

Wolfe Lake MAGAZINE

A publication of the Wolfe Lake Association, Westport

Summer, 2026

FOCUS ON ZIMM'S CAMP

A cherished Wolfe Lake landmark

NESTING BASS

How cottagers can help

CELEBRATING

Wolfe Lake milestones

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Saturday July 25

**10 YEARS
SPECIAL
EDITION**



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Wolfe Lake MAGAZINE

**Wolfe Lake
Association**
WESTPORT, ONTARIO

ON THE COVER
Michiel Spitzer catches his son
as he calls for his mom.

Summer, 2026

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*Your
Wolfe Lake Magazine
is a keeper!*

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, 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 2026 team

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PAST PRESIDENT | Brian Manthey

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MEMBERSHIP |

WOLFE LAKE REP | Philip Buff

WOLFE LAKE REP | Timothy Richards

WOLFE LAKE REP | Pierre Lamoureux



Our 2026 volunteers

Wayne Derbyshire, Sean Garland, Marti Hansell, Jeffrey Johnston, Betty Jo MacDougall, Bruce Maynard, Lorraine Pellerin, Daniel Spitzer, Cathy Thompson, Paul Thompson, Helene Wach and Dwight Whitaker. **THANK YOU! YOUR NAME could be printed here next year! Give a helping hand, read page 32 and sign up to become one of our volunteers.**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL or NEW Here is how to pay your 2026 dues



To renew your membership or join the Wolfe Lake Association, choose the payment method that works best for you. **Annual membership is \$30!**

1. You can send an e-transfer to treasurerWLCA@rideau.net,
2. Mail a cheque payable to Wolfe Lake Association Westport to the Treasurer at 115 Stoneridge Lane, Godfrey, ON K0H 1T0, or,
3. Pay securely online through PayPal on our website at wolfelake.org. Please indicate whether this is a new membership or a renewal.

Thank you for your support!



FRIENDLY REMINDER | CHANGES TO PLEASURE CRAFT LICENCES

Before heading out on the water this season, please check the expiry date on your Pleasure Craft Licence.

Transport Canada is introducing a new 5-year licensing system, phased in during licence renewals, transfers, or replacements. Current licences remain valid until their expiry date.

Any pleasure craft with a motor of 10 hp (7.5 kW) or more used recreationally in Canadian waters must have a valid licence.

This includes powerboats, pontoon boats, cruisers, personal watercraft (jet skis), and sailboats with an auxiliary motor of 10 hp or more.

If your licence expires this year, or if you recently bought or sold a boat, please ensure your paperwork is up to date before launching. For more details, go to: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/>

Wolfe Lake Magazine

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Wolfe Lake Association Westport ON

VISIT OUR WEBSITE wolfelake.org

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WHAT'S INSIDE | 10 Years | Many Stories

Hi everyone!

This year, we are celebrating a special milestone: the 10th edition of Wolfe Lake Magazine. What began in 2017 as a renewed version of our newsletter has grown into a magazine that reflects the life, the people, and the spirit of Wolfe Lake. For ten years now, these pages have shared our stories, about the lake, the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, and the many moments that connect us as a community.

This magazine exists because so many of you contribute: by writing, photographing, sharing ideas, and caring deeply about this place we all love. It also exists thanks to our loyal local advertisers. Their support makes it possible to print this magazine year after year. Without them, there simply would be no Wolfe Lake Magazine in your hands. This summer, we are also pleased to welcome several new advertisers. Wow!

Not only is Wolfe Lake Magazine celebrating its 10th anniversary, we are also marking two other remarkable milestones: 70 years of Camp lawah and 60 years of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). With so much history, dedication, community spirit, and lake stewardship, there is much to celebrate. It is safe to say we are in a festive mood.

As always, this edition is filled with news, stories, and updates from around the lake. Alongside the article about Camp lawah, we revisit the history of the Zimmerman cottages and look back at last summer's remarkably dry season. You will also find a reminder about recent changes to boat licensing requirements, updates on WLAW projects, water quality, coverage of the proposed Alto rail project, AGM information, and the story behind the successful efforts to protect Opinicon Lake.

Plus plenty more inside.

You will find membership reminders throughout this magazine. We hope current members will renew their support and that new readers will consider joining us. A strong membership enables the association to advocate for Wolfe Lake, support stewardship initiatives, and keep our community informed and connected.

I hope this anniversary edition feels like something to enjoy, to keep, and to remember. Thank you to everyone who has helped make these first ten years possible. Here's to the next ten years of sharing stories, preserving memories, and celebrating all that makes Wolfe Lake such an extraordinary place.

Happy reading!

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



WOLFE LAKE | IN BRIEF

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

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Our records indicate that many membership dues are still outstanding. We totally appreciate that life can be busy, and details can be missed. If you already paid, please disregard this friendly reminder and accept our gratitude.

The easiest way to pay your annual membership fee of \$30 is by using the eTransfer bank option:

treasurerWLCA@rideau.net.

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. You can also make a payment online through Paypal: Visit our website: www.wolfelake.org, and look for the 'memberships' option (lower part of the main page) to read the details.

Thank you! (See 'Prizes' page 21.)

FISH LEAD FREE TABLES

Earlier this year, Donna Garland and Margie Manthey represented Fish Lead Free Canada at the Chaffey's Area Lake Association (CALA)

Meet and Greet and at EcoFest in Westport. They shared awareness videos, answered questions, collected lead tackle, and gathered signatures for the petition urging Ontario legislators to restrict certain sizes of lead tackle. CALA, a longtime supporter of the campaign, also provided a generous donation, reaffirming its commitment to protecting wildlife and healthy waterways.

VOTERS REGISTRATION - ELECTIONS

Michael Peterson, a FOCA board member, shared this with us. At a recent Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) Board meeting, concerns were raised about voter registration for seasonal residents ahead of Ontario's 2026 municipal elections. In previous elections, voter lists were prepared by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).

Responsibility has now shifted to Elections Ontario, and early reports suggest that many seasonal property owners may no longer appear on municipal voters' lists. Peterson reported that voter registrations in their municipality have dropped from approximately 11,500 in the last election to just 7,500 today, with many of the missing

names believed to be seasonal residents. If you own or rent a seasonal property and plan to vote in municipal elections, it is important to verify that your name is still on the voters' list. To check your registration, visit www.registertovoteon.ca and click "Register Now." You will then see four options; select "Check" to confirm your status. Be sure to indicate that you own or rent a secondary property. You will be asked to provide your name, birthdate, municipality or postal code, and property address. If your information is correct, simply confirm it. If you are not listed, you can register online and may be required to provide identification. (More info on foca.on.ca.)

RENEW EARLY & WIN!

Larry Arsenault, our Treasurer - and talented woodworker - has donated several handcrafted maple prizes to encourage early membership renewals before the AGM. Prizes include a spalted maple bowl, a maple leaf twist pen, and a maple rolling pin. All members who renew on or before the AGM will be entered into a random draw. Good luck! (see also page 10 & 21).

HIGH LIGHTS



Successful 2025 AGM at Camp lawah NEIGHBOURS, IDEAS, & LAKE STEWARDSHIP

By Anna Rijk

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW) hosted its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, July 26, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm, once again returning to Camp lawah.

Members gathered in the camp's conference and teaching area, with coffee, tea, water, lemonade, and snacks generously provided by the hosts. Almost 80 members attended, slightly fewer than the nearly 100 who celebrated the 35th anniversary of our association in 2023, but the spirit in the room was upbeat. Many participants later described it as "one of the best AGMs we have had."

The afternoon began with members being welcomed outside the Camp lawah conference hall, signing in, browsing the many information tables, and reconnecting with neighbours, friends and stakeholders present.

AGM highlights

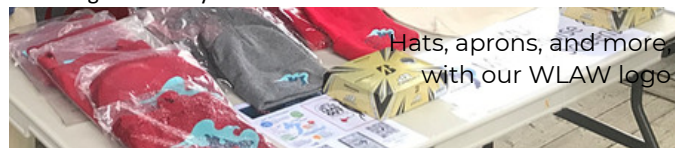
The information tables featured updates on water quality, fishing initiatives, our 'Get the Lead Out' campaign, communications & Wolfe Lake Magazine, Membership & Registration, and WLAW merchandise. Attendees were also able to sign the petition to ban lead in fish tackle in Ontario and learn volunteer opportunities.

Newly elected WLAW President Bill Garland welcomed attendees, delivered a number of announcements, and led voting on association business. Local mayors Arie Hoogenboom from the Township of

Rideau Lakes and Ron Vanderwal from the Township of South Frontenac, both addressed our members with updates from their townships and fielded questions from the floor.

Fisheries initiatives were a major focus of this year's program. Fishing Director Margie Manthey provided a short overview on the submerged wood project undertaken in partnership with Watersheds Canada, the RVCA, and Camp lawah and with the assistance of many member volunteers. She then introduced guest speaker Dr. David Philipp, who presented a proposal for a bass sanctuary study on Wolfe Lake. Dr. Philipp is Chair of the Fisheries Conservation Foundation and adjunct professor at the University of Illinois. His talk was well received, sparking thoughtful discussion and enthusiasm among members (see also page 22).

Throughout the afternoon, door prizes organized by Donna Garland and Margie Manthey added a note of fun and camaraderie.



The formal meeting closed at 4:00 p.m., but attendees were invited to climb Camp Iawah's new viewing tower, part of its ropes course, for a panoramic look over the area, or walk the idyllic grounds of the children's summer camp.

A strong future for Wolfe Lake

The 2025 AGM underscored the Wolfe Lake Association's commitment to protecting the lake environment, strengthening community, and encouraging responsible enjoyment of Wolfe Lake. With lively discussion, an inspiring presentation on the topic of bass sanctuaries, and plenty of good company, members left looking forward to another year of initiatives and to an even bigger turnout in 2026.

Looking ahead

A recurring theme in the discussions occurring at a WLAW board meeting shortly after the 2025 AGM was how to maintain the excellent level of the 2025 AGM and boost participation at future AGMs.

Ideas included hosting additional member events during the year, such as a summer barbecue, Canada Day or another significant Canadian holiday celebration, regatta, or children's fishing derby. Another suggestion was conducting a more detailed analysis of WLAW's membership to better understand how to engage members.

A Warm Welcome Back to Camp Iawah

A special thank you goes to Camp Iawah, our generous host for the 2025 AGM. After ten years away, it was a pleasure to return to their beautiful grounds. The staff went above and beyond, preparing the space, setting up audio-visual equipment, and providing coffee, tea, and healthy snacks. They welcomed members arriving by car, boat, and canoe, ensuring everything ran smoothly. Executive Director Ken Visser greeted attendees and shared a few words about Camp Iawah's history and its celebration of 70 years of memorable camp experiences for young people. Iawah's hospitality, attention to detail, and enthusiasm helped make this AGM especially memorable.



AGM 2026 | YOU ARE INVITED

Saturday July 25
from 2 pm - 4 pm

Mark Your Calendars!

Join us on July 26, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., as we gather lakeside once again to connect with neighbours and friends. Our AGM is an important opportunity to stay informed, ask questions, and help shape the future of Wolfe Lake. Your voice matters, so please attend and take part in decisions that support our community and lake stewardship. **COME!**

Prices

Larry Arsenault, woodworker and treasurer of the WLAW, generously donated several handcrafted maple prizes to encourage early membership renewals before the AGM. Prizes include a spalted maple bowl, a maple leaf twist pen, and a maple rolling pin. All, awesome and honest wood products. All members who renew on or before the AGM will be entered into a random draw. (Picture on page 21.)

Members will also vote to fill a vacancy on the Association's Board of Directors and receive updates on current projects and priorities. A special presentation on the Neighbours Saving Neighbours initiative. See ➡

The AGM is a great opportunity to reconnect with neighbours, and meet new Wolfe Lakers. We hope to see you!

COME JOIN US	AGM WOLFE LAKE ASSOCIATION WESTPORT
JULY 25 2026 2 pm - 4 pm	INVITATION  Wolfe Lake Association WESTPORT, ONTARIO
RECONNECT WITH THE WOLFE LAKE COMMUNITY	 CAMP IAWAH 304 Iawah Road, Godfrey wolfelake.org com-wolfelake@outlook.com

Our hearts, our health and only minutes to save it.

The highlight of this year's AGM program will be an interactive presentation on the value of volunteer first responders in rural communities.

Guest speakers Dr. Steven Brooks and Dr. Vlad Latiu, representing the **Neighbours Saving Neighbours initiative** (Queen's University) for the Frontenac area, will discuss how local residents can help improve emergency response and potentially save lives around our lake.



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NO MORE LEAD

CASTING FOR CHANGE

How “Let’s Get the Lead Out” is protecting Ontario’s loons and its lakes

By Margie Manthey & Donna Garland

The call of the loon is woven into Ontario’s identity. Protecting that call requires practical action grounded in science, community cooperation, and thoughtful policy. Lead poisoning in wildlife is preventable. Through education, collaboration, and steady persistence, Let’s Get the Lead Out proves that small changes, like switching a sinker, can ripple outward, safeguarding lakes, wildlife, and the traditions Canadians cherish most. In 2022, the Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW) launched a grassroots initiative with a simple but urgent message: it’s time to fish lead-free.

Called “Let’s Get the Lead Out,” the program was created and co-managed by WLAW board members Margie Manthey and Donna Garland in response to a sobering reality: lead poisoning from ingested fishing tackle is the number one killer of the Common Loon, Ontario’s Provincial Bird.

Beloved for its haunting call and iconic presence on northern lakes, the common loon is more than a symbol of wilderness. As an indicator species, often described as a “canary in the coal mine,” it reflects the health of the waters it inhabits.

A preventable tragedy

Donna: “We feel it is important to continue reminding anglers: Each year, an estimated 545 tonnes of lost lead sinkers and jigs accumulate in Canadian waterbodies, the single largest source of lead entering our

lakes. Loons, which feed by diving and swallowing small stones (called gastroliths) to aid digestion, can easily mistake small lead sinkers for pebbles. Once ingested, even a single piece of lead can be fatal.”

“Loons are not alone” adds Margie, “Lead poisoning has been documented in bald eagles, ospreys, trumpeter swans, hooded mergansers, wood ducks, great blue herons, snapping and painted turtles, mink, river otters, even fish. The tragedy is widespread. The solution is straight forward. Since its launch, “Let’s Get the Lead Out” has removed over 500 pounds of toxic lead tackle from circulation, a tangible, measurable impact with immediate ecological benefit.”

From lake initiative to Provincial movement

To amplify its message, WLAW created the educational website fishleadfree.ca, originally hosted on wolfelake.org and now an



independent platform. The site offers:

- Peer-reviewed research on lead poisoning
- One goal: eliminate toxic lead tackle from provincial waters.
- Radiograph images of affected wildlife
- Retailer lists for non-toxic tackle
- Political endorsements
- Educational resources for anglers

As momentum grew, so did participation. What began on Wolfe Lake has now expanded to include 26 lake associations across 48 lakes in Ontario, creating a powerful network of lake stewards united behind.

Appealing to anglers as good stewards

Recognizing that fishing is a generational tradition enjoyed by millions of Canadians, the initiative encourages anglers to fish sustainably with non-toxic tackle to help ensure safe, clean natural resources for future generations.

Margie, a life-long angler, explains, “Get the Lead Out appeals to anglers to practice good stewardship to protect and preserve the resource they enjoy and to safeguard its natural biodiversity.”

To encourage change:

- Year round contest drawings incentivize participants who turn in lead with non-toxic tackle, fishing gear, and other prizes
- Free samples of lead-free tackle alternatives are distributed at community events.

Collection is made easy through partnerships with the Westport Lion's Reuse and Recycle Centre. Recovered lead is sent to Kimco Metal Recycling in Kingston, where it is responsibly purposed into batteries, ensuring it never returns to lakes as tackle.

Approximately 90% of fishing tackle sold today still contains lead, making retailer engagement critical.

“Let's Get the Lead Out” actively connects stores with manufacturers of non-toxic alternatives to improve shelf availability.

Science, credibility & community support

The initiative is supported by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's formal position statement on the dangers of lead ckle, as well as decades of biologist- and veterinarian-led research. A dedicated Steering Committee now includes:

- Leaders from Wolfe Lake Association
- Members of the Charleston Lake Environmental Association
- A senior representative from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
- A former Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources policy expert
- Wildlife photographers and community advocates

Together, they developed a comprehensive fact sheet titled “Loons and Lead Fishing Tackle: The Facts.”

The program has earned national media attention, including coverage in Ontario Out of Doors and Cottage Life Magazine.

In 2023 received the prestigious Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) Annual Achievement Award, recognizing innovation and environmental leadership among 525 member lake associations.

Taking the message to Queen's Park

The initiative's next step is legislative. A formal petition to the Ontario Legislature requests restrictions on the sale and use of:

- Lead split shots, sinkers, weights, and jig heads weighing 50 grams (1¾ oz) or less
- Lead-headed tackle under 6.5 cm (2.5 inches)

Such regulations would align Ontario with existing protections already in place within Canada's national parks since 1997.

To support the petition, the initiative has released three widely circulated educational videos, including one featuring Dr. Mark Pokras of Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, a leading global expert on loon mortality.

A model of modern stewardship

Founded in 1988, the Wolfe Lake Association has long championed lake health, restoring walleye habitat, building successful loon nesting platforms, enhancing fish habitat, combating invasive species, and monitoring aquatic ecosystems.

“Let's Get the Lead Out” builds on that legacy while embracing diversity and inclusion. Its outreach engages:

- Seasonal and permanent residents
- Indigenous communities
- Youth groups and camps
- Retailers and business owners
- Environmental professionals

By inspiring ethical angling and responsible stewardship, the initiative ensures that fishing traditions endure - safely and sustainably - for future generations.

Casting for a Cleaner Future

Sometimes, the most powerful conservation movement begins with a simple cast, and the decision to make it count. Download and sign the petition at fishleadfree.ca.



“Let's Get the Lead Out” project recently featured in Review-Mirror

The “Let's Get the Lead Out” initiative has already attracted considerable media attention across the province, but last month it received special recognition through an extensive feature interview in the Review-Mirror with Margie. The article highlighted the remarkable success of the program launched by Margie (Manthey) and Donna (Garland) in 2022. What began as a local effort to raise awareness about the dangers of lead fishing tackle has grown into a province-wide movement involving more than 45 lake associations. To date, participants have collected over 550 pounds of lead tackle from the environment while promoting safer, lead-free alternatives for anglers.

Thanks Tanya for this wonderful feature article! Source: Tanya Hammond, Review-Mirror, June 2026.



CAMP IAWAH

Seventy years on Wolfe Lake

A legacy of small, unassuming ways

By Lindsey Giroux, Managing Director Camp Iawah

I've been thinking a lot about legacy lately. Which is perhaps what happens when you find yourself on the planning team for the seventieth anniversary of Camp IAWAH. Seventy years. That's a lot of summers on Wolfe Lake. A lot of canoe trips. A lot of people coming and going.

You know, everyone leaves a legacy, whether they mean to or not. Some people leave a legacy of punctuality. Or lateness. The early founders of Camp IAWAH established a legacy of kindness, acceptance, and community. A legacy that still stands strong today.

I've been part of IAWAH and subsequently the Wolfe Lake community for just over twenty-five years now, which sounds like a long time until you realize it is just a small portion of IAWAH's history here on the lake. And IAWAH itself is just one thread in the larger tapestry of this lake's long story.

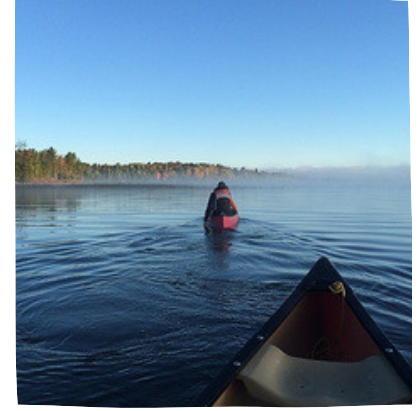
Everything before my time comes to me in fragments...a story told over coffee, an old photograph, the way someone points to a shoreline and says, "That's where we used to..."

Legacy on Wolfe Lake has always been built in small ways. The neighbour who helps pull your dock in before the ice comes. The person who places and removes the shoal buoys every year. The family that's been coming back to the same cottage for four generations, teaching their grandchildren to swim along the same shores where their own grandparents taught them.

Charlie Leach, IAWAH's founder, and his friends understood the power of legacy when they established Camp IAWAH eleven years after the Second World War ended. They created a place for connection. For acceptance. For learning and belonging. The IAWAH community wasn't built in the big moments; it was cultivated in the small acts of kindness. The cup of coffee poured. The time given. The welcome extended to a stranger who would soon become a friend. This legacy was fostered in many small, unassuming ways.

That's the legacy here. The cabin leader who remembered your name decades later. The dock conversation that changed your summer. The evening spent watching the sunset with people who started as neighbours and became family.

Seventy years of small, unassuming ways add up to something extraordinary. And here's the thing about legacy on Wolfe Lake, it's not just what we inherit. It's what we choose to pass on. I see the legacy all around our shores as we work together to foster fish habitats and "get the lead out". We tow broken boats back to safety, and alert people about docks that have left their footings after a storm. Many small, unassuming ways.



Some pictures of Camp IAWAH's extraordinary past.

Planting trees

As part of our 70th celebration, we're planting trees. Literally. Creating shade and habitat for the next seventy years of summers. It's a small thing, really. But small things matter. They always have.

So as you sit on your dock this summer, watching the sun set over the water, or listening to the dulcet tones of a camp IAWAH campfire (ha ha!) drift across the lake to you, maybe you'll

find yourself thinking about legacy too. About what you're leaving behind on this lake. About the small, unassuming ways you're making a difference. What will your Wolfe Lake legacy be? If you'd like to learn more about Camp IAWAH's 70th anniversary celebrations and tree planting initiative, read or visit iawah.com/home/70th/ or scan the QR code.



Linsey Giroux is the Managing Director at Camp IAWAH. She began working at the camp in the summer of 2000 as a staff member. Four days into staff training, she knew this place and its people were special. It felt welcoming, but it was also a place that encouraged her to grow, to step out of her comfort zone, to try new things...and it was okay if she didn't nail the task on the first try. There was grace, and there were people there to guide and support her along the way. That summer pushed her toward a career in Christian camping. She went away to other continents, and came back in 2021 to the camp. Now she has the privilege of bringing her two kids to camp each summer (here you see Lindsey with her daughter), watching them begin to serve alongside her. For Lindsey, legacy isn't just about what you inherit; it's about what you choose to pass on.



Wolfe Lake Association project updates

CARING FOR WOLFE LAKE TOGETHER

By Margie Manthey

Since its founding in 1988, the Wolfe Lake Association's directors and volunteers have devoted much time and energy to protecting, preserving and enhancing water quality, wildlife, the fishery, and our lake community. Today, the association remains dedicated to these very same goals and strives to keep Wolfe Lake healthy and pristine for future generations. An ongoing commitment!

Teamwork! Sinking trees for fish habitat

On an overcast morning last September, a bunch of eager beavers gathered on the scenic shores of Camp Iawah to carry out our "Christmas Tree Project." The initiative, the second of its kind undertaken by the Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW), enhances fish habitat through the addition of submerged woody structure. The project was carried out in partnership with Watersheds Canada (WC), the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), and Camp Iawah and was spearheaded by WLAW Fishing Director, Margie Manthey.

Helping hands included fellow WLAW Directors Brian Manthey, Bill Hutchison, Tim Richards, Phillip Buff, and Ken Vissers (Ken is also the Executive Director at Camp Iawah). It was especially wonderful having youth volunteers participate from the 1st Drummond Scout Group. Everyone worked together under the expert guidance of Melissa Dakers and Robert Pye (WC) and Amanda Lange (RVCA), who demonstrated the proper technique to bind 2-3 trees together and securely anchor them to cement blocks. The bundles were then hefted down to the docks and loaded onto the boats for transport to pre-designated sites on the lake marked with GPS coordinates.

Our flotilla included a pontoon graciously on loan from WLAW Water Quality Director, Gord Moore, along with a handful of smaller boats supplied by WLAW Director at Large Phil Buff, Watersheds Canada, the RVCA and Camp Iawah. After a few hours spent loading and sinking trees, the weather took a turn, and gusty winds forced our team off

the lake, but not before we submerged twenty wood bundles in deep-water sites throughout Wolfe's main basin (a good thing, apparently, as Melissa remarked on an absence of woody structure on the basin's lake bed via underwater camera monitoring).

Our hardworking crew was treated to a delicious buffet lunch, courtesy of Ken and Camp Iawah -- the perfect way to cap off this community-building endeavor! We also wish to thank Ken for storing several donated Christmas trees at Iawah over the winter and to WLAW's, Bill Garland and Larry Arsenault for transporting them to the camp from the public's initial drop-off site at the Westport Lions Beach on Sand Lake. Teamwork, indeed!

Underwater video surveillance from our original Christmas Tree Project "test sites" revealed abundant fish activity including perch,



panfish, a nesting bass, and large schools of fry and forage minnows. The new sites will also be monitored and our observations shared. Meanwhile, we are confident that the submerged trees are already working to enhance aquatic habitat by providing food, shelter, and refuge for countless fish and invertebrates.

Scanlan Creek habitat restoration

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) did not make it to the creek this spring to monitor the walleye spawn. Our faithful



WLAW volunteer, Wayne Derbyshire, was kind enough to check the creek for activity a few times in mid-April, which saw a sudden, unseasonal warm-up with summer-like temperatures. Although conditions seemed more favourable earlier this spring than in past years, the freak warm spell quickly flipped things on its side; so we suspect monitoring started a little too late, as Wayne only spotted one mid-sized walleye in the creek, likely a late-arriving male fish. (Interestingly, the Westport Area Outdoor Association reported a scarcity of female fish during surveys on nearby Pedherney Creek.)



Walleye typically begin spawning shortly after ice-out when water temperatures reach 6.7C – 8.9C (44F–48F), with peak activity often occurring in the 5.5C–10C (42F–50F) range. They are highly sensitive to temperature changes; if the water warms too fast, the spawning window closes quickly. This is what happened last spring, and likely this year as well. Frustrating, for sure! Next year, we will need to start checking for spawning activity earlier to avoid missing the show.

Loon nesting raft

2026 marks our loon nesting raft's 6th year in use, thanks to Bruce Maynard and Bill Garland, who ensure its placement on the water shortly after ice-out each spring. Appreciation also goes out to Helene Wach for faithfully gathering native plant materials for the loon's floating accommodations.

As of this writing, the loons are once again incubating eggs on the raft. Last year, the lake's only loon chick hatched on the raft and later fledged, marking 5 consecutive years of success. Sadly, the lake's other two loon pairs that use natural nesting sites were unsuccessful in raising chicks in 2025.

In this fast-changing world, loons face many natural and anthropogenic threats. Let's not add to the list. We ask that you give loon families the space they need to feel safe.

Remember that their nests and chicks are easily swamped by boat wakes, and tiny loon chicks are vulnerable to watercraft strikes as well. A parent loon carrying chicks on its back will not dive to escape approaching watercraft. Please be vigilant, especially near islands and in back bays; slow down, and avoid pulling tubes, water skiers, or wakeboarders in repetitive circles.

Here's hoping for a successful nesting season for our beautiful Wolfe Lake loonies!

THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOLFE LAKE LOONS

A beautiful reminder of the vibrant life our waters sustain. Margie Manthey captured this serene moment from her boat (at the very end of May) as this newly mated pair returned to the water, the male leading the way.





LOW WATER LEVELS LAST SUMMER | A DRY TURN

How the 2025 summer challenged cottagers & farmers

By Anna Rijk

By mid-summer, the signs were impossible to ignore. Docks at Wolfe Lake stretched farther than usual out from exposed shorelines, boats sat lower in the water, and across the countryside farmers watched their fields struggle under a relentless sun. After a promising wet spring, last summer (2025) took a dry and unexpected turn in Eastern Ontario, one that lowered lake levels, stressed crops, and reminded us how closely our lakes and farmland depend on the same fragile water cycle.

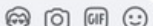
Many Wolfe Lake residents will remember last summer as one of unusually low water levels, and Wolfe Lake was far from alone. Christie Lake, Devil Lake, Upper Rideau Lake, and Bob's Lake all experienced similar conditions. A quick look at the social media pages for a number of regional lakes showed many concerned (and frustrated) cottagers and boaters comparing notes and sharing photos of exposed shorelines, stranded docks, and difficult boating conditions (a few examples are shown below).

Water levels in Ontario are low everywhere, not just Bobs Lake. Not having enough snow pack is what started the decline... hopefully this coming winter is better.

2d Like Reply

Lake (which Bobs supplies through the dam) are in worse shape than us...they're at all time lows....so yes, we all need to share the "pain" brought on by a very dry summer. Total precipitation in southern Ontario was less than 50% of the historical average.

Comment as An...



On the Bob's Lake Facebook page, one contributor noted that water levels were well below the historical average for that time of year, while also pointing out that they have been lower in the past, particularly during dry periods in the 1980s.

A cottager on Christie Lake noted that total precipitation in parts of Ontario had fallen to less than 50 percent of the historical average.

had been seen decades ago. One Bob's Lake resident recalled that in the 1980s a well-known swimming rock was already fully exposed by the end of September, much earlier than usual.

Wolfe Lake is identified as a feeder lake for the Rideau waterways system. This means that the Rideau Waterway System has priority over Wolfe Lake. A Water Management team at Parks Canada is responsible for deciding when boards in the dam are added or removed. Last summer, the removal of the logs from the Wolfe Lake dam may have contributed somewhat to the low levels, but the extremely warm summer was a contributing factor as well.

Dry land

For local farmers, the 2025 growing season also proved unusually dry and challenging, despite a cool, wet spring earlier in the year. Across much of Eastern Ontario, precipitation was well below normal during key summer months, and drought conditions developed and persisted through July and August. While crop health remained largely unscathed, with minimal disease and weed pressure (due to the dry weather), the lack of moisture did take a toll.

Gary and Joy Bresee, who are still going strong and farming on the East side of the lake (off Hanna Road): "We were really hoping for rain at the end of August. Usually, our fields provide enough hay for the cows, but this year we ran short and had to start feeding them

Others suggested that the lack of winter snowpack may have triggered the decline. Several posters remarked that similarly low levels had

bale hay way earlier than normal." The Palmer's, from the Palmer Berry Farm on Salem Road, had a better experience. Phil Palmer: "We harvested our sweet corn early." And Sheila Palmer explained: "Our fruit, however, ripened earlier than usual."

Local reports from rural communities documented dry wells, failing fields, and escalating frustration among farmers who relied on rainfall rather than irrigation systems. Water levels in private wells fell dramatically by mid-August in some areas, leaving residents and agricultural producers scrambling for alternatives.

These dry conditions were not isolated to Eastern Ontario. Much of Eastern Canada experienced below-normal rainfall for extended periods, with some cities recording 50% or less of their typical summer precipitation.

Drought expanded across large swaths of agricultural territory. Regional weather pattern shifts and a higher likelihood of above-normal summer temperatures were noted by Environment and Climate Change Canada in its May forecasts, which highlighted the risk of moisture deficits and increased wildfire danger.

Prof. Dr. Ir. Daniel Spitzer, Wolfe Lake cottager and former "water quality guy" for the association, notes that inconsistent or prolonged low water levels pose a threat to the lake's ecology. He sums up the following issues:

1. Reduced water clarity

Low water levels can significantly reduce water clarity, negatively affecting the lake's biological balance. In coming seasons, this effect may be partially masked by the continued spread of zebra mussels.

2. Reduced water clarity

Shallower water leads to higher concentrations of nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, increasing the risk of eutrophication, algal blooms, and excessive plant growth.

3. Expansion of the euphotic zone

When water levels drop, more sunlight reaches the lake bottom, expanding the zone where unwanted aquatic plants can grow.

4. Warmer nearshore water

Shallow shoreline areas warm more quickly, further encouraging weed growth and stressing fish habitat.

5. Spread of invasive species

We are seeing increasing density and spread of Eurasian watermilfoil, a fast-growing invasive plant. Its rapid expansion is one of the major environmental concerns in many Ontario lakes, including Wolfe Lake.

How Parks Canada manages water levels

Parks Canada relies on long-term data, seasonal patterns, and real-time monitoring (as shown in the accompanying graphs) to guide its decisions. This information is fed into a modern water engineering model, combined with decades of waterway management experience, to determine daily adjustments across the system.

While this approach serves the broader Rideau Waterway, it does not always align perfectly with the needs and expectations of individual lakes like ours, especially in unusually dry years.

Unfortunately, Parks Canada does not retain copies of water level graphs from previous years on its Water Management InfoNet. Thanks to Anna Ciorap, Water Management Manager, and Aaron Zoldoro, Water Management Coordinator for the Ontario Waterways Unit, who have been kind enough to reproduce a few graphs just for us.

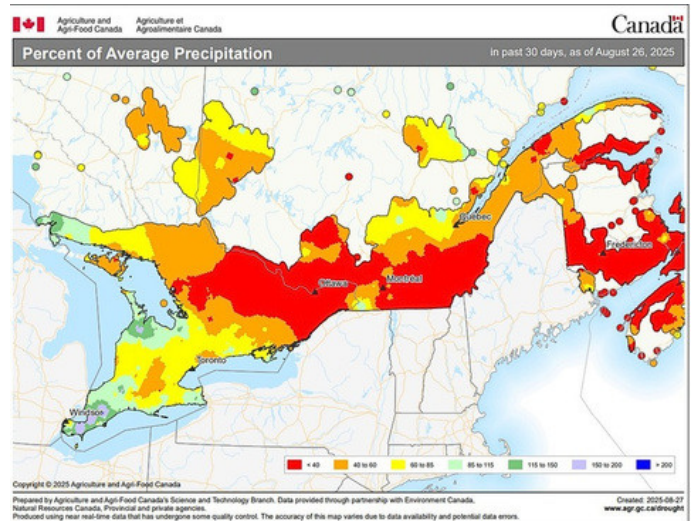
Note: The Parks Canada graphs are published on our website as well, so feel free to enlarge them if you'd like a closer look.

Want to track water levels yourself?

You can view current water levels (and going forward into 2026) for Wolfe Lake and other lakes in the system on Parks Canada's Water Management InfoNet. Search: Water Management InfoNet Parks Canada and click on the interactive map. From there you can navigate to Wolfe Lake and other lakes in the system.

Sources

Canada.ca, Ontario.ca, Farms.com, Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Agribusiness, Syngenta.ca, GlobalNews.ca, Canada1Water.ca, Kingstonist.com, NapaneeToday.ca, LanarkLeedsToday.ca, CFRC at Queens University, Yahoo News Canada.

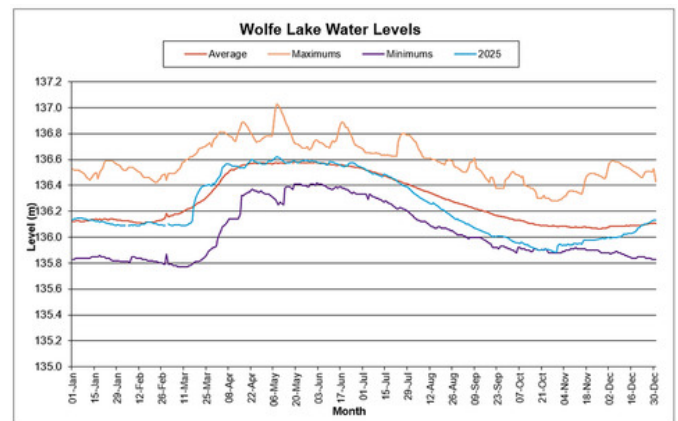


AS THE MAP (ABOVE) SHOWS, LARGE PARTS OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN ONTARIO RECEIVED LESS THAN 40% OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION OVER THE 30-DAY PERIOD ENDING AUG. 26.

AREAS EAST AND WEST OF TORONTO FARED BETTER, ALTHOUGH AMOUNTS WERE STILL BELOW NORMAL, WHILE THE DEEP SOUTHWEST WAS NEAR TO ABOVE NORMAL.

WATER LEVELS ACROSS THE REGION, 2025

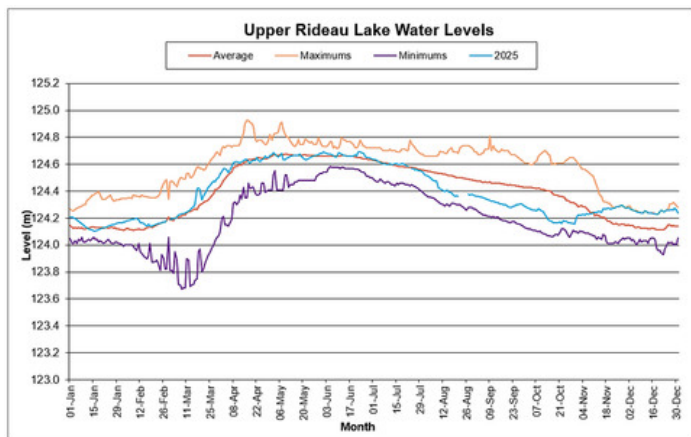
The graphs below show the seasonal decline in water levels at Wolfe Lake, Upper Rideau Lake, Christie Lake and Bobs Lake. Despite a wet spring, hot and dry conditions led to steadily falling water levels throughout the summer, with additional influence from water management within the Rideau Waterway System.



Wolfe Lake

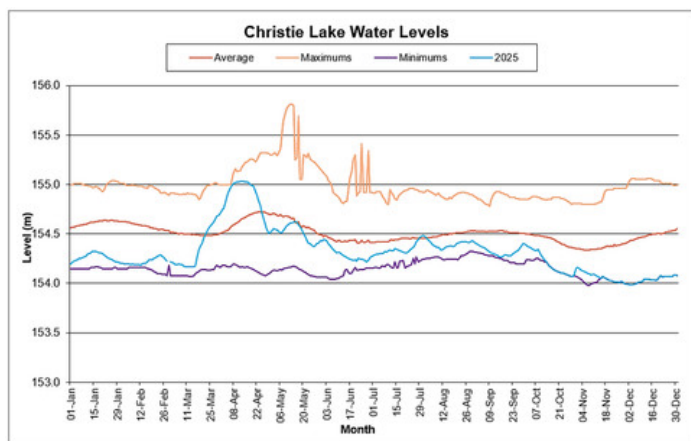
Water levels at Wolfe Lake show a steady decline beginning in early summer, reaching notably low levels by late summer and early fall.

As a designated feeder lake for the Rideau Waterway System, Wolfe Lake is influenced both by seasonal weather patterns and dam management decisions.



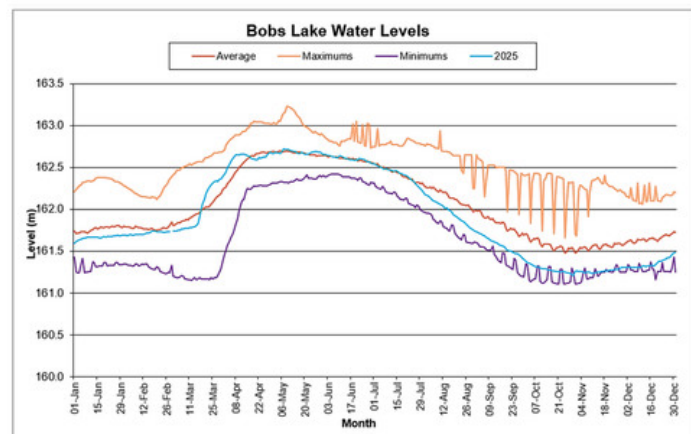
Upper Rideau Lake

Upper Rideau Lake shows the same downward trend seen in other lakes in the Rideau system, underscoring how widespread and persistent last summer's low-water conditions were.



Christie Lake

After a relatively normal spring, Christie Lake's water levels began to fall in early summer, highlighting the effects of prolonged heat and limited rainfall across the region.



Bobs Lake

Bobs Lake experienced a similar seasonal drop in water levels, reflecting the broader regional impact of hot, dry conditions throughout the summer.

Choose one you'll actually wear LIFE JACKETS & THE LAW!

With the tragic accidents on the water in our region earlier this spring, this is an important reminder that every person on board a boat should have a life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD) in good working condition. Better yet: wear it!



Sadly, in about 85% of recreational boating drowning deaths, the victim was not wearing a life jacket or PFD. In many cases, there was not even one on board. PFDs come in a variety of styles designed for different types of boating activities, so choose one that is comfortable and suited to your needs, one that you'll actually wear.

By law, every pleasure craft, whether powered or non-powered, must carry a properly sized life jacket or PFD for each person on board. Yes, that includes canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, and paddle boards.

When a vessel is underway, all PFDs and life jackets must be readily accessible, that is, capable of being reached quickly and safely in an emergency. Don't store them in a locked compartment or under piles of gear. Keep them close at hand, or, even better 😊 wear them.

Under the Small Vessel Regulations, a required PFD or life jacket does not have to be available in an appropriate size for an infant weighing less than 9 kilograms (20 pounds) or for a person with a chest size greater than 140 centimetres (55 inches). However, Transport Canada strongly recommends that suitable flotation devices be obtained for everyone who will be on board.

More info: smartboater.ca. & foca.on.ca



WOLFE LAKE
ASSOCIATION
WESTPORT

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

JOIN US!

Contact Anna Rijk:
com-wolfelake@outlook.com



JOIN US THIS SUMMER | Volunteer with us

We need helping hands

Want to help keep our cottage community safe, fun, and vibrant for everyone? Join us! Our team roles continue to evolve, and many of us wear a few different hats. That's why we're hoping to share the load and bring in fresh energy. Whether you're a long-time cottager or new to the lake, this is a great way to get involved, make new friends, and support the place we all cherish.

Watch the logs at the dam and report your findings, or organize a Eurasian Milfoil Pull Party, maybe followed by a small get-together. Keep our environment clean by picking up litter whenever you're out for a walk, or organize your own crew for a clean-up day.

The Wolfe Lake Association is also considering creating a Pay it Forward crew for those times when a cottager or permanent resident may need unexpected help: cutting a tree, lifting a dock, cleaning up a yard or even helping neighbours in emergency-type situations.

The Wolfe Lake Association has a list of volunteering tasks. Contact us today, or talk to our team at the AGM on July 26th, 2 pm at Camp IAWAH, and find out what you can do to help keep Wolfe Lake pristine.

Volunteering connects you to others!

CELEBRATE



TURNING THE PAGES OF COMMUNITY

Celebrating another year of Wolfe Lake milestones

By Rilla and Bill McShane

We are into our fourteenth year at Wolfe Lake, and I can easily speak for our entire family in saying that each year's experience gets better and better. I took some time and went on the Wolfe Lake website and read through a lot of the old newsletters and magazines. It's a very easy way to recapture lake highlights, information and history of events for anyone interested.

That being said, there is nothing better than a brand new yearly magazine. Always full of great articles and photos, it gets passed from hand to hand of all ages very quickly, with many of the photos and articles gathering much interest.

As I read through back issues, with the detailed descriptions of value added projects, initiatives, residents, local history and volunteering, it is clearly evident, this is a great community publication.

We noted, that a lot of local suppliers have supported this publication

through advertising and contributions to local community projects and events for a long time. The relaying of information on fish/marine biology, water quality, boating, wildlife, political, environmental issues, and sustainability are all laid out clearly for everyone to acknowledge and use. Also it gives recognition to the volunteers that have worked and continue to help keep this resource in great shape now and into the future.

Thanks to everyone involved with getting this wonderful publication out to all of us, with hopes to see it for many more years.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP EARLY AND WIN AWESOME PRIZES



To encourage members to renew their membership before the AGM, Larry Arsenault, our treasurer, and also an passionate woodworker, has kindly offered several beautiful handcrafted maple-themed prizes as incentives for early renewals.

This year's prizes are: a stunning 7-inch spalted maple bowl, a handcrafted "Maple Leaf" twist ballpoint pen made from spalted maple & dyed red, and an 18-inch maple rolling pin.

A draw for these prizes will take place at the **AGM (July 25, from 2-4pm)**, with winners selected randomly from members who have renewed on or before the meeting date. We hope this fun initiative will encourage members to renew early and continue supporting the work of the Association. Good luck to everyone!



Fishing News | Protecting Nesting Bass

BASS NEST AREA SIGNS PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE ANGLING

By Margie Manthey

Wolfe Lake Healthy bass populations don't happen by accident. Across our region, researchers, lake associations, volunteers, and concerned residents are working together to better understand and protect nesting bass during their most vulnerable season. Here's the latest update on those efforts.

Update: the MNR did not approve a 2026 expansion of the existing 2-year / 2-lake (Opinicon and Charleston) Proof of Concept study into a larger, longer research study to examine the impact of bass sanctuary sites on local bass populations.

Drs. David Philipp, Chair of the Fisheries Conservation Foundation and adjunct professor at the University of Illinois, and Steven Cooke, Professor at the Institute for Environmental and Interdisciplinary Sciences and Department of Biology, Carleton University, Ottawa, will continue efforts to secure discussions and presentation with the MNR to promote the broader study.

Additionally, letters in support of BaSSs have been submitted by both the Big Rideau and Upper Rideau Lake Associations as well as from Mayors/Reeves of the three townships impacted by the expanded study. Meanwhile, the delay has afforded the study team a second year to collect baseline data

data for metrics including reproductive success, annual recruitment, population size structure, age at maturation, aggression level, etc.

From a scientific rigor standpoint, having a replicate year is a "very good thing," according to Dr. Philipp. Consequently, the BaSSs team will be visiting all of the study lakes once again this spring to carry out snorkeling surveys and other data collection. In fact, they revisited Wolfe on May 29, hosted by Margie Manthey, and got in a half-day of research before 40-50 knot wind gusts forced them off the water. The current list of lakes participating in the study in addition to Wolfe is quite expansive and includes Opinicon, Charleston, Troy, Long, Whitefish, Benson/Mosquito/Loon, Bennett, Little Silver, Dog/Cranberry, Millers, Sand, Newboro, Loughborough, Lower Rideau, Indian/Clear, Otter, Buck, Devil, Otty, Bass, Upper Rideau, and Big

Rideau. We will keep the lake community apprised of future developments.

Bass Nest Area Signs

At the request of the Big Rideau Lake Association (BRLA), our own WLAW Secretary, Marti Hansell, designed graphics for an eye-catching sign alerting anglers of shoreline habitat holding nesting bass and urging them to refrain from fishing along those stretches until bass season opens. WLAW purchased 100 of the signs and have been supplying them to its members free of charge while supplies last. They have also been posted at Wolfe's three public boat launches. The signs include a QR code that takes folks to the wolfelake.org website and an informative write up on why nesting bass need protection.

Many lake residents and cottagers are voicing concern about anglers fishing tight to and/or casting to shore and catching bass

out of season – reflecting the legitimacy of their concerns, researchers with the Bass Spawning Sanctuary study (BaSSs) have documented nesting bass with numerous hook wounds and nest abandonment. Nesting (male) bass don't feed while guarding their eggs and fry; rather they strike from protective aggression. There is neither skill nor good stewardship involved in catching a bass off its nest.

In addition to the WLAW and the BRLA, the Upper Rideau Lake Association and the Chaffey's Area Lake Association are looking into ordering similar signage. The WLAW is sincerely grateful to the Alastair & Diana Gillespie Foundation for funding the purchase of the

Bass Nest Area signs which will work to protect and enhance the bass fishery on Wolfe Lake. By the time you receive this 2026 edition, another bass nesting season will already be behind us. If you're interested in displaying a Bass Nest Area sign next year, please contact Donna Garland at donna.garland@gmail.com.

Additionally, you can read more details in News Flash 5, published on our website (shared at the end of May 2026).

To report natural resource violations including poaching and other illegal activity against Ontario's fish and wildlife, call the MNR TIPS line at 1-877-847-7667.



wolfelake.org/fishing-news

Thoughts on **ALTO** high-speed rail project HIGH-SPEED RAIL COULD BE COMING CLOSER TO COTTAGE COUNTRY

By Anna Rijk

The idea of stepping onto a train in Eastern Ontario and arriving in Montréal or Toronto within a few hours still feels futuristic to many Canadians. Yet the federal government's ALTO high-speed rail project is steadily moving from concept toward planning and early consultation.

ALTO, Canada's proposed high-speed rail network, would connect Toronto, Peterborough, Ottawa, Montréal and Québec City with trains travelling up to 300 km/h on dedicated electrified tracks. Estimated costs range from approximately \$60 billion to \$120 billion, making it one of the most significant infrastructure proposals in Canadian history.

At this point, no final route has been confirmed through Eastern Ontario, several corridor options between Peterborough and Ottawa are under study. Some alignments could pass north of Highway 7 through more rural and natural areas, while others would follow existing transportation corridors further south. Communities across Frontenac, Lanark County and the Rideau region are already engaged in consultations and field studies.

WLAW President Bill Garland says the uncertainty has generated both interest and concern in cottage country. "For some residents, faster access to major cities is appealing. It could make travel easier and strengthen connections between rural and urban communities. Others are concerned about the potential impact on forests, wetlands, farmland, wildlife corridors and the rural character that defines this region. There is also significant worry about agricultural land, long-term land use, and the expropriation process itself. Given what is at stake for affected landowners and communities, these concerns are entirely understandable."

Growing Debate and Political Response

Public debate around ALTO has intensified at the federal level. Prime Minister Mark Carney has defended the project as a long-term

national infrastructure investment, emphasizing its potential to improve mobility, reduce travel times, and support economic growth across the Toronto–Québec City corridor. At the same time, he has acknowledged that large-scale infrastructure projects must undergo rigorous consultation and cost scrutiny before final commitments are made. Opponents, however, continue to raise concerns about cost, land expropriation, and environmental disruption.

Local opposition

Local opposition and concern have become increasingly visible across Eastern Ontario. Residents around Kingston, Perth, Rideau Lakes, and Ottawa have launched Facebook groups, community meetings, lawn sign campaigns, and online discussions expressing worries about expropriation, environmental impacts, costs, and the possible division of rural communities. Some groups strongly oppose the project outright, while others are simply calling for greater transparency and more careful route planning.

South Frontenac Township mayor Ron Vandewal, along with Mayor Paterson and Holly Wilson from the City of Kingston, met with the honourable Minister MacKinnon, Minister of Transportation and MP Mark Gerretsen in Ottawa earlier this year to discuss current concerns along with promoting a Kingston stop and moving the southern route in the city closer to the 401 corridor.

Minister MacKinnon advised that he had asked Alto to amend their current scope to include reviewing the addition of a Kingston stop and moving the southern corridor further south. He also advised that more information should be available in the summer to be able to advise on the joint request.



ALTO TRAIN | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Mayor Vandewal was one of sixteen heads of Council included in a joint letter to Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, expressing a unified opposition to this project through their communities along with the many concerns associated with the project as well as supporting the concept of aligning with the 401 corridor.

Federal opposition

In the House of Commons, thousands of Canadians have signed petitions opposing aspects of the project, with concerns focused on property rights, compensation, and the overall financial burden to taxpayers.

A federal e-petition (E-7458), sponsored by Lanark–Frontenac MP Scott Reid, calls for reconsideration of key ALTO provisions, including concerns related to expedited expropriation processes under Bill C-15 and broader project governance. Reid spoke in a one-on-one interview with The Review about what he described as major concerns surrounding the Alto high-speed rail project. He highlighted property expropriation, the future of regional rail service, project transparency, and overall cost as key reasons for his opposition.

“There’s a lot,” Reid said when asked what concerns he believes supporters of the project are overlooking. Reid said one of his primary concerns is the impact the project could have on properties located along the proposed corridor. “Some of them are going to be permanently expropriated. Others are effectively prevented from selling or improving their property for what could be years,” he said.

“In practice, if people are given lowball offers on their properties, I think that in many cases they simply won’t be able to pursue getting a more reasonable cost,” Reid continued.

Reid also raised concerns about the possibility of roads being closed or rerouted as part of the project, which he said could divide communities and affect emergency response times. Another major concern raised by Reid was the future of VIA Rail service to smaller communities if high-speed rail is implemented.

Once Alto is installed, there is zero per cent chance the existing rail system will survive,” according to Reid, arguing that riders travelling between major urban centres would likely shift to the faster service.

Since the WLAW distributed a News Flash with information on the project and the Reid petition, a lot happened. Although the formal petition period closed earlier this year, it has since been reopened to be closed on September 25, 2026. It reflects ongoing parliamentary discussions and community updates, and continued interest in the issue. “A number of Wolfe Lakers participated and signed the petition,” says WLAW’s Garland.

Community Mobilization and Upcoming Protest

Opposition was recently also visible on Parliament Hill (see picture). At a June 10 demonstration farmers, agricultural organizations and rural community groups from across Ontario and Québec worked side by side to get the message across that ALTO train is not a good plan for anybody. Conservative and Bloc Québécois MPs rallied together to protest the federal government’s Alto high speed rail project, highlighting concerns about farmland loss, environmental impacts, and the financial risks of the project. The protest got lots of exposure in the media.

Project Planning Continues

Despite growing debate, federal planning continues. The first confirmed construction segment is expected to run between Ottawa and Montréal, with work targeted to begin around 2029. The broader Toronto–Québec City corridor remains in the planning and consultation phase.

Supporters argue ALTO could transform intercity travel, stimulate economic development, and create thousands of jobs.

Looking Ahead

For now, ALTO remains years from reality, but it is increasingly part of the public conversation in a tangible way. For communities across Eastern Ontario, including Wolfe Lake, the discussion is no longer abstract. It is becoming a question of balance: how Canada weighs mobility and economic development against environmental protection, farmland preservation, and the rural landscapes that define this region.

Sources: www.standard-freeholder.com/news/eastern-ontario-rail-service-alto/; Van Kleeck Hill Review; <https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/>; [scottreid.ca](https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-farmers-protest-alto-high-speed-rail-parliament-hill/); <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-farmers-protest-alto-high-speed-rail-parliament-hill/>.

Pictures: THE CANADIAN PRESS/Sean Kilpatrick and hometownnews.ca



What's in a name? | The story of Wolfe Lake FROM WEST RIDEAU TO WOLFE LAKE

By Donna Garland



Wolfe Lake's function

The Rideau Canal was completed in 1830s. Wolfe Lake was not directly altered by major construction work for the Rideau Canal.

The navigation channel was constructed farther to the east of Wolfe Lake. However, the lake was incorporated into the broader water management system, functioning as a reservoir to help regulate water levels along the canal. Wolfe Lake's primary role was to store water at a slightly higher elevation than the canal's summit at Newboro. To support this function, a dam was installed at the lake's outlet.

Before Wolfe Lake became the place we know today, it carried a different name and played a very different role in the region. Donna Garland looks back at how the lake's name evolved and how it became part of the Rideau Canal water system.

Changing the name and role of Wolfe Lake

Wolfe Lake used to be called West Rideau Lake. The name "West Rideau Lake" was likely used because the lake sits at the headwaters of the Rideau system, west of Upper Rideau Lake and Big Rideau Lake. John Sunday, Chief of the Grape Island Tribe, suggested a site on Wolfe Lake for a reserve for the Mississauga Tribe in 1828, indicating the name was in use by Indigenous peoples long before official adoption.

While there is no single "official" proclamation date for the lake's renaming, a map from 1873 identifies it as "West Rideau Lake," while later references suggest the name Wolfe Lake became the standard by the late 1880s or early 1890s.

The name change became official later, with maps and records shifting from West Rideau Lake to Wolfe Lake in the latter part of the 19th century.

There is some community debate as to whether the lake was named after General James Wolfe (like nearby Wolfe Island, opposite Kingston) or the animal itself, which was prevalent in the area during early settlement.

Today Parks Canada's water management team is responsible for adjusting the dam's control boards (stoplogs) as needed throughout the season to ensure adequate water levels for navigation downstream in the main canal channel. This causes fluctuations in Wolfe Lake's water levels throughout the year.

The installation of the dam may also be responsible for the increased size of the waterbody between the two larger lake sections, giving Wolfe Lake its distinctive "Wolf Head" shape.

THE STORIES THAT BRING US TOGETHER

Thoughts from a longtime reader on ten years of growth and storytelling

Today we think the magazine is great in its format and the order in which articles are published. We always appreciate stories from those who have been on the lake for years, or who are connected to families with a long history here. With that in mind, it's good to encourage folks to come forward with any stories they think others around the lake would enjoy. The 2025 issue was fabulous, and it's hard to imagine what the magazine has become today compared to 30 years ago.

Glen and Glenda Bowmaster





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MAYOR ARIE HOOGENBOOM | GREETINGS

Township of Rideau Lakes

Thank you! I am truly amazed by the work done by the Wolfe Lake volunteers. Your conservation advocacy is inspirational to all of our Township's other lake associations. This Wolfe Lake Magazine is the envy of other associations and your "Get the Lead Out" initiative is gaining provincial attention. I was so pleased to initiate and advocate for this effort to receive Canadian Wildlife Foundation National recognition.

Our Township is a strong advocate for lake health and we continue to support and promote our septic inspection program and protect our shorelines through our zoning and official plan documents. Our Townships' 37 lakes and our 800km of shoreline make Rideau Lakes truly unique and a community to live, work and cottage in.

This year our 2026 budget was passed with a combined Township, County and School Board tax increase of 3.3%. While no one feels their taxes are too low, this rate remains one of the lowest in Leeds & Grenville. Our service levels are excellent, and we are one of the few municipalities in Ontario that can claim that our asset management plan is fully funded. No new debt was taken on in 2026.

Our Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee continues to meet quarterly, and your representatives Margie Manthey and Greg Wetmore provide valuable input. Your lake association received an annual 2026 grant of \$1143.00 from the Township, calculated in part on your membership level, so keep your membership active.

This past summer I was fortunate to have a boat tour of Wolfe Lake provided by your awesome volunteers Bill & Donna Garland. This reinforced my appreciation for your lake.

This year is an election year, and I know that new people will be stepping forward to serve. Rideau Lakes Township Council needs change and I encourage all of you to vote and help get the word out.

Have a great summer and year on the lake. As always contact me with any questions or concerns.

Arie Hoogenboom

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



MAYOR RON VANDEWAL | GREETINGS

Township of South Frontenac

Welcome to summer! After the long and snowy winter that we had, the new warm weather is well welcomed. It is predicted that we will have another hot and dry summer. We encourage all residents and visitors to continue to monitor the Townships fire ban status set by South Frontenac Fire & Rescue. The Township has updated their open-air fire by-law in June. There are some very important features of the by-law that I want to share with you.

Starting April 1, 2026, several changes to the Wildland Fire Management Act were put into place. The regulation changes apply to the Ontario Fire Region, which includes Bedford District. The boundary does not include the Districts of Loughborough, Portland or Storrington. Therefore, residents in Bedford must now follow South Frontenac's updated By-law Number 2026-37 and Residents of Loughborough, Portland or Storrington must follow South Frontenac's new By-law Number 2026-36. With the new by-laws comes updates to the terms and conditions for all types of open-air fires, and differences between the two different levels of fire bans: Level 1 and Total Fire Ban. All the information can be found on South Frontenac's website: southfrontenac.net/fire-ban-status.

South Frontenac lakes, boat launches and trails will be busy with active locals and adventurous tourists. Council and Township employees invite all to the large number of events and activities we will offer this summer: Beats by the Beach, free music at Gilmour's Point Beach on June 13, S'more Stories at Glendower Park on July 18, Lakes and Trails at McMullen Beach on July 20, and Bubble Bash at The Point Beach on August 15. Canada Day, as always, will be a family friendly event held at four separate locations (a pancake breakfast at

Glendower Hall, Storrington Lions Hall, The Point and Centennial Park). The festivities will end with, my favourite, a great fireworks show at The Point in Sydenham. All summer events, as well as information about boat launches, can be found on the Townships website.

While summer means fun in the sun, it also brings construction season. Public Services will complete construction on the following roads: Road 38 (Yarker Rd to Murton Road), Keeley Road, Westport Road, Bedford Mills Bridge (Perth Road), Eagle Creek Bridge (Bob's Lake Road), Desert Lake Road, Round Lake Road, and Canoe Lake Road. Many of the project details are outlined on engagefrontenac.ca. Major road construction improvements on these projects will mean temporary lane closures. Drivers should expect some traffic delays. Please be kind to all workers on-site.

As an update: Our Corporate Climate Change Action plan was passed by Council on May 5, 2026. The 36-page document addresses how the Township can take calculated steps to strengthen its commitment to sustainable development and enhance its resilience to climate change. The full report can be viewed on EngageFrontenac:engagefrontenac.ca/climate-change-action-plan. We encourage you to keep up-to-date on Township news by subscribing to our monthly newsletter and following us on social media. We hope you have a fun and safe summer on our roads and waterways.

Ron Vandewal

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

ZIMM'S CAMP



Pop and Lisle
Zimmerman
with their catch
of the day.

The Question Club and generations by the waters of Wolfe Lake

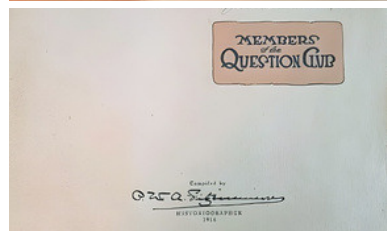
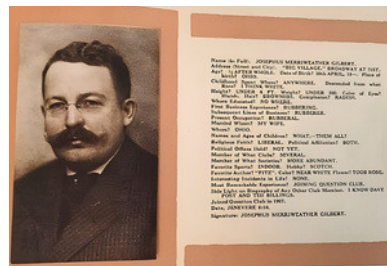
By Chris Zimmerman and Donna Garland

The property known today as Zimm's Camp has roots dating back to 1897, when the original building on the site was constructed by Josephus Merriweather Gilbert. A long-time staple on our lake, the camp's fascinating story reflects more than a century of life, recreation, and change on Wolfe Lake.

As was customary with affluent seasonal retreats of the era, the main lodge was accompanied by smaller buildings and cabins that housed servants. Access to the property in its early years was by boat only. The four-acre property includes 1200 feet of shoreline. The main building was well equipped for its time, with a diesel generator, wooden water tower and knob-and-tube wiring operating on 32-volt direct current (DC) electricity. All the wiring was exposed, typical of early installations.

Josephus Merriweather Gilbert was from Akron Ohio, the historic "Rubber Capital of the World" and the home of founders and leaders of major companies like Goodyear, Firestone, BF Goodrich and General Tire. In his biography, Josephus describes his occupation as "rubberer." If he used this term to indicate that he worked as a tire builder, it is notable that rubberers were regarded as leaders within the rubber industry, enjoyed a high level of respect, and held positions that were both highly sought after and well-compensated. He may also have been an executive or in a senior position at one of the tire manufacturing companies. Some locals recall hearing that he may have worked for Goodyear. For approximately 15 years, the original owner hosted summer business meetings at the property, welcoming fellow

automotive executives to this remote setting, which provided a secluded environment for discussion and decision-making. The group referred to themselves as the Question Club. They enjoyed spending time together sharing good conversation over cigars and fine spirits.



The club had 80 members. A historiographer from Detroit compiled a book called "Members of the Question Club".

Rather than providing conventional biographies, the featured entries were presented in a playful and cryptic manner, often incorporating riddles, unconventional responses, and imaginative reflections, reflecting both the personalities of the members and the spirit of the club itself.



The Zimmerman family's connection to Wolfe Lake began through Chris Zimmerman's grandparents, Lisle (the French version of Lyle) and Marion Zimmerman, both originally from Rochester, N.Y.

Lisle had worked for Klein Steel and then Kodak and the family spent their summer vacations on Wolfe Lake, developing a strong attachment to the area. In 1949 they made a life-changing decision. They sold everything in New York and purchased the property from Edward and Mary McCullough, who had acquired it from the widow of Josephus Gilbert. It included a house, two cabins, a boathouse and a cottage, all of which had remained unoccupied for years.

When they bought the property, the only other major structures on Wolfe Lake were Green Shingles, Pinecrest Lodge and Traynor's camp.

Zimm's Camp - The Making of a Family Business

Between 1949 and 1951, Lisle and his 16-year-old son Curtis built eight cottages, until Curtis was drafted into the U.S. Army. Marion and Curtis's sister Elaine remained in Rochester until the place was habitable.



Chris's great-grandfather Stanley Zimmerman (Pop), who also worked for Kodak, his grandparents Lisle and Marion, his father Curtis, and Curtis's sister Elaine.

Because there was no road access to the property, Lisle and Curtis constructed a 1.5 km roadway along a right-of-way granted to them by a local family, the Bresees. The route began beyond a farm just off Lee Road where open meadows gave way to woods. Working carefully through the landscape, they navigated around large trees, cleared smaller trees and burned out the remaining roots. They either circumvented substantial rocks or relocated those that could be

managed with their jeep. Here, you'll see Lisle driving his jeep in 1974.

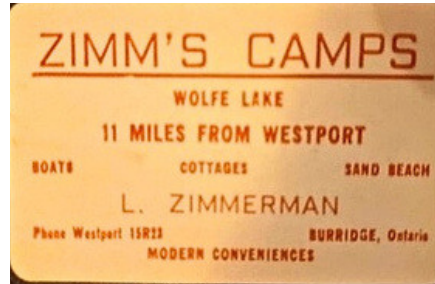


The road is a testament to their hard work, determination, self-reliance and unwavering commitment to turning their property into a viable business.

Telephone service was eventually added under unusual circumstances. They were told there was wire in a mine on the northeast end of Wolfe Lake and that if they retrieved it and installed it themselves, the telephone company would connect the service.

Chris's grandparents Lisle and Marion operated Zimm's Camp from 1950 to 1974. The camp had Saturday changeovers, allowing only a short window of time between departing and arriving guests. Those days involved intense work, cleaning cabins, washing sheets and ironing them on a mangle or pressing machine, and completing countless other tasks to prepare for the next visitors. They were a

hard-working couple and the work they did was physically demanding and unrelenting, reflecting their strong work ethic and pride in running the camp.



Lisle also provided fishing guide services for guests. While he never guaranteed they would catch fish, he did guarantee they would have fish for dinner. (Opening photo previous page).

Retirement

In 1974 Lisle and Marion retired and sold the cottages to relatives and friends as part of an association. Marion said they were never bored or lonely. They enjoyed interacting with all the vacationers before and after they retired. After Lisle passed away in 1988, Marion moved into Westport. She lived to the age of ninety-two.



The next generations

Chris's parents Curtis and Dorothy inherited the property in 1988. Curtis, a third-generation employee at Kodak, and Dorothy, who had grown up at Thompson Pond just off Green Bay Road, had been married in the Burridge Church following Curtis's return from military service. They moved to Rochester, where they built their working lives and raised their family. Dorothy took out American citizenship. She was required to report to the Canadian border every two weeks for a full year, not always an easy task.



After Lisle's passing, Dorothy and Curtis spent most of their retirement at Wolfe Lake. Dorothy died in 2008. Curtis remained in their home eight more years, until his passing in 2016. Curtis always described their home on the lake as "paradise".

Chris and his wife Wendy enjoy the legacy entrusted to them by Chris's grandparents and parents. When they inherited the property in 2016, it came with more than just

land and buildings. Every path, shoreline and structure reflects decades of family use. Shaped by memories and quiet moments, the property stands as a living bridge between generations.



The Wolfe Lake Association thanks Chris for sharing the history of the Zimm's Camp property, along with the original documents, photographs and personal memories that bring its story to life. In doing so, Chris has helped ensure that this important piece of Wolfe Lake's history is preserved and available for the benefit of the community and generations to come.

As a note of interest, employees of Kodak and Xerox seemed to gravitate towards Wolfe Lake, while those who worked for IBM tended to settle along Sand Lake (Westport) - a curious pattern in the area's early cottage communities.

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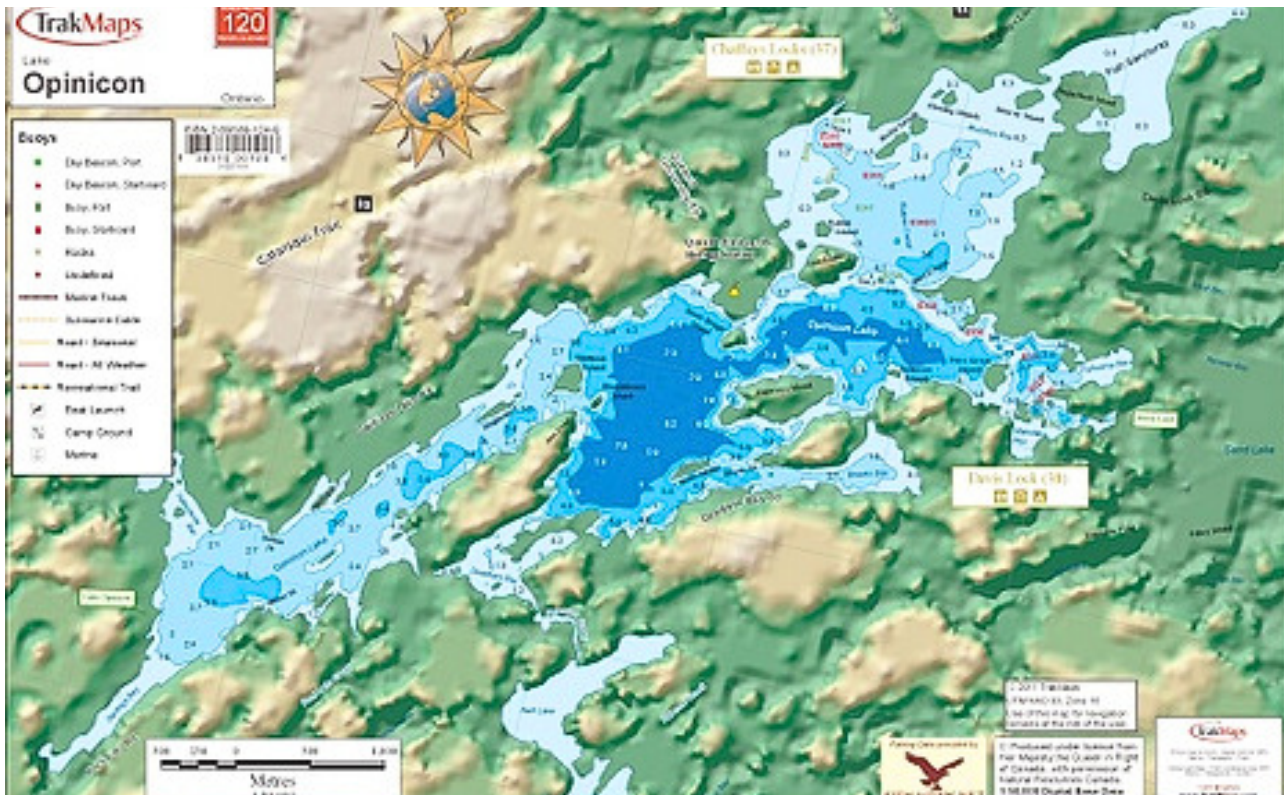


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PROTECT OPINICON LAKE | SUCCESSFUL

A community, a campground, and a landmark decision

By Donna Garland, Reade Davis, Robert Faguay and Elsa Steo

A decade-long dispute over expanding Skycroft Campground at Lake Opinicon ended with a key Ontario Land Tribunal decision on April 2, 2026. The ruling did more than settle a dispute; it marked a defining moment in local environmental planning and a community's commitment to protecting the lake it calls home. At the centre of that story is not only a development proposal but a community that organized, mobilized, and brought academic and applied expertise to the table.

Protect Opinicon: A Collective Voice

In response to this 10-year saga, Protect Opinicon was formed. It included a diverse collective of more than two hundred community stakeholders and lake associations united by a shared concern for the environmental, safety and social implications of the expansion.

Led by project leaders Reade Davis, Robert Faguay and Elsa Steo, the group brought together an unprecedented coalition of residents, seasonal property owners, scientists, planners, legal experts, and environmental advocates. Their mandate was clear: ensure that decisions affecting sensitive environments and rural communities are grounded in science, policy, and long-term sustainability.

The Proposal That Wouldn't Go Away

Skycroft Campground Resort, located at 2827 Opinicon Road, currently operates approximately 83 trailer sites. Beginning in 2016 and again in 2022, the owners sought approval to expand to as many as 231 trailer and "cement cave" sites. The scale of the proposal was significant:

- Increase total campsites from 83 to as many as 231
- Increase permitted lot coverage for campsite use from 25% to 43%
- Reduce usable shoreline per site from 15 metres to 3.6 metres

THANKS

Protect Opinicon was a true community effort, supported by many residents, lake associations, scientists, planners, and environmental advocates.

We extend our sincere thanks to Reade Davis, Robert Faguay, Elsa Steo, and the numerous volunteers whose dedication and perseverance helped bring this important initiative to a successful conclusion.

NOTE

A proposed new by-law in the Township of Rideau Lakes is generating significant interest and discussion. Residents and lake associations are questioning whether the revised version adequately addresses the concerns that prompted the review, including septic systems, water quality protection and – important – campground intensification, and the establishment of a baseline inventory to track campground development and changes overtime.

- **Use back lot calculations to meet shoreline requirements**
- **Reduce side yard setbacks and distances between sites and lot lines**
- **Reduce tree canopy to 60%**

To proceed, Skycroft required amendments to the Official Plan and Zoning By-law of the Township of South Frontenac. Public opposition was immediate and sustained.

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport submitted a formal letter of opposition on September 27, 2023, urging Council to consider the precedent-setting implications of approving such an expansion. Their concerns extended beyond environmental impact. Our warning was blunt:

If the expansion proceeds and causes harm, "there is no undo button."

Council Says No

A staff report recommended denial of the Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment for the proposed expansion.

On Tuesday, October 17, 2023, Council of the Township of South Frontenac voted unanimously (9-0) to reject the Skycroft application. The Wolfe Lake Association was in attendance to show our support along with several other stakeholders.

The Wolfe Lake Association "Newsflash 8, 2023" documented this pivotal moment. But the story didn't end here. The decision was appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Community Mobilizes

Many Lake associations and residents rallied.

Wolfe Lake Association Newsflash 5 (2024) urged residents to continue supporting the Protect Opinicon initiative and to remain engaged in stewardship efforts recognizing that our united voices reach farther and have greater impact.

"Chaffey's and Area Lake Associations (CALA) echoed concerns in its December 6, 2024, newsletter, noting that Skycroft already exceeded allowable waterfront campground density by more than 30 sites and that further expansion would irrevocably alter the character and environment of Opinicon Lake and surrounding area"

Science Speaks: Queen's Biological Station Takes a Stand

A key voice in the debate was the Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS), a globally respected research and teaching facility dedicated to biological sciences and environmental stewardship. It had operated on Opinicon since the 1940's.

QUBS' mandate was clear:

"To provide opportunities for teaching and research in biology and related sciences; and to use active stewardship and best management practices to conserve local terrestrial and aquatic environments, and biodiversity. It is the University's position that expanding the campground from 80 sites to 228 did not align with this mandate. QUBS declined to extend its licensing arrangements beyond February 28, 2024." Their opposition carried weight. The lake and surrounding ecosystems have been studied for decades by highly qualified researchers associated with QUBS. This long-term scientific record would later prove pivotal, as Protect Opinicon was able to call a number of expert witnesses who had done research in the area, including many focusing on species at risk.

The Tribunal Hearing

The appeal brought the case into a new arena, one where environmental science and planning policy would be examined in detail.

The hearing concluded, and then the community waited. Fifteen months later, on April 2, 2026, the Tribunal released its decision.

April 2, 2026: A Landmark Ruling

The ruling was definitive: "THE TRIBUNAL ORDERS THAT the appeals are dismissed and the requested amendments to the Official Plan for the Township of South Frontenac and By-law No. 2003-75 are refused."

The appeals were dismissed. The expansion was denied.

In commentary circulated April 4, 2026, by Peter Hannah (former Board Chair of the Rideau Lakes Waterway Land Trust and Protect Opinicon supporter), planning observers noted that the decision was divided into two core issues: **environmental science and planning policy.**

The Tribunal found the scientific evidence "overwhelming." Decades of research conducted by experts associated with Queen's Biological Station far surpassed the applicant's consulting evidence which focused only on the lands subject to new development and ignored impacts on the existing campground, including the effects of increased population density on the forest and lake environments.

The Tribunal relied primarily on this scientific record.

Significantly, while the Tribunal stated it was not strictly necessary to fully analyze the planning evidence to reach its decision, it did so anyway, and concluded that Official Plan policies and Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) provisions would also have been sufficient grounds for refusal.

The message was unmistakable:

Official Plan policies matter. Environmental science matters.

A Precedent for the Rideau Lakes

Though ¾ of Lake Opinicon lies within the Leeds Grenville County, Rideau Lakes township and ¼ lies within Frontenac County, South Frontenac Township, the implications extend across municipal boundaries. The case reinforced that:

- Density limits are not flexible suggestions
- Environmental capacity must guide development
- Scientific expertise carries decisive weight
- Planning documents are enforceable tools, not symbolic statements

For lake communities across Ontario, the decision stands as an important precedent.

Protect Opinicon: A Continuing Commitment

The broader issue was never just about a single campground; rather, it involved this decision setting a precedent, including but not limited to various related issues.

- Cumulative negative impacts on the environment, township, community, and individuals.
- How would the Township meet the greater demands in areas such as governance, infrastructure, public safety, and maintaining long-term financial stability.
- How would the growing demand for infrastructure and services be addressed? This includes township roads, waste management, first responders, emergency services, and additional pressure on partner agencies such as the OPP and Conservation Officers.
- Expansion of this scale would significantly intensify recreational activity. Increase in boat traffic, personal watercraft use, and shoreline activity would contribute to higher noise levels, shoreline erosion, wildlife disturbance, and safety concerns.

In the end, the Tribunal decision affirmed what many residents had argued for years:

Growth must be guided by science. Policy must be respected. And once environmental damage is done, it cannot simply be reversed.



Wolfe Lake Magazine | Tenth anniversary

Ten years of stories that connect us

By Bill Garland & Anna Rijk



It's hard to believe, but this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Wolfe Lake Magazine. What started in 2017 as a bold idea to transform a modest newsletter into a full-colour community magazine has grown into a much-loved annual tradition around Wolfe Lake. To celebrate this milestone, Bill Garland sits down with Anna, who puts it together every year, to talk about how it all began, the team she works with, the changes that have occurred over the years, and why, ten years later, she still believes in the power of a printed magazine.

Let's start at the beginning. How did the Wolfe Lake Magazine come to life?

When I started this project in 2017, I was looking for a way to showcase the stories and experiences of our association members in a way that felt even more inviting and more lasting than the WLAW newsletter. I tried something that people would hopefully keep on their coffee tables.

The idea was to create a colourful, accessible printed magazine that would first and foremost reflect the activities and projects of the WLAW, of people around Wolfe Lake, their stories, their memories, and their love for our lake. Next to the WLAW website and Facebook page, we thought this could be a nice add-on to the communication tools of the association.

The magazine has changed a lot since that first edition. How do you see its evolution?

That first year itself was a big transformation, moving from the good old newsletter to a real magazine. Since then, I think we've grown into a more mature version of that first idea. We've created different departments, found a rhythm, and slowly built up both the content and the look.

Every year, we've hoped to have more members join in by submitting their ideas, articles and photos, or by participating in activities like the FALL WALK or the PICTURE TIME PHOTO CONTEST, and they have. That's what has really made the magazine feel like it belongs to everyone. Over the years, new departments have been added: BEST MOMENTS, FABULOUS FRIENDS, WORKING FOR YOU, MAKER'S CORNER, AND FOUR QUESTIONS, with the last two created especially to connect with the Westport community. But those departments are not published every issue. For that we need input from our community. Alongside all these departments are our wonderful contributors, who keep an eye on our finances, our water, our wildlife, and our fishing habitat, and who even share their favourite recipes. I'm grateful to Larry and Lisa Arsenault, Margie Manthey, Bill and Donna Garland, Gord Moor, Bruce Maynard, Marti Hansell, Chris Chisamore, Betty Jo MacDougall, Helene Wach - and many others - for all they do, and their articles over the years. Like, Chris Chisamore treated us to a great series about the lodges around Wolfe, while Donna Garland continues to dive into our history and folklore.

We're very happy that Their Worships Ron Vandewal and Arie Hoogenboom, the mayors of the two townships our lake is part of, share their greetings with us every year. Their support means a lot.

We also work with the RVCA, with Watershed Canada, FOCA, universities, and many other organisations, relevant to our lake environment. such as the Alastair & Diana Gillespie Foundation, who help us to support our projects and activities, universities, ministries, local governments, regional lake associations, Westport Lions, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, and many, many more.

We always try to invite all readers and members to keep participating: send in ideas, write a letter to the editor about something that matters to the lake, or simply join the conversation. Our board truly believes the magazine should be a two-way street; it makes it a real community effort. Have a story to tell? We'd love to hear from you. Always.

What role does the magazine play for the lake association?

As waterfront property owners, we all face challenges we can't solve on our own. That's exactly why the lake association exists. The magazine has become one of our tools to show what we do, why it matters, and how people can get involved. Over the years, we've reported on inspiring AGM speakers, highlighted volunteers and initiatives, shared folklore and lake history, and kept people informed about water quality, water levels, wildlife, and what's happening around our shores. And we always include something for kids and grandchildren too.

Many people are surprised by how big the magazine has become.

Yes, in the last few years the magazine has hit 68 pages! When we started, the WLAW board imagined that. But once you start collecting stories, photos, and ideas, it turns out there's a lot to tell. And we're lucky our writers and contributors are incredibly enthusiastic. They really jump at the chance to be par

You've often said you believe in print, but also in digital. How do you see that balance?

There's this ongoing debate about print versus digital. Some people say print is everything and needs to be protected. Others say print is dead.

I see media as a toolkit. You use a drill for some jobs and a hammer for others. The real question is: what are you trying to do? For our association, it makes sense to use several tools. We have the printed magazine, we have a group Facebook page, managed by Margie Manthey, and we have a beautiful website, set up and managed by Donna Garland. They all work together. They all serve different purposes, and together they help us reach people in different ways.

Still, producing a printed magazine every year is a huge amount of work. Why keep doing it?

I've got to admit: it is a lot of work, for sure. Many, many hours every year. But now that I'm retired, usually I have a bit more time for this volunteer project. Some people knit or do puzzles in the winter. I put together our magazine. It's also like fishing, you need patience.

Honestly, it's a labour of love. I love magazines, and I love the Wolfe Lake and Westport community. And I think the printed magazine has really helped the association bring its identity to another level. It's still connected to the old newsletter, but more playful, and more colourful.

Marti Hansell, WLAW's Secretary, is always there when I need help, whether it's redesigning advertisements, improving a cover, or tackling anything in between. She is a professional graphic designer. I am not, but I'll do my best, and love the design part of it as well.

I could not produce this magazine without the help of our proofreaders. Over the years, Paul Thompson and Brian and Margie Manthey have handled this important task. Since English is not my first language, their work has always been essential.

Since 2020, Betty Jo MacDougall has taken over this role, and she reviews all copy, meticulously! Except this year. During much of the magazine's production period, she was away travelling, enjoying family and friends, and I did my best to keep things on track in her absence.

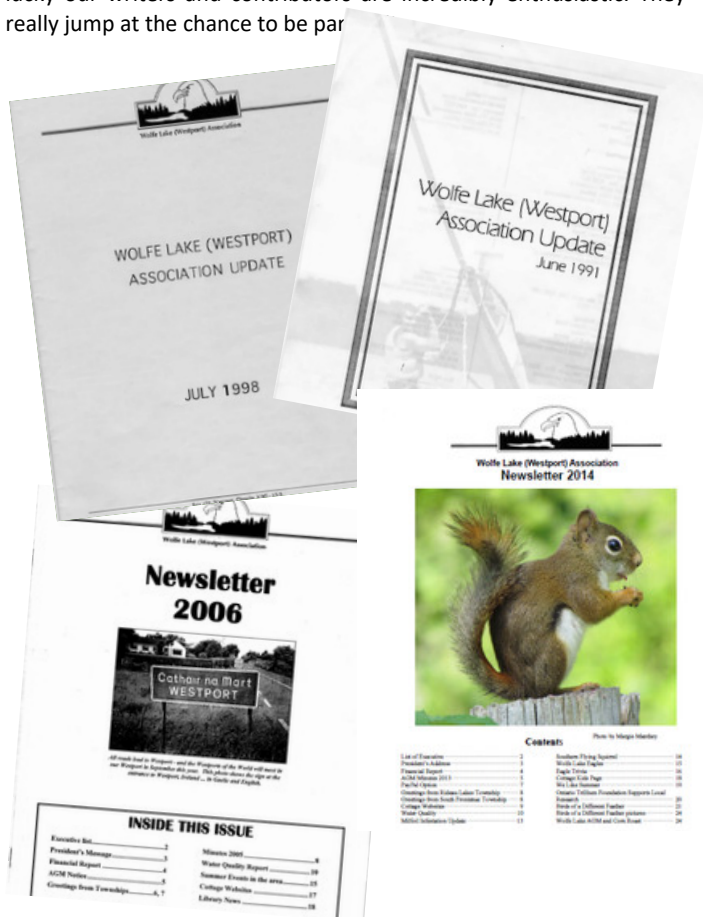
Thanks to photographers like Sean Garland, Betty Jo MacDougall and her family, JoAnne Lussier (who has now moved away from our lake), Kingston drone photographer Adam Correia, Margie Manthey and many others, the beauty of our lake shines in every issue. Cielo Print in Ottawa does an amazing job of turning out the final product, and John and Jen there are very supportive and helpful.

Lately, I've noticed that some of our contributors are using tools like ChatGPT or Gemini, wonderful software. We only need to make sure that every text needs a human touch. Sometimes things sound just too polished with AI texts proposals.

The Wolfe Lake Magazine wouldn't exist without its advertisers. How important are they to the magazine?

They are absolutely essential. Quite simply, without our advertisers, we would not be able to print the magazine.

Their support covers the real, practical costs of production and printing, and that is what makes this entire project possible year after





Magazine distribution looked a little different in the years of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

year. But it's more than just financial support. Many of our advertisers are local or closely connected to the region, and in that sense, they are more or less part of the same community fabric as our readers. The association is incredibly grateful for their loyalty and trust in the magazine.

And, of course, our faithful advertising team, Larry Arsenault, Bill, Garland, and Gord Moore, help me with the selling part. Also, Larry, as our Treasurer, sends out the invoices to all participating local businesses and keeps an eye on all the admin involved.

Why does an anniversary edition in print feel special to you?

I hope that when people open this 2026 anniversary edition, it feels a bit like opening a small present from the Wolfe Lake association to their members and neighbours; almost like a beautiful post card you sometimes receive in the mail.

People often ask how long you plan to keep doing this. What do you tell them?

That's a question I hear quite often around the lake. And the honest answer is: as long as I can, and as long as it continues to make sense. This magazine is a volunteer project and very much a labour of love. I plan to continue as long as I stay healthy, as long as we remain connected to Wolfe Lake, and as long as the magazine continues to serve the community in a meaningful way.

At the same time, I also think it's important to recognize that projects like this can outgrow one person. The magazine belongs to the lake community, not to me personally. So when the time eventually comes, I hope others will feel inspired to step in and carry it forward, or not. Time will tell.

Looking back on ten years, what makes you most proud?

That we've created something that belongs to the community. That it updates our readers on all the activities of our lake association, and that it tells our stories, big and small.

And finally: how would you sum up these ten years?

Ten years. One lake. Many stories. And hopefully, many more stories still to come.



FOLLOWING THE BIG DIPPER ACROSS OUR NIGHT SKY

We all enjoy looking up at the night sky, even if we are not dedicated stargazers or students of astronomy. Among all the constellations, the Big Dipper is perhaps the most familiar to most of us. Its distinctive shape, part of the larger constellation Ursa Major, is easy to recognize and serves as a guidepost throughout the year.

As the accompanying image shows, the Big Dipper changes its position in the sky with the seasons—appearing high overhead in summer, shifting toward the horizon in spring and fall, and standing lower in winter evenings.

No matter the season, it plays an important role in helping locate Polaris, the North Star,

which remains nearly fixed in the northern sky. For centuries, travelers, sailors, and explorers have relied on this simple star pattern for navigation, while today it continues to connect us to the rhythms and beauty of the night sky above Wolfe Lake (about 44 degrees North latitude).

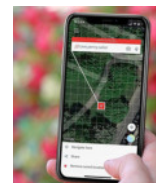
COULD THREE WORDS SAVE A LIFE A handy app for every cottager and even emergency responders



Imagine trying to direct emergency responders to your cottage when you're on a lake, down a long private road, in the woods, or at a campsite without a civic address. In a stressful situation, describing your exact location can be difficult.

That's where the app **what3words** comes in. The system has divided the entire world into perfect 3-metre by 3-metre squares and assigned each one

a unique combination of three words. Instead of sharing GPS coordinates, users simply provide their three-word address.



The app has already proven its value around the world. Lost hikers, emergency responders, and disaster relief teams have used what3words to pinpoint locations quickly and accurately. For us cottagers, the app can be particularly useful! Whether you're out on the lake, hiking a remote trail, or hosting guests unfamiliar with the area, a three-word address can help others find you quickly. It's free, easy to use, and worth having on your phone.

Just in case.

[what3words.com](https://www.what3words.com)

GOOD NEWS FOR OUR REGION | Nature Conservancy of Canada protects 350 hectares in Frontenac Arch

By Anna Rijk

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has added another 350 hectares to its protected lands in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere. The NCC announced in late 2025 that three conservation projects - near Christie Lake, Upper Awada Lake, and across three properties in the Loughborough Wilderness area - are now permanently protected. That is great news for our environment and region.

The Frontenac Arch is a vital ecological corridor connecting the Algonquin Highlands to the Adirondack Mountains. Created and designated by UNESCO in 2002, the Frontenac Arch Biosphere plays a key role in maintaining wildlife movement across eastern North America.

This latest milestone represents more than land securement. It shows what is possible when strategic partnerships, long-term vision, and collective action come together to protect nature. The newly protected lands will safeguard critical habitats, store carbon and support climate solutions, and strengthen wildlife connectivity across borders.

In addition to preserving forests and wetlands, the newly protected lands safeguard critical habitat for species at risk, including Blanding's turtle, the gray ratsnake, and the eastern whip-poor-will.

The FAB region stretches from Brockville and Gananoque, north of Kingston, and includes the communities of Westport, Harrowsmith and Verona. It encompasses approximately 2,700 square kilometres and overlaps with the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe (Algonquin) and Haudenosaunee (Kanien'kehá:ka) Peoples.

Wolfe Lake lies near the northern boundary of this area (see map). While Wolfe Lake itself is not part of the most recent projects, three sites located fairly close to Wolfe Lake are.

The **Christie Lake project** includes 1.2 kilometres of undeveloped shoreline and is part of a 33-square-kilometre block of intact habitat that connects with Frontenac Provincial Park and other protected lands. The **Upper Awada Lake project** anchors the western edge of the Loughborough Wilderness and connects two major (next page!)



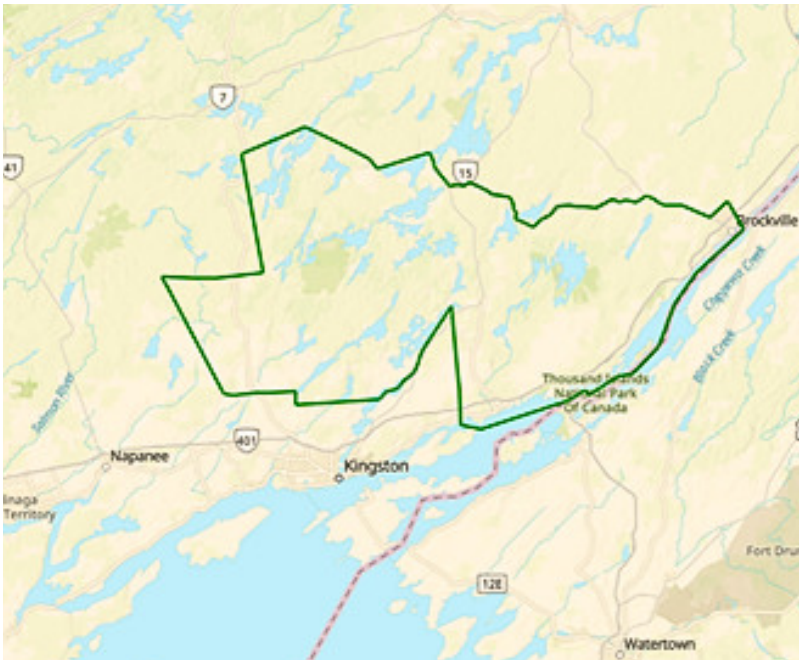
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or fill out the [membership form](#)





The Frontenac Arch Biosphere

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere is a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in southeastern Ontario. Defined by an ancient granite land bridge connecting the Canadian Shield to the Adirondack Mountains, it forms a vital wildlife corridor where five forest regions meet. This unique landscape supports exceptional biodiversity, including many rare species, and offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, paddling, and nature appreciation.

The region spans approximately 2,700 square kilometres, extending from Brockville and Gananoque north toward Kingston, Westport, and Verona, and includes numerous lakes and the Thousand Islands.

Learn more: frontenacarchbiosphere.ca

conservation areas, enhancing landscape-scale connectivity.

The **Loughborough Wilderness project** protects high-quality forest and wetland ecosystems and reinforces a north-south forest core linkage in eastern North America.

"This project, located within the Frontenac Arch - one of the most important forest corridors east of the Rockies - will strengthen landscape connectivity and ensure these natural spaces remain pro-

tected," said Julie Dabrusin, Canada's Minister of Environment federal Natural Heritage Conservation Program and the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, Ontario's Greenlands Conservation Partnership Program, and many donors, partners, and champions of conservation.

Sources:

natureconservancy.ca, frontenacarchbiosphere.ca, thewhig.com



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JOIN US NOW

Become a member today | HELP PROTECT EVERYTHING THAT MAKES OUR LAKE SO SPECIAL

By Anna Rijk

We warmly invite all homeowners and cottagers to join the Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW). Whether you're a next-generation lake lover, a sibling, or a family member who shares the cottage, you're welcome to become a member in your own name and enjoy all the benefits that come with membership.

By becoming a member of WLAW, you actively support the vital work of your lake association—and the future of Wolfe Lake itself. Even better, you'll connect with a community of like-minded people who share a passion for the lake and its long-term health.

Joining is easy: fill out the form you have received with this year's Wolfe Lake Magazine, bring it to our upcoming AGM (see page xxxx), or visit wolfelake.org and click on the Membership button.

Join those who share your love for Wolfe Lake and a commitment to protecting its natural beauty.

Why join?

The Whether you're a nature lover, a full-time resident, or a seasonal cottage owner, becoming a member is a meaningful way to show your support. Together, we work to keep Wolfe Lake healthy, safe, and thriving for generations to come.

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport works to make a difference by:

- Championing conservation
- Helping safeguard Wolfe Lake, its pristine waters, and natural shoreline
- Enhancing boater safety
- Through shoal marking and ongoing lake safety initiatives.
- Enhancing boater safety
- Through shoal marking and ongoing lake safety initiatives

- Monitoring water quality, with regular testing to track and protect lake health
- Protecting wildlife
- Via our Lead Fishing Tackle Buy-Back Program and loon nesting raft initiatives.
- Supporting a healthy walleye population
- By restoring and enhancing fish spawning areas and habitat.
- Keeping you connected
- Receive News Flashes by email throughout the year, the annual Wolfe Lake Magazine delivered right to your cottage, and invitations to our Annual General Meeting and other events. Stay informed through our Facebook page and website updates.
- Sharing local knowledge
- Including detailed fishing reports—and much more.
- Encouraging community involvement
- With volunteer opportunities and hands-on projects to keep our lake pristine and healthy. Helping hands are always welcome!

How to Join

Visit wolfelake.org to register online, or fill out the membership form inserted in this year's Magazine.

Or simply email com-wolfelake@outlook.com if you need assistance.

We're happy to help and guide you through the membership process in whatever way works best for you.



WOLFE LAKE ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT | 2025

Where our money comes from and how we spend it

By Larry Arsenault

“Last year was another good year financially for the Association. Member dues, the lifeblood of our Association, were up slightly from 2024, and all other revenue sources and expenses were generally consistent with previous years.” With these encouraging words, Wolfe Lake Association Treasurer Larry Arsenault introduces the Association’s 2025 Financial Report.

Wolfe Lake Magazine and advertising Revenue from ads was once again greater than the cost of producing the magazine, resulting in a net contribution. We truly appreciate the support of all of our local advertisers who make our magazine financially possible.

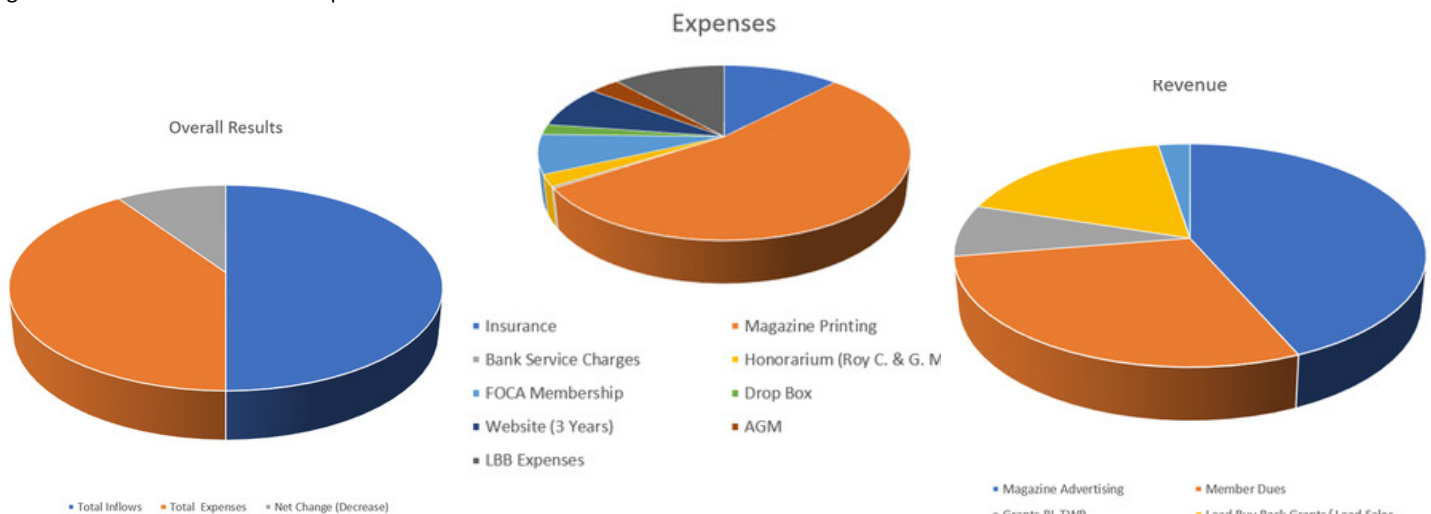
Membership Membership revenue was up slightly from 2024, a good sign. This continues to be our largest source of net income and as such, your continuing support is very much appreciated. Together we can work to ensure the ongoing health and vitality of our beautiful Wolfe Lake.

In addition to these revenue sources, we also received our annual grant from Rideau Lakes Township.

Let’s Get The Lead Out Program We received a very generous donation from Charleston Lake Association as well as another Eco Grant from the township of South Frontenac. These donations and grants are utilized to help us with the continued expansion of this crucial program. Expenses were primarily related to promotional materials and events, as well as the new Fish Lead Free website.

The only other expenses that varied from prior years were for merchandise sold at our AGM, and for participation in the Bass Study run by Watersheds Canada.

If any member wishes more detail on our finances, please send an email to treasurerwlca@rideau.net.





Awash in Possibility

IMPRESSIONS OF A WILD SWIM IN WOLFE LAKE

By Lori Kennedy Brown

Wolfe Lake took hold of me before memory—summer an aquatic idyll, my fingertips perpetually pruny. It has saturated me to the heart, shaping a lifelong affinity with its water. I'm drawn to its weightless freedom—suspension in a space apart from the everyday. So, I pull on my red swimsuit and cap and wade in, fishing out the thermometer at the end of the dock for a ritual temperature check.

The bracing hum that bookends the summer makes my skin—an odd sensation—ache and glow. But now— midseason—the water is mild and silky.

I strap on goggles, clip a neon-green swim buoy to my waist, and push off. Once swimming, I feel limitless. I'm no champion; just a capable swimmer with abundant stamina.

Breathe, anchor, pull, glide.

I draw even with three granite boulders formed when one massive stone succumbed to weathering, and fractured. I study the curious detritus at the base of the rocks—waterlogged sticks and unoccupied snail shells—a pile of decay, yet a lively microcosm.

On a calm day, sunlight slants greenly through the littoral zone, glinting on suspended algae, painting the lakebed citrine and celadon. The wind rises, and large swells boil into whitecaps pushing insistently at my back, propelling me forward. It's like being tumbled in a washing machine, yet I capture the rhythm, exhaling in troughs, breathing on crests.

The late afternoon sun lengthens my shadow, gilding its edge in honey. My arm arcs overhead, shedding water like drops of molten glass that refract sunlight into scattershot rainbows.

I pay attention, savoring these little joys, grateful for this rare sensory solitude.

Breathe, anchor, pull, glide.

I slide past a senescent oak stretching low and languid over the water.

The tree-fringed shore scrolls by as my body traces the margin between stony shallows and the drop-off, lake grasses reaching for the sun, oscillating in the current.

High summer hues smudge across the reflection like daubs of oily paint. Flotsam punctuates the surface—curled dry leaves, bits of lake grass, orphaned acorns.

I survey the lake's steely blue expanse from a frog's-eye view, and the whimsical notion of becoming amphibious delights me.

My body lengthens into the stroke, breaking the surface tension, pulling through the epilimnion. The measured roll of my hips beats in counterpoint to the shimmer of poplar leaves.

Breathe, anchor, pull, glide.

I come to an outcrop of sloping granite, where three sunlit turtles bask. They eye me warily as I approach, heads at attention, and one by one, slide—plop, plop, plop—into the relative safety of the water. I follow one who—alarmed by my looming form—turns sharply left, buries its head in the weeds, legs retracted, body exposed, straining to vanish.

A water snake undulates past in a sinuous sine wave. A loon dips its head rhythmically, scanning for fish, then dives. I swim over a titanic bass. It is unperturbed, gazing at me impassively through one glassy eye.

Breathe, anchor, pull, glide.

I reach a skeletal pine bleached silver by the sun and pause, toes sliding on felty periphyton coating the rocks.

Bare branches frame tufts of cirrus, fluid above, as I am below a buoyant duality.

Swimming, for me, isn't about speed or endurance, but presence. In the water, I am suspended in the liminal space between lake floor and sky; weightlessness and mass; thought and repose. My breath slows, and my body relaxes. I flip, turn, and kick home, aware of only the rhythm of my strokes—exhalations burbling past my ears, the whoosh as I inhale, the wash of fresh water across my skin.

Breathe, anchor, pull, glide.

I haul myself onto the dock, shedding water, donning gravity. On land, I feel heavy, ungainly—the weight of atmosphere reminding me that I am a land mammal.

Swimming is an exercise in crossing boundaries—the thresholds between terrestrial and aquatic, bustle and stillness, and of shoreline, dock's edge, the very surface. It is a means to unfurl beyond myself.

I lean into possibility and the exquisite anticipation of another Wolfe Lake swim.



"Awash in Possibility,"
painted by Evelyn Brown, daughter of
Lori Kennedy Brown, captures her mother
swimming in Wolfe Lake.

ARE YOU A HISTORY BUFF? Westport's story | One book at a time

Anyone curious about Westport's colourful past has three excellent reasons to visit the Westport Museum. Did you know that Christine Janeway, curator of the museum, has written the series chronicling the village's history through carefully researched newspaper accounts and archival records.

What inspired you to write the books? "People are always interested in Westport's history," says Janeway. "There were articles, archives, and bits of information available, but there wasn't one source that brought everything together." She began the project around 2012, expecting it would take less than a year. Instead, the first volume wasn't published until 2016.

Why did one book become a trilogy? "There was simply too much information," she explains. "I realized I couldn't fit the entire history of the village into one volume. The books are organized by era. Book One covers Westport's early history through 1909, just five years after the village's incorporation. Book Two picks up in 1910 and continues through 1920, while Book Three explores the 1930s. A fourth volume, covering the Second World War years, is currently in progress.

What makes the books unique? Janeway relies exclusively on contemporary newspaper reports and documented archival sources. "If it wasn't reported publicly at the time, it isn't in the books," she says. "We don't include rumours, stories passed down over the years, or personal recollections." The result is a fascinating snapshot of daily life, local events, businesses, and residents as they appeared in the news of the day.

Have the books helped people connect with their family history? Absolutely. Visitors regularly come to the museum from across Canada, the United States, and even Ireland, searching for family connections. Many are delighted to discover relatives mentioned in the books. And with a fourth volume on the horizon, the story is far from over. (Westport Part 1: \$20; Parts two and three are each \$25, available at the museum.)



The Algonquin Land Claim

WHAT IT MIGHT MEAN FOR OUR LAKE

Over the past several years, many lake associations across eastern Ontario - including our own - have heard references to the Algonquin land claim. The Wolfe Lake Magazine started reporting on this in 2017, 2019 and 2022 with articles written by Roy Sunstrum. It's a complicated and long process.

A parcel of land on the shores of our lake, specifically at Fox Point, has been identified as falling within the area under negotiation. This identified parcel is entirely Crown land and does not include any privately owned cottages or properties. This article is intended to provide a bit of context about where the land claim stands today, how it has evolved, and what it may (and may not) mean for lake residents. This is general information only and reflects the status of negotiations at the time of writing.

A brief history of the claim

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. It's also one of the longest running modern treaty negotiations in Canada.

This land claim reflects the fact that the Algonquin people were never signatories to historical treaties covering much of eastern Ontario.

Early 1990s – Formal negotiations begin between the Algonquins of Ontario, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Ontario.

2016 – After years of research, mapping, and consultation, all parties sign an Agreement in Principle (AIP).

The AIP is an important milestone, but it is not a final or legally binding treaty. Instead, it establishes the framework and guiding principles for the negotiation of a final agreement.

What the Agreement in Principle does (and does not) do

It is important to understand what the AIP represents:

What it does:

- Identifies a broad settlement area in Eastern Ontario

- Outlines potential land selections, financial components, governance structures, and rights.

- Allows the parties to move forward into detailed negotiations toward a final treaty.

What it does not do:

- It does not transfer land.

- It does not change ownership of private property.

- It does not alter existing access, zoning, or municipal authority.

- Any actual changes can occur only after a final treaty is negotiated, ratified, and passed into law.

MUSHROOMS



FROM FOREST FLOOR TO FORK

Mushrooms around Wolfe | Some are edible (some are not!)

By Anna Rijk

Autumn is a magical time around Wolfe Lake, and if you enjoy a leisurely walk in Wolfe's forests and fields, you might be surprised at what's growing underfoot: mushrooms! While there's no specific list for our lake, Ontario's woodlands are home to a wide variety of fungi - some edible, some poisonous, and all fascinating to spot. Here are a few of the edible ones!



One of the most eye-catching finds is the **Giant Puffball** (edible). These round, snow-white mushrooms often appear in open fields or along forest edges, sometimes as big as a soccer ball! Sliced and fried in lots of butter and garlic, they are one of the very best living-off-the-land treats of fall. Cut one open, and it should be pure white inside: anything else could signal a different species.

Boletes, or Porcini, like the King Bolete (edible if correctly identified), are also common in the region. These mushrooms have thick stalks and sponge-like pores instead of gills. Some are edible while others can cause stomach upset, so careful identification is a must. One of our members, Daniel Spitzer, sometimes discovers the most impressive King Boletes on his property. After a good rainfall, he ventures into his forest and a nd - if lucky - returns with



a generous haul. Daniel, who grew up in Eastern Europe where foraging is a cherished tradition, carefully cleans and dries them.

Soon after, these prized mushrooms find their way into soups, sauces, and a variety of other delicious dishes.



Honey fungus (edible if correctly identified and very thoroughly cooked) refers to several species of the Armillaria family. This is a destructive parasitic fungus that attacks and kills the roots and lower trunks of many woody and perennial plants, causing Armillaria root rot. While highly pathogenic species like *Armillaria mellea* are a concern for gardeners and forest managers, the fungus also plays a significant ecological role in breaking down woody material. With proper identification and prepara



tion, they they are said to be delicious. Exercise caution! Daniel brought these beauties home two years ago. We do like them, and they are often close by to pick them.



Shaggy manes (edible) often appear overnight after heavy rain on open woodlands and hard-packed trails around Wolfe Lake, even in the middle of gravel roads. Helen MacDougall, one of the first cottagers on the east side of the lake, encouraged her grandchildren and her daughter-in-law Betty Jo to gather them because she considered them “idiot-proof”.

They have a cylindrical cap and, as their name implies, are extremely

shaggy to the extent that another common name for them is “lawyer’s wig”. They are delicious sautéed or in soups but if handled roughly or not eaten immediately will darken and dissolve into black ink. In fact, the resulting liquid has traditionally been used as a substitute for ink.

A particularly striking mushroom you may encounter is the **Lion’s Mane** (edible). With cascading white spines that look more like coral than fungus, it has been used for centuries in traditional medicine and is studied today for its potential benefits to memory and focus.

A beautiful example of this mushroom was proudly shown to association members during the Fall Walk of 2018 on the forest property of Bruce Maynard and Helene Wach. Its unusual shape and pristine white color made it a memorable highlight of the walk.



tWhile discovering these mushrooms is exciting, it’s important to remember that some species, like those in the Amanita family, can be deadly. Never eat a wild mushroom unless it has been positively identified by a trained expert. For families with children or pets, it’s wise to remove mushrooms from your property to avoid accidental ingestion.

If you’d like to learn more, online resources such as Northern Bushcraft or iNaturalist are excellent guides for identifying Ontario mushrooms safely.

So, next time you explore the forests and fields around Wolfe Lake, keep your eyes open—you may spot a Giant Puffball in a meadow, Oysters on a log, or even the ghostly spines of a Lion’s Mane. Admire their beauty, enjoy the walk, and remember: when it comes to tasting, only do so with expert guidance!

Other sources:

northernbushcraft.com/mushrooms/ontario

pucksplenty.com

foragerchef.com

Betty Jo MacDougall

Bruce Maynard



A Remarkable Find

Early June brought an exciting discovery on our property: Daniel found a patch of morel mushrooms! Considered a true delicacy by mushroom enthusiasts, morels are highly sought after and not something we had ever seen growing on our land before. A week later, another successful foraging trip yielded even more. Impressed by our harvest, we kept the preparation simple: just sautéed in butter with a little garlic. Delicious! Helene and Bruce also found these beauties at their property this spring.

A word of caution: morels should always be thoroughly cooked before eating. Some mushroom experts also advise against reheating cooked morels, as they may cause digestive upset in some people.

PICTURE TIME 2025 Wonderful Wolfe Trees



The competition may have been small this year, but the winning photo was mighty!

The topic was ‘Share your most wonderful Wolfe Trees.’ We thought trees are the ultimate symbol of life, not only for their size and longevity, but also because they create the oxygen we need to breath.

Betty Jo MacDougall impressed us with a fantastic shot of the lake and vibrant fall colours, and earns this year’s prize.

A huge thank-you to **Life is Good Westport** for sponsoring the \$75 gift card. Cynthia, we appreciate your continued support of our Wolfe Lake community!





Water Quality Report 2025

WOLFE LAKE CONTINUES TO SCORE WELL ON WATER QUALITY INDICATORS

By Gordon Moore and Daniel Spitzer

Water quality monitoring remains an important part of the Wolfe Lake Association's stewardship efforts. Throughout 2025, water samples were collected at several locations across the lake and analyzed through the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Lake Partner Program and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). The results indicate that Wolfe Lake continues to provide a healthy environment for fish and other aquatic life and remains an excellent lake for swimming, boating, and enjoying the water.

Sampling focused on several key indicators of lake health, including total phosphorus (TP), total nitrogen (TKN), E. coli bacteria, calcium levels, dissolved oxygen, and water clarity measured using a Secchi disk. Phosphorus and nitrogen are particularly important because elevated levels can contribute to excessive algae growth and declining water quality.

The results were encouraging. Average phosphorus, nitrogen, and E. coli levels remained mostly well within established provincial guidelines, and water clarity measurements were consistent with previous years. No concerning trends were identified. Overall, Wolfe Lake continues to exhibit good water quality and remains a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

Algae and Cyanobacteria Monitoring

Like many lakes across Canada, Wolfe Lake is occasionally affected by naturally occurring algae and cyanobacteria. Nutrient levels, water temperature, sunlight, and weather conditions can all influence their growth.

During the summer, unusual slimy agglomerations were observed along portions of the shoreline. Photographs were reviewed by experts from the RVCA and the University of Ottawa.

While the material may have been associated with benthic (bottom-dwelling) cyanobacteria, no definitive conclusion was reached.

Satellite imagery collected over several years has also been used to monitor algae,

sediment, and aquatic vegetation in Wolfe Lake. To date, no large-scale algae blooms or other significant concerns have been detected.

Looking ahead

Continued monitoring helps us identify changes before they become problems and provides valuable information for protecting the long-term health of Wolfe Lake.

The Wolfe Lake Association thanks the volunteers, partner agencies, and researchers who contribute to this important work each year.

The full Water Quality Report over 2025, including graphs and maps, can be viewed on wolfelake.org.

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Wolfe Lake brings cheer to the Westport Santa Claus Parade



It's summer now, but almost 6 months ago more than 40 festive floats filled the streets of Westport during last year's Santa Claus Parade, and proudly among them was the Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW) with its cheerful "Let's Get the Lead Out" float.

Beautifully decorated platform

The float featured Wolfe Lake, with an ice fisher beside his ice hole, a prominent Let's Get the Lead Out message, and large loons swimming through Wolfe Lake, all set in a snowy winter scene.

Behind the wheel was Bruce Maynard, steering the beautifully decorated platform through a busy town. Walking alongside were two merry elves, Marti Hansell and Bill Garland, handing out candy and spreading smiles to children along the route.

Thank you guys

The Wolfe Lake float was made possible by the enthusiastic efforts of a great team. Along with Marti, Bruce, and Bill, the team included Helene Wach, Donna Garland, and Bruce's niece Adrian, all working together to bring this year's WLAW float to life.

As the float rolled past onlookers lining the streets of Westport, people could be heard calling out, "Hi, Wolfe Lake!" Others shared comments such as, "They are such strong supporters of our community and such good environmentalists," and "Nicely done."

These were meaningful moments for all involved, and a clear reminder that the message of protecting our lakes and wildlife is being heard, appreciated, and supported throughout our Westport and lake communities.



The WLAW started to participate in the Santa Claus Parade in 2019, with Helene and Donna.

A SEASON WE SAVOUR | PERFECT SUMMER DAYS AT THE LAKE

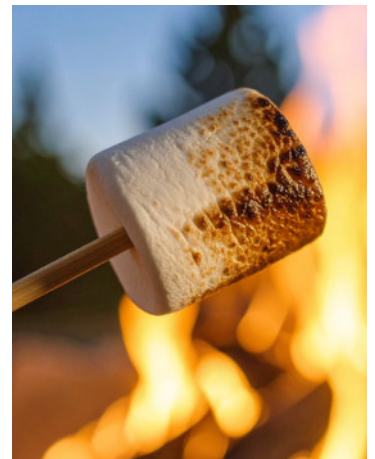
Some places invite us to slow down. Wolfe Lake insists on it. From humble, time-worn cottages to thoughtfully crafted retreats, our lakeside places share a common gift: they remind us how to rest. Here, days stretch easily, conversations linger, and doing nothing feels like an accomplishment.

In our memories, Ontario summer at the lake is more than a season; it's a feeling what you can't have in the city. It's marshmallows toasting on the fire, children with grass-stained knees racing

barefoot from dock to deck, and cold ice cream on hot afternoons. It's sprinklers, sunburns, mosquito bites, and the occasional retreat indoors when the day asks for a pause. Joy lives in the simplest moments:

- long days outdoors, on the water and in the yard, following the children's laughter
- sunny lunches outside, followed by books, our Wolfe Lake Magazine, porch time, and unplanned afternoon naps
- easy meals made with herbs and vegetables picked straight from the cottage garden
- quiet mornings, coffee in hand, waking slowly to the calm shimmer of the lake.

These are the moments we return to, year after year. And hopefully, by the time you read this, summer will be in full swing and we can savour the season!





Invasive phragmites

LAKESIDE LIVING | Our healthy lakes start at home

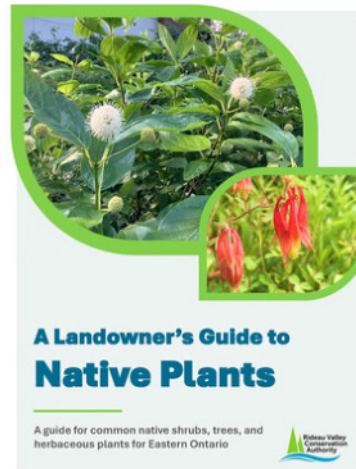
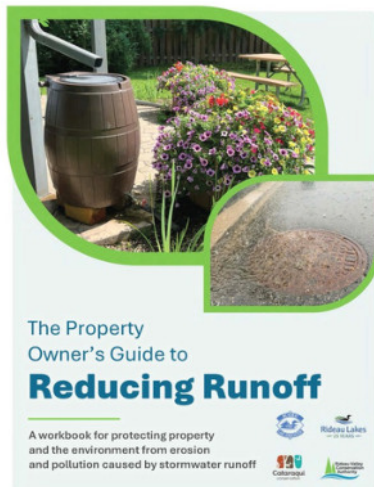
By Emma Jackson and the team of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Swimming, boating and fishing are part of the Canadian cottage experience. But contaminants, invasive species and algae blooms can impact how we enjoy our beloved lakes. To keep them clean and healthy, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) offers resources and programs to help landowners to do their part. Read on and discover what might be of interest to you!

Reducing Runoff

Stormwater runoff can wash harmful chemicals, nutrients and sediment into local waterways, contributing to weedier lakes, more frequent harmful algal blooms and declining water quality. Enter the Property Owner's Guide to Reducing Runoff, a 50-page workbook to help landowners assess their drainage issues and implement practical, on-the-ground solutions.

Complementary fact sheets offer even more detail on the most common and cost-effective techniques, such as how to install a rain barrel, how to cap or redirect your downspout, and the benefits of adding swales and rain gardens. Learn more at www.rvca.ca/sustainable-drainage.



also help you easily identify plants that suit your vision and needs. The guide focuses on species that are readily available at Eastern Ontario nurseries or through RVCA's own planting programs. Find the guide and other tips to green your property at www.rvca.ca/green.

Beauty and the Bees

Combine gorgeous gardens with lake stewardship! RVCA's new Native Plant Guide for Eastern Ontario helps you choose the best native trees, shrubs and plants to improve sustainability on your property, whether you want to reduce shoreline erosion, support pollinators or increase biodiversity. Offering a page per plant with growing conditions and other information, a unique characteristics key will

Have you seen Phragmites on Wolfe Lake?

RVCA has launched a new working group to fight invasive phragmites in the Rideau Valley. This group of like-minded stewards brings conservation experts, municipal partners and lake associations together to develop a strategy to map, manage and reduce the spread of this invasive plant.

Growing several metres tall, this invasive grass crowds out native plants along shorelines and in shallow lakes. As it takes over, wildlife habitat declines and access to recreational activities can suffer. The working group will meet two or three times a year to and welcomes new members. To learn more or join visit www.rvca.ca/phragmites.

Invasive Species Watch!

Knowing emerging invasive threats and what to do if you spot them is a shared responsibility! Early detection and rapid response are essential for preventing new invasive species from becoming established in your lake. Water soldier and European water chestnut are not currently known on Wolfe Lake, but can be found nearby. Familiarize yourself with these species and report any sightings immediately to EddMapS and the RVCA. And of course, always follow best management practices to stop the spread, including “Clean, Drain, Dry” when moving your boat between lakes. Learn more at www.rvca.ca/invasive-species.

Thank you for your support!

RVCA 60 years

As we celebrate our 60th year in 2026 and prepare to merge with our neighbouring conservation authorities in 2027, we thank you for your continued support for watershed-based conservation. We will continue this important work into the future as part of the St Lawrence River Regional Conservation Authority.

Living Lakeside [QR code]

Want a 3-minute overview?

Spot Wolfe Lake in our Living Lakeside video!



NEWBORO SUMMIT | Where water flows in two directions

By Anna Rijk

At first glance, Newboro looks like a quiet village nestled among our lakes. But hidden in this landscape is one of the most amazing features of the entire Rideau Canal: the summit of the waterway. Newboro sits on a narrow strip of land between Upper Rideau Lake to the north and Newboro Lake to the south. Long before the canal existed, travelers faced an exhausting portage of nearly 8,000 feet across this isthmus, carrying their canoes and supplies from one water system to the other.

When Colonel John By and his crews set out to link the Rideau and Cataraqui Rivers in the 1820s, this was one of their greatest challenges. Engineers carved a 5,200-foot-long channel through the land, creating a man-made cut that joined the two lakes and made continuous navigation possible. The result was the highest point of the canal. From here, water flows in two directions: north to the Ottawa River and south to Lake Ontario. Standing at Newboro, you are literally at the dividing line of a waterway that still serves boaters nearly two centuries later.

The achievement came at a cost. In 1830, as many as 600 men, women, and children lived and worked at the isthmus. That summer, “Lake Fever” (now known as malaria) struck with devastating force. Fourteen men, nine women, and nine children lost their lives in just one season. They were buried in what was then called the Military

and Civilian Cemetery, later the Presbyterian Cemetery, and today the Royal Sappers and Miners Cemetery. Contrary to local legend, funerals were held and graves were marked, though the wooden markers have long since disappeared.

Among those buried are members of the Royal Sappers and Miners, the skilled soldiers who worked alongside civilian labourers.

Of the 162 who served on the Rideau Canal, 22 died of disease or accident. Many others stayed when the canal was completed, taking up land grants and even becoming the first lock masters, including Corporal Daniel McDonald at Newboro.

I hadn’t been there in a while, but last summer I visited the Newboro Locks with my brother Jan and his wife Tineke when they visited us from the Netherlands. Like so many other visitors from around the

they were intrigued by the significance of the summit. Here history flows in two directions, a reminder not only of engineering brilliance, but also of the lives that shaped one of Canada's greatest waterways.

As we headed home that afternoon, I thought that some of the most fascinating places on the Rideau are not necessarily the largest or busiest, but the ones with stories hidden just below the surface.

And Newboro is one of those places.



Newboro is one of those place: a quiet village with an extraordinary past, where the waters still part ways just as they did when the canal first opened nearly 200 years ago.



Ethan Gurr
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KIDS' PAGES | Come and play



Hey, Wolfe Lake kids, we have put together a few more activities, puzzles and much more. Do you have **suggestions** for **next year's** KIDS' PAGES? We are looking forward to hearing your suggestions. Enjoy! BTW, the answers for this page can be found on page 63.

Craft | Build a bug!

This nature-inspired craft is fun and super simple. It requires very little materials -- but loads of imagination!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Air-dry modeling clay or Play-Doh
- Kid-safe knife to cut clay
- Twigs, pebbles, leaves, seeds, and other things found in nature
- A small bag, pail, or box
- Pictures of various insects you can find in books or online

DIRECTIONS:

First, take your bag and head outside to collect an assortment of natural embellishments embellishments for your project, such as small twigs, leaves, acorns, pebbles, shells, sand, etc. As you search, imagine how you might use these things to represent parts of a bug. For example, leaves can make good wings and slender sticks can be used for legs and antennae. Here at the lake, we have lots of cool insects including dragonflies, millipedes, spiders, and beetles. Think about what they look like as you hunt around. What might you use?

Now it's time to head back inside and begin to build your bug on a clean, grown-up-approved work surface. Start by molding your clay into the insect of your choice. Caterpillars and worms are easiest: simply roll out thin body shapes and add some natural items to create spots, stripes, bristles, tiny legs, etc.

Other insects like wasps and ants have segmented bodies; so you'll need to mold more clay shapes to form their body parts and heads. Use a picture guideline (or just use your imagination). Next, join all the parts together to form one body by using your fingers and/or the side of a kid-safe knife. This can be a bit tricky, so it's A-OK to ask a grown-up for help!

Continue to build your bug by carefully sticking nature materials into the clay to signify legs, wings, eyes, antennae, etc. These additions will really help make your creation "come to life!" Try using a twig (or toothpick) to poke dots into the clay or to create stripes and other fine details.

Here comes the hardest part: be patient, and allow your project to air-dry and harden before handling it. Now you have your own, unique bug buddy to keep you company at the lake! Why not build a bunch of bugs, or try creating other clay critters. Just use your imagination -- and have tons of FUN!

Visit naturecraftsforkids.com for more creative craft ideas.



Critter riddles 'n giggles

- A. What do frogs eat with their burgers?
- B. Why don't ducks grow up?
- C. Did you hear about the coyote that swallowed a clock?
- D. What do owls eat for breakfast?
- E. Why did the mountain lion lose at poker?
- F. What happened when Mother Goose got the hiccups?
- G. Why are fish so easy to weigh?
- H. What is a bobcat's favourite colour?
- I. What is as big as a moose but weighs nothing?



Ask the Animals

Black bear, black bear,

Where exactly is your lair?
Perhaps a cozy winter nook,
Within the cave near yonder brook?
Or maybe in a hollow oak,
That warms you like a wooden cloak?



Chickadee, oh chickadee,

Flitting fast from tree to tree,
Do you prefer sunflower seeds,
Or those you pluck from wild weeds?
And how can you – so very wee --
Have such enormous energy?



Red fox, red fox,

With russet fur and tall black socks,
Why do you scream so loud at night?
Sometimes it gives me quite a fright!
Is it to warn your kits to run,
Or do you holler just for fun?



Nimble mink, nimble mink,

How is it you can freely slink,
As simple as a piece of cake,
Between two worlds of earth and lake?
And which tastes better: fish or frogs,
Or beetles hiding under logs?



Common loon, common loon,

As you sing beneath the moon,
In yodels, wails, and tremolo,
While deftly diving to and fro,
Are you aware how much your voice
Makes our human hearts rejoice?



A Beary Corny Joke!



One morning, a bear walked into a diner.

After he was seated, the waiter asked, "What can I get you?"

The bear answered, "I'll have the.....breakfast special."

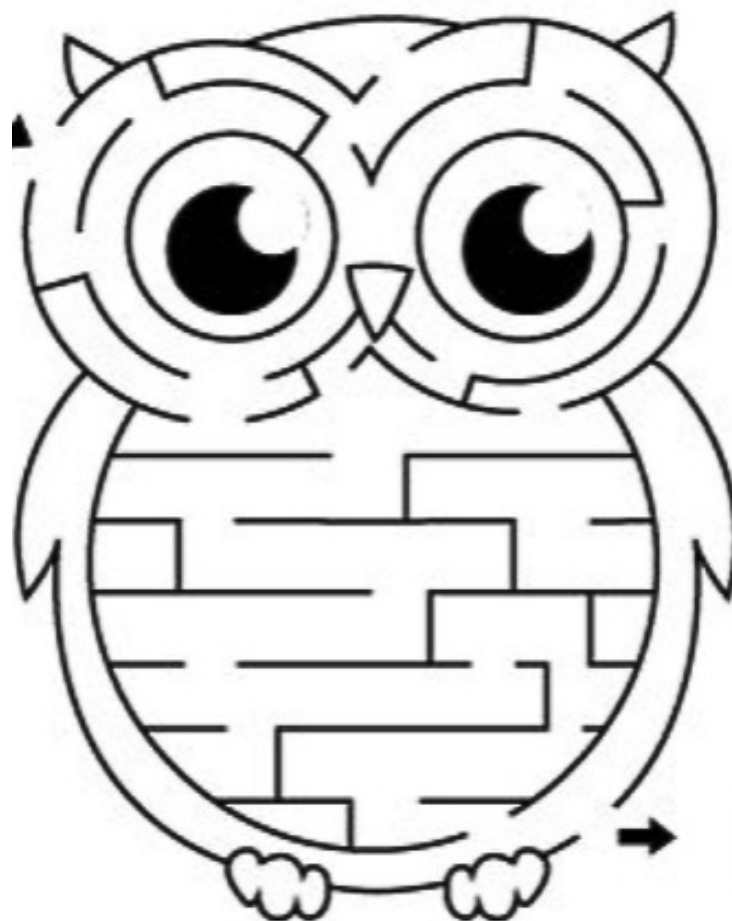
The waiter then said, "Sure thing, but what's up with the big pause?"

To which the bear replied, "I get them from my dad."



TRACE THE MAZE and finish the owl

Follow the winding paths through this cute owl to find your way. Afterward, grab your favourite colours and bring the owl to life with your own creative touch!





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TIDYING UP THIS SUMMER Out with the old

Summer at Wolfe Lake is all about relaxing in nature, but sometimes it's our indoor spaces that need a little love. Bringing intentionality to your clean-up efforts can make the process surprisingly satisfying. Just ask Marie Kondo, the queen of sparking joy!

If starting feels daunting, try this simple trick: box up items you're unsure about and set them aside for a few days. When you revisit the box, anything that doesn't spark joy, or isn't needed, is ready for a new home. **Why not donate it to the [Westport Lions Reuse and Recycle Centre \(5295 Salem Road\)](#)!** You'll free up space, feel lighter, and give your old treasures a second chance.

The R & R Centre also accepts metal and electronic recycling items. They even offer Medical Equipment Loaning Program and a drop off location for lead fishing tackle in support of the Wolfe Lake Association's "Get the Lead Out Program" (fishleadfree.ca). You can contact the [R & R Centre using their Facebook messaging for the fastest response or leave a message at: 613 273-5789](#). Summer cleaning never felt so good!



PORTLAND



DISPOSE RESPONSIBLY | CLOSE TO HOME

A friendly stop at the Portland Waste Disposal site

Trips to the landfill are usually practical affairs. But for Wolfe Lake cottager and magazine editor Anna Rijk, a recent visit to the Portland Waste Disposal Site in Verona turned into a surprisingly positive experience.

Sometimes it's the small, everyday interactions that quietly strengthen a community," says Anna. "A friendly visit to the local landfill can be one of them."

No need for illegal dumping on side roads

Proper waste disposal is easier, and often more affordable, than many people realize. "There's really no need to dump illegally when good options are available nearby," she says. In the fall of 2025, Anna and Daniel drove to the Portland site to dispose of an old sailboat. After cutting it into manageable pieces, they expected a routine trip. Instead, they found a well-organized operation staffed by friendly and helpful employees.

"From the moment we arrived, staff were welcoming, clear in their instructions, and even a little humorous," Anna recalls. "What could have been a chore turned into a genuinely positive experience."

Keeping our community clean

South Frontenac Township operates five landfill and transfer sites that help residents dispose of waste safely and responsibly. These facilities play an important role in protecting the area's natural environment. Unfortunately, illegal dumping remains a problem. Discarded items such as tires, appliances, furniture, construction debris, and household waste continue to appear along roadsides, in wooded areas, and on trails. Besides creating an eyesore, illegally dumped waste can harm wildlife, pollute the environment, and create safety hazards.

Using our landfills the right way

Residents are encouraged to make use of Township landfill services and to visit the official South Frontenac Township website for the most up-to-date information on hours, fees, and accepted materials (see below).

PORTLAND WASTE DISPOSAL SITE

QUICK FACTS

Location: 6085 County Road 38, Verona

Type: Full-service landfill

Hours: Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fees at the Portland site are based on weight, using on-site scales. Proof of residency is required, as the site is for South Frontenac residents only, a policy that helps keep operations fair and well managed. (Portland takes debit, very convenient.)

Other (4) South Frontenac Township Waste Transfer Facilities

- Loughborough 1818 Norway Road, Perth Rd
- Salem 1779 Devil Lake Road, Westport
- Bradshaw 85 Pine Shores Lane, Tichborne
- Green Bay 174 Burns Road, Godfrey

Website: southfrontenac.net/living-in-south-frontenac/garbage-and-recycling/landfills

TURTLES KINGSTON

WHY EVERY ADULT TURTLE COUNTS

For years, Turtles Kingston has been working to protect and conserve turtle populations throughout the Kingston and Frontenac region. Through education, rescue programs, and partnerships with local wildlife organizations and veterinary clinics, dedicated volunteers are helping ensure that Ontario's turtles continue to thrive.

Their work is especially important when it comes to the Snapping Turtle, one of Ontario's most remarkable reptiles. Snapping turtles can live for more than 100 years and may take over 20 years to reach sexual maturity. Because so few eggs and hatchlings survive to adulthood, every mature turtle plays a critical role in sustaining the population.

In fact, conservation experts estimate that it takes about 1,500 eggs and nearly 60 years to replace a single lost adult Snapping Turtle. This is one reason the species is listed as being of Special Concern in Ontario.

If you come across a hatchling turtle, there is usually no need to move it. Young turtles instinctively know where they need to go, even when they appear far from water. Unless they are in immediate danger, the best thing to do is leave them alone.

Through its Turtle Trauma Response Program, Turtles Kingston also helps injured turtles receive care and rehabilitation. Designated veterinary clinics act as Temporary Holding Stations until volunteers can safely transport turtles to Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre.

Even turtles killed on roads may help save future generations. During nesting season, viable eggs can sometimes be recovered from deceased females within 24 hours and successfully incubated.

The next time you see a turtle crossing a road or basking along the shore line, remember that helping one adult turtle survive can have an impact lasting decades. By staying alert on local roads and



Turtles have been part of Ontario's wetlands and lakes for millions of years, but many species are facing increasing challenges. The WLAW offers advice on building protective turtle nest cages to help prevent eggs from being dug up by predators, particularly raccoons, which are responsible for the destruction of many turtle nests.

supporting conservation efforts, we can all help protect these ancient and fascinating residents of our lakes and wetlands.

The efforts of Turtles Kingston are part of a larger network of dedicated organizations across Eastern Ontario working to protect turtle populations, including Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre in Napanee, the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary near Ottawa, the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre in Peterborough, and conservation initiatives such as the Canadian Wildlife Federation's Eastern Ontario Turtle Project." www.facebook.com/TurtlesKingston

WOLFE LAKE GOES ORANGE

Wolfe Lake was exceptionally well represented at a diplomatic function on May 5 at HMCS Carleton in Ottawa! Celebrating the Dutch National Day (Kings Day) near Commissioners Park and oh so close to those tulips from the Netherlands, our little corner of Wolfe Lake proudly showed its Dutch colours (and backgrounds), and there was certainly no shortage of orange in the crowd.



Small Beginnings, Big Royal Meeting

Local entrepreneur Jefta Monster was invited to meet Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands during her visit to Ottawa (May 2026). At a reception at the Residence of ambassador Margriet Vonno (Rockcliffe), Monster was recognized as a successful Dutch-Canadian entrepreneur. After arriving in Canada (1997), he began selling traditional Dutch *kroketten* and has since built a thriving business, owning several Starlet stores across the region.





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PHEW, THAT GARLIC ODOUR

How to get rid of the smell of garlic after eating it

Celebrating Wolfe Lake with fun facts

Did you know?

Garlic is delicious and most of us love it, but it does have a way of lingering. At the cottage, that's usually no problem: no surprise visitors, no worries. But if plans change and people are coming over after you've enjoyed a garlicky meal, you probably don't want the aroma following you around. Luckily, a few simple tricks can help.

First, drink water and give your mouth a good rinse. Hydration helps flush out odour-causing compounds. Chewing fresh parsley, mint, or basil works surprisingly well; their natural oils help neutralize smells. Crunchy foods like apples, celery, or lettuce can also reduce garlic odour by breaking down sulfur compounds.

Milk is another effective option. Drinking a glass of milk (especially whole milk) during or after a garlic-heavy meal can significantly reduce lingering smells. Green tea helps too, thanks to its antioxidants.

Finally, don't forget basic hygiene: brush your teeth, floss, and gently clean your tongue. A quick mouthwash rinse can be the finishing touch.

Garlic may be bold, but with these tips, it doesn't have to be unforgettable.



A BEAUTIFUL SURPRISE, HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD

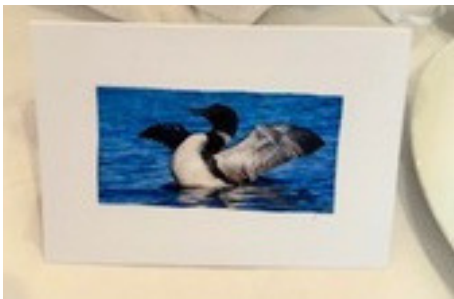
An unexpected tribute to WLAW volunteers aboard a cruise ship

From the glaciers of Patagonia to the shores of Wolfe Lake, a shared love of nature can create remarkable connections. During a recent voyage through South America, Donna and Bill Garland experienced a heartwarming reminder that the work of Wolfe Lake volunteers is appreciated far beyond our own community.



While travelling through South America earlier this year, Wolfe Lake residents Donna and Bill Garland received an unexpected reminder that environmental stewardship can have an impact far beyond our own shoreline.

The couple was aboard a Silversea cruise exploring Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and the spectacular fjords of Patagonia.



Along the way, Donna met naturalists, professional birders, wildlife enthusiasts, ship staff, and fellow travellers from around the world. Conversations often turned to nature and conservation, giving Donna the opportunity to share stories about Ontario's freshwater lakes, and, of course, Wolfe Lake. She spoke proudly about the work of the Wolfe Lake Association, our commitment to protecting water quality and wildlife habitat, and the many volunteers who dedicate their time to preserving the natural beauty of our lake. Donna also shared the Association's websites and information with guests, ship managers, shore excursion staff, and fellow passengers.

Then came a touching surprise.

Returning to their cabin one morning, Donna and Bill discovered that the ship's staff had prepared a special recognition of the Wolfe Lake Association's environmental efforts. The unexpected gesture moved Donna to tears.

"It was so nice to meet other people who care deeply about the environment and the species that depend on it," she reflected later. "It was an honour and a surprise that the Silversea staff recognized the efforts of the Wolfe Lake Association."



The experience was a reminder that the work done by volunteers around Wolfe Lake resonates beyond our own community. Whether on the shores of Wolfe Lake or among the glaciers, penguins, and sea lions of South America, a shared love of nature has a remarkable way of bringing people together.

Sometimes, even at the far end of the world, Wolfe Lake is closer than you think.



HEY YOU, YES YOU! Why not help your lake association

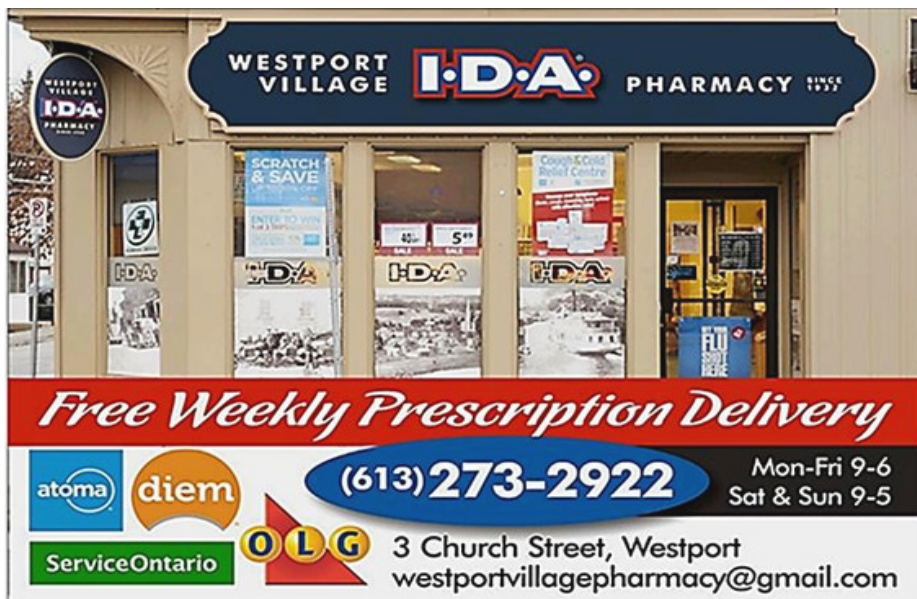
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KIDS' PAGES SOLUTIONS Critter Riddles 'n Giggles

shadow.
scales; H: Purr-ple and I: It's
eggs; G: They carry their own
cheetahs; F: She laid scrambled
was playing with a bunch of
ticks; D: Mice Crispies; E: He
only grow down; C: He got
A: French flies; B: Because they

Stay connected with the Wolfe Lake community!

Follow our Facebook page: **Wolfe Lake Association Westport ON**. With almost **500 followers**, it's a great place to keep up with local events, news, photos, and everything happening around the lake. We would also like thank to Margie Manthey for the **many years of dedication** and care she has invested in building and maintaining this page. Her efforts have helped create a **vibrant online community** that keeps us all connected and informed. Join us online and be part of the conversation!



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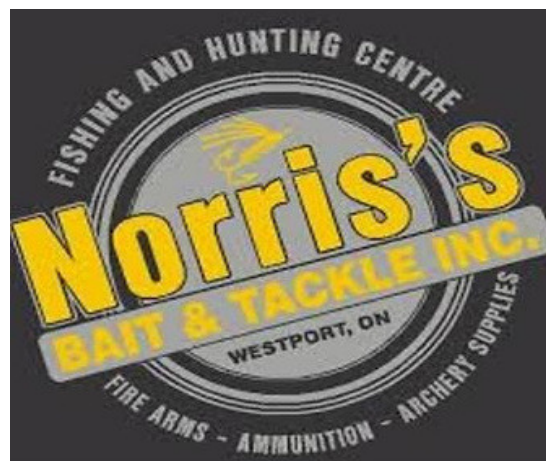
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Natural shorelines help:

- Discourage geese
- Prevent erosion
- Improve water quality
- Reduce algae blooms
- Support local wildlife

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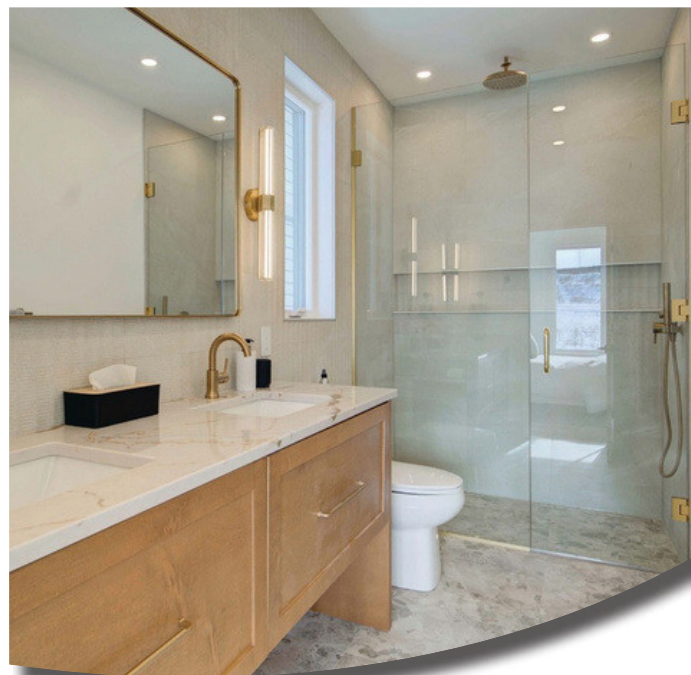
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