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# THE LOON CALL



ISSN 1480-9583 VOLUME 67

SPRING 2026



Photo Courtesy of Michael Apollo

**AN ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FOR ALL LAKE WESLEMKOON  
CONSERVATION ASSOCIATES AND SUPPORTERS**

## LAKE WESLEMKOON 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 Kiyicho 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

## 2026 PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Happy New Year, everyone!

I am writing this message from the front porch of our cottage on New Year's Day. We have been on the lake for 20 years, and this is only the second time in two decades that we have been able to safely make the 10km trip up the lake from Smith's Landing by snowmobile. It is a true blessing.

For our family, the cottage season starts now. There is a whole season of work, activities, and fun to be had this time of year, and we don't want to miss a moment of it. While the water is our focus in the summer, the cottage becomes a "home base" for winter exploration. The local snowmobile trails are fantastic, and three of them lead directly onto the lake. Mid-day rides to local restaurants for lunch are a treat, and it's incredible to think you can leave this lake by sled and reach New Brunswick on groomed trails!



### Our Remote Gem

Our lake is a unique treasure. I often tell people I'm heading "north" to get away from it all; with thousands of acres of Crown land and water-only access, it certainly feels that way. By the time you reach the south end of the lake road, you still have 29km to go! Yet, when you zoom out on a map, Lake Weslemkoon is actually one of the largest remote lakes in Southern Ontario. We may feel like we're north of Sudbury, but we are actually south of Ottawa.

### Reflecting on Water Levels and Fire Safety

Reflecting on the "normal" cottage season, two related issues dominated our discussions at the LWCA this past year. The 2025 drought brought low water levels we haven't seen in 20 years—and according to some locals, much longer than that. Simultaneously, the sight of water bombers reminded us that we are often just one small fire and an 80km/h wind away from disaster.

As your Water Levels Director, I received many inquiries as early as last spring. By the fall, I know many of you were tying boats up in new spots, repairing props, and spotting rocks you'd never seen before.

The MNRF responded quickly to our concerns, inspecting the dam to confirm operations. While they found a faulty gauge and some debris causing minor leaks, the primary issue was simply a lack of rain—a widespread problem affecting canal systems and lakes across the province. The LWCA will continue to work with the MNRF to monitor levels. We have also formally asked for a review of "target levels." This is a significant endeavour involving the Ministry, Hydro, and other stakeholders. While past reviews resulted in no changes, we remain committed to advocating for our lake's needs.

The remoteness of Weslemkoon makes fire a primary concern. While the LWCA is not a fire brigade, we are dedicated to education.

**Guest Speakers:** We've invited Ministry fire experts to our last two AGMs, but they were called away at the last minute to fight active fires. That speaks volumes. We will endeavour to have a speaker join us again this year.

**Fire Pump Practice:** Two seasons ago, we hosted a pump demo at the AGM which was well received. We have encouraged annual fire pump testing by offering draw prizes. We will continue to have fire pump contests as the submitted photos and videos are quite motivating. This year we will encourage pump owners to test their pump with neighbours.

**Fire Pump Maintenance:** We have offered to support members with maintenance troubleshooting and will continue to do so.

**Education:** We previously hosted a FireSmart Zoom call with the MNRF on property preparation. It was eye-opening for me, and we will host another session this season.

**Planning:** This season we will be encouraging members to establish their own fire plan. Read on in this newsletter to find out more.

**Supporting Our Community**

I'd like to end with a thank you to the local businesses and individuals who make life at a remote lake safe and enjoyable. The marinas are an obvious necessity for water access, and we all need that "person" to call when something goes urgent (or when you accidentally run onto a "bog" on your way up the lake—I will neither confirm nor deny if that happened to me!).

As we enjoy our properties, let's remember the community that exists here year-round. Please support our local shops and consider donating to area food banks, shelters, and clothing drop-offs.



Enjoy the winter, everyone. I look forward to seeing you on the lake throughout the year.

*Marty Blake*

**LWCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Secretary

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## **FIRE SAFETY: OUTDOOR FIRE & WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS**

In 2025, our FireSmart Zoom call with the MNRF highlighted a sobering reality: in a remote community, **time** is our greatest challenge.

### **In the event of a fire that is beyond the "bucket stage":**

- **Call 911 Immediately: DO NOT WAIT** to see if the fire dies down. If you do not have cell service at your cottage, identify the nearest "service hotspot" (a specific hill, dock, or road) **now**, before an emergency happens.
- **Direct Contact for MNRF Bancroft:** As an extra precaution for dangerous outdoor fires, call the **Bancroft MNRF directly at (613) 332-3940**.
- **Activate the "Phone Tree"** (see below): This will allow you to spread the word of a fire instantly.
- **Access your Fire Pump:** If—and only if—it is safe to do so, use your fire pump. Never risk your personal safety to save a structure. Have an evacuation plan (by land or water) ready for your family and pets.

### **Preparedness:**

- **Fire Pump:** A pump is only useful if it starts. Test your equipment at the beginning of each season, and ideally monthly to ensure fuel is fresh and lines are clear.
- **"Priority Zones":** Managing the area immediately surrounding your cabin can be the difference between a close call and a total loss. By thinning brush and removing combustibles within 1.5 to 10 meters of your structure, you create a "fuel break" that slows the fire's progress, giving emergency crews more time to arrive. This includes clearing out all leaves and dried pine needles from under your decks and around your structures.
- **Emergency Contact Numbers:** Add the Bancroft MNRF number to your phone today.
- **Neighbourhood Phone Tree:** If you don't have a dedicated **WhatsApp** or **Group Chat** or **Phone Tree** for your immediate neighbours already, take the time this season to set one up. Coordinate with your closest neighbours to develop a means for contact in an emergency.
- **Education:** Watch for the 2026 FireSmart Zoom invite. We will be hosting another session with the MNRF this season.
- **Review Plan w ALL Guests:** Review emergency planning with guests and family of all ages. Know your cottage #. They may need to call 911.



**CAROL BELL, LWCA SECRETARY**

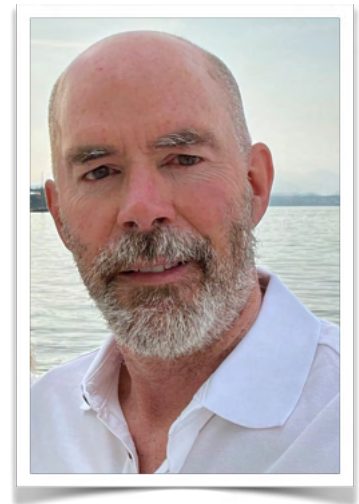
Like many of you, Lake Weslemkoon holds a special place in my heart and as such I'm happy to continue as Secretary for the LWCA. In my role as Secretary, I'm responsible for collaborating with other Board members on agenda preparation, taking accurate minutes of discussions, decisions and votes and distributing the approved minutes promptly after Board meetings and our AGM. This helps to provide structure and continuity for the LWCA, ensuring that the Board remains accountable and transparent.

When I'm not taking notes for the LWCA, I love to be in my kayak or enjoying my morning coffee on the dock.

**PAUL ARMSTRONG, LWCA MEMBERSHIP**

My partner Cathy and I, along with co-owner Jean, moved to the Lake in September of 2007. We have been lifetime cottagers, with both of our family cottages being more "urban" than Lake Weslemkoon and Otter Lake. I grew up going to Lake Simcoe (east side) and Cathy's family had a cottage on Balsam Lake near Lindsay. Both were convenient and fun for our children, but are very busy lakes. After those cottages changed ownership, we searched for a more remote and traditional cottage, and that is when found a beautiful spot at Lake Weslemkoon and Otter Lake.

We love the Lakes, the Canadian Shield landscape, and the heavy forest surroundings. We did enjoy the quaint rustic style of the #99 log cabin, but were compelled to rebuild in 2016 when we found that mice, mold and moisture were disintegrating the cabin from the ground up - and we have been enjoying the rebuild very much. Cathy is still working, but I retired in 2021. Along with our two adult sons, we will often spend weekends and much of July at the cottage. If we are at the cottage, you can find us at the east point as you come into Otter Lake, enjoying morning coffee.



**ALAN THOMAS, LWCA TREASURER**

Alan and his wife Heather are from Ottawa and have been on the lake since 2013. You can often see them paddling their red canoe around the north end. Prior to retirement Alan worked as an accountant in the IT industry.

**FUN FACT**

What is a *Thunderbox*? A wooden toilet box with no plumbing, often built for trails, thank you LWCA volunteers! Given its name due to the echoing thunder type sounds when used.

**LWCA MEMBERSHIP**

Thank you to all who have joined. Membership fees fund our lake marker program, trail maintenance, our water testing program, Junior Loons, MNRF coordination re lake levels, work with the Township in representing members, input into the Forestry Management Plan, as well as special projects such as the "POW" initiative and Lake Maps. Members have access to the LWCA website, communications, The Loon Call, Lake Directory and custodial visits.

## DEBORA FOLEY'S FAREWELL

*By Joseph Foley*

It was the summer of 1970 when my fiancée Debora, my sister Diane (our chaperone), and I made the journey to our family cottage on the lake from West Virginia. It was Debbie's first visit to the lake. I could tell on our boat ride to the cottage that the lure of Weslemkoon Lake had captured her heart. In 1971, we began our forever together. We were married on July 4th, and spent our honeymoon and many memorable summer days here on this beautiful lake.

Over the years with many visits with many dear friends like Reg and Mary Smith as well as John and Doris Richards, we only missed coming to the lake three times. The first was the joyous birth of our first daughter, the second when Debbie recovered from a broken wrist, and the third due to the challenges of COVID.

Countless nights were spent lying on our dock, gazing up at the breathtaking Canadian planetarium, and marvelling at the Northern Lights. One of our most



cherished memories was paddling out into the lake on a moonless night, to just enjoy the deafening quiet sounds that only nature can offer. We were blessed over all the years to witness a loon gathering in our bay, a sight that Debbie loved to see and hear, as loons were her favorite animals.



We shared laughter and love with all our lifelong Canadian friends and wonderful cottage neighbors through card games, themed dinners, and gatherings at our cottage. Debbie's legendary homemade guacamole was always a hit! She was my fishing buddy, my loon lover, and my favorite person to share life's adventures with. She was a wonderful mother who deeply loved her children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews, while also serving as a dedicated healthcare worker and a woman of deep faith. She was my navigator on the highways from Weslemkoon to our front door in West Virginia, even from Maine to Colorado and in every moment of our daily lives. I, along with countless others, will feel her loss profoundly!

**FOREVER IN OUR MEMORY**

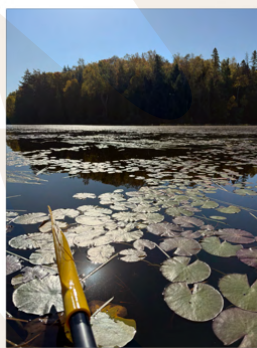
Beverly Greer  
 Reese Stanzel  
 James William "Jim" Gunter  
 Jacob David "Jake" Locke  
 Joyce Mackenzie  
 Debora Foley

Marion Bellamy  
 Bob Sutherland  
 Terry Taylor  
 George Archibald  
 Ernst Pegutter  
 Glenn Ross

Marlene Rein of Innisfree. Original owners at the end of West Bay. Weslemkoon was her favourite place in the world.



**EDITOR'S CORNER**



Taken while kayaking with friends in Otter Lake

Reflecting upon deep space Earth photos, (received proudly from our Canadian Astronaut!) I recognize in seeing so much blue, our lake boasts a true community in; our gratitude, governance and friendships. Now counting days until ice-out, thank you once again for your trust in sharing your stories. I hope you enjoy this issue.

*Alison*



Photo Courtesy of Veronica Harber

**FUN FACT**

Is s'more a valid Scrabble word? Try using a marshmallow krispie square as your s'more base, and load it up with chocolate and graham cracker pieces!

**FUN FACT**

A group of butterflies is called a 'kaleidoscope'.

## FINDING PRESENCE IN THE FOREST: A MINDFUL WALK BY THE LAKE



When the pandemic first hit, my family and I felt an immediate pull to leave the city and seek refuge in the forests and waters surrounding Lake Weslemkoon and Otter Lake, at the Howes family cottage. Those early months, immersed in nature and away from the constant noise of the world, reminded me of something I've learned both personally and professionally as a mindfulness teacher: that mindfulness is not complicated—it is simply being fully present with our senses, right here, without needing to add a story. A practice I often return to, and one I'd like to share, is a mindful walk in nature.

### **A Mindful Walk in Nature**

The next time you find yourself in the forest or along the shoreline, pause for a moment and take a few full breaths, feeling the cool air enter and the warmth leave, sensing the ground beneath your feet. Let your eyes take in the scene without focusing on anything in particular, your ears receive the sounds as they are, and your skin notice the breeze or sun. As you walk, feel each step—lifting, moving, placing—gently returning your attention whenever it drifts. At times, you may wish to stop again, breathe, and rest in the beauty and interconnectedness of it all: the trees creating the air we breathe, the water nourishing the forest, and the countless forms of life sustaining this place and us.



I hold deep gratitude for the summers spent here with my wife, Cindy, our children, Phoenix and Sage, and the Howes family that embraced me into their fold—Carol, Bob, Brent, Carrie and her partner, Greg— and the cousins my children so dearly love, Elliot, India, Tristen, and Scarlett. This land and these waters have supported me through joy, loss, uncertainty, and the everyday fullness of family life, offering moments of awe, connection, and quiet magic that arise

when we allow ourselves to be fully present. My hope is that this simple practice deepens your connection to the nature that surrounds us and inspires care for these forests and lakes, so they may continue to nourish our lives—and the lives of future generations—for years to come, sustaining this place and us. Continue this practice for as long as you wish and return it to as often as you'd like."

*Michael Apollo*

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Cottage life offers peace, where morning coffee comes with songbirds and evenings end with bright sunsets over the horizon, it's meant to bring people together and to have a break from your everyday life. Here are some reasons why I feel kids Should not use screens at the cottage:

- Spending quality time with family and friends (disconnect and reconnect)

It allows others to connect deeply, and without distractions like phones you would be more present with the people around you.

- Enjoying nature

When you're at the cottage you are usually surrounded by lots of nature which lowers stress, helps you be mindful and improves your mood, which won't necessarily help if you're eyes are glued to a screen.

- Taking a break

Taking a break from screens can help your mind rest and regain your creativity and focus.

Some Awesome things to do at the cottage (kid edition!)

Outdoors: Nature scavenger hunt, rock painting, or glow stick hide & seek at dusk 🌲

Water fun!: canoe, kayak, or paddle board rides (supervised)

Water balloon fights, and fishing! 🐟

Creative ideas and calm activities: Making forts in and outside the cottage, baking competitions, Reading, drawing, puzzles, bird feeder crafts, and much more! 🧩

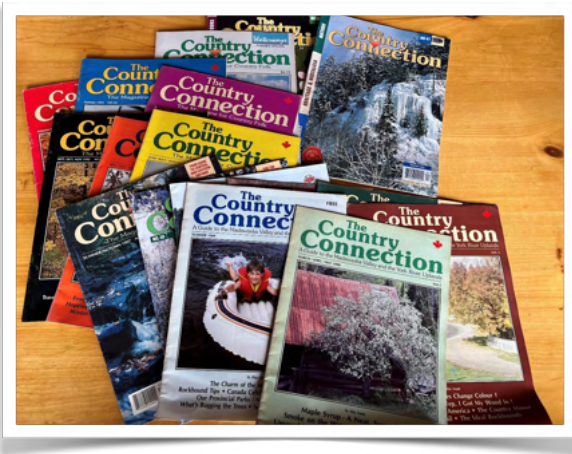
Evening activities: Campfire s'mores, shadow puppets, stargazing, night swimming(supervised), 🔥  
Lantern-lit walk (flashlights or any light you can find), and sparklers (with permission and a supervisor)

After a fun day of activities you can jump in the lake for a nice swim with friends, and later on in the evening you can listen to the loons as you fall asleep. zzz

Remember to be good out there, listen to your parents, use less electronic devices, have fun, and enjoy your cottage life!

And by the way, who wants to meet at SKULL??

## THE COUNTRY CONNECTION: A LOCAL GEM



Did you know that a magazine featuring our immediate area was published locally? From 1989 to 2013 a magazine called “The Country Connection” featuring articles about local heritage, nature and the environment was published from a base, Pinecone Forest, on Pinecrest Road which runs east off the Boulter

Road north of Slabtown. The Boulter road runs north of Hwy 28 from McArthurs Mills towards Combermere and other small settlements. The magazine was created by Gus Zylstra assisted by a host of writers, photographers and others, comprising Pinecone Publishing.

Driving through Boulter (don't blink!) on our way back from Barrys Bay, I was reminded that we had some copies on our bookshelf. I found 18 issues, ranging from #2 from 1989 to #46 from 2004. It was published 2-4 times a year. The last issue was #66, in 2013 when it ceased publication.

The website ([www.pinecone.on.ca](http://www.pinecone.on.ca)) is still active and gives a contact phone number. I decided to call and had a delightful conversation with Gus Zylstra. Gus started the magazine at a time when he had been doing some work with the local Chamber of Commerce. At the time, Government funding to support local tourism was drying up and he was inspired to do something to fill the gap. The run of the magazine ended when he retired. He told me that he still has a stock of all the back issues (except one!) and these can be ordered from the website.

Perhaps this article will jog your memory that you have some issues on your bookshelves and maybe even a full set. It's worthwhile pulling them out and looking again at this unique local magazine. If this article has piqued your interest, and you didn't know of the magazine, you can contact Gus who is now enjoying his retirement years in Killaloe. The office and warehouse at Pinecone Forest on the Boulter Road are still there and he would gladly meet anyone there if they are interested in acquiring any of the magazines. The articles of local interest cover a wide range of topics and are a real treasure trove of information. The earlier editions contained more articles of local flavour whereas the later ones also featured articles from other parts of Ontario.

*By Barrie Evans*

# The Country Connection

A Guide to the Madawaska Valley and the York River Uplands

SUMMER 1989

NO. 2

**Editor and Art Director:** Gus Zylstra

**Technical Assistant:** Cindy Kleinoder

**Office Assistant:** Terry Burroughs

**Sales:**

Gus Zylstra, Tony Cowan, Marie-Claire Roberge

**Contributors:**

John Clement, Tony Cowan, Lorraine Fell, Larry Johnson, Betty Lambeck, James MacLachlan, Joseph Mior, Susan Morris,

**Cover Photograph:** Gus Zylstra

**Future Issues:**

September 15, 1989, featuring the Fall Colours and Harvest Time.

December 1, 1989, featuring Winter Recreation and Activities in the Country.

Deadlines for all submissions and advertising is 3 weeks prior to publication.

*subject to change*

**Circulation:** 25,000

**Distribution:**

The Country Connection is distributed free of charge and is available through participating advertisers, tourist information booths and the Provincial Parks in the area, including Algonquin Park.

A general Mailing is made to all boxes and rural routes in the following communities:

Apsley, Bancroft, Barry's Bay, Boulter, Cardiff, Coe Hill, Combermere, Denbigh, Gilmour, Griffith, Harcourt, Highland Grove, Lake St. Peter, L'Amable, Madawaska, Maple Leaf, Maynooth, McArthurs Mills, Palmer Rapids, Whitney, Wilberforce, Wilno

**Subscription Rates** for those wishing to keep in touch with the area and are outside the free distribution area are:  
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## BIRDING AT THE LAKE

*By Alan Thomas*

I have had an interest in nature and particularly birds, for much of my life. I'm sorry to say that I started being a "birder" when I was about 8, helping a friend build his egg collection. Fortunately, we gave up that hobby and these days I guess you could call me a cottage armchair birder. Like many birders, I'm keeping a list. Almost all of the birds I have seen have been spotted looking out of a cottage window or from the dock. I'd say my best sightings are 2 birds I have never seen anywhere else; Northern Shrike and Woodcock.

Over the last 11 years on the lake, I have accumulated a total of 57 birds on this list. When I look on ebird.org for the number of species found in this area, I get a number of 310 for the Peterborough region and 314 for the Renfrew region. My friend who used to collect eggs is a serious birder these days and will travel the province to pick up a bird for his list. Last time I checked ebird he had over 400 on his list for the province. Obviously my list has a long way to go.

Many species of birds are canopy birds. They live high up in the tree tops where your chances of seeing them are slim, but birds can be identified by their song. Some bird songs are familiar to all of us, Blue Jays, Crows, Grackles and Chickadees. You would be surprised how many you can identify yourself in this way.

This summer I decided to experiment a little with the bird app called Merlin Bird ID to see what birds are around that I can't see. If you are not familiar with this app, it is basically voice ID for birds. What I have found has been very interesting. Warblers such as Pine and Yellow Rumped are common even though I only see one or two a summer. The most vocal species, which I hear constantly, is the Red Eyed Vireo. I am embarrassed to say that for years what I thought I was hearing was Robins.



Photo Courtesy of Sandra Robertson

The app was created by Cornell University. You can choose to keep track of the birds you see and this information, including your location, is used by researchers at the university. Give it a try and see what's around.

For more bird exploration, head to the website: <https://ebird.org/species>.

### FUN FACT


The coined term given to the serenity and calmness one feels when listening to the birds is known as 'seatherny'.



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## REMEMBERING JOYCE MACKENZIE

*By Janice Mackenzie (youngest daughter)*

Let me tell you a bit about my mom, Joyce Mackenzie, and in particular, her Lake Weslemkoon story.

Mom was first introduced to lake Weslemkoon in the 50's through her cousin Betty Derry. Later, not long after my brother Ian was born in 1958, Betty called to say there was a cabin for sale on the lake - #200 on the north shore. Mom and dad travelled up to the lake and met with Cleve Caverley who suggested that they might want to "try it out" for a night - since he had the key.

From mom's journal:

"Of course we loved it. It was completely furnished - even had a boat - Cleve loved the idea of young people getting it and said he would meet us at the lawyer's office in Madoc in Sept. So Don had to figure out how to miss school. At the lawyers there was the deli owner (Lanouett) from NYC & his wife. And, there was a scene! The wife was "fighting" for a share of the proceeds. I was thinking we weren't going to get it, so I was crying - the wife was swooning and smelling salts (or something) were called for. Cleve was taking it all in. Anyway, the deal was cemented, despite the fact that the Don Mackenzies had no \$ and no equity. My father could not believe what we had done! The cottage value was about equal to Don's salary."



Joyce - new cottage owner, 1958

Seemingly from the moment mom and dad arrived at the lake in 1959 they were involved in the LWCA. They needed a Treasurer, so mom took that on right away. Both of them remained committed to the LWCA for the rest of their lives, taking on various roles. At the 2022 AGM mom was so proud to stand in for Stuart Inglis as Grand Loon as members were inducted to the Order of the Cockeyed Loon. She loved the tradition of flapping like a loon at the AGM as much as the fellowship involved with both being a member of the LWCA and caring for the lake as a community.

Thinking back to early days at the lake with propane lights, slow paced boats, shared meals, evening card games and laughter, mom and dad's dear cottage friends come to mind. Many of these names are historical now. They included Rachel and Ed Edington (from Bath North Carolina, Ed helped build #920, the cabin that I now own), Fran & Bill Hawley (#215 from Oxford Ohio), Bina & Cleve Caverley (who owned the landing beside the dam, where we used to keep a boat and commute from upon arrival), Crick & Elsie Filiere (also from Ohio), Joe & Bea Seibert (#935 first owners of Gibraltar Island and ALSO from Ohio), and Bill & Bea Jones (#975 Bill was a teaching colleague of dad's and introduced to the lake on numerous boys' weekends, bought from Cleve and Bina in 1961, daughter Leslie and her husband Scott own it now). Gone with the passing of mom are all of the stories of these wonderful people, many of whom supported mom and dad so much as young cottagers.

Of course it wasn't long before mom's contemporaries fell in love with the lake as well. Luckily for us, friends Liz & Ian Sine (#255, bought in 1971), and later in 1976 mom's sister Donna Bourne bought with her husband Bob. Our lake community grew from there. With mom and dad both being teachers, we spent the summers at the lake exploring, swimming, visiting, celebrating and being loved. Ian, Louise and I fully recognize how lucky we were to have had this foundation for our lives. We try to never take it for granted. With Louise taking over mom and dad's cottage, memories will continue to be made at #200.



Mom driving the boat with Ian on her lap - 1962

Mom's last visit was at Thanksgiving 2025, leaving amid the most beautiful sunset. She passed away peacefully at Hospice Peterborough on 23 December 2025, surrounded by her children and grandchildren, all singing to her. (I later heard that the Hospice staff particularly liked our rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody.) We will remember her at every Treasure Hunt and AGM, at take, every time we paint the cottage, and

every game of Rummoli, in every paddle we with every happy hour G&T.



Mackenzie Kids and Mom 2017



Joyce with G&T - April 2023

## 2025 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:

- \$20,000 earning 3.81% compounded annually and maturing November 2026
- \$30,767 in a high interest savings account currently earning 2 %

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 \$185 (\$725 in 2024) and allocated interest of \$463 (\$600 in 2024). Expenditures from this fund were for water quality testing in the amount of \$1,295 (\$2445 in 2024) and was approved at the 2018 annual general meeting as required.

The remaining unrestricted surplus of \$44,541 is available for the general purposes of the association.

Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2025 (unaudited)				Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2025 (unaudited)			
<b>ASSETS</b>							
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Cash		10,334	13,047				
Bank G.I.C.s		51,627	49,774				
Accounts Receivable		280	-				
Inventory		426	426				
		<u>62,667</u>	<u>63,247</u>				
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; RESTRICTED FUNDS &amp; NET ASSETS</b>							
<b>Current Liabilities</b>							
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities		3,110	4,009				
<b>Restricted Funds</b>							
Catherine Rathbun Environmental Fund		15,016	15,663				
<b>Net Assets</b>							
	Unrestricted	44,541	43,575				
		<u>62,667</u>	<u>63,247</u>				
				<b>Revenues</b>			
					<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	
				Annual Fees	12,325	12,360	
				Loon Call Revenues	2,085	2,685	
				Interest income	1,390	1,621	
				Unrestricted contributions from membership	300	-	
				Miscellaneous sales	410	2,130	
				<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>16,510</u>	<u>18,796</u>	
				<b>Expenditures</b>			
				Meeting expenses	1,761	2,814	
				Administrative expenses	149	130	
				Advertising & promotion	-	66	
				Bank & Pay Pal service charges	168	188	
				Cost of Misc. sales	-	998	
				Custodial Visits	3,146	2,403	
				FOCA	1,396	1,316	
				Insurance	2,010	1,963	
				Loon Call	3,086	2,586	
				Shoal Marker Maintenance	2,200	2,200	
				New Shoal Markers	900	-	
				Member communication	730	563	
				R&M- AED pads	-	240	
				<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>15,546</u>	<u>15,467</u>	
				<b>Excess of Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<u>964</u>	<u>3,329</u>	
				<b>Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended December 31, 2025 (unaudited)</b>			
				<b>Catherine Rathbun</b>			
				<b>Memorial Environmental</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
				<b>Fund</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Balance, Beginning of year		15,663	43,575	59,238		57,029	
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over expenditures		(832)	966	134		1,484	
Contributions		185		185		725	
Balance, end of year		<u>15,016</u>	<u>44,541</u>	<u>59,557</u>		<u>59,238</u>	

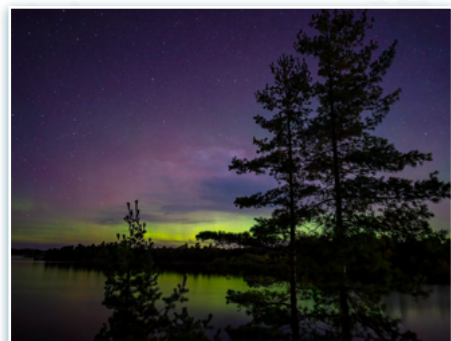


Photo Courtesy of Veronica Harper

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**‘POTTERY IN THE FOREST’  
Artists of Lake Weslemkoon**

Each year we like to highlight incredible artists who find inspiration in Lake Weslemkoon. This year we are sharing the beautiful artistic journey of Bernie Nicholson, of Pottery In The Forest (Trent Lakes, On)

A career role within communications found Bernie working within the Fleming College realm for 28 years. Through this role Bernie was introduced to various art disciplines and artists visiting the school, taking advantage of classes from great teachers. In 1999 Bernie took a pottery course, loved the tactile, the touch of clay “it felt right in my hands” and from there her studio started to take shape in her basement. Upon retiring in 2017 Bernie set up her own studio, Pottery In The Forest, just steps from her home, and taking inspiration from her forest and lake surroundings began sharing her works. Bernie has been visiting Weslemkoon with her partner, who has been a seasonal visitor for many years.



When asked what our lake offers in regard to inspiration, Bernie shared with me a sense of calm, simplicity and beauty,

"which we all take a little of when we are there". This inspiration she truly feels "touches all of her pots in some way" , offering "a touch of nature in each piece"

There is a sense of "connection in this simplicity". Blue dragonflies, turtles, leaves and trees all weave their way into her work. You may find Bernie's works selling from the porch of our local marina, as part of the Victoria County Studio Tour or through her Facebook page. Bernie, thank you for sharing your passion.





Photo Courtesy of Michael Apollo

**A DAY WE WILL REMEMBER FOREVER  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 VICTORIA & TYSON**



We had the most enchanted day saying, “I do”, on the dock overlooking the beautiful waterfront views with our closest family and friends surrounding us; the subtle chirping of birds in the background and the smell of fresh fallen autumn leaves, it truly made for the most whimsical, woodland themed wedding

My [now] husband and I executed our dream day — just the two of us and I am so proud of our teamwork; that is what marriage is a lot about!



**ANNUAL TREASURE  
HUNT 2025 WINNERS!**

Teams took to the challenge theme of ‘Vintage Toys’, hosted by the Myles, Mackenzie & Norris Team, complete with clown bike road racing, twisting and crafting potato heads. Congratulations to energetic The Dawson Family who took First Place!!! Be sure to sign-up your team for the 2026 Hunt!

**FUN FACT**

A grouping of ladybugs is known as a ‘loveliness’.



Photo Courtesy of Bonnie Kondratowicz

## A WALK BACK IN TIME

by Jenna Blake with Lory Blake

My family's history at the lake began two decades ago, the year I was turning 4. The weekend my parents took possession of our cottage, in what we lovingly call 'Goldey Bay', I stepped out of our newly purchased used boat and fell immediately into the lake. This was very early May, after ice out. Dad tried to soothe me by jumping in beside me, and this began a yearly tradition of dad and I being the first ones in the lake on our very first trip in spring. We didn't know anyone on the lake at the time, but what was instilled in my brother Liam and I was that respect for the environment and our neighbours, who we had a lot to learn from, was paramount to our visits there.

To our right, was 'American Jim' and wife, Wanda Goldey, with their 4 adult children Kim, Ron, Jaymie, and Ellen with their respective spouses and grandchildren. To our left was 'Canadian Jim' and Carol, with Jim's young adult children Eric, and Amanda Griffin. My parents introduced themselves and immediately peppered them with their questions. 'Canadian Jim' soon took us on a boat trip around the lake to show us where the shoals were in the bay, and to introduce us to everyone he knew because as he wisely said, "The more people you know on the lake, the better off you are when you get into trouble". 'American Jim' would call out tips and pointers from his front deck while we were trying to learn to waterski. He also warned mom as a retired emergency room physician should, "There are a hundred different ways to get hurt on this lake", and she took this advice to heart. We knew then we had hit the jackpot by landing on this lake.

Around the same time, we met Frank and Freda Smith, who happened to be the owners

of the marina where we docked our boat. Frank was a wealth of knowledge and knew absolutely everything about the lake—he has also rescued my dad from many of his mistakes over the years, including being engulfed by a bog that appeared out of nowhere. My mom was regularly seeking advice about the challenges of gardening at the lake from Freda, who generously provided plants, cuttings, and seeds in addition to the advice. These cherished early memories are what led us to the idea of writing an article that honours the history of the lake, through the eyes of people who have been part of the fabric here for decades. It is their words that I would like to share now. Over a couple of very cold wintery days, I reached out to ask some very important questions, and these are the responses. We hope you enjoy reading these pearls, as much as we enjoyed the exercise.



Wanda and Jim Goldey

***With Wanda Goldey and Kimberley Pennington***

***1. How and when did your family first learn about the lake, how far back has your family been a visitor, then resident?***

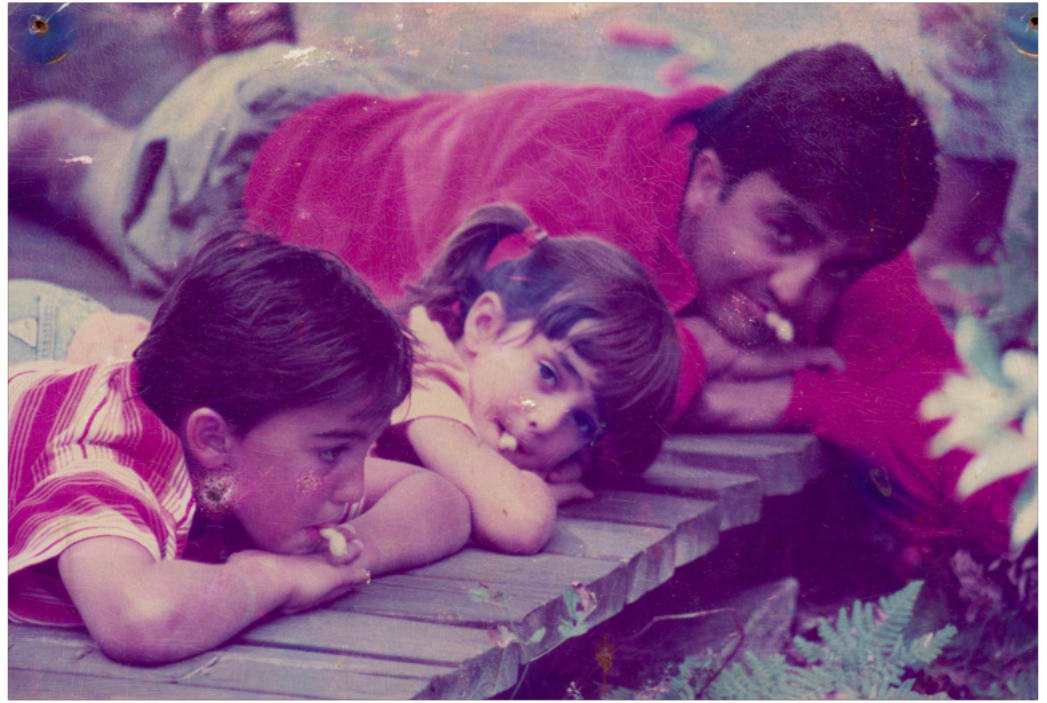
WANDA: Well, we started in 1971, when our friends Bill and Fran Hawley invited our whole family up. We stayed with them for several years. We loved it so much that we found a partly started cottage in 1976, and we moved in 1977. The little cabin had no screens, and it was very hot. We had bed linens we stored there, and when we opened the bag it was full of hornets and they came out and stung us. KIM: Our mattresses were wet because we had driven through rain with mattresses on top of the car, and I remember we arrived with mosquitos galore. WANDA: I just started crying and said I wanted to go home.

***2. Do you have any stories to share about those early years?***

WANDA: We started to finish the cottage and every year we worked on it. We had no running water, we had a two-hole outhouse, and we had some great conversations in there.

Putting up a water tower

was an experience to remember. KIM: It was a stainless-steel cream separator from a farm, and it went up on top of the roof to give us some warm water. It was a scary process. Also, when we first moved in, we had the boat full of things like the refrigerator and a stove but there was no walkway. So, my dad had a winch, and we winched the stove and the refrigerator up over the rocks to bring it up to the cottage. WANDA: My girls were there to help. For years Ellen and Jaymie swam the hose out into the water, pulling it so we had some water. Of course we had no bathroom, so we took baths in the lake and used Ivory soap because it floated. We used very little soap and very little shampoo. We had propane lights, a propane stove and refrigerator. We still have the stove but it's fine, it works great. As we got older, we put in a bathroom with a shower and the kids had a fit; they didn't want to change--but they used it. KIM: Actually, it gets used very little now, because we have a warm water outside shower and we prefer those. WANDA: ... and it's wonderful! KIM: We had no electricity, so we went to bed when it got dark. We had to boil water on the stove to do dishes, wash our face, and even boiled water for drinking those first couple of years. WANDA: My mother and father came up one time and my dad said, "This was the way I grew up with an outhouse and no running water," and he said, "I don't want to come back". KIM: We used to use CB radios to communicate because we had no phones and nobody had cell phones at that point. People would start the day with "Good morning" to people all around the lake. That was one special memory. WANDA: Your dad was 'Sawbones' and Uncle Bill was 'Big Blue' as codenames. KIM: You changed the channel if you wanted to invite someone for dinner and didn't want to invite the whole lake. We were known as the Sawbones Camp and that was a nod to his being a physician. Sawbones is an old-fashioned name for being a doctor. We baked all our own bread; did a lot of our own baking and cooking and still do. WANDA: Because it is fun, we love cooking. If you went into town, you would call on the CB to see if anyone needed anything so you could pick things up for them, too.



Waiting for Chipmunks



Photo Courtesy of Carter Myles

***3. What are some of the family traditions you've kept on your visits to the lake over the years?***

WANDA: Some of our traditions include hikes up to Mink Lake with fishing and swimming and occasionally a canoe trip upon arrival. We would always have a shore lunch up there and we would take bacon and baked beans, in case we didn't catch enough fish. We had picnics on Picnic Island with the Hawleys, would go waterskiing, and fishing. Jim would get down in the water on the dock by your place and clean the fish there. A big turtle would come by and nibble the bits off Jim's toes, but he never bit him. KIM: We also did annual blueberry picking and still do, making blueberry pancakes, cobblers and my mother's blueberry cream pie. We also talked about how we would swim because we do swim, but we would skinny dip. WANDA: We loved it because nothing feels better than just skinny dipping.

***4. Do you have any cherished memories you'd like to share with us?***

WANDA: Cherished memories include all of those things, working puzzles, playing bridge, reading, and just sitting and enjoying the quiet and looking at the lake. Also, feeding the birds, hearing and seeing the loons. We've had lots of friends at Lake Weslemkoon over the years. We also love music and entertaining. The kids and grandkids played guitars and we would have singalongs, usually with a little fire. Ron loved to sing country music, so did Byron, they would harmonize and sing along. KIM: As we prepared for this interview, one of things we talked about was that my dad would get lots of business removing fishhooks from people on the lake, including a dog one year that had a fishhook by his eye. He had way of removing them that was painless and didn't require making a big hole. Every summer there were quite a few people that would come by to have a fishhook taken out. He made a video of his method and also used it in the hospital emergency room where he worked. The hook would just pop right out and was painless!

***5. What are some of your favourite features of the lake you look forward to, to enjoy alone or with family?***

KIM: I would say to that one of my favourite things about the lake is the fact that it has stayed the same, since the 1970's when we started going--- you look out and the view is the same, the quiet is the same because there's plenty of Crown Land around. You know, it's not like things have happened to make it ugly, or too noisy or touristy. Another special memory is that some of our family have enjoyed feeding the chipmunks peanuts from their hands. WANDA: The kids would lay down on their tummies and hold a peanut out in their mouths, and the chipmunk would just take it out. There is something therapeutic about being up there; it's just restful. I am ready to go back back home after several weeks, but I enjoy being up there more than anything. KIM: It's like my happy place.

***6. Do you have any advice to offer to younger generations of cottagers, as future stewards of the lake?***

WANDA: We hope that in the future, people will be careful about the loons' nests and keeping the wake quiet, so that it doesn't swamp the nest. Also, to keep the lake clean-- as much as they can, and I think we've kept it clean. KIM: We believe it is important to help each other, asking friends if they need anything when you go to town, being available to help if people need it. KIM: I think another thing that we appreciate, and mom does too, is that the lake is full of like-minded people that enjoy the same kinds of activities. It takes a certain kind of person to enjoy being up there and we've always been careful about who we've invited to join us, because not everyone can deal with the quiet and that there isn't a town to visit and places to go out to eat. I've always appreciated that we have so much in common with our fellow lakera in terms of how we enjoy our time there. The lack of technology is definitely an advantage, we don't spend our time watching TV, and there is no radio station that we really can get successfully. A lot of times our cellphones don't work at all, so you just learn to do without those things. It's nice to unplug.

## ***With Michèle Smith of Smith's Landing***

### ***1. How and when did your family first discover the lake, how far back has your family been residents in the area?***

The back story is that my great, great, great grandparents landed at Weslemkoon from eastern Ontario in the 1880's or 1890's to farm on Nicol Island. I could be wrong, but I believe they were the second settlers on the lake. This was back when the water level was much lower on southern end of the lake. My great grandmother Vearl Grant grew up there, then she married Alex Gunter from Gunter, and ran a marina where Weslemkoon Marina is now. They ran that for years. My grandmother Mattie Gunter was born and raised in Weslemkoon, then eventually met and married my grandfather Bill Smith, who was working on the lake in logging. They got married and started Smith's Landing in the location where Four Loons Marina is today. When my dad Frank was born, he lived where the Four Loons location is now where he grew up with his 5 siblings. The old cellar of the original house they lived in still exists behind the store. In short, I would be the 6<sup>th</sup> generation of my family on the lake.

### ***2. Do you have any stories to share about those early years?***

It was a very interesting place to grow up because it was very cottagey. You had your May 24 to Labour Day crowd come in but come November it became our massive playground. We would have the entire lake on the south end to ourselves. There were not a lot of people living there year-round, most of them were family and if I focused on the winters, it was the most unique period because it was very isolated, so we had to make our own fun. During the summertime we had access to the marina, and we would run over and get a treat with a dollar. We could buy a chocolate bar for 85 cents and 15 penny candies. We also looked forward to Friday night when people would drop in for drinks and catching up after unloading cars into boats. In the winter they would come in to warm up before they got their gear on and went up the lake by snowmobile. The kids knew if they waited for 2-3 drinks, the kids would get 2 whole dollars, not just one! Honor Burke at Burke's Marina (where Four Loons is now) would cringe when we walked in the door because we kids would just want to get our hands on the candy. The sense of community was much much stronger back then--you didn't have cell phones, no internet, you just had the old CB radio. Everyone had a call name for their cottage and sometimes it would be fun to eavesdrop, not gonna lie. Then in wintertime with a big snowmobile culture some would live on the lake during the winter. It was such a different time. There was one year the weather was so bad they didn't plow or sand the lake road, so we had a whole extra week off after March Break. There was an ice storm so bad that we could ice skate up the road for a couple of kilometres and back. Sometimes the lake would flood, and we would skate to the lighthouse and back. We would have the whole lake to ourselves. There was no one else around.



Bill and Mattie Smith

### ***3. What are some of the family traditions you've kept on your visits to the lake over the years?***

Well, there's still stopping at my parent's house now that I'm a cottage owner because my husband and I bought in 2013. We park at my parents and for the longest time we were weekend warriors like everyone else---stop in and say hello, then leave on Sunday. I don't think we have the typical cottage traditions because when you are living there, it's just different. As a resident, it's your livelihood--for my family there, it's your income. It's how we survived. We had the marina, and the Tea Room and the Bake Shop. My dad is a contractor, and my mom ran the bake shop. Growing up, mom had a large garden, and dad hunted every year. It was just a different approach to living on the lake, versus having a cottage on the lake. Then I become a cottager and things turned around in 2020 because I got permission to work from the cottage from May to October.

I now work most of the time from there and go back to Toronto when needed so it's a weird combo of being able to live there again and having regular dinners with my parents on a Wednesday night as an adult---I don't think a lot of people are able to do that. When you grow up there, your world is pretty small. Even if you live in Bancroft, you have options. When you live at Weslemkoon, everything is an hour away. I clearly remember before cell towers appeared and having a Blackberry for work, I would stop in Madoc and call my boss, send emails to key people saying, "I'm exiting cell service, but here is my parent's number, so call me if you really need me for something important". A couple times my dad would boat over and tell me somebody had called, so I'd have to jump in the boat, go to my parent's house, get on the landline and call them back. I kind of miss those days. I miss the no cell service at the lake; I miss the days of no access. I miss the days of Cottage Time is Cottage Time. It has kind of ruined the sense that your cottage is a sanctuary when you throw in the stress of a work environment that you create, because it does interfere with the cottage vibe.

**4. Do you have any cherished memories you'd like to share with us?**

I have so many memories. Friday nights when people came over to my parents for drinks, going to Burke's Marina to get our candies and hanging out with the grandchildren of Mike and Honor Burke. People would be waiting on their fry orders and hang out. We put money in the jukebox to play Van Halen's 'Jump' and every time he sang "Jump", 5 or 6 of us jumped over and over again into the water right off the dock. It was a marina, a place of business, but family, kids, and people visiting with each other came first. It was a much more social environment. I also remember the regattas up in Otter Lake very fondly. My dad would load up his work barge tied with a bunch of picnic tables and lots of people and we would slowly ride up the lake to Otter Lake. The sailing regattas were for the adults, but there were also paddleboat races for the kids. I also remember Junior Loons canoe races down by the old battlegrounds, and baseball games every Saturday morning. Also, the wintertime was pretty special because we had the whole lake to ourselves. We would take snowmobiles, four wheelers and our GT Snow Racers everywhere. We kind of tied them up and dragged them around behind us, falling off and getting run over by the GT racer. God, the injuries we had-- but mostly bruises! Sure, we had an Atari and Nintendo, but my parents would tell us, "Get dressed, get outside". That's one of the benefits of living in the country is that we had the freedom to literally be gone all day. We'd get up, eat breakfast, go outside and my mom wouldn't see us until lunchtime. We'd come home for lunch and be back outside until dinner. I'm not sure that happens anymore. We were everywhere-- I'm not sure if my parents knew where we were half the time. You can tell most of my fond memories are from under the age of 16.

**5. What are some of your favourite features of the lake you look forward to, to enjoy alone or with family?**

I would say probably my number one favourite thing about the lake is the Lighthouse. It's amazing, I love it---it's a feature in many of my sunset photos. As kids, there's the lake and the shoreline, the look of the lake, the water and all those things obviously, means a lot. Ice fishing in the wintertime for us was huge---whether we went to Long Lake, Green Lake or ice fishing in the big lake. Ice fishing was a huge part of our winters there. Our favourite was ice fishing north of Cameron Island. We would walk over to the island before we owned it, and put a fire in the fireplace there, and roast hotdogs.



Dad Smith

When we got older, my dad would put an ice hut out, but often we drilled holes and just hung out. There would always be a bunch of people there. Cameron Island, the lighthouse and roasting hot dogs stand out for me. Now I actually own the island. My dad bought it years ago and has passed it on to me. The lake is unique in the south end, the big lake, the trails to Mink Lake—they are all part of it. Every time I bring company up, everyone is always shocked at how unique our lake is and I love that. I love that it's unique, I love that it's very secluded and hidden. Hiking, portaging, four-wheeling, snowmobiling into other lakes, ice fishing, and the lighthouse are all my favourites. There are also quite a few cottages on the lake that are very old, unique, and so fascinating--- especially with their history. And with the inside of those cottages, you can literally travel back in time, it is just the coolest thing.

**6. Do you have any advice to offer to younger generations of cottagers, as future stewards of the lake?**

To me, it's important that you honour and respect the history but don't resist change. Change has to be the right kind of change for the lake. Don't try to keep the lake, the environment and the cottages how it was 50 years ago, because the world has changed. But at the same time do respect and honour the time, the history and the people who helped make the lake what it is---and respect that it is not just the cottagers who made the lake, but also the residents and people who have lived there for generations. Sometimes I do feel that there is less respect for people who have lived there; and live on the lake--like the businesses. If you want people available to you 24/7 to do all those little things for you, they need to make a living off of it. Another thing I would say on this topic with the next generation, is go get to know your neighbours and get to know the people on the lake. That means everyone---south, north, east, west, residents and cottagers alike---and help each other. Let's keep a community that supports each other and loves the lake and helps it grow in the right way because that will be up to the next generation. I think more people need to be involved in the LWCA, the younger generation needs to get in there and get involved with the LWCA. Let's create change by committee by having the right people at the table, with many voices that need to be heard. It was the Indigenous People's lake first and I'd want to see more respect for the name of the lake and its Indigenous history. There's a lot of love and appreciation for Weslemkoon Lake, and we have to keep that alive.

Tara and Jason (and their chocolate lab Baci)



**TARA & JASON  
FROM INDIA TO CALIFORNIA**

Tara Nagar and Jason Lapidus celebrated their marriage with two weddings this year, one in California and one in India. Tara is the daughter of Jaymie Goldey Nagar and Amit Nagar and the granddaughter of James and Wanda Goldey, cottage 253. Tara and Jason have spent many summers at Lake Weslemkoon and were thrilled to have lake friends Bob

and Donna Bourne, Terry and Pam Boucher, Chris, Carol, Kate and Jared Bell, and Gabby Lloyd attend one or both weddings. These friends have become family over the many special summers the Goldey/Nagar family have been coming to Lake Weslemkoon!



**FUN FACT**

*Ravens* may be coached to speak even more than parrots and have been known to develop a vocabulary of 100 words or more with time spent with humans.





## 1. Protect People

Create an evacuation plan  
 Have First Aid/CPR training & an emergency kit  
 Have a fire pump & practice using it

Have an Automatic Emergency Defibrillator  
 Install a bubbler alert sign on your dock if you have a bubbler

## 2. Protect Paradise

### Fire Prevention

Follow Firesmart Canada guidelines  
 Practice firework free personal celebrations

### Vegetation

Plant & maintain native plants  
 Recognize invasive species and remove, if advisable Avoid introducing invasive species to our forests by cleaning shoes and dog paws *before* hiking  
 Avoid erosion from rainfall runoff with curved pathways

### Sky

Use dark sky friendly lightning techniques to avoid light pollution

### Water Quality

Check your septic and pump it if needed  
 Use a microfibre filter on washing machine (or wash at home) to minimize microfibres in lake  
 Use soaps, shampoos and detergents that are free of harsh chemicals or phosphates  
 Clean Drain and Dry all watercraft before transport

### Shorelines and Waterbirds

Be Wake Wise on Weslemkoon: leave no wake when boating <30 meters from shore  
 Foster a naturalized and healthy riparian zone  
 Enjoy non-motorized lake activities (swimming, canoeing, kayaking, birdwatching)

## 3. Conserve Energy & Clean Air

### Update technologies in cottage country:

Induction stoves  
 Heat pumps  
 LED lights  
 Back-up battery (rather than gas generator)  
 Solar panels  
 Arrive in an EV or hybrid and try to carpool  
 Turn off lights and appliances not in use

## 4. Conserve Resources

**Reduce:** Buy only what is needed,

**Reuse:** Thrift, repurpose, borrow, share, or sell

**Recycle:** Follow instructions from Addington Highlands

### Also:

Minimize purchases in plastic packaging  
 Eat more plant based meals  
 Compost food waste

## 5. Grow Awareness

- Hike a trail and follow hiking best practices
- ID bird calls with the Merlin Ap
- Use the Seek and INaturalist Aps to ID plants
- Explore Indigenous uses of plants
- Explore lake life via underwater viewer & remove trash

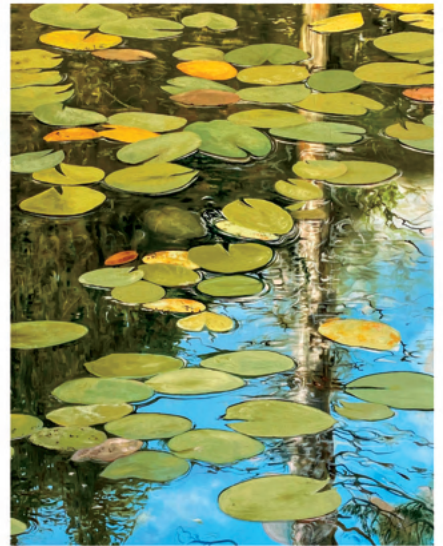
- Rescue a turtle: consult [Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre](#) or [Think Turtle](#) for transport
- Find the geocaches on our lake, place a new one!
- Try a Citizen Science activity with family/friends
- Choose a sit spot and observe nature

## 6. Advocate for Climate and the Environment

Ask federal, provincial and local governments to protect Weslemkoon: contact [MP Shelby Kramp-Neuman](#) and [MPP Ric Bresee](#)

Sign up for the Federation of Ontario Cottage Association (FOCA) elert

Support local organizations working to build community and enhance/restore nature



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Lynne Vegter Art

905-718-6524

Fine Art Studio on Lake Weslemkoon, 2052 Hartsmere road, McArthurs Mills, Near Bancroft. Please call or email to arrange a studio tour. Access from Lake Weslemkoon Cottage # 111. Accepts Commissions and Fine Art Prints Available.

### TWO WEDDINGS TO REMEMBER

With two weddings within five months, it has been a busy and joyful time for our family. It began with our youngest son, Evan, marrying his longtime girlfriend, Natasha. The celebration featured the Serbian tradition of a bridal 'bargain,' followed by a lively bagpiped parade as both families walked together to the church two blocks away.



Five months later, our oldest son married his lovely bride, Ally. This wedding went off without a hitch—except for the small detail that the groom broke his leg three days before the 'I do's.' After two nights in the hospital and surgery the day before the wedding, it was a tremendous relief to walk him down the aisle, albeit on crutches.



Two very different celebrations, each unforgettable in its own way, and both filled with love, laughter, and the joy of welcoming two wonderful daughters into our family.

*The Thomas Family*

		<b>JULY</b>		1 <b>Canada Day</b>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12 <b>National Pecan Pie Day</b>	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19 <b>National Ice Cream Day</b>	20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>Makers Market</b>	
26	27	28	29	30	31	<b>AUGUST</b>	
2	3 <b>Civic Holiday</b>	4	5	6	7	8 <b>LWCA AGM</b>	
9	10 <b>National S'mores Day</b>	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31	<b>SEPT</b>		2	3	4	5 <b>Treasure Hunt</b>



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