M. Ian Sine 1982



Photo Courtesy of Eric Olinger



Photo Courtesy of Eric Olinger

## Life Jackets 'Fashions and Memories' Through the Years

We wear our life jackets for safety absolutely, AND we all share memories of jacket fashions of our past! Here are a few stories and photos as shared by members. (I sure remember my orange foam kid jacket with strings).

Alison Myles

I don't have any photos of old pfd's but I do have a story about how my brother, David Sutherland, learned to swim.

It was maybe 1960 or so and David was 4 or 5 years old. He wanted to "swim" with the rest of us in the "deep water" off the dock. He was outfitted with a life jacket and day after day happily paddled around with the rest of us older kids. One day, my uncle who was on the dock supervising, noticed that my brother was floundering a bit so he fished him out of the water. The life jacket was removed and my uncle threw it into the lake to test the flotation. It promptly sank to the bottom like a rock. It

was one of the old ones filled with kapok and it was totally waterlogged. My brother had been swimming with the equivalent of a ten-pound anchor strapped to his chest.

And that's how my brother learned that he actually could swim. To this day he refers to that old life jacket as his equivalent of Dumbo's feather.

Bob Sutherland  
(Cottage 765)

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Recently hatched Weslemkoon tiny trout

*It was early October 2024; I had just cleared the narrows from Otter Lake and was heading towards Tanglewood Marina. In the distance I could see several red objects floating in the water near the shoreline known as the battlegrounds. Then I remembered...this was the time of the lake trout egg harvest for the North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery and these were the buoys for the net. At Tanglewood was a group of people gathered around Beans Snider's barge; they were just completing this year's harvest.*

# The Fish Hatchery Story

The fish hatchery was founded in 2008 by Denis and Mary LeFeuvre with government funding assistance and local community support. Since then, the hatchery has raised between 3500 -6600 fish annually, comprised of both speckled and lake trout. Since the passing of its founders, the hatchery is now run by a team of local volunteers.

Each year, volunteers harvest lake trout eggs from three donor lakes in rotation, this year being Lake Weslemkoon. The



Larger tanks for the growing trout

harvest takes place when the lake trout have reached the spawning grounds in early October. Nets are placed in the morning each day and retrieved the following morning where the fish are placed in a large tank. They are sedated, relieved of about 30% of their eggs and sperm, revived, and then returned to the spawning ground. This continues until the hatchery has attained its annual quota of eggs set by the ministry. This year's quota was 8000 eggs; however, due to shifting weather, they were only able to harvest 6850 over a 17-day period.

From here, the eggs are taken to the hatchery where they are placed in incubation trays in large round tanks. After 1 - 2 months the fry emerge and begin swimming. By June the fish have reached fingerling size and are moved to larger tanks. By mid- October they are 6-8 inches. The fish continue to grow until they reach 8-10 inches and are ready for stocking the following spring after 16 months in the hatchery. During these months volunteers monitor and feed the fish, clean the tanks, check the equipment twice-daily, every day.

When I arrived at the hatchery on a cold January morning, I was struck by the activity inside. About a dozen volunteers were hunched over a variety of tanks attending to the needs of the young fish. Water for the hatchery is pumped from five deep wells and is continually recirculated through a state-of-the-art system. I got the opportunity to see this season's tiny Weslemkoon fry swimming in their tank. These will be stocked in the spring of 2026.

Six weeks prior to stocking, the fish are fin-clipped to assign an annual identifier to distinguish them from naturally reproduced fish. Fish are then transported

in large oxygenated tanks to the recipient lakes.

Behind all this activity is work done by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). They determine where to source the eggs, egg quotas, and where to stock the young fish, and in what numbers. In the case of our Weslemkoon trout, their eggs are harvested every 3 years and are primarily used for rehabilitation stocking. This means stocking in lakes that have adequate juvenile, adult, and spawning habitat, along with low competition from other species, but are severely depleted. These lakes are generally stocked for 5-7 years and then evaluated to determine overall fish population numbers and whether the stocked fish are reproducing.

It's interesting to note that the survival rate of eggs growing to stocking size from the hatchery is approximately 75%, whereas the comparable rate naturally is 1-2%.

The hatchery is a registered Not-For-Profit funded through government grants and local fundraising events. More detailed information about their operations is available on their website [www.fishhatchery.ca](http://www.fishhatchery.ca). Fundraising events information is available on Facebook and the website. They are happy to arrange individual or group tours of the facility, which can be done by contacting [info@fishhatchery.ca](mailto:info@fishhatchery.ca). And, of course, they are always looking for new volunteers or donors.

I think that we can all take some measure of pride in the way that our lake stewardship contributes to the success of our lake trout population, and allows the hatchery to provide such an environmentally positive service.

By Terry Beettam





photo credit Shauna Jean, Weslemkoon Photographer

## Tying the Knot, Lakeside

On July 13th, we celebrated the wedding of our daughter Kayla and her husband, Jake. We were blessed with a beautiful day at Weslemkoon Lake.

Jason Brimble and Sophie Parisien

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# Introducing Anderson Island

By David Cole

Anderson Island (Cottage #259) is a small island located north of Regina Bay. You may have passed this island when travelling from the 'main lake' to the Mink Lake trailhead or to the channel to Otter Lake.





The cottage is named after Gordon Anderson. His father, William Anderson, was the proprietor of the Anderson Carriage Factory located in Wooler, Ontario (a small village just north of Brighton). The Anderson Carriage Factory was erected around 1880 and consisting of two buildings: a blacksmith's shop where the wheels, bodies and springs were made and a finishing room. Eight men were employed six days per week. The factory produced wagons, carriages, sleighs, cutters and coffins.

William Anderson and Sons were so well known and respected that they were asked to become partners of R.S. McLaughlin of McLaughlin Motor Car Company which evolved into General Motors of Canada. The Andersons thought it was risky, so they declined. The automobile became popular, and the Anderson Carriage Factory closed in 1910.

Gordon Anderson, also identified as a carriage maker, purchased the island from the Crown (King George V) on 21 July 1926 for \$20. A survey accompanying the purchase deed dated 22 June 1925 shows the current cottage, and two outbuildings.

One of the outbuildings was used as an icehouse. Ice was harvested in the winter and stored until it was required in the summer. This building is still in use as a wood and tool storage building. The double wall construction (sawdust was placed between the walls as form of insulation) is still evident.

There is a small log cabin on the eastern end of the island affectionately known as 'old stoney'. Family lore is that whoever built the main cottage lived in this log cabin while the main cottage was under construction.

The cottage has a number of pieces of furniture that are likely original to the cottage (two tables, some chairs and a couch). These items show a high degree of craftsmanship in their construction consistent with having been produced by someone whose trade was carriage maker.

In 1927 the cottage was sold by the Anderson's and was purchased by the Gaugler's of Barberton, Ohio. In 1949 it was sold to the Burk's of New London, Ohio.

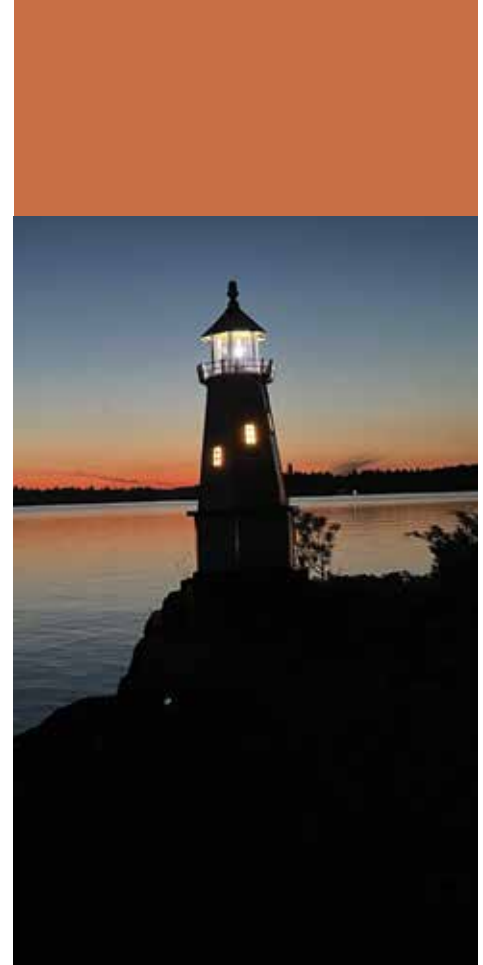
The island was purchased by Charles M ('Charlie') Derry of Madoc, Ontario on 21 May 1951. He purchased the cottage to serve as a hunting and fishing camp. Charlie owned a car dealership in Madoc ('Chas M Derry Pontiac Buick GMC'). While that dealership no longer exists, the building currently houses a car repair shop and a brew pub.

Charlie also sold Johnson boats and motors to quite a number of cottage owners on the lake.

The cottage remains under the ownership of Charlie's direct descendants. The fifth generation of that family now spends their summer vacations at the island. The current generation is learning to appreciate the history of the cottage through the numerous artefacts and collectibles that have been retained. It is not many people who learn to fish using their great-great grandfather's fishing pole to fish off the same rock where their ancestors also learned to fish.

Some time in about the 1980s a small lighthouse was built on the northwest corner of the island. That lighthouse reached the end of its life and was replaced by an identical lighthouse in 2025 (the original builder retained the plans that could be re-used). This lighthouse is visible (day and night) from a substantial portion of the lake.

This year we celebrate that the cottage is 100 years old. Should you be passing by, please give a wave to Anderson Island and its remarkable history.



# In Memory

## David Hardy

June 10, 1941 - November 14, 2024



The Hardy family's life at the lake began in 1967, when a newly married David (my Dad) and Margaret Hardy lined up at Tweed to purchase a cottage lot when some of the Crown land lots at the north end of the Lake were sold. You can read about his reflections in "Our Family Cottage" in the 2019 Loon Call (HINT: old Loon Calls are available on the LWCA website).

Dad and Mom, with help from family and friends, built the original cottage. Over the years, Dad improved the cottage and built (and re-built) docks and decks and outbuildings – he always had a project on the go. My brother was also a great builder and fixer of things and they spent many hours on projects together. My husband Paul joined the mix - he shared what he knew, and learned from them, and eventually grandkids started to learn and contribute.

Nothing brought my Dad more joy than having the family, and friends and dear cottage neighbours, gather at the cottage. Even last summer when he was unwell and he and Mom were unable to be at the lake, he encouraged us to go and enjoy, and loved to see pictures of us there.

Although Dad didn't serve on the LWCA, his love of the cottage and the lake, and his dedication to other organizations he volunteered his time to, inspired me to get involved. It's nice to find a small way to give back to the magical lake and lake community that has given so much to our family.

I can't imagine our family without Weslemkoon – and in turn, it will take some time to get used to the lake without Dad there waiting for us with a warm hello and a hug when we arrive. Now the responsibility, and the honour, of caring for the family cottage falls to us – my Mom, my husband Paul, me and our kids. We are thankful for all Dad taught us about life and about cottaging, at our cottage on the lake with the mysterious name "Weslemkoon".

## Michael Hardy

May 5, 1970 – April 17, 2024



My younger brother (by 13 months), Mike Hardy was born and bred a cottage kid. In childhood, as almost-twins, the two of us spent so many happy weekends and holidays at the cottage, swimming in and across the lake, canoeing up Aide's creek, blueberry picking with my grandmother and mom, hiking to Mink Lake and Buck Lake, playing pick up sticks and cards with our neighbours, catching frogs, learning to fish, dive, boat, cross country ski and waterski.

If anything, Mike's love of the cottage only grew as he got older. When he was a teenager, he lived at the cottage in the summer and worked at Tanglewood marina. He made life-long, dear friends at the lake, and when he married, he and his wife Tamara introduced many, many friends and Tamara's family to experience the magic of the lake. He spent countless hours exploring the surroundings of the lake on snowmobile and ATV with friends and family. He was a person who lived life to the fullest, and so many of his treasured moments were adventures and gatherings at our wonderful spot on Lake Weslemkoon.

Elaine Hardy





## Melissa Tervit

Past President and Co-Director  
Communications

I currently serve as Past President of the LWCA and co-manage the website and Facebook page with Janice. My involvement began as Jr. Loons Coordinator—a way to connect with other parents. I've stayed engaged because I care deeply about the lake, its ecosystem, and our community.

One of my goals is making sure everyone has access to accurate information about the lake and watershed so we can make informed decisions. I keep the website and Facebook page updated with science, Indigenous knowledge, and best practices.

Right now, I'm focused on how human-driven climate change—due to emissions from burning coal, oil, and gas—is affecting our lake. I'm exploring how we can take action to reduce emissions, adapt and protect what we love.

I'm also tracking the impact of invasive species. I will be sharing updates online so be sure to follow LWCA on Facebook and check our website regularly.

Interested in collaborating? Contact me at [info@weslemkoon.com](mailto:info@weslemkoon.com).



## Jared Bell

Director, Water Quality

My family has been a member of the Weslemkoon community for almost 60 years now, so I am incredibly excited to give back to the community by joining the LWCA as the Water Quality Director. In this role, I'm responsible for assessing the water quality in an effort to maintain the health of the broader aquatic ecosystem. This is crucial data to collect to ensure the long-term health of recreation activities such as fishing, as well as conservation mandates—especially as the Lake experiences climate change. The responsibilities of this role include:

Conducting multiple tests per year at over 18 sites around Weslemkoon and Otter Lake for a number of indicators of water quality, including temperature, dissolved oxygen and E Coli.

Arranging for professional lab analysis to validate and further explore findings.

Preparing annual reporting for the membership.



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*Photos and Exploration from Veronica Harper*

## Eagles of Weslemkoon



By Veronica Harper

## A few facts searched about Eagles:

### *Feather Balance:*

When a bald eagle loses a feather on one wing, it sheds a matching one on the other to stay balanced.

### *Best Time to Spot Eagles:*

They are most active in the morning between 7am to 11am, and later in the afternoon between 3pm to 5pm.

### *Cultural Significance:*

Eagles often symbolize blessings, protection, and peace. Some cultures see them as messengers from other worlds.

### *Lifespan & Mating:*

Bald eagles live 25 to 40 years or longer and mate for life. They perform an aerial courtship display, soaring high, locking talons and tumbling toward the ground.

### *Name & Appearance:*

The name "bald eagle" comes from "piebald," which combines "pie" (from "magpie") and "bald" (meaning a white patch or spot). Adults have dark brown bodies, white heads and tails, yellow hooked beaks, and sharp talons with tiny spikes ("spicules") for gripping prey. Their eyesight is 4 to 7 times better than humans. Wingspan can exceed 2 meters, making them Canada's largest bird of prey.

### *Young Eagles (called Eaglets):*

When they hatch, eaglets have fluffy grey feathers and at 12 weeks, they turn dark brown. Their white head and tail feathers don't appear until 4 to 5 years old. Between 10 to 12 weeks, they first leave the nest (fledge) and continue practicing flights to and from the nest and surrounding trees over the next month or two. Eaglets usually become independent and fly further away from the nest between 17 and 23 weeks where they soon begin to establish their own territory.



### *Diet & Hunting:*

These birds of prey's primary food source is fish. They also hunt small animals, birds, and reptiles. They use their sharp talons to snatch prey from the water. In winter, deer carcasses are an important food source.

### *Habitat & Range:*

Bald eagles live in forested areas near large bodies of water, preferring remote locations. Most of Canada's bald eagles are found along British Columbia's Pacific coast. Other populations exist in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northwestern Ontario. Smaller populations live in Quebec, Cape Breton, and Newfoundland. They require large, undisturbed tracts of forested land near rivers, lakes, and streams to build their nests.

### *Role in Nature:*

Eagles are hunters and keep animal

populations strong by removing weaker individuals. Scavengers such as eagles help clean the environment by eating dead animals.

### **And a few fun eagle jokes:**

What bird needs to wear a wig?  
A bald eagle!

How does an eagle greet its prey?  
Pleased to eat you!

Why is the eagle a bird of many skills?  
He's talon-ted!

What do you call a silly eagle?  
A feather-brain.

Why did the eagle sit at the computer?  
To keep an eye on the mouse!

### *Resources:*

[aboretum.wisc.edu](http://aboretum.wisc.edu)  
[canadiangeographic.ca/articles/animal-facts-bald-eagle/beyourownbirder.com](http://canadiangeographic.ca/articles/animal-facts-bald-eagle/beyourownbirder.com)



# We Have A New Bylaw!

The LWCA was incorporated as a non-profit on May 25, 1959 by a group of 12 passionate individuals with the mandate to "...promote, advance, conserve and protect the environment, wildlife, sporting, property and social interests and the safety, health and welfare of campers and residents of Lake Weslemkoon and Otter Lake and vicinity in the Counties of Hastings and Lennox and Addington in the Province of Ontario."

As an incorporated entity the activities of the LWCA are governed by bylaws and Articles (formerly called Letters Patent). In October of 2021, the Ontario Not-for-Profits Corporations Act (ONCA) took effect and replaced the Ontario Corporations Act with the result that non profits like ours had until Oct 19, 2024 to review and revise bylaws, Letters Patent and Articles to ensure that they were in compliance.

Janice Mackenzie, Patty Milne, Paul Bottos and I spent many long hours in early 2024 reviewing our old bylaws and painstakingly comparing them to the new ONCA requirements. Our previous bylaws had been in effect since 1996 and were quite outdated. So much has changed since then in terms of how and where we communicate with each other and members. (There was no mention of emails in 1996, and of course no Zoom meetings!) Luckily, Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) had lots of resources available to assist non profits like ours with this process, including a very helpful guide on how to adjust existing bylaws and a sample bylaw which outlined possible options for us to consider. We were very grateful for this resource as it helped immensely as we dove into the pros and cons of each

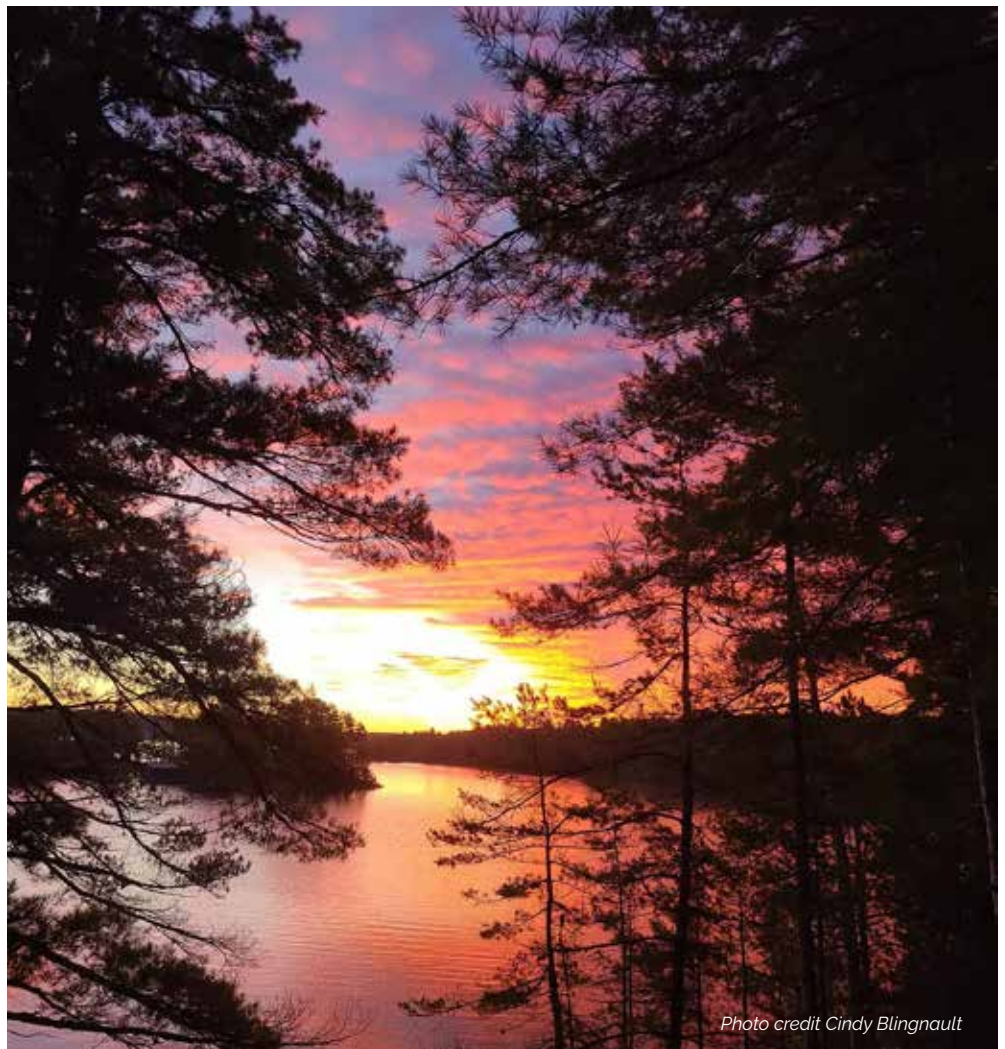


Photo credit Cindy Blingnault

choice, along with the nitty gritty wording as we compared our existing bylaws to the Sample Bylaws and rewrote as needed.

Our new bylaw, Bylaw Number 4, was sent to members for comment in July 2024, and after taking feedback into account, including a great discussion among members at the 2024 AGM, it was approved.

It's amazing to think that although our original bylaws were written in 1956, our Letters Patent were filed in 1959 and

many of the issues concerning us today (climate change! invasive species!) were nonexistent in the 1950's, the objects of our corporation remain much the same; to promote, conserve and protect. Throughout the years the volunteer board of the LWCA has, and does, work very hard to ensure that these objects are met and we thank each and every one of you for your membership and dedication in helping achieve these goals.

Melissa Tervit



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# Ode to Lake Weslemkoon

by Tim Stoate

It was 66 when we found this place in the sticks  
With a man who everything he could fix  
A bear of a man with the orange construction hat  
But not with the spring of a cat  
Took us to Regina Bay  
His purpose on that day  
To show the Crown land array

Our parents and the three of us – 5 years in Canada  
newly landed  
To us he was quite candid  
This one – up hill but great views he said  
I would not buy anything instead  
Big winds will drive through  
But the sunsets will glow and flow and it's a great  
view

The move in was an adventure  
Marked by the surprise opening of fold out furniture  
Stew of Chef Borjadee  
Made us full of glee

Originally, we transported all by Boston Whaler  
That was never a failure  
Later we all became a Dutchman and Wayfarer  
sailor  
Green steel Canoes, kayaks, windsurfers, , Wilker,  
Malibu and other boats  
All managed (well mainly – insider story) to keep  
us afloat  
Later on Weslemkoon  
We knew it was best served by pontoon  
Felling trees and building docks  
Crown Royal on the rocks  
Cliff diving  
Mink lake hiking

Dogs such as Whiskey, Kiwi, Tessie. Schooner,  
Podge, Huck and Finn  
Enhanced our pleasure and will always be under  
our skin

To our friends and many neighbours  
Who helped us with favours  
You were many

And favours were a plenty  
Builders, plumbers, electricians, Marina operators,  
old and new,  
Are a big part of the glue  
To all of you, we say thank you

Politics, wine, card games, board games  
Sometimes set us aflame  
But family, the silence, the stars and the moon  
The water and more than one loon  
Came over us and awed us very soon

There were visitors from Australia, BC, Britain,  
France – friends and family – never too many  
But then there were Texans! A second cottage was  
bought and one rebuilt and not for a penny  
The view and sunset from the second  
Was the best on the lake we reckoned

The winter brought some across the ice  
Others did not think it so nice  
Well, at least there were no mice

Through education, weddings, partnering and  
birthing  
Some things life threatening and some life ending  
I would proprot  
Our lake did us support  
And Weslemkoon, our lake  
Never did us forsake

Five generations lived, visited grew and loved on  
the lake  
Like many others we sure put in a stake  
Infinite memories she helped us make

To all of those who led the way  
Through the beginning of the fray  
To you we raise our voice  
What an incredible choice  
To those that are now here new  
Count yourself the lucky few  
To those who are not yet knowing  
Hopefully, you will learn a lasting love and gain  
memories on going

In our heart and head, Weslemkoon won't get old  
And we know as the rest of our lives unfold  
Our memories can't be sold

Our family will miss Weslemkoon  
Hopefully we can be with her soon!

Tim Stoate and family have 58 years of experience  
of loving Lake Weslemkoon. Their ownership has  
ended but the love and memories will endure, that's  
for sure.



## Four Loons Marina

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

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# "EcoCharge Compost: Powering Sustainability"



*Before, during, and after a Lomi cycle;  
elapsed time = 4h.*



I'm willing to bet two things about you as a reader of the Loon Call:

1. You're keen on reducing waste that ends up in local landfills.
2. You don't love transporting ripe (and quite possibly leaky) bags of garbage by boat and/or car to the marina and/or dump.

Depending on where you live when you're not at the lake, you likely have the option to compost or use a municipal 'green bin' program. But it's not so simple in our little piece of paradise - it's going to be a good long while until we have dockside green bin pick-up (although my mother does remember a time in the late 1950s/early 1960s when there was a garbage boat making weekly rounds, at least at the north end of Weslemkoon), and composting at seasonal properties can be problematic (risk of attracting wildlife, inconsistent composting conditions thanks to cold weather and irregular visits). So how do we avoid the smelly garbage haul and reduce our environmental impact?

Enter the electric composter, a user-friendly appliance that turns food scraps into nutrient-rich compost in as little as four hours all the while sitting on your kitchen counter. These sleek machines use a combination of heat, mechanical action, and airflow to accelerate the breakdown of organic material. The official term is "**thermal aerobic composting**"; essentially, the device heats the waste to a temperature where bacteria can break it down, while the grinding blades speed up the process. As a bonus, some can handle paper and plant-based packaging too. While these machines can't manage bones or hard nut shells, they can absolutely take care of the grounds from your dockside morning coffee.

One of the most popular brands (and the one I can personally vouch for) is Lomi ([www.lomi.com](http://www.lomi.com)), which boasts the clever (and very truthful) mantra "Food waste is gross. We can do better." Lomi is surprisingly energy efficient, drawing only about the same amount of electricity as a

standard light bulb during its composting cycle. With its compact design (it's about the size of a large breadbox) and quick processing time (4-5 hours on the 'Eco-express' mode), it's a low-impact device for both your energy bills and the planet. This makes Lomi a great option for anyone who wants to compost without fruit flies in the kitchen, bears in the yard, or any real impact on the electricity bill. As an added bonus, it's quiet (I regularly run mine overnight) and has virtually no smell (thanks to its 2 charcoal filters).

Adding to the list of benefits, by composting your organic materials at home, you are diverting them from landfills, where food waste typically breaks down anaerobically, producing methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Better still, you'll use fewer plastic garbage bags, make fewer trips to the dump, and will have an unlimited supply of nutrient-rich compost to keep your gardens looking swell (without the need for chemical fertilizers). Healthy soil also promotes water retention and biodiversity, making it a sustainable resource in itself.

Fun facts? Lomi was developed by **Pela Earth**, a company known for its commitment to sustainability. Pela's journey began in 2011 with the creation of the world's first compostable phone case, aiming to reduce plastic waste. As the company expanded, it looked for other ways to reduce environmental harm—and that's where Lomi comes in. Launched in 2021, Lomi was created to make composting accessible to everyone, even those living in apartments or places where traditional composting might not be practical (like, for example, seasonal properties??).

So, what does this miracle machine cost? The base price for a Lomi unit is around **\$499 USD**. This price includes the device itself, a starter supply of charcoal, and access to Lomi's app, which helps track your composting process (though personally I find this kind of gimmicky and not at all important). While the upfront cost of Lomi might seem high, I am convinced of its worth – both in reducing the ick factor of lake garbage runs and my impact on the environment.

*Side note: while I can only speak to Lomi's virtues, there are other brands on the market, including the Vitamix FoodCycler and the ESOKO Composter, both of which come in at slightly lower price-points but don't work as quickly and aren't able to handle as many types of materials as Lomi.*

By Shawna Hiley



# HAPPY Birthday!

Joyce MacKenzie  
celebrated her  
90th Birthday at  
Weslemkoon Lake  
on August 25th, 2024



*Lynne Vegter*  
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by Shawn Hamilton



## “Discover Local Talent: Lynne Vegter Shines on the Bancroft Studio Tour”

*One only has to attend the Bancroft Studio Tour once to discover the vast array of talent in the area. Supported by A Place For the Arts and The Bancroft Art Gallery the art scene in this part of the world is rapidly growing. One of those emerging artists is Lake Weslemkoon's very own Lynne Vegter, a self taught artist who has made Weslemkoon her primary home since 2018.*

Originally from England, Lynne came to Canada over sixty years ago and instantly fell in love with the people, lakes and landscapes of the Bruce area where she lived, working for Darlington as a mechanical technician and eventually field Engineer. For the past seven years now Lynne and her husband have made Weslemkoon their home and Lynne spends many days turning her photos of wildlife and nature of the area into works of art in her studio at the lake. Lynne can bring a single heron standing on a stump or an owl in flight to life through her passion for detail but she can also turn the simple shadows on the snow, a reflection in the water or leaves on the ground into a masterpiece. Seeing the, often unseen by others, moments in nature is, in my opinion, what sets Lynne's work apart from others. Each of her pieces have their own unique energy that speaks to the viewer through the elements of nature that it portrays.

When asked what is the most important







element when creating an art piece Lynne responded

*"What is most important for me is that I communicate how I felt when looking at my subject, I like to feel that it is accurate but that the emotional response is captured as well. My best subjects are the ones I feel most passionate about and hopefully people can feel that".*

Some of Lynne's recent achievements include winning Best in Category as well as the Peoples Choice Award in the Art Gallery of Bancroft's juried show in 2024 as well as Best in Show in 2023. Lynne is very honoured to have been accepted into the International Juried Exhibition of the Society of Canadian Artists. Lynne participated in the Bancroft studio tour last year and will be also a part of the tour this coming season. Her studio on the lake will be open to the general public on the long weekends this August so be sure to come and take a look. Her website is just getting started and can soon be found at [www.lynnevegterart.com](http://www.lynnevegterart.com)

**Some more info on Lynne can be found at:**

<https://instagram.com/lynne.vegter>  
<https://facebook.com/lynnevegterart>

<https://www.apfta.ca/lynne-vegter.html>  
<https://artgallerybancroft.ca/2024-lynne-vegter/>











## Scenic Rides: Horseback Adventures Around the Lake

by Shawn Hamilton

A common tradition, especially on Thanksgiving weekend, for our family and many of the cottagers on the North end of Weslemkoon Lake, is to hike to what we call Lookout, a high point along the trail that runs north of Hartsmere Rd. east of Tanglewood Marina. The short but somewhat steep hike, unless you take the long way around, rewards the traveller with a wonderful vista overlooking Weslemkoon and Otter Lakes surrounded by nature's painterly colors of autumn in the fall months. If one is willing to venture much further on the trail there is a perfect picnic stop at what Google Maps calls Mud Lake, or as I call it The Lake of Many Names, after asking the locals and getting various answers. Having had the opportunities to travel to this spot by foot, mountain bike, 4 wheeler and cross country skis my favourite mode of transportation has been by horseback. With just enough open land at our cottage on the lake to support a few small portable paddocks, myself and some of my horsey friends

are able to trailer our horses north to explore the region, typically in the fall when the bugs have dispersed. We have found many off the beaten track secluded spots to enjoy picnic lunches and have been thankful that the four wheelers that we do meet on the trail are extremely accommodating, politely sharing the road. As a photojournalist specializing in writing stories on horseback riding vacations worldwide it brings me great joy to be able to explore this wonderful part of the North at home on our four legged friends. If you are reading this and are thinking, "wow that could be fun" you too could enjoy what nature has to offer in this special part of the world from the saddle by contacting South Algonquin Trails, a fully equipped trail riding facility in Harcourt, north east of Bancroft. Now if I can just persuade Beans to put the horses on the barge and drop us off at the trail head to Mink lake. that would be a story. Trail References: South Algonquin Trails: <https://southalgonquintrails.com/>



# Blueberry Pie



A blueberry bonanza!

I've been picking blueberries at the cottage for as long as I can remember. So, for 45 years (give or take), we would be armed with old cottage pots and the square floating cushions from our boat to kneel on, and head over to our favourite picking spots.

Sometimes the bushes are just packed, and we can go so far as making jam, and sometimes it's just not a great growing season. In fact, do you need a bright side to black flies? If it wasn't for the black flies in May, we wouldn't get our blueberries in July. And it's happened before (not very long ago either).

This particular shot was taken June 30, 2024, which is earlier than typical at Weslemkoon lake. We enjoyed the pie that night and made freezer jam in little jars with the rest of them to enjoy throughout the summer.

But we've also had very late season blueberries too! One Thanksgiving weekend while kayaking with our kids, we found TWO whole blueberries growing on a teensy little bush on the side of a rock face. What an unexpected gift.

Jennifer Charles

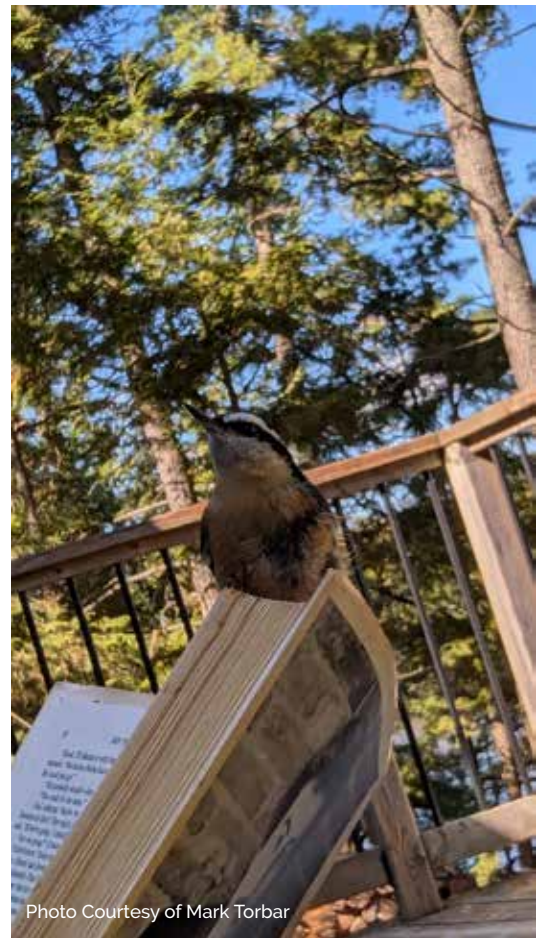
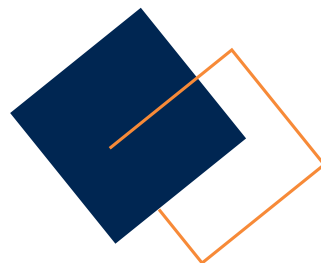
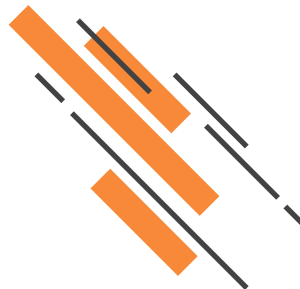


Photo Courtesy of Mark Torbar



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# 2024 Treasurer's Report



Your board continues to be very active. 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 3.81% compounded annually and maturing November 2026

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 \$725 (\$410 in 2023) and allocated interest of \$600 (\$655 in 2023). Expenditures from this fund were for water quality testing in the amount of \$2,445 (\$2,178 in 2022) and was approved at the 2018 annual general meeting as required.

The remaining unrestricted surplus of \$43,575 is available for the general purposes of the association.

## Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2024 (unaudited)

ASSETS	2024	2023
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	13,047	15,580
Bank G.I.C.s	49,774	47,552
Inventory	426	486
	<b>63,247</b>	<b>63,618</b>

## LIABILITIES & RESTRICTED FUNDS & NET ASSETS

### Current Liabilities

Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	4,009	6,589
--	-------	-------

### Restricted Funds

Catherine Rathbun Environmental Fund	15,663	16,783
--------------------------------------	--------	--------

### Net Assets

Unrestricted	43,575	40,246
	<b>63,247</b>	<b>63,618</b>

## Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended December 31, 2024 (unaudited)

	Catherine Rathbun Memorial Enviromental Fund	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
<b>Balance, Beginning of year</b>	<b>16,783</b>	<b>40,246</b>	<b>57,029</b>	58,416
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over expenditures	(1,845)	3,329	1,484	(1,797)
Contributions	725		725	410
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>15,663</b>	<b>43,575</b>	<b>59,238</b>	57,029

## Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2024 (unaudited)

Revenues	2024	2023
Annual Fees	12,360	12,558
Loon Call Revenues	2,685	2,460
Interest income	1,621	1,528
Miscellaneous sales	2,130	350
Total Revenues	<b>18,796</b>	<b>16,896</b>

## Expenditures

Meeting expenses	2,814	2,588
Administrative expenses	130	-
Advertising & promotion	66	-
Bank & Pay Pal service charges	188	174
Cost of Misc. sales	998	242
Custodial Visits	2,403	4,667
FOCA	1,316	1,158
Insurance	1,963	1,949
Loon Call	2,586	2,566
Shoal Marker Maintenance	2,200	2,359
Lake Activities - Social	-	703
Member communication	563	764
R&M - AED pads	240	-
Total Expenditures	<b>15,467</b>	<b>17,170</b>

<b>Excess of Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>(274)</b>
---	--------------	--------------



Kelly has loved turtles for as long as she can remember. She says she doesn't just think about them occasionally; turtles are on her mind 24/7. In Bancroft, she found the perfect opportunity to put her lifelong care for these creatures to work, and started Think Turtle in 2018. The initiative has a straightforward mission - to raise awareness for and protect local turtle populations. She started small, working with local Cubs and Scouts groups to build wooden turtle crossing signs, but word caught on fast and her project quickly grew. What started with just six signs in 2018 has expanded to over 2,500 across the region.

### Why Turtles?

Turtles in Ontario face numerous threats, with road mortality being one of the biggest dangers. Unlike other animals that can avoid roads, turtles often have no choice but to cross highways and streets, as our infrastructure cuts through their natural habitat and migration corridors.

Poaching, habitat loss, land development, and shoreline destruction further threaten turtle populations. When it comes to poachers, Kelly's motto is "if you see something odd, say something." Environmental policies also play a role. When government protections are weakened, conservationists like Kelly find themselves fighting an uphill battle to preserve critical habitats.

But Kelly is firm in her belief that people have the power to enact change. She says many people don't realize how impactful a simple action can be. Since turtles reproduce slowly—sometimes only crossing a road once per season to lay eggs—helping just one safely across can have a significant impact on the population over time.

Kelly compares turtle awareness to being mindful of cyclists and buses in cities. In cottage country, learning to watch for

# Think Turtle: How One Woman's Passion Sparked a Conservation Movement in Bancroft

**W**e've all seen them on the side of the road, those adorable green signs asking drivers to "Watch 4 Turtles." But where did they come from, and what's the story behind them? These simple but effective signs began appearing around Bancroft and the surrounding areas nearly seven years ago, and their numbers have rapidly multiplied over the past few years. The force behind this growing conservation effort is Kelly Wallace, founder of the Think Turtle Conservation Initiative.



turtles (and deer, foxes, porcupine, and elk) is simply part of responsible driving. Visitors to the Bancroft area, including cottage renters, rockhounds, and hunters, are starting to better understand their impact on the local environment, thanks to the efforts of Kelly and her team at Think Turtle.

### Small Actions, Big Impacts

One of the simplest ways people can contribute is by purchasing a green turtle sign for just \$10. These signs do more than just warn cottage-bound drivers. They encourage us to think about our impact on the natural world, leading to outsize impacts beyond our little green friends.

Kelly is thrilled by the grassroots support Think Turtle has received. The initiative has gained radio coverage, attracted volunteers from all walks of life, and fostered community-wide participation.

Over the last decade, we have seen measurable benefits to local turtle populations, including:

- Fewer injured turtles—a sign that people are helping turtles cross before they're hit.
- A noticeable shift from reactive to proactive action—most calls now report living turtles in need of assistance, rather than casualties.
- Increased awareness and education, leading to better conservation habits.

Interestingly, in the Bancroft area, reports of injured turtles on road crossings have actually increased. While this might seem counterintuitive, it indicates that more people are paying attention and taking action.

### How You Can Help

If you see a turtle on the road, you can help in a safe and effective way:

- If it's safe to do so, call a local turtle rescue for assistance.
- If moving it yourself, never pick up a turtle by its tail—this can cause serious injury.
- For snapping turtles, gently grip the sides of its shell in front of the back legs. Snappers can't retract into their shells, so they may act defensively, but with careful handling, they can be moved safely. If you're scared to pick one up, you can always use a snow shovel!



### What's Good For the Turtles is Good For the World

For Kelly and Think Turtle, conservation isn't just about protecting turtles from poachers and cars—it's about connecting people with nature. Unlike many forms of conservation, helping a turtle is a direct, hands-on way to make an impact. It's a simple act that feels good, makes a difference, and fosters a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

The Think Turtle Conservation Initiative is proof that one person's passion can spark real change. Thanks to Kelly and the Bancroft community, more turtles are surviving, and more people are learning how to respect and protect the wildlife around them.

If you'd like to support the cause, consider purchasing a sign, spreading awareness, or simply helping a turtle cross the road safely. Because when we watch for turtles, we're watching out for all of us.





Photo Courtesy of Ana Adriano

# Loon Call Editor's Corner

Each Loon Call season gives us pause to appreciate our lake community as memories, stories and photos filter in for print.

A big thank you to Alison Myles, our amazing Editor, who works quietly behind the scenes to make sure the Loon Call all comes together. Her tireless efforts and sharp proofing skills keep things running smoothly. Alison still finds the time to put in countless hours to make each issue happen. We truly appreciate all she does.

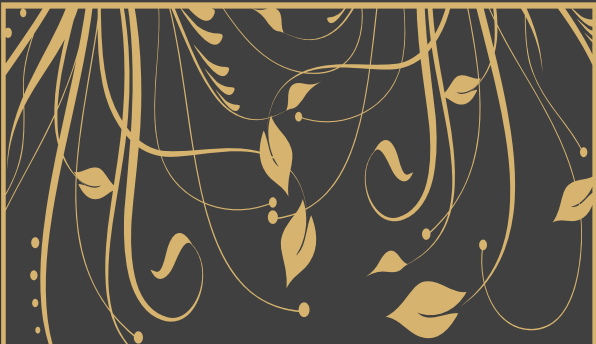
Thank you to all who have helped bring this Spring 2025 edition to life. Pat Bothwell's incredible design of this keepsake newsletter once again brings about a genuine "wow". Joining our editing team this year, Ben McGrath's journalistic enthusiasm offers new perspectives and energy.



Ben has been coming to Lake Wes since he was about 3 months old. Now 30, cottage #200 remains his favourite place to come to relax by the fire and enjoy the sounds of the lake

## Volunteer with the LWCA

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



## In Passing

George Archibald  
Glenn Ross  
Resse Stanzel  
David Hardy  
Joan Inglis  
Adriana Montgomery  
Agnus Griffith

Ernst Pegutter  
Beverly Greer  
Mike Hardy  
Hugh Westren  
Patrick Montgomery  
Colette Taylor





JULY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 NATIONAL FRENCH FRY DAY	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY	21	22	23	24	25	26 MAKERS MARKET at Weslemkoon Marina
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 LWCA AGM Four Loons Marina
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 TANGLEWOOD TREASURE HUNT
31						

Photo Courtesy of Ana Adriano

## 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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