

The
**Loon
Call**
W E S L E M K O O N L A K E



An Annual Newsletter
for all
Lake Weslemkoon
Conservation Associates
and Supporters



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

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-  www.weslemkoon.com
-  <https://www.facebook.com/LWCAnews>
-  https://www.instagram.com/lwca_ontario/
-  Email: info@weslemkoon.com

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The Loon Call
Editor's: Anne Coulter/Alison Myles
Graphic Design: Pat Bothwell

President's Message - 2022

I don't think I have ever been as excited to get back to the lake as I am this year. For me this Covid winter seems to have dragged on longer and been more disruptive than last and I am so looking forward to gathering with friends and extended family out of doors, meeting new friends, and enjoying the peace and tranquility that our beautiful lakes provide for us.

One thing that has been reinforced for me over the past two years is the power of community. It has been amazing to see people looking out for others best interests, taking care of each other and making personal sacrifices for the benefit of society as a whole. That is one thing that I so love about our Weslemkoon community; from helping each other find lost pets and docks, to working together to assist wildlife in distress, to sharing stories of our time at the lake, our community is truly special. The LWCA recognizes that community is key and we are planning events and activities to engage all members of our lake community.

An issue that is close to our hearts at the LWCA is the role that climate change is playing on our lake environment and the impacts that it will have on our cottage experience. Our lake habitat is experiencing stresses due to climate change, and it is up to us to do our very best to reduce carbon emissions, both at the lake and at home, in order to help avert the worst case scenario. We will continue to pay close attention to this issue and do our best to keep you informed. We encourage you to stay on top of municipal, provincial and federal agenda items that impact climate change and consider climate change platforms when voting in the upcoming elections.

Historically our seasonal cottage visits were restricted to the months of July and August, but over the years we have extended our summer cottage season to April to November, and many of us also visit the

lakes during the winter. This is great for us as the lakes provides much needed downtime from the urban areas along with all the mental health benefits that come from being surrounded by nature. However this extended cottage season increases our impact on the lake environment, from added light and noise pollution to increased chances of invasive species introduction. Luckily there is a lot of information available for us on best cottaging practices. I hope that you received your copy of the Watersheds Canada Lake Workbook; A Self Assessment Tool for Property Owners from us last summer. The workbook will help you assess how well you are protecting your property and your lakefront through everyday actions and provides practical information, recommendations, and space for recording improvements to assist you in your lake protection efforts. If you have not yet received your copy please contact us info@weslemkoon.com and we will drop one off at your cottage for you.

One fabulous way to increase your knowledge of the issues impacting our lake habitat is by getting involved with the LWCA, either as a board member, a committee member, or a general volunteer. Another is to follow us on Facebook, and join our social media groups as we regularly post important information about environmental issues that affect our lake habitat.

Whether you are a full time resident, camper, fisher person or cottager we all have the health of the lake in common. We are so privileged to have this piece of paradise at our fingertips, and the wonderful community to be a part of; let's work together to ensure that both remain healthy. Please stay informed, get involved, talk to your neighbours and remind them to join the LWCA if they are not members already. I really look forward to seeing you on the lake this summer, and hope that everyone who was unable to visit the lake last summer is able to make a return to our piece of paradise.

Weslemkoon Maker's Market

2021 |
July 31

12-2

Weslemkoon Marina

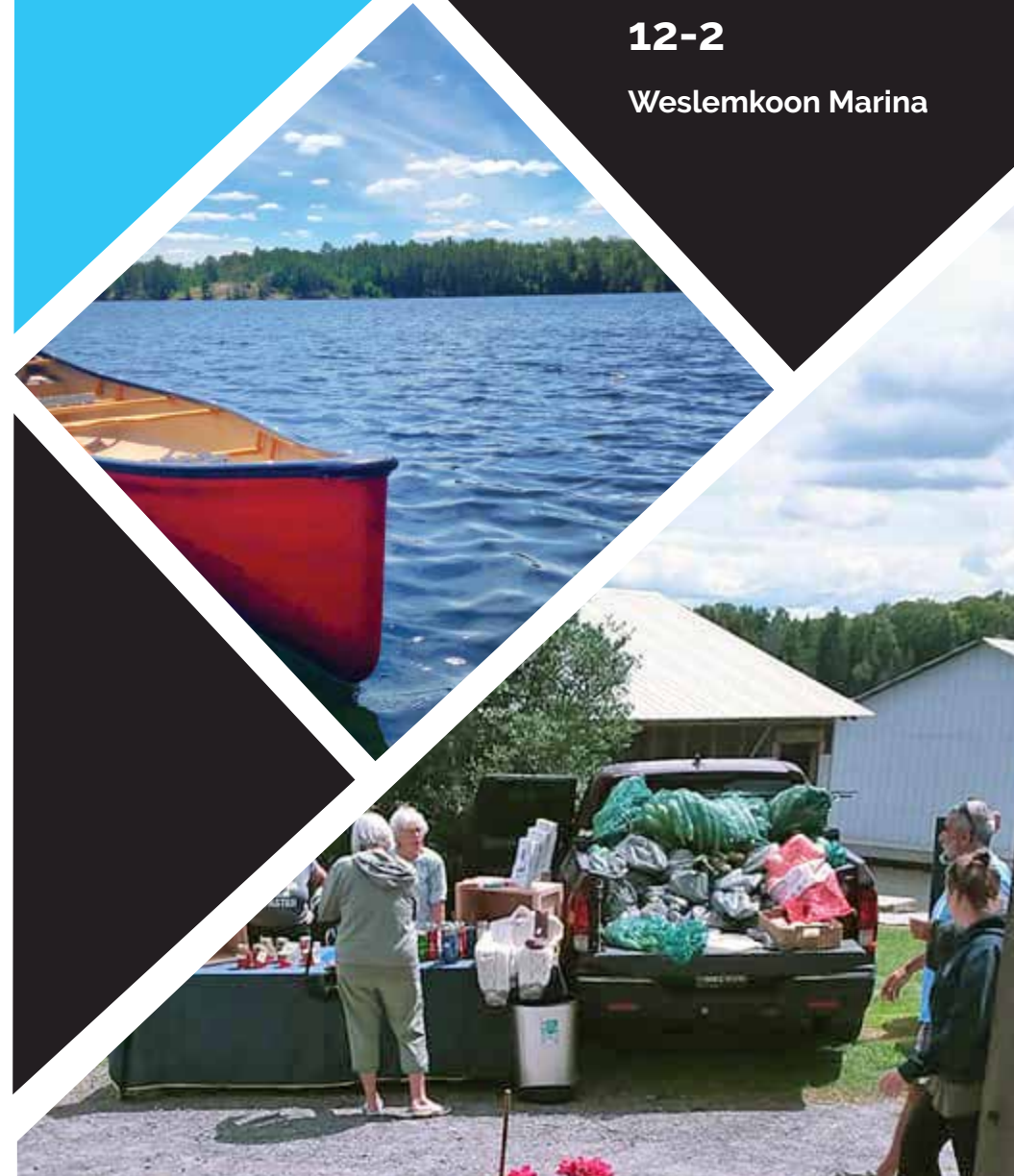


Photo Courtesy of Angela Schnurr

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Since the (seemingly never ending) Covid-19 Pandemic caused the cancellation of all social gatherings during the summer of 2020, we were super excited to be able to take advantage of the lifting of restrictions during the summer of 2021 to organize a Weslemkoon Maker's Market. Weslemkoon Marina graciously offered their outdoor area for our use and we were blessed with a glorious sunny day for the over 20 local vendors to display

their wares. From delicious baked goods to creative artistic designs, there was truly an amazing assortment of items to enjoy. The number of talented individuals in our community is amazing!

We truly thank our fabulous lake community for supporting the 2021 event. We are working on plans for the 2022 Marketplace which will take place on July 16, 2022. This summer's event will also

include a Community Chat area where you will be able to participate in workshops and conversations on topics that are pertinent and informative while forming community connections. We look forward to seeing you there!

"Join us at this year's Maker's Market on Saturday, July 16th!"

Melissa



THE

STUART INGLIS LIGHTHOUSE

Ever since it was built the Lighthouse has been an attraction.

The owner of the property at that time, Mr. W.J. Hartwig, was vice-president at the Ford Motor Company and is reputed to have invented the electric starter. So it is of no surprise

when we learn that the original purpose of the Lighthouse was to be a windmill that generated electricity. A generator with a propeller was mounted on a pole on the roof and batteries were stored within the

Lighthouse itself. There is no evidence that the project was successful as there are no traces of electric wiring in the Hartwig camp. Perhaps the electricity was used for another purpose. Perhaps the project was never properly completed because Hartwig sold the property shortly after the Lighthouse was built.

In the 1957 LWCA newsletter there is a note saying that there was a desire to put in a light in the Lighthouse. The original light was a very large kerosene lantern. That was replaced by two propane lanterns. In 1965 the propane cost the Association \$12.15 and the insurance was \$15.15. In 1979 a battery powered light was put in. Once the Lake was electrified in 1986 the days of the Lighthouse as a lighthouse were numbered, as powerful electric lights of various cottages overwhelmed the tiny, but ever-present, light of the Lighthouse. The light was thus turned off.



Construction of the Lighthouse.

This photo shows the generator with the propeller mounted on top. Note there is no cement skirting surrounding yet. Also note the cabin on Cameron Island is still there. By the 1950s it fell into ruins and was torn down in 1957 by Harvey Bryan and Kenneth Nicol.

Preparing a Forest Site Restoration Plan

By Ruth Fergus

In 2019, our two cottage properties on West Bay of Weslemkoon Lake were hit by a severe windstorm. There had also been a previous storm in 2018. These storms broke many trees and pushed over others (200 trees +/-). Pushing over large trees resulted in their roots lifting the shallow soil which once covered the bedrock underneath. Most of the fallen trees were large red or white pine. Some large-tooth aspen, balsam fir and other species also succumbed in the storms. About 1 hectare of forest was impacted, extending from the shoreline up to the ridge near the hydro line.

- 1) We started by removing many of the downed trees closest to the shore and some tree material was chipped. Frank Smith and his crew did this work following the storm. There was so much downfall, that the property was impassable. The logs were floated down the lake by barge.
- 2) We then began to transplant natural white pine seedlings and saplings, which were present onsite to some of the disturbed areas.
- 3) We retained a professional forester from Bancroft in 2020 to visit our properties and recommend a replanting plan. Following his visit he outlined next steps:
 - ✓ Continue planting/transplanting white pine seedlings (1'- 2' tall) in areas with sufficient soil (1'- 2' deep or more), planting them at about a 3'x 3' spacing. He recom-

mended planting white pine among the young poplar trees present to provide partial shading and reduce chances of damage by the white pine weevil in their early growth. The poplar can be removed when white pine trees are over 20' tall.

- ✓ Where open, sandy sites are available, plant red pine seedlings (2-0 stock) at about a 10' by 10' spacing.
- ✓ Plant white cedar seedlings along the shore above the normal high-water mark at about a 6' x 6' spacing. Plant at least a second row above, offsetting the second row to maintain the same spacing between trees. These trees grow slowly but will eventually help disperse the force of future on-shore winds.
- ✓ Along the high-water mark and above, plant shoreline shrubs especially where insufficient soil depth will not allow good tree growth. Some shrubs will readily multiply from one planted individual plant. Red osier dogwood can spend part of the year in the water and is a good shoreline choice. Plant the shrubs at about a 6' x 6' spacing and at least two rows deep. Many shrubs have flowers and bear fruit used by wildlife.
- ✓ To further enhance the variety of trees, shrubs and wildlife present, add a few hardwood and fruit tree species.
- ✓ He recommended hiring local



forest technicians to assist with the planting.

- ✓ The forester provided us with some general information sheets on native trees and shrubs used in the Bancroft area, and highlighted the existence of Beech bark disease (BBD) on the property. This non-native insect-fungus has slowly been making its way across Canada since being introduced in Halifax in the 1890's. It was confirmed in Ontario in 1999 and has since spread throughout the Province.
- 4) We contacted the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council online store www.bancroftstewardship.ca, and ordered about 200 trees and shrubs for spring planting in 2021:
 - ✓ In addition to white cedar, white pine, red pine, and dogwood, we ordered white spruce and sugar maple.
 - ✓ We picked up our order in early May '21, and then hired two forest technicians who planted the saplings according to the forestry plan. It was a very dry spring so we had to regularly water the new trees.
 - ✓ Balsam fir removal was also recommended and small balsams were cut to provide more light and nutrients for the new trees.
 - ✓ To accelerate the decay of slash, trunks and limbs were lowered to the ground using chainsaws.
 - ✓ Natural successional tree growth is also occurring over the disturbed areas and the new saplings appear healthy, despite the dry year.
 - ✓ We intend to plant/ transplant more trees in 2022

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.

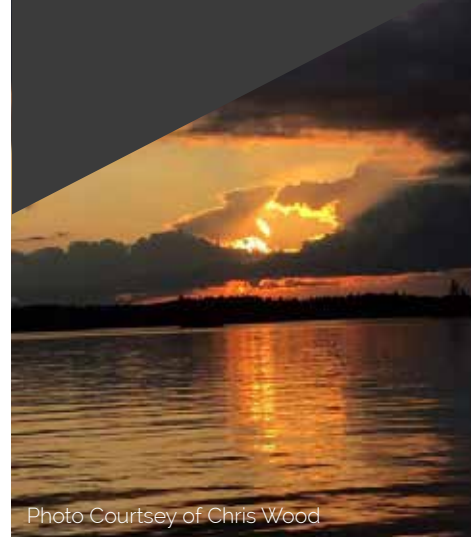


Photo Courtesy of Chris Wood

Loons on Weslemkoon

Thank you once again to all the volunteers who helped out with our loon survey.

The gentle ice melt and stable water levels were favourable to our loon population. The adult loon count remains stable between 12 and 14. We had at least 3 baby loons on the lake this year that all seemed to survive into the fall.

Loons are clumsy on land, so they build their nests very close to the shore edge. They have one brood a year of 1-2 eggs that need to incubate for 25-30 days, typically from late May to early July. Please help keep our loon eggs safe by

remembering to not boat or jet ski close to shore and watch your speed as wakes can easily swamp these low-lying nests. Young loons are to swim and ride on parents' backs within hours of hatching and leave the nest with a day or two after hatching. They can dive and swim underwater at 2-3 days and are able to fly between 10 and 11 weeks.

Please approach shore slowly and quietly when looking for nests and watch from as far away as possible. If a loon leaves its nest, leave the area immediately as the loon will return once it feels safe.



Photo Courtesy Frank Smith

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Our Finnish Sauna

by Minna Raisanen

My parents, Ahti and Tuula bought our cottage in Mackie Bay in the spring of 1980 and the following summer, construction began on our family's wood fired two-story Finnish log sauna. With no working knowledge of log home building, my father set out with a few rough sketches and a mind full of inspiration. He, alongside his father in-law and my brother, would spend the next three years building, from early spring, as soon as the ice went out, late into the chilly Lake Weslemkoon fall. The logs were locally sourced Red Pine. They were floated across the lake from Tanglewood Marina, sixteen at a time, behind a fibreglass boat with an 85 hp Johnson. Once on shore, the logs were brought up the hill using a winch and pulley system and set aside for peeling. At this time we did not have hydro on the lake, and my father had to use a generator for some tools, but the logs themselves were peeled by hand using a bark spud and a drawknife. I spent many an afternoon peeling logs and fighting the black flies

and deer flies! From early morning until the sun went down, my father and his chainsaw could be heard buzzing (to our neighbours' dismay), as he worked to build his dream sauna.

In the first year the walls went up, using a scribe to measure and determine how one log would fit tightly onto the one beneath it. The log was then notched out lengthwise to fit almost seamlessly, with a little insulation for good measure. My father wanted the entire structure of the building to be without metal so he made wooden spikes. He used a hand-powered one inch diameter drill to make holes in the logs, then drove the wooden spikes through 3 logs at a time.

In the second year my father put up the roof structure and cedar shake shingles and, at my grandfather's insistence, the final and 100th log at the peak. My grandfather said that without a log at the peak of the roof, it wouldn't look finished. He was right. The following summer the window frames and doors (that my dad made) went in, as did the flooring, the benches and wood burning heater (complete with rocks) imported all the way from Finland.

In the fall of 1983 we had our first family sauna, including my grandparents. We carried water from the lake in buckets for bathing; something we would do for years to come until dad put a faucet inside the sauna which brought water directly from the lake. To this day, even as most of us have hydro in our cottages, the sauna remains without it, and in the evenings we use lanterns as our only source of light.

With the main construction of the sauna complete, the fourth summer was spent adding the finishing touches such as stairs

to the upstairs room, complete with a balcony and heart shaped window on the tiny door leading onto it. The heart shaped window and room above the sauna were made with me, his daughter, in mind; a nice warm place to sleep after an evening sauna and a long day in the sun.

Over the years the sauna has been a place to bathe, socialize and to introduce friends to a 'true' sauna experience, complete with a Vihta. A Vihta is a bouquet, if you will, made from birch branches early in the spring when the leaves are soft and pliable. With the Vihta one 'beats' themselves or another person all over in the heat of the sauna to release toxins from the skin and to relax the muscles. It's better than any massage I've ever had! To finish off a perfect sauna night, we might enjoy a cold beer on the deck while looking out onto Lake Weslemkoon and listening to the haunting call of the Loon.



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At the annual Thanksgiving dinner on Lake Weslemkoon, the Baird family go around the table offering thanks. Here is what Russell Baird read out on Saturday (think Ode to Joy, for metre). There followed applause and requests to duplicate and send it out.

THANK YOU

Thank you thank you
Weslemkoon Lake

For your islands and your
shores

Thank you for the family
gath'nings

And for Wildlife, evermore.

We'll preserve it, we'll adore it

Long as we keep coming here.

Keep us true to all our pledges

May we never let you down

And may this pristine lake

Be adored for evermore

The Legend of Wesley McKoon

By: The 749 Crew

A long, long time ago, in a distant land, Lord Addington of the Highlands entrusted Wesley McKoon to protect his treasure that was to be shared with the poor. One night, Captain Squally and his crew of thieves, snuck into Wesley's castle and stole the treasure. Wesley told his best friend Pike to gather his men and give chase to Squally, to take back the treasure to give to those in need. Wesley and Pike chased Squally across the ocean, down the St. Lawrence river, until their ships crashed against the shore in what we know today as Kingston. They made their way overland for many weeks, following Captain Squally to get the treasure back.

Arriving at a large lake, Squally camped out in a secluded bay, ready to protect his loot. Pike climbed a tall peak to see if they could find a way to break into Squally's camp. Wesley's men decided to build a fort at the top of the cliff to keep watch over Squally in his Bay. For many days and nights, the two sides kept watch to see who would make the first move.

Wesley and his men explored the full lake, fishing, picking blueberries, and hunting the game, while Squally and his crew struggled to survive in their bay. Wesley began to realize that the true treasure in life was appreciating the beauty of nature and the resources that the lake provided.

In an effort to make peace, Wesley invited Squally to a feast of bass and perch. They both agreed to meet at a large rock island that resembled a skull, far away from each of their camps, and bare of trees so that neither could sneak up on the other. On one cold, dark, and foggy night the two met to share a meal and talk peace at the top of the rock island. Squally, not trusting his own crew, brought all the treasure in the hold of his ship.

Secretly, Squally sent his crew through the fog to ambush Pike and his men on the peak. As soon as Wesley and Squally sat down to eat, Squally's men sounded the alarm to attack. Wesley, hearing the commotion across the lake, realized he was being betrayed. The two men fought long and hard, until

Squally stabbed Wesley, sending him off the cliff to his death.

Squally, having been so consumed with killing Wesley, failed to notice that his ship had begun to sink with the weight of the treasure. Panicking he dove down into the water to try to save the treasure within. Neither the treasure, ship, or Squally himself were ever seen again.

Meanwhile, back at Pike's Peak, things were looking grim. Many men on both sides had lost their lives or were gravely injured. Suddenly, all of Wesley's men could see through the dark and fog as if it was daylight, while all of Squally's crew remained engulfed in the darkness. One by one, all of Squally's crew began to fall until only Wesley's men remained. As dawn began to break, a ghostly figure appeared. Before disappearing entirely, Pike realized that the figure was in fact the ghost of Wesley McKoon. Pike and the remaining men vowed to stay and protect the lake's resources, in honour of Wesley and his appreciation for the treasure it held. For generations afterwards, descendants of Pike and his men would tell the tale of the heroics of Wesley and the importance of appreciating the beauty of the lake.

To this day, foolish treasure hunters continue to dive from Skull Island in search of Squally's long lost fortune. And, when crossing the lake on dark, foggy nights, the ghost of Wesley McKoon will clear the way to protect those who value the lake the same way he did.

Do you have a campfire story that you want to share? Submit your story to info@weslemkoon.com for a chance to win a prize and to get published in next year's Loon Call.



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Volunteer With Us!

Volunteering with the LWCA is a fabulous way to learn about our lakes and surrounding environment, form lifelong friendships, and give back to our lake community. Whether you have 1 hour or unlimited time to spare, we would truly value your assistance as we are a fully volunteer-led initiative, and together we achieve more.

Join a Committee

Do you have interest or experience in any of the following areas?

- Climate Change and Invasive Species
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation
- Community Relations and Outreach
- Safe Boating
- Trails & Campsites
- Emergency Preparedness

If your answer is yes then please consider joining one of our Committees. Committee members work together to stay abreast of current events, and information for their

topic and keep our members informed and engaged.

Become a Director

Are you passionate about environmental conservation, education, and community building? Do you have awesome ideas and would like to help inform the direction of the LWCA? Consider becoming a Director on the Board. Directors meet virtually and in person to oversee the day to day functioning of the LWCA, and also carry out tasks specific to their role.

Do What You Can, Just Get Involved!

The following are perfect for people who have only limited time to spare:

- Blog writing
- Loon Call article writing
- Trail maintenance, shoreline and campsite clean up
- Instagram and Facebook post writing
- Lead an activity for Jr Loons
- Lead a workshop

Please email info@weslemkoon.com to let us know how and where you would like to help out, or fill in the Volunteer form on our website.

Thank you so very much to everyone who volunteered to make the summer activities of 2021 successful. We are grateful for your time, and the passion that you have for our lake and community.

"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much" – Helen Keller

FUN FACT

You know it's summer when the crickets start chirping. Crickets actually change their tune depending on the temperature. The hotter it is, the faster they chirp. You can even calculate how hot it is by listening and counting a cricket's chirps. To get the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit, just count the number of chirps in 15 seconds and add 37. Excerpt from the National Geographic website.

Lynne Vegter
 Fine Art Studio
www.lynnevegterart.ca
lynne.vegter@outlook.com
 905-718-6524

Fine Art Studio on Lake Weslemkoon, 2052 Hartsmere road, McArthurs Mills, Near Bancroft. Open Studio Second & Last Weekends in July, August & September Access from Lake Weslemkoon Cottage # 111. Accepts Commissions and Fine Art Prints Available



Photo Courtesy of Ana Adriano

Winter at Weslemkoon

by Marty Blake



Winter at Weslemkoon is a lot of fun. But firstly and most importantly, NO ICE IS SAFE ICE. Traveling over the ice is always at your own risk regardless of the information kindly offered by locals and frequent visitors. Best NOT to ask Steve Latto.

As a family, we are avid snowmobilers and visit the lake as often as we can to enjoy the beautiful winter and ride the amazing trail systems around our lake.

We took up snowmobiling primarily as a way to get to our cottage in the early years. We would only show up near the end of the winter and would get there by driving up the lake in our truck. That was nerve wracking to say the least! In order to enjoy more of the winter and enjoy our amazing lake for as much time as possible, we invested in snowmobiles so that we could visit earlier in the winter.

Once Christmas has passed, we are champing at the bit to get up to the lake as soon as we can - but we need to be patient. Ice forms at Mother Nature's pace and not ours. It is very interesting to see the effect of air temperatures, water

temperatures, wind, the sun, water flow and other factors have on the lake level and ice formation. Our prime concerns for safety are ice thickness and the ice ridges that form as we need to travel most of the way up the lake.

During a "normal" water access cottage season we all tend to drive up and for the most part stick to lake. ATVers would know this during this season but there is so much to explore around Weslemkoon. There are endless snowmobile trails that are maintained by the Mazinaw Powerline snowmobile club and Old Hastings Snow Riders club and they groom the trails right to the lake. If the ice is deemed thick enough, a staked trail is marked from Tanglewood through to Effingham as well as out the end of West bay. Mike Watson works long hours checking the ice and scoping the stake line for dangers throughout the year.

Several years ago, Dave Walker and I left directly from the lake on a 4 day snowmobile trip around Algonquin Park and back, 1100 kms and I was hooked. A few of us from the lake plan a trip every year if we can.

You don't have to go that far however. A quick morning ride out to the Granite restaurant in Bancroft for lunch or an afternoon ride out to Mazinaw lake are great ways to spend some time out of the cabin.

When the conditions are right, or if you put in the effort to clear some ice, there are of course so many other things to do. Perhaps 12 or 13 years ago there was a normal mid-winter melt and then a flash freeze overnight. It looked as if Weslemkoon was cleared with a Zamboni and you could have easily skated the entirety of the lake.

I do admire the die-hards, those who cross country ski or snowshoe from the marinas into their places with backpacks and toboggans.

Regardless of how you get to your cabin, winter is a lot of fun at Lake Weslemkoon - often a wonderland. And then, before long we're praying for an easy ice out so we can return in the spring.

Your LWCA Directors are excited to share excerpts from the reports of their areas. To read the full reports, please visit <https://weslemkoon.com/>.

Legal and Municipal Affairs

Cottage numbers

The Township continues to await information from the provincial body in order to confirm island names.

The by-law stipulates that addresses for properties on an island will consist of both a number and the name of the island and as such an official name for an island is required.

Lake Weslemkoon is expected to be the first lake in the Township to have its numbering re-done. Please feel free to contact the Township should you have any further questions.

Municipal Representatives

Lake Weslemkoon is located in the Township of Addington Highlands. The northern half of the lake is located within Ward 1 and the southern half of the lake is within Ward 2.

In addition to this year being a provincial election year, this year will also be a year for municipal and school board elections. The municipal and school board elections will take place on Monday, October 24, 2022.

In Ontario Municipal elections, you are entitled to vote where you own or rent property. The LWCA encourages everyone to vote; remote voting options are available. The official list of candidates will be posted after August 22, 2022. If you have any questions you wish the LWCA to raise with the candidates, please submit them to info@weslemkoon.com.

Water Bubblers

Questions in regards to the operation and use of water bubblers during the winter months have been raised with the LWCA. The LWCA wishes to once again remind persons that the Criminal Code of Canada provides that:

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

The LWCA advises that the above is not to be treated as being legal advice and is not to be relied upon as such and that people should consult with their own attorney for legal advice.

Boating, Speed and Wakes & Off Road By-Law

Signs have been installed regarding boating speeds and wakes and the LWCA requests you observe them. Boater etiquette is everyone's responsibility.

The Township has passed a new by-law regarding off-road vehicles on municipal highways. For further information, please see the by-law posted on the Township's website.

The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry has finalized amendments to Ontario Regulation 354/16 under the Invasive Species Act, 2015 to regulate watercraft as a carrier of invasive species. The changes also classify 13 species as either prohibited

or restricted invasive species. Boaters are now required to remove drain plugs, drain all on board water and remove any aquatic plants upon removing the watercraft from a waterbody.

Communications

Some highlights from the Communications Report for 2021:

Email: 16 communiques were sent in 2021 with an open rate between 70-80%; thank you for replying to emails sent, we work on getting back to members as soon as possible Website (weslemkoon.com): several updates have been made to the website and we average 250 visitors/month. Feedback is always welcome!

LWCA Facebook Group: currently has 288 members posts include helpful information about boating & camping, photo contest particulars, general reminders about upcoming events, answers to members' questions

LWCA Facebook Page: be sure to follow us for up to date information on environmental issues affecting our lake environment.

Instagram ([lwca_ontario](https://www.instagram.com/lwca_ontario)): currently has 158 followers; photos of the lake and surrounds, with a focus on LWCA issues such as wildlife, conservation, weather. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help to keep our Instagram feed fresh

Water Levels Report

Significant snowfall did not arrive until mid January and we have now received

continued on page 28



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Climate Change and Lake Weslemkoon

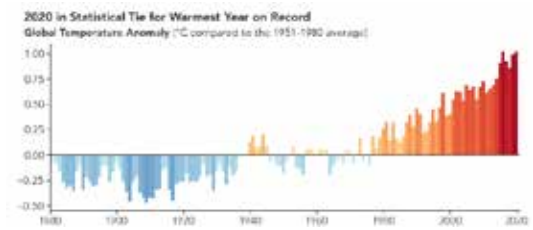
by Claire Vandervoort and Melissa Tervit



CLIMATE CLOCK

Source: climateclock.world

As we sit to write this, the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) has come to an end, the atmospheric river is endlessly dumping water on British Columbia, and parts of Nunavut have just experienced their warmest fall season on record. There is no doubt that climate change is a predominant news story today, but we have been concerned about the effects of climate change on our lake ever since the Red Pines started to die off.



Source: Earthobservatory.nasa.gov

It's Us. We're Sure

The science behind climate change is solid and well understood. The majority of scientists agree that whenever fossil fuels are burned greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) are released into the atmosphere where they accumulate and create a blanket that traps the sun's heat. Humans, through our use of fossil fuels and our agricultural and land use practices, are primarily responsible for these emissions.

If we continue to proceed with the current global levels of emissions and climate action, climate modeling suggests that the "average global surface temperature would likely reach 3-4°C by 2100 with catastrophic (and permanent) impacts on humanity and the biosphere, including: floods, droughts, mass extinctions, permanently uninhabitable regions, billions of climate refugees, and 100s of millions dead. Civilization as we know it will no longer be possible." According to Climate Clock.world at the current global rate of greenhouse gas emissions we have less than 8 years left until this carbon budget has been exceeded. Luckily there are many ways for us to reduce global emissions and avert catastrophe.

We Can Fix It

Governments need to make policy changes, and businesses and the private sector need to adopt change and come

Remember that summer? It was hot, dry and it seemed that the red pines were dying in droves. That was the summer when a guest speaker from the MNR spoke at the AGM about the effects of changing climate on trees. He stated that we would likely see the Red Pines die before the White Pines, as the dual threat of drought and Ipsis Pine Beetles can be deadly for the Red Pines. He stressed that the climate was changing faster than the trees could adapt. Since then we have wondered how else climate change may affect Lake Weslemkoon, what we should be doing to mitigate the effects, and what we will need to do to adapt to the changing climate.

"The world is warming. It's bad. It's us. We're sure. We can fix it."

It's Warming; It's Bad

The fact that the Earth is warming is not so concerning as the rate at which it is warming. For the past 10 000 years the Earth's temperature has been relatively stable, but scientists estimate that the planet is about now 1 degree Celsius warmer than it was during the late 18th and 19th centuries. A 1 degree change may not seem like much, but it means that the Earth is warming too quickly for our plants, animals, and even humans to adapt. The current 1 degree temperature rise has been attributed to some pretty serious climate change effects, including the droughts, heat waves and atmospheric rivers recently experienced in Canada.



up with solutions to reduce emissions. We as citizens also have a huge role to play. According to Our World In Data, Canada has one of the world's highest per capita emissions of 14.2 tonnes per person and a large population which makes our country's total emissions extremely high.

Our Federal government has made some plans to reduce carbon emissions. In 2021, Canada announced and submitted to the United Nations an enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 40 – 45% below 2005 levels by 2030. Then, at COP26 Canada made significant announcements as part of the Global Methane Pledge to reduce emissions and accelerate clean energy. This is good news, but even if these goals are met we will continue to feel the effects of climate change that are already underway.

How Climate Change will affect Lake Weslemkoon

Lake Weslemkoon is an important environmental asset that we as cottagers and land owners have the privilege to call home. Our lake provides many ecological goods and services such as clean water, biodiversity and recreational opportunities that contribute to ecosystem composition, structure, and function, as well as overall human health and well-being.

What does warming mean for Lake Weslemkoon and the flora and fauna that rely on our lake? Simply put, warming temperatures will alter the hydrological processes and functions of Lake Weslemkoon which has a trickle-down effect on the aquatic flora and fauna that depend on Lake Weslemkoon as their habitat. Warming air and water temperatures leads to decreased snow and ice cover, and overall changes to precipitation timing and amount. Threats to freshwater fauna include nutrient enrichment, habitat degradation and loss, pollution, and the spread of invasive species.

Climate change can negatively impact Lake Weslemkoon by altering water temperatures and the thermal stratification, or the 'layers' in our lake that are warmed by the sun and become less dense than the water below. As water temperatures increase, the top layer which is the warmest could increase in depth which can negatively impact coldwater fish species that depend on the colder layers below, like lake trout. When the fish communities change, it influences the fish productivity and alters the pre-existing

food chain of our lake.

Climate change will not only affect the water of Lake Weslemkoon, it will also impact the landscape's structure and function. We will likely see changes in the existing forest, grassland and wetland ecosystems, putting species biodiversity at risk. Some species will acclimate and adapt while others will not. As climate change alters the warm and cold seasons in Ontario, it is likely that reproduction and survival of more sensitive species will be impacted. We can also expect to see an increase of species not commonly found across Lake Weslemkoon like ticks and other undesirable species. Habitat loss and fragmentation from human and natural processes will also factor into how species respond and react to climate change. Without available habitat, there is no chance for certain species to recover.

The effects of climate change can negatively impact some of the recreational activities we all love to enjoy across all seasons. Warming temperatures will lead to shorter winters and reduced ice cover on Lake Weslemkoon which affects skiing, snowmobiling, and ice fishing activities. Warming temperatures may also alter the water chemistry and influence the activities we love such as swimming, canoeing, boating and fishing.

Climate change is a 'big picture' issue that affects multiple areas of the ecosystem rather than just one specific part. The ecological functions of Lake Weslemkoon are all interconnected in some way or another, so it's critical to understand their connections and how changes in one area can influence changes in another.

Our Challenge for You

Reducing our Canadian emissions from 14.2 to 2.5 tonnes of CO₂ per person per year seems like an insurmountable

challenge, but it is one that we all need to strive to achieve if we hope to allow our lake environment time to adapt to the temperature changes. One thing that is important to remember is that all of our actions affect the lake, whether at home or at the cottage.

A great place to start your personal journey of emission reduction is to use a tool to determine your current household emissions. Projectneutral.org has a great online carbon calculator, and tools to help you set a plan to reach your personal/family emission goals. Living the 1.5 Degree Lifestyle, by Lloyd Alter outlines how to track and reduce your emissions. Then take steps, such as these, to aim for the global goal of 2.5 tonnes:

- Drive less or boat less: 50L of gas = 115 kg of emissions from an average car and one gallon of marine unleaded fuel produced 19.51 pounds of Co₂ per gallon
- Eat in season and support local agriculture. Food that travels less emits less, and food that doesn't require chemical fertilizers or carbon-intensive activity is good for the soil, and the planet.
- Eat more meat free and dairy free meals and reduce food waste. Canadians currently contribute 1.39 tonnes of Co₂ per year per person from the consumption of red meat, and 0.34 tonnes per person per year from dairy products.
- Buy fewer things, especially new things, and participate in the circular economy. Learn to live with "enough".
- Commit to the 4 R's – Refuse (especially plastic packaging), Reuse, Repair, Recycle
- Talk about it. Start a climate

conversation with your friends and family and normalize the goal of living with fewer emissions.

Those of us who call Weslemkoon our home or second home can afford to make changes in our daily life choices and can use our voices to effect change in our communities; we have the privilege of being in a place where we can and should use our resources to make a difference daily. Living the 1.5 degree lifestyle is necessary for our planet's health, and might even be a better way of life for us. We owe it to the lake and the world to try our best to reach the targets, and we challenge each and every one of you to join us in decarbonizing.

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Michael Dohaney JUNE Winner



Shannon (Koning) L'Ecuyer JULY Winner



Shawna Hiley AUGUST Winner

2021 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Thanks to all who entered photos in the photo contest last summer. It was a great success! So many cottagers submitted photos of their views, their families and their activities. The winning photos are presented here along with a bit of information about each photo and photographer. You can also view the photos on weslemkoon.com along with the "runners up".

Michael Dohaney is the winner of the June contest 'enjoy the weather' with his photo of his partner Rosette Pineda and their daughter kayaking in the south end of the lake. He took this photo using his iPhone. Rosette has given him some tips in photography and one of her favorites is "Be original in your photography and look deep into nature which Weslemkoon is blessed with. You will learn a lot of things."

Hiley who submitted this photo of her family's annual cliff jump for the 'Games We Play' theme. The tradition started in 2011 when her youngest daughter was just 3 years old. They haven't missed a single year and have progressed to higher cliffs as time has passed. The photo was taken by her father-in-law on an iPhone 11, but Shawna is taking the credit and the prize. Originally from Pickering, Ontario, in the off-season she now lives in Edmonton, Alberta with her adventure-loving family and 2 (less adventurous, non-swimming) dogs. She's been on the lake since before she was born, and now, having lived around the world and across the country, considers it her forever home.

often pose for Anas pictures, they seem to enjoy it. September's photo contest theme seemed to line up perfectly with this photo, the contrast was beautiful but the added bonus of a baby mushroom with her momma sealed the deal. Ana joined the lake community in 2019 after many years of visiting the lake. Lately, as covid has shut the world down she has been able to spend more time at the cottage. She is dreading the time when she runs out of storage and has to sift through all those photos. Michael Swartz took this photo of his 10-year-old daughter for the October theme for the October theme "cottage work is never done" as the two were working on their cottage treehouse. The tree-house has been a work-in-progress since their first summer in the lake in 2018 and has been almost entirely built with reclaimed materials. It still isn't quite complete but it now boasts a tin roof and both a ladder and bridge entrance. It requires a lot more work to resemble the completed vision they have - which has now transformed multiple times. Michael values his time working on this project together with his three children which includes tracking down discarded building materials from different parts of the lake. This photo was taken using his iPhone XR.

Shannon(Koning)L'Ecuyer is the winner of July's 'Creepy Crawlies and Critters' photo theme. She took this photo with her Canon 70D during her annual visit to high school friend Mike Swartz's family cottage. Shannon has been a cottage visitor to Weslemkoon for 4 years. She loves to spend time with her family on the water and exploring the trails of Weslemkoon Lake. The rest of the time Shannon lives in Chatham-Kent near Mitchell's Bay (Lake St. Clair) with her husband Vince and their 3 busy children Taylor, Avery and Jared.

August's winner is Shawna



Ana Adriano SEPTEMBER Winner



Michael Swartz OCTOBER Winner

Interested in entering the 2022 Photo Contest?

Here's what you need to know:

- Pay attention to the themes:
- June - Get Your Paddle On!
- July - A Kid's View (12 & under, 13-18)

- August - Something Fishy
- September - Lake Weslemkoon Geology
- Submit your photo to the LWCA Facebook group with #lwcaphotocontest2022 OR by emailing it to info@weslemkoon.com



By Mark Warlow

Considerate and Safe Boating practices are those promoted to maintain harmony on Weslemkoon Lake and ensure we can enjoy the lake safely. There is a tendency to become very "comfortable" as we transit numerous times up and down the lake. However, that "familiarity" can in a moment of inattentiveness result in catastrophic results as witnessed in the tragic boating fatalities reported last year on a number of Ontario lakes.

Considerate Boating & Boating Considerations



Thankfully, Weslemkoon has not experienced such a tragedy for many years but as the lake gets busier and the boats more powerful, unless we collectively as cottagers take stock of our actions on the lake, we may not be so fortunate for long. Anecdotally, I am sure we all have stories to tell regarding boating situations on the lake (e.g., boating after sunset without navigation lights, failing to observe the 10 km/hr speed restriction within 30 metres of the shore, tubing in restricted bays or narrow channels). With the minimum of consideration these scenarios can be avoided without spoiling the fun and tranquility we all seek to enjoy.

One of the busiest areas of boating, where boating etiquette should be at the forefront of all of "Weslemkooners", is in and around the marinas. It is important to approach at slow speed and avoid creating wakes. If the marina is fuelling a boat, a wave can result in gas spilling into our pristine water.

Let's collectively agree to make meeting other boaters and cottagers be a pleasurable experience. Saying hello with a smile is standard procedure on the lake, as is a friendly wave when encountering other boats transiting the lake. The safe and considerate practice when encountering other boats is to slow down a little to reduce the bow wave and pass port side (left), to port side. However, don't be afraid to pass on the other side if conditions demand, such as when leaving the marina or when one

boat is having difficulty maintaining control. Ensure that signals are given and both parties understand their respective maneuvering intentions.

The LWCA is committed to promoting boating harmony on the lake through the provision of informed advice and communication of good boating practices, as well as sharing any changes in boating legislation.

Many of you may be aware of a new regulation imposed by on January 1st, 2022 by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, which now classifies boats, fishing boats, canoes and kayaks as potential carriers of harmful aquatic plants, algae and animals under revisions to the Invasive Species Act. The new regulation is aimed at preventing the spread of invasive aquatic species. The link to the following article provides a very concise and informative precis of the new Regulations: (<https://www.intelligencer.ca/news/new-ontario-boating-rules-jan-1-to-stem-spread-of-aquatic-invasive-species>). For more detailed information please refer to the following: (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-species-action-plans>).

Photos taken by Molly Henderson
Brother Jack is in the canoe
Emeline Williams and Addison Warnes on the paddle board

Adventure Awaits on the Trail to Buck Lake

by Elaine Hardy

It all started with a quest for volunteer hours. With three teens about to graduate from high school (yes, they are triplets), I put on my thinking cap about volunteer opportunities at the lake, and figured helping out with a trail could be fun. I had also heard that the LWCA was interested in re-clearing a long-lost trail to Buck Lake, at the north end.

I grew up cottaging on the north shore of the lake (cottage 121) and have very fond memories of hiking to Buck Lake as a kid. A hike to Buck Lake "back in the day" was always an adventure. Unlike the other trails on the lake, this one starts not at the lake shore, but off Hartsmere Road, just before you get to the dump, on the way out. Those of you who may have walked it will remember that the trail begins through the forest, then quickly drops down to the shore of a long wetland. The adventure starts when you have to cross the wetland by walking along a very long and leaky beaver dam. During a dry summer, you might get across with dry feet, if you are lucky and skilled. Once across the dam, the trail heads up the steep bank on the other side, then through the forest and across rocky ridges, first to pretty Dutchman's Lake, and then on to even prettier Buck Lake, which I remember as being good for fishing, swimming and picnicking.

I'm not sure who maintained the trail back then, but do know that over the years it become overgrown and impossible to find. The last time I recall walking the trail was about 20 years ago, with my husband and mom, one Thanksgiving weekend.

Coming back to present day and the volunteer hour quest...I emailed Bruce Magee last spring, the LWCA's rep looking after trail maintenance and said that my kids (and maybe me and my husband, Paul) would be interested in helping with trails and in particular would be interested if there was work to re-clear the trail to Buck Lake. "Fantastic" said Bruce, "Thanks so much for volunteering to clear the Buck Lake trail". It was clear that we would not be joining a team, but rather that we WERE the team!

Having never cleared a trail before, I was a bit daunted at for a moment, but then figured how hard can it be? After some time drumming up family enthusiasm for this adventure, Paul and I went to scope out the trail one day in July. The trail from the road to the beaver dam was still easy to find. Figuring out how to get across the wetland on that beaver dam, however, was not (see photo). The shore was choked with alders, and after whacking through those, the beaver dam was hard to even find, with sedges and grasses and shrubs growing out of it and out of the water all around it. We retreated, and returned a few days later with more people (our son Cameron and friend Perry) and with clippers and other tools, including a chainsaw to beat back the plants and cut some logs to put across the wettest spots. After a couple of hours of clipping and cutting and putting we made it to the other side (see photo). We were pretty happy with our progress. A big milestone, but still lots of work to do - only a fraction of the trail was complete.

The next task was to see if we could find the trail on the other side. After much searching it was clear that the old trail was too overgrown to be found. We retreated for the day, and decided to return with our GPS and some flagging tape to mark out of a new trail, setting out sights first on making it to Dutchman's Lake. After finding our GPS at back at home and charging it up at the lake, we set out to return to the trail...only to find out that the GPS battery was poached and the unit only worked while plugged in. Undaunted, I picked up my trusty cell phone and we used Google maps to tell us if we were generally heading in the right direction - pretty low tech, I admit, but it worked. We spent that afternoon making our way to Dutchman's Lake, marking our trail with flagging tape and spray paint. It was so much fun! I'm always the one on our family camping trips who wants to go exploring and to see what is around the next corner or over the next hill, so I was definitely in my element. I admit I probably annoyed my fellow trail makers with my enthusiasm at times.

A few days later Paul and Cameron and I

returned with our trusty tools and cut and clipped our track to make it into a proper trail. It was great feeling on the way back from Dutchman's lake that day, walking easily (although tiredly) on our brand new trail.

We ran out of time (and some of us may have run out of energy) last summer to complete the Dutchman's-to-Buck Lake leg of the trail, but plan to finish it next summer. I can't wait to get back to it! Maybe even before bug season...

We hope that others enjoy our newly cut trail. We plan to put up a sign at the trailhead in the summer, but it is already visible, on the north side of Hartsmere Lake Road, up the hill after Hidden Cove, before the dump. Anyone who wants to walk it can get as far as Dutchman's Lake. Just bring some good hiking boots and be prepared for possible wet feet. It's a bit of an adventure, but you might have some stories of your own to tell after you try it. We DO want you to return to tell your stories, and since it is an area with few other trails or roads, I would recommend bringing a map and/or cell phone or compass just in case you get off track and need to find your way back to the road (tip: head south!)

If you are interested in helping with trail maintenance please get in touch with me at info@weslemkoon.com as I'll be coordinating this year. It's rewarding and fun! And a great way for teens to get high school volunteer hours

Volunteers need to bring their own:
Pruning shears
Bow saw or chain saw
Proper shoes, clothing and protective gear

Please avoid clearing excessively wide trails (reduces the closeness to nature)
Please clear branches above trail suitable for canoe portaging
Please be careful, don't get hurt, be smart, enjoy the project and be safe.
For safety work with at least one other person



The Unusual Suspect

by Alison & Perry Myles - Cottage #228

For three years, mainly during the spring and fall, my husband was distracted by a mysterious "thumping" he was hearing coming from behind the cottage. He could not pinpoint the source, nor identify the sound. It was driving him mad! (Here many of you are chuckling and nodding your head, perhaps knowing exactly what this is - we however were still in the dark!) He would stop what he was doing, freeze and listen, "everybody quiet did you hear that?". The rock beneath our cottage would slightly vibrate each time we heard this noise. What was it? Was it the water heater, the septic tank, something coming from the neighbours, what could it be? Did I mention it was driving him, and thus all of us, crazy?

One morning this fall while lounging in bed Sunday morning, and hearing this unknown thumping, I suggested we simply Google it. "bouncing ball sound in the woods while camping" - it was that simple. Three years

of distraction, to find out in 2 minutes - it is our Local Island "Courting" Ruffed Grouse, as confirmed by our neighbours, who nodded casually in agreement, unphased, later this same day- why hadn't anyone told us? - perhaps because our description over three years was lacking!



This male ruffed grouse, when feeling "in the mood", hops up onto his "well worn" log perch, puffs himself up to two times his size, and flaps his wings, flap, flap, flap, faster, faster, faster, with more and more enthusiasm as he gets going sounding like a bouncing ball, or small engine starting, sending a message and vibration

out to "interested parties". This is the male ruffed grouse mating routine. I will say, he is one "very active" young man, or perhaps not!, it's hard to tell. We have captured him on live video now, my husband having set-up his phone in the woods set on live action capture.

Do you have strange unidentified sights or sounds at the cottage? We would truly appreciate knowing we are not the only ones!

Editor's Corner

Within these few years of turmoil we are so lucky to have Weslemkoon offering an escape. Once again, in reading story contributions, I am reminded of how fortunate we all feel to be here. Our Family Day crossing confirmed our raven family is settling, I look forward to welcoming new wee feathered friends, and to catching up with all of you.

Alison Myles, Editor

Lake Weslemkoon has become an oasis for many of us, as a place to reconnect with nature, family, friends and ourselves. It's such an honour to be able to read and share your perspectives on the Lake. Thank you for submitting your thoughts, memories, and interests and I'm excited to hear more of your stories in the year to come.

Anne Coulter, Editor

I have been on Weslemkoon Lake my whole life, my parents and grandparents before me. The lake has always been my getaway and now it is my permanent home, I am so thankful for the peace it offers me. It has been a privilege to become involved with the Loon Call and support the lake where I can. As I am designing the next edition of the Loon Call, I sit overlooking our frozen landscape I think how lucky we all are.

Pat Bothwell, Graphic Designer

Your 2022-2023 LWCA Directors

Name: Patty Milne

Position: Past President

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

The uninhabited section on the north side of West Bay – there is a short lift over from our south section and the paddling is so peaceful back there.

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

I don't know if I can come up with just one favourite memory of the lake, there are so many great times. I will say that my favourite thing is just sitting in a Muskoka chair at the top of our very large hill, either enjoying a coffee or a cocktail.

Something People May Not Know:

I am trying to master the art of making rope fenders, need driven, as I look for pieces suitable for my old wood boat.

Name: Melissa Tervit

Position: President

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

Anywhere and everywhere friends and family gather. I designed our cottage with entertaining in mind, and love hosting friends for leisurely weekend dinners. When I wish for a bit of solitude, my favourite place to be is exploring the shoreline in my kayak.

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

Some of my fondest memories on the lake are of all the quiet, kerosene lantern lit evenings spent as a child playing cards with my great grandmother, and also laying on the dock watching the night sky. The lake was so dark and peaceful at night before we had electricity.

Something People May Not Know:

Even though I have been cottaging at the lake my entire life I have never had the opportunity to visit it during the winter months. I hope to one of these years though!

Name: Janice Mackenzie

Position: Vice President & Communications

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

Mink Lake - The water is so fresh and clear, and it's so peaceful.

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

Being a young child at loud, busy, people-filled special occasions - making homemade ice cream, games happening, swimming shrieks, watermelon seed spitting contests. Those good vibes have stayed with me.

Something People May Not Know:

I prefer to believe that there is nothing swimming near me when I am in the lake – seeing a fish while I'm swimming freaks me out. Don't even get me started on snapping turtles!

Name: Carol Bell

Position: Secretary

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

On the dock, in the mornings, enjoying coffee with my family while the lake comes to life.

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

Like many people who love our lake, I've been coming to Weslemkoon since I was a child. One of my favourite memories is bringing treats up to the top of Pike's Peak to "sell" to friends and family for acorns from the small cabin, a.k.a. "Mrs. Pike's

Store."

Something People May Not Know:

I check every inch of my kayak for horrible spiders before climbing in.

Name: Diane Morden

Position: Treasurer

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

Besides my deck at the cottage, it would have to be sitting on the Mackenzie bench up on the cliff behind our cottage in Regina Bay. It is higher than Pike's Peak and gives a fantastic northwest view of the lake.

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

Our first summer on Weslemkoon was in 2002. For two nights in a row we saw fabulous northern lights and I was hooked... and I've never seen them again.

Something People May Not Know:

I am also involved with the Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust. I feel really strongly that we all have to do what we can to preserve special places like Lake Weslemkoon. In living lightly on the land around the lake, we can connect with future generations who will also treasure this special place.

Name: Shawna Hiley

Position: Membership

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

Anywhere with flat water that I can explore on my paddleboard. Sitting on my back dock looking SE towards the Otter Lake narrows at sunrise.

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

These are more annual memories, rather than one-time, but arriving at the lake for

Your LWCA Directors are honored to represent Members and Friends of the Lake for the 2022-2023 year. We are excited to hopefully meet you throughout the year, but in the meantime here is a bit more about us.

the first time in early summer each year – inhaling that first breath of Weslemkoon air and knowing that all is right in my world, and the annual family cliff jump photo-op.

Something People May Not Know:

I detest eggplant.

Name: Paul Bottos

Position: Legal & Municipal Affairs

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

Rocky Point

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

Too many to recall!

Something People May Not Know:

It's better people don't know...haha

Name: Marty Blake

Position: Lake Levels

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

Sitting at our fire pit at sunset.

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

We have been on Weslemkoon for 17 years now and our kids have grown up there. All of those cottage memories are priceless.

Something People May Not Know:

There may be a monster under my bed.

Name: Steve Latto

Position: Custodial Visits & Shoal Markers

Name: Claire Vandervoort

Position: Water Quality

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

Weddell Island, where my cottage is

located of course! But if I had to choose another, it would be the Green Lake hiking trail.

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

I have so many good memories with friends and family on the lake, around the fire, or hanging out on the dock all day, but, my favourite memories involve going for night cruises around the lake. I love the calm, quiet stillness of Weslemkoon at night.

Something People May Not Know:

I love identifying aquatic plants and try to increase my knowledge of plant species every season.

Name: Bruce Magee

Position: Forestry & Trails

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

Anywhere there is a canoe, a paddle, and a sunset.

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

hikes to Mink, Canoe, or Green Lake with family and friends.

Something People May Not Know:

I like carpentry work and a Martini on a Friday evening...shaken, not stirred.

Name: Michèle Smith

Position: Community Outreach

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

Growing up on Weslemkoon Lake means that I have too many favourite spots to pick only one!

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

My childhood memories are the best, including: staying up late drinking coffee

and playing cards at my grandparent's cottage, hanging out at Burke's Marina playing Van Halen on the jukebox, snowmobiling and ATV-ing everywhere after cottage season was over, picking cranberries, ice fishing, and working at Weslemkoon Marina.

Something People May Not Know:

I am scared of the dark. Very scared.

Name: Anne Coulter

Position: Loon Call

Favourite Spot on the Lake:

Sitting on the deck in the morning, or by the campfire under the stars at night.

Favourite Memory on the Lake:

There are too many memories to pick just one, but here are just a few: late night boat rides, cards with Gramma, family picnics and hikes, baseball games at the landing, getting engaged beside the campfire, fishing in beaver bay, swimming for hours, nighttime walks on the ice, and so many more.

Something People May Not Know:

I still do a "bed check" every night at the cottage before going to sleep to make sure there are no bugs under the covers.



Photos Courtesy of Rosette Pineda

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Guy Boudreau

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more than other parts of southern Ontario. According to the MNR the levels currently are right where they were last year. Fingers crossed for an easy ice out

In Fall 2022, water levels were a little higher than the MNR target but were within the range of 'normal'

**Custodial Visits & Shoal Markers
Courtesy Markers**

We have a new contract for the next 5 years for the courtesy marker deployment, removal and storage.

All markers were removed last fall, checked over and stored.

4 new lights were purchased and will be installed in the spring to replace aging units. if you notice that a light is missing or not functioning, please contact info@weslemkoon.com

Custodial Visits

All visits went off without a hitch and there were no reported losses or damage to our cottages.

Water Quality

Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Coliforms, E-Coli - August Sampling Phosphorus and E. coli results over the years have been relatively stable, with the exception of somewhat higher E. coli and lower phosphorus in 2020

TKN (Nitrogen) and Total Coliforms have been showing an increasing trend across all years, but a flat trend since 2017. Additional testing stations were added in 2011 and 2017 which have shown somewhat higher values which push up the averages.

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Temperature readings in 2021:

Temperature and DO readings continue to show a healthy band of sufficiently oxygenated and sufficiently cold water for Lake Trout survival (blue band on graph). This plot is for Elmardon; other deep stations show similar patterns, including Otter Lake
Clarity - Turbidity
We began taking water clarity readings in 2021, using the Secchi disk. We now have some baseline information to which we can compare observations in future years.

**Forestry and Trails
Forest Management Plan**

Good News! The final Forest Management Plan (FMP) has been approved by the MNR.

The LWCA's negotiated requests for changes to the harvest blocks that impact the watershed of Lake Weslemkoon have been included in the next 10-year FMP.

The MNR's acceptance of these changes will hold their Licensed Forester, Mazinaw Lanark Forestry Inc. (MLFI), to be accountable to abide to the additional setbacks that LWCA negotiated with them. There are five areas of concern.

Thunder Box Project

To deal with the toilet paper litter at the campsites we have initiated a three year long volunteer Thunder Box construction and installation project (Thunder Boxes are portable boxlike lavatory seats that can be placed over a hole in the ground like a makeshift outhouse).

Three Thunder Boxes were built last summer, and we have two more in the works. Two have been installed: one on Channel Island (built by Will Vegter), one at Green Lake (built by Perry Cornell). One will be installed at Mink Lake in the spring of 2022 (built by Jon Keeble).

If you have interest in building and installing a Thunderbox please let us know. We'll send you the plans and we have scrap material we can deliver to your dock.

2021 Treasurer's Financial Report

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

Surplus funds are invested in a bank GIC of \$20,978 which will mature November 2025. The GIC is a variable rate GIC and interest is calculated on a simple annual basis of .50% this year and gradually increasing each year to 1.25% in 2025. 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. Cash balances are unusually high at the year end because a 2 year GIC matured December 18th and had not been reinvested before the year end. It is anticipated that a new bank GIC will be purchased at prevailing bank rates.

The Catherine Rathbun Environmental fund grew by individual contributions of \$745 (\$445 in 2020) and allocated interest of \$154 (\$247 in 2020). Expenditures from this fund were for water quality testing in the amount of \$1,305 (\$1,305 in 2020) and was approved at the 2018 annual general meeting as required.

The remaining unrestricted surplus of \$39,275 is available for the general purposes of the association.

**Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association
Statement of Financial Position
as at December 31, 2021
(unaudited)**

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current Assets		
Cash	36,418	16,664
Bank G.I.C.s	20,995	39,525
Inventory	513	513
	<u>57,926</u>	<u>56,703</u>
Fixed Assets		
Water testing equipment-net	190	379
	<u>58,116</u>	<u>57,083</u>

LIABILITIES & RESTRICTED FUNDS & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	175	475
Restricted Funds		
Catherine Rathbun Environmental Fund	18,666	19,072
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	39,275	37,536
	<u>58,116</u>	<u>57,083</u>

**Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
for the year ended December 31, 2021
(unaudited)**

Total	Catherine Rathbun Memorial Enviromental		Total	
	Fund	Unrestricted	2021	2020
Balance, Beginning of year	19,072	37,536	56,608	51,782
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over expenditures	(1,151)	1,739	588	4381
Contributions	745		745	445
Balance, end of year	<u>18,666</u>	<u>39,275</u>	<u>57,941</u>	<u>56,608</u>

**Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association
Statement of Revenues & Expenditures
for the year ended December 31, 2021
(unaudited)**

	2021	2020
Revenues		
Annual Fees	13,380	13,358
Loon Call Revenues	2,760	1,410
Interest income	310	439
Miscellaneous sales	510	415
Total Revenues	<u>16,960</u>	<u>15,622</u>
Expenditures		
Meeting expenses	166	181
Bank & Pay Pal service charges	325	302
Administrative & Promotional	-	110
Cost of Misc. sales	172	113
Custodial Visits	3,384	1,090
FOCA	985	941
Insurance	1,703	1,690
Loon Call	2,760	2,047
New Shoal Markers	1,344	664
Shoal Marker Maintenance	2,050	1,940
Lake Activities-Social	380	115
Web Site expense	192	255
Environmental protection-Low Impact & Watershed Brochures	833	545
Environmental protection-Pressure Washer	237	-
Contribution to AED fundraiser	500	-
Amortization of water testing equipment	190	190
Total Expenditures	<u>15,221</u>	<u>10,183</u>
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	<u>1,739</u>	<u>5,439</u>

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FUN FACT

Only southern Ontarians, Nova Scotians and Prince Edward Islanders head up to the "cottage." Newfoundlanders, British Columbians and Albertans use the term "cabin" and the Québécois opt for "chalet". Residents of northwestern Ontario spend their holidays at "camp", and Manitobans prefer the more abstract moniker "the lake". What is your term?

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2022 Loon Call Challenge

Calling all Weslemkooners! Do you love winning prizes? This challenge is for you! The Loon Call committee wants to see pictures of you, your family, and/or your pets demonstrating your best impression of a loon call around the lake. Take a picture or record a short video and submit it either by email to info@weslemkoon.com or post it to the LWCA Instagram page https://www.instagram.com/lwca_ontario/ for a chance to win. We'll share submissions in the 2023 Loon Call and will announce the winner in Fall 2022.



"Our boat was purchased after WWII when I was 12 years old. It originally had a 5 HP Johnson on it." Glenn and Gloria Thompson, of Sunset Trail

"We built an elevated bed garden with a deer fence last year and the boutines were endless! We had some great home grown veggies, fruit, and herbs that we grew from seeds at Weslemkoon Lake!" Laurie Morrison

Share your story!

Do you have a story about your cottage, family history, tradition, or experience from the lake? We'd love to hear from you! Share with us a favourite story, memory, or photo from the lake and it may get highlighted in the upcoming Loon Call. It can be as short or as long as you want, on any topic you'd like. Submit your story to info@weslemkoon.com for a chance to win a prize!



Photo Courtesy of Ana Adriano



In Passing

Guy Austin	Mary Jane Henderson
Mike Burke	Beverly Johnson
Anne Fischer	Terry O'Hearn
Les Gozzard	Nada Smith
Bob Graham	

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

Joe Cook Construction

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Summer at the Lake

K	W	R	N	M	C	E	I	E	G	Z	K	K	F
I	C	A	B	O	M	A	P	B	E	S	A	M	I
E	L	M	T	L	F	I	M	P	T	I	Y	I	S
K	I	W	S	E	U	I	N	P	I	F	A	W	H
L	F	E	T	E	R	E	R	K	F	C	K	S	I
G	F	S	A	G	R	S	B	E	L	I	N	I	N
I	J	L	R	N	A	Y	K	E	W	A	R	I	G
C	U	E	G	I	N	M	W	I	R	O	K	E	C
E	M	M	A	K	I	E	I	C	E	R	R	E	A
C	P	K	Z	I	R	O	C	A	J	N	I	K	O
R	I	O	I	H	A	R	W	N	K	F	R	E	S
E	N	O	N	B	M	F	P	O	E	K	E	S	S
A	G	N	G	R	I	M	E	E	M	M	N	M	A
M	H	I	B	O	A	T	I	N	G	C	H	T	M

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- CANOE
- WATERSKI
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- HIKING
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- BOATING
- ICE CREAM
- MINK LAKE
- KAYAK
- SWIM
- FISHING

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 MNR 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