

Wolfe Lake MAGAZINE

A publication of the Wolfe Lake Association, Westport

Summer, 2022

'Let's Get The Lead Out'
protects loons & other wildlife

Spongy (gypsy) moth
On the move again?

Cottage Country
is changing

Looking at today's trends

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WLAW membership
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Wolfe Lake MAGAZINE

Wolfe Lake
Association
WESTPORT, ONTARIO

ON THE COVER

JoAnne Lussier enjoys riding her kayak on Wolfe Lake. She shared this stunning picture with us.

LEFT

Benjamin Spitzer took this picture of his sister Thamar and her friend Rachel.

Summer, 2022

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A bit earlier this year the Wolfe Lake Association launched the first Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program for our area. The main goal of this program is to reduce the accumulation of toxic lead fishing tackle in the environment where it continues to pile up in literal tons each year and is directly responsible for the poisoning deaths of loons, eagles, swans, geese, ducks and other aquatic birds and wildlife. Read how the WLA got things started, then join us as we protect wildlife by exchanging your lead tackle at any of our participating retailers and receive a \$10 voucher to redeem on non-toxic tackle.



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The MacDougall family property on the northwest shore (you know, where the totem pole and the jumping rocks are) is now safeguarded for the future. Such a gracious thing to do!



21 **Renew WLAW membership** **WE NEED YOU**

This summer Lisa Arsenaault, who now takes care of WLAW memberships, plans to be knocking on your door to chat a little about the WLAW, what it does and why you should support it, all in an effort to get everyone on board again, after the global pandemic, which affected us all.



33 **Free 2021 pheromone lure** **packages might help** **Fingers crossed for** **Spongy (gypsy) moth**

Wolfe Lake Association members used last year's pheromone-soaked elastic bands to attract and kill the male moths, and shared pictures on local social media platforms showing hundreds of dead moths. Now we are all keeping our fingers crossed to see what happens this summer.





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Wolfe Lake Association Westport

PROTECT | PRESERVE | PLAY

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport 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. The Wolfe Lake Association Westport is headed by a volunteer executive, elected at the Annual General Meeting. We inform you about water quality and invasive species, such as Eurasian water milfoil. We encourage our members to prevent and reduce pollution in all its forms, including noise pollution. 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 Flashes with brief updates and news to be shared throughout the year. We frequently update our website, and we have two Facebook community pages.

Feel free to get in touch with us: treasurerwlca@rideau.net or com-wolfelake@outlook.com.

Our 2022 team

PRESIDENT | vacant

VICE PRESIDENT | Bill Garland

PAST PRESIDENT | Brian Manthey

TREASURER | Larry Arsenault

SECRETARY | Erin Derbyshire

COMMUNICATIONS | Anna Rijk

WEBMASTER | Donna Garland

FISHING | Margie Manthey

WATER QUALITY | Gordon Moore

SHOAL MARKING | Roy Chisamore

MEMBERSHIP | Lisa Arsenault

WOLFE LAKE REP | Eric Behre

WOLFE LAKE REP | Bill Hutchison

WOLFE LAKE REP | Roy Sunstrum

WOLFE LAKE REP | Greg Wetmore



Our 2022 volunteers

Bill Blaney, Wayne Derbyshire, Sean Garland, Kelly Petrunka, Betty Jo MacDougall, Bruce Maynard, Tom Myatt, Daniel Spitzer, Thamar Spitzer, Cathy Thompson, Paul Thompson, and Helene Wach.

WOLFE LAKE RULES :)

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

- Lead kills wild birds. Stop using lead fishing sinkers and jigs. There are environmentally safe, lead-free alternatives available to sportspersons, non-toxic products made from steel or tungsten-nickel-iron blends.
- 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.

Wolfe Lake Magazine

EDITOR Anna Rijk

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Disclaimer

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WHAT'S INSIDE | Happy summer!

The world has changed so much in the past few years. What would have seemed weird or improbable two years ago has become today's reality. We are still masking up in an effort to stay safe, complying with vaccination mandates, and keeping our distance when needed. Not long ago, we didn't even know the meaning of the term 'social distancing'. But this year's Wolfe Lake Magazine gets up close and personal, right on your doorstep, and wants to be friends, diving with you into lakeside living, with articles and tidbits on a range of interesting, and informative topics.

Let's remain positive :-). Thoughts create reality, right? So it's always better to think of Wolfe Lake than of some unfortunate setback, and better to remember a happy day on the water than, say, a visit to the ER. Our lake has phenomenal value. All we have to do is dip our toes in, jump off the dock or get out in the boat, and we reset, renew and refresh. This is exactly what the 2022 edition of the Wolfe Lake Magazine wants to do – offer you stories and pictures that will help you reset, renew and refresh.

Donna Garland and Margie Manthey start us off by explaining why anglers should no longer be using lead-based tackle, a silent killer of loons and other wildlife. The Wolfe Lake Association has initiated and organized the first Lead Buy-Back program in Ontario, with the support of many local businesses. Taking care of our wildlife – that is the strength of our community.

We created a SPECIAL feature, 'the changing face of cottage country', on the potential risks associated with short-term cottage rentals, not targeting our own lake's renters, but updating you on what is happening in South Frontenac and beyond, with suggestions for avoiding problems. There is a report on our first ever virtual AGM, articles with reasons on why you need to join the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, and friendly reminders to pay your membership dues.

We are also delighted to present a young woman who captures Wolfe Lake's wildlife in incredibly detailed coloured pencil: meet Erika Sunstrum and her amazing art. As always, we have activities for your kids or grandchildren on the Kids'. Yet, there is so much more. Have a quick look, and – when you have time – relax, with your feet up, and read it all.

Finally, we want to express our thanks for the ongoing support of our advertising partners, all of them businesses in the Westport area. Please keep an eye on our awesome website, our lively Facebook pages and watch those email News Flashes appear in your inbox, as we move into summer and fall. Contact us if you have a story or lake news to share. You'll always find us at the end of the phone line or at the keyboard. Happy summer, everyone!

Anna Rijk, on behalf of The Wolfe Lake Association Westport Team

A proud third generation Wolfe Laker

CHRIS CHISAMORE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE OVER THE PRESIDENT ROLE THIS SUMMER

When Chris Chisamore was approached by one of the Wolfe Lake team members last year asking if he would be willing to lead the Wolfe Lake team, he first needed more information. After his introduction to the executive team, he realized this role would be perfect for him, although he knew he had big shoes to fill. The board has already voted for him earlier this year. The next step to formalize this is the vote by members at the upcoming AGM.



I am a proud, third generation 'Wolfe Laker'. After moving to Westport to open a barbershop, my grandfather Joe bought some land at the southern end of Wolfe Lake and built the cottages that my parents, Roy and Marilyn, own and operate today (Chisamore's Cottages Wolfe Lake).

Growing up on the lake was a wonderful experience, so much so that after 25 years living and working 'away', my wife Isabelle

and I have moved back, and are planning to build a home in the spring.

Wolfe Lake is a special place for me. Not only did I learn to skate, water ski, canoe, boat and swim here, but I also worked for the McCulloch family at Evergreen Golf Course for many years.

So much of the person that I am today is because of the amazing environment that the lake and the larger Westport area and community have given me, and I am very excited to try and help give back some of my

time and experience to ensure that all of us have just as wonderful a place to enjoy as I had growing up

I feel that my numerous experiences here (childhood home, family business, summer vacationer, and now permanent resident) has provided me with a very well-rounded view on many of the things that we value most about our 'lake life'. As a nature and history enthusiast I am fascinated by the development of the lake over time and would like to keep the knowledge and appreciation for this area strong amongst its inhabitants. In addition, my father has been involved in Association activities for many years, most recently in the capacity of shoal marking.

I hope to bring all of these ideas and perspectives to the many interesting and ongoing projects and plans that the Association is currently undertaking.

I look forward to working with and meeting many of you in the months to come, and at the upcoming (in person) AGM 2022. In the meantime, you may see my wife and I walking our Bernese Mountain Dog, 'Summer', down many of the side roads surrounding the lake, enjoying the beautiful 'life in the country.'

Chris Chisamore



WE ARE BACK WITH FOCA | the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations



The Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW) has rejoined the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), after being absent from

its membership listings for a few years. The WLAW team feels that it will be beneficial for us to be part of FOCA's strong voice going forward.

FOCA's members include 250,000+ families who live on water seasonally or year-round, and its website contains a wealth of information of value to us all: foca.on.ca.





WOLFE LAKE | IN BRIEF

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

35th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

A milestone birthday is coming up. The Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW) will be celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2023. To mark this milestone the Association will be offering to all members and to our stakeholders a festive booklet (on- and offline).

In 2023 we will be celebrating the history of our lake association, along with its founders, volunteer leaders and members who helped oversee our impressive evolution, caring for the environment of Wolfe Lake, protecting its waters and nature in many ways, so that our children and grandchildren can use the lake for many years to come and play safely together with friends, family and the Westport community. See page 17.

STAYCATION TAX CREDIT

Ontarians are able to claim up to \$200 per individual and \$400 per family on local hotel, cabin, and lodge stays this year!

For Ontario residents looking to do some traveling this summer, a temporary tax credit offers some serious incentives for keeping vacations local. The Ontario Staycation Tax Credit for 2022 allows the province's residents to receive credit for up to 20 percent of accommodation expenses in Ontario—including stays at hotels, resorts,

lodges, campgrounds, and more. Go to www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-staycation-tax-credit to find the details.

CHANGES IN COTTAGE COUNTRY

Cottage etiquette has always been an interesting topic in that multiple generations of cottagers have always just known the ins and outs of keeping things neighbourly. However, with the flourish of land and cottage sales recently, how do we re-visit the dos and don'ts to ensure everyone can enjoy not only their weekends in cottage country, but also respect those who now live locally? A Special Wolfe Lake Magazine Feature looks into today's trends regarding the changing face of cottage country. This topic was also the theme of the fall seminar 2021 of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA).

Over the last few years, more people than ever have chosen to make their permanent home in cottage country. Also, as the baby boomer generation retire, more cottages are being renovated or rebuilt into homes. A mutual respect for all types of lifestyles is more important than ever. The weekend warrior's constant lawn mower and tool usage may not be as motivating for the resident neighbour! It's not about which side, it's about understanding,

accommodating, and considering 'both sides of the fence.' As seasonal and permanent residences increase, privacy is progressively becoming key for all; a little awareness goes a long way for everyone to live in harmony in cottage country. See pages 22 – 26.

2022 AGM GOES MARKET STYLE

We have been missing face to face contact with our members. Since the global COVID-19 pandemic is still lingering, we are hesitant to organize an in person, indoors AGM meeting. We have decided to do something completely different: we will be setting up a Wolfe Lake Market Style Place, outside, on the grounds of the Westport Lions Club. Come and meet our team and each other. Our active volunteers will be set up at individual booths, ready to inform you about what's happening within the WLAW, our current projects and other lake-related topics. Also, bring us your lead fishing tackle, such as sinkers and jigs, and get a \$10 coupon to redeem at participating area retailers on lead-free tackle and be entered into a draw for a prize to be awarded at the AGM. Please join us on Saturday, July 9, from 9am – noon. Stay for a bit, relax, walk around and let us engage and inform you amidst this unique, informal market-style setting. For more details, see page 14.



WLAW LEAD FISHING TACKLE BUY-BACK PROGRAM | New initiative

Take note, anglers: let's get the lead out of our lakes!

By Margie Manthey

Lead fishing tackle is by far the most commonly used kind. Unfortunately, it has a deadly impact on aquatic bird populations, especially loons, and affects many other kinds of wildlife, even fish. Just one small lead sinker can kill an adult loon, eagle or duck. Poisoned birds suffer tremendously, dying slowly as they waste away over three to four weeks. Margie Manthey, Fishing Director for the Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW) dove into the issue, and started to problem solve. She took on the challenge and came up with a new initiative designed to reduce lead in the environment. It's called the "Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program" and is geared to incentivize anglers to voluntarily replace their lead fishing tackle with environmentally friendlier gear. Donna Garland, WLAW's Director of Web Services, teamed up with Margie to co-manage the project. The program officially launched on March 31, 2022, and is growing in both scope and community support.

While it's no secret that lead (Pb) is a powerfully dangerous neurotoxin that threatens humans, most people are unaware of its deadly impact on wildlife. As many as one in five loons dies from lead poisoning after ingesting lead fishing tackle; and in some regions, lead poisoning from fishing tackle causes 40% of all loon mortality. These are science-backed statistics based on necropsies of thousands of dead loons performed by biologists and veterinary medicine experts. In addition, a 2010 – 2018 study revealed nearly 50% of the 1,210 bald eagles

tested were found to have chronic lead exposure. Similar rates of lead exposure were also found in golden eagles.

Small lead sinkers highly toxic

Loons and eagles, along with other aquatic birds like swans, ducks, ospreys, terns, and herons, are poisoned after they swallow lead fishing tackle. Loons often ingest lost lead when they pick up pebbles on the lake bottom to help digest their food or for ballast. Small lead sinkers look a lot like real pebbles, but they are highly toxic. Once swallowed, it takes less than one tiny lead 'splitshot' sinker to kill an adult loon. Loons also grab at lures or fish being retrieved by anglers and catch fish with



broken line and lead tackle attached. Eagles are poisoned when they catch or scavenge dead fish containing lead tackle or eat unrecovered game and gut piles containing lead fragments left behind by hunters.

The lead toxicity death toll in avian species is estimated at 16 million birds annually. This doesn't begin to address the countless mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish affected by lead exposure. Meanwhile, lost lead fishing tackle continues to pile up in the environment in literal tons each year. This is a big problem with a simple solution: **stop using lead fishing tackle and lead ammunition.**

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW), supported by a generous grant from the South Frontenac Lake Ecosystem Grant Program, has launched an initiative called the Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program, the main goal of which is to reduce the accumulation of toxic lead fishing tackle in the environment. The program was launched on March 31, 2022 and runs through March 31, 2023. It was modeled after similar programs run by other conservation organisations, including the Loon Preservation Committee and Audubon, which have collectively kept thousands of pounds of lead out of the environment.

The lead fishing tackle buy back concept was first proposed to the WLAW Board of Directors last summer by Fishing Director Margie Manthey. The Board approved the initiative, and so began the extensive work laying the foundation for the program – applying for funding; creating public awareness literature; recruiting participation from bait and tackle shops and hardware stores; soliciting partnerships, support and endorsements from other lake associations, conservation groups, and members of local government; compiling an updated list of manufacturers and sellers of lead-free tackle to provide a resource for retailers and consumers; and placing bulk orders for lead-alternative samples.

Margie co-manages the project with Donna Garland, the WLAW's Director of Web Services. Working together, they identified and accomplished the myriad tasks required to lay the foundation for the Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program and get it airborne. Other project volunteers include Marti Hansell, who generously donated her impressive graphic design talents to help create our powerful Fish Lead Free logo, posters, pamphlets, flyers and boat launch signage; hardworking WLAW Directors Bill Garland, Larry Arsenault, Anna Rijk, Gord Moore and Tom Myatt from the Westport Area Outdoor Association (thanks also to Tom for building several lead tackle collection units for area boat launches; we are glad to have the WAOA's partnership).

Media exposure

The WLA Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program was featured in Ontario Out of Doors Magazine, the Review Mirror, Frontenac News and Our Lakes Magazine, in addition to being publicized in e-lets and blogs from



the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA), the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, the Mural and other entities. Cottage Life will also highlight the program in a future issue. Several lake associations have shared the initiative on their social media pages

and in newsletters, while others are investigating ways to implement a campaign on their lakes, including Charleston and Desert Lakes.

Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

In cooperation with participating retailers, the WLAW is issuing \$10 vouchers to anglers turning in their lead tackle (limit one voucher per customer). The vouchers are redeemable at participating store locations for use on lead-free tackle only. Periodically, our volunteers visit participating retailers to collect the lead and arrange to reimburse them for redeemed vouchers. After the year-end conclusion of the program on March 31, 2023, all collected lead will be weighed. The WLAW is also raising public awareness on the dangers to wildlife from fishing with lead tackle with our posters and pamphlets, boat launch signage, website and social media pages, and at community events, where we distribute lead-free tackle samples. As well, youth education programs are being introduced through Camp IAWAH on Wolfe Lake, Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre and the Ottawa Wild Bird Care Centre.

Please visit our informative webpage dedicated to the initiative at: fishleadfree.ca

Valuable support

The WLAW is especially grateful to South Frontenac Township for its generous financial support and to Mayor Ron Vandewal for his endorsement. We are also honoured to have endorsements from MP Scott Reid and Rideau Lakes Mayor Arie Hoogenboom. Further thanks goes out to the Alastair and Diana Gillespie Foundation for covering the costs associated with printing our awareness literature; to our awesome participating retailers; to the Westport Lions Club, the Otter Lake Association and the Chaffey's Area Lakes Association for their funding support; to Mayor Robin Jones and the Westport Arts Council; to Eskerod Signs; and to many others who are supporting the program in various ways. **THANK YOU!**

Community events this year

Look for our Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program volunteers at community events throughout the year where we will continue promoting fishing lead free to protect wildlife. Meanwhile, please help spread the word that lead fishing tackle kills, and stop using it today. There are lots of non-toxic tackle alternatives available to anglers (visit fishleadfree.ca to see an updated list of sellers of lead-free options). Yes, they cost more, but aren't our wildlife, clean natural resources and the safety of our children priceless? "Let's Get the Lead Out" of our tackle boxes and the environment!



Participating retailers

- NORRIS BAIT AND TACKLE - WESTPORT
- BIG RIDEAU TACKLE - SMITHS FALLS
- MANOTICK BAIT - MANOTICK
- BAIT CASTERS - CARLETON PLACE
- WESTPORT HARDWARE - WESTPORT
- ATKINSON HOME HARDWARE & BUILDING CENTRE, HARTINGTON
- VERONA HARDWARE - VERONA
- WESTPORT RE-USE AND RECYCLE CENTRE - WESTPORT

LET'S GET THE LEAD OUT



photo: Karen Sliote



photo: Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

This loon died after swallowing lead tackle. Loons rarely survive lead poisoning.

LEAD FISHING TACKLE KILLS LOONS AND OTHER WILDLIFE

Lead poisoning from lost lead tackle is a leading cause of death in adult loons, responsible for as much as 50% mortality. Lead also threatens our water quality and other natural resources.

Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program

Get a \$10 voucher.

Starting March 31, 2022, exchange your toxic lead tackle for a \$10 voucher redeemable on lead-free tackle at participating retailers (terms & conditions apply) or recycle your lead at Westport Lions Reuse & Recycle Center.

Participating Retailers*

Norris Bait & Tackle Westport,
Big Rideau Tackle Smith Falls, Westport Hardware,
Verona Hardware, Manotick Bait, Hartington Home
Hardware & Building Centre, Baitcasters Carleton Place

* See full listing at FISHLEADFREE.CA



FISHLEADFREE.CA | Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program
An Initiative of the Wolfe Lake Association, Westport, Ontario, Canada

REV 03/22

COME TO THE AGM on Saturday morning July 9 at the grounds of the Lions Club Beach (Westport) and bring your lead fishing tackle (any amount, any condition) and receive a **\$10 voucher** redeemable for lead-free tackle at any of our 7 participating retail locations.



The MacDougall family property on the northwest shore is safeguarded for the future ‘The land we love is now protected with a conservation easement’

My husband Duncan and I bought our property on the northwest shore of Wolfe Lake and south shore of Green Lake almost fifty years ago. We were barely thirty, with small children, a mortgage and nothing in the bank, but it was land he had loved since childhood, growing up in Westport and at his mother’s cottage on the east shore.



Duncan’s Porter and Stinson great-great-great-great-grandparents had settled near Wolfe Lake in the 1840s and for generations it was the family’s unofficial back yard, the beloved wild country where they walked, picked berries, picnicked and swam. At ten, Duncan was hiking from Westport to

Wolfe Lake, with his buddies or alone, rowing his little flat-bottomed boat across to the very spot where we now have our cottage, and camping and exploring there, in the place he always loved more than anywhere else in the world. So when we were skiing across the lake one winter and spotted a little hand-written For Sale sign, we knew it was meant for us. I remember his exact words: “We have to buy it so we can protect it.”

The summers – and now years – we have spent there with our four children, in our log cabin, largely without a road or power or telephone or running water, and doing just that – protecting it – have been the high point of our lives. Duncan’s ultimate goal was always to establish a conservation easement on the land, and we spent

over twenty years slogging through a long string of issues involving mining claims and confused rights of way as we worked towards that goal. He died three years ago, before we were able to complete the process, but I am happier than I can express to report that the easement was finally completed this past December, and passed on, along with ownership of the land, to our children. Over three kilometres of shoreline on Wolfe and Green Lakes and five hundred acres of forest, cliffs, streams and beaver ponds are now all under the protection of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, and guaranteed to remain wild and green and beautiful forever. And that’s an enormously heartwarming feeling.

Betty Jo MacDougall

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR YOUR OWN PROPERTY?

If you, or someone you know, is interested in ensuring that the land you love remains in a natural state not only for as long as you own it but forever, you too may want to consider a conservation easement.

It is a legal agreement, registered on title, that creates a partnership between a landowner and a conservation or governmental agency, and establishes a set of mutually agreed-upon restrictions on development. You continue to own and manage the land, and can sell it or pass it on to your heirs, but everyone who ever owns it will be bound by the same restrictions in perpetuity - generally defined as 999 years.

Do you need more details?

For more information on conservation easements, visit the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation's website at:

www.rvcf.ca/ways-to-give/land-donation, and www.landandtitle.ca/all-blog-posts/understanding-conservation-easements-in-ontario

or call RVCA at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504, ext.1



Our first ever virtual AGM (2021) was well attended ASSOCIATION IS IN GOOD SHAPE, BUT MEMBERSHIPS ARE DOWN

By Lisa Arsenault & Anna Rijk



In 2020, the AGM of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport was cancelled as a result of the pandemic. Last year (2021), members met at home, in front of their own screens. The Board had been concerned that it might be a challenge to get folks to commit time to a virtual meeting; in fact, however, there were approximately the same number of people in attendance as at past in-person meetings at the Lions' Beach Clubhouse on Sand Lake. The virtual meeting took place on Saturday, July 17, 2021, via Google Meet, and provided members with information on the Association's latest projects and activities, the financial statement for 2020, executive position changes, and more. The discussions are reported below.

Membership dues needed

The Association's financials are in good shape, as indicated elsewhere in the Wolfe Lake Magazine. Unfortunately, however, membership dues are down, most likely because of the COVID pandemic. Last year, only 42 members paid their dues, compared to 110 in 2019. Lisa Arsenault, who took over from Eric Behre as Membership Director in 2021, will be addressing this issue and hopes to collect dues from all members in 2022 (see also page 21). Needless to say, the Association relies on the paid dues of all its members.

Communication

A new Facebook community group is off to a good start, with a moderated open setting requiring a request to join. On this group page, set up by Roy Sunstrum with the assistance of Margie Manthey and Anna

Rijk, members can publish and reply to posts and share their stories and pictures directly.

The WLAW website has been updated and much improved by Donna Garland, and members are encouraged to check it out.

Last year's Wolfe Lake Magazine, produced by Anna Rijk, contained 60 pages, thanks to the increased number of advertisements for local businesses sold by Bill and Donna Garland, Larry Arsenault, Gord Moore, Roy Sunstrum and Anna Rijk.

Last year, Anna Rijk distributed 12 News Flashes were distributed to all members by email; the same number of our digital news updates as emailed in 2020.

Projects and activities

Projects discussed at the AGM included the introduction of a new Lead Fishing Tackle

Buy-Back Program to help prevent lead poisoning in loons and other wildlife (for more details, see pages 9, 10, 11, and 30).

Margie Manthey spearheaded this initiative, one of the first of its kind in Ontario, and co-manages it with Donna Garland.

Turtle crossings

Another potential project discussed was the installation of turtle crossing signs in high-risk locations around Wolfe Lake. Large numbers of turtles, including several at-risk species, are being crushed on the roadways. Because it takes several years for a turtle to reach sexual maturity, losing even one adult turtle can be harmful to a local population. Cottagers and members are asked to document crushed turtle sightings (with a photo if possible) and submit them to Margie Manthey:

manthey.margie@gmail.com.



Some changes

The following motions were unanimously approved:

- to use a \$5000 reserve, when association funds permit, towards the implementation of environmental projects;
- to remove Green Lake from the Constitution; and
- to add an additional Director at Large to the Board to oversee website maintenance.

Questions from the floor

Members weighed in on a number of issues. **Richard Hazell** raised the issue of the poor condition of the boat launch on Concession 10 and questioned whether any improvements such as dredging might be needed. Richard has been actively lobbying Rideau Lakes Council for a number of years to do something about the launch conditions, but improvements have been minor and slow to come. We can report, however, that the ramp has recently been updated (see page 16).

Bill Garland gave an update on the baby loon and the loon platform near Woods Island and requested that everyone please exercise caution when boating in that area. People are asked to be particularly careful not to approach the loon family because, if the parents feel threatened, they may abandon

their chick. Floating signs to warn boaters of active loon nests/families might help, and the Association will look into the possibility and cost of placing them near the loon platforms in the future.

Barry Charnish asked about invasive Eurasian Milfoil and whether there have been any new developments through FOCA. Sadly, as of now, there are no new, feasible technologies to try. Carleton University graduate students have tested controlled removal of milfoil on Wolfe Lake using a mechanical harvester, and concluded that it might be helpful in small areas. However, the problem with harvesting is that broken pieces – which are inevitable – lead to further spread of the milfoil. In addition, harvesting is only a temporary measure, since the weed will regrow. Burlap mats kill everything beneath them, including plants and other organisms, and prevent frogs and turtles from burrowing into the mud for the winter. In addition, they break down after a single year and can snag fishing lures, thus posing a threat to wildlife and people; as a result, they are not recommended by the WLAW.

A potential project under consideration is the placement of weed collection boxes at the boat launches where boaters can dispose of aquatic weeds clinging to their

motors, etc. Two problems are that people tend to use the boxes as garbage receptacles and that they fail to address the issue of the milfoil already present in the lake. Eurasian Milfoil remains a topic of high concern on the WLAW’s agenda.

Richard Hazell asked whether there are any LDD (gypsy moth) spraying initiatives for next year. It was noted that Kingston-based Eco Tree Care offers spraying on private property, with no apparent impact on other wildlife, but the window of opportunity for maximum efficacy is small. Sharon Carr shared the information for an Ontario Woodlot Association webinar outlining methods of combatting all stages of the LDD lifecycle, including aerial spraying.

Board-related material

Brian Manthey announced that he is stepping down as WLAW President, and **Paul Thompson** that he is resigning from the Board; both gentlemen will, however, continue to volunteer. **Donna Garland**, our dedicated webmaster, was officially welcomed to the Board as a Director at Large.

Compliments were extended to the Board for their good work, to **Anna Rijk** for producing a great magazine, and to **Brian Manthey** for all his efforts as President.



2022 AGM ANNOUNCEMENT

SATURDAY JULY 9 | From 9am - noon

Wolfe Lake Association AGM Market Style at the Lions Club Beach



Two years ago, the AGM was cancelled due to the pandemic, and last year we held a virtual AGM. This year we will meet each other in person. It will be an informal format; we will be setting up a Wolfe Lake Market Place, **outside**, on the grounds of the Lions Club Beach, 52 County Rd 36, Westport. The AGM will be a great opportunity to reconnect with other members, to chat, to share your thoughts and concerns, and to vote.

Bring your lead fishing tackle (any amount, any condition) to the AGM and receive a \$10 voucher redeemable for lead-free tackle at any of our 7 participating retail locations.

You are invited. We are looking forward to seeing you!

See also page 8.

FROM OUR TREASURER | Wolfe Lake Association Financial Report 2021

By Larry Arsenault

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport is doing well and remains in a financially solid position. Even though COVID-19 has impacted almost every aspect of our lives since March 2020, we have been able to maintain our financial reserves over the last 12 months, largely as a result of advertisements sold in the full-colour Wolfe Lake Magazine.

Revenue from the Wolfe Lake Magazine was nearly double that of 2020, with local businesses continuing to support the magazine and the Association, despite the challenges they have faced over the last 2 years. We remain very grateful for their unwavering support.

Our other main source of revenue comes from annual membership dues. Dues received were down only slightly from 2020, despite a significant drop in the number of paid members which we attribute to the ongoing impact of COVID-19. Overall revenue was maintained, however, because a number of members contributed more than the \$30 annual fee. A special thank you to these members.

In addition to magazine advertising and member dues, we also received grants from the Gillespie Foundation and from South Frontenac and Rideau Lakes Townships. Expenses were largely in line with 2020.

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

You can read about these projects on pages 9, 10, 11 and 30.

Going forward, the continued support of our members and payment of membership dues are essential to our ongoing efforts to preserve and protect our beautiful Wolfe Lake.

(See also the article on membership on page 21.)



ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR NEWS FLASH UPDATES? Ensure we have your correct email address

All association members receive our News Flashes, unless we do not have your email address or you have chosen to unsubscribe. In other words, if you haven't received any News Flash

updates recently, we no longer have your correct email address. We are currently seeing an increasing number of emails bounce back after we hit the send button.

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport has been emailing occasional News Flashes to all

our members since 2017. It's one of our tools for staying connected and sharing essential lake news and updates.

Stay connected and ensure we have your updated email address, so that we can keep you informed of announcements, news, and other important information as the need arises.

Your contact information is confidential and will never be shared with anyone else.

Please send your current email address to com-wolfelake@outlook.com

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Rideau Lake & South Frontenac Townships have listened to our concerns

BOAT LAUNCH AT CONCESSION 10 UPGRADED

By Richard Hazell & Anna Rijk

The boat launch at the foot of the 10th Concession is in regular use by boaters and fishermen, both summer and winter. The launch has been deteriorating for the past decade, with major erosion at the waterfront. The Wolfe Lake Association Westport felt that this high-traffic area deserved a permanent solution to the problem. That concern will soon be history, since upgrading began on the boat launch last fall: the entry to the ramp has been graded, rebuilt and paved, with side swales added to direct rain runoff away from the base of the ramp. This was the first phase in a proposed full 3-phase reconstruction of the launch.

Back in 2018, after this issue was raised once again as a major concern at the Wolfe Lake Association Westport AGM, the Association notified the Township of Rideau Lakes of its concerns regarding maintenance of the 10th Concession boat launch.

In a letter to the Township, Association Vice-President **Bill Garland** stated that the boat ramp was being constantly eroded by rain runoff and damage from truck tires going in and out of the lake, making it difficult to launch a boat, and asked if the Township would be willing to look into a more permanent maintenance solution.

Unfortunately, permanent repair of the ramp was deferred for several years as a result of budget constraints at the Township level.

Rough fill not sustainable

Ken Malcolm and **Richard Hazell** have cottages close to the boat launch and have documented the progressive deterioration of the launch. Both were involved in bringing this issue to the Township's attention. Richard explains: "The method Rideau Lakes Township used to repair the ramp had been to resurface the area with rough fill, consisting mainly of earth, sand and light gravel, which was then tamped down. Clearly, that type of maintenance was not sustainable, as it rapidly washed out after a heavy rain.

The repaired boat ramp surface quickly eroded as a result of weather and vehicle use and the fill washed into the lake. The ramp rutted quickly after each repair, leading to numerous loads of gravel being applied each year with no lasting results."

Pat on the back

As a result of the repeated repairs to the launch, a delta formed directly out from the base of the ramp, making it progressively more difficult to launch boats, with trailers riding up on the eroded soil and truck tires



spinning in the soil and sand, thus expanding the delta. Richard continues: "We are all happy to see this first phase of the rebuild being completed, and we give the Township a good pat on the back, as we have ridden them hard to get this project completed." Hazell and Malcolm also expressed gratitude to Ward Councillors Bob Lavoie and Ron Pollard, who promoted the project on behalf of the Association at the Township level. Malcom Norwood, Manager of Facilities and Parks for Rideau Lakes, coordinated the paving on behalf of the Township and worked hard to ensure that the project was completed as one of the Township's 2021 capital projects.

The next phase of the launch rebuild is scheduled for 2022. A metal grate is to be added at the base of the paved launch to provide additional traction for vehicles and reduce wear at the waterfront. The final phase of the project will involve dredging the area directly out from the launch to reduce the delta of sand and earth that has formed over the past decade.

Work on other boat launches

In addition to the work completed at the 10th Concession launch, the joint Rideau Lakes/South Frontenac launch on Wolfe Lake Road was improved last fall.



This launch base was partially repaired but not paved, and the foliage around the launch was trimmed to provide a larger access area. The boat launch on Hanna Road has also been updated, with a new layer of sand and gravel and a culvert.

35 YEARS OF IMPACT | A COMMEMORATIVE JOURNEY

Help us find valuable, historical and cool facts about Wolfe Lake and our Association

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW) will be celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2023. To mark this milestone, we plan to produce a commemorative booklet as a give-away to all members and stakeholders. We can only make that happen with your help! How so?

In its almost 35 years, the Wolfe Lake Association has grown to become a unique community. The association has been shaped and reshaped by the experiences, events, and activities of our diverse individual members, and we now consider ourselves a platform for everything having to do with our beloved Wolfe Lake. We want to be able to share that sense of community through the lens represented by all of you. Where did we come from? How did we get here? Where are we going now? To spark conversation and to present (some of) the history of Wolfe Lake and Wolfe Lake Association, **we do need your input!**

And that is why we are inviting you all to share ideas, cool lake stories, did-you-know fun facts & figures, since you may well know more about our lake and our association than the current board members.



Wolfe Lake Association Westport
wolfelake.org

We are inviting you to send us your unique stories, ideas, and/or information on Wolfe Lake and the Wolfe Lake Association. Get in touch with us soon by sending an email – preferably before September 4 (2022) – to Anna Rijk: com-wolfelake@outlook.com.



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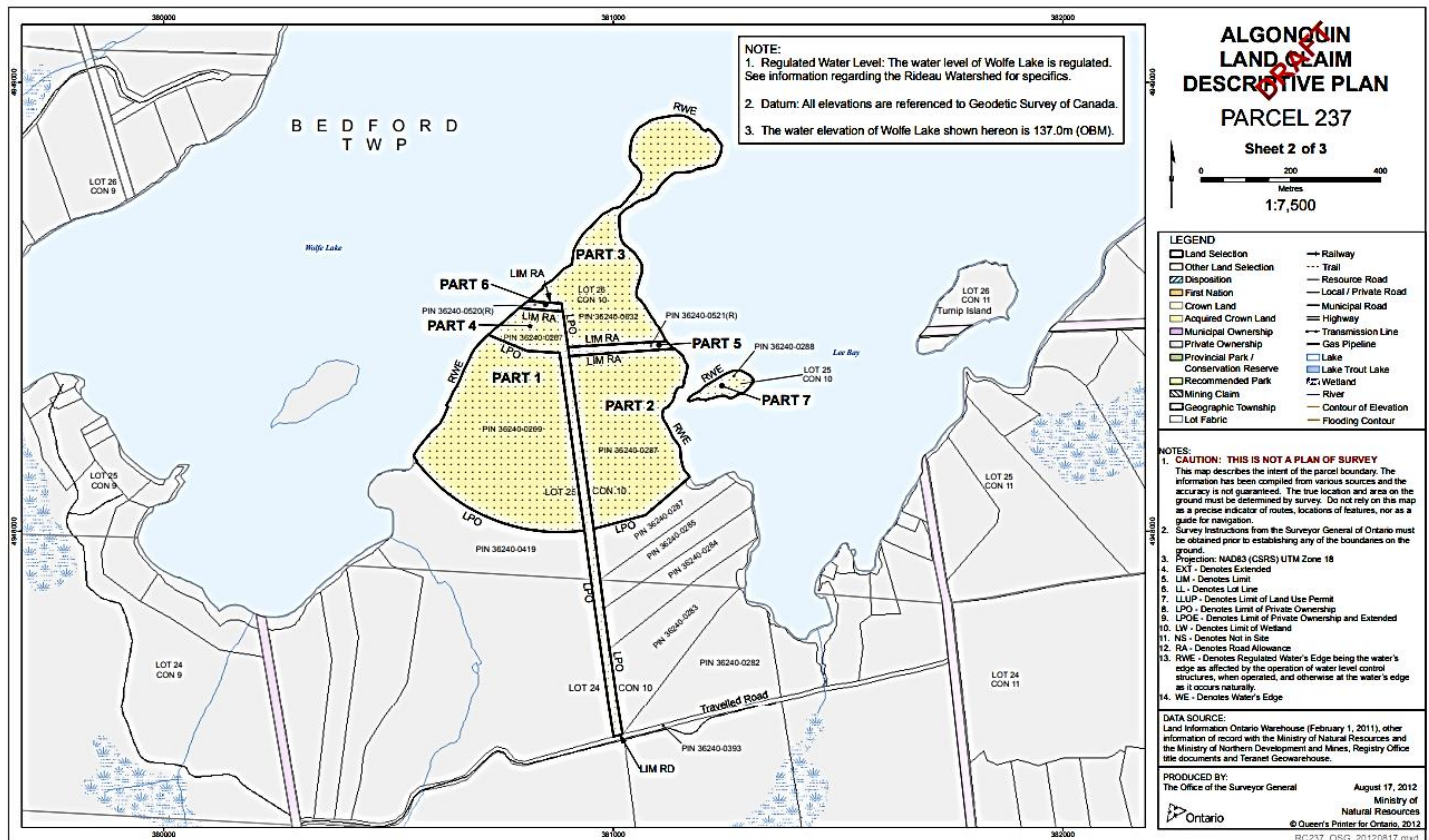
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THE ALGONQUIN LAND CLAIM | Potential Wolfe Lake impact

By Roy Sunstrum

Europeans settled North America over 500 years ago, but inadequate compensation to its original inhabitants led to a long history of tension around land ownership and compensation. The most recent round of negotiations with the Algonquins of Ontario began in the 1980's.

By 2012, the three parties – the Governments of Canada and Ontario together with the leadership of the Algonquin people – reached a Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle (AIP). This called for the transfer of \$300 million to the Algonquin people, along with 117,500 acres of provincially managed Crown land and an agreed approach on wildlife harvesting. No private property is to be transferred, nor will access to private property be impeded.

The deal also calls for the enlargement of Lake St. Peter Provincial Park by almost 2,000 acres, and the creation of a new park north of Sharbot Lake, to be called Whiteduck Provincial Park.

The draft AIP was initiated by the 3 negotiating groups in June of 2015, with ratification by the parties in 2016. The estimated

timeline for completion of the negotiations is 2024, with an estimated timeline of a further 10 years for the final treaty. These are slow but important pieces of progress.

The Algonquin Land Claim is the largest land claim currently being negotiated in Ontario. If successful, it will be the province's first modern-day constitutionally protected treaty.

Why do we care about all of this? One of the parcels is on our lake, at Fox Point. It is parcel #237 and is approximately 180 acres in area. The map above shows the parcel more precisely.

Looking for more information or detailed maps? There are a number of useful places where you can track the progress of the negotiations, including articles on sites such as the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Cottagers Associations (FOCA): foca.on.ca.org, and the Ontario Government website: ontario.ca, where you can

search for 'Algonquin-land-claim'.





DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS

Facts and misconceptions

By Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, PhD

Love them or hate them, cormorants are part of the ecosystem in the Great Lakes area, including the cottage country surrounding Wolfe Lake. In recent years, cormorants have been in the public spotlight, and in the cross-hairs of hunters and the provincial government. But what are cormorants, and what is the concern about?

Cormorants are a group of fish-eating bird species with a world-wide distribution. In some places they have been semi-domesticated for over a thousand years. I have had the pleasure of watching night-fishing with cormorants on the Nagara River in Gifu, Japan. The cormorant masters release the birds, which then dive for fish and return them to the boat. Although cormorant fishing is now primarily a tourist attraction, it was an important traditional livelihood in Japan for almost 1500 years. Cormorants, like loons, are expert divers and, while they are clumsy on land, they are both fast and maneuverable under water. Their skill is due in part to their legs being positioned so far back on their body, and to their long hooked beaks.

The most common cormorant in North America, and a frequent visitor to Wolfe Lake, is the double-crested cormorant. You may see these mostly-black birds sunning themselves on rocks or shoals, with their

wings outstretched to dry in the sun. Cormorant feathers are less oily, and therefore less waterproof, than those of ducks. This actually aids them in diving, but requires drying after a fishing expedition. Double-crested cormorants are native to North America and cormorants of one kind or another have been around for about 20-30 million years. North American cormorant numbers had been in decline as a result of a combination of hunting and pollution, but have been increasing over the last few decades. This is largely a result of the ban on DDT, which has permitted population growth in many bird species, including loons and bald eagles as well as cormorants. There are currently close to 150,000 cormorants that breed in Ontario.

Given the many similarities between loons and cormorants, why do most people love loons, but so many dislike cormorants? There is a widespread misconception that the increasing cormorant population

since the 1970s and 1980s (when DDT was banned) has led to declines in fish stocks in the Great Lakes region. This has led commercial fisheries and sport anglers to lobby for culling of cormorant populations. However, there is no scientific evidence that cormorants have resulted in declines in fish populations. Cormorants are only one of many species of birds that eat fish, and birds and fish are parts of long-established food webs in our ecosystem. Fish biologists and conservation scientists are almost universally opposed to the unlimited cormorant cull that is currently allowed in Ontario because there is no scientific evidence either for its need or for its potential effectiveness in affecting fish populations.

Another aspect of cormorants that makes them unpopular is the fact that they are colonial nesters. Many people will spend money and vacation time to visit massive nesting colonies of seabirds like Atlantic puffins. But we are often less favourably inclined to cormorant colonies closer to home. It is true that the guano from cormorant colonies can kill the plant life on the small islands that cormorants select for breeding. The result is unsightly, but it is a natural part of the ecosystem. Just as small forest fires are a natural part of the life cycle of western mountain conifer forests, or seasonal flooding is a natural

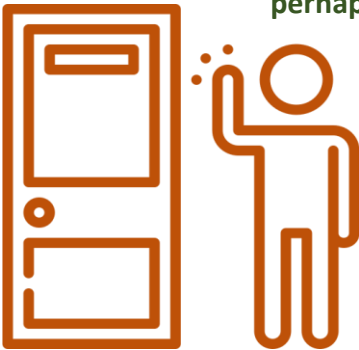
part of the nutrient cycle of the shorelines along rivers, the guano from colonially nesting birds has been a natural part of ecosystems since before humans evolved.

When we come to the cottage, or go fishing or hunting, we are seeking to enjoy nature. Unfortunately, our incursions into nature don't always go the way we like. Beavers may build dams that flood our roads, coyotes may kill our pet cats, and colonially-nesting birds may defoliate trees. When we think about how to manage these conflicts between ourselves and wildlife, we should try to remember who is intruding on whom. Although to many of us the cormorant population seems to be on the increase, it is probably still smaller than it was 200 years ago. We should take it as an encouraging sign that cormorant numbers are rebounding from previous human-induced population decline. Other groups of birds, including aerial insectivores like purple martins and swallows, are still in decline and require conservation efforts. The fact that fish-eating birds like cormorants continue to thrive demonstrates that we can reverse population declines in wildlife if we take action. And if we do need to take action to manage cormorant populations, it should be done in a targeted way and limited to specific problem areas.

MEMBERSHIP DUES NEED TO GET BACK TO LEVEL OF 2020

Lisa Arsenault will be knocking on your door

“The association records indicate that many membership dues are still outstanding”, reminds Lisa Arsenault, who is now taking care of Membership. “Unfortunately, membership was down last year, perhaps because of the pandemic and fewer people being able to come back, but for whatever reason it behooves us to remember that, even when we are absent, the life of the lake continues.”



“The \$30 membership fee goes a very long way to supporting the initiatives undertaken by our association. It is my hope this year to knock on your door and meet each and every one of you, to talk about our lake, our association, and to answer any questions you might have.”

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport is looking forward to another active and productive year, with several projects on the go to protect Wolfe Lake, but to do that we need your ongoing support.

Lisa: “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. Just have a look at the articles about the association’s activities and projects in this year’s Wolfe Lake Magazine, and you know your membership is worth it.”.

WE NEED YOU!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport offers secure online payment by e-transfer to treasurerWLCA@rideau.net or through PayPal.

You can also make a cheque payable to Wolfe Lake Association Westport and mail it to: Treasurer, Wolfe Lake Association Westport, 115 Stoneridge Lane Godfrey, ON K0H 1T0

Visit our website, www.wolfelake.org, and look for the ‘Memberships’ option (under Our Lake) for further details.

THE CHANGING FACE OF COTTAGE COUNTRY

Around Wolfe Lake – in our own region – we used to marvel at how little had changed over the decades since the Wolfe Lake Association Westport was founded in 1988. We still marvel; however, in recent years, there has been a change in Eastern Ontario and beyond: the big move from the city to every lake in our region is like nothing we've seen before.

Wolfe Lake is a quiet lake, so we are blessed. Still, we need to be aware that we are facing a situation of shifting baselines and changed expectations and behaviours with respect to waterfront and rural living in general.

Inspired by one of the recent seminars of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, this Wolfe Lake Magazine Special Feature highlights some changes and possible related concerns: changes in Short-Term Rentals in South Frontenac Township, details on a Tourist Campground Study conducted by Rideau Lakes Township which may result in bylaw changes, changes in the use of outdoor lighting, changes in lakeside population, and changes on the water. White elephants in the room? Well, consider these topics food for thought!

By Anna Rijk



A closer look at Short-Term Rentals in our region

SOUTH FRONTENAC'S FIRST MOVES TO REGULATE GROWING TREND

In the past few years, with the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, we have all noticed the tremendous increase in demand for Short-Term Rental (STR) properties, particularly waterfront getaways. It's easy to understand why vacationers and tourists want to immerse themselves and their families in nature in areas closer to home in these trying times; what could be better than renting a lakefront cottage? The Short-Term Rental industry is expanding rapidly, and many townships are struggling with how to regulate it. South Frontenac has made a cautious start, after its Council was inspired last fall by the thorough research and presentation of two knowledgeable residents on Howes Lake, near Verona.

THE CHANGING FACE OF COTTAGE COUNTRY



The Board of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport is unaware (so far) of any major concerns within our lake community. Wolfe Lake has many examples of responsible hosts, who take care of their guests and inform them upfront of what they should and should not do. As well, there are many respectful renters. But we all recognize the growing concern over what could happen when the owner/host of a rental property is absent.

A neighbour's perspective

Short-Term Rentals are not a phenomenon limited to our region but a much larger issue that has sparked debate and action in locations throughout Canada's cottage country. Rick Ottenhof and Gabor Solymar are neighbours on Howes Lake, near Verona, who have recently experienced the negative impact Short-Term rentals can have on a lake. Last November (2021), they appeared before the Mayor and Council of South Frontenac with a solid presentation entitled "Short-Term Rentals (STRs), a Neighbour's Perspective", based on a petition they had organized, signed by 161 South Frontenac residents.

Rick Ottenhof: "There has always been a strong and thriving cottage and resort rental business that most people refer to as "traditional". It was low key and based on trust relationships between neighbours, friends and families who rented to each other or occasionally publicly when the cottage was not in use in order to supplement income. We have several of these on our own lake and they exist in harmony with the regular cottagers and permanent residents."

Gabor Solymar: "But our research shows this is not where the main growth of the industry lies. It's being driven by private/commercial investors who maximize space and occupancy, along with people looking to finance the ownership of a cottage for future use (often remotely). The impact this has on residents can be seen in the comments we gathered through our petition. Even a small percentage of problem STRs can impact the environmental well-being of a lake and seriously disturb the residents. This is besides the steady stream of strangers that alter the feeling of community we all look for where we live."

POPULAR DESTINATION

Our area is a popular destination for tourists. Gabor and Rick found that here in South Frontenac there were approximately 240 active listings on Airbnb alone (August 2021). Based on past growth and post-pandemic predictions, South Frontenac could see 500+ STRs within 1 or 2 years. "This area is still considered 'undiscovered', but a popular Toronto blog (blogTO) called Frontenac one of '5 cottage getaways from Toronto better than Muskoka' and both blogTO and Narcity have recommended the area for fall visits as well.

Absent hosts

Ottenhof and Solymar’s concerns focus on negligently operated, owner-absent rental properties where there is a constant turnover of unregulated guests, frequently resulting in overcrowding, heavy drinking, failure to observe fire regulations, littering, dangerous boating behaviour, noise, trespassing, and threats and rudeness to local residents.

Other issues include unsafe swimming practices and increased costs of road maintenance for cottage road groups. Cottagers have also noted issues involving dangerous driving on private roads through ignorance or carelessness - for example, speeding and failing to yield on blind corners and hills. There have also been problems with failure to observe garbage pickup and recycling schedules. Guests leave garbage and mixed recycling and go on their way, leaving residents to sort and store, or transport recycling to the dump.

Rick Ottenhof: “We received quite a few petition complaints with regards to STRs, mostly owner-absent ones.” Here is one comment from the Short-Term Rental petition: “Every three days the renters turn over and we have to experience their euphoria about being on vacation yet again – with all that that entails. The worst part is that each rental seems to include four or five carloads of people staying at the cottage, which increases noise and environmental impact. Our local garbage and recycling centre is a mess because they don’t care. One renter told me he was paying for the cottage so he could do whatever he wanted. It’s hard to have a rational reasonable discussion about our concerns with people that are constantly intoxicated.”

Needless to say, the comment above shows the price neighbours of a STR pay, and it does not seem fair.

Ways to better manage STR’s

Gabor Solymar: “Many townships and municipalities have been looking at ways to better manage short-term rentals — from codes of conduct to licensing requirements and accommodation taxes. South Frontenac residents who signed our petition have made it clear that they are asking for the township to study this issue.

“The effect on South Frontenac residents can be drastic. We spoke to people who are considering moving, have abandoned plans to move to the cottage permanently on retirement, don’t visit their cottage on weekends, are in constant fear of events such as fires that would trap their families, fear intoxicated strangers while on their own properties and are afraid to leave their homes unattended.” A lawyer has pointed

out that the problem of using bylaws against STRs is enforcing them, and the fact that they apply to one and all – so no STR also means no renting occasionally to friends. The same is true of zoning. Airbnb is a business. Rezoning to preclude Airbnb would also affect other home-operated businesses, many of which don’t have the traffic and other negative impacts of Airbnb.

RENTAL LANDSCAPE

We all have stories to tell about the fun times our families had at cottages that were rented for our once-a-summer-vacation outing. We knew the owners through family contacts, referrals from friends and postings at the corner grocery store. Today many of those same cottages are still being rented out, whether by the original owners, a younger generation of the family or eager new owners. The rental landscape today may be the same, or it may be very different. In addition to these old-time rental cottages, there are large homes that can accommodate larger families, along with relatives and additional guests. Some of these 5, 6 and even 8-bedroom homes can cost up to \$9,000 a week to rent!

Bylaws and licensing

In the presentation to Council, Ottenhof and Solymar stressed that they are not targeting individual STRs or those that are run responsibly, whether the owner is present or not. They would like to see the townships in our area transition to a system of licensing and bylaws that will accommodate, but also regulate and control, Short-Term Rentals in order to protect our lakes and environment and the rights of residents to enjoy their properties. In conclusion, they requested that the township move forward with a study of such a system.

Both gentlemen reported that the South Frontenac councillors expressed overwhelming support for moving forward and developing regulations. But they also noticed some pushback in terms of funding and resource restrictions. According to Mayor Vandewal, “Regrettably, enforcement will be a problem...we don’t have the staff resources to control this: without enforcement, the laws are useless.”

Ottenhof and Solymar suggest that this problem can be dealt with by licensing fees or the use of a “Host Compliance” company, which takes much of the stress off the township in terms of organization and enforcement. Council agreed there is a problem which needs to be addressed, and several members suggested possible first steps. At press time, a staff report with recommendations was not yet available.

More information?

Would you like to learn more about news, concerns, and other info on Short-Term Rentals? Check our website, wolfelake.org, for a list of sources or go to FOCA foca.on.ca/responsible-cottage-rental/#. You can find the presentation of Solymar and Ottenhof here as well (look in FOCA’s resources, and go to November 2, 2021.

Guest Supervision/Selection

- Owner-absent = no onsite supervision of guests
- Falls to neighbours to monitor transgressions when lake/environment or their rights to enjoyment of their own property is threatened (sometimes have never met owner)
- Navigating the STR platforms, complaint systems and bylaws is complicated
- Owner-absent STRs are inherently flawed within this system that depends on Guest/Host ratings
 - No complaints + no damage = GOOD REVIEW for guest
 - Guests lie to Hosts
- Even if guest is banned, it only takes one person to book

Cottage country grapples with rules to control unruly renters

I should not be policing somebody else's rental. (The owner) is gone. He takes the money and walks away," says property owner next to short-term rental.

Aug 9, 2020 12:50 PM By: Marie Stoumenan, Local Journalism Initiative



POPULATION SHIFT | From urban to rural



Data from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) reveal a population shift away from large urban centers toward rural Ontario. Population changes are the most important driver of house prices in areas of the province outside large urban centers. House price appreciation in rural regions has accelerated, eroding housing affordability and possibly increasing property taxes.

Residential construction in Ontario had not been increasing as rapidly as demand prior to the pandemic, creating pressure on house prices and affordability that may persist for some time. While rural population growth is expected to slow to around 1% per year post-pandemic, that is still faster than at any time over the 4 decades prior to 2016!



MORE OUTDOOR LIGHTING | Is it really needed?

The attractions of cottage country include green and blue vistas during the day, and the soundscapes and starry skies of late evening. But the latter attraction is quickly changing, and the culprit is a “green” lighting technology.

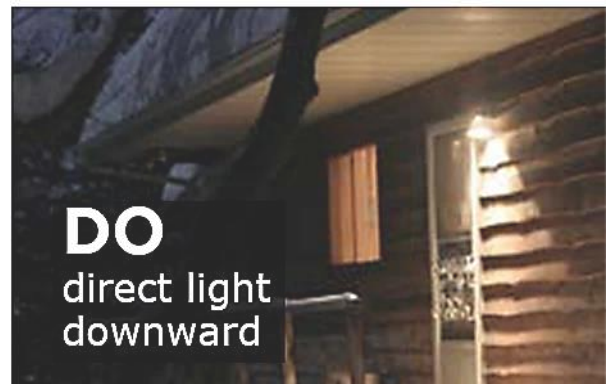
It all happened largely after the proliferation of white-light LED fixtures. These lights are marketed as low-energy and cheap; however, these attributes promote outdoor lighting where previously there was none. LED fixtures consume so little energy compared to older incandescent lights that many cottagers leave them on all night and even when their cottage is vacant.

What was once dark countryside has now become illuminated, in an extension of urban lighting patterns across the landscape. Some cottagers leave their yard lights on 24/7, mounted high and illuminating large areas, even when they are not at home.

Why does this matter? How can something as simple as a door light affect the night? First, outdoor lighting fundamentally changes the aesthetics of the night. It reduces the starry night sky to featureless black, and

affects visibility for both people and animals, from mammals and birds to insects. Many animals don’t want outdoor lighting. It makes foragers vulnerable to predators. Although moonlight illuminates the countryside for about a week each month, the rest of the time there are long periods of darkness when animals can gather food in relative safety, and stargazers and late-night walkers can enjoy the darkness free from glare.

The proliferation of light is caused by outdoor lights on buildings, along laneways and shorelines. Whether used for landscaping or waterfront “enhancement”, outdoor lighting changes the night environment and disrupts wildlife ecology. It also undermines the pleasure of those who may prefer the natural night they can’t get in the city.
(Credit: Robert Dick, FOCA))



How you can help to reduce light pollution

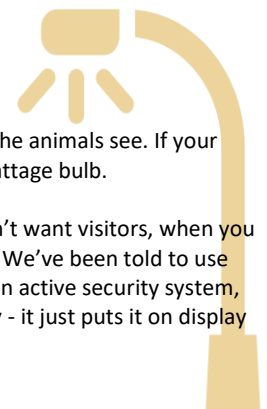
Light pollution can be easily reduced with some simple solutions:

1. Shield your light fixtures so light shines where you need it, not over your neighbour’s property. Everyone will see better without the glare.
2. Use amber “bug lights”, not white light. Amber will reduce the glare and will also attract fewer mosquitoes.
3. Use lower wattage bulbs. To determine how much light you need, go for a walk at night and come back to your lights after your eyes

have adapted to the dark. This will be what the animals see. If your lights are bright, dim them or use a lower wattage bulb.

4. Turn off your outdoor lights when you don’t want visitors, when you go to bed, and certainly when you are away. We’ve been told to use light to make our homes safer but, without an active security system, outdoor lighting won’t protect your property - it just puts it on display for thieves and vandals.

Sources: foca.on.ca, Council minutes South Frontenac at southfrontenac.net, rideaulakes.ca, bewakeaware.com.



RIDEAU LAKES HAS INITIATED A TOURIST CAMPGROUND LAND USE STUDY

THE
CHANGING
FACE OF
COTTAGE
COUNTRY

Campgrounds are important contributors to local tourism-based economies. At the same time, they can also be a source of concern. In the past, Rideau Lakes Township has been confronted with complaints from residents relating to density; environmental issues, including septic problems, groundwater and tree cutting; regulations governing expansion; and even tax fairness. For a better understanding of these issues, Rideau Lakes Township has commissioned a land use study to be carried out by Fotenn Planning and Design in Kingston.



Last summer, Rideau Lakes Township passed an interim control bylaw (ICB) halting the creation or expansion of tourist campgrounds within the municipality for a period of 12 months. In the meantime, Fotenn's Tourist Campground Land Use Study is well under way, and public consultations have been conducted.

Last fall, **Kelly Petrunka** of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport sat in on a virtual workshop hosted by Fotenn to keep the public informed. At this workshop, stakeholders, including a number of lake associations, expressed their concerns relating to tourist campgrounds. Earlier this spring, a second meeting with stakeholders was held, this time with **Anna Rijk** attending.

Rideau Lakes is currently home to 16 campgrounds, with a total of 1,256 sites, including the municipally-owned but independent Lower Beverley Lake Park. Complaints received by the Tourist Campground Study include noise, increased use of laneways to the lake, increased boat

traffic, excessive tree cutting, etc. Many lake associations have suggested to Fotenn that the municipality should treat trailers, basically large Park Model homes, as long-term rental cottages instead of short-term transitional campers, and that the term 'trailer' should be changed or redefined in the final report.

The Tourist Campground Land Use Study is exploring the underlying issues relating to tourist campgrounds by talking with different stakeholder groups, including the general public. The study will identify options for addressing the identified issues through land use planning, to the extent that these issues pertain to land use planning. These options have been presented to the public for feedback. The report was presented to Rideau Lakes Council this past May and the final findings should provide the Township with options in terms of possible changes to its policies and/or bylaws. It should also help guide the future of Tourist Campground development. For more information, visit www.rideaulakes.ca/grow/plans-programs/tourist-campground-land-use-study or email campgroundstudy@fotenn.com.

TWO THUMBS UP FOR EVERGREEN

There is a single trailer park on Wolfe Lake. Evergreen Trailer Park, owned by Dana and George McCulloch, is located next to Wolfe Springs Golf and Waterfront Resort. Over the years, this particular trailer park has seen no excessive expansion and remains well run and efficiently managed. At least a handful of seasonal campers are members of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport.

The Association is unaware of any complaints involving Evergreen in the Rideau Lakes Tourist Campground Land Use Study. The Wolfe Lake community is fortunate to have such a well-managed trailer park in its midst.

Thanks, Evergreen!



FASTER BOATS | Be #WakeAware

More powerful boats can create wakes that do damage in an instant or over time, depending on the circumstances. Wakes striking our shorelines can cause rapid severe erosion, exposing the roots of plants and trees. Large wakes may topple inexperienced swimmers, swamp or capsize smaller boats and damage docks. In addition, they can swamp shoreline bird

nests and drown the chicks. This is one of the reasons why the Wolfe Lake Association Westport has constructed and placed two floating nesting platforms on the lake in the hope of facilitating loon nesting success.

In 2021, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA), in collaboration with the Muskoka Lakes Association and Safe Quiet Lakes, launched a #WakeAware campaign, with a website featuring a short video on the

impact of boat wakes and what we all should be doing to be aware of wakes and to limit their effects. This important 1-minute video message encourages responsible and considerate use of our waterways, for the safety of all waterfront users and the protection of our fragile shorelines. Learn more, and please share the message widely! You can find the video and related resources at bewakeaware.com.

FOUR QUESTIONS

Checking in with Mel Shaw

With the coronavirus pandemic confining people to their homes, it can be hard not to feel overwhelmed by the current state of the world. The good news? Even in times of stress, you can take proactive steps to lift your mood. And that is exactly what Mel Shaw does. For several years now, Mel has been sharing his wonderful photographs of natural settings around Westport on local social media, leaving many of us stunned by their beauty. We thought that we had seen it all before, but Mel's eye captures another view of many familiar local sites. No wonder he receives so many positive comments on his almost daily postings, which offer his viewers an upbeat distraction in today's troubling times.

Over the years, Mel Shaw has done everything from operating a bakery to working in microbiology, chemistry, quality assurance and, currently, in information technology. His wife Rose, in contrast, has been a beloved fixture at the Westport Vet clinic for most of their time here. He is not a professional photographer, but just likes to get out there, taking it all in, reframing well-known places and sharing his shots with us on Westport's main Facebook page.

1

HOW IS YOUR WORK RELATED TO OUR REGION?

My wife Rose and I settled here 25 years ago to raise our kids in the small rural town of Westport. I discovered Westport years ago when I was a teen working at camp IAWAH.

Having grown up in Toronto and Belleville, I thought Wolfe Lake was one of the most beautiful lakes I'd ever seen! A couple of times we canoed from camp IAWAH to the Lions Club beach, then walked into town for ice cream. I can also remember my first time visiting Foley Mountain; I was driving an old Dodge Colt and wondered if it would even make it up the steep mountain road to the conservation area. It did and, when I stood on Spy Rock to take in the view, I fell in love with Westport and thought it would be a great place to live.

2

HOW DO YOU CHILL OUT AT OUR LAKES?

I often hike and photograph nature. I find there is something about being in nature that reduces stress and recharges you. Some days I enjoy just sitting on a bench in

the conservation area and watching nature. I imagine this is similar to Forest Therapy. Summer is my favourite season. I enjoy swimming and snorkeling with a waterproof camera in Sand and Wolfe Lakes. The fish are so curious and not at all camera-shy. I have some great movies and pictures of turtles, bass, pike and of course sunfish. In the past I was an avid windsurfer but gave it up as a result of wear and tear on me and the board.

We would often join our neighbours and their kids for a day on Wolfe Lake. After launching the pontoon boat, we would head out singing the song "Pontoon" by Little Big Town. We would head across the lake and fish around Duck, Horseshoe, Bateman and Whitefish islands.

After being out-fished by our wives and kids, we would enjoy a picnic on the boat and go swimming and cliff-jumping, a definite highlight to the day.

Mel uses a variety of cameras: a Cañon EOS, an iPhone 10 and a Fujifilm Point & Shoot Underwater Camera.



FOUR QUESTIONS

Highlight friendly folks who are making a difference in the wider Westport community.

3

WHERE ARE YOUR MOST FAVOURITE PLACES IN OUR REGION?

I think the number one place on my list would have to be Foley Mountain Conservation Area, simply because it's close and convenient to get to. It's also an exceptionally beautiful conservation area. It's wonderful to see some of the large pine trees that I saw as a teen still standing today. Over the years I've walked the trails of Foley Mountain so often I think I can do it with my eyes closed. I enjoy meeting people at the conservation area and recommending highlights and points of interest in town and the surrounding area. People have asked me if I was the mayor because I talk up the town so much. I would joke, "No, but I am the unofficial spokesperson of Westport."

Wolfe Lake is another favourite because it brings back so many great memories of camp IAWAH and fresh memories of fishing,

snorkeling and boating. There is also a section of the Godfrey Road that wraps around one end of Wolfe Lake that has sharp curves that is so picturesque. Some winters it has an



impressive ice waterfall that is quite spectacular. Closer to Westport is Sand Lake and the Lions Club beach. It is a wonderful place to swim and snorkel and a great place for families to enjoy. Lastly, the Rideau Trail that runs from Foley Mountain along Westport Pond and Sand Lake is an excellent hiking spot.

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

There are several concerns that are common to Ontario lakes, such as overfishing, invasive species, algae blooms and blue-green algae. You could write a paper on any one of them, but I'll focus on just one that is easily preventable: pollution in the form of the litter that goes into our lakes.

I see this often when I'm snorkeling. I've picked up pop and beer cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles, broken glass, bottle caps, hubcaps, lottery tickets (once I won \$2) and other litter. One day I came across an entire set of male and female clothes - I'm guessing they got to know each other a little better.

Coming across litter on the trails at Foley Mountain Conservation Area is just as annoying - especially plastic bags filled with dog poop. These are often left on the trail or, worse, tied to a tree branch. On the bright side, most of us thankfully treat nature with respect.

Mel Shaw



Our lake association is working for you

To introduce the directors of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, we present both familiar names as well as the new members of our team. These guys here are all new, and we are happy they have joined our team. We need all hands on deck, because there is always so much to do! The full listing of our board can be found on page 5 and on our website wolfelake.org.



LISA ARSENAULT

VOLUNTEERS ON THE MEMBERSHIP FILE. LISA AND HER HUSBAND LARRY DIDN'T KNOW

VERY MUCH ABOUT EASTERN ONTARIO WHEN THEY FIRST VISITED IN 2013 AND WERE IMMEDIATELY SMITTEN WHEN THEY DID. WHEN LISA AND LARRY BECAME AWARE OF A PROPERTY ON WOLFE LAKE THE FOLLOWING SUMMER THEY VIEWED IT, PUT AN OFFER IN THAT SAME DAY AND HAVEN'T LOOKED BACK SINCE. THEY SAW A PLACE OF GREAT BEAUTY AND FOUND THEMSELVES IN A COMMUNITY OF THE VERY MOST CONGENIAL PEOPLE. INSPIRED BY THE HARD WORK OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WOLFE LAKE ASSOCIATION, IT'S BOTH HUMBLING AND A LITTLE DAUNTING TO BE A PART OF THIS AMAZING GROUP OF LAKE STEWARDS.

WLAW member since 2021



GREG WETMORE

JOINED THE BOARD OF THE LAKE ASSOCIATION IN 2021, VOLUNTEERING AS DIRECTOR AT LARGE.

GREG, HIS LOVELY WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN BECAME PART OF THE WOLFE LAKE COMMUNITY WHEN THEY PURCHASED THEIR COTTAGE ON THE EAST SHORE OF THE LAKE IN 2014. THE WETMORE FAMILY COMMUTES TO THE LAKE FROM THEIR HOME IN OTTAWA AS OFTEN AS THEY CAN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. FAVOURITE LAKE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE ENTERTAINING FRIENDS AND FAMILY, CRUISING THE LAKE, SUNNING ON THE DOCK, AND CAMPFIRES ON WARM EVENINGS. GREG AND HIS FAMILY ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE LAKE AND HOPE TO HELP PRESERVE IT BY WORKING WITH THE LAKE ASSOCIATION.

WLAW member since 2015



ERIN DERBYSHIRE

CURRENTLY VOLUNTEERS AS SECRETARY. ERIN HAS BEEN SPENDING HER SUMMERS ON THE LAKE

FOR AS LONG AS SHE CAN REMEMBER; HER PARENTS BRENDA AND DALE BUILT THEIR COTTAGE IN THE EARLY 80S. THEIR FAMILY MOVED AROUND A LOT BUT ALWAYS SPENT THEIR SUMMER AT THE LAKE AND AS A RESULT THE COTTAGE HAS ALWAYS FELT LIKE HOME. SWIMMING, WATER SKIING, FISHING, PADDLING AND VISITING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HIGHLIGHTS OF HER TIME AT THE LAKE AND SHE HAS LOVED CREATING NEW MEMORIES WITH HER TWO BOYS NOAH AND BEN. ERIN IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SUPPORTING AN ASSOCIATION THAT HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR THE LAKE AND ITS COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

WLAW member since 2021

This is what the WLAW does to protect our lake and surroundings

WOLFE LAKE ASSOCIATION'S INITIATIVES



By Margie Manthey

In an ongoing commitment to reduce pollution, support the fishery and promote conservation through good stewardship, the Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW) works to identify issues where the Association can make a positive difference or initiate beneficial change through various projects. Here is an update on past WLAW projects as well as an introduction to the latest initiatives supporting the environment and lake ecosystem.

LOON NESTING PLATFORMS

Last year, we introduced an endeavour to support Wolfe Lake's loons by building and placing two nesting platforms just after ice out. This year, we're delighted to report that one of the platforms was adopted by a pair of loons in early June. Later that month, the female laid two eggs; and on July 8th, we got word from WLAW volunteer **Bruce Maynard** and **Helene Wach** that both had hatched, and one chick was already swimming alongside its parents. Sadly, the second chick didn't survive, but there's a silver lining: throughout the summer and well into fall, the surviving chick



received plenty of attention (and food) from its doting parents. Best of all, the youngster fledged in autumn, departing the lake on its first migration southward. After a couple of years spent maturing on the Atlantic coast, young male loons

typically return to their natal lake, while females settle on neighbouring ones. Although there was no gender reveal party for our loon chick, it's a happy ending, either way!

This spring, thanks again to **Bruce** and WLAW Vice President **Bill Garland**, one nest platform is now in place (unfortunately, a large tree branch fell in April, destroying the other raft). We ask everyone to respect the loons by giving them plenty of space wherever you encounter them. Remember: loon chicks are especially vulnerable to approaching watercraft as well as their wakes; and when parent loons are pressured to leave their eggs or chicks due to human presence, the threat of predation increases exponentially. We all love loons and want them to have a safe, successful breeding season.

SCANLAN CREEK WALLEYE SPAWNING HABITAT RESTORATION AND THE TWIN CULVERT EXPANSION

As of mid-April, Scanlan Creek was running nicely with snow melt and spring rains, and the twin culverts were flowing around one-third full of water. Since our creek restoration project back in September 2019, many area creeks ran below normal the past two spring seasons, resulting in a poor recruitment of spawning walleye.



This year looks promising, however. Property owner and Scanlan Creek champion **Bill Blaney** has observed walleye swimming into the creek. Walleye exhibit site fidelity to where they hatch, returning to spawn there as mature fish, so the fruits of a good spawning event can be reaped in years to come.

TURTLE CROSSING SIGNS

All eight of Ontario's native turtle species are listed as at risk federally. Auto collisions are a major contributor to their mortality, and every year countless turtles are crushed on the roadways as they wander in search of territory, mates, and nesting sites. Turtles take several years to reach reproductive maturity, so the loss of just one adult can impact a local population. With this in mind, the WLAW ordered two turtle crossing signs from **Rideau Lakes Township** which were recently installed along a stretch of roadway on the north shore of the lake with wetland habitat and high turtle activity. Township staff plan installation in early May. Additional signage will be considered as we identify other high-risk areas. We are grateful to the **Alastair and Diana Gillespie Foundation**, which fully funded this initiative. Please drive carefully and watch for wandering turtles and other wildlife.



LEAD FISHING TACKLE BUY BACK PROGRAM

The Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program is our flagship initiative for 2022 and is designed to incentivize anglers to switch from toxic lead tackle to safer alternatives to protect aquatic birds and other wildlife. Read all about it on pages 9, 10 and 11.

**The solution is simple.
Don't use lead fishing tackle.**



Exchange your lead fishing tackle and receive a **\$10 voucher** to be used on a purchase of lead-free tackle products at participating retailers.*

Or, recycle your lead at Westport Lions Reuse & Recycle Center.



* FISHLEADFREE.CA
An Initiative of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, Ontario Canada
WolfeLake.org





FROM OUR WATER QUALITY DIRECTOR | Great test results

By Gord Moore

Well, 2021 is now behind us and the results from the water testing for last season have been received from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). If you recall, testing was substantially reduced in 2020 because of COVID-19, and the RVCA were only able to complete one round of testing in July of that year. Those results were published in the 2021 Wolfe Lake magazine. Last year I was instructed by the RVCA on how to do the testing myself, as social distancing on a boat would have been difficult. As a result, I was able to push the number of testing times back up to near normal. Besides providing training as to what testing was required and how to do it, Haley Matschke of the RVCA dropped off the necessary equipment on the morning of each test and returned in the afternoon to pick up everything including the water samples. Many thanks to Haley for all her help!

WOLFE LAKE WATER QUALITY 2021							
SAMPLE DATE	SITE	CALCIUM mg/L Ca	DISSOLVED ORGANIC CARBON mg/L DOC	E. COLI (CFU/100ml)	TOTAL PHOSPHORUS mg/L TP	TOTAL NITROGEN mg/L TKN	SECCHI DEPTH m SD
2021-05-27	DP1				0.005	0.3	6.5
2021-07-12	DP1		4.8		0.002	0.31	5.75
2021-09-09	DP1	26			0.002	0.11	5.5
2021-10-28	DP1				0.012	0.28	6
2021-05-27	DP3				0.008	0.4	7.5
2021-07-12	DP3		4.7		0.002	0.3	5.75
2021-09-09	DP3	16.5			0.008	0.43	6
2021-10-28	DP3				0.011	0.29	5
SHORELINE SAMPLES							
2021-07-12	D			0	0.003	0.31	
2021-09-09	D			0	0.002	0.4	
2021-07-12	I			0	0.003	0.34	
2021-09-09	I			1	0.009	0.43	
2021-07-12	J			0	0.002	0.31	
2021-09-09	J			0	0.007	0.49	
2021-07-12	K			0	0.004	0.31	
2021-09-09	K			0	0.002	0.39	
WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS							
Type	Guideline Source		Guideline				
Total Phosphorus (TP)	Provincial Water Quality Objective (PWQO) - Lakes		<0.020mg/L				
TKN - Nitrogen	Secondary Indicator, Ministry of the Environment Recommended Guideline		<0.500mg/L				
E.Coli	Provincial Water Quality Objective (PWQO)		<100 CFU/100mL				

Overall, the results were excellent! Total phosphorous (TP) levels came in well below the Provincial water quality objective. Total nitrogen levels (TKN) all fell within acceptable norms under the Ministry of the Environment’s recommended guidelines. Testing for signs of E. coli, which is performed primarily at locations D, I, J, K (shallow-water locations) came in at 0 CFU, whereas the acceptable provincial water quality objective is 100 CFU or less. The reason for testing shallow-water locations only, according to the RVCA, is that E. coli is generally not a concern in open water, hence, deep-water sampling is unnecessary. Calcium and carbon levels are tested for other reasons. Thank you to the RVCA for providing the following clarification:

Calcium and Carbon are tested more for lake classification and long-term trends and are not nutrients that need to be mitigated. As a result, there are no specific guidelines for these nutrients.

Calcium

Calcium levels can be used as an indicator for susceptibility of a water system to Zebra mussel populations. Calcium is also a nutrient required by many species existing within the water column. Some

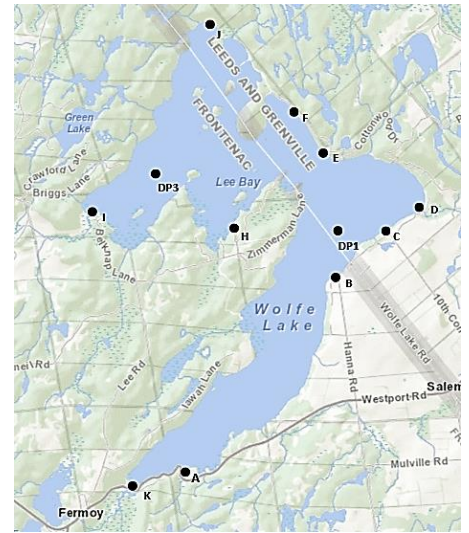
studies have suggested that zebra mussel populations are more likely to be sustained when calcium concentrations are >20mg/L, however they have also been detected in lakes with lower values. Calcium is also suggested to play a significant role in the buffering capacity of a lake. The RVCA is currently continuing to monitor for calcium as some watersheds towards the Muskoka's have found that calcium concentrations are declining, which may subsequently influence biological conditions within the lake. As a result, the continued collection of calcium samples will allow the RVCA to have a long-term dataset and continue to monitor our systems for any potential changes in our watersheds

Carbon

Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC) – Carbon plays a significant role in the nutrient uptake and cycling in a lake. RVCA continues to collect DOC samples in an effort to understand any long-term changes. This can also help the RVCA identify a lake's sensitivity and/or productivity in relation to nutrient loading.

Nutrient levels were all below maximum guidelines, which is great news! Oxygenation levels at the deep-water locations were consistent throughout the season, apart from the sampling completed at the end of October, when the results showed slightly lower levels at greater depths. The RVCA has informed me that this is not unusual for the time of year, given that the lake was demonstrating signs of mixing in advance of the winter months and the ice cover period. As a result, they were not concerned at this time.

Secchi depth reading is a measure of the clarity and/or turbidity of the water. This can be affected by such factors as the colour of the water, algae and other suspended sediments in the water. Secchi depths over the last few years have been fairly stable. There was a time, when we were dealing with zebra mussels, that the transparency extended deeper, possibly because the zebra mussels were feeding on micro-organisms closer to the surface and thus causing increased clarity. Since the zebra mussel infestation is more or less under control for the moment, water



clarity has returned to normal levels for our lake.

Finally, I have included a map of Wolfe Lake showing all the testing locations so you can see where the readings from last year's summary were taken.

I wish you all a great summer!



FROM OUR FISHING DIRECTOR | The latest updates for anglers

By Margie Manthey

Lingering travel restrictions due to the pandemic kept me away from the lake until August, so this year's summary combines my late-season observations with reports shared by anglers who spent more time on the water.



2021 was a good year for **walleye** fishing, with anglers reporting a reliable spring-through-summer bite. A lull in autumn heated back up in time for the ice season. Fish were caught below, within and above the slot regulation.* One angler noted fewer smaller

walleye caught than in past years, while another mentioned catching lots in the 10-14 inch range – that's fishing! Some reported an excellent ice season into early February, with the average walleye measuring around 22 inches, before the action began to fizzle out. ***Reminder: only walleye measuring between 40-50cm / 15.7-19.7in may be harvested.**

Some beautiful **largemouth** and **smallmouth bass** were caught, including some real tanks. Smaller bass, including young-of-the-year, were observed in the shallows. We are blessed with a robust bass fishery on Wolfe Lake; let's support it by practicing responsible ethics including releasing larger fish to spawn and also reducing the amount of time fish are handled, especially as water temperatures rise.

Anglers caught lots of **northern pike** spring through fall. Most fish were in the mediocre range of 22-25 inches. Some people are concerned about a possible over-abundance of pike in Wolfe Lake. However, based on ice reports, far fewer northerns were caught through the ice than is typical.

It's a blast to catch **perch, panfish** and **rock bass** on lightweight tackle. Our lake's sunfish and bluegill appear well represented, but what about its perch and rock bass? Based on my observations, over the past decade, both species seem to have declined, and ice anglers reported fewer perch caught in 2021.

Ling (burbot) action through the ice was decent. No whitefish reports were received.

Note that the **2020 Wolfe Lake Fishing Assessment** report is still pending from the MNRF.

Howls of disappointment ensued when the **Wolf Howl** ice fishing derby was canceled again in 2022, the third consecutive year the event was scratched. The Westport Area Outdoor Association made the tough decision based on health risks associated with COVID and the unreliable ice conditions in January.

Wishing everyone tight lines in 2022! As always, feel free to share your observations with me at manthey.margie@gmail.com.

FOCUS ON WILDLIFE AROUND OUR LAKE

Magnificent. Massive. Moose!

By Margie Manthey



Let's get better acquainted with the moose, an awe-inspiring animal that makes occasional appearances around Wolfe Lake.

Moose are the largest members of the deer family and also among Ontario's largest land animals. Male moose, called bulls, can weigh between 600 – 1,200 pounds and stand nearly 7 feet tall at the shoulder! Females, called cows, are smaller but still enormous, weighing between 500 – 800 pounds. Moose have dark brown fur on their bodies and super long legs to help navigate deep snow and wade through water. A flap of skin, or "bell," dangles from their throat. Mature bulls have much larger bells than those found on younger males or cows. Only bulls grow antlers, which start budding in early spring and are covered in velvet-like tissue. As the growth cycle wears on, these palmate crowns undergo a mineralization process and turn bone-hard, with some racks spanning over 5 feet wide! Bulls shed their antlers yearly, between November and January.

A moose's ideal habitat includes a blend of mature, mixed woodlands, open areas (created by logging or fires) and wetlands. They are browsers, feeding on leaves, twigs, buds and aquatic vegetation. One

adult moose eats between 40 – 60 pounds of browse each day! Favourite plants include willow, birch, balsam fir, viburnum, aspen and mountain ash. In winter, moose strip the bark from young trees. In summer, they feed heavily around wetlands, wading into and often reaching underwater for aquatic plants. Moose have even been documented as diving nearly 20 feet beneath the surface to reach plants on the lake bottom. Wading also helps protect them from biting insects and heat.

Moose breed in late September through October. During the rut, bulls compete for cows by engaging in tests of dominance with sparring and shoving matches. Sometimes, escalated battles ensue, showcasing the awesome raw power and rage of the behemoth opponents. Such fights are intense but usually brief, ending with the defeated bull being run off. Nevertheless, injuries can occur and include broken antlers and torn flesh. Gestation in pregnant cows lasts around 230 days, and calves are born in late May or early June. Younger cows typically bear one calf, while older ones may have twins or occasionally triplets. Calves remain with their mothers until the following spring.

In the wild, moose live around 15-20 years. Black bears, and more rarely coyotes, may kill very young calves, but mature moose lack natural predators, except where wolves still roam. In some regions, vehicle collisions put a literal dent in moose populations. They are also susceptible to parasites, including brainworm, which is usually fatal. Winter ticks are a more recent and increasingly concerning factor impacting moose survival. The ticks attach in clusters, staying on one host for several months and feeding repeatedly. A single moose can host several thousands of winter ticks simultaneously, resulting in anemia, emaciation, severe hair loss and death. Sadly, calves are the most vulnerable.

Generally, moose are not dangerous but can be provoked into aggression when harassed by people, dogs or traffic. If you're fortunate enough to spot a moose, never approach it. Instead, give it plenty of space. Respecting moose helps ensure your safety as well as theirs.

The image of the magnificent bull moose featured above was shared courtesy of wildlife photographer Justin Hoffman. Check out Justin's other stunning wildlife images (including more moose!) at www.JustinHoffmanOutdoors.zenfolio.com.



Will last year's free pheromone lure packages help? Spongy (gypsy) moth might be nearing end of cyclical boom

By Anna Rijk



2021 will be remembered as “The Year of the Spongy Moth”. Eastern Ontario in particular was hard hit last spring and summer by what was then known as the gypsy moth and has now been renamed the spongy moth. The Westport Lions Club, in partnership with the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, the Devil Lake Cottage Association and the Westport Area Outdoor Association, provided free pheromone packages in an effort to reduce the impact of next year's spongy moth population. Many Association members used the pheromone-soaked elastic bands to attract and kill the male moths, and shared pictures on local social media platforms showing hundreds of dead moths. Now we are all keeping our fingers crossed to see what happens this summer.

The insect previously known as the gypsy moth or by its scientific name, *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD), was just recently renamed the spongy moth. Last year, and for several years before that, it ate its way across Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, stripping trees down to bare branches and littering the ground around them with chewed-up leaf confetti and unpleasant droppings.

Fingers crossed

It's a problematic species that is capable of wreaking real havoc, defoliating millions of acres of forest in an outbreak. The moth goes through a population boom and crash cycle every 10 to 12 years.

Usually, it's a viral disease or moth fungus that causes the population to crash after several years of heavy damage.

In addition, everyone around Wolfe Lake is hoping to see a potential reduction in caterpillar levels this season as a result of the pheromone packages used last year. And there is reason for optimism: Ontario is nearing the end of its boom cycle and a crash is expected, hopefully in 2022, according to Kristyn Ferguson, Ontario Region Program Director for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. We are all keeping our fingers crossed.



The spongy moth spreads easily from egg masses laid on surfaces such as tree bark, cottage walls, or even cars and campers. The newly hatched caterpillars hang on silken threads and are dispersed locally by the wind.

What will 2022 look like?

“When mature, LDD caterpillars are approximately 50 mm long, hairy and dark-coloured,” says Bruce Maynard. “Five pairs of blue dots and six pairs of red dots line their fuzzy backs.” They feed on the leaves of over 400 plants and are particularly fond of deciduous trees, such as sugar maples, oaks, elm and birch, but will feed on coniferous trees if their preferred leaves run out. “One caterpillar can eat one square metre of leaves in one season. While hardwood trees may survive up to three years of severe defoliation, coniferous trees would not survive one bad infestation”, he adds. “It’s difficult to determine what 2022 will look like. I’m sure we all made a difference, considering the number of viable males we removed from the breeding cycle. This year I suggest we all remain vigilant and make sure to spray your spruce, pines and cedar trees if possible.

“Many of us are hiring professionals for aerial and ground spraying this year. These companies have proper licenses and are approved by the appropriate government agencies. Let’s keep our fingers crossed that 2022 breaks the cycle.”

TOM & BRUCE: DRIVING FORCES BEHIND 2021 FREE LURE PACKAGES

Tom Myatt (Devil Lake Association & Westport Area Outdoor Association) and Bruce Maynard (Wolfe Lake Association Westport and the Westport Lions Club) were the driving force behind last year’s spongy moth project in Westport.

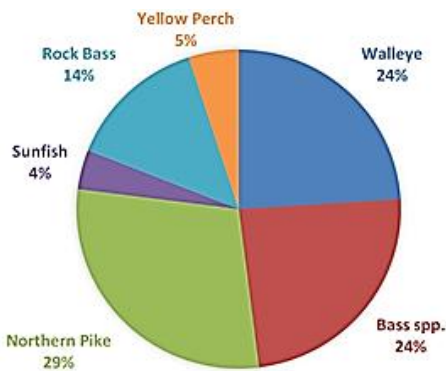
They handed out free packages of pheromone lures, an effective biological weapon against the spongy moth, designed for use on individual properties. Hundreds of packages were put together, and flyers, announcements and instructions on how to use the lures were prepared

and printed. Many volunteers were involved, including the Wolfe Lake Association Westport’s Bruce Maynard, Helene Wach and their grandkids, Tom Myatt, Bill and Donna Garland, Anna Rijk and Daniel Spitzer.

Experts from Waterloo U

The lures were graciously provided by Dr. Rosemary Armstrong-Chong and her husband, Professor Michael Chong, pheromone experts from the University of Waterloo’s Chemistry Department. Unfortunately, as a result of circumstances beyond our control, these pheromone lure packages are

not available this year. However, there are commercial products for sale, both on and offline.



Wolfe Lake 2020 Fishing Assessment

While the early months of the pandemic cut our participating anglers to just 9 individuals, the data collected between May 10 – October 12, 2020 nevertheless revealed some interesting statistics, as shared by Lisa Solomon, Management Biologist with the NDMNRF, who kindly ran the detailed report on behalf of the WLAW

Over a total fishing effort spanning 407.5 hours, anglers caught 577 fish, which included 8 different species (sunfish were grouped as 1 species). Northern pike represented the highest catch, followed by walleye and smallmouth bass. (Only 10 largemouth bass were caught, so they were combined with smallmouth in the report.) While limited, the data suggests that Wolfe Lake’s walleye

population seems to be “relatively healthy, given the number of larger fish caught in high numbers,” among other evidence. Lisa recommends that for future fishing assessments, higher angler participation and a more diverse cross representation of angler skill levels (i.e., novice – experienced) are needed to glean more comprehensive results to better guide future fisheries management decisions. A detailed report, including additional catch statistics, was distributed to WLAW members via a News Flash earlier this year.



Fall Walk 2021 | Meeting Cindy Dopson’s ‘Gentle Giants’ Fall fun in fields and forests at the horse effect farm

By Anna Rijk

A group of fifteen Wolfe Lake Association Westport members came out last fall to visit Cindy and Chris Dopson’s safe and welcoming Horse Effect Farm in Delta and learn about the work they do there with the help of their draft horses. Cindy, Chris and their son Ben hosted 2021’s Fall Walk on October 9th at the farm, located at 1204 Chantry Road. It was a splendid and leisurely afternoon with wonderful fall weather, friendly hosts, a spectacular property, awesome trails and lots of refreshments.

“I love walking pretty much any time of year. Walking gives me time to reconnect with the outdoors, to appreciate the beauty around me, to receive some pretty amazing health benefits, and to let my mind wander on its own”, said Anna Rijk, explaining her decision to organize another Fall Walk for the Association. “It can be meditation in motion. But walking in the fall is especially nice. After I asked Cindy



if our group could visit her horse farm on a fall afternoon in October, she started working on a plan right away, keeping in mind all COVID-19 restrictions at the time and adjusting them as necessary. “

Following the successful walks at Molly Li and Kim Donovan’s Alinka Farm in 2019, on Bruce Maynard and Helene Wach’s property in



2018, and on the grounds of Camp IAWAH with director Jeff Friesen in 2017, it was time to pull on our hiking boots once again. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Wolfe Lake Association Westport did not organize a Fall Walk in 2020.

Two trails

Small groups of people, some with their kids and even their dogs, were individually welcomed at the barn by Cindy and by Anna Rijk on behalf of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport. In addition to our group, Cindy had invited a few other guests as well. Everyone was given the option to spend time around the barn and the horses or to wander along the two available trails on the farm property. The trails lead through the forest onto open farm fields and alongside a mesmerizing pond with a beaver dam. Chris Dopson had checked the condition of the trails and even done some bushwhacking specifically for our group. Cindy had prepared attractive signs for the trees along the trails, to ensure that nobody would get lost.

Everyone admired the horses. Cindy chatted with her visitors individually, explaining what she does with her horses and clients and the purpose of her 'F.E.E.L.' (Facilitated Equine Experiential Learning) horse farm. She also shared some interesting stories about her herd of friendly, gentle horses

The horses provide a powerful pathway for Cindy's clients seeking to reconnect with themselves. Her captivating experiences are evidence that she has transformed her passion for horses into her life's work.

Regain balance

The horses communicate and connect with clients, offering reassurance and a certain guidance that helps clients overcome blocks and limiting patterns of behaviour, and thus regain balance in their lives. Cindy: "When I was first introduced to this method, to be honest, I was kind of skeptical about it all, but after doing many courses and working with clients, I realized the power and energy these horses share with humans. The horses keep amazing me. They take you straight to the heart of the matter." Cindy finds it enormously rewarding to do this kind

of work, and to win the trust of her clients so that she can work with them on a variety of emotional issues. "Many folks who come to The Horse Effect have benefitted in one way or another from receiving non-judgmental feedback from horses." Cindy's assistant Isidora Spielmann was present as well to share her experience and knowledge. Isidora, a well-known local artist in Westport, was inspired to do the F.E.E.L. course and has been helping Cindy at The Horse Effect since that time.

In awe of the horses

Cheryl and Paul Kreutter were in awe of the horses and their beauty, and appreciate the concept of F.E.E.L. and the power that these horses can have on all of us. Cheryl: "Interacting with Cindy and her beautiful draft horses helped us better understand the power of equine therapy for those who need to reconnect with the world.

As a Gold Star family, we appreciate how The Horse Effect uses these massive and gentle creatures to promote healing, particularly for those who have experienced a traumatic event or who are grieving the loss of a loved one." (Gold Star Families are immediate relatives of servicemen or women who have died while serving in a time of conflict.)



Molly Li, from AlinkA Farm, and her friend Alex B. both enjoyed the walk and visiting The Horse Effect. Molly: "In the field, we encountered the beautiful big horses and I felt empowered by their strength. In the barn, all kinds of cute little artistic items caught our eyes. I really like the artsy products of Isidora Spielmann."

Molly also took the opportunity to thank the Wolfe Lake Association Westport for setting up the Fall Walk, and was touched by the hospitality of Cindy Dopson. "Thank you, Anna and Cindy, for organizing this event. For me it was such a wonderful outing to break through the long isolation we are currently experiencing!"

"The Wolfe Lake Association's Fall Walk was wonderful," added Alex, who took part in the walk with Molly. "I enjoyed meeting the welcoming hosts of The Horse Effect Farm and the friendly locals who participated, learning a few things about the horses and the town of Westport itself. The weather turned out to be okay that day, and the timing was perfect to observe those beautiful fall colours in the forest."

Free F.E.E.L. session

The educational and fun-filled activity concluded around 3:30 pm, and Anna thanked Cindy and Chris for their hospitality. All participants went home knowing a great deal more about The Horse Effect. As they left, many filled out draw tickets for a chance to win a free F.E.E.L. session (valued at \$150). A month later, Cindy informed us that Cheryl Kreutter was the lucky winner. Cindy stresses that members of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport are welcome to visit her farm at any time to chat or make connections and, of course, to participate in her programs. Email Cindy at: thehorseeffect@gmail.com to plan your visit.

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE HORSE EFFECT

1. The Horse Effect Farm has a herd of 7 draft horses, including 5 Shires and 2 Clydesdales.
2. The Shires have been successfully shown throughout North America and are crowd favourites at local fundraising events. As members of the Canadian Shire Horse Association, Cindy and her husband Chris are dedicated to keeping this breed of gentle giants alive.
3. The Horse Effect Farm follows the F.E.E.L. program, offered by Horse Spirit Connections® in Tottenham, Ontario. Cindy became a certified facilitator in 2018. Combining the strength of a massive draft horse with their genuinely friendly nature, the horses help clients discover the possibility of positive change. First responders, health care providers, veterans, trauma survivors, at-risk youth, struggling couples and more have benefitted in one way or another from receiving non-judgmental feedback from horses.
4. Looking for a special gift? The Horse Effect Farm offers gift certificates for a variety of horse experiences.
5. The Horse Effect Farm is open for individual sessions, with all COVID-19 safety protocols in effect. The Horse Effect Farm regularly hosts open houses where everyone is welcome. The best way to find out what is going on is to visit thehorseeffect.ca regularly or to call 613-770-5114.



WOLFE LAKE ASSOCIATION | WESTPORT

wolfelake.org is up to date for you

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.
- Memberships matter. Learn how to become a new member and how you can pay your membership fees.
- An automated and monitored email box and a list of board members make it easy to contact us.
- Visit our photo gallery.

OUR COMMUNITY IS AN ECOSYSTEM OF PEOPLE AND NATURE

ON OUR WEBSITE WE SHARE WHAT WE DO AND ENCOURAGE MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION



PICTURE TIME CONTEST | Linda Bethune's waterfront

**Winner 2021
The Story**

Linda Bethune: "The story behind the photo is that my son Shawn Bethune and my daughter-in-law Elora Braden were visiting us from Golden, BC, this past July. Elora has a drone, and we were playing with it to get some aerial photos. The drone really offers a perspective that we don't get to see very often."

Long-time Wolfe Lakers

The Bethune family has been on the lake for 32 years now, ever since Linda's mother Helen McEwen bought the Hillside Lane cottage in 1990.

Linda and her husband Ed purchased it from her 16 years ago and are now entertaining the fourth generation at the cottage.

Linda: "We have spent 30-plus years pulling kids – and now the grandkids – on tubes, wakeboards and skis, and it's just part of our entertainment."

The photo shows their son David with Hunter and Noah Bethune, two of Linda and Ed's grandchildren, in the tube.

Linda: "Ed is driving the boat and our son Shawn and daughter-in-law Megan are the spotters. Elora and I are on the dock playing with the drone. It is Elora's talent that captured this photo."

Interesting entry

Originally, Linda didn't consider submitting this photo for the PICTURE TIME photo contest, but when she realized that the theme was 'looking at your own waterfront/shoreline, getting a bigger picture of your piece of the lake,' she thought this would be an interesting entry. Linda: "At the very least, I was hoping people would enjoy seeing the shoreline."

Why it is a winner?

Linda's unique photo caught our eye, taken high and away with a bird's eye view of her shoreline on the North shore. Some big-time family fun was happening down below on the gorgeous waters of Wolfe Lake. This drone image captures our passion for lake recreation and what cottage life on Wolfe Lake is all about.

Linda receives a \$75 gift card from Martha Kudrinko of **Rosie Yumski's Fine Foods**, who graciously sponsored last year's contest.

Congratulations, Linda!

PICTURE TIME CONTEST | 2021

More winning contestants capturing their own unique shorelines

You captured some amazing shots! Everyone has a camera in their pocket these days, with the ability to adjust automatically to lighting and movement. Still, you have to take your picture at the absolute best moment, and these contestants did just that!

Your own piece of paradise, your shoreline! That was the theme of last year's photo contest. Presenting the winners of our 6th annual photo contest.

Second Place: 'Foggy Morning Mystique' | by JoAnne Lussier



Why we love it

There is something so peaceful and serene about still, foggy mornings on the lake. For a little while, life seems to slow down, allowing us to appreciate the natural beauty around us. JoAnne's

photo captures the mist hanging low and drifting along her lakefront, creating an ethereal look.

Congratulations, JoAnne!

Third Place: 'Sunset Glory' | by Chris Murphy



Why we love it

We Wolfe Lake folks sure love our stunning sunsets. Chris captured the amazingly beautiful western sky at dusk from a perfect vantage point on his lakefront. The colours and reflections are mesmerizing and fill us with wonder and anticipation for what the next day might bring.

Congratulations, Chris!

Honourable Mention:

'Wolfe Lake Waters' | by Betty Jo MacDougall



Why we love it

What a gorgeous waterfront view from Betty Jo's piece of Heaven! Bright sunshine and blue skies accentuate the crystal-clear water, big boulders, and spectacular woodlands. Such visual rewards are yours when you paddle around Wolfe Lake. The lovely composition and perfect light make this picture a keeper.

Congratulations, Betty Jo!

JOIN PICTURE TIME | 2022 PHOTO CONTEST

A FEW TIPS FOR PHOTOGRAPHING NATURE

The PICTURE TIME Photo Contest is a celebration of the plants and animals, landscapes, and nature moments that bring us joy and happiness. What a great way to celebrate the beauty and surroundings of Wolfe Lake. As an amateur photographer, trying to capture animals and learning how to use your camera or phone with moving subjects, might be a challenge. We share a few tips to set you up for success.

1. PHOTOGRAPH WITH THE BEST LIGHT IN MIND

If possible, it is ideal to go out in the early morning or late day to photograph.

2. COMPOSITION

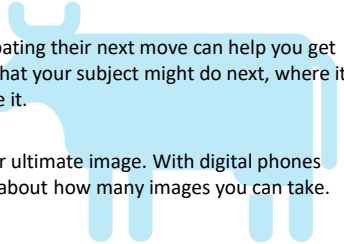
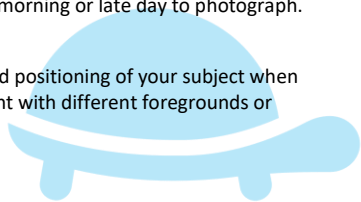
Pay close attention to your background and positioning of your subject when photographing wildlife. Perhaps experiment with different foregrounds or backgrounds to create interest.

4. ANTICIPATE BEHAVIOUR

Watching animal behaviour and anticipating their next move can help you get better results. Pay close attention to what your subject might do next, where it might go and how you can best capture it.

5. SHOOT, SHOOT, SHOOT!

Don't stop shooting until you have your ultimate image. With digital phones and cameras, you don't have to worry about how many images you can take. Source: naturecanada.ca



Take your picture to the next level | PICTURE TIME 2022

Capture Wolfe Lake wildlife!



A chance to win a gift card for \$75 from Norris Live Bait & Tackle

One of the perks of lake life is that we are surrounded by lots of interesting wildlife. Once we're settled at the cottage, most of us are keen to encounter loons, eagles, ospreys, owls, turtles, frogs, foxes, beavers, mink and... well, you get the idea! Because animal life is so incredibly abundant and diverse around Wolfe Lake, we're excited to announce that this year's PICTURE TIME photo contest theme is all about capturing a winning wildlife image. Consider it hunting with a camera! And what a great match to have Norris Live Bait & Tackle sponsoring this year's contest.

While wildlife photography can be a challenge, our judges don't expect National Geographic calibre images. We do encourage you to grab your camera when heading out on the water, into the woods or down to the lakefront.

It's more about keeping your eyes and ears open for the perfect opportunity to snap a picture of Wolfe Lake wildlife. You may also submit an image built around the theme as it might relate to the landscape, interesting plants, or even ways that people enjoy the great outdoors and connect with nature.

So don't let this year's WLAW contest theme intimidate you, as there are tons of possibilities. Go ahead and give it a try – you might be surprised with what you manage to "capture" with your camera! You'll have a lot of time for this photo wildlife hunt, the contest deadline is September 30, 2022. Also, [read the full contest rules](#), published on our website wolfelake.org.

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 **Norris Bait & Tackle and Hunting Supplies**, in Westport. Norris's has been a family owned and operated business for over 40 years. They offer live bait, tackle, fishing gear, boat rentals, hunting gear and apparel and much more.

Winning pictures

- First WLAW prize winner will be receiving a \$75 gift card from Conny Norris, Norris Live Bait & Tackle and Hunting Centre, Westport.
- The first 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 facebook.com/Wolfe-Green-Lakes-Westport-Association or e-mail to com-wolfelake@outlook.com. The deadline is **September 30, 2022**. See also: wolfelake.org/picture-time.



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ZEN WITH SUDOKU

Enjoy this puzzle. Answers can be found on page 62.

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

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GREETINGS | MAYOR ARIE HOOGENBOOM

Township of Rideau Lakes



Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Wolfe Lake Magazine. First of all, let me congratulate the Wolfe Lake Association on its initiative to buy back lead tackle in order to save more of our loons and other birds. Rideau Lakes Township with its 37 lakes and over 800km of shoreline is home to great fishing and incredible wildlife. We can all contribute to preserving this by going through our tackle boxes and "Getting the Lead Out". I have done this and encourage you to join the cause! At this time last year, we were working within a pandemic environment and its many challenges. Following all Public Health Guidelines, we were able to keep boat launches open for the season. Upgrades to the Wolfe Lake boat launch at the end of Tenth Concession Road are scheduled to take place in 2022 with a budget of \$80,000. This year, we are dealing with the post-peak in property values, which may be a relief for those looking to enter the market. Although high values can be good for some existing property owners, they have caused concern among our residents regarding taxes, which are based on market values. The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) reassessment planned for 2020 has now been postponed again to 2023. Council delivered on a comprehensive 2022 budget limiting the local tax rates to result in a small, below-inflation residential tax increase of 2.17 percent (when combined with the County and Education rates) and will look to

mitigate any future major tax increases caused by reassessment. Council continues to support lakefront property owners with private road grants, a Township grant of \$923 to the Wolfe Lake Association and guaranteed access to services by renewing the Recreation Agreement and the Fire Services Agreement with the Village of Westport. The Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee (RLAC) continues to meet quarterly and provide input to Council on many issues of relevance to waterfront property owners. Two examples are our Adopted Official Plan and the Sustainable Drainage Project. We fully expect that by June 2022, the new Official Plan will be approved at the County level and will enhance environmentally sustainable development along the water. Thanks to Margie Manthey and Greg Wetmore for volunteering as representatives for the Committee. On the capital work side, the Township continues its partnership with WTC Communications 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. Municipal Elections take place in October and all property owners are encouraged to vote.

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



After two years of living in a pandemic, it is exciting to see our communities vibrant and thriving once again. Having had the opportunity to take part in a few events this year, such as the Music in the Park series, the virtual Name a Snow Plow Contest, and more recently the return of Touch the Truck, it clear that the community is eager to get back to the things that make South Frontenac such a great place to live. The 2021 Canadian Census indicates South Frontenac has grown 8.3% since 2016, with a total population of 20,188 permanent residents. For this reason, the Township has been focusing efforts on building our organizational capacity and we are motivated to continue moving forward with the priorities: our Strategic Plan and 2022 Budget.

In an effort to provide residents with more ways to access information, the Township will be offering a new online web portal and mobile app that will allow subscribers to receive personalized garbage and recycling collection reminders via text, email, or voice message. The new program will also include a waste look-up option where residents can determine an item's recyclability. It is our hope that this new tool will make life a little easier for residents, while also providing educational information around the do's and don'ts of recycling and how you can have a positive

impact on the environment. To connect more effectively with residents, South Frontenac started using the online platform www.EngageFrontenac.ca in 2021 to keep residents informed of important projects and look for input wherever possible. This platform was used to collect public feedback on several topics and will become the hub for South Frontenac projects as we continue to grow. I encourage residents to stay apprised of projects and take advantage of engagement opportunities, as it is public input that helps guide Council's decision-making process. Some examples of capital investment in 2022 include the addition of a roof to the multi-use pad at Centennial Park, a marine unit for the fire service to better serve the northern portion of the Township, a new fire station in Battersea, a Roads Needs Study, and some significant upgrades to several arterial roads, including a portion of Westport Road.

Enjoy a safe summer on Wolfe Lake, and feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Ron Vandewal

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

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 for this page can be found on page 62.

Sticking together | Hanging out in groups

Did you ever hear the expressions, "Birds of a feather stick together" and "There's safety in numbers"? While it's true that some animal species are solitary – meaning they spend most of their lives alone – lots of animals hang out in groups of their own species. There are lots of different reasons why animals do this, but it all boils down to just one thing: survival. Let's look at a couple of ways that being part of a group helps animals survive.

To stay alive, a deer must be wary of predators, so having lots of watchful eyes and alert ears on duty helps deer detect danger. A wolf benefits from being with other wolves, as they work together to hunt for food, protect helpless cubs and defend their territory.

Depending on their species, groups of animals are called different names. For example, Orcas swim together in groups called pods.

Try to match each animal shown below with its correct group name by writing in your answer from the choices listed in the Word Bank. Ask a grown up or older sibling for help if you get stuck. After all, they're part of YOUR very own special group!

WORD BANK: School | Family | Swarm | Flock | Colony | Herd | Pack



Chickadee



Gray Wolf



Walleye



White-tailed Deer



Brown Bat



River Otter



Honeybee

Critter riddles 'n giggles

- A. What do you call a moose that plays the piano?
- B. Why were the squirrels kicked off the ark?
- C. How do bees get to school?
- D. What do wolves say before they go hunting?
- E. How are rabbits like calculators?
- F. What did the beaver say to the tree?
- G. Why did the centipede miss the school bus?
- H. What do you get when you cross a pig and a cactus?



Ode to a Moose

Huge and clunky,
Cool and funky.
Moose!

Legs so long-y,
Oh-so-strong-y.
Moose!

Crown on
mister,
Not on sister.
Moose!

What's a
dewlap?
It's their chin flap!
Moose!



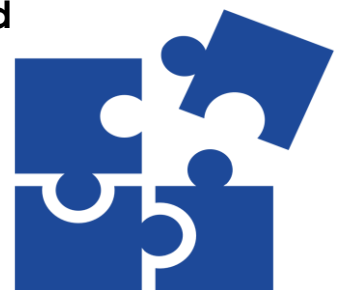
Word search puzzle | 'A day on the water'



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

FIND THESE WORDS:

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| cannonball | binoculars | sunscreen | wakeboard |
| laughter | turtle | fishing | family |
| nature | snacks | skiing | sunset |
| windy | canoe | loon | kayak |
| swim | boat | fun | tube |



Wolfe Lake Kids | Moose puppet craft



With simple art materials and even easier steps, this moose themed craft is a fun project for all younger kids, easy to put together with a lunch-size paper bag. You could even pair it with the book 'Morris The Moose', and have a little story time, once the craft is finished. So, what are you waiting for?



THIS IS WHAT YOU NEED

- Lunch-sized paper bag (one for each puppet)
- 1 Light brown marker or crayon
- 1 Black marker or crayon
- 1 Sheet of dark brown cardstock or construction paper
- 1-2 Sheets of tan or white cardstock or construction paper
- Kid-safe craft scissors
- School glue

THIS IS WHAT YOU DO

Before starting, note that the open end of the bag will be the bottom of the puppet

First, have your child colour the bag completely brown

Next, trace each of your child's hands on the grey/tan/white paper – these will be the antlers

Use leftover tan/white paper to cut out 2 circles for the eyes

Help your child cut out the handprints and eye circles; set aside

Using our photo as a guide, cut out the moose's ears and nose from the dark brown paper

Then, have your child glue the antlers and ears to the back side of the bag and the nose and eyes to the front side

Lastly, the black marker or crayon can be used to colour small circles inside each eye, and draw slits for nostrils

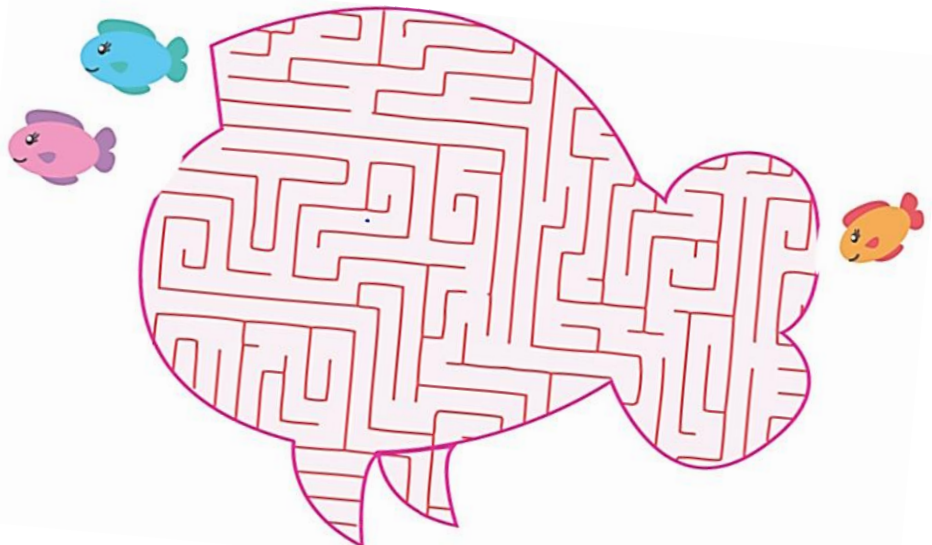
Tip: Leftover paper scraps can be used to add more creative embellishments, like a bow tie or buckteeth.

PINK, BLUE and ORANGE

Hey, can you help the orange fish get back to his friends – the blue and pink fish. These friends want to be together!

Cute fishy riddles

- Q:** Why don't fish play hockey?
A: They're afraid of the net.
- Q:** Why did the fish blush?
A: Because he saw the lake's bottom.
- Q:** What do you get when you cross a fish and a kitten?
A: A purr-anha.

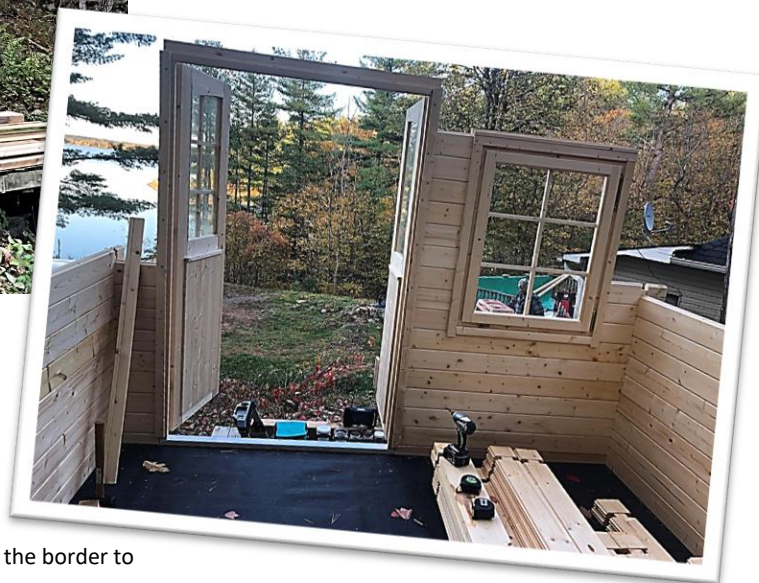


MARTI HANSELL BUILDS HER OWN BUNKIE

'I'd rather do it myself'

By Anna Rijk

More and more women are building, doing plumbing repairs, dealing with electrical issues, building their own furniture or repurposing older pieces into something new in and around their lakeside properties - they just like fixing things and do-it-yourself jobs. Marti Hansell is one of them: in fact, she has built her own bunkie. Yes, it was a kit, with some instructions, but still, it required lots of practical knowledge.



Marti loves to build things and gets a lot of satisfaction from working with her hands. The 2018 and 2019 cottage season weekends were spent scouting for a location for the bunkie and building a support platform. By Thanksgiving weekend 2019 she was ready to assemble the bunkie. She started the walls at noon Friday and installed the last roof plank the following Wednesday. The bunkie was then carefully tarped and wrapped up for the winter. Little did anyone suspect that it would be almost 2 years before she could cross the border to finish the roof!

It was the fall of 2021 before the roof finally went on. Needless to say, Marti's husband Bruce was there with her, assisting and making sure she was safe while she worked on the roof.

Marti is a graphic designer and illustrator. This means she spends many hours in front of her computer screen. Being outside, building, camping, hiking or just relaxing and gazing at Wolfe Lake from her property high on the south side of the lake are all activities she loves. Marti is an active volunteer for our association. She helped with the Wolfe Lake Association Westport logo two years ago, and designed the logo and the poster for the association's recent Lead Buy Back program.

Marti has been a member of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport since 2019.

Bench for South Frontenac Councillor Pat Barr

The council of South Frontenac has unanimously agreed to have a bench installed at Glendower Hall, in recognition of Councillor Patricia 'Pat' Barr's long involvement in and support of community events, especially in the Bedford area. The bench is expected to be installed this fall. Pat Barr, a long-serving Council member in South Frontenac, died on October 5, 2021. She was born and raised in our area, and joined the

South Frontenac council in 2013, with the promise of making life in South Frontenac better for her friends and neighbours. She regularly attended our Association's AGMs. Those who knew her remember that she was never without a story or a smile to share, and took pride in the work she did with the Township.



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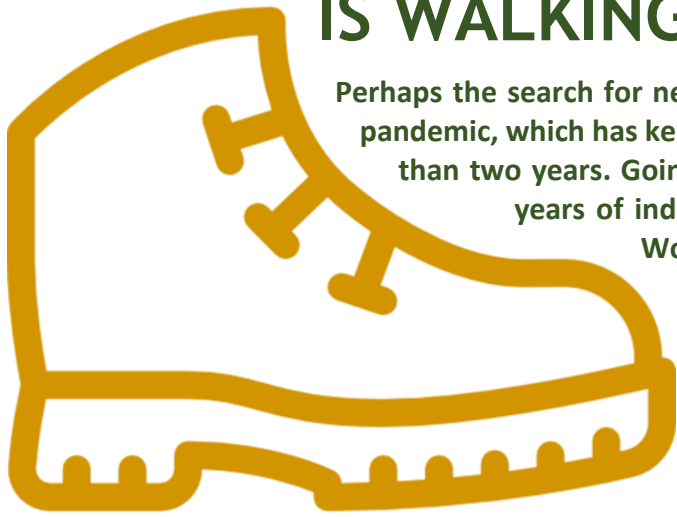


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IS WALKING A NEW LIFESTYLE?



Perhaps the search for new lifestyle trends has been prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has kept people at home and restricted their activities for more than two years. Going on a walkabout is a natural response to the past two years of indoor lockdown. Those of us lucky enough to live around Wolfe Lake can count our blessings. We asked a few of our WLA members about how they like to get their fresh air and where they love to go when they head out in their walking boots, whether it's an easy stroll or a serious hike.

By Anna Rijk

Bruce Hansell

My favourite hike near our cottage would be Foley Mountain. Of course, Spy Rock is a favorite spot, but the park has other trails as well. I would also like to explore other trails in the surrounding area.

My all-time favourite hike is backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, which is not far from our home in Pennsylvania. We sometimes take our dog along. We sleep in hammocks, rather than tents, but that is another whole story.

Bruce and Marti Hansell have been members of the WLAW since 2019.

Helene Wach

Our family is lucky that we have hundreds of acres to explore on our property on Wolfe Lake. Most of it hasn't been logged in over 100 years and it has an abundance of wildlife.

It is one of my greatest pleasures walking through our woods in all seasons, foraging in the spring, exploring in the summer and identifying animal tracks in the winter snow.

A favorite trail starts at the original 1860 homestead and apple orchard. It meanders through maples, birch and pine trees with stone fences covered in moss that glow in the sunshine. As you continue walking, you come upon a creek that runs into the lake. It is especially beautiful in the spring when the water is rushing over rocks and spilling over the landscape. A wonderful spot to rest, reflect and rejuvenate your soul.

Helene Wach and Bruce Maynard are longtime WLAW members. The Maynard family has been involved since the beginning of the Wolfe Lake Association. Helene: "We can't remember when we

started paying dues separately from Bruce's parents. Certainly, since the early 90's."

Susan Ash-Lindsay

I enjoy the very great privilege of living on the shore of Wolfe Lake and most mornings I accompany my canine friend Rhea on her walk along the lake to the dam. As we walk, we have an opportunity to greet old friends and sometimes meet new ones, although of late with COVID restrictions. For the most part, though, we simply take pleasure in the exercise and ever-changing scenery, scents and discoveries revealed by the different seasons in this beautiful area we call home.

Susan Ash-Lindsay has been a member of the WLAW since 2017. Her mom and dad were members before her; they came to the lake in 1974. Susan: "Dad was WLAW water quality inspector back in the day. My husband Ron and I moved to the shores of Wolfe Lake permanently in 2017."

Anna Rijk

During the pandemic, I have enjoyed walking parts of the Rideau Trail, which runs from Ottawa all the way to Kingston. One of my top hikes in our neck of the woods is along a part of the Rideau Trail, beginning at Concession 9, right near Mary Jane's bridge over the pond. The part I really like runs along behind Sand Lake. There is no trailhead, and it took me a while to find out where exactly it was. From there you can walk all the way to County Road 10, just across from the entrance to Foley Mountain. That is, you can if the trail is completely accessible. In the spring, when you feel your feet getting wet, you can just turn

around and head back to where you started. Going back gives you a totally different view.

Anna and Daniel Spitzer have been members of the WLAW since 2010.

Cat and Jefta Monster



A favourite hike of ours that we do regularly as a family is the Beaver Trail at Foley Mountain. Near the end of the hike there is a beautiful tree that is perfect for climbing; our daughter calls it the magic tree. Our favourite fall hike is Rock Dunder. The view is magnificent - you can see for miles! Packing the baby carrier and all the snacks and heading out on a hiking adventure is our favourite family pastime! You never know what natural treasures you will discover. Seeing our children's eyes light up with wonder with each nature discovery fuels our souls.

The Monster family have been members of the WLAW since 2021.



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INSPIRED BY NATURE AND WILDLIFE AROUND WOLFE LAKE

Erika Sunstrum: a master artist in our midst

By Anna Rijk

“I’m a huge lover of animals and wildlife, which is obvious in my artwork. Growing up, we always had cats, bunnies and dogs. My family used to go on ‘wildlife drives’ on cottage roads to see what types of wildlife we could find, especially around sunset to see the deer. It was always a highlight of the day.” Meet Erika Sunstrum, a super-artsy young woman, who loves Wolfe Lake and is inspired by its nature. She is passionate about her art and working to develop her career as an up-and-coming professional artist in Canada and even beyond. A story of a young woman who colours with confidence!

To Erika, nature is so beautiful, and its wonders motivate her to draw it as realistically as possible. “I focus on animals and nature in my art because I consider them a big part of my life.”

“With animals, I love portraying the personality of the animal, which is achieved primarily through the layers and depths of their facial features (working on animal eyes is my favourite!). My family built a log cottage

on Wolfe Lake in 2001 so I’ve been familiar with the area for most of my life.” Erika is surprised when her drawings are described as super cool, and is thankful for the wonderful reactions from clients and folks who view her art online.

The Erika Sunstrum Art Facebook page includes many positive comments, from ‘Your artwork rocks’, to ‘Beautifully done, all are very





lifelike' and 'What an amazing process, you go girl!', the latter a reaction to her time-lapse illustrations showing a drawing from start to finish. Step by step, her subjects come to life on paper.

Colouring with confidence

Erika grew up in Richmond, Ontario, moved to Toronto after high school and completed her Bachelor of Interior Design (2015) before moving to the Perth area. She is currently living between Perth and Lanark, working as a full-time residential designer, and practicing her art in a dedicated studio corner in her home. "I work on a drafting board and have more coloured pencils than you could imagine." Erika plans to create a full art studio for herself in one of the outbuildings at their home in the next few years.

"I've been drawing my whole life. I had done several drawings for people for different occasions and then I started having friends ask me to draw their pets, etc. As I got more and more requests for pet portraits, I began my business and decided to sell wildlife prints in addition to doing commission work."

Hyper realistic coloured-pencil art

Erika often spends hours working on various details of her lifelike drawings. Asking how to describe her art, she explains she practices hyper realistic coloured-pencil art. "I create my art using a reference photo or two. From there, I always start with the subject's eyes or primary facial features. These are the items that show the true personality of the subject and act as the overall framework for the rest of the composition."

"The drawing techniques used certainly depend on the subject. Directional lines are key when working with fur; various layered lines/colours are drawn in the direction of the hair growth. Backgrounds

and shadows often are made by blending the pencil, and I'll then also add a solvent to make pencil more solid and less textural. I then often use a scumbling or cross-hatch technique to create rougher textures, such as bark, animal noses, etc. Working on animal eyes is my favourite! "

Artistic family

Erika was the kind of kid who was always drawing and painting. If she wasn't doing that, it was some other type of craft that kept her busy. She is also influenced by the artistic skill sets of her family. She grew up watching them working on projects and was always inspired to continue developing her talents. "My parents were big influences and always encouraged me to keep working and improving my work. Both of my parents - and my three siblings - are very artistic and talented in many types of mediums so I naturally inherited some artistic genes", she explains with a smile. While she studied art, taking a few lessons here and there, she is basically an autodidact.

Time-consuming

Erika's art is modestly priced; according to her website, for instance, a commissioned single-subject 8" x 10" original work of art costs \$399. She provides custom quotes for sizes and formats not listed on the site. The biggest expense in creating her artwork is the time needed from start to finish. "The average drawing, usually a single subject at a standard 8" x 10" size, can take anywhere between 20 and 35 hours to complete." She charges \$50 for artist prints from her Canadian Wildlife Collection. Erika notes that she will be adding an iconic white-tailed deer to her print collection.

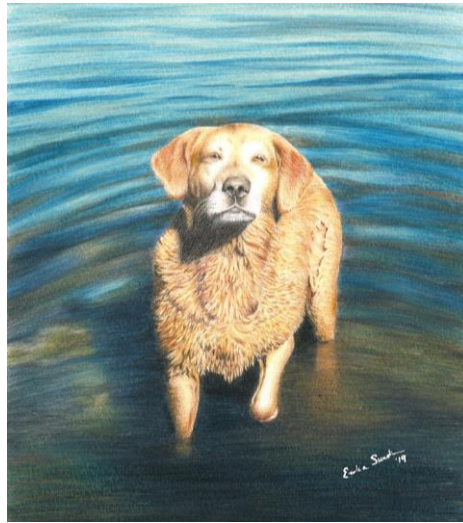
Power of social media

Erika understands the importance of social media. Not surprisingly, she has a solid online presence. Her Facebook page currently has close to 200 followers, and 300 folks follow her on Instagram. She has a clean, easy-to-navigate website, where you can find lots of her art and commissioned work. While she sells prints online, Erika is convinced that a majority of her clients come from word-of-mouth and referrals. Her work is showcased at various local arts and farmers' markets and



she exhibits and sells prints from her Canadian Wildlife Collection at the Calabogie Rustic Farm. Erika plans on reaching out to other local shops and galleries in the Westport and Perth area in the near future.

Her clients consider her a truly up-and-coming young Canadian artist. While most are from the Ottawa area, she has done commission pieces for people as far away as Guelph and even outside Canada, shipping her wildlife prints across North America. As she prepares for the coming year, she finds that the people buying her prints tend to be cottagers and wildlife lovers. "Most people who get me to do a commission for them are big pet lovers. You wouldn't believe how



many dogs and cats I drew for Christmas and birthday gifts over the last couple of years."

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ERIKA

Get acquainted with Erika's work on www.erikasunstrum.com or have a look at the progress photos and finished artworks on Facebook and Instagram (@erikasunstrumart).

Interested customers can contact her by email at:

erikasunstrum@hotmail.com.

AT WOLFE LAKE | Lorraine Pellerin and Pierre Lamoureux

We just love it here! We purchased our property in 2014. While still living and working in Ottawa, Pierre and I would come up to Wolfe Lake every chance we'd get. I was a teacher and had most of the summer off.

We sold our house in Ottawa and moved to the shores of Wolfe Lake in 2020, just when the pandemic hit. The only disadvantage of living out in the country is having to drive long distances to get things you need, but it's worth it to live in such a beautiful place.

BEST SPOT ON THE LAKE

I don't necessarily have a favourite spot on the lake. I think of cliff jumping on the other side, fishing and boating.

I love to see the outcrops of the Canadian Shield, topped with tall white pine trees. Seeing the gatherings of the loon families in the evening. The common denominators are water and nature.

BEST SUMMERTIME-PASSER

On a hot summer day, swimming in the lake is the best way to beat the heat while getting your exercise. We love anchoring in the middle of the lake with a picnic and swimming off the back of the boat on a scorching midsummer afternoon. When we have visitors, we like to make bonfires in the evenings. Cooking hotdogs, roasting marshmallows, or making s'mores.

BEST WATER TOOL

If you ask my two adult sons what their favourite water tool is, they would probably



say the paddle board. My husband would say his fishing rod, and I love to be in the water or floating on my inflatable chair not far from shore.

BEST TIME TO BE AT THE LAKE

August. The sun isn't as scorching and there are a lot fewer mosquitoes. We also like our wintertime here. Watching the birds at the feeders that also attract the deer, wild turkeys, squirrels and chipmunks. Ice fishing, skating on the lake, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. Having a cookout on a winter

fire is a must every year. In the spring we make a vegetable garden and I can some of the vegetables at the end of summer.

BEST LAKE CONVERSATION STARTER

It depends on the time of year. Did you catch any fish? Is the water warm enough? Did you hear the coyotes last night? They were close by. Is the lake ice thick enough for walking? How does your garden grow?

Lorraine and Pierre have been WLAW members since 2015.

INVASIVE PHRAGMITES ON THE RISE

Not bad to look at, but a very aggressive reed

By Anna Rijk

Invasive phragmites is spreading to our region. While not unattractive, phragmites is extremely difficult to control and now threatens the biodiversity of wetlands and waterways in Eastern Ontario. In fact, it has recently been spotted in Lanark County. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has the pervasiveness of the plant very much on their radar.

Phragmites, or common reed, is an aggressive invader, and is very difficult to eradicate once it becomes established. The tall weeds, with rough stalks and tassel-like tops, crowd out native vegetation and restrict the movement of animals, amphibians and reptiles. Their dense stands may contain as many as 200 stems per square metre and reach heights of up to five metres. They can also impede drainage, block waterfront access and even pose a fire hazard.

One of the challenges with identifying invasive phragmites is the existence of a native subspecies. The invasive plant is generally much taller and tan in colour, with blue-green leaves and large, dense seed heads.

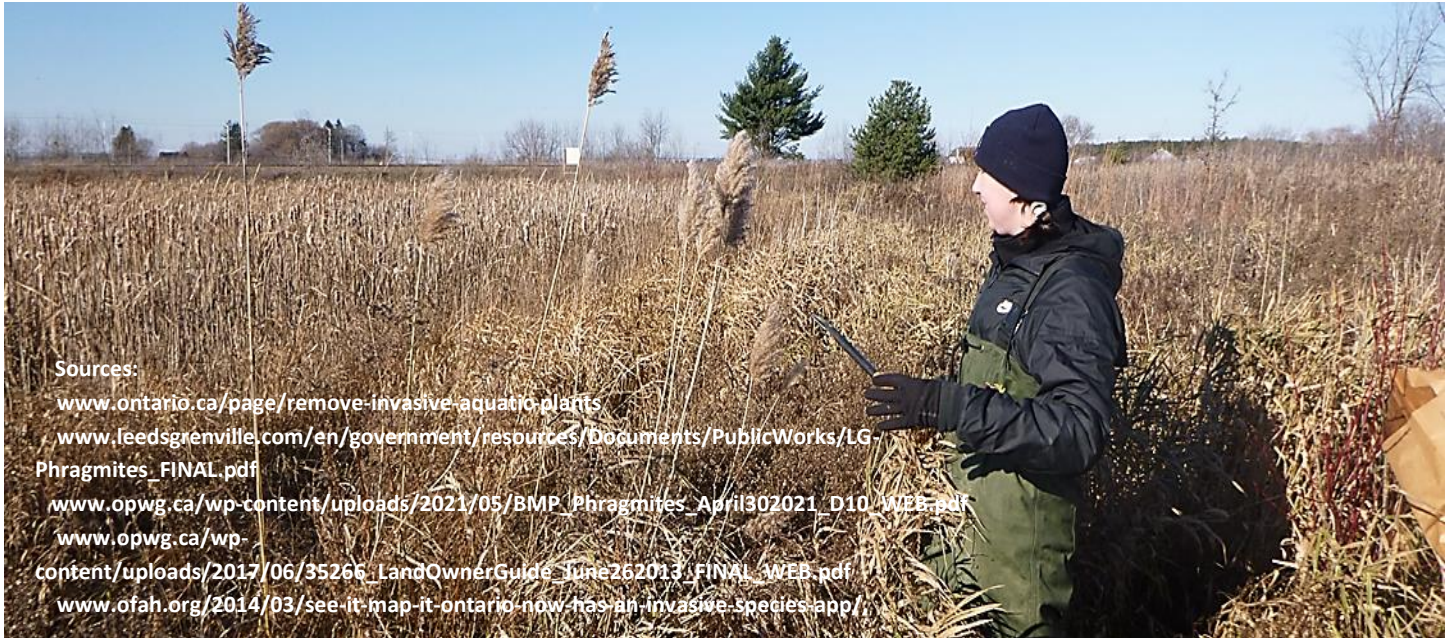
RVCA on phragmites

Jennifer Lamoureux, an Aquatic and Fish Habitat Biologist with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), manages the aquatic monitoring program that tracks invasive species in the watershed's streams and creeks. Because of the scale of the watershed and the prevalence of invasive species, it is challenging to undertake removal in

all areas. Jennifer notes that the Ontario Phragmites Working Group, which is focused on phragmites management, has put together a number of working plans and guides for landowners who want to manage the species (www.opwg.ca). She reports that Leeds and Grenville have published a document on Phragmites, and there is also a Best Management Practices for Invasive Phragmites Control Journal that documents some experiences and testing of management activities on Phragmites. In addition, the province of Ontario has information regarding the removal of invasive aquatic plants. "I would also recommend that any sightings of the species be identified and reported through the **EDDMapS Ontario app** (see side bar below).

Students

Every summer the RVCA, in cooperation with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), hires students to conduct work on invasive species within our watershed. Jennifer: "Assuming all goes according to plan, they might be able to support you with some additional resources during the summer months." For more information, email the staff contact for that program, haley.matschke@rvca.ca.



Sources:

www.ontario.ca/page/remove-invasive-aquatic-plants
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www.ofah.org/2014/03/see-it-map-it-ontario-now-has-an-invasive-species-app/

SEE IT, MAP IT! | ONTARIO NOW HAS AN INVASIVE SPECIES APP!

Spotting phragmites or concerned about Asian carp, giant hogweed or zebra mussels? You can now report these species and more online or with your mobile device using EDDMapS Ontario.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), the Invasive Species Centre (ISC) and the University of Georgia Centre for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, has launched their new EDDMapS Ontario online and mobile App for Android and Apple devices. EDDMapS Ontario is a fast and easy way to map invasive species without any GIS experience. Users simply take a photo with their mobile device and report from wherever they are. It's that simple!

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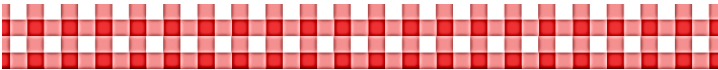
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Westport market becomes local Saturday routine

By Anna Rijk

Owned and managed by Paul Thorp, an artist and woodworker, and his wife, local pharmacist Tracey Phillips, the Westport Market offers a variety of high-quality goods from local farmers, makers and craftspeople.

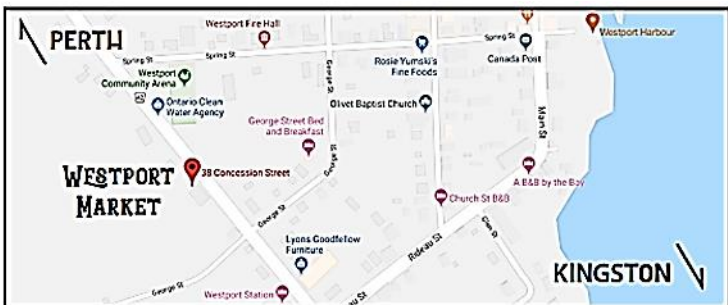
Originally created to promote interest and excitement in the Village, the Market has grown exponentially year over year and has quickly become a favourite of locals and visitors alike and an integral part of people's Saturday morning routine.

Welcoming guests, vendors and residents

"We are looking forward to this summer's Market and being able to once again safely welcome vendors, residents and guests alike to support their local artists, makers and growers. This isn't your typical flea market. These are fabulous, one of kind treasures that our vendors pour their hearts and souls into. You see the love and talent in every product they bring to Market.

We are right here to welcome you

The Westport Market is located at 38 Concession Street (across from Lockwood Park and the Arena) and will run weekly in 2022 from Saturday, May 21, to September 3, 9am to 2pm. Check the Market's Facebook page to see highlights of participating vendors or become part of their vendor community! More info, or wanting to participate? Email westportmarket.on@gmail.com.



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Small businesses are the way to go!

By Anna Rijk

Local businesses have had it tough over the last couple of years. All of us are still dealing with COVID-19 on a personal level, practising social distancing and working from home, while the economic fallout of the global pandemic continues to impact our region and the entire country. In the mainstream media we read stories about how small businesses have been hurt by the pandemic, with many owners expressing concern about its past and potential impact on their business. And yet businesses in our area have continued to step up to the plate and help us out. The Wolfe Lake Association is fortunate to have the support of local businesses, which keep us going not only by advertising in this magazine but by other means, such as participation in the Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program.

Cottagers and residents around the lake can play a part as well. As consumers, we can make conscious decisions to support our small business community and keep our economic engine going, even if there is a little sputtering along the way. We can use our purchasing power to help keep small and local businesses afloat. Shopping at these small businesses not only puts more money into our local economy, it also keeps alive the diversity of options that makes each community unique.

WHY SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES?

Community support

Local small businesses are essential to their communities economically, and a vital part of the fabric of life in those communities. Supporting small businesses is, essentially, supporting the community — and enables small business owners to give more back to their communities as well, through fundraisers and special events.

Economic impact

Local shops help create local jobs and add unique flavor to the community around them, further improving the economy by attracting more visitors and making it a desirable place to live.

Personalized customer service

Shopping small is a great way to ensure personalized service — sometimes even from people who know your name. Many small business owners make a point of developing relationships with their customers and learning their needs and preferences.

Small, local shops have a singular opportunity to fill a narrower niche than larger or big-box stores. If you're looking for something unique or uncommon, small shops are the way to go!

THANK YOU

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR | YOUR SAY

Dealing with trespassing: it's always best to 'ask first'



We've all done it. Wondered what is over that next hill, down that wandering lane, around that next bend. We all love to wonder and wander. Especially at the lake. On all of our properties, we cherish and become attached to our own land and features. My parents used to (and still do) call a little parcel of forested land at their house 'Moose Country'. I used to walk with my cousins down at the far end of the lake, along the shore, through other people's property on the 'Hermit Trail', to go and see other friends on the lake.

As we all enjoy our lakeside getaways, I know many of us love to explore. In a way, it's only natural, as there are so many beautiful places and



interesting spaces to discover. The truth is, however, is that there are only so many 'public places' on Wolfe Lake: places like the concession roads/boat launches, the dam, and Fox Point (a federally-owned area of land at the northwest tip of Lee Bay). Most other lands and shorelines are all privately owned, and, understandably, should be treated as such. The entire parcel of land which includes 'Buchner's Bay' and Bluff Point is all privately owned.

Much of the northwest shoreline of the lake (almost 3 kms) contains no development beyond a single cottage but is privately owned and has recently been recognized as a 'Conservation Area', under the protection of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. These are all very natural and private places that their owners wish to keep as such.

We are so very lucky to live here on a lake where development has not become unmanageable and overchallenging. Nevertheless, even if a large

stretch of shoreline is 'uninhabited', with no cottages, homes, or buildings, it does not automatically mean it is a public space. If you are unsure of the status of a piece of land, ask your neighbours, or even feel free to reach out to the Wolfe Lake Association. It's always best to 'ask first', before private landowners are left feeling guilty and/or upset for asking people to stay off of their lands. Respect and courtesy are always much appreciated anywhere on the lake.

Chris Chisamore | Member of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport since 2021.

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.

Block that sun | SKIN CANCER IS ON THE RISE

It's natural to want to get out in the sun as the weather warms up. We all love the sun and living at the lake gives us plenty of hours of sunshine. But there can be a flip side to spending too much time in full sun. Last year, in 2020, at least 8,000 Canadians were diagnosed with melanoma, up from 7,800 in 2019. So, before you head into your garden or hop in your boat or onto your surfboard or SUP, it's smart to protect your skin.

Love your skin

We love the sun, but we have to love our skin as well. The leading cause of melanoma is overexposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun or artificial sources. Exposed human skin can tan or burn – both are signs of damage to the underlying cells.

A burn, in particular, is a marker of extensive damage that normal DNA repair mechanisms may not be able to repair. Sunburn at any age is an indicator of UV overexposure (generally intermittent exposure) and increases the risk of skin cancer, especially melanoma.

What to do

Before heading *outside*, take these precautions: Always wear sunscreen. Apply it to your skin every day.

Avoid sun in the middle of the day, from about 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The ultraviolet rays that cause sunburn are strongest during this time. Wear protective clothing.

Wear sunglasses that filter UV light.

Sources: melanomaneetwork.ca & cancer.ca



5 THINGS TO SMILE ABOUT

We are so blessed and thankful for everything Wolfe Lake has to offer. FIVE things we are smiling about this summer:

Nature's nurture

Many of us spend lots of time indoors, in front of a screen or other electronic devices. To offset this, health care experts say getting some 'vitamin N' – for nature – can reduce stress, boost energy and revitalize health. And that is exactly what we experience when we relax at the lake, on our own grounds and properties.

Simply being outside

We all know that swimming, hiking, walking and cycling provide physical benefits. But did you know that simply spending time outdoors – gardening, being active, chopping wood, putting your dock in, and all those cottage-opening tasks – can also have a huge impact on your overall well-being?

Our cherished lake

Our bodies and minds are geared to be outdoors, and most of us actually feel less well without that in our lives. Fortunately, we all have our cherished Wolfe Lake in front of us!

Lucky to live here

Since COVID-19, people have a deeper understanding of the health value of getting outside and the value of nature in our lives. We are so lucky to be able to visit or even live permanently at the lake. People are learning to appreciate cottage country much more than ever before, resulting in a hot real estate market for waterfront properties.

See more, do more

In addition to our own Wolfe Lake, the region's breathtaking landscapes offer something for everyone, from Foley Mountain's sunny beach to the rugged trails of Rock Dunder or South Frontenac Park. Explore it all this summer!



NEW DIRECTOR AT CAMP IAWAH

After 14 years, Jeff Friesen, until last fall the executive director of Camp IAWAH, has moved on and is now a self-employed consultant in the field of Leadership Training and Consulting. Ken Vissers is his successor.

Camp IAWAH has hosted many of our Association's AGMs, often followed by a corn roast or potluck on its beautiful beach. In addition, Jeff has made an effort to stay connected with the Wolfe Lake Association Westport in a number of ways. Under his management, Camp IAWAH has always listened to our members' suggestions, invited representatives of the Association to their events, and worked cooperatively with our Board. Ken Vissers plans to do the same: "I have always had a great appreciation for the Wolfe Lake Association and all they do to preserve such a beautiful place among many other initiatives, and I look forward to continuing IAWAH's strong commitment with the Association, and helping in any way we can." Ken Vissers has served as IAWAH's general director for the past seven years. He has a wealth of camp leadership experience from his work at IAWAH and abroad. Before coming to IAWAH, he developed sustainable camps with a strong focus on leadership in both Costa Rica and Honduras. The Association is looking forward to working with Ken and his team.



USE LOCAL ALE FROM THE WESTPORT BREWERY

Chocolate Beaver Pond Ale Bundt Cake

By Lisa Arsenault

Having grown up in a restaurant and being very much at home in the kitchen, Lisa Arsenault says baking is her thing. “This dense cake is one of my favourite recipes. It is a heavy hitter in the flavour department and comes together with only a whisk. Served with a light dusting of icing sugar or a dollop of whipped cream, its simple elegance makes it the perfect finish for special guests or an indulgent breakfast down at the dock.” Sliced bananas put in a surprising appearance here as a tasty garnish.

WHAT YOU NEED

¾ cup sour cream or yogurt
 2 large eggs
 1 tbsp vanilla extract
 2 cups all-purpose flour sifted
 ½ tsp salt
 ½ cup + 2 tbsp unsalted butter
 2 tsp espresso powder
 ¾ cup unsweetened cocoa, sifted
 1 ½ cups superfine sugar (pulse regular sugar in blender if you don't have any)
 1 cup Beaver Pond Ale (Westport Brewery)
 2 ½ tsp baking soda
 Optional: 1 banana

WHAT YOU DO

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Butter and flour a large (10-cup) Bundt pan.
2. In a small bowl, combine sour cream, eggs, and vanilla; mix well. Set aside.
3. Combine flour, espresso powder, cocoa and salt. Set aside.
4. In a pot over medium-high heat, melt butter and sugar. Whisk to blend and let cool.
5. As the butter mixture cools, bring the Beaver Pond Ale to a boil in a large Dutch oven over high heat. Add the baking soda, give it a stir, then turn off the heat. It will foam A LOT!!! Allow to sit until the foam dissipates. Whisk in butter mixture.
6. Add sour cream mixture to the ale mixture. Add flour, half at a time, whisking until almost smooth. Don't overmix, a few lumps are okay. Pour into prepared pan and bake until cake has risen and tests done, 45 - 55 minutes. Place pan on a wire rack and cool completely. If you like, garnish with banana.

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!

An essential part of our Ontario summer!

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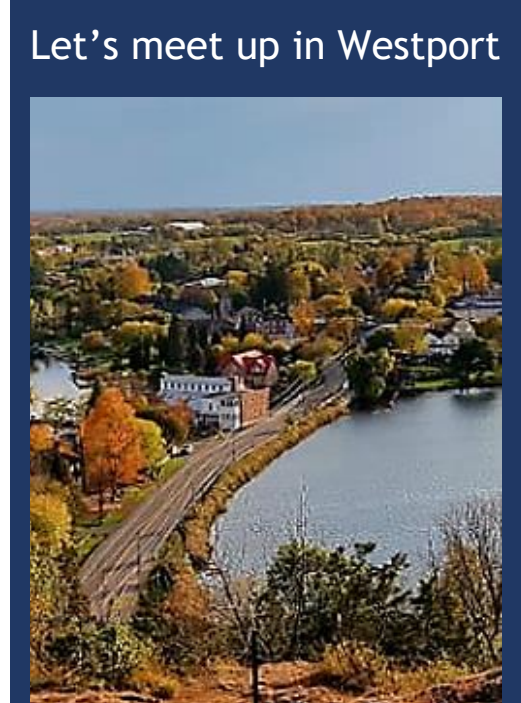
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Let's meet up in Westport

For Wolfe Lake cottagers and residents Westport is the 'go to' village for just everything. It's packed with tons of charm and shop after shops of unique finds, a well-stocked grocery store, lots of great restaurants, coffee shops, craft beer bars and ice creameries. The local shop owners and businesses not only make this town a gem but are also graciously supporting the Wolfe Lake Association Westport. Want to know what goes on this summer? Find out on www.whatsonwestport.ca. It's all about community and local business coming together to share, promote and support the events that will be happening this summer.

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS | Kids pages & Sudoku

Did you get stuck on those puzzles? Here you find the solutions to Critters Riddles and Goggles and the Sticking Together puzzle on the KIDS' pages 44, as well as the Sudoku puzzle on page 42.

CRITTERS RIDDLES AND GIGGLES: A. A moose-ician; B. They drove. Noah nuts; C. They ride the school buzz; D. Let us prey; E. They can multiply really fast; F. It's been nice gnawing you; G. It took too long to tie his shoes; H. A porky-pine **STICKING TOGETHER:** Chickadee – Flock; Gray Wolf – Pack; Walleye – School; White-tailed Deer – Herd; Brown Bat – Colony; River Otter – Family; Honeybee – Swarm.



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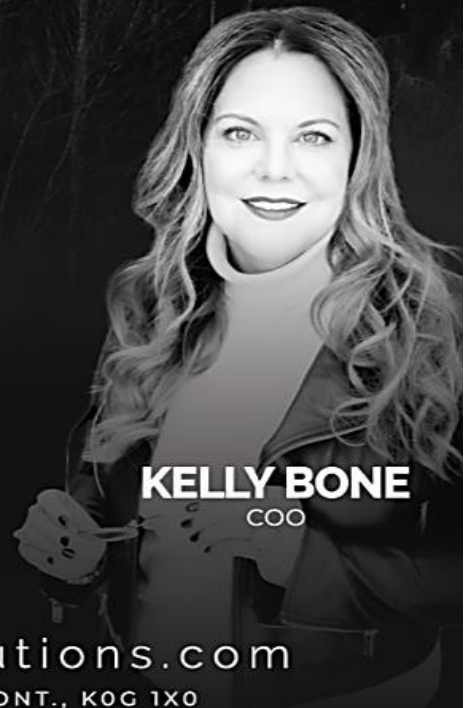
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Renowned for its quality and award winning customer service of over 30 years, Land Ark is setting a new standard in Canada for environmental stewardship in home building. Creating a turning point for the Canadian Home Building Industry in Westport, an entire community of Net Zero Ready homes will be a first in Canada.

All homes in Watercolour Westport are equipped with cold climate air source heat pumps for heating and cooling, hybrid hot water heating, garage electric vehicle charging station rough-in, and a roof that is solar panel ready. All homes have 1G fibre optic connectivity and new homeowners are already enjoying cottage style homes that are connected to nature and neighbours.

Inviting large front porches, luxurious craftsman architectural details and stunning standard finishes mean that luxury and environmental stewardship blend perfectly. Better homes, better built and better value. We have standard finishes that many other builders call upgrades. Come and see the beautiful interior of our model home or take a virtual tour.

Start enjoying a home year round in cottage country within walkable distance to the harbour-front, Sand Lake beach and all the village amenities. You can simplify in cottage style!

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