

Wolfe Lake MAGAZINE

A publication of the Wolfe Lake Association, Westport

Summer, 2021

FLOATING NESTS

Lending a hand to our loons

FLYING EYES IN THE SKY

Local drone photographers love our lake

WATER QUALITY REMAINS EXCELLENT

HEARTFELT COVID STORIES

Life around the lake
during the pandemic



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Wolfe Lake MAGAZINE

**Wolfe Lake
Association**
WESTPORT, ONTARIO

Summer, 2021

8 OUR WATER REMAINS EXCELLENT

Read the 2020 findings from our water quality sampling.

10 SUPPORTING A HEALTHY LAKE

The Wolfe Lake Association’s focus remains on tackling projects that protect and support a healthy lake ecosystem. News on past projects and current initiatives.

12 A CLOSE EYE ON CURRENT ISSUES

Grant Leslie, the Big Rideau Lake Association’s president and a dedicated volunteer, shares his views during a friendly virtual fireside chat.

13 LLOYD’S LANE ESTATES TO LAUNCH

Neil Scott fills us in on the development along Lloyd’s Lane.

15 CHECK YOUR HYDRO ONE BILL

The Ontario Energy Board wants to eliminate the ‘Seasonal Rate Class’. It’s bad news for many waterfront property owners.

17 COTTAGE COVID STORIES

One year into the pandemic, we are reminded to never to take little things for granted. How the coronavirus pandemic is affecting cottagers around the lake.

26 A TALE OF FOUR FROGS

FOCUS ON WILDLIFE around our lake takes a closer look at frogs.

29 MAKING MAPLE SYRUP

Roy Sunstrum is hooked on the age-old tradition of producing ‘liquid gold’.

35 CALCIUM NO PROBLEM

Calcium levels in freshwater lakes are declining, but Wolfe Lake is doing just fine.

42 FLYING EYES IN THE SKY

Local drone photographers Adam Correia and Sean Garland share pics and tips.

49 YOUR VERY LOCAL BUCKET LIST

With the pandemic still here, staycations and day trips are the way to go. Nine doable day trips close to Wolfe Lake.

ON THE COVER & ABOVE

COVER: Winding road along the south shore of Wolfe Lake, by Adam Correia
ABOVE: Grandkids on the dock -and many more pictures in this Magazine- were graciously shared by Amy and Betty Jo MacDougall.

AND MUCH MORE

- 4 Wolfe Lake Association info
We respect Wolfe Lake
- 6 President’s message
AGM 2021
- 7 WOLFE LAKE IN BRIEF
- 9 FINANCIAL REPORT
- 11 Lead toxicity in wild birds
- 16 TVO doc on the Frontenac Arch
Launch lake ecosystem grant
- 20 Greetings from two mayors
- 21 When birds fly into windows
- 22 Checking in with KEN ROSE
- 23 Clean, drain & dry
Milfoil spreads so easily!
- 24 Latest news for anglers
- 25 Why you should join the WLA
- 27 Sudoku
- 32 KIDS’ PAGES
- 36 YOUR SAY Communal garbage
- 38 PICTURE TIME & 2021 contest
- 45 FALL WALK 2021
- 47 Lions’ Reuse & recycle centre
Sip but skip plastic straws
Westport Market’s local talent
- 51 Grow veggies | Quickweed
- 52 Valerie Charnish, local poet
- 53 Rosie Yumski’s Yummy Recipe
- 54 Updated WLA Facebook group
- 55 Impressive RVCA programs
- 57 WLA needs you | Barn book

Wolfe Lake Association Westport

PROTECT | PRESERVE | PLAY

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport is headed by a volunteer executive, elected at the Annual General Meeting. Our executive team works for you to ensure good governance and to shape and conduct all our initiatives, while keeping the association's objectives in mind. Our main goals are to maintain and enhance the natural beauty and pristine state of Wolfe Lake and its shoreline and to provide information on the environmental aspects of cottage life, including measures to improve our environment and the quality of our lake water.

We inform you about water quality and invasive species, such as Eurasian water milfoil. We encourage our members to reduce pollution in all its forms, including noise pollution, and to introduce possible measures to prevent and reduce it. We offer advice to anglers, with tips and tricks to improve fishing and to maintain a healthy habitat. We keep in touch with our members by publishing our annual Wolfe Lake Magazine and by distributing our email News Flash, with brief updates and news to be shared throughout the year. Feel free to get in touch with our 2021 executive team.

Our team

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WE RESPECT WOLFE LAKE

Let's practise responsible lake recreation

We all love Wolfe Lake. It's our pride and joy! We fish, boat, watch wildlife and so much more. Although every lake changes naturally over time, human activities can dramatically affect the health of a lake. That's why we need to respect ours. There are many things we can do to reduce our recreational impact on our pristine lake to ensure it remains healthy and safe for everyone to enjoy in the years to come.

Boating

- Know the speed limit! Keep boat speeds under 10km/hour within 30 metres of the shoreline and follow posted speed limits.
- Keep your wake small near swimming and high-use areas.
- Enjoy motorized sports far from shore to prevent erosion and protect nests. Many birds nest along the shoreline, including our lovely loons, a species at risk.
- Keep music and boat noise to a minimum.
- Refuel your boat away from the water or use a spill control device if filling your tank on the water. Be prepared to clean up a gas or oil leak if it occurs.
- Clean, drain and dry your gear after visiting another lake to avoid spreading invasive species and diseases.
- Pull the plug. Remove the drain plug while transporting your watercraft—it's the law!

Fishing

- Handle fish with care and minimize the time they are exposed to air. Practise your fish identification skills. Be a responsible angler.
- Follow Ontario Fishing regulations to help ensure the sustainability of the fishery and to increase the survival of fish that are caught and released.
- Make sure to remove ice-fishing shelters before the end of the season.

Other smart tips

- Dispose of human and animal waste properly when enjoying recreation on or near a lake.
- Do not swim or wade (or allow your pets to swim or wade) in any areas where blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) are visible. Luckily, blue-green algae are rare in Wolfe Lake.
- Leave plants, waterfowl and other wildlife where you find them.

In the 2020 Wolfe Lake Magazine, we published an article on the importance of lake and boat etiquette, dealing with these topics. Readers liked it and asked us to continue including issues like these in the magazine. You can find the full article on our website. Go to wolfelake.org, click on the News button, then Wolfe Lake Magazine, and open the 2020 edition of the magazine. The article on lake etiquette can be found on page 9.

Wolfe Lake Magazine

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Disclaimer

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WHAT'S INSIDE | A wagonload of good vibes

There is something about the summer that brings out the great outdoors experience in all of us. It's a time to get back to the things that matter: water, warmth, nature. Yes, we know, this summer – again – feels different. The coronavirus pandemic is still causing havoc all over the North American continent. Still, we feel it is a time to cheer on our lake and lands no matter what. And the Wolfe Lake Association Westport is here to help you do that, with a wagonload of good vibes in the 2021 edition of our magazine.

We hope to brighten up your days at the waterfront, or offer you a humble mental escape to the lake in case you are not allowed to travel to your waterfront retreat this season. We have created special themes and moments with interesting articles, nice-to-know facts, developments on our shores, thoughtful stories, and introductions to people who care about our region.

More than ever, this issue is a team effort. While our president is happy to offer his position to other members, we have sorted out the vacancy for the position of secretary. Our longtime editor has her hands all over this issue, working closely together with our new proofreader and with the rest of our contributing team members. We are also grateful for the support of our advertising partners, all businesses in the Westport area.

Please keep an eye on our website, Facebook page and email News Flashes, as we forge ahead with the rest of the year. We can't wait to see you all in person – we just have to wait until we can do so safely. That is why we are preparing – for the very first time in the association's history – a virtual AGM a bit later this summer.

Oh, did we mention the coronavirus pandemic yet? Well, uh... not so much. By now we have officially entered the fifth season of the worldwide pandemic. Beyond its short-term impact, the pandemic will likely leave lasting scars on many families across the country. At this point, we just would like to remind you that some day we will look back at this scary period, and that it will forever remind us never to take little things for granted. We share a few personal pandemic experiences with you. Board members tell their own stories of how they felt after the first year of COVID-19.

We would like to see the 2021 edition of the Wolfe Lake Magazine as a treat, from us to you! A gift, with many extra pages. There is a lot to read, a lot to learn. So, why not sit down, in your favourite Muskoka chair outside, on your deck at the lakeside, or snuggle up on that good old cottage couch, and start browsing. Enjoy, and please, stay safe!

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport Team

FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a year it's been!

I hope this greeting finds you and your family doing well and staying healthy

By Brian Manthey

As I write this, it remains uncertain whether we'll be able to visit our cottage this summer due to COVID-19 travel restrictions keeping the CAN/US border closed.

I've always advised my family to make their world small and focus on the things they can control. Whether the border opens or not is well beyond our control. Until the pandemic, crossing the border, just two hours north of our home, never posed an obstacle to accessing our cottage property so long as our trips were planned to avoid the busiest travel times.

Wolfe Lake is closer to us than much of the Adirondacks region, but these days, it might as well be a million miles away. Many others are experiencing this sad situation.

The pandemic has brought out the best and the worst in people. Our lake neighbours have gone above and beyond to look out for our cottage, even keeping the lawn and branches tidy and wiping down cobwebs. We are incredibly grateful. Meanwhile, social media and editorial pages seem to be the repository for the uglier side of humanity. As it's been said many times since the pandemic began, "We're all in this together" and should treat each other with respect.

Starting with my wife's family, we have a long history on Wolfe Lake. The connection

remains strong, despite these troubled times. I've been coming to the lake since 1986, and while that may be longer than some of you, it's far less than that of others. Over the years,

I've seen Wolfe Lake undergo some changes. My early visits found a clean, clear, rocky bottomed lake with localized areas of predominantly natural weed growth in the back bays. In the following decade, the invasive zebra mussel population exploded, straining the water to excessive clarity and allowing sunlight to penetrate deeper water. In turn, this enabled another invasive to gain a chokehold – Eurasian milfoil. These days, the zebra mussels appear to have died back some, but the milfoil remains profuse.

Throughout the past year's challenges, the WLA has persevered and stayed viable via conference calls, virtual meetings and numerous email communications. Our focus remains on tackling projects that protect and support a healthy lake ecosystem. Most recently, we helped facilitate culvert upgrades to benefit spawning walleye and built and placed two loon nesting platforms. We worked towards achieving future project goals; secured both grant and charitable funds; kept current on issues impacting the lake through various webinars; dialogued with other entities including the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Watersheds Canada and Parks Canada; and continued to



represent the interests of lake residents to local government. The herculean effort necessary to produce this magazine has reaped rewards for the WLA's financial flexibility, enabling us to implement future initiatives.

Your WLA is committed to continuing good works supporting the lake and its community, but the skeleton crew of our directorship needs help. Only a handful of people from over 200 lake properties work to accomplish all the tasks mentioned and more. I implore you to reach out and offer your help. As you read this year's magazine, please consider how your talents might contribute to:

- the health and welfare of our lake
- the production of this magazine
- maintaining and growing our Facebook and website presence
- representing our lake association at public forums
- supporting upcoming projects.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at our virtual AGM.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer

Brian Manthey



OUR FIRST EVER VIRTUAL AGM

SATURDAY JULY 17 | From 10 - 11:30am

You're invited

We will hold our Annual General Meeting virtually on Saturday, July 17, 2021.

We hope that you'll join us and share your thoughts and concerns.

Last year the AGM was cancelled due to the pandemic. This year we will meet each other in front of our own screens at home. It might be a challenge, but we are happy to try. This meeting is set up for the purpose of receiving valuable information on the work of the association, the financial statement for 2020, communications updates, and possibly appointing new board members and volunteers for various projects.

We welcome you all and are looking forward to seeing you online by joining us on meet.google.com/izq-atka-bmh

We will be sending reminders via our Facebook group page and our website and you will be receiving a News Flash (by email).





WOLFE LAKE | IN BRIEF

Wolfe Lake's latest quick news snippets, with updates on what's happening around our shores.

BALD EAGLES ARE SHY WHILE NESTING

Yes, they were back last summer, actively nesting in one of the majestic pine trees on Bateman Island. Many cottagers came out to admire the nest, the adult eagles and their eaglets. This spring the eagles found a home on Horseshoe Island. Their nest is a wonderful structure, made of branches and sticks that are interwoven to form a sturdy platform. We all like to watch in awe as both parents carry food to the nest and the juvenile eagles develop. When you decide to explore this summer, please don't stop your boat. The eagles will tolerate a moving boat that has invaded their 'comfort zone' as long as it is not too close but, as soon as it stops or slows down, they become agitated. Bald eagles are extremely shy, especially while nesting, and will abandon a nest and stop feeding their young if they are disturbed. The best way to observe them is using binoculars and from no closer than 400 metres.

FLOATING LOON NESTS CAN HELP OUR LOONS

In hopes of facilitating loon nesting success, members of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport have constructed and installed two different designs of floating nesting platforms. A big thank you goes out to WLA volunteers Adriana and Sandro Gambarotta,

Bruce Maynard and Helene Wach, and Bill and Donna Garland, who built and placed the platforms just after ice-out, in time for the return of our resident loons!

If you see a loon nesting on a platform or a natural nest, PLEASE resist the temptation to linger or move closer. Loons may abandon their nest under pressure of human interference. Read more on other Association projects on page 10.

COVID-19 IS CHANGING OUR COTTAGE LIFESTYLE

What a challenging year this has been. We are all facing unforeseen circumstances on so many different fronts. Please keep checking the websites of both South Frontenac and Rideau Lakes townships, as policies and rules change frequently.

When we went to print, all public boat launches on Wolfe Lake were open. Both townships have signposts with orders and guidelines designed to stop the spread of COVID-19.

For your own and everyone else's safety, be prepared to wait if the boat launch is busy, and stay in your vehicle until the boat ahead of you has left the shore. Out of an abundance of caution, please don't gather, meet friends, tailgate or picnic at the boat launches. Get your boat into the water and move away to an area where you can safely isolate. Be careful and cautious so these

areas can remain open for safe outdoor recreation.

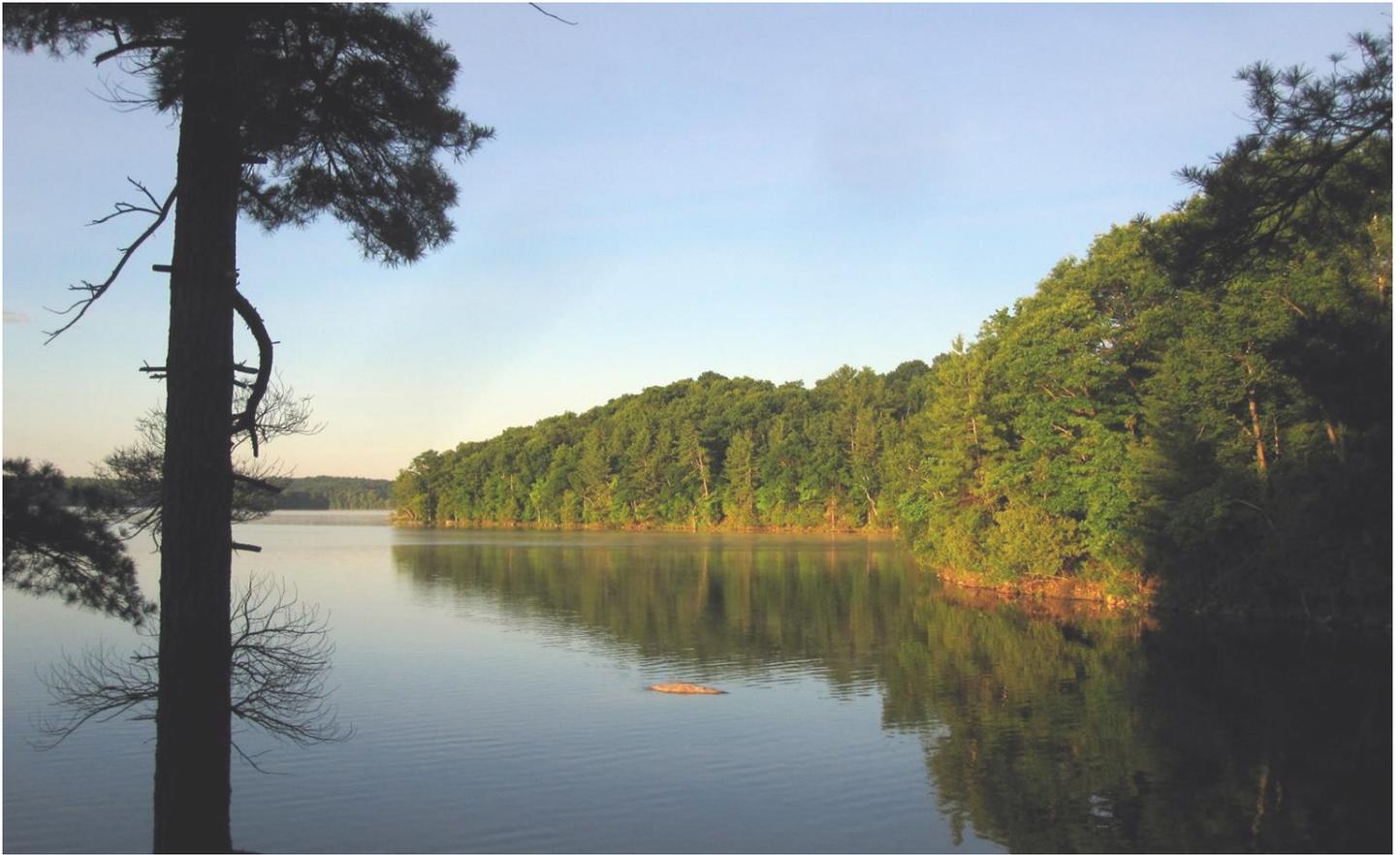
For a few personal 'COVID stories' from five board members of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, turn to page 17.

AGM GOES VIRTUAL

For the first time ever, the Wolfe Lake Association Westport will hold its Annual General Meeting virtually on Saturday, July 17. The Association's board made this decision in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic because a physical meeting will not be feasible. We still need your input, however, and invite you to attend. You will receive reminders via our Facebook page and website, and a News Flash alert once we get closer to the date. Have a look at the official invitation on page 6.

GYPSY MOTH ARE BACK

Many insects feed on tree leaves, but gypsy moths are a major invasive pest, covering decks with their droppings and often completely defoliating the trees they attack. They prefer oaks and pine, but will also attack aspen, apple, basswood, birch, crabapple, willow and many other species. The caterpillars have pairs of red and blue spots along the back and long, dark hairs, and are generally most active from mid-May until early July. Find out what to do on [ontario.ca/page/gypsy-moth](https://www.ontario.ca/page/gypsy-moth).



OUR WATER QUALITY REMAINS EXCELLENT

By Gord Moore

If you were fortunate enough to go out on the lake last summer, you might have seen Gord Moore out on his pontoon boat, busy taking water samples. With the Association’s big banners on both sides, it would have been hard to miss him. As the new water quality director, Gord is now responsible for frequent sampling of our lake water. Here are his 2020 findings.

Before COVID-19, the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, the provincial Ministry of the Environment, and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations performed different types of water-quality testing throughout the year. This testing has been ongoing for over 20 years. Our association has always been involved. Last year was different.

Gord Moore: “Well, another year has come and gone, and what a year it has been. COVID-19 affected all our lives in so many ways, ways, including water-quality testing on Wolfe Lake.”

“It started on April 9th with an email from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) informing us that, due to the pandemic, all water-quality testing would be suspended until further notice. On May 29th I received a follow-up email that RVCA

would be resuming testing within their catchment area on a limited basis, starting June 3rd, but with many changes. Firstly, volunteer transportation such as I had been providing, i.e., taking RVCA employees out on my pontoon boat to test various locations on Wolfe Lake, was to be discontinued for the time being. Secondly, due to the novel virus, they were unable to employ the same number of summer students. As a result, they had to prioritize which lakes to visit and how often. The decision was based on nutrient status, water bodies with identified issues, as well as lakes identified as ‘lake trout lakes’. As Wolfe Lake had no nutrient issues or identified major issues at all and is not classed as a ‘lake trout lake’, RVCA made only one visit to our waters during the summer season of 2020, on July 7th.”



Gord goes on to clarify that, under normal circumstances, he would go out with their team each month, on average for 4 hours per visit, and take samples at all the regular locations. “This time, because of restrictions due to COVID-19 and their smaller boat, they were able to visit just 6 sampling sites.” Our lake association is involved in the ‘Lake Partner Program’, run by the Provincial Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in cooperation with citizens, usually dedicated volunteers from lake associations around the province. Gord: “As part of this partnership, I actually did the

water testing myself once a month and sent off the samples to their lab for evaluation. But early in the season the Ministry informed all participants that water testing for 2020 had been suspended, not because of concerns about sampling but rather because of concerns for the safety of government employees in the lab during the current pandemic. And at the end of the season, I received a follow-up email to the effect that we could send in a sample for October if we wanted to, but, unfortunately, by that time my boat was in storage.”



2020 SAMPLING SUMMARY

WOLFE LAKE WATER QUALITY 2020					
Date (Sampling)	Sampling locations	E. coli (CFU/100ml)	TKN (µg/l)	TP (µg/l)	Secchi (m)
7-Jul-20	J	8	400	9	
7-Jul-20	D	0	300	6	
7-Jul-20	DP3		300	9	5.5
7-Jul-20	DP1		300	8	6
7-Jul-20	I	0	400	10	
7-Jul-20	K	2	400	12	

Total Phosphorus (TP) and Total Nitrogen (TKN) are two of the main indicators of water pollution due to runoff from lake-surrounding areas.

The concentration of E. coli bacteria is another important indicator of water contamination from fecal material of human or animal origin. The measured Secchi depth reflects the turbidity of the water caused by

algae, pollen and sediments. All measured concentrations are far lower than the standards. Water clarity continues to decrease as compared with previous years.

Total phosphorus concentration remains low, comparable to previous years. Overall results were very comparable to the period on record. In general, the water quality on Wolfe Lake remains excellent. E. coli concentrations

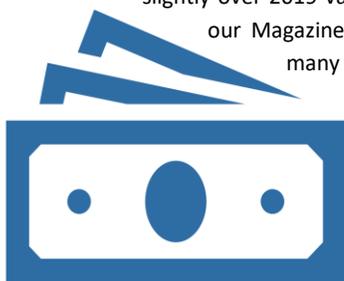
were far below the provincial maximum values. Water clarity, as expressed by the annual average Secchi depth, has decreased in the last few years. This trend was also noted in 2020. A probable cause for the decrease in water clarity over the last few years may be the rapid decline in the Zebra Mussel population over the same time period. Zebra Mussels feed on phytoplankton, which they find in the lake at shallower depths. When large numbers feed in these shallower depths, the result can be improved water clarity, as we saw when the Zebra Mussels were at their worst. With the decline in numbers, Zebra Mussels are not feeding on the phytoplankton to the same extent, and it is thought that this may be the cause of the reduction in water clarity.



FROM OUR TREASURER | Wolfe Lake Association Financial Report 2021

By Larry Arsenault

The association remains in a financially solid position. Despite the fact that COVID-19 has impacted almost every aspect of our lives for most of 2020 and so far in 2021, our financial reserves have actually increased slightly over 2019 values. This is thanks to the fact that



our Magazine continues to have the support of many of our local businesses, despite the challenges they have faced. We are

truly grateful for their ongoing support.

In addition, members of the Association continued to support the

Association through their annual membership dues. Although membership dues were down slightly in 2020 compared to 2019, we attribute this to the fact that several members were unable to spend time at their property because of COVID travel restrictions. We remain hopeful that membership dues will return to pre-pandemic levels in

2021. A special thank you to all of our members who continue to support our activities through their annual donations. In addition to these revenue sources, we also received grants from the Gillespie Foundation, and South Frontenac and Rideau Lakes Townships.

On the expense side of things, we experienced a slight decrease, again due to COVID-19, which limited what we could physically do in 2020. This decrease contributed to our increase in reserves.

The lake association continues to investigate new projects and initiatives that will improve Wolfe Lake and its surrounding lands and that are supported by the membership at large.

Going forward, the continuing support of our members and payment of membership dues are essential to continuing our efforts to preserve and improve Wolfe Lake. Details of the financial report are published on wolfelake.org.



Past project updates and current WLA initiatives

PROJECTS THAT CHAMPION THE WELL-BEING OF WOLFE LAKE

By Margie Manthey

As a WLA member you regularly receive updates via emailed News Flashes, Facebook posts and our website. Still, it doesn't hurt to fill you in on the latest news about our past projects and current initiatives. Take a look!

Margie Manthey: "The WLA remains dedicated to protecting the lake's ecosystem by monitoring its water quality, enhancing the fishery and supporting resident wildlife.

Each year, we strive to implement projects that champion the well-being of Wolfe Lake. Here is an update on past projects, together with highlights from our latest initiatives that continue through the pandemic."



Monofilament fishing line collection units

WLA volunteer **Wayne Derbyshire** continues to monitor and collect fishing line from the three units at each of the public boat launches. Broken, discarded fishing line is extremely dangerous to wildlife, including birds and turtles. Thank you, Wayne!

Tree Bundle Fish Habitat Enhancement



Early summer visual observations of the sites by our Water Quality Director, Gord Moore, showed "thousands" of fry (young-of-the-year-fish), presumably bass, using the submerged trees for protective habitat; some larger fish were noted as well. Later in the summer, Gord employed an underwater camera to monitor activity around the

sites, revealing that the fry had dispersed and sunfish and bluegills were now using the trees for shelter and food. Monitoring will continue this year.

Scanlan Creek walleye spawning habitat restoration



According to a recent Watersheds Canada media release, scant snowfall over a relatively easy winter and continued below-average precipitation this spring

resulted in area creeks flowing well below normal. Things were so abnormally dry that a total burn ban was declared in Westport in March. Little precipitation and an early snow melt might be nice for us, but the lack of depth and current throughout the watershed translated to very poor walleye recruitment at various spawning bed rehab sites this year, including Scanlan Creek. Joffre Côté, a biologist with the MNRF, was not surprised, based on the drought. While this is indeed disappointing, we cannot control Mother Nature and must once again look ahead to next year with fingers crossed for

more typical winter and spring weather trends.

Twin culvert upgrade & improvements on Scanlan Creek



The WLA, through a generous donation from the Alastair and Diana Gillespie Foundation, contributed \$1500 towards the cost to replace two failing 4-foot culverts on private property along Scanlan Creek with twin 5-foot culverts. Installed last summer, the

wider pipes may encourage cautious walleye to travel through to historically significant spawning habitat.

Stone used by the property owner to line the pipes was blown out during flooding caused when three beaver dams gave way at uphill ponds in December.

The WLA plans to contribute \$500 for a load of larger-sized rock later this year to spread along the culvert bottoms. This will help naturalize the route for spawning walleye.

The property owner remains dedicated to improving walleye spawning habitat on Scanlan Creek and continues his efforts.

Two loon nesting platforms



Over the past decade, there have been only a few documented loon chicks successfully hatched and fledged on Wolfe Lake. Loons face many threats, including lead toxicity and habitat loss. Their eggs and chicks are especially vulnerable to predation, being swamped by boat and jet-ski wakes or run over by these watercraft.

In hopes of facilitating loon nesting success, the WLA has constructed and placed two nesting platforms on the lake this spring. We

used two different designs and will monitor each for loon activity (it is not uncommon for rafts to be ignored, especially the first year). If you see a loon using a raft or on a natural nest, PLEASE resist the temptation to linger or move closer. Loons may abandon eggs under the pressure of human interference. Also, please refrain from creating large wakes around islands and shallow bays where loons nest and be highly vigilant for small chicks unable to dive to escape approaching watercraft. Special thanks to WLA volunteers **Adriana and Sandro Gambarotta, Helene Wach and Bruce Maynard, and Bill and Donna Garland** for their efforts to build and place the platforms just after ice-out, in time for the return of our resident loons!

POSSIBLE FUTURE WLA ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS



The WLA continues to research future environmental initiatives. Ideas under consideration include additional fishery projects, restoring natural shoreline and initiatives to combat invasive species

ATTENTION WOLFE LAKE ANGLERS! | Lead kills wild birds



Due to their physiology, lead toxicity is often fatal in birds. It is especially deadly in loons and eagles, which rarely survive, even with medical intervention from wildlife rescue groups. Lead fishing sinkers and jigs (as well as lead shot used for hunting) are responsible for the deaths of several millions of birds each year and continue to pile up in the environment.

How do birds wind up ingesting lead?

Birds swallow grit to help digest food but are unable to discern between lead pellets and

Did you know that ingesting just one small lead sinker is enough to kill an adult loon? When loons, bald eagles, swans and ducks swallow lead, it breaks down and releases toxins into their bloodstream and tissues, leading to organ failure and death.

pebbles. Loons and eagles ingest lead when they catch and eat fish or consume dead fish with broken/cut fishing line and sinkers still attached. Dabbling ducks, geese and swans ingest lead while foraging in shallows and wetlands.

Isn't lead illegal? Ontario's regulatory laws regarding lead use in fishing, hunting and Skeet shooting are inadequate and inconsistent. The province prohibits lead fishing tackle in Canada's National Parks and National Wildlife Areas but allows its use on most other bodies of water, including Wolfe Lake; and while it is illegal to use lead shot to

hunt migratory birds, it is permitted for ground birds and rabbits. Furthermore, the government has no jurisdiction on private or native-owned land.

How can we help? STOP USING LEAD TODAY. There are environmentally-safe, lead-free alternatives available to sportspersons -- non-toxic products made from steel or tungsten-nickel-iron blends. They cost more, but the health of our wildlife and natural resources is priceless. Support sporting goods stores that offer lead-free alternatives and urge those that don't to do so. Please... "get the lead out," and help keep our wildlife safe.

The Big Rideau Lake Association's president shares his views

NEIGHBOURING LAKE COMMUNITY KEEPS A CLOSE EYE ON CURRENT ISSUES

A closer look at what happens on our neighbouring lakes is useful and informative. Grant Leslie is the president of the Big Rideau Lake Association, a much larger community than ours, with 300 members. We asked him to share his thoughts on density issues, the increasing number of year-round residents, the need for well-functioning septic systems, shoreline protection, new planning tools for the Rideau Lakes municipality and the potential growth of campgrounds. During a friendly virtual fireside chat with this dedicated volunteer, a variety of topics, all very relevant to our community as well, were tossed around.

"Excessively dense shoreline development leads to negative impacts on lakes; the various regulations and legislation that specify requirements like minimum lot sizes and lake frontages reflect the need to minimize the density of shoreline development." Having said that, Grant Leslie makes it clear that the Big Rideau Lake Association (BRLA) is not concerned about the conversion of cottages to year-round homes or new builds on waterfront properties with the required 200+ feet of shoreline, "provided they have sufficient septic system capacity, establish shoreline vegetation, ensure proper drainage of storm water runoff, etc."



"Along the shores of the Big Rideau, there are almost no vacant lots available for new construction. That said, some owners are rebuilding or renovating existing cottages or homes into permanent year-round dwellings." Grant explains that the Township regulates this new construction and typically may require additional building setbacks from the shoreline, a new septic system that complies with setback specifications and the planting of shoreline vegetation. Other conditions may be specified to ensure a net environmental gain at a lakefront build/rebuild location.

The BRLA president knows, better than most, that septic systems need constant attention: "Those systems process out 80 to 90% of phosphates, but not nitrates, which are another nutrient. The problem this poses is that, particularly in this area where we have thin soil coverage over bedrock, when the effluent from the weeping tile bed of a septic system percolates down to the bedrock, it migrates horizontally into the lake or a nearby watercourse. If there is sufficient vegetation along the shoreline, the vegetation acts as a sort of filter, taking up the nitrates and other nutrients. Without shoreline vegetation, the additional nutrients that enter a lake fuel excessive aquatic growth."

Campground density concerns

When it comes to the issue of campground density on the lake, Grant Leslie frowns. "What the BRLA is particularly concerned about at present is the conversion of campgrounds into dense populations of three-season Park Model trailer units."

Summerhill Resorts has purchased the Waterways Campground on Hudson Bay and is planning an expansion from 150 sites to 300 sites with 1- and 2-bedroom Park Model modular-type trailers that will be permanently installed on sites and sold as cottages. Grant: "If this development is allowed to go forward, the result would effectively be a dense subdivision with a summer population in excess of that of Westport. If Summerhill is successful, other campgrounds on the Big Rideau, Upper Rideau and other lakes in the Township of Rideau Lakes would no doubt try to follow suit."

He continues: "This sort of intense/dense development would no doubt add nutrients to the lake(s), increase the number of algae blooms, increase boat traffic and shoreline erosion due to wakes and undoubtedly have negative impacts on the ecology of the lake."

"The other issue associated with this sort of development is the unequal treatment of cottage owners versus Park Model 'cottage' owners leasing a site in a 'campground'."

Rideau Lakes Official Plan

The BRLA is also monitoring the Township's Official Plan update process. Grant Leslie: "The Big Rideau Lake Association is disappointed that the Township of Rideau Lakes didn't include more definitive lake protection policies in its revised Official Plan, such as those included in the OPs of neighbouring Townships." Raising his eyebrows, he continues: "Another considerable density concern is the Township's attempt to include in its redrafted Official Plan a policy that would allow a reduction in the minimum lake frontage for a waterfront lot, a policy which could result in greater density."

The formal public meeting required under the Planning Act when an Official Plan is altered or updated is expected to occur this year, a process which becomes far more difficult during a pandemic. Hopefully, lake property owners will make the effort to voice their opposition to developments and land use policies that would allow increased density on the shores of their lake(s).



(SEE WLA'S COMMENTS ON THE NEXT PAGE.)

SUPPORT THE HEALTH OF THE LAKE**WLA comments | The Big Rideau**

We asked Brian Manthey, president of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport to share some comments. Brian: "The WLA is not, nor should it be, a property development authority whose review or approval is required on development applications. It is a group of property owners with a vested

interest in a healthy lake. There are plenty of other oversight and review agencies whose approval is required before development can occur (both Rideau Lakes and South Frontenac townships, the RVCA, MNR, etc.). Our association's role is to help owners realize and understand how their actions affect neighbours and lake health. To that end, each of us can support

lake health by naturalizing our shorelines, maintaining our septic systems and developing and using our property responsibly and considerately. None of us would be here enjoying the lake if those who came before us closed the door behind them, and prevented us from building our cottages, homes and lake lives."

TREND ALERT | Lloyd's Lane development started earlier this year Welcoming new neighbours on the lake

Wolfe Lake has a lot to offer, and over the years many people have recognized its potential. Those of our members who have lived around Wolfe Lake for a longer period of time have seen it all happening: smaller cottages remodeled into beautiful year-round homes, large waterfront lots severed into smaller pieces, and even the presence of 'timeshare' units. Neil Scott, one of the local realtors: "The new development on Lloyd's Lane has caught everyone's attention. I'll gladly fill you in on a few details."



Neil Scott, part of the team at Exit Axis Realty and a frequent 'Walleye Whacker' on Wolfe, knows very well that Wolfe Lake is an outstanding, healthy body of water where people want to settle, or trade city life for cottage life after retirement. He tries to keep an eye on what is happening around our lake, and has noticed a trend in our region towards increasing numbers of year-round homes, with all their potential consequences. "Lloyd's Lane Estates' is being developed by Clermont Investments, owned by Dana McCulloch, and her two brothers, Jason and Matthew Derbyshire, just north of Evergreen Golf Course. Lloyd's Lane Estates consists of 13 lots, with only two on the waterfront. The waterfront lots will be built on in the upcoming years, one of them by Dana and her husband, George."

Being in the business, Neil Scott knows there has been lots of interest in these parcels of land, "given their proximity to Evergreen Golf Course and, in fact, 6 lots are spoken for, leaving only 7 lots remaining. Only the two waterfront parcels will have direct access to the lake. There are no plans to build a community dock, including access to the lake for all homes."

Appeal of the golf course and add-on driving range

Scott confirms that one of the appeals for our future neighbours, in addition to Wolfe Lake, is Evergreen Golf Course, which currently offers 9 challenging holes. Evergreen Golf Course is adding an

additional feature to the course in the form of a driving range on the northeast corner, just behind Evergreen's maintenance garage. Dana McCulloch predicts the range will be open to the public later this summer. The parking lot off Concession 10 has already been completed and work has begun on the grounds.

Pickleball court

In addition, two pickleball courts are to be built on the site of the golf cart storage lot, in front of the clubhouse. Neil: "How cool will it be to play a pickleball game and then have the opportunity to stroll to the clubhouse for a refreshing glass of vino and a tasty sandwich?" Like the golf course, the pickleball courts and driving range will be open to everyone around the lake and area, not just the folks who will be living at Lloyd's Lane Estates.

Neil explains: "History has proven that change is inevitable and marches on. Yes, the long-time residents of Wolfe Lake and area will remember Anna McCulloch's sumptuous meals at Green Shingles Lodge and miss those family occasions. But none of us regret the loss of a boathouse tied to the lodge, the gas pumps, and the large amount of boat traffic that disappeared with the building of Wolfe Springs." Neil concludes that these changes will add to the overall attractiveness and enjoyment of the area. "In my experience, it is my opinion that whatever the McCullochs and Derbyshires develop will be done to the best of their abilities and will result in many benefits to all of us."



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The Ontario Energy Board wants to eliminate the 'Seasonal Rate Class'

BAD NEWS FOR ALL WATERFRONT PROPERTY OWNERS

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is trying to DOUBLE our electricity rates by eliminating the Seasonal Rate class. This is extremely bad news. It means an additional \$54 a month in fees for nearly 80,000 seasonal Hydro One customers and waterfront property owners in Ontario and will affect most members of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport.



The cost of electricity for average households had already risen nearly 2% since June 2018 when it went up by another 2% last November 1st. But that's nothing compared to the hike of over 100% that 80,000 families will face when the Seasonal Rate class is eliminated!

On October 1, 2020, the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines committed that people could expect "cost certainty" from the energy sector. With your help, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) will be urging Minister Rickford and Premier Ford to fulfill this pledge and prevent the doubling of our electricity bills.

Hydro One Networks has already written to all 147,649 seasonal class electricity customers to explain how they will be moved to one of three residential density-based classes. The notice includes Hydro One's estimate of your average monthly electricity use over the past 12 months, in kWh, so you can compare your new estimated rate at the same consumption level. It is the approximately 78,000 seasonal customers moving to the Low Density (R2) class who will see the largest impacts on their bills, with total bill increases of up to 100%. The Seasonal Rate class may be eliminated as early as January 1, 2022.

If you received a letter from Hydro One earlier this year, indicating you will be one of the 78,000 families moved out of the collapsing 'Seasonal Rate' class and into one of three existing density classes, you may have questions. Whether you think you should be moved to

an alternate rate classification, or you've changed your usage and need to update Hydro One that you're living there year-round (and therefore eligible for the RRRF subsidy that is NOT available to seasonal residents), contact Hydro One at their Customer Contact Centre at 1-888-664-9376.

Check your Hydro One bill

Check your notice, and if you think your classification is incorrect, call the Hydro One Customer Service line: 1-888-664-9376. Areas with 100 or more customers, and at least 15 customers for every kilometre of power line used to supply energy to the zone, are supposed to be moved to the Medium Density class, but FOCA has already heard of cases where the designation on the notice was incorrect. This means it is important to contact

your MPP, as well as the MPP for your urban residence (see page 16).

Understanding Your Rate Class

Your rate class (also known as service type) identifies which delivery rates apply to you. Delivery rates (shown under the Delivery line on your bill) are made up of the following:

- a fixed monthly service charge that does not change no matter how much electricity you use each month and is for costs related to meter reading, billing, customer service and account maintenance.
- and charges that vary based on how much electricity you use, which include:
- a distribution volume charge for the cost of building and maintaining the distribution system, including overhead and underground power lines, poles and transformers.
- transmission rates (transmission connection charge & transmission network charge) for the costs to operate and maintain the high-voltage transmission system.

Residential versus Residential Seasonal Customers

Hydro One identifies two main classes. Firstly, there are '**Residential Customers**': the residential service area is divided into three rate zones: Urban High-Density zone, Medium Density zone and Low-Density zone. The other classes are called '**Residential Seasonal Customers**' and '**General Service Customers**'. Need more info? Go to the Hydro One website and look at density review and service type information: hydroone.com; also see next page (FOCA).

FOCA IS ASKING FOR OUR HELP TO MAINTAIN FAIR ELECTRICITY PRICING

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) is monitoring the proposed move to different residential density-based classes and advocating against the plans for these extreme measures, which will substantially increase electricity bills for all waterfront property owners in Ontario. This is a matter that affects many Wolfe Lake cottagers, so please add your voice to this effort!

Action #1: send an email to the MPP for your seasonal residence.

Action #2: call the MPP for your seasonal residence.

Here is the contact information for both Rideau Lakes and South Frontenac property owners:

RIDEAU LAKES MPP: Hon. Steve Clark
(Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes),
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Email: steve.clark@pc.ola.org
Phone number: 1 416-585-7000

FRONTENAC MPP: Randy Hillier
(Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston)
Email: rhillier-co@ola.org
Phone number: 1 613-267-8239



Action #3: write to the MPP for your urban residence.

Need more information before taking action? FOCA posts updates on this topic here: foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing.

TVO documentary shows the beauty of our region and how to keep it intact

STRIKING BALANCE | Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve



A TVO documentary series, 'Striking Balance', looks at our nation's breathtaking biosphere reserves in this eight-part cinematic documentary series. Explore some of the amazing places that make up our 18 UNESCO-designated biosphere reserves in Canada and learn what makes them special, from geological, ecological, historical and cultural perspectives. Nearly two million people live in these reserves, amongst them passionate residents on a quest to find a balance between economic prosperity and environmental protection.

The documentary makers also investigate the reserves as living laboratories by joining academics, citizen scientists and Indigenous knowledge-keepers in their research to create a more sustainable future for both Canadians and the environments in which we live. It's quite impressive what is being done for the environment of these biospheres.

One of the Striking Balance documentaries showcases our region, Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. It tells the story of the heart of eastern North America's last great forest corridor, which is threatened by development. However, the people of Ontario's Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve are determined to keep it intact. The documentary was first aired on November 22, 2020, but you can still watch this episode, "Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve", on tvo.org/programs/striking-balance.

TIP The other episodes of the documentary series are worth watching as well.



SOUTH FRONTENAC LAUNCHES LAKE ECOSYSTEM GRANT PROGRAM THIS FALL

A new Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee was formed in the fall of 2020 by the Council of South Frontenac Township to connect with the local lake community. The Committee consists of local residents, with input from select council members, township staff and representatives from lake associations, conservation authorities, and meets on a regular basis. The purpose of the committee is to support and encourage the preservation, restoration, monitoring and analysis of lake ecosystems within the Township by providing

applicants with funding for projects that meet these criteria. The South Frontenac Council feels this will be a great way to invest in our lakes and our community, ensuring we protect and preserve the Township's beautiful waterbodies for years to come. The program will be launched later this year. For more information on the Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee, meeting agendas and minutes are available at: southfrontenac.civicweb.net/Portal and look for 'Meeting Information.'

IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AROUND THE LAKE

Five cottagers share their heartfelt stories

What a year it has been! The way we live has changed drastically since the pandemic officially arrived in the True North in March 2020. The magnitude of the disease’s impact on all of us has been huge. Staying at home as much as possible has its ups and downs. One day you are flying high, but the next day you can’t do much more than stare out of the windows. One year into it all, the pandemic reminds us to never take little things for granted. With these personal stories from a few board members of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, we bring the ‘new normal’ way of living closer to home.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have changed our daily lives. Adjusting to our new circumstances has triggered a wide range of experiences and emotions. We know that many people have struggled and still feel

isolated, frustrated or just plain sad. All things considered, we know we are lucky to live here. COVID case numbers are significantly lower than in the big(ger) cities. Most of us have found some peace in the chaos, and

have learned something about ourselves and the world around us. Several fellow cottagers, all of them still healthy and safe, tell us how they have adapted to living in the midst of the pandemic.

Paul & Cathryn Thompson | WOODLAND WALKS WITH NEIGHBOURS

We watched spellbound in February 2020 as the impact of the first few cases of COVID-19 in Europe put our long-awaited winter/spring travel plans in jeopardy, on hold and finally ended them.

The fear of COVID-19 and a new routine of masked and gloved shopping and wiping down groceries, etc., became our new normal. Almost everyone we knew stayed home, hiding from the virus that was making the world sick and killing so many. But as the world was shutting down, nature and Wolfe Lake were waking up to spring. The declining air and vehicular traffic quieted the countryside. Birds and animals showed themselves in abundance; some never seen before visited our feeders and entertained us.

The local grocery store kindly began to deliver for those unable or unwilling to venture out, while those a little bolder could order, pay by phone and pick up in the almost empty parking lot. How

resourceful and considerate of Neil and Martha Kudrinko.

The usual in-home gatherings were replaced by chatter-filled woodland walks with neighbours as spring turned to summer. Our beautiful lake and the Evergreen golf course were eerily quiet as our friends with cottages from other provinces and the US stayed home. We also missed the joyful noise of Camp IAWAH. Reduced virus outbreaks led to relaxed rules so we could “bubble” with family and gather more frequently outdoors with our friends and neighbours.

We became used to daily life outside without masks and sometimes arrived at storefronts barefaced, only to return to the car to put on our masks. Summer and early fall seemed almost normal compared to the panicked spring.

With our kids and grandkids, we celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary with a delicious outdoor brunch from the



Dancing Moon Tea House. The grandkids, always maintaining proper distances, were able to visit and swim in the lake.

Presently, after another quiet fall and winter without the usual Wolfe Howl, the vaccination

program at last appears to be hitting its stride. Still, we wait for summer and watch with trepidation as the COVID cases climb and the new variants spread rapidly.

Cathryn and Paul Thomson have been WLA members since 2005.

Anna Rijk | A TRICKY TRIP TO TORONTO

Last year, on March 11, I was taking down the booth of one of my Dutch clients at the Eneicare Centre, the well-known exhibition building in Toronto, when our daughter called. She asked in a concerned voice if I was crazy, risking being exposed to the virus that was now spreading wildly across Ontario.

It was just two days before the opening of the annual grand Canada Blooms flower show when the organizer had to cancel this huge show as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. It was a sad sight inside the exhibition hall. Beautifully designed indoor gardens and wonderful booth displays were all being dismantled. Holland Bulb Market, my Dutch exhibitor, had sent many gorgeous tulips for this show. The Dutch flower exhibitor insisted that their

colourful bunches of tulips be used as a 'Thank You' gift to Canadian WWII veterans at Sunnybrook Veterans Centre. And I was going to bring the tulips to them. The veterans, who participated in the liberation of the Netherlands more than 75 years ago, are considered heroes in my country of origin.

At the hospital, dropping off the tulips, I was given a surgical mask, and as I waited to be screened, I vigorously sanitized my hands over and over again. At that moment I had no idea that this would become the common procedure when entering any building or store in the year to come. In hindsight, going to Toronto, the first hotspot of infections, was a tricky one, and risky. Since that weekend, our lives have changed. We did not travel anywhere. We

had no visitors, we hosted no dinners, not even an outdoor BBQ. The saddest part of it all is that Daniel and I were not able to go to the



Netherlands to visit our family, and that our children and grandchildren couldn't spend their holidays at our Wolfe Lake home, as they normally do every summer. While missing the kids and grandkids is unbelievably hard, we consider ourselves lucky to have a safe haven at our lake, focusing on small pleasures in life to keep afloat.

Anna Spitzer-Rijk and Daniel Spitzer have been WLA members since 2010.

Donna & Bill Garland | THE GREAT ESCAPE

Our cottage is called the Great Escape in honour of our fathers' contributions to WWII and the fact that one of our fathers participated in the prisoner of war escape made famous by the 1963 epic movie, *The Great Escape*.

We were in Florida on our two-month Great Escape from the winter of 2020, when we received FaceTime calls and emails from our children urging us to come home as soon as possible. There was a new virus called the coronavirus that was infecting many Canadians and people around the world. We had heard very little about it in Florida and could not know the impact it would have on our lives going forward!! We came home mid-March, crossing the border without having been asked any of the usual questions, with spending queries replaced by how we were feeling. Clearly something had changed.

Self-isolation, quarantine, masks, social distancing, curbside pick-up, COVID 19, pandemic, testing, tracing, store and restaurant closings, online learning, professional sport seasons cancelled, lockdown, circuit breaker, work from home, Zoom, vaccines, etc. What is this new reality?

As daunting as this sounds, we were blessed. Blessed that we live on Wolfe Lake in the Great Escape, and now our protective bubble. To

Bill and Donna Garland. The Garland family have been WLA members since the beginning in 1991, and we ourselves have been members since 2001.



join us in our bubble, family members had to test negative for the coronavirus and self-isolate for 14 days before arriving. Once here, our family was able to enjoy cottage life as if there was no pandemic at all.

Our grandchildren had been at home learning online since March. After joining The Great Escape bubble in July and August, they really appreciated being outside without a mask, enjoying the water, playing games, fishing, and

most importantly enjoying the company of others. We drew closer as a family and had a fabulous summer at the lake. For those that could not join us, there was FaceTime and Zoom. Can you imagine COVID without the internet!! Some of our adult children were able to "work from home" at the cottage and some of our grandchildren stayed until it was time to go back to school. For us, COVID came with the gift of time: family time, couple time, me time, time to focus on renovations and community volunteer activities and streaming.

We remained healthy, blessed and grateful for our life on Wolfe Lake at The Great Escape, safely out of reach from this horrible virus. Test negative and stay positive.

Margie Manthey | COVID CRUSHES COTTAGE TRADITIONS



1978. That was the year my fishing-obsessed brother talked our Dad into driving to Canada for summer vacation. We packed up the car, our family and our dog and headed north without any specific plan except to rent a lakeside “cabin” where we

would fish, swim and relax. The route was circuitous and disappointing, as we learned the hard way that reservations were something of a necessity. The broken road eventually led to a rental-cottage cancellation on Wolfe Lake, where it was love at first sight. The rest is history, and our family returned each summer thereafter (with reservations secured). I also fell for my husband Brian, who joined our annual pilgrimage to the lake; and together we realized a dream by purchasing lake frontage on the north shore where we built a cottage and priceless memories with our sons.

My life fabric is interwoven with history spanning over 40 years on Wolfe Lake. For decades, there was no skip in the heartbeat of our traditional sojourn -- until COVID-19 silenced it in 2020. What started as a frightening, surreal situation fraught with contradictory guidelines dragged on,

month after stressful month. The border stayed closed, and eventually it sank in. There would be no family trips to our cottage that year -- no fishing, swimming, quiet walks, sublime sunsets or loons. We grieved. We understood our responsibility in the early, confusing stages of the pandemic and were patient, albeit heartbroken; but as the summer months wore on through fall, winter and now spring of 2021, the frustration grows. We are required to pay hefty taxes and Hydro bills but forbidden to so much as check on our properties. How is this acceptable? Americans can easily vaccinate, COVID test and safely isolate at our cottages. Our governments must prioritize the need to implement fair travel policies recognizing the rights of private property owners to maintain and visit their residences.

Margie and Brian Manthey have been WLA members since 2006.

Adriana Gambarotta | A TIME FOR REFLECTIONS

A few decades ago, predictions of a pandemic by the scientific community did not seem to arouse any concern. Will our descendants prepare emergency protocols and stock up on protective equipment and devices to prevent the spread of a new bug, given the impact of COVID-19 around the world? A genetic mutation unpredictably enables a virus to penetrate inside our bodies. To prevent another surprise, let’s prepare now for when this ugly “affinity” strikes again.

In Canada the infection is now under control. We watched other countries affected before us pay dearly

for their lack of a pandemic strategy. We learned from their failings. While face masks and disinfectants are easy to find in this country and the lockdown restrictions are tolerable, I get a stomach crunch thinking of living instead in an overcrowded poor country or in a war zone! Four to five hundred people are still dying every day in Italy, where a lack of PPE supplies and a high percentage of elderly residents have resulted in one of the world’s highest death tolls. The news showed long military convoys removing hundreds of coffins from overcrowded hospital morgues. No chance for a decent farewell from their families for all those souls.

The same happened to my father. COVID was not the cause of his passing, but related travel issues interfered so badly with my visit that I had to “abandon” him to his destiny.

Soon we will receive our immunization. Let’s exercise patience and tolerance in this context and remember that getting immunized will save us and others. It is an act of respect, a responsibility.

Looking at the view of Wolfe Lake from my permanent home, my refuge, the beauty of the natural surroundings magically steals my attention



from bad news and inner desolation. This uplifting, healing and calming effect will help me to find some peace of mind. Stay safe!

Adriana Gambarotta has been a WLA member since 2016.

GREETINGS | MAYOR ARIE HOOGENBOOM

Township of Rideau Lakes



Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Wolfe Lake Association magazine. We find ourselves still unexpectedly in the COVID environment and the many challenges it represents. We continue to follow all Public Health Guidelines and, as of the end of April, our boat launches remain open.

This year, we are experiencing a dramatic rise in property values, with waterfront leading the way. While this is good news for existing property owners, it may also cause concern as taxes are set based on market values. The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation sets Market Values and the reassessment planned for 2020 has now been postponed again to at least 2022. Council will look to mitigate any future major tax adjustments and I am pleased to report that for 2021, Council passed along a budget increase of only 1%. This is further reduced once the County rate and School Board rate are factored in.

We continue the road to fiscal sustainability with lower debt, higher reserves, and more infrastructure work. Council has moved to improve the maintenance on gravel roads, moving from a 2, 3 and 5 year cycle of gravel application to a 2-3 year cycle. Waste pickup on private roads has also been standardized across the Township, with more receiving

curbside pickup. Finally, Council has just voted to index private road grants to inflation.

The Lake Association Committee continues to meet quarterly and provides input to Council on many issues of relevance to waterfront property owners.

Two examples are our Draft Official Plan and the Parks Canada Management Plan. Thanks go out to Margie Manthey and Ken Malcolm for volunteering and to Peter Neve, one of your 2020 representatives.

On the capital works side, the Township continues its partnership with Westport Telephone Company to extend internet services in our rural areas. Much remains to be done, as many of us know when faced with working from home and/or the cottage.

In closing, have a safe and enjoyable summer on the water. If you have questions at any time, feel free to contact your Mayor and/or Ward Councillors.

Arie Hoogenboom

mayor@rideaulakes.ca | 613-323 0901 (M)
rideaulakes.ca

GREETINGS | MAYOR RON VANDEWAL

Township of South Frontenac



While writing this message last year, I can honestly say I did not anticipate we would still be living in the midst of a pandemic. The last year has proved challenging and forced South Frontenac residents to stay vigilant with the goal of keeping our families and community safe. Despite delays, the Township continues to move forward with initiatives designed to improve service delivery and meet the needs of our community.

In an effort to connect more with our local lake associations and lake-loving residents, Council appointed members to the new Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee in the fall of 2020. The Committee is currently developing a Lake Ecosystem Grant program that will be launched later this year. This is intended to support and encourage the preservation, restoration, monitoring and analysis of lake ecosystems within the Township by providing applicants with funding to take on a project that meets these criteria. Council felt this would be a great way to invest in our lakes and our community, ensuring we protect and preserve the Township's beautiful water bodies for years to come.

In addition to the Lake Ecosystem Grant program, the Committee will also be consulted on the creation of a Shoreline Tree Preservation

Bylaw. Council directed staff to develop such a bylaw in order to protect our sensitive shorelines and sustain a healthy natural environment.

The Township's new Official Plan process is also underway, with many public engagement opportunities on the horizon in 2021. While the pandemic has made in-person engagement challenging, public workshops and other opportunities will be provided, using a variety of virtual engagement tools. I encourage residents to keep their eyes out for opportunities to provide feedback, as the new Official Plan will guide the Township's growth and development over the next 20 years.

Other exciting projects happening this year include construction of a multi-purpose facility in Centennial Park that will house many outdoor sports and the Frontenac Farmers' Market, as well as the development of a Housing Master Plan in support of our Seniors/Affordable Housing initiative. This plan will inform the development of affordable housing in Verona and include a design framework for items such as streetscape, scale of development, active transportation routes, a parking strategy, and more. It is my hope that you all enjoy a safe summer on Wolfe Lake, and please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Ron Vandewal

rvandewal@southfrontenac.net | 613 376 3027 ext. 2236
southfrontenac.net

SAFE BIRDS | Preventing bird window collisions

By Scott MacDougall-Shackleton

Many birds fall victim to collisions with glass windows. Yet these collisions can be tremendously reduced, says Professor Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, Director of the Advanced Facility for Avian Research at Western University in London ON and a member of the MacDougall clan, long-time cottagers on Wolfe Lake's northwest shore.



Over 25 million birds per year are killed in Canada through collisions with windows.

In terms of human-caused bird deaths, some scientific estimates are that this is second only to the number killed by feral or roaming cats (200 million per year).

Birds are killed by colliding with windows either because they try to fly through a window or because they are flying towards the reflected image of trees. Birds did not evolve an ability to perceive and respond to glass, whether transparent or reflective.

You may occasionally hear a thump on your window, but more birds are killed than we notice. Their bodies are quickly removed by other animals like raccoons or

even chipmunks and squirrels, or they may fly off and die of head injuries at another location.

We all love our big, beautiful cottage windows, but to reduce the death toll, we need to help our Wolfe Lake birds avoid them. Many people around the lake use bird decals.

Researchers have found, however, that hawk silhouettes and UV decals are not effective. The only effective solution is to make your window visible to birds on the outside of the glass (indoor stickers do not work). Research shows that dots or repetitive patterns applied to the exterior window are very effective. The website birdsafe.ca has multiple solutions for making your cottage and home bird safe.

There are numerous anti-reflective films and tapes which can be applied directly to the exterior of a window to make it more visible to birds. Solid-coloured tape can be applied to form a grid, curtains of nylon cord or monofilament line can be hung outside the window, or peel-off strips of adhesive dots can

be used to create subtle visible markers on problem windows.

For best results, all of these markers should be spaced 2 inches apart.

If you have bird feeders, they should be placed either very close to the window, or far from it. Feeders placed 6 feet from a window are dangerous because the bird can gain enough speed to injure itself in that distance. If it is closer they fly more slowly, and if it is further away they are more likely to avoid your cottage.

In case you do find an injured bird, please do not feed it. Keep it warm, give it a chance to recover on its own in a safe place, or bring it as soon as possible to a wildlife rescue centre. The easiest way to transport an injured bird is in an unwaxed paper bag with an



unscented tissue or small paper towel crumpled in the bottom to give the bird something to perch on. Fold down the top of the bag and secure it with a paperclip. Do not punch holes in the bag. Alternatively, you can place it in a cardboard box only slightly larger than the bird. First, poke a few small air holes in the box.

According to ontariowildliferescue.ca, the wildlife rescue centres closest to Wolfe Lake are:

Destined To Fly

(Only takes baby birds.)

Phone: 613-331-5191

Address: Wilton Road

Harrowsmith, ON K0H 1V0

kingstondestinedtofly@gmail.com

Facebook: [destinedtoflyontario](https://www.facebook.com/destinedtoflyontario)

Safe Wings Ottawa

Phone: 613-216-8999

Specializes in window collisions. Rehab facilities are located in both The Glebe & Orleans neighbourhoods, Ottawa

Facebook: [Safe Wings Ottawa](https://www.facebook.com/safewings.ca)

Website: safewings.ca

Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre

Phone: 613-828-2849

734 Moodie Drive

Ottawa, ON K2H 7T9

mojo@wildbirdcarecentre.org

wildbirdcarecentre.org

TIP

Call first before driving to these wildlife/rehab centres. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it may not be possible for the foreseeable future to bring birds in for treatment.



FOUR QUESTIONS

Checking in with Ken Rose

Ken Rose has been a terrific support to the whole community throughout the pandemic, donating and delivering Pandemic Pizzas to dozens if not hundreds of people in and around the village, and encouraging others to do the same thing. Recently he created the new group Westport Shares to respond immediately to people's unexpected and urgent needs for money or specific items, just asking that someday they try to pay it forward. Word has it he kept his employees on full pay through the shutdown until he sold his two shops (Lake Effects and Pinecone). He's been a constant Good Samaritan and good example to us all on what community means.

Born in New York City and brought up near Kennedy Airport, he has called Westport home since 1992. He started as 'The Sandman' and opened a gift shop of the same name in 2001. As a successful entrepreneur, he moved on to new challenges, opening Lake Effects in 2004, while his partner, Deborah Waddell, who died in 2017, opened Pinecone in 2001. He now enjoys life without retail. First and foremost, Ken is a community builder and a local philanthropist. He loves to be out and about, and shares his love for our region.



1 HOW IS YOUR WORK RELATED TO OUR REGION?

I found out about Westport in the early 1980's when I met photographer Brian Mantrop as we both were selling our work at an art show in Ottawa. I traveled from my

home in the United States and had a Canadian tour. I was known as the Sandman because I made pictures inside glass containers using coloured sand. He invited me to his home, the Enchanted Forest Studio, south of the village near Devil Lake. Even though he invited me every year when I attended the same show, I never headed this way, until he gave me an ultimatum that if I didn't come soon, he'd never welcome me again. So, a week later, I came down the hill from Perth and was blown away by my first glimpse of the iconic view of Westport, the Upper Rideau, the pond and Sand Lake. The church spires and the quaint village were one of the most idyllic sights I had ever witnessed. I stopped and walked to the harbour and, knowing I was in for only vegetarian food at Brian and Cathy's, I stopped at Sutherland's Tea Room in the bank building where the dentist's office is now located, for my last carnivorous meal for the next week. Little did I know that Cathy Cashman, Brian's partner, could whip up the best vegetarian food I ever ate. Plus, their unique off-grid home and lifestyle helped me fall in love with the land and lakes that drew me back time and again.

Years later, in 1992, I was coming back from visiting them when I saw a three-acre parcel of land for sale a kilometre in on McAndrews Road and decided to build a passive solar house. I moved here from the United States and never looked back.

In my almost three decades here, my life and work transformed as I opened retail stores with Deborah Waddell. When she became

FOUR QUESTIONS

Highlight friendly folks who are making a difference in the wider Westport community. Each time we ask four questions about our region.

sick four years ago, the village gathered around us in support as only a small place can. It is with gratitude that I remain in Westport where my life was transformed, and blessings flowed.

2 HOW DO YOU CHILL OUT AT OUR LAKES?

I am a great lover of the natural beauty of this region. I've traveled to many parts of the world and seen some of the great sights. It has culminated in the belief that all of nature is equal. There can be nothing better than natural beauty whether it exists in somewhere exotic or right here in our backyard. I love driving around the local roads in my car and on my electric recumbent trike, taking in the sights of the lakes and forest and their many birds and animals. Foley Mountain is a treasure with its many trails, beach and the iconic view on Spy Rock. I'm a founding member of the North Crosby Tennis Club at Shillington Park and I try to get out a few days a week. I feel like a teenager when smashing the ball and always come home invigorated. But there's always our beautiful lakes for a quick dip on those hot summer days. Can life get any better than this!

3 WHERE ARE YOUR MOST FAVOURITE PLACES IN OUR REGION?

Any back road, lake, or hiking and biking trail is my happy place. I have a favourite swimming hole on Black Lake and I wake up

every morning to the sun rising over Upper Rideau Lake. On the Lake Effects website, I ask a question, “Which lake is the best in the world?” The answer is...“yours!”

4 WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR YOU WHEN THINKING OF THE FUTURE OF OUR LAKES?

The lakes are our future. We are dependent on the many lakes not only for their economic

and recreation benefits, but for their life-giving importance to the ecosystem. This gives us the responsibility to treat nature with the respect and care that we should treat everything and everyone on this planet. We need to be kind, compassionate and be a steward to the lakes and each other’s well-being. We each are here for a relatively short time and we need to leave this earth knowing that we have benefited those around us and

fostered a respect for the natural world we occupy. I have gained so much by being fortunate enough to reside in one of the most beautiful places on earth and I could never pay back the debt I owe to the people and to the land. But it is my mission to try and give it my best effort.

Ken Rose



CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY | Keep out invasive species

Aquatic invasive species are non-native animals or plants that have been brought into Wolfe Lake from other places. Most of the time the transfer is unintentional. **DYK** that you can do a lot to protect our lake? Just remember to **CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY**. If you are transferring a canoe, boat, paddles, floating devices, etc., between lakes, please follow these guidelines. Awesome!

Clean

Remove all mud, sand and plant materials before leaving shore. Rinse, scrub or pressure wash your kayak, paddleboard or canoe every time you come back from another lake or creek.

Drain

Before leaving the lake, river or creek, drain all water from coolers, bailing buckets, bilges, live wells, etc., on land. Drain by inverting or tilting the watercraft, opening compartments and removing seats if necessary.

Dry

Dry your canoe, kayak, paddleboard or boat as well as all your gear completely between trips and allow wet areas to air dry. It’s best to leave compartments open and sponge out standing water.

Seem like too much trouble? Well, think about this: by following the ‘CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY’ rules, you are making sure Wolfe Lake stays clean for our grandkids to enjoy when they are grown up. Priceless!



Milfoil spreads so easily!

Eurasian watermilfoil is a huge problem in Ontario lakes. The spread and density of the invasive bottom vegetation species seem to increase each year. Wolfe Lake is no exception. Eurasian milfoil is an exotic invasive submerged perennial. A single piece of fragmented Eurasian milfoil can multiply into 250 million new plants in one year! No wonder we have such a hard time getting rid of this invasive water plant. If you want to remove it manually from in front of your dock and along your own piece of waterfront, make sure to bring the cut milfoil onto dry land. Please, do not leave the cut plants floating in the water. Too much plant matter also increases methane and carbon dioxide. In addition, it is important to clean boats, propellers, fishing equipment and boat trailers, especially when boating in multiple lakes. Read more information here: invadingspecies.com/eurasian-water-milfoil.



FROM OUR FISHING DIRECTOR | The latest updates for anglers

By Margie Manthey

Due to COVID-19, Wolfe Lake was quieter than usual in 2020 with less fishing activity. Being unable to visit the lake, I relied on observations from a helpful group of anglers for our annual fishing report.

Walleye

Most anglers reported good walleye action from spring through mid-summer, with the bite slowing in late summer through fall. Some commented this latest ice season was the best walleye fishing they've had in the past few years. Fish continue to be caught under, within and above the slot size, seemingly indicative of a self-sustaining population. **A reminder that only walleye measuring between 40-50 cm / 15.7-19.7 inches may be harvested** – 4 with a sport licence or 2 with a conservation licence.

Based on personal observations, one long-time resident angler who spent 109 days on the water in 2020 voiced concerns that the walleye fishery is still not where it was many years ago.

Northern pike

Northern pike were caught with frequency. Based on reports, most fish were small. A handful of larger pike (28-36") were landed, however.

Smallmouth bass

Smallmouth bass seem to be faring well with a broad range of sizes caught, representing younger as well as breeding-age stock. A few 20-inchers flirting with 5 lbs were landed.

Largemouth bass were also caught in varying sizes.

Perch, panfish and rockbass catches were scant, as most anglers likely focused on gamefish. Most represented were rockbass. A few larger perch (10-13") were recorded and released.

Ling were caught through the ice over the winter, as is typical.

I encourage anglers to share their personal catches and observations throughout the 2021 fishing calendar by emailing me at manthey.margie@gmail.com. Meanwhile, help support our fishery by handling fish properly and respecting the current fishing regulations. Remember: larger fish represent the most prolific spawners and should be released whenever possible. It can take a long time to replace a larger fish within a population.

2020 Wolfe Lake Fishery Assessment

A group of anglers participated in a fishing assessment on Wolfe Lake, recording all their catches between May and October 2020. Stats were forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and we await their report.

2021 Wolf Howl

Sadly, the Westport Area Outdoor Association decided to cancel the Wolf Howl fishing derby due to safety concerns over poor ice conditions and COVID-19 risks.



Lots of reasons to join the Wolfe Lake Association Westport

By Eric Behre

Eric Behre is in charge of Wolfe Lake Association memberships. "I'm often asked why lake residents should join the association. Let's consider some of the reasons why all cottage owners, permanent residents and even renters should be members. Let me list just a few of the benefits and accomplishments that the association has contributed to the welfare and long-term health of the lake we all love."

Have you ever wondered where the **shoal markers** on Wolfe Lake come from? There is no shoal marker fairy who puts them out and takes them in each year. Every year one of our board members (and his neighbour) puts out the shoal markers that keep us all safe.

I'm sure elsewhere in this magazine there will be an update on the **Scanlan Creek Project** that was carried out in 2019. This project was extremely labour-intensive, but well worth the efforts to improve the spawning grounds for our walleye population. The results are being carefully monitored by the association.

Earlier this year we lent our loons a helping hand, by providing them with two **floating nesting platforms**. Loons face many threats, including lead toxicity and habitat loss due to development. Their eggs and chicks are highly vulnerable to predation and being swamped by wakes from boats and personal watercraft. The hope is that they will use the platforms.

Water testing. Each year the association conducts water testing for clarity, purity and pH levels. The results are posted in this magazine each year.

A few years ago, we conducted tests with weevils to control the **Eurasian Milfoil** problem. While the experiment proved to be very beneficial, unfortunately the company that sold us the weevils stopped providing them. So now we are exploring other means to control this invasive species.

Christmas-tree sinking. Last summer we identified six sites where we could sink Christmas trees to provide cover for many types of fish, crustaceans and turtles. Monitoring the effectiveness of this project will continue each summer.

Our annual **Wolfe Lake Magazine!** Perhaps the single most enjoyed benefit for the association. The magazine is delivered each spring to all residents at no charge. Every year this magazine is chock-full of interesting articles, anecdotes, pictures and history about Wolfe Lake.

According to Eric, approximately 55 percent of all cottage owners are dues-paying members of the Wolfe Lake Association! He hopes to ramp that up to 75 percent membership this year. "Please support our association by joining, paying your dues and maybe even becoming active in the group. For \$30 you get so much, and your support is needed."





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FOCUS ON WILDLIFE AROUND OUR LAKE

A tale of four frogs

By Margie Manthey

Frogs are among our most familiar lake inhabitants and are considered a keystone species, meaning they are indicators of habitat health. They also play an important role in the food chain, representing both predator and prey. If they could, frogs would give a webby high five to those helping to keep Wolfe Lake pristine. After all, they begin their life cycle in the water. As adults, most frogs continue to live in and around the water and also reproduce there. Some even hibernate underwater. Let's take a few ribbits to learn about four frog species that call Wolfe Lake home.

One of the most welcome sounds to winter weary ears is the **spring peeper** chorus that coincides with early-spring thaws. At close proximity, the high-pitched, repeated call hits around 90 decibels (comparable to a motorcycle engine) and can carry over half a kilometre. All this from tiny frogs measuring under 1.5 inches long! Peepers vary in colour from tan to gray and, like other tree frogs, have prominent toe pads. You can distinguish a spring peeper from other tree frogs by the dark X on its back. The springtime courtship chorus radiates from beaver ponds and other wet areas before the wee crooners disperse to the forest for the rest of the year. Tiny but tough, spring peepers are freeze tolerant and hibernate under logs and loose tree bark over the winter.

Gray Treefrogs (PAGE 27 - left) are larger than spring peepers, with adults reaching a bit over 2 inches. Experts at camouflage, they have rough-textured green, brown or gray skin with dark blotches on their

backs. Gray treefrogs also have large toe-pads, which help them climb. Their call is a brief, bubbly trill, reminiscent of a raccoon's purr. Gray treefrogs live near permanent water bodies where they reproduce and spend daylight hours up in the trees. Occasionally, you may see them clinging to walls and screens while they hunt insects near an outdoor light source. Gray treefrogs overwinter under leaf litter and snow where they can survive freezing solid, giving new meaning to the expression "totally cool!"

As their name implies, **green frogs** (ABOVE) are sometimes green, but they can also be brown or bronze. The upper lip is typically green regardless of body colour, and only males boast a bright yellow throat. They have large, round eardrums behind their eyes and bumpy lines, called dorsolateral ridges, running halfway down their backs. They can reach 2.5 inches in length. Green frogs have a distinctive call that sounds like a plucked, out-of-tune banjo string – "Gung!" -- with long



pauses between vocalisations. They hang out in shallow water along lake, pond or swamp edges where they hunt insects and other invertebrates with their sticky tongues. Green frogs spend the winter hibernating underwater, buried in mud.

Leopard frogs (ABOVE - right) are flashy, their green or brown bodies spattered with irregular-shaped, dark spots. They measure between 3 – 5 inches long. Leopard frogs need three separate habitat types to survive: wetlands for breeding, damp meadows for hunting, and a

permanent water body that won't freeze to its bottom for hibernation. They eat insects, worms, other frogs and even small snakes! Leopard frogs spend the winter totally submerged, resting on or partially nestled in lake-bottom debris where they absorb dissolved oxygen through their permeable skin and the lining of their mouths. While they can't survive being entirely buried under mud, leopard frogs have been discovered snoozing under hibernating turtles! Who would've imagined that?



RELAX WITH THIS SUDOKU

Sudoku is played on a grid of 9x9 spaces. The rows and columns form 9 sections (made up of 3x3 spaces). The goal is to fill in each row, column and 3x3 section with all of the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within each row, column or section.

			1	7			5	9
					5		3	
6	1					8		
					7	5	4	
			5	4				
	5	6	9			1		
							1	6
	2		3					
3	6			9	1			

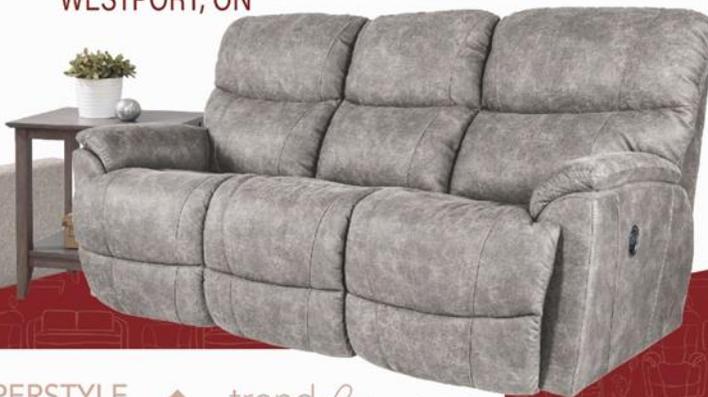
IF YOU ENCOUNTER A WILD ANIMAL

- Never approach or touch
- Do not turn your back on the animal or run
- Back away while remaining calm
- Stand tall, wave your hands, and make lots of noise
- At night, shine a flashlight in its eyes
- If a wild animal poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety, call 911

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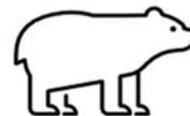
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PRODUCING YOUR OWN MAPLE SYRUP AT THE LAKE

The beauty and romance of an age-old skill

By Roy Sunstrum

Maple syrup is one of those ultra-Canadian things. Folks from Vermont might disagree but, to set the record straight, in 2020, Quebec produced 13.2 million gallons, while New Brunswick and Ontario combined produced just over 1 million. That Canadian total represents 76% of worldwide production. Vermont produced over 2 million gallons, about half of the 4.4 million American total. There is virtually no production outside these select areas of Canada and the United States.

When we bought our property on Wolfe Lake just under 20 years ago, it didn't occur to us immediately that we had syrup potential. We have dozens of mature maples on our 7 acres, so a few years later it struck us that we should be making syrup. Awesome with pancakes obviously, but baking, maple-bourbon salmon and even the odd 'Canadian' old-fashioned have also benefited from our labour of love.

Maple syrup production traces back to aboriginal roots in these regions. As spring awakens the maple trees, sap begins to flow from its winter storage in the root system, with about 40 litres



required for one litre of finished syrup, depending on sugar concentrations. Days above freezing and nights below freezing create the ideal conditions. Years ago, my youngest daughter pointed out that the same weather occurs in the fall - so why not make syrup twice per year?

Good question. When I researched it, the answer is simple: you could, in theory, but sap flow, sugar concentrations and quality are much higher in the spring, and tapping once a year is much easier on the trees.

So spring it is!



For about 10 years we produced syrup in very traditional means, using 10-15 taps. Prompted in part by the COVID-19 pandemic, we've turned our attention away from travel and invested more in enjoying the things around us. That led to a significant upgrade in our maple operation, although it is still very much a hobby-level activity. The following are the key steps, showing the differences in our previous old-school approach and our 2021 production method.

I'm writing this on Easter weekend, after pulling our taps yesterday, so a great time to reflect. It was a truly enjoyable season. The fall preparations, including building the sugar shack and buying equipment, felt really worthwhile, and brought excitement and anticipation to February 2021. Afternoons and evenings in the sugar shack were amazing, except for the relative lack of socializing as the pandemic continues to hang on! We've joined the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association, and through that I've connected, mostly online, with a number of other area producers. From an output perspective, it was a very poor year, at least for us. Community veterans are referring to this as the second-worst year in



memory, outdone only by 2021. To put it in perspective, last year we bottled approximately 16 litres from 15 taps; this year, by the time we're finished bottling, we'll have about 27 litres from 57 taps. That will be enough to keep close friends and family supplied for the year, but won't give us anything to share further. We were never intending to sell it anyway. It's really more a labour of love! Part of the slower sap flow was due to the fact that we still had substantial snow depth over the roots when some of the nice weather came in early March. Then we had a massive flow from March 21-23. In those 3 days, we collected 740 litres of sap, about two-thirds of our 2021 total.

Lower volumes aside, 2021 has been a really pleasant season for us. Maple syrup is a wonderful Canadian product, and even though visits to sugarbush facilities were constrained for a second straight year, you can find local products in grocery stores, smaller shops and, in some cases, directly from local producers.

Next March / April, visit ontariomaple.com and get out and support your local maple industry.

Shop local and enjoy!



ROY'S MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION

What we did	Up to and including 2020	2021 Approach
Wood prep	Cut, split and dry hardwood for maximum heat when boiling	Same
Tree tapping	15 taps, 7/16" metal taps, buckets	57 taps, 5/16" plastic taps, buckets
Sap collection	20L plastic pails	35 gallon tank on ATV and 20L pails
Primary boiling	Metal pot on open fire	Small evaporator in 8' x 12' sugar shack
Finishing	Pot on kitchen stove, poured multiple times through syrup filters, bottled warm	Propane-fired pot, small vacuum filter (single pass), bottled warm & labelled

WOLFE LAKE ASSOCIATION WESTPORT

Online and connected

wolfelake.org



Do you enjoy Wolfe Lake as much as we do?

Would you like to help to protect and preserve what we have right now?

Then go to our website at wolfelake.org and learn how the Wolfe Lake Association Westport is making a difference at wolfelake.org

WE HAVE TONS OF INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE

- The website is our repository for Updates, Alerts, News Flashes & the Wolfe Lake Magazine. Unlock older newsletters in our archive.
- Is water quality important to you? Read the details of Wolfe Lake's annual water testing reports.
- Learn all about fishing on Wolfe Lake, safety, invasive species, water levels and much more.
- Visit our photo gallery.
- An automated and monitored email box and a list of board members make it easy to contact us.
- Memberships matter. Learn how to become a new member and how you can pay your membership fees.

Our community is an ecosystem of people and nature. On our website we share what we do and encourage membership participation.

wolfelake.org | a great source of information | now with an improved user experience!

KIDS' PAGES | Come and play



Hey, Wolfe Lake kids, we have put together puzzles and much more. Enjoy!

Do you have suggestions for next year's KIDS' PAGES? We are looking forward to hearing your suggestions. BTW, the answers of this page can be found on page 54.

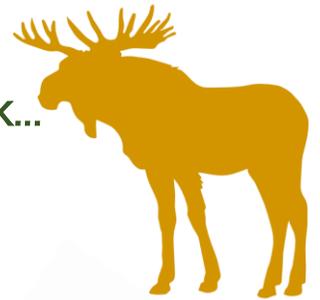
Critter riddles 'n giggles

- A. What did the turtle say after she laid 50 eggs?
- B. Why did the bear spit out the clown?
- C. What's a rabbit's secret to a good life?
- D. Why don't wolves make good dancers?
- E. What's a bobcat's favourite colour?
- F. Why is a snail stronger than an elephant?
- G. What did the judge say to the skunk?
- H. Why did the fish blush?



Knock, Knock...

Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Moose.
Moose who?
Moose you be so nosy?



Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Honeybee.
Honeybee who?
Honeybee a dear and get me a drink.



Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Who.
Who who?
I didn't know you were an owl.



Animals around the cottage | Word scramblers

Unscramble these words to reveal the names of animals - big and small - that you find around your cottage at Wolfe Lake.

1. TSIOOUQM _____ Hint These little guys make buzzing sounds and make us itch.
2. BNEHEEOY _____ Hint Careful, it stings!
3. HUMCPKIN _____ Hint Digs extensive burrow systems.
4. CHWODOKCU _____ Hint Also known as land beaver.
5. FLYUBRTTE _____ Hint Colourful insects that visit your garden.
6. QSLIREURS _____ Hint They climb trees to escape predators.
7. DFOYRNLAG _____ Hint Can hover and fly very fast, even backwards.
8. NCCOARO _____ Hint Its tail has rings of alternating light and dark fur.

Pinecones | Nature's perfect package



Pine trees and pinecones date back to prehistoric times and belong to a group of plants called gymnosperms. Pinecones have a very important job. They help keep the seeds from pine trees safe by closing their scales to protect them from the cold, wind and hungry birds and animals. When the time is right, they open their scales to release the seeds that can then begin to grow. Pinecones from the Jack Pine tree need a fast-moving, hot fire in order to open and release their seeds, while other types of pinecones will remain on a tree for more than 10 years before dropping to the ground!

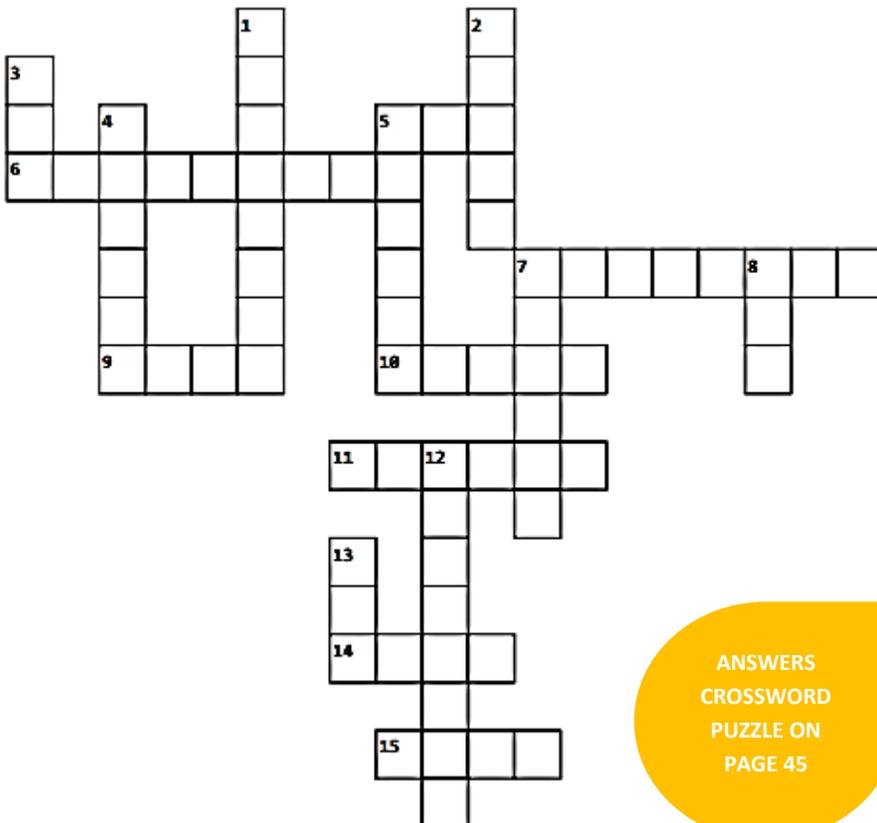


Pinecones are either male or female. Male pinecones are a lot smaller than the female ones, so they usually go unnoticed. Only the male cones release pollen. The pollen drifts into the air and fertilizes the larger female cones. Often, this bright yellow-green pollen settles on lakes where it washes up on shore and causes some people to worry; but the pollen is just part of a natural cycle and is not harmful to the environment.

Many kinds of wildlife like to eat the seeds inside of pinecones, including red squirrels, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, pine grosbeaks and black-capped chickadees. One bird, called the red crossbill, has a specially designed crisscrossed beak to pry apart pinecones and remove the seeds inside. The next time you are outside, try to find a pinecone on the ground. Do you see more in the branches overhead? If you find a pinecone, you can use it for the fun craft idea we share on page 34!

Crossword puzzle | 'Up a tree'

Do you think crosswords are just for adults? Of course, they are not! Betcha you love them, and by doing them, learn to spell better. We created this special crossword puzzle for you because it ties into the pinecone write-up above. Enjoy!



ACROSS

- 5. a flying mammal that eats bugs
- 6. an animal covered in sharp quills
- 7. surrounds and protects pine tree seeds
- 9. a bird that hunts small animals
- 10. the Wolfe Lake Association's mascot
- 11. predator animal that can climb trees quickly
- 14. the rough 'skin' of a tree
- 15. birds build one to lay their eggs in

DOWN

- 1. a small, striped reddish-brown rodent
- 2. some caterpillars turn into these
- 3. sticky stuff that oozes from tree bark
- 4. the 'arm' of a tree
- 5. a kind of insect with a hard shell
- 7. male pinecones release it
- 8. a 'wise' bird
- 12. bushy-tailed animal that eats nuts
- 13. a baby bear

ANSWERS
CROSSWORD
PUZZLE ON
PAGE 45

Wolfe Lake Kids | Creative craft corner



Most kids are fascinated by these really cool-shaped seeds. Pinecones are fun to find and examine and even use for decorations. We thought it would be really fun to try creating something with pinecones by turning one into a little fox. Here is how.



THIS IS WHAT YOU NEED

- 🌀 1 pinecone
- 🌀 Pencil
- 🌀 1 sheet of construction paper or other heavier stock paper
- 🌀 1 each: orange, black and white felt sheets
- 🌀 Craft glue OR (with adult supervision) a hot glue gun works best
- 🌀 Kid-safe scissors

THIS IS WHAT YOU DO

1. Using the photo as a guide, sketch the fox's head, tail, legs and face shapes onto the paper and cut them out when you are finished.
2. Use your templates to cut out head and tail shapes from the orange felt. Then, using the white felt, cut out the tip of the tail and the round muzzle. Lastly, cut out the eyes, nose and feet from the black felt.
3. Next, glue the fox's facial features onto the orange head, and then glue the white tail tip onto the orange tail.
4. Finally, glue the completed head, tail and two black feet to the pinecone, using the photo to guide you.

What will you name your little woodland friend? Use your imagination to make other pinecone critters.



FAVOURITE FLICK ON FOXES

Fantastic Mr. Fox

Of course, you know foxes are mentioned frequently in literature, especially in stories, books, magazines, fables and poems. There are many documentaries and movies on foxes. One of our favourite flicks on foxes is produced by Wes Anderson and Noah Baumbach: 'Fantastic Mr. Fox,' featuring the voices of George Clooney and Meryl Streep.

Your parents need to know that director Wes Anderson's dry, offbeat adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic children's story Fantastic Mr. Fox is fine for most grade-schoolers but also has some themes and humor that might go over kids' heads. The story features a lot of scheming and some violence, as three farmers plot to kill Mr. Fox for stealing from them. Fantastic Mr. Fox is nothing short of fantastic fun!

Rainy day? Cuddle up on the couch and watch the story of Mr. Fox and his family. We would say it's suitable for kids 12 and up, or otherwise with parental guidance.

POETRY NOOK | Red Fox

Quick and light
Fur so bright
Running 'neath the moon tonight



Slender paws
Trim and neat
Pointy snout and whiskers sweet



Eyes aglow
Off he'll go
Hunting in the grass and snow





DECLINE OF CALCIUM IN ONTARIO LAKES

'No problem for Wolfe Lake'

Global calcium levels in freshwater lakes are on the decline, and sometimes to critically low levels. Based on a dataset of 770 lakes in Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment found that approximately 35 percent currently have calcium levels below 1.5 mg/L. Many lakes on the Ontario Canadian Shield are nearing or have recently crossed this threshold. Last year we published a story about the threat of calcium, and now - comparing the reported average Ca concentration values with the data recorded at Wolfe Lake since 2008 - Daniel Spitzer, former water quality director of our lake association, confirms we do not have to be worried when it comes to Wolfe Lake. Here are the most important take-aways.

Calcium levels integral to the reproduction and survival of many aquatic organisms in Europe and eastern North American freshwater lakes are declining towards critically low levels.

A recent global study has found this is due in part to recovery efforts against acid rain, and even climate change.

The study 'Widespread diminishing anthropogenic effects on calcium in freshwaters,' published recently in the Nature International Journal of Science, reveals that low calcium levels affect parts of the food web, such as freshwater mussels and zooplankton.

Lake Partner Program

The Dorset Environmental Science Center (DESC), as a part of the Ontario Ministry for the Environment, monitors lake and river health using things that are simple to observe.

Monitoring the different aspects of physical limnology, hydrology, water chemistry and aquatic ecology helps us understand the range of natural conditions which are used to measure the change in Ontario's lakes and the growing impacts of climate change. The Wolfe Lake Association Westport participates in DESC's well-established Lake Partner Program.



A handful of Holopedium from a lake in the Muskoka-Haliburton region of Ontario. Credit: Ron Ingram, Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Jelly

Research on a number of Canadian lakes shows that historical acid deposits as a result of industry have greatly reduced calcium levels in the water - dramatically impacting populations of calcium-rich plankton such as Daphnia water fleas that

dominate these ecosystems. Falling calcium levels mean Daphnia water fleas cannot get the nutrients they need to survive and reproduce, and are consequently consuming less food and becoming more susceptible to predators, leaving more algae for other organisms to feed on. This has left a small jelly-clad organism called Holopedium to take advantage. Holopedium are plankton competitors of the Daphnia that use less calcium, and have a jelly coat that affords them greater protection from predators.

Lakes across eastern Canada have seen Holopedium populations explode in the last thirty years, resulting in jelly in the lakes. So, certainly something to watch out for.

If you ever notice this specific kind of jelly in our lake, please report it to the current water quality director, Gordon Moore (for contact info, see page 6).

WOLFE LAKE

Daniel Spitzer, environmental engineer and an association volunteer, is not worried. We asked him to comment on both recent studies:

“Median Calcium concentration levels at Wolfe Lake in the past fifteen years were steady around 27 mg/L, which is more than the Ontario standard of 20 mg/L and much higher than the reported (decreasing) global median of 4 mg/L in Ontario lakes. Hence, for us, there is no need to worry.”

Sources:

esemag.com/water/declining-calcium-levels-in-freshwater-lakes

researchgate.net/publication/233624749_Estimating_calcium_weathering_rates_and_future_lake_calcium_concentrations_in_the_Muskoka-Haliburton_region_of_Ontario

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | YOUR SAY

Opting for communal garbage bins for your private lane at the lake



Imagine a magical garbage and recycling gnome patiently waiting at the end of your private lane, ready to accept your refuse anytime, day or night. No more rushing to haul it out on garbage day early in the morning in the rain or snow, worrying if animals will enjoy a snack or dreading that you missed the pick-up because you enjoyed your coffee for too long.

The township of South Frontenac helped the residents on our laneway set-up a communal garbage and recycling system that gives us all this...minus the magical gnome. The process was quick and easy, so if you're interested in lowering your blood pressure on collection day, just follow these three simple steps.

1. Talk to your neighbours to determine if they're interested in paying for a communal TyDee Bin and/or Recycling Station. Pricing depends on the size of the bins and the cost for each property owner depends on how many people participate.
2. Select the appropriate bin sizes for both garbage and recycling stations after viewing the options on the Township's communal bins web page: southfrontenac.net, find the 'LIVING HERE' section and go to 'Communal Bins' under 'Garbage'.
3. Call the township's waste management team to find out the specifics, such as the timeline for delivery and where they will be installed (typically where the private lane meets the public road). Complete the forms, make your payment and then sit back and relax.

Whether you decide to go for the communal bins or live on the edge and do the weekly dash to the roadside, always remember to reuse, reduce and recycle 😊.



Ernesta & Cyrus Mavalwala | Members of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport since 2018.

We welcome readers to submit letters to com-wolfelake@outlook.com. Please supply your name, address and daytime telephone number, and inform us of the year you became member. Letters should be fewer than 200 words, and may be edited for space, style and clarity.



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where you can directly share your Wolfe Lake stories, pictures and relevant community news. Find ['Wolfe Lake Association Westport ON'](#) in the Facebook search bar and register. All members can easily do so! Need more info? See page 54. Questions? Email com-wolfelake@outlook.com.

PICTURE TIME 2020 | The Winners



Prize Winner ‘**BROTHERLY LOVE**’ | By Jes Eby

Why we love it It’s a wonderful thing to see this big brother helping out his little brother as they get in a few last casts before the sun sets. This picture shows that kids can begin fishing at almost any age, and what better way to learn than from your big bro. This captures the family cottage experience at its best in a visually pleasing way. The soft light of the setting sun, and the dark silhouettes of both boys in the foreground are just picture perfect! **Congratulations, Jes!**

Second Place | ‘**HEALING NATURE**’

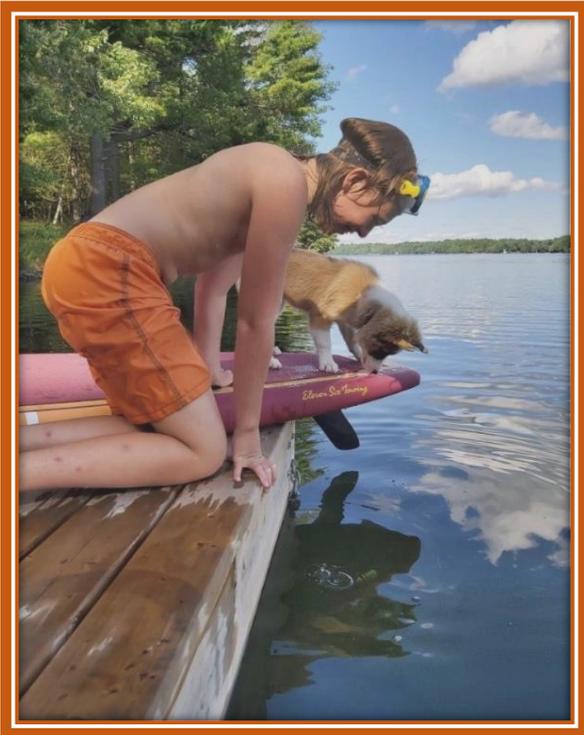
By JoAnne Lussier

Why we love it

JoAnne Lussier snapped this lovely image from her kayak and shared these reflections with us: “During this summer of social-distancing and self-isolation...daily paddles became an essential activity in response to the surreal times...I would carefully guide the kayak through the pads, so thick that I could hear a whoosh as I glided through. That softly muffled passage over the lily pads was the only sound...no honking of geese, no squawk from a heron, not even the familiar rattle of a kingfisher. Complete and total silence.”

Congratulations, JoAnne!





Third Place | **‘CURIOUS FRIENDS’**

By Sharon Bayly

Why we love it

Sharon Bayly’s grandson and one adorable little pup have their eyes on something in the lake. Some sunfish perhaps, or just their own sweet reflections?

Congratulations, Sharon!

Honourable mention | **‘CAMP GRANDMA’**

By Helene Wach

Why we love it

Helene Wach knows how to keep the kids busy and engaged even during the COVID crisis. We love her thinking! Thanks for sharing, Helene!



PICTURE TIME CONTEST 2021 | Capture your own unique waterfront

A chance to win a \$75 gift card from Rosie Yumski’s Fine Foods



Your own piece of paradise, your shoreline! We invite you to look at your own waterfront through the eyes of a photographer. Stand on your deck and look back at your own fascinating division between land and lake. Or step into your canoe to get a ‘bigger’ picture of your piece of the lake. Involve kids, grandkids, or even your favourite pet. If you have a waterproof camera, this would be a perfect time to use it. There are so many possibilities and so many choices in a variety of seasons, so why wait? Get out there and bring your camera or smart phone with you and capture that beautiful and unique piece of your property. Enter today, be creative and have fun!

To be eligible, you must have a strong tie with Wolfe (or Green) Lake and be 18 years or older. The winning photo will be awarded a gift certificate valued at \$75 kindly offered by Rosie Yumski’s Fine Foods, run by Martha Kudrinko, in Westport.

Winning pictures

- First prize winner will receive a \$75 gift card from Martha Kudrinko of Rosie Yumski’s Fine Foods.

- The top 3 winning pictures will be published in the 2022 Magazine; every year we select an ‘honourable mention’ as well.
- We are looking forward to receiving your pictures. Please upload your best shots directly to our Facebook group page (Wolfe & Green Lakes Westport Association) or e-mail to: com-wolfelake@outlook.com.

The deadline is September 30 (2021).

See also: wolfelake.org and look for PICTURE TIME photo contest.



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BEDFORD STREET GETS A FACELIFT

The update of Bedford Street in Westport is probably the village's longest-awaited infrastructure project. The street is looking awesome.



In 2019 it was announced that \$1.8 million had been allocated by the provincial government for reconstruction, with the village of Westport investing an additional \$128,000 in the project. Work began in mid-March and is ahead of schedule, despite COVID-19 and weather issues. By the time you read this, the main artery of our village will be rid of its uneven pavement and potholes.

This magazine is supported by local businesses

THANK YOU

Herlehy Home Building Centre (2), Bergeron Clifford (14), Westport Brewing Co (14), Evergreen Golf & Country Club (25). Lyons Goodfellow Furniture (28), Scott Blair Construction (28), Westport Home Hardware (28), The Cove Country Inn (37), Aarde (37), Thake Home Heating and Cooling (40), Barker Wilson Barristers and Solicitors (40), Tackaberry Sweet's Sand & Gravel (40), IDA Westport Village Pharmacy (41), Rosebush Energies (41), The Horse Effect (45), Melting Moments Bakeshop (45), Erika Sunstrum Art (45), Superior Propane (46), Westport Market (46), Norris Bait & Tackle Inc. (46), Wolfpack Mortgage Solutions Team (48), Pinecone Cottage, Home & Garden (52), Kawartha Dairy ((54), Rideau Insurance (54), WTC Westport (56), Neil Scott and Monique Vandewint Exit Realtors (56), Foodland LCBO & Beer Store Verona (58), Embers (59), Eco-Tick Solutions (59) and LD Powersports (60).



FLYING EYES IN THE SKY

The fascination of local drone photographers A LOOK FROM ABOVE BY ADAM CORREIA AND SEAN GARLAND

Every once in a while, awesome pictures and cool video footage of local lakes, including Wolfe Lake, appear on various social media platforms. To create a bird's-eye view seems such an exciting hobby. Both amateur drone photographers Sean Garland from Ottawa and Adam Correia from Kingston can be found with their special equipment in our area. They tell you how they got into drone photography and videography and share tips.

Sean Garland has a family cottage on Wolfe Lake. He says he has not been involved in photography for that long. He started into more serious videography back in early 2018.

"What intrigued me at first was the technology behind it, and the fact that I could capture videos and images from different vantage points. As I slowly got into the hobby, I quickly realized that my niche was all about capturing the 'action'

that comes with cottage life. My main use for all of my cameras is to capture the 'fun' moments enjoyed as a family, all the things that we are so fortunate to experience in cottage life."

Passion

Adam Correia loves our area and visits it often "to fly, fish, hike or drive, but it certainly isn't the only destination on earth I prefer."

Unlike Sean, Adam picked up photography a long time ago. "My passion for photography started at a young age. I've shot film, still shoot film and digital cameras. But I was looking for something new, another perspective, to further grow as a photographer. Working with drones did just that."

Adam is a casual caretaker for the Limestone District School Board. He

explains his background actually has a connection with photography.

“When I was a student in the Limestone board, we had a darkroom and a photography class. We got to use 35mm

manual film cameras, develop our own negatives and make enlargements in the darkroom. Unfortunately, it seems that form of photography has taken a backseat to digital workflows.”

Sean is an IT manager working in the financial services sector in Ottawa. “I don’t have such a connection at all,” he says with a big smile.

Q & A | WHAT YOU NEED IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING DRONE PHOTOGRAPHY



Adam shares this picture with us: “Something nice and warm, lots of colour, also something to look forward to. It was shot May 25, 2019, on a DJI Mavic Air 2 which I used to own.”

What drone/camera do you use?

ADAM: I use a DJI Mavic Mini 2. The camera is built into the unit. It’s a 12 megapixel still camera, capable of shooting 4K resolution video as well.

SEAN: I use 4 cameras. My drone is a DJI Mavic 2 Zoom, DJI Osmo Action (similar to a GoPro) for on- and in-water shots. I use the DJI Osmo Pocket gimbal camera for time lapses and whenever there’s a need to do a remote-controlled shot (I can control the gimbal from my phone).

I use my iPhone for everything else. The majority of my work is video. I’m still learning photography.

Is battery life an issue at all?

ADAM: You can never have enough batteries. Modern drones are getting about 25-34 minutes of flight time. DJI in particular sells their drones in a Fly More package that gives you 3 batteries. Weather conditions such as wind and temperature can greatly impact flight times.

SEAN: As long as you have multiple batteries and keep them fully charged, battery life is not so much of an issue.

My drone can be up in the air for 20 minutes on a full charge. I have 4 spare batteries.

Do you have favourite locations?

ADAM: I love shooting the community I live in, that being the City of Kingston. However, I grew up cottaging on Bob’s Lake, which is just a slice of heaven. Westport is another gem. My family would often spend time in Westport while we were at the cottage. Anywhere near water I’m my happiest.

SEAN: Naturally, Wolfe Lake is my favourite place in the world - this is where we spend most of our time during spring, summer and fall. I can video the same location a thousand times and I never seem to get tired of it. I also really enjoy taking underwater footage while snorkeling in the Caribbean.

Difficult to start?

ADAM: I wouldn’t say it’s difficult to get started with drone photography, but there can be an overwhelming amount of knowledge. Some of it you need to know, some of it really isn’t necessary. Learning the Canadian Aviation Regulations and how they relate to your model of drone and whether you need a licence is the worst of it. The rest of it is experimentation and practical learning through flight time.

SEAN: The difficult part about drone photography is acquiring the equipment. A good drone is not cheap, the batteries are not cheap, and if you ever make a mistake (crash, water damage, etc.), a replacement drone is not

cheap. Like all hobbies, once you buy one camera it becomes an addiction, and you want to buy them all.

The other hurdle is getting your drone pilot licence. You are legally required to get a licence before you can fly a drone in Canada. I was fortunate to get into the hobby before a licence was required. I can’t imagine going through the process of getting a licence first before ever even flying a drone.

Have you made mistakes?

ADAM: I’ve almost made a few mistakes. You need to be very aware of your surroundings, mostly those pesky trees that jump out at you. The first drone I owned, a DJI Mavic Air 2, nearly took a swim in Bob’s Lake. Luckily, I was able to calmly regain control of the drone and bring it safely back to shore. I was performing a basic video operation and it went sideways into some trees. I was very familiar with the area, but I miscalculated the time and distance. I nearly paid for my mistake.

SEAN: I have made many mistakes. I crashed my drone into the lake a couple years back. Thankfully, it landed near our swim raft, so I was able to recover it fairly quickly. Unfortunately, all of the guts had to be replaced.

More tips

ADAM: Research Transport Canada’s laws and regulations regarding drones.

Drones are aircraft and treated as such. Failure to do so can result in criminal charges and fines. YouTube is a fantastic resource for all the information you would want to know about particular drone models and their features.

Don't try to do too much all at once. You're excited about your fancy new drone and you want to

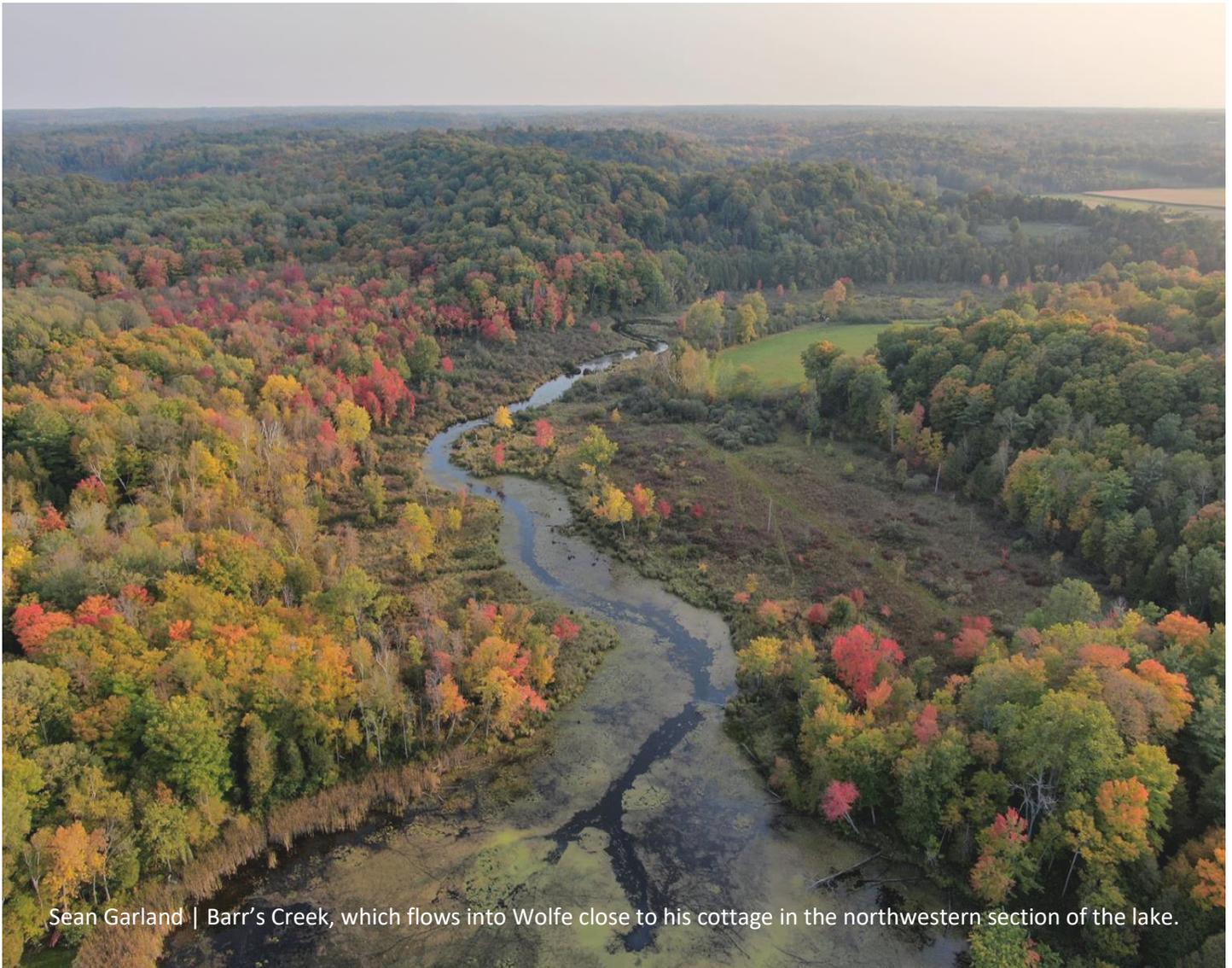
fly it everywhere and try every manoeuvre or feature.

I highly suggest small simple flights in wide open spaces to learn how the drone responds to your controls.

SEAN: Buy a starter drone. Something at a price level that you can be comfortable

losing/crashing/destroying. DJI drones are the best! If you can afford a beginner level DJI drone you will not regret it. Research. Read up on the drone regulations. NAV Canada has some great resources and there are many YouTube videos on the subject of drone regulations and how-to's on getting started with the hobby.

Be mindful of your neighbours. Get a sense of what your neighbours' comfort zone is with having a drone flying around. If you have any concern that they might be put off by it, talk to them. The last thing you want to do is to annoy your neighbours. Buy lots of digital storage space.



Sean Garland | Barr's Creek, which flows into Wolfe close to his cottage in the northwestern section of the lake.

FLY YOUR DRONE SAFELY!

It's important that you fly your drone responsibly to avoid harming others. Here are the rules you need to follow.
 -Prepare before you head out with your drone. Drones are aircraft, which makes you a pilot. When you fly your drone, you're sharing the skies with other drones and aircraft. Before you fly, understand the rules you must follow and review our safety tips. Here are a few important rules from Transport Canada's website.

WHO CAN FLY

- You need a drone pilot licence to fly drones that weigh from 250 grams (g) up to and including 25 kilograms (kg). The registration number must be marked on the drone.
- You need to be 14 years old to get a basic licence and 16 years old to get an advanced licence. Children younger than 14 must be supervised by someone with a licence. This includes clubs, camps and other youth groups.

WHILE FLYING

- To keep yourself and others safe, fly your drone where you can see it at all times. Your drone must fly below 122 metres (400 feet) in the air.
- Fly your drone at all times away from bystanders, at a minimum horizontal distance of 30 metres for basic operations. **For more details, go to:** www.tc.canada.ca/en/aviation/drone-safety/flying-your-drone-safely-legally

FALL WALK 2021 ANNOUNCEMENT

Exploring The Horse Effect Farm in Elgin

Saturday October 9 | From 2 – 4 pm

Following the successful walks at the AlinkA Farm (2019), the Maynard’s forest (2018), and Camp IAWAH (2017), we will be organizing a new event this coming fall. As you might recall, last year’s walk was cancelled, for obvious reasons. This year’s walk/outing will bring us to The Horse Effect, located at 1204 Chantry Road, Elgin. The farm, where Cindy Dopson works with her “gentle giant” horses, offers visitors a unique experience through F.E.E.L. (Facilitated Equine Experiential Learning).

Cindy will introduce us to her horses and, with the assistance of her husband Chris, we will then go for a short walk on their beautiful property. There will be lots of information on hand and a brief presentation to the group about the work the Dopsons do with their clients. FEEL is a leading-edge modality for developing human potential. Participants learn to create a horse-centered, experiential learning environment that supports personal growth.

COVID-19

We will be following guidance from the provincial and local governments to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and implementing safety measures appropriate for a small, non-professional event.

A News Flash with the details of this year’s Fall Walk (or, if need be, its cancellation) will be emailed to all association members once we get closer to the date, Saturday, October 9, 2021. Also, check our website and Facebook page for updates.

ACROSS 5. bat; 6. Porcupine; 7. Pinecone; 9. Hawk; 10. Eagle; 11. Fisher; 14. Bark; 15. Nest. DOWN 1. chipmunk; 2. Moths; 3. Sap; 4. Branch; 5. Beetle; 7. pollen; 8. Owl; 12. Squirrel; 13. Cub.

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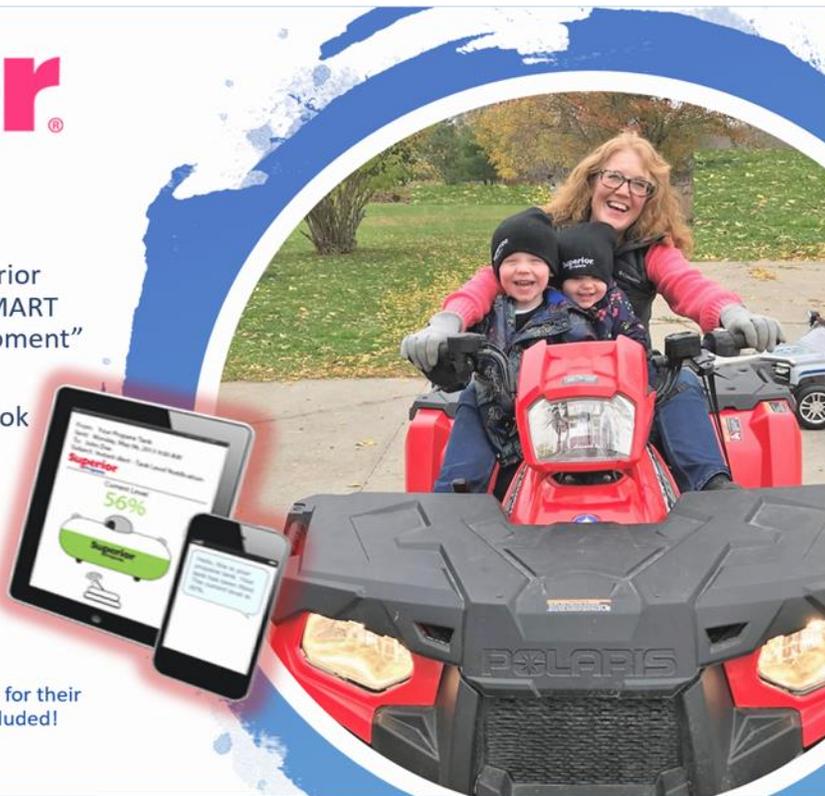
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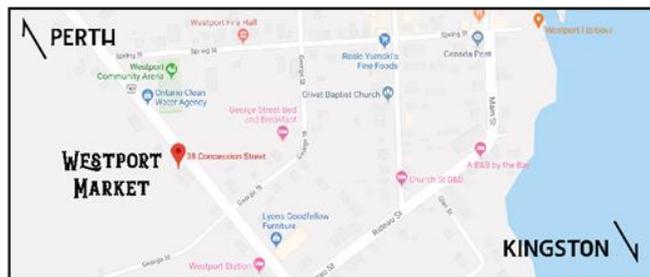
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A SECOND CHANCE | Westport Lions have started a reuse & recycle sales centre



At our cottages and homes around the lake, there are always items lying around we don't use anymore. But don't rush to relegate your old furniture, appliances, decor items, tools, outdoor odds and ends or even building supplies to the scrap heap. The Westport Lions Club has recently opened a re-use and recycle sales centre in the village. And they take pretty much everything you don't need anymore, provided it's clean and not broken. The Lions even collect electronics, metal and aluminum.

All you need to do is drop off your items at their outlet store at 5295 Salem Road. Tackaberry Construction, which owns the building, has

kindly donated it for this specific purpose to serve our community.

Funds raised through the sale of all materials support the Westport Lions Beach Park and other Lions public service activities.

Cheryl Couper Scala, Marketing Manager for the

Westport Lions: "It is our hope to open our store to the public as soon as COVID protocol will allow us to do so. We have been closed for the last month and are re-opening at the end of May. It would be nice to have a small celebration with a few Lions and a few customers, but at this point there are no plans for a – belated – festive launch."

The Reuse & Recycle Sales Centre is open on a limited basis, every Thursday and Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm, for customers to view online items, drop off donations and pick up items purchased.

As operations manager, Jim Scala runs the Reuse & Recycle Centre, and is always happy to

help. You can call him at 613 273 5789, email jim.scala3@gmail.com or send a private message from the Lions Reuse & Recycle Centre Facebook page, facebook.com and search for 'wlc9190'. Information on what's for sale is also available on the Facebook page.



THE BUYERARCHY
of NEEDS
(with apologies to Maslow)

SIP BUT SKIP PLASTIC STRAWS



Do you really need plastic straws? The next time you hit the drive-through

for lunch or an afternoon pick-me-up, think twice before accepting the plastic straw that inevitably comes with your drink. Plastic straws have become the new plastic bags, the focus of laws and mandates to regulate and — ultimately — eliminate or greatly reduce their use. Even large corporations have pledged to cut back on or eliminate plastic straw usage. Starbucks, one of the largest coffee companies, phased out plastic straws in 2020, and Tim Hortons followed suit this year.

The good news is that in Westport too there are entrepreneurs who think globally and act locally when it comes to the environment. John Pringle of The Cottage Coffee House says: "Our focus is on how plastics, including plastic straws and other plastic items, affect our local lakes, forests, parks and even our own town. The Cottage Coffee House wants to contribute in a small way to saving our planet, and that is why we don't use plastic cups and straws at all. This year, restaurants have seen a dramatic increase in take-out dining, due to COVID-19, and this trend will most likely continue for years to come; therefore, we must remain diligent and be good stewards in order to protect our planet." John suggests taking a look at his website at thecottagecoffeehouse.com for other green initiatives the coffee house will be introducing.

WESTPORT MARKET SHOWCASES LOCAL TALENT



For the third year in a row, the Westport Market is open and welcomes all of us to 38 Concession Street (across from Lockwood Park and the Arena).

The Market runs on Saturdays from May 22 to September 4, between 9 am and 2 pm. The Westport Market was an initiative arising out of Mayor Robin Jones' 'Dream Big' municipal challenge to develop ideas for sustainable growth and excitement in the Village. Paul Thorp, an artist and wood worker, and his wife

Tracey Phillips, the local pharmacist, offered to organize an outdoor market on their empty lot, and that is exactly what happened. Paul: "We are looking forward to this summer's Market and being able to once again open and safely welcome vendors, residents and guests alike. We already have a great slate of participants coming for the whole season and we know people are anxious to get out there and support their local artists, makers and growers." Tracey adds: "In a short period of time, the Market has become an integral part of people's Saturday morning routine."

Check the Market's Facebook page weekly for highlights on participating vendors. Or join us and come be part of their vendor community! Need more info, or want to participate? Email westportmarket.on@gmail.com, and read the advertisement on page on page 46.

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YOUR VERY LOCAL BUCKET LIST

Gotta do 'em someday this summer

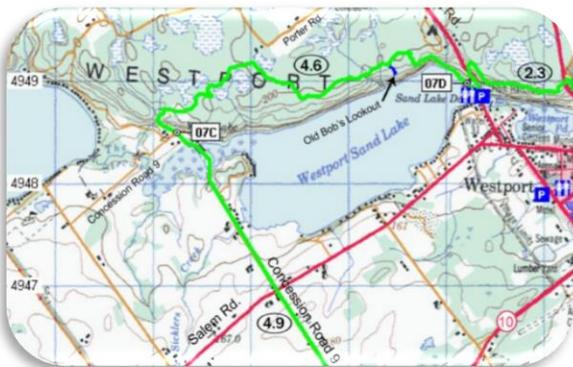
With the pandemic still here, staycations and day trips are the way to go. Apart from Wolfe Lake, our own pride, the region offers a variety of unique and wonderful destinations. Could very well be that you don't think of things to do in our own backyard, just because they are so close by. We've put together a local bucket list to get you started exploring our own local area. Mask up, stay 2 metres apart from others, and stay safe when visiting these local wonders.



Stroll Kingston's Waterfront Pathway

Kingston's Waterfront Pathway is a scenic 8 km walk from Lake Ontario Park to the downtown core. Choose an early summer evening and watch the sun set across the lake.

Arrive after 5:30 pm or on a Sunday, so you don't have to pay parking fees. Enjoy the historic buildings and settle down afterwards at one of the many downtown patios for a refreshing beverage while looking out onto the water. Or end your walk with a refreshing dip in Lake Ontario at the award-winning Gord Downie Memorial Pier and Breakwater Park beach. visitkingston.ca/splish-splash-the-Kingston-waterfront



Hike from Westport to Wolfe Lake

Lace up your hiking boots and venture out. Start at Foley Mountain, and follow the Rideau Trail through the woods, along Sand Lake and all the way to Wolfe Lake. It's quite a stretch, but certainly worth it. You may even encounter wildlife on the trail. Best to have someone drop you off on Foley Mountain and pick you up near Mary Jane's bridge on Concession 9, or even on the shores of Wolfe Lake, or plan to meet at Evergreen Golf Course, on Wolfe Lake Road, before heading home. The shaded deck of the clubhouse of the golf course is a relaxing spot to replenish.

rideautrail.org/discover-the-trail/maps

Admire the picture-perfect Old Stone Mill

The Old Stone Mill is a water mill located on Delta Creek in the small village of Delta, nestled between Upper and Lower Beverly lakes, in the Rideau Lakes area north of Kingston. The Old Stone Mill National Historic Site of Canada offers a unique photo spot for family pictures. The old walls of the three-story stone structure from the early 1800s form a super-cool background.

deltamill.org



Wander around Westport

Westport is really the region's best-kept secret. Buy Kawartha ice cream at the Vanilla Bean, or get some home-made fudge at Cedar Bridge Ice Cream & Candy, walk down to the harbour, relax in the gazebo at the waterfront spring. Our small town is a favourite with tourists, who rave about the gift shops, coffee shops, ice cream parlours, craft beer bars, winery and bakeries. Order a take-away dinner at one of the restaurants on your way home. For an events and activities update, check out What's On Westport. whatsonwestport.ca



Swim at Foley Mountain beach

Foley Mountain Conservation Area has a beautiful clean, sandy beach with changing facilities, near the nature interpretive centre. A great spot to spend a day with the

kids. Before heading home, visit Spy Rock, and take a snapshot of your family with stunning vistas of the lake and village in the background. Foley Mountain is the pride of Westport and offers 10 km of hiking trails, plus one wheelchair-accessible path.

rvca.ca/conservation-areas/fee-required/foley-mountain-ca

Backcountry camping in Frontenac Provincial Park

Release your inner explorer and go camping in Frontenac Provincial Park. Backcountry camping is one of the best ways to explore the outdoor world because it takes you farther off the beaten path, away from cars and people, and much closer to wildlife and the natural world. Start with just one or two nights if it's your first time and go with a small group. It's a really special experience to be immersed in nature. Enjoy the beauty of the Frontenac Arch, an ecological transition zone between the Canadian Shield and the Adirondack Mountains. Just remember that you have to be prepared to deal with any type of weather or emergency using only what's in your backpack.

ontarioparks.com/park/frontenac



BEFORE HEADING OUT

Before you visit any of these locations, check the websites for what facilities/activities are available and pack what you need (e.g., water, snacks, mask/face covering, and hand sanitizer). If the parking lots or trails look busy, be prepared to come back another day. Postpone your visit if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been asked to isolate.



Visit the mine at Murphys Point

Step back in time at the Silver Queen Mine in Murphys Point Provincial Park, and get acquainted with the mine where veins of mica, apatite, and feldspar were discovered in the early 1900s. A self-guided trail booklet is available at the trailhead or in the Park Store. Access into the mine and the bunkhouse is available during mine tours only, so check the website before heading out. The Beaver Pond Trail provides an alternate route back to the Lally Homestead parking lot and skirts the edge of a flooded wetland.

ontarioparks.com/park/murphyspoint/activities.

Paddle the Tay River

Explore the Tay watershed by paddling your canoe or kayak down the Tay River from Christie Lake to Perth. This section contains a mixture of wilderness solitude, historic mills, bridges, small dams, and the town of Perth, where you can stop and have a bite to eat before heading home. Ask a friend to drop you and your watercraft off at Christie Lake and arrange a pick-up in Perth, so you don't even have to paddle back. The paddling can be tricky, and there are a series of rapids. Check it out in detail before taking on this challenge.

frontenacarchbiosphere.ca



Climb Rock Dunder

The pink granite formations throughout this area, including the Rideau Waterway Land Trust's Rock Dunder, are the remnants of the Grenville Mountains, which towered over this area just south of Morton about a billion years ago. Rising 275 feet from Morton Creek, all of Rock Dunder's 230 acres were once a wilderness Boy Scout camp. The area is now open to the public and offers three trails: one easy (1.3 km), one moderate (2 km), and one more difficult. Take the last, the Summit Loop, if you can handle a short, steep climb. The trail runs alongside Dean's Island, through thick forest, and offers sneak peaks of the grand finale: a summit atop rocky cliffs overlooking the Rideau and beyond.

rwlt.org





5 REASONS TO GROW YOUR OWN VEGGIES

At the lake, most of the time, our focus is on the water and all it has to offer. Growing your own vegetables seems overwhelming to most people, but it's actually much simpler than it sounds.

All you need are a few square feet of the great outdoors, a water source, and a little time.

Homegrown tastes better

There is nothing like biting into a fresh, ripe tomato plucked from the vine. Or snacking on arugula salad and carrots as you putter through the garden. Flavour is just one of the pleasures you can enjoy when you grow your own food.

Fresh, fresh, fresh

Vegetables that ripen naturally on your own property and are consumed within days of harvest have more nutrients than store-bought vegetables.

Get some exercise

Did you know that gardening for 45 minutes burns the same number of calories as jogging around 2 kilometres? So get out there and start digging, planting and weeding! And when you get hot, jump in the lake afterwards for a refreshing swim.

Save grocery money

If you stick to the basics, gardening really doesn't cost much in supplies in comparison to the amount of food it produces.

Feel good

Your gardening efforts, seeing your seeds growing into beautiful crops, harvesting them and creating amazing dishes will reward you both physically and emotionally.

1

2

3

4

5

Be quick to eliminate quickweed

Joy and Gary Bresee are avid gardeners; their garden, located close to their farmhouse, is (usually) massive. Given their experience, we asked them for tips on growing your own vegetable patch around Wolfe Lake.

In addition to ensuring that you have enough nutrients in the soil and that you water your veggie plants frequently, they found out the hard way last year that quickweed, or potato weed, was not their friend.

"It is an annual plant but produces a huge number of seeds", explains Joy. "Quickweed germinates in the early spring and can produce many generations in a single season."

The most important step in controlling it is to prevent the plant from flowering and going to seed. Joy found out that mulching significantly inhibits seed germination, and hoeing removes young seedlings easily.

According to Gary, larger plants are more difficult to remove because of the root system, but can be eliminated by hand pulling. This means that follow-up control is essential, because of the high production of seeds, which lie dormant in the soil. "Disturbing the soil tends to increase seed germination". Joy and Gary wish everyone around the lake good luck in the battle with quickweed.



Walking With My Father

by Valerie Charnish

Today I walk with you along the river.
You stilt-poke as you lean into your walker

— an ancient heron bending forward, searching.
Your plaid jacket bleeds red into the last

brown leaves clinging to the trees
and my sweater is the only blue reflected

under the opaque October sky. All distance
dissolves between this today and our yesterdays

when we walked this same river and I was
a small child and you were my young father.

You showed me the kingfisher over the trembling
current and the crow shredding the dead bullfrog.

No words passed between us then either.
We stop now and listen to the soft ebbing of the water

along the river's edge and to the caws of the crows
as they encircle the sky above us.

(Previously published in EVENT Poetry and
Prose Magazine, Issue 48.1, 2018)



Wolfe Lake poet inspired by the tranquility around the cottage

FORGET CLICHÉS AND FIND THE RIGHT WORDS

Valerie Charnish has been a cottager on Wolfe Lake's Lee Bay for 30 years, along with her husband Barry and their two children (now grown). Their cottage is named 'Coneflower Cottage' in memory of Valerie's mother, Lorna Garston, who planted the first coneflowers on their cottage property. Sixteen years ago, Valerie was diagnosed with breast cancer while her mother was dying of the disease. She sought refuge at 'Coneflower Cottage' after her cancer treatments. It was during this time that she began to write poetry. She credits the peace and natural beauty of Wolfe Lake as the catalyst for her recovery and creativity. Her poetry has been anthologized and published in several poetry magazines. Many of her poems stem from her love of nature and family.



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YUMMY RECIPE FROM ROSIE YUMSKI'S FINE FOODS

Oh... those delicious S'mores | Now baked into a pie



By Martha Kudrinko

"Looking for the perfect cottage dessert recipe?" Martha Kudrinko, owner of Rosie Yumski's Fine Foods, knows very well that s'mores are a staple of summer. "Now you can bake all that gooey goodness right into a glorious pie. I am sure all your guests will love it." Martha suggests that, for large gatherings, you'll want to get your hands on the amazing cast iron fish pan pictured here. For smaller crowds, adjust the quantities and grab your favourite cast iron skillet. Here is how Martha prepares the s'mores dish.

WHAT YOU NEED

CRUST

3 cups graham cracker crumbs
 ½ cup brown sugar
 ¾ cup granulated sugar
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 ½ teaspoon kosher salt
 ½ cup plus six tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

FILLING

2, 11.5-ounce bags of dark chocolate chips
 1, 11.5-ounce bag of milk chocolate chips
 1 cup heavy whipping cream

TOPPING

2, 16-20-ounce bags regular-sized marshmallows

WHAT YOU DO

1. Preheat the oven to 450°F. Butter a 7-8 cup baking dish. Place dry ingredients for crust in a food processor. Pulse 1 min. Slowly add melted butter with food processor running. Spread crust evenly on the bottom of the pan and halfway up sides.
2. Melt chocolate and mix in heavy whipping cream. Pour chocolate filling into pan. Spread with spatula.
3. Top with marshmallows. Bake until the marshmallows are toasted, 10–15 minutes.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER WITH OUR ASSOCIATION?

People choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. For some it offers the chance to give something back to the community or to make a difference to the people around them. For others it provides an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge. So **why not volunteer with our association?** Step up to the plate and contact us by emailing com-wolfelake@outlook.com. Looking forward to hearing from you!

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OUR NEW COMMUNITY FACEBOOK GROUP NOW ONLINE | Let's start sharing

Facebook is an essential communication tool for us. To use this online forum even more effectively, the Wolfe Lake Association has decided it's time to change over to a community group. The big advantage is that group members can post Wolfe Lake pictures, stories and news updates directly, something that is not possible on our existing page.

Roy Sunstrum, Margie Manthey and Anna Rijk made it happen. The new Facebook group – search for 'Wolfe Lake Association Westport ON' – in the search bar. Roy: "Only members can see who's in the group and what they post. We would like to ask you to switch over from the older page to the new one by requesting to join the group." You will be asked to answer a few questions to give us some more insight into our community. Once you are accepted, you can follow the new page.

We all want to play by a few easy-to-follow rules. Being part of this group requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions make groups great, but may also be sensitive and private. What's shared in the group should stay in the group. Read the rules in the 'About' section of the new Facebook group. Then let's start sharing your pictures, stories and relevant community news.

2	4	3	1	7	8	6	5	9
7	8	9	2	6	5	4	3	1
6	1	5	4	3	9	8	2	7
9	3	8	6	1	7	5	4	2
1	7	2	5	8	4	9	6	3
4	5	6	9	2	3	1	7	8
5	9	7	8	4	2	3	1	6
8	2	1	3	5	6	7	9	4
3	9	4	7	6	1	2	8	5

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS | Kids pages & Sudoku

Did you get stuck on those puzzles? Here you find the solutions to all the riddles & word scramblers on the KIDS' pages 32-34, as well as the Sudoku puzzle on page 27. De KIDS' **CROSSWORD** answers can be found on page 45.

- CRITTERS RIDDLES AND GIGGLES:** A. I am eggsausted; B Because he tasted funny; C. Smile and be happy; D. Because they have two left feet; E. Furry; F. Because it can carry its own house, not just its trunk; G. Odor in the court; H. Because it saw the lake's bottom.
- WORD SCRAMBLERS:** 1. Mosquito; 2. Honeybee; 3. Chipmunk; 4. Woodchuck; 5. Butterfly; 6. Squirrel; 7. Dragonfly; 8. Raccoon.



RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY | Two impressive programs The ‘Shoreline Naturalization’ and ‘One Million Trees’ programs

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) — an organization that works to conserve, restore, develop and manage the natural resources of the Rideau Valley watershed — has voiced concerns in recent years about ‘swells of development’ on the Big Rideau. The RVCA says it wants to help cottage owners fight erosion with their full-service, subsidized Shoreline Naturalization Program for waterfront property owners. They also offer a wonderful tree program, mostly for folks with bigger lots, plus a free tree giveaway, usually every spring and fall. Pretty cool stuff, which may be of interest to residents and cottagers living around Wolfe Lake. Meaghan McDonald, Lake Planning-Shoreline Stewardship Coordinator at the RVCA, explains both programs.

SHORELINE NATURALIZATION PROGRAM

Shorelines are important, because ninety per cent of all lake and river life depends on a healthy shoreline to survive. But this “ribbon of life” also plays a crucial role in filtering out pollutants, reducing erosion and easing flood risks. By adding a natural buffer between cottages and year-round residences and the water, participants are protecting the health of drinking water, ecosystems and shores.

Meaghan McDonald: “The Shoreline Naturalization Program offers free advice, site visits and planting plans for shoreline landowners looking to add vegetation to their property. The program provides access to native trees and shrubs and can even assist landowners with planting if needed. Both the plants and planting assistance are covered up to 75% (some limits apply). There is no minimum property size for this program, so most shoreline residents would be eligible.”

To schedule a site visit and/or place an order for plants, landowners can contact meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca, or 613-692-3571 ext. 1192.

More info? Go to rvca.ca/stewardship-grants/shoreline-naturalization/shoreline-naturalization-program.

Love Your Lake – Watersheds Canada

The RVCA is not the only organization offering a healthy shoreline program. Love Your Lake is a shoreline evaluation and stewardship program developed and managed by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. It provides individuals with property-specific reports outlining voluntary actions that can improve the health of your lake and shoreline property. For more information, visit watersheds.ca/our-work.

ONE MILLION TREES PROGRAM

“Each year the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) plants around 90,000 trees in Lanark County, and that fits right in with the One Million Trees Program. RVCA’s programs are a great way to get more trees in the ground,” says Meaghan McDonald. “Tree planting is a proven way to sequester carbon out of the atmosphere, which dovetails perfectly with our Climate Action Plan.”

Meaghan explains that the tree-planting program has been in place since 1983 and has planted over 6.6 million trees throughout the Rideau River watershed.

“To qualify for this full-service program, landowners must have at least one acre of continuous, suitable land that can accommodate at least 1000 trees. The program provides the trees, site prep, planting and follow-up work, all for as low as \$0.15 per tree.”

Most cottagers around the lake will probably not be eligible for this large-scale tree-planting program, but those who are eligible can schedule a site visit and/or place an order by contacting Ian Cochrane, RVCA’s tree planting program manager: ian.cochrane@rvca.ca. More info? Go to rvca.ca/stewardship-grants/tree-planting.

Super duper fall & spring tree giveaway

For those interested in planting one or two trees, watch for the 2021 fall tree giveaway. Last June, the County and RVCA hosted a free tree giveaway that saw over 1,200 trees distributed to keen planters of all ages. For information on the fall 2021 tree giveaway or the spring 2022 giveaway, contact Meaghan McDonald at 613-692-3571 ext. 1192 or meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca and watch for details on the Lanark County and RVCA social media feeds next spring.

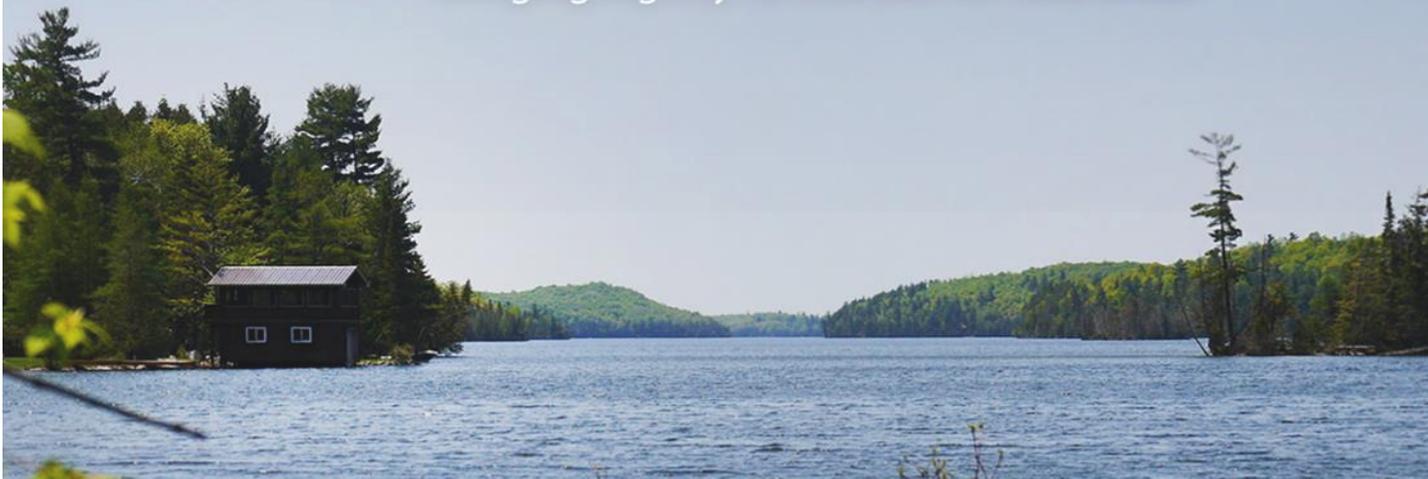




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WOLFE LAKE ASSOCIATION WESTPORT

We need you | Our current nominations

Why not join our team? And help us to ensure that the cottage experience at Wolfe Lake remains safe and enjoyable for everyone. Some positions within the Wolfe Lake Association Westport team are open for nominations. We really need more hands on deck. It will be a great experience and you will make new friends in our community. The first step is to contact us by sending an e-mail to com-wolfelake@outlook.com.

PRESIDENT | ANY VOLUNTEERS

The volunteer positions of our team evolve over time. Members of the current team may wear several hats and we would like to share volunteer hours. To get an understanding of the 2021 (and beyond) roles and tasks, we are happy to give you a call and explain what the positions entail. Please, don't forget to include your contact info in your e-mail to: com-wolfelake@outlook.com!



HELP MAINTAIN A STRONG ASSOCIATION FOR THE FUTURE

You can become a member or a friend if you live on or near Wolfe or Green Lakes. There are many advantages to joining as well as beneficial services our lake association provides, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Water quality testing & environmental monitoring
- ✓ Shoal marking for boater safety
- ✓ Invasive species info & updates
- ✓ Detailed fishing reports
- ✓ Representation to government on topics of concern (i.e., low water levels; Algonquin land claim; etc.)
- ✓ The (annual) Wolfe Lake Magazine distributed to all association members, packed full of lake news, water quality reports, news from the Wolfe Lake community, AGM updates, Facts & Folklore, local wildlife tidbits, a kids' activity page and much more.
- ✓ Annual General Meeting (AGM) held every summer, includes a lively agenda where members are asked for their views & votes on relevant issues while discussing lake topics. A great way to have your voice heard and meet your lake neighbours!



Why not consider becoming a Wolfe Lake Association Westport member and join those who love Wolfe Lake and want to protect its natural beauty and environment? Find out more about membership (including Friends) on wolfelake.org. You'll find both the membership and friendship registration forms online. Want to talk about it first? Contact Eric Behre (see page 4).



HISTORY | Beautiful book on barns

For history buffs who love local barns, there is good news. The North Frontenac Historical Society and Archives has put together an impressive book about these often-beautiful structures in our local landscape, titled 'Memories of the Farm'. The book is \$80 (limited edition), and is only available at the home of Brenda Martin. Brenda: "If you would like to buy the book, it would be best if we could agree

on a drop-off in Kingston or Westport. This way you avoid extra shipping costs of approx. \$20 for each book." You can reach Brenda by email at: dbmartin@xplornet.ca. The North Frontenac Historical Society and Archives is currently working on a website, but you can also look them up on Facebook and punch in 'North Frontenac Historical Society' in the search field.



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