

Wolfe Lake MAGAZINE

A publication of the Wolfe Lake Association, Westport

Summer, 2025

LEADING THE CHARGE AGAINST LEAD

Sign our petition to help halt lead poisoning in wildlife

FROM REFUGE TO RETREAT

Green Shingle Lodge

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES

WLAW: 37 years of stewardship

WATER SKIING

Chasing the wake



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Wolfe Lake MAGAZINE

Wolfe Lake
Association
WESTPORT, ONTARIO

ON THE COVER
Deanna Garland turns
motion into magic
with this shot.

Summer, 2025

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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 2025 team

PRESIDENT |

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WOLFE LAKE REP | Timothy Richards

WOLFE LAKE REP | Ken Vissers

WOLFE LAKE REP | Greg Wetmore



Wolfe Lake Association Westport | wolfelake.org

Our 2025 volunteers

Bill Blaney, Aden Burton, Ken Vissers, Wayne Derbyshire, Sean Garland, Betty Jo MacDougall, Wendy McAdoo, Brian Manthey, Bruce Maynard, Tom Myatt, Lorraine Pellerin, Daniel Spitzer, Thamar Spitzer, Cathy Thompson, Paul Thompson, and Helene Wach. **THANK YOU!**

YOUR NAME could be printed here next year!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Why not give a helping hand

WOLFE LAKE
ASSOCIATION
WESTPORT

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

JOIN US!

Contact Anna Rijk:
com-wolfelake@outlook.com



Wolfe Lake needs more helping hands to get things done! Help us protect and preserve Wolfe Lake this summer, even just for a day. The association has a long list of volunteering tasks. Contact Anna Rijk today at com-wolfelake@outlook.com, or talk to our team at the upcoming AGM (July 26), to find out what you can do to help the WLAW.

5 BOAT SAFETY TIPS



- 1. Know Boat sober:** .Be Water Smart® - don't drink and drive your boat! Alcohol negatively affects judgement & reaction time.
- 2. Life jackets = non-negotiable.** Make sure you've got one for everyone, including children.
- 3. Sound the alarm(s):** Test (if you have them on your boat) your smoke, carbon monoxide, hilge, and fume alarms. No beep? No good. It might be time to change batteries.
- 4. Check Your Flares:** Flares expire after 42 months. Fire extinguishers? "If it's older than 12 years and disposable, or the indicator is in the red, it's time for a swap."
- 5. Refill your first-aid kit:** You may be out of much needed supplies that were used last season or have since expired.

Wolfe Lake Magazine

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Association Westport ON

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DISCLAIMER

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WHAT'S INSIDE | Back at the lake

Hi everyone! As I wrap up this year's edition of our magazine, I'm in awe—once again—of what this community accomplishes. Year after year, our volunteers, contributors, and supporters pour love and energy into Wolfe Lake. Whether it's our writers, our AGM organizers, our dedicated initiative takers, or other volunteers, everyone chips in. Thank you, all. Bill Garland looks back at everything the WLAW has done for Wolfe, and his summary takes 3 pages! Amazing!

This spring I've had to work on our magazine from home rather than at the lake. So sad, my drumming fingers, the sighs, the "why won't this download?" frustration at the cottage. Yes, we're talking about high-speed internet, or more accurately, the lack thereof. After the snow melt earlier this year, we struggled to get even 1.5Mbps. Thanks to WTC, we've recently been upgraded to fibre internet service. Such a game changer! Many professionals now choose rural life over city cubicles. Already, 1 in 5 freelance tech workers in Canada live in rural areas, chasing a better quality of life. This trend could be a golden opportunity for rural communities, ours included. These newcomers bring income, skills, and fresh energy. But poor internet is a serious hitch. It limits tourism, business, education, and even property development. At this point, Daniel and I found that stable internet isn't a luxury anymore, it's an essential service. So, after starting our cottage life almost 15 years ago feeling "no need for internet at the lake", we are now more than happy with our updated service.

We are all back at the lake now. Another season to play, relax, and be grateful. We feel so fortunate to have a place on Wolfe Lake, each of us making the most of it in our own way. Take Sean Garland, carving through the mirror-like surface of the morning lake on his skis, or Margie Manthey and her family, expert anglers who know where the fish hide and when they bite and report about it, or the project team led by Donna Garland and Margie, working to protect our environment by crusading against the lead bait that kills wildlife in and around Wolfe Lake, and other lakes in our province. We can all help by signing their petition and opting for a lead-free future. Every signature matters.

And yes! Our annual PICTURE TIME photo contest is back, thanks to our sponsor Cynthia Pringle from Life is Good in Westport. This year's theme: Wonderful Wolfe Trees. The nice thing about trees is that they stand still for the photographer! So snap a shot, enter to win a \$75 gift card, and celebrate the natural beauty around us.

Don't forget the KIDS' PAGES! This year we feature animal stories, a giant bear paw maze, and instructions for creating a bear pawprint card for your kids or grandchildren. As always, you'll also find lots of riddles 'n' giggles.

Thanks again to our mayors for their greetings and ongoing support. See you at the AGM on July 26!

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 e-transfer bank option: treasurerWLCA@rideau.net.

Cheques can be made payable to Wolfe Lake Association and mailed 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 wolfelake.org, and look for the 'memberships' option (lower part of the main page) to read the details. Thank you!!!

DISCOVER BOATING SAFETY APP

Getting ready for a boat ride? Make sure to download the Transport Canada Boating app on your smartphone. It gives you information about the key rules, guidelines

and best practices that will help you and your family stay safe. Visit tc.canada.ca and go to Marine Transport for tips on marine and boat safety.

While you are at it, also download a PDF of Transport Canada's Boating Safety Guide which includes minimum safety equipment required for your boat.

EIGHT ISLANDS

Throughout the year, people often ask us about the names of Wolfe Lake's islands. Most commonly available maps don't show them all. In total, our lake contains eight islands: Derbyshire, Grape, Turnip, Woods, Horseshoe, Duck, Bateman, and Whitefish.

NEIGHBOURS SAVING NEIGHBOURS

The Neighbours Saving Neighbours Program needs more volunteers around our lake. We informed you in last year's Wolfe Lake Magazine about the new South Frontenac initiative aimed at improving survival rates from cardiac arrest across the region. Residents in the Wolfe Lake area are encouraged to get involved by signing up as volunteers. As a participant, you'll receive

training from Frontenac Paramedics in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the proper, safe use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).

After completing the training, you'll be certified in CPR and AED use, and awarded a special badge.

Participation is completely free, and no prior experience is needed.

For more information or to register, contact Jason Kervin at Frontenac Paramedics: 613-548-9400 ext. 410, email jkervin@frontenacounty.ca. or ask Anna Rijk, one of the NSN volunteers, for answers to your questions: com-wolfelake@outlook.com.

AGM BACK AT CAMP IAWAH

Following several fantastic years at the Lions Beach Club in Westport, the Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW) is excited to share that the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) is heading back to CAMP IAWAH — nestled along the beautiful shoreline of our own Wolfe Lake.

Save the date: Saturday, July 26 @ 2:00 pm. More details on page 11.



Green Shingle Lodge: A century on Wolfe Lake FROM REFUGE TO RETREAT | The remarkable story of a historic lakeside landmark

By Chris Chisamore

Chris Chisamore introduces a new series exploring the history of lodges, cottages, and camps around Wolfe Lake. This first feature kicks things off with the story of Green Shingle Lodge—a beloved local landmark that holds many memories for generations of cottagers and the wider community.

Everything changes, nothing ever stays the same. Three hundred years ago, Wolfe Lake would have been a seasonal hunting and fishing grounds for the Algonquin peoples. Two hundred years ago, the American Revolution was over, the War of 1812 had come and gone, and construction of the Rideau Canal was just beginning. The lake wouldn't have changed a lot, but United Empire Loyalists, War of 1812 veterans and their families, and other European and American settlers were slowly moving into the region, for timber and for land. One hundred years ago, the Wolfe Lake that we know today would have been beginning to change and grow, as post WWI industry and development began. Bedford Township had just been created, and the Algonquins had been 'allocated' 19, 144-acre lots.

Within this changing time, many people began to have the means to travel for recreation and leisure. The explosion of the automobile and the train allowed tourists to travel faster and farther than they had

before. Many American visitors began to discover the beauty of our lake and region, and with that came the growth of lodges, cottages and camps. Boating along the lakeshores today, you may not even realize

some of the interesting stories and history of the places you are passing by.

The story of Green Shingle Lodge (current Wolfe Spring Resort) began 100 years ago when Jay C. Guggenheimer (an attorney from New York City whose parents were from Germany) purchased a part lot from Dwight Myers

and his wife in 1924 for \$775. A second parcel was bought the following year for \$220, and the grounds for the Guggenheimer private lodge 'Green Gables' was now in place. A brief mention in a newspaper (March 30, 1925) stated that "C. J. Speagle of Westport, Ont., who is well-known in Ogdensburg, has secured a contract from J. Guggenheimer of New York to construct a \$10,000 cottage on Wolfe Lake this summer". In 1931 the lodge was sold to Jay's wife Ida for \$1. (Jay subsequently passed in 1932.) By 1945/46 and the end of WWII, Ida



had sold the property to George and Alice McCulloch for \$11,000. But it was in the years during the war that the lodge transformed into something much more.



Ida Espen Guggenheimer was a life-long civil rights activist, supporting causes and social issues such as Zionism, Civil Rights, feminism, birth control, labour unions, etc. She even worked alongside such people as Eleanor Roosevelt and Margaret Sanger on topics such as birth control. Causes such as the League of Women Voters, the Women's Trade Union League, and the American Civil Liberties Union were all part of her work. (A Google search for Ida is very much worth the read.)

And so, during the dark days of the war in Europe, the Nazi Third Reich, and the Holocaust, Ida not only sponsored countless refugees, but offered her summer home in Canada as a way station for those who had to leave the United States in order to secure a visa for re-entry. It would be difficult to imagine what those people, who travelled so far to Wolfe Lake for a brief respite from the horror of war and so much more, would have been thinking as they gazed out over the waters of our beautiful lake.

Once the McCulloch family began to operate 'Green Shingle Lodge', the smaller, private residence that it had been, began to transform into something more. Slowly all of the small 'A' frame cabins were built, which then gave guests the option of staying in the main lodge or in an on-site cottage. A cook was brought in on the train from Montreal in the spring, living at the lodge for the entire season. At its peak, the lodge

could accommodate 50 guests, with meals being provided daily. Many of us remember the following phase of the lodge, when dinner began to be served to outside guests as well. Bill and Anna McCulloch were hosting 200 outside people, over two evening sittings during those years. (Does anyone remember the maple glazed dinner rolls at those wonderful meals?) This dining and accommodation experience became a true hallmark of the region. Even out on the waters, the iconic green fishing boats signaled a Green Shingle angler at play. So many local residents have numerous memories and stories from those days, including all of the staff that worked the lodge kitchen, cleaned the rooms, ran the boat house/guiding and managed the grounds. This expanded further over time, to include today's Evergreen Golf Course.

The McCulloch family, like the Guggenheimers, left an enormous impact on the fabric and landscape of Wolfe Lake, one that continues on to this day.

NOTE The name Guggenheimer is not the same name as Guggenheim Museum in New York City. Different spelling, different family.

© Black-&-white pictures: Library of Congress (USA).

THANK YOU for all the help with research provided by the Curator of the Westport Museum, Christine Janeway (see **FOUR QUESTIONS**, page 26). As well, thank you to Joel McCulloch for all of his memories and information about 'the Lodge', and to Braeden McCulloch, for some fact checking on the Guggenheim era.



WOLFE LAKE
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**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

JOIN US!

Contact Anna Rijk:
com-wolfelake@outlook.com



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Leading the charge against lead Wolfe Lake's next step in safeguarding nature from deadly lead pollution

By Margie Manthey & Donna Garland

Standing together

For decades, the Wolfe Lake Association has worked tirelessly to protect our lake, wildlife, and community from environmental threats. One such effort was the 2022 introduction of our "Let's Get the Lead Out" initiative, created to reduce the accumulation of toxic lead fishing tackle in the environment. Although the program has been very

Petition for change

A steering committee, including Wolfe Lake Association members Donna Garland and Margie Manthey, has been established to petition the Ontario Government to update its fishing regulations to align with Parks Canada and support the transition to environmentally safer alternatives to lead

tackle. We are proposing a restriction on certain types of lead fishing tackle, specifically lead split shot, weights, and jig heads weighing 50 grams (1-3/4 ounces) or less.

Why this matters

Lead fishing tackle poses a significant threat to our Provincial Bird, the Common Loon. In fact, lead poisoning from ingested lead fishing tackle is the number one killer of loons. Just

one pencil-tip sized piece of lead is enough to poison and kill an adult loon, eagle, or duck. Even low exposure to lead can cause blindness, seizures, reproductive harm, and death. In addition to threatening scores of aquatic wildlife species, lead tackle threatens humans too. Lead exposure can increase the

risk of stomach, kidney, brain, and lung cancer as well as mesothelioma. Children are at higher risk of lead poisoning when they handle lead fishing tackle and get toxic residue on their fingers. There is no safe amount of lead for kids. Meanwhile, despite its powerful toxicity, 180 metric tonnes of lost lead fishing tackle continues to pile up in Ontario waterbodies every year. To help put this into perspective, that's the equivalent of 20,000 car batteries per year being dumped into our province's lakes and rivers.

How can you help?

Sign the petition. Every signature counts, and every signature brings us another step closer to a safer, cleaner, healthier future for our lakes and the natural diversity they support. By advocating for restrictions on toxic lead fishing tackle, we can better protect our water quality, wildlife, and future generations of anglers.



Our petition ambassadors will be canvassing across the province to collect signatures. Meanwhile, for more information, visit petition.fishleadfree.ca.



successful, it is time to take the next step together because we are all caretakers of our lakes.

Collectively, we are stronger, our voices louder, and the synergy of our actions more impactful.

Wolfe Lake Association: PROTECT | PRESERVE | PLAY Thirty-seven years and counting: protecting what we love

Wolfe Lake has been our special place for a long time! It's our slice of paradise where we swim, fish, boat, sail, and simply unwind. This beautiful lake is not just the heart of our recreation. It's our anchor, our greatest natural treasure, and we're committed to keeping it that way. The Association's progress wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our community. We invite you to be part of it—join us today!

The Wolfe Lake Association's AGM returns to CAMP IAWAH | YOU ARE INVITED

Saturday July 26 from 2pm - 4pm

After several wonderful years hosted at the Lions Beach Club in Westport, the Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW) is thrilled to announce that the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) is returning to Camp IAWAH — right on the shores of our own beloved Wolfe Lake.

Mark your calendars!

Join us on July 26, from 2pm to 4 pm, as we gather lakeside once again, thanks to the generosity of Camp IAWAH, which is not only hosting this year's event but also providing light refreshments (coffee, water and snacks) to welcome us back.

Location & format

The AGM will be held in one of the sections of the main building. Lots of parking space is available. Additionally, the boat parking area will be available for those who wish to use it

The meeting will follow our familiar and friendly setup, with interactive stations focused on key community topics, such as:

- MEMBERSHIP, DUES, AND FINANCIAL UPDATES
- WLAW MERCHANDISE FEATURING OUR SIGNATURE LOGO
- THE "LET'S GET THE LEAD OUT" PETITION AND CAMPAIGN
- WATER QUALITY INSIGHTS AND INITIATIVES
- VOTING (PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP POSITIONS) AND SIGN UP FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- MAP OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE LEAD-REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

Special guest speaker

The WLAW is honoured to welcome Dr. David Philipp, Chair of the Fisheries Conservation Foundation and adjunct professor at the University of Illinois, as our in-person guest speaker this year.

Dr. Philipp's expertise includes the effects of angling on fish populations. He will share an informative presentation on the benefits of sanctuary sites for spawning bass and how they help minimize the impacts of pre-season fishing on bass reproduction and populations.

We will also hear about Dr. Philipp's studies on neighbouring lakes and how a bass sanctuary might look on Wolfe Lake. A Q&A session will follow. This promises to be an especially engaging presentation!

Voting for a new president, vice president and membership director

At the most recent WLAW board meeting, Bill Garland was nominated for the position of President, and Greg Wetmore was nominated for Vice President. It would be great to vote them in at the upcoming AGM on July 26, from 2–4 p.m. at CAMP IAWAH. We'd like to see that someone in our midst is willing to take on the role of Membership Director.

With gratitude

We extend our sincere thanks to the Westport Lions Club for their many years of warm hospitality. Their support has been deeply appreciated by our entire community.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**COME
JOIN
US**

**JULY 26
2025
2 pm - 4 pm**

**RECONNECT WITH
THE WOLFE LAKE
COMMUNITY**

AGM

**WOLFE LAKE
ASSOCIATION
WESTPORT**

INVITATION

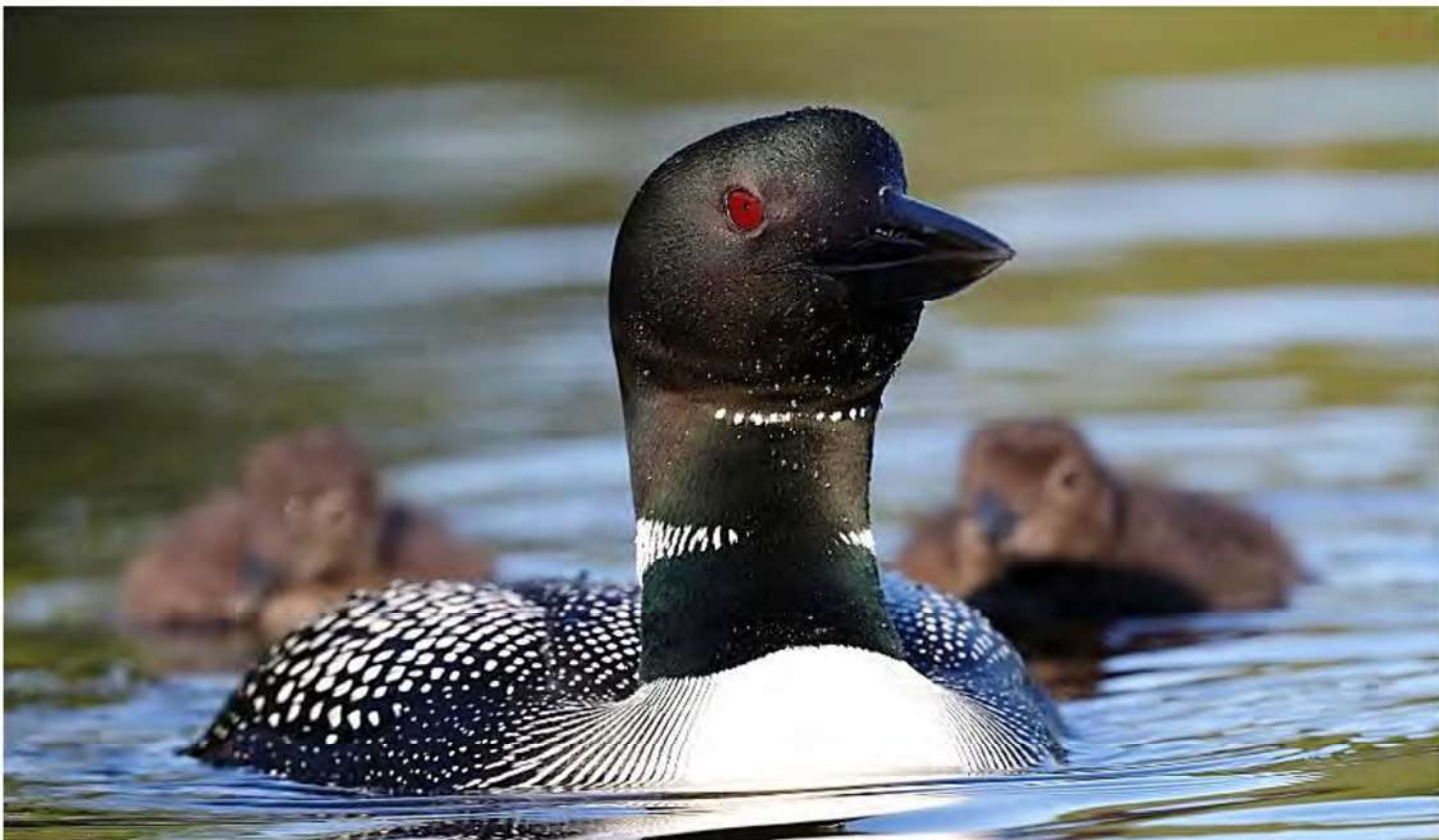


CAMP IAWAH

304 Iawah Road, Godfrey

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Initiatives reflect commitment to our lake

By Margie Manthey

Keeping the Wolfe Lake's ecosystem healthy is a top priority for the Wolfe Lake Association team, and this commitment is reflected in our past initiatives, many of which you can read about in Bill Garland's informative summary on Page 17. Meanwhile, here's an update on more recent projects benefiting our lake, as well as new ones that are now underway.

Let's Get the Lead Out

The Wolfe Lake Association's "Let's Get the Lead Out" initiative was designed to reduce the accumulation of toxic lead tackle in the environment where it poisons and kills common loons, bald eagles, trumpeter swans, great blue herons, and other aquatic wildlife. Since its introduction in March 2022, "Let's Get the Lead Out" has grown to include 18 lake and property owner associations that actively shepherd the stewardship of 34 lakes. To date -- through education, awareness, and collection efforts -- the program has prevented 410 pounds of toxic lead from entering our lakes and rivers. Our grassroots initiative promoting lead-free fishing continues this year. Read about the next step for "Let's Get the Lead Out" on page 10. Also, please visit our webpage fishleadfree.ca to learn more about loons and lead-free fishing.

Submerged wood for fish habitat

Back in 2019, the WLAW partnered with the Westport Area Outdoor Association, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), and CAMP IAWAH on an initiative to enhance fish habitat by sinking Christmas trees in the lake. Since then, annual monitoring of the drop sites using an underwater camera revealed various fish species taking advantage of the evergreens for refuge, shade, and feeding

opportunities. Especially exciting was underwater footage of a sizable male bass protecting its nest alongside one of the sunken trees. We also observed an enormous school of emerald shiners (an important prey fish) darting among submerged white pine branches. Seeing is believing, and fisheries experts know, "Sink it, and they will come!" At this point in time, the old Christmas trees have broken down significantly and have lost their efficacy. Taking this into consideration -- along with only positive past observations -- the WLA will be sinking more trees later this summer in partnership with Watersheds Canada, the RVCA, CAMP IAWAH, and the Westport Lions Club. Future updates will be posted on our Facebook pages, including potential opportunities for the community to volunteer for this initiative supporting the fishery. Questions? Contact Fishing Director, Margie Manthey at manthey.margie@gmail.com.

Scanlan Creek

This past winter and spring were more typical, with plenty of snow, lingering snow pack, and generous rains that created favourable conditions for spawning walleye. Rideau Valley Conservation staff made a site visit to Scanlan Creek the third week in April but missed the brunt of this year's walleye spawn. Nevertheless, a few late-to-the-party 40cm / 16 inch (in slot) fish were observed in the creek, which was

reported as having good flow and no significant algae or silt build up. Lots of suckers were present (they spawn right after walleye), and were observed swimming through the upgraded twin culverts -- a good sign that they, and perhaps the walleye, are accessing historically significant spawning habitat further upstream.

Loon nesting raft

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of Bruce Maynard, Helene Wach, and Bill Garland, the WLAW's loon nesting platform has been installed for its fifth year. Also known as the "Woods Island Bay Hilton," the raft has served as a successful site for loons to hatch chicks for four consecutive years since its debut back in 2021. Last spring, we were delighted to have two chicks hatch off the raft and fledge later that fall! This year, after Helene lined the nesting platform with moss and other suitable plant matter, Bruce and Bill towed it out to its usual spot under the close supervision of the returning loon pair. Loons are intelligent birds, and they undoubtedly recognized their floating nursery. Last year, the lake had two other loon pairs that nested on natural sites; one was successful and produced two additional chicks, but the other failed when the nest and eggs got swamped.

As an invested lake community, our collective respect and consideration while recreating on the water helps ensure the safety of our loons. Please drive boats and PWC cautiously, especially around islands; avoid creating large wakes or making repetitive circles, both which cause waves that can drown fragile chicks and swamp nests. Tubing and water

skiing should be done with vigilance on main basin portions of the lake, not around islands or in bays. Recognize that loons with chicks may not dive (an adult loon had to be euthanized this spring after suffering deep propellor wounds on its back). Also, please avoid fishing near loons, and use lead-free tackle, especially jigs, weights, and sinkers weighing one ounce or under (the tackle most commonly ingested by loons). It all boils down to respect: simply give loons the space they require to stay safe and raise their young. In turn, we and future generations can delight in the iconic sights and sounds of loons on Wolfe Lake.

Bass spawning sanctuary study

The Fisheries Conservation Foundation (FCF) and its partners have established highly successful bass spawning sanctuaries for both large- and smallmouth bass on Opinicon and Charleston Lakes in 2024, and further funding has been secured for expanded study efforts on Big / Upper / Lower Rideau Lakes for 2024-2025.

Meanwhile, the Coalition for Innovative Bass Conservation has been formed, consisting of an additional dozen or so lake associations that wish to explore designated seasonal bass spawning sanctuary sites on their lakes -- Wolfe Lake among them.

The coalition and bass sanctuary research is being led by Dr. David Philipp (Fisheries Conservation Foundation) and Dr. Steven Cooke (Carleton University). Learn more about the dynamics of this new initiative in the Fishing News on Page 32.

THANK YOU, CHRIS AND ERIN | With gratitude from all of us!

Volunteers are the heartbeat of any community organization, and at the Wolfe Lake Association, we've been especially fortunate to have two remarkable individuals at the helm, Chris Chisamore and Erin Derbyshire. Although they have stepped away from their official roles, we want to thank both Chris and Erin for their contributions.



Chris Chisamore

As President of the WLAW, you brought a steady presence to the board and the broader lake community. Your easy-going leadership style and dedication helped steer our association through a number of projects and set us on a path for continued success. Whether chairing meetings or simply lending



a hand, you were always there -- with kindness, vision, and a genuine interest in Wolfe Lake and its community.

While we're sad that you stepped down, we're delighted that you continue to stay involved, whether writing for the Wolfe Lake Magazine or just helping out with various volunteer tasks -- one of which is working

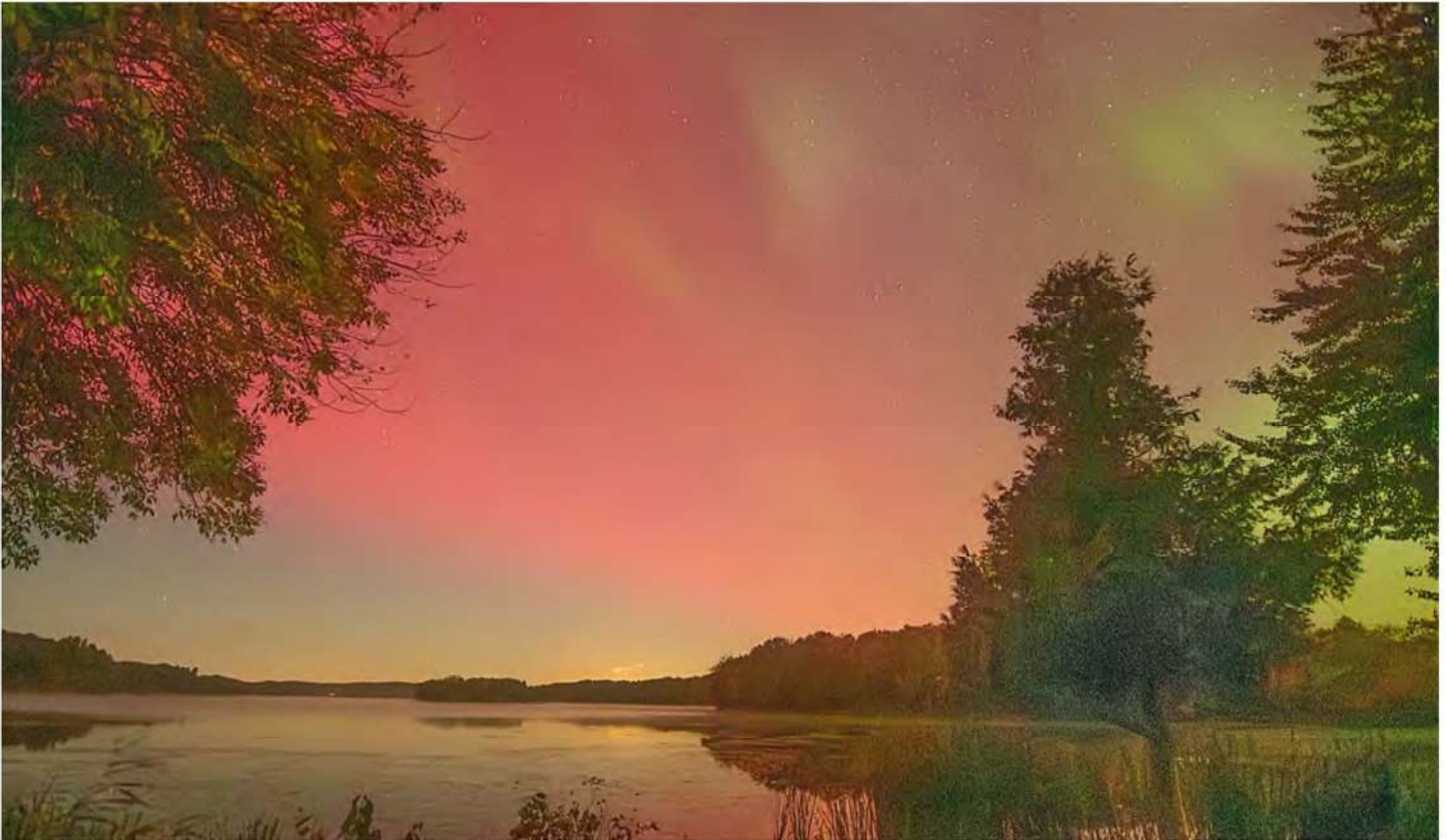
alongside your dad, Roy, with Bill Blaney, and Dwight to install our shoal markers in the spring, keep them in check over the summer, and remove them in the fall.

Erin Derbyshire

Erin, your time as Secretary was nothing short of transformative. You brought our organization, tech-savvy tools, and a collaborative spirit to every meeting and initiative. The board now works more efficiently, with shared online calendars, Teams meetings, and easily accessible documents and minutes. Your behind-the-scenes efforts kept everything running smoothly, and we are truly grateful for your dedication.

Chris and Erin, the WLAW is fortunate to have had you both on our team. Thank you for everything. You will be missed in your roles, but always welcome as part of the WLAW family!

We'll see you on the lake this summer!



Who hasn't felt **awe** when looking up at the night sky?

DAZZLING DISPLAYS OF NORTHERN LIGHTS

By Anna Rijk

Last summer the Ontario skies had a lot to offer: amazing sunsets, comets, and even the Aurora Borealis. These super cool geomagnetic storm displays lit up the nighttime skies above our lake for many nights throughout the summer, enchanting skywatchers in our area. But there was more: a meteor shower, an incredible comet and some of the most amazing sunsets.

Between all the satellites zooming around and the shooting stars we're lucky enough to see, there's plenty to look at when we tilt our heads back in a location free of light pollution and really look up. Our members shared some seriously cool photos of the northern lights on our Facebook page. But that wasn't all. In addition to the Aurora Borealis, we received some amazing sunset photographs and beautifully captured comets.

Richard de Boer, Lorraine Pellerin, Margie Manthey, Sean Garland, MaryBeth Gardner, Paul Junior, Jill Buff and Lori Kennedy Brown were our Aurora, comet and sunset chasers.

What causes the northern lights?

The northern lights are caused by solar particles sent toward Earth by an explosion of energy on the sun's surface. It's when the ejected material interacts with Earth's atmosphere that the beautiful colours dance in the sky.





"When a solar storm comes toward us, some of the energy and small particles can travel down the magnetic field lines at the north and south poles into Earth's atmosphere," according to NASA. "There, the particles interact with gases in our atmosphere resulting in beautiful displays of light in the sky. Oxygen gives off green and red light." Usually, the aurora borealis is visible only farther north. The closer you are to the North Magnetic Pole, the better your chances of being able to admire the northern lights. That said, they can also be seen in more southerly parts of Canada during periods of intense solar activity. And that is exactly what happened last summer.

Planetary alignment

All the planets in our solar system rotate on their own course around the sun, but on occasion their orbits line up with one another on the same side of the sun. Early this year we saw some rare and spectacular celestial events. In January we witnessed a rare 'planet parade', with Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Venus all visible to the naked eye at the same time. Uranus and Neptune were in the lineup as well but too distant to be seen without telescopes. The planetary alignment expanded in the early spring to a line of 7 planets.

Glorious sunsets

In addition to the many Northern Light moments, we also observed many stunning sunsets. When the sun is setting, its light must travel through the thickest part of the atmosphere. This causes more scattering to occur. As a result, longer wavelengths are reflected (red, orange, and yellow), creating beautiful colours in the sky.

Meteor shower

A meteor shower is a celestial event in which a number of meteors appear to radiate, or originate, from one point in the night sky, known as the Radiant. These meteors consist of streams of cometary debris, icy, dusty particles called meteoroids, entering Earth's atmosphere at extremely high speeds on parallel trajectories. The dates of major meteor showers do not change much from year to year, though each shower's peak (or "maximum")



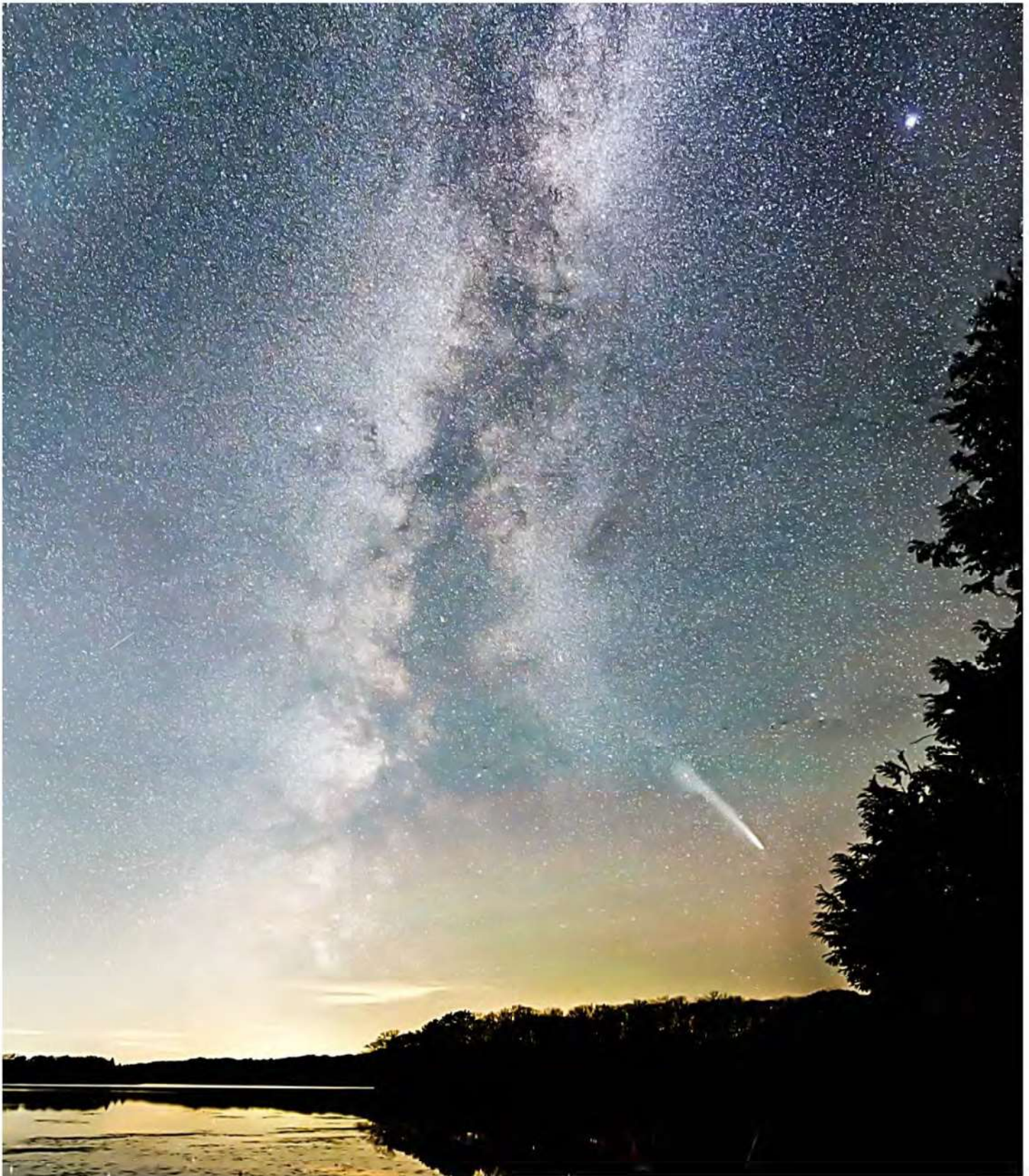
may vary by a day or two. **The Perseids** are the most familiar meteor shower, because they peak on warm August nights as seen from the northern hemisphere.

The Perseids are active from July 14 to September 1, with a strong maximum on August 12 or 13, depending on the year.

Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS)

This comet was spectacular to watch. The comet appeared in the night of September 27, 2024, and reached its closest point to Earth on October 12, 2024. At that time, the comet was visible to the naked eye!

Richard de Boer captured this amazing moment in the sky.





Wolfe Lake Association | Looking back on 37 years A MEMORABLE JOURNEY WITH A HUGE IMPACT

By Bill Garland

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport (WLAW) was formed 37 years ago by a group of property owners concerned about the impacts of a proposed subdivision in Lee Bay. This planned lakefront and backlot development was to be located 400 metres from a Bald Eagle's nest on Fox Point and would have introduced significant human activity to the shores of a shallow, environmentally sensitive bay. At the time, Bald Eagles were a seriously endangered species in Ontario. Our Association protested to the Ontario Municipal Board and was successful in having significant limitations placed on the proposed development in Lee Bay. Thanks to Don Collison, Charles Wiseman, Aubrey Gray and others.

Since then, our Wolfe Lake Association has maintained a steadfast commitment to lake stewardship, as demonstrated by a series of impressive community volunteer initiatives.

Throughout the early 2000s, we collaborated with the Bedford Mining Alert Group in an effort to halt a planned open-pit graphite mining project along the north and northwest shores of Wolfe Lake. Numerous Wolfe Lake Association members worked tirelessly for a decade and were eventually successful in persuading the Ontario government to amend the Mining Act and

prevent the mining company from proceeding with the claims they had staked on private property along our shoreline. Thanks to Marilyn Crawford, Sharon Carr, Betty In MacDougall and many other association members.

A number of years later, Eurasian Milfoil (an invasive plant) was spreading across our lake, threatening native aquatic ecosystems and impeding recreational activities. This annoying water plant comes back to life even after being severed from its root system. In response, we purchased lab-grown milfoil

weevils, a species known to feed exclusively on milfoil, and placed them in 2 infested test sites. The test results were promising but our supplier eventually quit the business, leaving us with no commercial source for weevils. Our Association then attempted to cultivate our own weevils in a member's garage, but with limited success. We did, however, persuade Parks Canada to include Wolfe Lake in scientific studies aimed at finding remedies to eradicate Eurasian Milfoil, and our board members have attended seminars on invasive species to keep abreast of any progress towards a solution.

At the present time, there are a number of companies offering chemical solutions for the control of Eurasian Milfoil. None, however, are financially suitable or present a complete solution to the problem. Thanks to Paul Thompson and Duncan MacDougall for leading this effort.

In 1995, our Association realized that Scanlon Creek had declined significantly as a Walleye spawning area. A group of Wolfe Lake Association members, led by Glen Ewen, cleaned out some of the silt and placed rock in the upstream creek bed. Our Association spent \$2,200 on this rehabilitation project.

In 2019, the downstream area of Scanlon Creek was found to be silted up as well, to the extent that it no longer offered a suitable spawning area for our Walleye. Our Association raised \$4,474 and contracted Tackaberry Construction to upgrade a culvert, clear the silt and supply large river rock. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), Westport Outdoor Association, CAMP IAWAH, property owners and Wolfe Lake Association volunteers joined forces to place large river rocks strategically in Scanlon Creek, thereby improving spawning conditions for our Walleye. Thanks to Margie Manthey for her leadership on this successful project. This effort was reported in a Cottage Life Magazine article.

For 37 years our Association has worked to protect our boating community by purchasing and strategically placing marker buoys over hazardous shoals. Each spring our dedicated volunteers, led by Roy Chisamore, install the marker buoys and every fall they remove them – a significant effort that keeps us all safe.

In addition, our Association has conducted water testing to ensure the health of our lake for 36 consecutive years. Our Water Quality Directors have worked with technicians from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) and the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to collect and test water samples throughout the lake. Decades of collected data allows us to monitor long-term water quality trends across the lake and respond proactively to emerging threats. Gord Moore, our current Water Quality Director, facilitates this effort 4 to 5 times annually.

To protect our loons and other waterfowl from becoming entangled in discarded fishing line, Brian and Margie Manthey

designed and built three monofilament recycling receptacles and installed one at each of our three boat launches. Thanks to Wayne Derbyshire for emptying these receptacles each year. It is gratifying to see that they are being used.

In 2016, South Fronterac Township proposed a new bylaw affecting existing buildings which, while noncompliant with the 100-foot lake setback, had been grandfathered as legally nonconforming. Under the proposed bylaw, if a nonconforming structure sustains significant damage due to fire, fallen trees, or other catastrophes, its grandfathered status would be revoked and the Township would require the noncompliant building to be relocated or removed. In response, the Wolfe Lake Association Executive met with other Lake Associations to develop a strategy to oppose this bylaw. The proposed bylaw was eventually dropped after hearings before the Ontario Municipal Board. Thanks to Paul Thompson and Bill Garland for their active participation in this effort.

In 2017 our annual newsletter transitioned into a high-quality, professionally produced magazine that not only keeps members informed but also celebrates the stories, people and activities that make Wolfe Lake so special. This change also facilitates fundraising by generating revenue through advertising. An enormous amount of work goes into producing each issue, all of it managed by our Communication Director, Anna Rijk. As editor she writes articles and arranges submissions from many contributors into each issue. Thanks goes to proofreader Betty Jo MacDougall, Marti Hansell, and all who make this magazine into one big story and attractive magazine.

To keep our lake community informed and engaged, we are available on the internet at wolfelake.org and fishleadfree.ca. These websites were built and are maintained by Donna Garland, our Director of Webservices. To date we have had over 6200 visitors.

Margie Manthey plays a vital role in managing our Facebook presence. Her responsibilities are integral to maintaining an engaging and informative social media platform that connects with our audience effectively and often.

We also communicate with our membership through emailed News Flashes and news alerts, managed and distributed by Anna Rijk.

In 2024, RVCA technicians, with the support of the Garland's grandson Aden Burton, conducted an Aquatic Invasive Species survey at multiple locations around Wolfe Lake and in Barr's and Scanlon Creeks. Thanks to Margie Manthey for arranging this survey.

The Wolfe Lake Association has placed Turtle Crossing signs on North Shore roads to help alert drivers and reduce mortality among nesting turtles. In addition, the Association has arranged to have turtle nest guards, wood duck houses, and bat and bluebird boxes built and made available for purchase at very reasonable prices at our AGMs. These structures provide vital shelter and safe nesting opportunities for species that depend on our lake's natural shoreline and woodlands. They can be seen protecting our wildlife around the lake.

The haunting calls of the Common Loon and their elegant presence on the water have made them a cherished part of our lake experience. However, in recent years, the loons on Wolfe Lake have faced significant challenges in bringing their offspring to maturity, primarily due to predation and environmental factors. In response to this growing concern, two loon nesting platforms were built to provide safe elevated nesting sites for loons, out of the reach of ground-based and flying predators. Unfortunately, one of the platforms was damaged beyond repair when a tree fell on it during winter storage. The remaining platform is strategically placed in Woods Bay and provides a secure environment for loons to lay their eggs and raise their chicks. The platform is moved into place just after ice-out in the spring and removed once the chicks leave the nest in August. Over the last three years, one pair of Wolfe Lake loons have raised four chicks to maturity. Thanks to Helene and Bruce Maynard, Adrianna and Sandro Gambarotta, and Bill and Donna Garland for the time and expense they have devoted to this very important loon initiative.

Four years ago, with the approval of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), our Association embarked on an innovative project to protect young fish in the lake. We collected used Christmas trees, bundled them together, and submerged them in four strategic locations around the lake.

Since the inception of this project, RVCA has diligently monitored the submerged tree bundles each year. They have taken digital photographs of the schools of young fish that seek refuge from predators within these

bundles. These images provide compelling evidence of the effectiveness of our initiative in **providing a safe haven for the lake's young fish population**. Building on the success of the past four years, we plan to submerge additional tree bundles this summer. The goal is to further support and enhance the growth of our fish population. Thanks to Margie Manthey for her leadership and Camp IAWAH for their support.

The **Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee** is an organization of area Lake Associations that meets quarterly to discuss topics of concern to the Associations or to the township. Greg Wetmore and Margie Manthey are the Wolfe Lake delegates to this group. One recent issue was the suggestion that Westport might consider disposing of excess wastewater in Upper Rideau Lake, Sand Lake or Wolfe Lake. The area lake associations made it clear to the Village that they are strongly opposed to this possibility.

In 2021 trees throughout Ontario suffered **severe damage from an infestation of Spongy (formerly Gypsy) Moths**. Bruce Maynard (Wolfe Lake Association) and Tom Myatt (Westport Outdoor Association) teamed up to find some way of slowing down the destruction of our trees. They connected with pheromone experts at the University of Waterloo, who were able to supply us with a significant quantity of pheromone-soaked elastic bands. The pheromone bands proved very effective in attracting Spongy Moths into traps that property owners could easily make themselves. Over 5,000 pheromone bands were distributed free of charge that summer from the Westport Lions R & R Centre to Wolfe Lake, Westport, Rideau Lakes and South Frontenac property owners. Thanks to Bruce and Tom for their leadership, and Anna for effectively communicating the project.

Five years ago, the **boat launches on both the 10th Concession and Wolfe Lake Road were in very poor condition** as a result of erosion of the road surface into the lake. In 2020 we invited the Township to inspect both launches with WLA board members. Finally, after lengthy discussions, the costs of rehabilitation were included in the 2021 Township budget and the launches were significantly updated. Thanks to Richard

Hazell and Brian and Margie Manthey for their persistence and to Rideau Lakes Township for an excellent job in rebuilding the ramps.

Three years ago, our Association embarked on an initiative to **address the environmental and health risks posed by lead fishing tackle**. With financial support from various grants, we launched our **"Let's Get The Lead Out"** program, dedicated to educating our community about the dangers of using lead fishing tackle and promoting safer alternatives. Our success represents growing awareness, changing habits, and multiple communities stepping up to safeguard the natural environment. Thanks to Margie Manthey and Donna Garland for their leadership and tireless efforts on this project.

In 2017, an amendment to the Township of South Frontenac's Official Plan was proposed to **permit significant expansion of an existing campsite on Lake Opinicon by increasing lot coverage from 25% to 83%**. The Wolfe Lake Association, along with other Lake Associations and environmental experts, wrote to the Township respectfully but strongly opposing the proposal. Why? Because it is **precedent setting** and there would be **no undo button** to counter the negative impacts on wildlife, the lake, Township and provincial services (including roads, garbage, policing, fire, and emergency services), property owners and individuals. The Township unanimously rejected the proposal. In January 2025, the proposal proceeded to the Ontario Land Tribunal, and we are awaiting their decision. Thanks to Donna Garland who attended the meetings and has kept our Association informed.

In 2024, we successfully built and installed **Boat Launch signs at our three boat launches**.

The primary purpose of these signs is to communicate essential information to the public. They enhance the overall boating experience by providing:

🌀 **environmental information:** guidelines to protect our waterways and local wildlife

🌀 **safety information:** Rules and tips for safe boating practices to prevent accidents and ensure a secure environment for everyone

🌀 **fishing information:** Regulations and best practices to maintain sustainable fishing and conserve fish populations

🌀 **legal information:** Important legal guidelines and requirements that all boaters must follow to comply with local laws

🌀 **map information:** detailed maps of the boat launch areas, providing easy navigation and orientation for all users.

Thanks to Brian Manthey, Gord Moore, Larry Arsenault and Bill Garland, who built the signs and worked closely with the Townships of South Frontenac and Rideau Lakes to secure locations, ensure compliance and partner in building the boat launch sign platforms. And we are now paying it forward: the architectural drawings created by Brian for the boat launch signs have been shared with other Lake Associations.

As you can see, our Association has been **adding value to our lake community for over three decades**. Association projects have provided significant benefits to virtually everyone on the lake.

Finally, I would like to give a shout-out to **our many past presidents who have played significant roles in carrying out all these activities:** Don Collison, Charles Wiseman, Jim Kennedy, Warren Snelling, Glen Ewen, Roy Sunstrum, Paul Thompson, Bill Garland (interim), Brian Manthey and Chris Chisamore.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW—OR SIGN UP FOR—YOUR WLAW MEMBERSHIP!

Please renew or sign up for your WLAW membership. Our \$30 membership fee is the financial life blood of the association.

We welcome members to join our board. The workload can be as much or little as you wish and the friendships you build will last a lifetime.

HEY YOU. YES, YOU! WHY NOT HELP YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION?

We know you love our Wolfe Lake Magazine. Step up to the plate, become a volunteer and contact us by emailing com-wolfelake@outlook.com.



WLAW JOINS REGIONAL LAKE NETWORKING GROUP

Sharing best practices and learning from each other

By Anna Rijk

This year, the Wolfe Lake Association is pleased to announce that we are joining the Lake Networking Group, a regional initiative that brings together lake associations from across Eastern Ontario. Following an invitation to participate, this decision was made during a recent online board meeting. Sharing experiences and learning from other lake associations could also benefit the WLAW.

What is the Lake Networking Group?

The Lake Networking Group (LNG) is an informal yet thriving network of representatives from over 15 lake associations in Eastern Ontario.

United by a shared passion for lake stewardship, members come together to learn from one another, share experiences, and collaborate on addressing common concerns.



Established in 2004, the group began with representatives from just seven local lakes who met to discuss issues affecting their communities.

What they discovered was a powerful truth: while each lake faces unique challenges, many of the underlying concerns are shared—by working together, they could be far more effective.

Who's involved?

Today, the group includes a wide range of lakes from various watersheds and municipalities. Participating lakes span the Mississippi, Rideau, Cataraqui, and Quinte Watersheds, and include associations from Tay Valley; North, South, and Central Frontenac, Drummond/North Elmsley, Lanark Highlands; and Rideau Lakes Townships.

These communities fall within Lanark, Frontenac, and Leeds & Grenville Counties.

Some of the lakes involved include Loughborough, Dog, Cranberry, Sydenham, Desert, Eagle, Big Clear, Elbow, Bobs, Crow, Sharbot Lake, Canonto, Silver Lake, and many others—now including Wolfe Lake.

What does the group do?

The LNG functions as a collaborative space where members communicate throughout the year via email and meet two to three times annually—typically in the spring and fall—to discuss emerging issues, plan workshops, and identify opportunities for mutual support.

Whether it's water quality testing, invasive species management, shoreline development concerns, or changes in government policy, the LNG provides a forum for education, advocacy, and idea-sharing that strengthens each individual association.

Why it matters to Wolfe Lake

By joining the Lake Networking Group, Wolfe Lake is gaining a seat at the table—alongside many of our neighbouring lakes—to stay informed and potentially collaborate on the big-picture issues that affect us all.

Networking is always a good thing to be part of. We can tap into a wealth of experience, share our successes and challenges, and contribute to a stronger collective voice for lake protection in our region.



The WLAW board will receive regular updates from the Lake Networking Group by email.

If there is important information or news to share, we'll distribute a News Flash to all our Wolfe Lake Association Westport members.

You can find more information about the

Lake Networking Group here: taywatershed.ca/networking.php. Good news! A dedicated website is currently under development. It will serve as a central hub for many regional lake associations.

WTC EXPANDS FIBRE NETWORK AROUND WOLFE LAKE | An update



Two years ago, WTC began working to expand high-speed internet access around Wolfe Lake. Since then, the company has made steady progress, with fibre optic cable installation now well underway—bringing reliable connectivity closer to more homes and cottages in the area.

"We're continuing our efforts to make as many properties around Wolfe Lake fibre-ready as possible," says Kevin Christy, Manager of Plant Operations at WTC. "Over the past few months, our teams have been busy installing fibre optic cables along the east and north shores of the lake. Areas like Cottonwood Drive and Bobcat Lane now have cables in place, with just a few final steps remaining before we're ready to connect customers."

This expansion builds on previous work that brought fibre to the far north and west shores of the lake, as well as the eastern areas near Hanna Road.

While much of the installation is complete, WTC is currently waiting for the last patches of snow to melt before crews can finish some of the more challenging sections. "Once that's done, we'll begin splicing the cables and tying them back into our network," Christy explains. "We expect to have many of the newly serviced homes ready for fibre installation later this year."

For property owners eager to get connected, WTC is already accepting service requests. You can sign up online at: wtcnet.ca/start

Here's Paige, one of WTC's skilled technicians, braving the wet ground this spring.





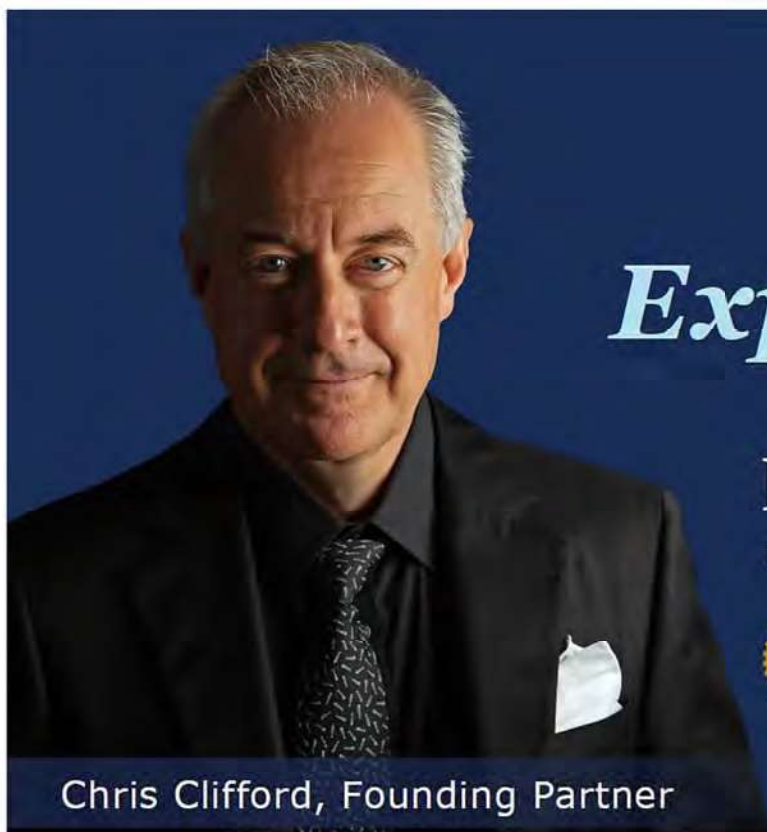
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The Floating Bridge on Wolfe Lake

By Donna Garland



preserved details about the bridge offer a rare glimpse into the innovative and resourceful spirit of the community in earlier times. Above you see a photo looking southeast and dated 1930 showing the floating bridge in the foreground.

This practical and innovative structure served as a vital link between Fermoy and Westport, connecting communities and enabling the movement of people and goods across the lake.

Built by a local crew

The bridge floor was constructed of logs carefully lashed together and left to float on the surface of the water. It was built by a dedicated crew of local men at some point prior to 1850 and later maintained by Bedford Township road crews whose contribution is captured in this group



photo (undated). Left to right holding the horse's is Dave Barr, Harry Stinson and Stan McNeil and kneeling is George Cook, Bob Barr, Ed Barr, Abe Barr and Louis Brash.

1860 Putnam map

The 1860 Putnam map shows the exact location of the floating bridge.

Note the names of some of our early residents on this map: Brash (Brash's Camp), McNeil (McNeil Road), Wood (Woods Bay), Harrington, Quinn, Barr, Stinson, Atchinson, Tobin, Hunt and Botting, among others. The map also shows a lead mine, a black lead deposit and Iron Ore Road, which has since been renamed Lee Road. On February 19, 1850, Bedford Township's Municipal Council passed a bylaw highlighting the importance of this crossing.



Crossing the floating bridge to pay taxes in Fermoy

Shelva Saunders Hutchings, from Saunders Farm, situated on Wolfe Lake, at the area around what is now called Hanna Road, recalls her family traveling once a year to Fermoy to pay their taxes.

Their route included crossing the Wolfe Lake floating bridge.

Shelva remembers crossing that bridge in an old truck while water was flowing over it and the bridge moving. "It was very scary."

A "road story" from historical archives

The following is a 'road story' from the records of the Bedford Historical Society for 1918 mentions the floating bridge. Please note: This historical account includes the term "gypsy", a word that is now considered outdated and offensive. It appears here as part of the original source and is included for historical accuracy.

"Rosina and Lucinda [Woods] after a day of shopping in Westport saw a group of gypsies coming down the hill from Fermoy. Hang on Lucinda, said Rosina

Minutes of the Municipal Council (abridged) of the Township of Bedford

Tuesday, February 19th, 1850

Bylaw No. 8

It was moved and seconded that A Bylaw be passed entitled Bylaw No. 8 "That any persons or persons riding on horseback or driving any wagon or vehicle over any bridge in the township of Bedford faster than on a walk shall on conviction of the parties be liable to a fine of not exceeding five pounds nor less than five shillings as the nature of the case may require" which was read and adopted by the Council.

Bylaw No. 9

Moved and seconded that A Bylaw be passed entitled Bylaw No. 9 For enforcing obedience to the bylaws of the Municipal Corporation of the township which was read and adopted.

as she increased the pace of the horse.

They crossed the bridge as fast as the bridge would allow. There, they came eye to eye with approaching Gypsies near the bottom of the hill.

Two men separated themselves from the group and stood in the middle of the road to catch the horse's harness. Rosina not about to stop let the horse break into a run. The surprised gypsies missed catching the harness as they sped by. Rosina and Lucinda escaped any plans the gypsies may have had. Little did the gypsies realize until it was too late that it was Walter Wood's racehorse pulling the buggy. Left is a picture of Lucinda Woods holding a baby lamb."

Over time changes have been made

Since then, the road has been reconstructed and paved. The floating bridge was eventually retired and replaced with two wooden culverts. In 2016, they- in turn- were replaced with a single concrete box culvert at a cost of \$300,000. While the landscape and infrastructure have evolved over time, traces of the past, like the floating bridge, tell a story of ingenuity, hard work, and local pride.



Wolfe Lake, Westport, Ontario, Canada 1911

The Wolfe Lake Association sincerely thanks the Bedford Historical Society,
Dave Pugh and Gwen Tobin for preserving and sharing this fascinating story from our past.

FAMILY ALBUM | MEMORIES FROM THE 1930s

These family photos, kindly shared by Wolfe Lake resident and WLAW member Chris Chisamore, offer a rare glimpse into life around the lake nearly a century ago. From familiar landmarks like the jumping rock to the original road that once curved along the shoreline, these images help bring the past to life, just as the story of the floating bridge does.



1. A rare view of the original road winding around Wolfe Lake, capturing the rugged charm and simplicity of travel in the 1930s.
2. Lila Chisamore (nee Derbyshire) perched proudly atop the iconic jumping rock, back when it was much larger and a favourite lakeside landmark.
3. Joe and Lila Chisamore posing with their car and a pair of playful puppies, a charming glimpse into lakeside life from a bygone era.

DOES OUR NEWS FLASH LAND IN YOUR INBOX?

Do we have your **correct email address?**



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

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

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport has been sending out occasional News Flashes to all our members since 2017. These brief but informative emails are one of our key tools for staying connected with the community and for sharing timely updates, important lake news, and

reminders about upcoming events and activities. From water quality notices and wildlife sightings to information to keep our lake healthy and safety tips, the News Flashes help keep everyone in the loop. Stay connected and ensure we have your current email address.

Your voice

And, if you have anything to share with our membership, please feel free to do so. You can get in touch with us anytime! Just

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

send Anna an email, and she will discuss with you what the options are. She is looking forward to hearing from you. (See e-mail address below.)

You can also share your updated information at the upcoming AGM on Saturday, July 26, at CAMP IAWAH (from pm2-4pm).

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



FOUR QUESTIONS | Checking in with Christine Janeway

If you've ever stopped in at the Rideau District Museum, housed in the weathered old blacksmith shop directly across Bedford Street from Westport's Village Hall, you've probably enjoyed a chat with Christine Janeway, the museum's cheerful and outgoing curator. Born and raised here, with family going back in this area for six generations now, she's an enthusiastic and virtually inexhaustible source of information about the village, its inhabitants and all the best stories from their family trees. She compiles old photos, diaries and memorabilia and has put together a number of fascinating books on Westport history, available for sale at the Museum. Like her father Jim Janeway, for many years the beloved editorial cartoonist for the Westport paper, she's also an artist, creating colourful folk-art paintings often based (very whimsically) on old photographs of the village she so clearly loves. If you haven't yet explored the museum and met Christine, you should!

1

HOW IS YOUR WORK RELATED TO OUR REGION?

As a kindergarten student at Rideau Vista in the '70s, we went on a field trip to the local museum and I was determined from that day forward that I would work there some day. I've been the

Curator at the Rideau District Museum in Westport for almost 20 years now, and the building is full of the region's history. Even though Westport had industrial beginnings with mills and factories, it transitioned to tourism as the local lakes drew in fishermen from far and wide. And what could be

FOUR QUESTIONS

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

better than working in an area surrounded by lakes, where you can step outside on a summer day and hear the call of a loon amongst the hustle and bustle of a tourist village on the Rideau?

I'd love to share a bit of local Wolfe Lake history. I started working at Evergreen Golf Course in the 80s and enjoyed the quiet evenings. I also have such fond memories of the smorgasbords at Green Shingle Lodge--Anna's food would never disappoint! And the lodge building itself had a fascinating history.

During World War II, Ida Guggenheimer--a civil rights activist, and a staunch supporter of feminism throughout her life, who worked on social causes alongside Eleanor Roosevelt and Margaret Sanger--sponsored countless Jewish refugees during the Holocaust. For those who had to leave the United States in order to secure a visa before re-entry, Ida offered her summer home in Canada as a halfway house.

At the close of the war, Ida sold this home on Wolfe Lake to George and Alice McCulloch, who would open up one of the area's most successful fishing lodges in the old Guggenheimer cottage.

2 HOW DO YOU CHILL OUT AT OUR LAKES?

I'm an avid (some might say obsessive) hiker, and at a minimum of five miles a day, I like to change up the scenery and take in different views. I love catching the sun coming up over



the Rideau from Spy Rock on Foley Mountain, or dusk along Sand Lake as I head back down from the trail between the Upper and Lower Mountain.

And of course, sitting with ice cream and watching the boats at the Harbour in Westport, or eating on the patio at The Cove overlooking the Mill Pond (okay, technically not a lake) is a great way to gain back the calories I just burned while walking.

3 WHERE ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PLACES IN OUR REGION?

My favourite places here are in and around Westport. I've spent my life near the village, got married at the Anglican Church here, raised my son just outside of town.

I work at the Museum in the summer and at Pinecone in the winter, so it's no surprise that I love the local sights.

Nothing can beat strolling through town and visiting the shops, enjoying the view from Foley Mountain, or hiking along the nearby Cataract Trail.

Rock Dunder is also well worth the visit if you're looking for a change of scenery.

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

I'm fifth-generation in this region. The DeMarsh family of Devil Lake, my fantastic ancestors, once owned DeMarsh Island (now Vanderbilt Island) where the first fishing lodge on Devil Lake operated as the Ithaca



Club. My great uncle, Cecil (aka Bun) DeMarsh, was a guide on Devil Lake, as was my father for a brief period in his teens. Fishing is one of the main draws for this region, and has been for generations.

When thinking of the future of our lakes, I feel that keeping them clean - from both litter and invasive species - is key in maintaining the tourist trade we have relied on since the early 1900s.

Christine Janeway



WATER QUALITY | REVIEW 2024

With a focus on Calcium

By Gord Moore

WATER
QUALITY

We experienced a decent amount of snowfall in the latter part of the winter, which will hopefully result in healthy lake levels this season. As in previous years, this article includes a summary of the various water quality testing results collected over the past season. As I've noted in past reports, our water quality testing is conducted in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Lake Partner Program.

The Lake Partner Program engages volunteers from hundreds of lakes across Ontario to collect water samples. It operates in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), through the Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC), and in partnership with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA)—of which our association is a proud member.

Launched in 1996, the Lake Partner Program (LPP) is now the largest and longest-running initiative of its kind in North America. In January 2025, FOCA released a comprehensive Lake Data Report summarizing data from all participating lakes. While the full report is too lengthy to include here, I thought it would be interesting to share the section that discusses calcium levels in lake water. (Article dated January 16, 2025 – with thanks to FOCA and the LPP.)

What is calcium?

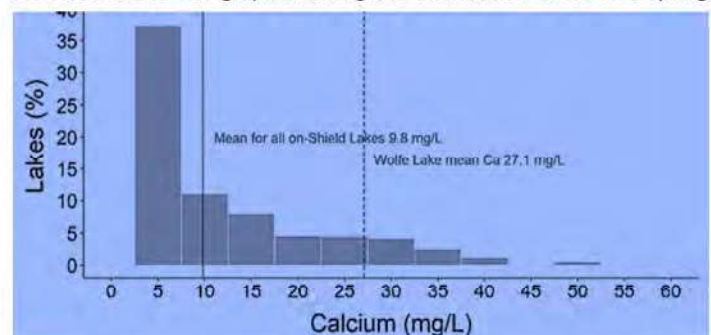
Calcium (Ca) occurs naturally in soils as a result of weathering rocks, atmospheric deposition, and organic matter decomposition. Ca concentrations in many of Ontario's lakes within the Precambrian Shield have decreased over the last 40 years as a result of acid precipitation, deforestation, and land use change which have depleted watershed stores of Ca (Giardini and Yan, 2015).

Ca is an important nutrient to many lake-dwelling organisms, such as mollusks, clams, amphipods, and crayfish. Daphnia, commonly referred to as water fleas, are an important food source for fish and are susceptible to decreasing calcium levels. Laboratory research has shown that the growth and reproduction of sensitive Daphnia species may be negatively affected at Ca concentrations below 1.5 mg/L. Decreasing Ca

levels can be particularly threatening to freshwater lakes when Chlorine levels are high or rising due to the additional stress it adds for zooplankton populations (Arnott et al, 2022). The LPP began monitoring Ca concentrations in lake water samples in 2008 to observe trends and identify lakes that were experiencing changes in lake Ca concentrations.

Wolfe Lake's calcium concentrations compared to other on-Shield lakes

FIGURE BELOW The graph showing the distribution of ice-free spring



average Ca concentrations for 762 lakes located on the Precambrian Shield sampled as part of the Lake Partner Program between the years 2008-2023.

The dashed line represents Wolfe Lake's Spring average ice-free Ca concentration for the years 2008 to 2023 (27.1 mg/L). The solid black line represents the ice-free average calcium concentration of all LPP lakes located on the Precambrian Shield from 2008-2023 (9.8 mg/L). The

level at which some aquatic animals (mainly, some *Daphnia*) become at risk of Ca deficiency is 1.5 mg/L.

Summary: Wolfe Lake's compared to other on-Shield lakes

- The average Ca concentration between 2008 and 2023 is 27.1 mg/L.
- Wolfe Lake falls into the ninety-first percentile of Ca concentrations in on-Shield lakes. This means that 9 percent of lakes have higher Ca concentrations than Wolfe Lake.
- Ca in Wolfe Lake is well above the threshold in which sensitive aquatic species may be at risk (1.5 mg/L).

What do Wolfe Lake's calcium concentrations look like over time?

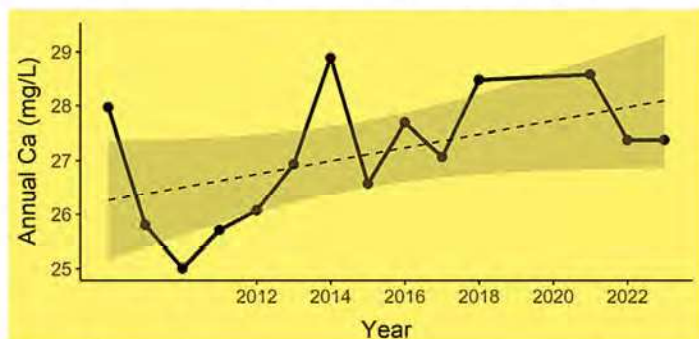


FIGURE ABOVE Ca concentrations in Wolfe Lake increased over time, but this change was not significant. This was determined using a Mann-Kendall trend test, which provided a p-value of 0.06 (a p-value indicates the likelihood of a trend, with a p-value of less than 0.05 providing strong evidence that there is a trend).

The shaded area represents the range of values within which we are 95% confident the true calcium concentration is. All samples were taken shortly after the ice-free period of each season.

Please note: Ontario's inland lakes are complex ecosystems, and many factors beyond the indicators monitored by the LPP can affect lake water quality. The trends shown here are meant to provide general information only and may not capture the full complexity of the lake's water chemistry.

Summary: Wolfe Lake's calcium trends over time

- Between 2008 and 2023 Ca concentrations in Wolfe Lake had no significant statistical change.
- During this time Ca concentrations fluctuated between 25.0 mg/L in 2010 to 28.9 mg/L in 2014.

Calcium in nearby lakes within the past 6 years

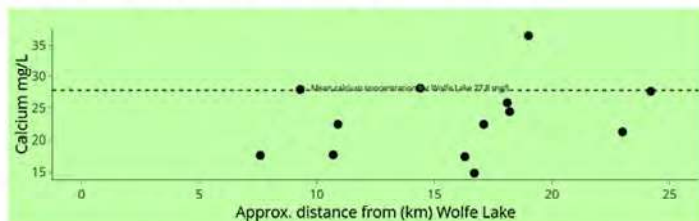


FIGURE ABOVE Scatterplot showing 6-year average calcium concentrations (2018-2023) for lakes sampled within a 25-km radius of Wolfe Lake.

The dashed line represents Wolfe Lake's average calcium concentrations in the LPP since 2018. Lakes with insufficient data were excluded from this analysis. All data were collected by Lake Partner volunteers from 2018-2023.

Summary of observations from nearby lakes

- In the LPP there are 15 lakes that have been sampled in the LPP within the last six years. The average Ca concentrations of these lakes in the last 6 years is 23.4 (mg/L).
- If you or someone you know would be interested in sampling a lake nearby Wolfe Lake please reach out to lakepartner@ontario.ca to sign up to be a lake steward.
- When looking at nearby lakes please keep in mind that these lakes can be characteristically entirely separate from Wolfe Lake and the only aspect that relates Wolfe Lake to these other lakes is location and whether they are on the Canadian Shield or not.

The LPP measures water quality in inland lakes across Ontario. The data are collected through volunteer monitoring efforts. You can download the data set used in this analysis by visiting the Ontario Open Data Catalogue at Data.Ontario.ca.

Total Phosphorus (TP) Levels (measured in mg/L)

In 2024, Wolfe Lake levels ranged from 0.003 mg/L to 0.016 mg/L. Anything below 0.020 mg/L falls within the acceptable Provincial Water Quality Objective.

Calcium (measured in mg/L)

Calcium levels ranged from 29.1 mg/L to 29.6 mg/L, which is well within the acceptable range.

Dissolved Organic Carbon (measured in mg/L)

Readings ranged from 4.6 mg/L to 5.5 mg/L—also well within the acceptable range.

E. coli (measured in CFU/100 mL, where CFU stands for colony-forming units)

These readings ranged from 0 CFU/100 mL to 92 CFU/100 mL. Provincial guidelines consider levels under 100 CFU/100 mL to be acceptable.

Notably, the 92 CFU/100 mL result—recorded on July 8 in a non-populated area of the lake—is of particular interest. Oddly, a retest conducted on August 19 yielded a significantly lower result of 4 CFU/100 mL. We will continue to monitor this site to determine whether the initial high reading may have been due to a lab error.

Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN, measured in mg/L)

Results ranged from 0.2 mg/L to 0.5 mg/L, all within the acceptable range.

Secchi Depth (a measure of water clarity or turbidity, measured in meters)

Readings ranged from 6.0 meters to 8.25 meters. This continues the trend of increasing water clarity over the past few seasons.

Dissolved Oxygen (measured in mg/L, from surface to lake bottom at monitored deep points)

Overall, dissolved oxygen concentrations remained fairly consistent throughout the summer. As in previous years, lower oxygen levels were observed at depth during late summer and fall monitoring. This is a common phenomenon, typically caused by factors such as plant decomposition and reduced oxygenation during summer stratification.

In summary, I would once again like to thank **Haley Matschke** from the **Rideau Valley Conservation Authority** for her invaluable contribution to this article. If you have any questions for Haley or would like more information on RVCA's monitoring efforts or stewardship programs, she can be reached at: haley.matschke@rvca.ca.

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Fishing news | This year, it's "all about that bass!"

By Margie Manthey

Margie Manthey shares a not-so-new but new-to-her finesse fishing tactic for bass and introduces us to an expanding study that focuses on how bass spawning sanctuaries are helping to improve bass populations.

FISHING UPDATES



Drop-shotting for bass

Even an old dog can learn new tricks, and while the tactic has been around for some time, yours truly finally learned how to use a **drop shot rig** during my older son's visit to the cottage last summer. Tyler is an excellent bass angler; and although I taught him all I know about fishing in his formative years, his prowess on the water has long since overtaken my own.

Nowadays, Ty teaches me a thing or two about catching fish by encouraging me to break away from stale strategies. (Did you know that some lures and tactics can grow ineffectual over time especially on lakes with increased fishing pressure?)

Drop-shotting is a fun and effective way to fish for bass, particularly smallmouth. It's a "finesse fishing" technique that allows your bait to suspend several inches over the lake bottom while being anchored by a weight. This presentation can entice picky, spooky fish to bite, even in tough conditions, and is particularly effective in clear or deep water. It's a simple rig consisting of line tied to a hook with a leader or "tag line" measuring 12-18

inches running underneath to which you attach a weight. Small, lightweight plastic minnows or worms (the flimsier the better) are hooked just through the nose allowing for more lifelike action as the angler intermittently drags the weight across the bottom. The slightest twitches of the rod tip can produce an enticing dancing motion in the bait, helping to incite bites.

A good basic drop-shot set-up includes a 6-1/2 foot to 7-foot medium-light action spinning rod with a sensitive tip. Most anglers spool the reel with 6- or 8-pound test fluorocarbon line, but others prefer 15- or 20-pound test braid as their main line attached to a 4-6 foot fluorocarbon leader. Tying a drop shot rig takes a bit of practice; but like anything else, the more you do it, the easier it gets. You can practice by watching YouTube tutorials like this one on YouTube, called: 'How to Tie a Drop Shot Knot The EASY WAY.' Lastly, here are a few tips to help make your drop shot presentation more effective:

- use light-wire hooks specifically designed for drop shotting. match the hook size to the bait you're using, and tie on the hook so that

it stands out sideways from the line with the point face-up;

- experiment with different colours, shapes, and sizes of soft plastic baits;
- there's no need to set the hook hard after a bite – just use an upward, reeling hook set.
- use cylinder or teardrop shaped weights to anchor your bait; eco-friendly tungsten outperforms lead by providing more weight in a smaller package and sinking faster;
- employ subtle twitches of the rod tip rather than simply dragging the bait around.

Bass Spawning Sanctuary Study (BaSSs)

The Fisheries Conservation Foundation (FCF) and its partners established "highly successful" bass spawning sanctuaries for both large- and smallmouth bass on Opinicon and Charleston Lakes in 2024 and will be designating sanctuary sites on Big / Upper / Lower Rideau Lakes for 2024-2025. Meanwhile, the Coalition for Innovative Bass Conservation is expanding to the tune of an additional dozen or so lake associations wishing to establish seasonal bass spawning sanctuary sites on their lakes – including Wolfe Lake. The focus will be on collecting data on bass, their populations, and reproductive success. The ongoing study is being led by Dr. David Philipp (Fisheries Conservation Foundation) and Dr. Steven Cooke (Carleton University) and will include a sprawling team of grad students and undergrad assistants.

All data collected by the researchers will be shared with the Provincial Government (OMNR) to encourage the establishment of



additional bass sanctuary sites in regional lakes. The sanctuary season runs from April 15 through the first Friday of July (2 weeks after Bass Season opens); during this period, no angling of any kind is permitted within sanctuary boundaries. This is to prevent any fishing that might disturb nesting bass or remove male bass from guarding their nests even for short periods of time. Studies show that removing a male bass from the nest, even for a short duration during catch and release angling, can result in nest abandonment, allowing nest predation and loss of the entire nest. Research also reveals that as hook wounds increase on nesting male bass (some individuals were documented as being caught over 4 times each), reproductive success declines, and often markedly so. Whether they are being angled intentionally or inadvertently makes no difference – catching bass off their beds threatens their populations.

A Growing Coalition

The Coalition for Innovative Bass Conservation has received partial funding from the Natural Sciences and Research Council of

Canada (NSERC) and from participating lake associations, some which have pledged upwards of \$10,000. The Wolfe Lake Association has supported the effort with a modest contribution of \$750 as we explore the initiative and its potential application on our lake. Researchers are making site visits to Wolfe this spring to identify potential bass spawning sanctuary sites as well as to gather baseline data on nesting bass through snorkeling surveys and select angling to assess nest density and size, age, and aggressiveness of largemouth and smallmouth bass. Sanctuary sites, if deemed appropriate for Wolfe Lake, are slated for 2026 implementation. Fishing Director, Margie Manthey, along with a few



“Team Wolfe” volunteers, will help facilitate BaSSs researchers in their efforts on Wolfe Lake.

Dr. Philipp will join us at the WLAW AGM on July 26th to speak further about this study and its findings, as well as answer any questions from our members.



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FOCUS ON WILDLIFE AROUND OUR LAKE

Meet the Fisher

By Margie Manthey

WILDLIFE

The fisher is one of the most maligned of Canada's native wildlife species, but much of its bad reputation is based on myths and misinformation passed down through generations. It is, in fact, secretive and shy, and paws down one of the coolest critters in the north woods! So today, let's meet the real fisher!

Just the facts please, ma'am. Although commonly called "fisher cat," the fisher shares no relation with felines but is a member of the mustelid (weasel) family. On average, it grows up to 112 cm/43 inches long and weighs between 1.5-6 kg/3-13 lbs. It can appear large at a glance; but in fact its long, bushy tail accounts for one-third of its length. It has a plush fur coat in rich shades of brown with darker points on the rump and tail. Because the fisher is built low to the ground with a long back and short legs, it moves with a rolling

lope. Its large, powerful paws are specially adapted to help it hunt both on the ground and in the treetops: each set of five toes is tipped with partially retractable claws, and the back paws can rotate 180 degrees, enabling the nimble fisher to climb up and down trees with remarkable speed. Why is this important? Read on...

What's on the menu? The fisher is classified as a 'mesopredator', or middle predator in the food chain, just a step below apex predators such as wolves and pumas. It mostly hunts small mammals like

squirrels (which it can overtake in the trees), rabbits, hares, and rodents; it also eats reptiles, amphibians, insects, fruit, and berries.

Contrary to its name, the fisher does not catch fish, although it will scavenge dead fish and other carrion. The fisher is one of the only predators that can successfully kill a porcupine. It does so employing a technique whereby it repeatedly attacks the porcupine's face -- a risky endeavour indeed, as the fisher sometimes sustains mortal injuries.

The feline fallacy. One of the most widely perpetuated myths about the fisher is that it intentionally stalks cats. While a fisher might kill and eat a cat if they cross paths, a wandering cat is far more likely to get hit by a car or mauled by a neighbourhood dog. Studies on the stomach contents of over 1,000 fishers revealed only ONE that contained cat hair, showing that cats are very rarely consumed by fishers and certainly far less often than the exaggerated claims that any missing cat has become fisher fare. The fact is that the fisher prefers targeting natural prey. Regardless, attacks can happen, and it is our responsibility to supervise pets and recognize that outdoor cats face numerous dangers and diseases. Keep in mind too, that

backyard bird feeders and brush piles attract squirrels and rabbits, which in turn can draw in a hungry fisher looking for natural prey.

No seasonal snoozing! The fisher does not hibernate but stays active year round. Wintertime can be particularly challenging as prey becomes less abundant. In search of food, the fisher may increase its range during the colder months.

While it lacks a primary den site, it often shelters in different nooks scattered throughout its territory, including hollow logs, blow-downs, spaces under rocks, tree cavities, etc. When a fisher drops out of a tree into deep snow, it may leave behind a full body impression including its long, thick tail!

Family life. The fisher is a solitary creature except during the spring mating season. Once bred, the female fisher has a 10-11 month delayed implantation (how cool is that?); and yet, when the embryo implants in the womb the following spring, it develops in just 6 weeks. One to four kits are born blind and helpless in the maternity den. They will be raised exclusively by their mother, staying with her for around 4 months, until they can catch their own food.

Another fisher fallacy. Many people claim to have heard "the screams of a fisher cat," and there are several YouTube recordings purporting to be just that. In truth though, these various hair-raising sounds are usually vocalizations from red foxes, owls, raccoons, and bobcats. The fisher – in keeping with its shy and secretive nature -- is actually surprisingly quiet, unless it is in pain or distress.

The comeback kid. The fisher was nearly eradicated through unfettered trapping, shooting, and poisoning; but thanks to wiser conservation practices and its sheer tenacity to survive, this amazing animal has made a strong comeback, a testimony to its incredible resilience. By helping to keep porcupine and other small mammal populations in check, the fisher has earned itself a valuable, well-deserved place in a balanced forest ecosystem – and that, my friends, is a fact!

Photo: Tammy Nash



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My passion for water skiing on Wolfe Lake

By Sean Garland

“Every summer, as I drink my coffee while the morning mist lifts from Wolfe Lake’s surface, my mind drifts towards my ski, heart racing with anticipation. The water gleams under the morning sun, beckoning me to carve through its pristine expanse, chasing that perfect glide.

Water skiing isn’t just a sport—it’s a symphony of speed, balance, and pure exhilaration. There’s a singular magic in the moment when the boat’s engine (in my case a PWC) rumbles to life, the tow rope tightens, and I rise effortlessly onto the surface. Wolfe Lake’s calm waters offer an ideal canvas—just enough ripples to keep things exciting, yet smooth enough to make every ride feel like flying.

This lake is a dream: crystal-clear waters framed by lush greenery and dotted with charming cottages.

A haven for water sports enthusiasts, it holds the promise of adventure and serenity in equal measure. But for me, it’s about more than just the location—it’s about family, the shared experience, and the boundless joy of the ride. Water skiing on Wolfe Lake is a

seamless dance between athlete and nature, adrenaline and tranquility.

Born into a family of skiers, I was surrounded by encouragement and an infectious enthusiasm for the sport from the very start. From an early age, I was surrounded by the rush of the wake and the excitement of mastering new techniques. I’ve spent countless hours refining my technique, perfecting my turns, and cutting cleanly across the wake. Whether navigating a slalom course or simply honing my skills, every session deepens my love for the sport. Yet beyond the personal triumphs, it’s the people who make this passion truly special. Over the years, I’ve had the privilege of teaching my own family members to ski—a rewarding experience that never loses its magic. Watching someone take their first glide, seeing their face light up with the same

exhilaration (and occasional nervousness) like I felt all those years ago, is a joy like no other.”

Now, that passion has come full circle, as my husband Will has taken to the sport as well. Seeing him embrace the challenge - the technique, and the sheer joy of slicing through the water has been incredibly rewarding. Water skiing has become something we share—not just as an activity, but as an experience that strengthens our connection to the lake and to each other.

As the sun dips behind the treetops, casting a golden reflection across the lake, I know I’ve found my perfect escape. Water skiing isn’t just a pastime—it’s a passion, a lifestyle, and a lifelong pursuit of freedom on the water. And for as long as Wolfe Lake calls, I’ll be there, chasing the wake.



WOLFE LAKE ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT | 2024

Where our money comes from and how we spend it

By Larry Arsenault

“Overall, 2024 was a good year financially speaking, as revenue from memberships, our magazine, and grants exceeded expenses by a healthy margin. Thanks to all of our members who continue to support us financially through annual dues payments and our local businesses who advertise in our magazine.” As Treasurer of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, Larry Arsenault has prepared the 2024 financial report.

Wolfe Lake Magazine and advertising

Revenue from ads was up from previous years, creating a larger net contribution compared to previous years. Many thanks to all of our local advertisers who make our magazine financially possible.

Membership

Our main source of net income continues to come from membership dues, which were consistent with past years. Your continuing support is deeply appreciated. Together we can work to ensure the ongoing health and vitality of our beautiful Wolfe Lake.

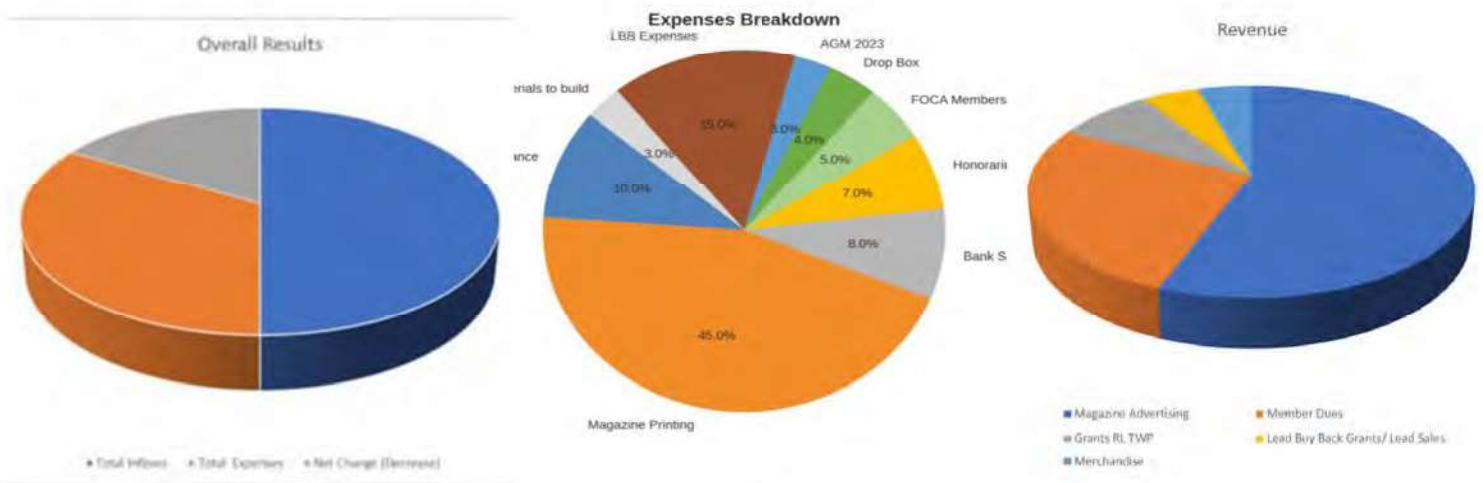
In addition to these revenue sources, we also received our annual grant from Rideau Lakes Township.

Lead Buy Back program

We received a generous donation from the Chaffey’s Area Lake Associations (CALA) for our Lead Buy Back program, as the program continues to grow through the addition of several new lake associations. The bulk of our expenses were related to signage and website fees.

Other than some residual expenses associated with our new boat launch signs, all other expenses remained consistent with previous years.

For any additional information on our finances, please feel free to reach out by email to treasurerwlca@rideau.net.



WOLFE LAKE
ASSOCIATION
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Contact Anna Rijk:
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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 jobs that a cottager or permanent resident may need unexpected help with - cutting a tree, lifting a dock, cleaning up a yard - cool and kind 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!

Our lake association is **working** for you

To introduce the directors of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, we present both familiar names as well as the new members of our team. Here are Marti Hansell and Timothy Richards, who both joined the WLAW Board last year.



MARTI HANSELL

VOLUNTEERS AS SECRETARY FOR BOARD MEETINGS. SHE ALSO VOLUNTEERS HER TIME TO DO GRAPHIC DESIGN FOR THE LAKE ASSOCIATION. THIS INCLUDES HELPING ANNA WITH THE YEARLY MAGAZINE AS NEEDED. SHE HAS ALSO WORKED TO DEVELOP THE NEW WOLFE LAKE LOGO AND THE DESIGN/ILLUSTRATION FOR THE LET'S GET THE LEAD OUT MATERIALS. MARTI AND BRUCE HAVE BEEN COMING TO THE AREA FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS. THEY PURCHASED THEIR COTTAGE AT THE SOUTH END OF WOLFE LAKE IN 2017. MARTI AND BRUCE JUST LOVE NATURE AND ARE VERY OUTDOORSY. THEY ARE KEEN ON HAVING BONFIRES AND EVEN SLEEP OUTSIDE IN THE SUMMER. THEY ENJOY VISITING WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY, FISHING, SWIMMING, AND SIMPLY ENJOYING BEING AT THE LAKE.

Member since 2019



TIMOTHY RICHARDS

TIM STARTED VOLUNTEERING IN 2024. HE IS AN ACTIVE TEAM MEMBER, AIMING TO HELP FIND SOLUTIONS AND SUPPORT DECISIONS THAT ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF A PRISTINE LAKE ENVIRONMENT. HE FIRST VISITED WOLFE LAKE IN JULY 2001, BUT MARY ANNE AND HER ST. ONGE CHILDREN WERE ALREADY COMING TO WOLFE LAKE IN THE 1970S, STAYING ON THE MYERS PROPERTY. THEY PURCHASED A MYERS SUMMER COTTAGE IN 2003. AFTER RETIRING IN THE USA IN 2016, TIM AND MARY ANNE ENJOY SPENDING TIME AT WOLFE LAKE FROM MAY TO OCTOBER. THEY DO GARDENING, KAYAKING, OBSERVE WILDLIFE, AND GOLF. TIM ALSO VOLUNTEERS AT THE LION'S R&R CENTER. THE COUPLE TREASURES THE SERENITY OF SUNSETS FROM THEIR DOCK AND THE FRIENDSHIPS WITH LAKE AND COMMUNITY FOLKS.

Member since 2016

BECOME WELL AWARE

As a cottage owner, you know how important it is to ensure that your water is safe to drink.

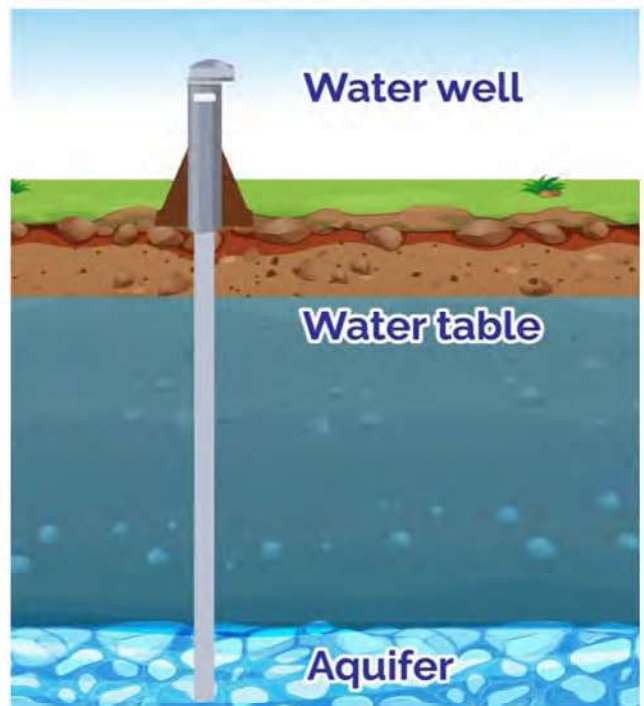
One of the most effective ways to protect your health and that of your guests is by testing your well water regularly. To prevent bacterial contamination in private wells—which can lead to waterborne illnesses—your well water should be tested for bacteria at

Celebrating Wolfe Lake with fun facts

Did you know?

least once a year. Regular testing helps detect issues early, allowing you to take action before problems

become serious. This process involves collecting water samples and sending them to a local lab for analysis. Spring thaw is an ideal time for testing, as the melting snow and ice can influence groundwater conditions and reveal changes in water quality caused by seasonal shifts. Want to learn more? Visit the Ontario Ground Water Association at ogwa.ca/well-water-testing, where you can download a 32-page booklet entitled "Well Aware", developed by Green Communities Canada. It provides guidance on well maintenance, water safety, and the complete life cycle of a well.





AGM 2024 | A strong sense of community

MEMBERS DISCUSSED MATTERS OF COLLECTIVE INTEREST

By Bill Garland

The 36th Wolfe Lake Association Annual General Meeting was held on July 27th on the outside decks of the Westport Lions Sand Lake Beach House. We changed our meetings to an outdoor event after the pandemic and have continued this practice to help keep our community safe. This market-place style format has allowed our membership to interact with both the knowledge experts on our board and other members of the community.

Association VP Bill Garland thanked members for attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and introduced the board members.

Bill invited anyone interested in filling our vacant president and secretary positions to come forward. Later in the meeting,

Marti Hansell volunteered to take on the role of secretary. A big thank you to Marti!

Rideau Lakes Mayor Arie Hoogenboom addressed the gathering, commenting on the success of the Rideau Lakes Lake Associations Committee.

This group brings together area lake associations to discuss topics of common concern and interest.

The committee is fostering a spirit of cooperation among member associations. Board members Greg Wetmore and Margie Manthey speak highly of this initiative.

South Frontenac Councillor Steve Pegrum spoke on behalf of Mayor Ron Vandewal, who was traveling in Newfoundland. Councillor Pegrum discussed the Township's Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee Grant Program. He told us about some of the recent grants provided to area Lake Associations. He stated that the Let's Get The Lead Out grant given to our Wolfe Lake Association was precisely the type of program support the Township envisioned when the program was initiated.

Gord Moore, our Water Quality Director, was assisted at our Water Quality Table this year by Haley Matschke from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

Gord and Haley were able to provide members with information on the test results from water samples collected at various points around the





lake on four occasions from May to October. Haley spoke to our membership and provided background information as to what the test results mean. In layman's terms, she confirmed that Wolfe Lake's water quality continues to be very good.

Margie Manthey and Donna Garland hosted our Get The Lead Out table. They explained how the program was evolving as planned, with over 17 Lake Associations and 27 lakes joining our program and

educating their members about the danger associated with lead fishing tackle. Get the Lead Out initiatives are now active in the Land o' Lakes, Haliburton Highlands, Northern Ontario and Muskoka regions of Ontario.

Graphics of our new Boat Launch signs were displayed. There was excellent feedback from membership about the professional look of these structures at our 3 boat launch locations.

Copies of our beloved Wolfe Lake Magazine were displayed on one of the tables. Anna Rijk serves as editor, with Betty Jo MacDougall as proof reader. The advertising team - Bill Garland, Gord Moore, Larry Arsenault and Anna - have done a terrific job selling advertisements to provide partial funding for the magazine. A big thank you to the many content contributors who keep the Magazine interesting and newsworthy for our lake community, including Margie Manthey, Gord Moore, Chris Chisamore, Lisa Arsenault, Anna Rijk, and many other members.

Wolfe Lake Association hats, toques, aprons and golf balls were displayed for members to purchase, along with handcrafted bird houses from John Finlayson and turtle nest protectors built by the Upper Rideau Lake Association.

Our 2024 AGM was another success as members of the Wolfe Lake Community came together to discuss topics of common interest. Thanks to all who attended.



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WOLFE LAKE MAGAZINE | ANNUAL PICTURE TIME CONTEST

Share your most wonderful Wolfe trees

A chance to win a gift card worth \$75 from Life is Good Westport

Get those cameras out for our 7th annual PICTURE TIME photo contest! The success of our annual contest is remarkable evidence of how much Wolfe Lakers are inspired by the people, places and events that shape their lives in this wonderful part of the world. This year's theme is 'Wonderful Wolfe Trees'.

Who isn't inspired by trees! We think they are the ultimate symbol of life, not only for their size and longevity but also because they create the oxygen we need to breathe. So, we're asking you to show your love for the trees around Wolfe by capturing them creatively and originally.

This summer, keep your camera or smartphone handy when you're hiking around the lake, so you can catch the right tree or group of trees, with or without people. Or take a shot of your grandkids climbing a tree. Capture wildlife in trees, birds or birds' nests – the possibilities are endless. Just show us what makes trees so special!

Enter today, be creative and have fun!

To be eligible, you must have a strong tie with Wolfe or Green Lake and be 18 years of age or older. The winning photo will be awarded a gift certificate valued at \$75, generously offered by Life is Good Westport.

Life is Good Westport offers all kinds of neat clothing and stuff for your own lake house or a friend's cottage, from cool tee shirts and hoodies to cottage coffee mugs, bags, and much more.

Winning photos

- The first-prize winner will receive a \$75 gift card from Life is Good Westport.
- The top 3 photos will be published in the 2026 Magazine; in addition, every year we select an 'honourable mention' as well.
- We can't wait to see your photos. Please upload your best shots directly to facebook.com. Find: Wolfe Lake Association Westport ON or email to com-wolfelake@outlook.com.

The deadline is October 31, 2025. For more information and the official contest rules, please visit: wolfelake.org/picture-time.



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MAYOR ARIE HOOGENBOOM | GREETINGS

Township of Rideau Lakes

On behalf of the community of Rideau Lakes, I gratefully acknowledge the Wolfe Lake Association Westport for its efforts to protect and to preserve Wolfe Lake and its surroundings. Like other associations in our township, the WLAW is doing its part. Our Council appreciates the many projects, activities and events you are organizing. The staff and council like the strong communication efforts, the website, your News Flash e-mails, as well as this wonderful Wolfe Lake Magazine.

We here in Rideau Lakes Township are so appreciative of our rich water resources and of the great work done by the Wolfe Lake Association. In particular I want to note your efforts in buying back lead tackle, a program I have personally participated in. The initiative is being copied across this Province and does our two townships proud. Thanks to those efforts, more of us can experience the thrilling call of the loons more often.

This year, our council passed a budget which, when combined with the County and School Board levies, resulted in an increase of just under 5%. This means our tax rate is still one of the lowest in Leeds and Grenville. My initiative of forming the Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee (RLAC) continues to pay dividends as we meet 4 times a

year to share common goals such as planning issues, rules for campgrounds and private road services. Also, we have had speakers from agencies such as Parks Canada, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, MNR and researchers on fish and invasive species.

Special thanks to your two reps on this committee, Margie Manthey and Greg Wetmore, for volunteering. Your individual grant this year is expected to be about \$953 and is based in part on association membership. Keep your membership current.

Our Township through the Official Plan and Zoning continues to encourage and support development that is environmentally sustainable. This summer I hope to take a tour of Wolfe Lake as it is one of the few lakes that I have not had the pleasure of exploring.

We are truly blessed to live in Rideau Lakes. As always, contact me at any time with your questions, as your input is valued.

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

Arie Hoogenboom

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



MAYOR RON VANDEWAL | GREETINGS

Township of South Frontenac

Summer has begun! The weather forecast for this summer predicts a hot summer with humid nights.

While our spring has been quite wet, we could potentially have a dry summer. We encourage all residents and visitors to continue to monitor the Township's fire ban status as set by South Frontenac Fire & Rescue. Please use caution when having an open fire, and do not plan on roasting those marshmallows when it is windy.

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 will offer free music once a month (June 21, July 19, and August 16) at the shores of some of our best beaches – lawn chairs and dancing shoes are required. Canada Day, as always, will be a family friendly event held at four separate locations (a pancake breakfast at Glendower Hall, Sunbury Lions Hall, The Point and Centennial Park). The festivities will end with, my favourite, a great fireworks show at Centennial Park. All summer events, as well as information about boat launches, can be found on the Township's website.

While summer means fun in the sun, it also brings construction season. Commuters can expect road reconstruction on Road 38 south of Harrowsmith to run from late May through to the end of November 2025. Planned construction will also take place on Craig Road from May through to September 2025. The Westport Road project will include the

reconstruction of the 4.0 km long section of Westport Road from Garrett Road to the west end of Wolfe Lake. Bell Canada is actively installing high speed broadband networks on the Westport Road corridor throughout the months of May and June. Township Forces will be mobilizing to start construction work on Westport Road in early July with works wrapping up by mid September. 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 New Official Plan 2046 was approved by Council in early April. Township staff have forwarded this draft of the New Official Plan to the County of Frontenac for final approval. Our Climate Change Action Plan is within its final stages and will be released for public viewing in late 2025. The focus of the plan will be on municipal operations and assets to get our own house in order first, but we know that, to be successful in addressing climate change, we must harness the ideas and passion of our community.

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

KIDS' PAGES | Come and play



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

Do you have suggestions for next year's KIDS' PAGES? We are looking forward to hearing your suggestions. BTW, the answers for this page can be found on page 57.

Myth Busters | Animals can't stick up for themselves

Learning about animals can be fun, especially those that live around Wolfe Lake. Let's take a closer look at wild creatures around our shores and discover some fascinating facts about each. This summer it's all about myth busters!

We all know that telling the truth is important and will call out someone who is spreading lies about us or our friends. Unfortunately, animals can't stick up for themselves when misinformation gets spread about them. These untruths, often passed down through generations, threaten the safety of certain creatures as people are taught to be unnecessarily afraid or intolerant. Here are a few common misconceptions about animals, along with some myth busting facts to set the record straight. After all, the better we understand animals, the better we can coexist with them.

"Weasels are vicious and kill for fun."

Not true! While weasels do practice a survival strategy known as surplus killing, they don't hunt for sport (like many humans do). In truth, weasels are unable to store fat like many other animals can, so their instinct tells them to secure as much food as possible while it's available, even



more than they could possibly eat. This same instinct also drives them

to attack prey much larger than themselves. Like all living things, weasels are simply doing their best to survive.

"Black bear mothers with cubs are very dangerous."

This is among the biggest myths about animals that gets passed around.



In reality, black bear moms rarely attack people to protect their young, and there is no record of a mother black bear killing anyone in defense of cubs. Most black bear moms simply run away when they encounter people, but some might bluster, make mock charges, or try to look ferocious.

These myth-busting facts aside, should you ever encounter a black bear with her cubs, the wisest thing to do is give the family lots of space particularly on escape route. Quietly back away and leave the area. Learn

more about bears and their interesting behaviours at bearwise.org.

"Fishers stalk neighbourhood cats."

This is another common myth. According to research, the number of cats killed by fishers is extremely low, proving that fishers rarely prey on cats.

For example, one study examined the stomach contents of 1,000 fishers and revealed cat hair in only one of them. While fishers might take advantage of a chance encounter with a wandering housecat, their focus is on hunting natural prey like porcupines, squirrels, and other rodents.

Wandering cats face danger from road traffic, dog attacks, and disease; but fishers are simply not a significant cause of their mortality, despite the bad rap people give them. Besides, it's up to us to keep our cats safely indoors or supervised when outside.



Critter riddles 'n' giggles

- A. Why do bobcats eat raw meat?
- B. What has thousands of needles but can't sew?
- C. How did the fox cross the lake without getting wet?
- D. What kind of bears never need to eat?
- E. I grow down as I grow up; who am I?
- F. Which animal is best at baseball?



POETRY CORNER

A limerick is a type poem with just five lines. The first, second, and fifth lines rhyme, and the third and fourth lines rhyme. Limericks are often silly or tell a funny story, like the one below. Why not try writing your own limerick?

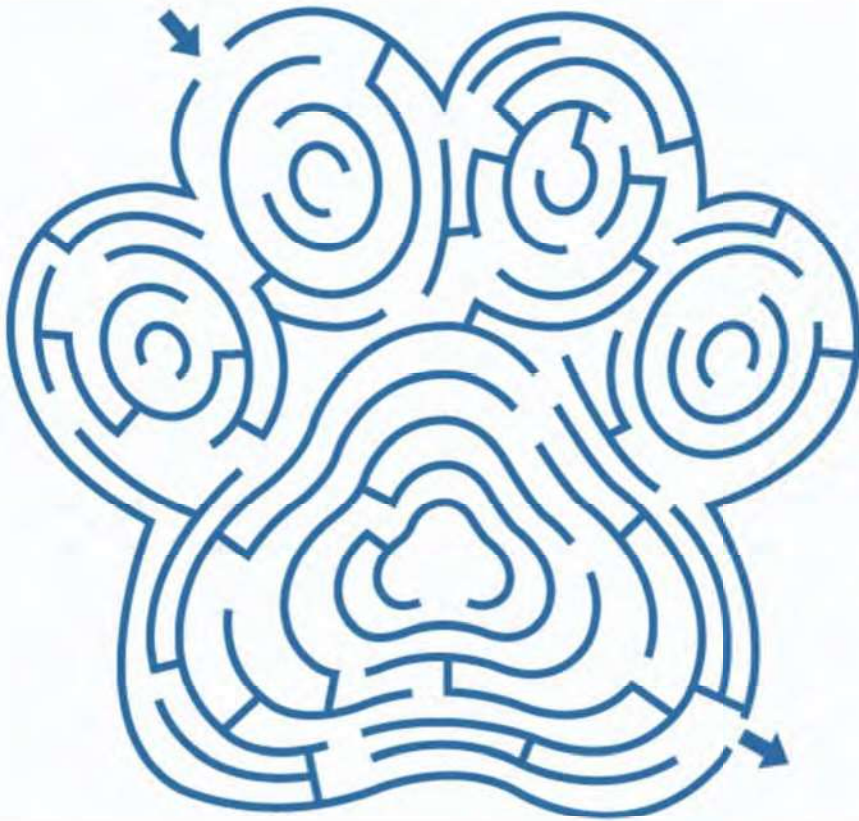
FREEDOM

There once was a mean boy named Dale
Who imprisoned crayfish in a pail.
When one clamped on tight,
He hollered in fright,
Knocking over the red plastic jail.



PAW PRINT MAZE | You can colour it too

Follow the winding paths through the bear paw to find your way out—can you solve the maze? Afterward, grab your favourite colours and bring the paw to life with your own creative touch!



Favourite fish?


Perhaps you like the sunfish best
Because it's prettier than the rest.
Or maybe it's those northern pike
With teeth as sharp as chiseled spikes.
Yet walleye are an awesome fish
When deep-fried and served on a dish.
And don't forget the smallmouth bass
That tugs and jumps with lots of sass.
Perch are also really cool
Swimming 'round in a BIG school.
Maybe bluegills catch your eye
Painted like a sunset sky.
Which fish is tops, your number one?
Try to catch it! Good luck! Have fun!



WHO AM I? (E)

I hop and jump and live near a
I croak at night on a floating log.
I'm green or brown, I eat all day,
What kind of creature am I, would you say?





Forest Puzzle (F)

Three animals went for a walk in the forest: a deer, a squirrel, and an owl.
The deer walked on the ground.
The owl was higher than both.
Where did each animal travel?

Wolfe Lake Kids



Let's make bear handprint cards



Make a “beary” sweet card! This cute bear card is made from your own handprint and is perfect for a birthday—or just to say “I love you!”

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED

to get started to make a Bear Handprint Card you'll need:

- Brown or black cardstock
- Light brown paper for ears
- Googly eyes (or white paper + marker)
- Small black pom pom
- Pink paint
- Black marker
- Glue



THIS IS WHAT YOU DO

1. Trace Your Hand

Fold cardstock and trace your hand with the pinky on the fold. Cut it out—this makes your card.

2. Make the Bear Face

Cut a circle for the head and two small ones for ears. Add smaller inner ears in light brown. Glue ears to the head.

3. Add the Face Details

Glue on googly eyes and a black pom pom for the nose. Use a marker for the mouth and pink paint for rosy cheeks.

4. Put It All Together

Glue the head onto the top of your handprint card

Add a ‘beary’ special message inside, use a colourful envelope, or even fold one yourself, by using card stock.

SOURCE:

thebestideasforkids.com/bear-handprint





HELP, SNAKES IN MY BASEMENT



By Anna Rijk

Yikes! Yes, this is a situation that Wolfe Lake cottagers must sometimes deal with. What do you do if a snake shows up in your basement?

Snakes generally try to avoid humans. If they do get into your home - usually through an open door or cracks and other openings in your foundation - you may not even realize they're there. But if you do see one, there's no need to panic!

The vast majority of snakes in Ontario are completely harmless and a helpful part of the ecosystem. Since rodents are the main food source for many species, having snakes in your yard will actually help keep mice out of your house or cottage. If you see them outdoors, just let them be. But if they're indoors, it's perfectly reasonable to want them to move on - for your peace of mind and their safety.

How to identify common types of snakes

The following are a few of the most common snakes around Wolfe Lake.

Black Rat Snake

Black rat snakes vary in colour from shiny black to light brown, with a white chin and throat, and can grow up to six feet long. While they are widespread in the United States, these Ontario natives are considered a threatened species both nationally and provincially as a result of habitat loss and human persecution. They are slow to reach maturity and do not reproduce every year, which means that the loss of even a few individuals can destroy an entire local population. In fact, it is illegal

to kill them in Ontario. Because they feed primarily on rodents, they are often found living near homes and outbuildings, but they are shy, non-venomous constrictors and pose absolutely no threat to humans.

Garter Snake

Garter snakes are found throughout North America, and are one of Ontario's most common backyard snakes. They are typically light green or brown with three stripes down their backs. Garter snakes are non-venomous and will almost never bite unless they are roughly handled.

Northern Watersnake

Northern watersnakes are brown or dark brown with faint dark horizontal banding along the back and sides. Adults are generally 2 to 4.5 feet long. They can be found in and around almost any permanent body of fresh water within southern Ontario. They like to bask on rocks and logs, may approach swimmers out of curiosity and will bite if alarmed; they are not, however, venomous. While they are occasionally seen on land, they are extremely unlikely to be found inside a building.

Massasauga Rattlesnake

Rattlesnakes are North America's most dangerous type of snake. However, only one variety, the Massasauga rattlesnake, occurs in Ontario, almost exclusively in a narrow band along Georgian Bay. It is

about 20 to 30 inches long, thick-bodied, grey to dark brown with darker blotches, with a triangular head, vertical (cat-like) pupils and a small rattle at the end of its tail. It uses the rattle to produce a high-pitched buzz as a warning to people and animals to keep their distance, and will only bite in self-defence if threatened or harassed. The Massasauga rattlesnake has accounted for only two documented deaths in Ontario, both of which occurred over forty years ago and involved individuals who did not seek medical help. There are no other venomous snakes in Ontario.

So now you've identified the snake in your basement. If you're on Wolfe Lake, you can be sure that it isn't venomous. Still, you'd just as soon that it set up housekeeping somewhere else – for both your sakes!

How to remove a snake from the house

1. Remain calm and avoid disturbing the snake or frightening it into hiding.
Keep children and pets away from the snake.
If possible, use a broom to gently herd the snake out a nearby door.
2. If you can't herd it, slowly place an empty pail over it and place a weight on top until an experienced handler arrives. If you can't herd it or contain it under a pail, try to confine it to a room or corner with boxes or boards so that it will be easier to capture when an expert arrives.

3. If you aren't afraid of snakes and you're sure it isn't venomous, put on gloves, carefully pick it up and move it outside.
 4. If you know there is a snake in the house but you can't find it, try placing something warm (like a heating pad or blanket) in a dark place (like the basement) to attract it.
 5. Use a snake trap or live trap to capture the snake and release it elsewhere.
 6. Call a professional wildlife removal expert.
- If you're uncomfortable with any of the methods listed above, or if you have a large snake infestation, it's best to call a professional who knows how to safely remove snakes from your home and keep them from coming back.

How to keep snakes out

1. Check your foundation for small cracks or openings through which snakes can enter.
2. Use a snake repellent. There are a number of different snake repellents on the market, most of them containing garlic or cayenne pepper. Cinnamon oil, clove oil and eugenol are effective as well. Spraying these repellents around your basement will discourage snakes from living there.

Sources
basementguides.com
ontariowildliferemoval.ca



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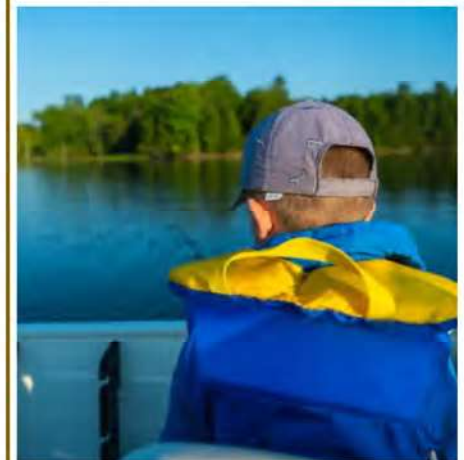


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MANY THANKS to
**Roy Chisamore, Bill
Blaney and Dwight
Whitaker** for setting out,
monitoring and retrieving the
orange shoal markers on Wolfe
Lake.

Every season we all feel safer on
Wolfe Lake thanks to the boat
safety services provided by
these awesome gentlemen.

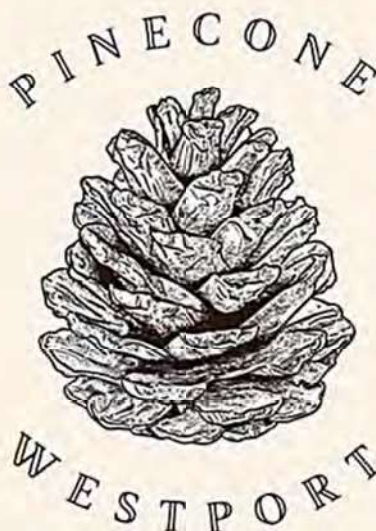


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 Debbie Luce

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HARVESTING CLOSE TO WOLFE LAKE

Eastern Ontario is still an agri-food powerhouse

Around Wolfe Lake and beyond, many farms are still going strong, adding to the beauty of the landscape and the character of the community. This picture was taken on a beautiful September day, last fall, off Hanna Road. The soybean harvest in Eastern Ontario typically begins in mid-September to early October, with most growers finishing up by the beginning of October. Harvesting is often impacted by weather, and rain can delay or complicate harvest efforts, especially in October. It's wonderful to witness such a harvest.

Wolfe Lake Alligator Mystery Solved | It Was a Prank 😊

The story is still hilarious. A decade ago, or so, an alligator scare at Wolfe

Celebrating Wolfe Lake with fun facts

Did you know?

Lake turned out to be nothing more than an elaborate prank. Sixteen-year-old Jocelyn Young of Toronto was kayaking near her family's cottage when she spotted what appeared to be an alligator peeking through the lily pads.

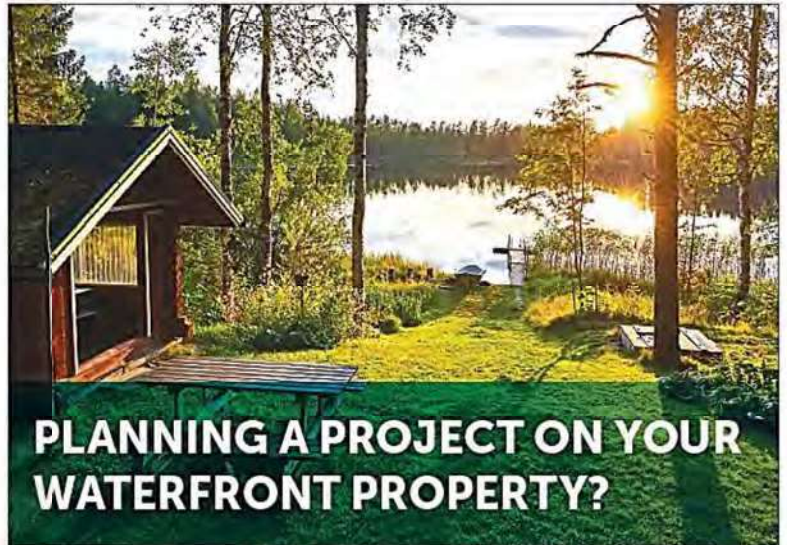
Concerned it might be an abandoned exotic pet, her family reported the sighting to the Westport Beer Store, where manager Eric Emon connected them with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

On Monday evening, MNR officials Scott Smith and Scott Smithers arrived to investigate. Initially, the creature appeared to be a 10-foot alligator, possibly a Cayman species, which is occasionally found in Ontario pet stores and sometimes released into local waterways.

However, upon closer inspection, the 'alligator' was revealed to be a plastic prop. It was a floating head anchored to a cast iron kettle with a note that read, "Please leave for others to enjoy." Despite the humorous twist, the MNR team removed the decoy, ignoring the prankster's request.



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Newboro

Spotlight on another Invasive water plant: Water Soldier

Water soldier looks like an aloe plant, a spider plant, or the top of a pineapple! This water plant can be seen floating on the surface of the water or submerged completely in water to prevent its spread, learn how to identify it and take action by slowing down when boating through affected areas and don't forget to clean your recreational equipment—boats, canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards—after each use.



Native to Europe and Asia this aquatic plant is now wild in Ontario but in limited areas. How to deal with it? Diquat can provide control of medium to large infestations of water soldier. It is a non-selective contact herbicide, and its use is best timed in the fall (September to mid October) when water soldier is still actively growing. Interested to know more? Go to frontenacarchbiosphere.ca/science/water-soldier/ invasivespeciescentre.ca | foca.on.ca



BACK TO WOLFE THIS SUMMER! | Tips to protect our lake

By Emma Jackson, RVCA

The Rideau Valley is famous for its pristine lakes, endless forests and fresh air. Each summer, our towns are flooded with visitors looking for that quintessential cottage experience. But as our lakes welcome more cottagers, pressure is building. Emma Jackson, from the RVCA, shares 6 tips to protect Wolfe Lake.

Seasonal cottages can easily become second homes, with all the expectations of city life hitching a ride to the lake. Instead of relaxing in paradise, cottage owners find themselves mowing the lawn and fertilizing gardens.

Not only do these chores cut into your down time, they can also hurt the lake: excess nutrients from fertilizer and pesticides, combined with grassy or hardened shorelines, can lead to weedier lakes, higher risk of harmful algae blooms and increased erosion. This in turn affects the quality of local swimming, boating and fishing, and can eventually impact property values. Thankfully, a low-maintenance cottage life is easily attainable and can also protect the lake you love.

Here are 6 ways how to love Wolfe Lake

- 1. Forget about fertilizing:** Reducing fertilizer and pesticide use will minimize excess nutrients in the water. This supports clearer lakes, lower risk of harmful algae blooms and improved overall water quality.
- 2. Pick up pet poop:** Pet poop can easily wash into the water, contributing to higher E.Coli levels and encouraging more weeds and harmful algae blooms. Be sure to pick up after your pet as quickly as possible to avoid contaminating your lake.
- 3. Reduce your runoff:** Stormwater runoff washes chemicals, sediment and excess nutrients into our waterways. Consider installing sustainable drainage features such as rain barrels, rain gardens or soakaway pits to help slow, soak and store rainwater. Other solutions include redirecting your downspout to a natural area, adding log steps on steep pathways

and aerating your grass for better infiltration. The RVCA has developed a suite of resources to help landowners improve drainage, including the new Property Owner's Guide to Reducing Runoff. Find it at www.rvca.ca/sustainable-drainage.

4. Go wild for wildflowers: Planting native flowers along your shoreline or in a rain garden can do wonders for waterways. Native plants have deeper roots that help fight erosion, aerate the soil, filter stormwater and reduce runoff. They also offer vital food sources for pollinators and other wildlife.

5. Buff up your shoreline buffer: Adding native shrubs, trees and plants to your shoreline will help reduce erosion, filter contaminants and even discourage geese. RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program offers generous grants to improve your shoreline while preserving your water access and views. You'll also have less lawn to mow and more time to enjoy paradise!

6. Be septic smart: Private septic systems can be a source of contamination if not maintained properly. Leaking septic systems can also pose health risks to your family and neighbours. Be sure to only use septic-safe cleaners and chemicals, and schedule routine inspections and pump-outs. Book an inspection sooner if you notice a foul odour or water pooling over the bed. Learn more in our SepticSmart handbook at www.rvca.ca/septic.

RVCA staff are happy to chat with you about your property and plans anytime. You can also use the self-assessment tool in the handy Lake Protection Workbook.

Living an artistic life | Tanya Deacove & Raphael Kerem

INSPIRED BY FORESTS AND LAKES AROUND US

By Anna Rijk

Raphael Kerem is a provincially recognized broom maker and woodworker in Burridge. Locally known as 'the Broom Guy', he creates exceptionally beautiful handmade brooms. He also designs and builds furniture and other wooden items. Tanya Deacove is an artist, currently focused primarily on designing and hand-painting Ukrainian eggs. This creative couple has lived under the same roof for almost 25 years. Time for a friendly chat.

MAKERS' Corner

Discovers creative and artsy folks living or working in the Wolfe Lake and Westport community.



Raphael and Tanya live in Burridge, a tiny hamlet located just west of Wolfe Lake, near Burridge Lake. Raphael bought the century-old cheese factory in 1988.

Over the years they have restored the well-known building into a showroom, a workshop, and a home. They create unique handmade books, brooms, furniture, and other one-of-a-kind items.

I visited the couple earlier this year, during the depths of winter. Tanya and Raphael welcomed me with enthusiasm and a great cup of hot chocolate. We had an awesome chat, basking in the radiant warmth of the

woodstove. (The photos were taken in springtime.)

Cultivating creativity

Raphael grew up in Israel and Africa and was influenced by traditional ways early on. From his youth, he lived among people who regularly made things by hand. "Witnessing this direct correlation between basic needs and working with materials made me wish to pursue a similar life path." Raphael learned broom-making from Appalachian broom makers in Kentucky. He studied woodworking and furniture building at the Swiss Heimatwerkschule near Zurich. In Switzerland, he also did a farming

apprenticeship and became a cheesemaker. He has traveled extensively to many remote parts of the world, learning a wide variety of handicrafts, from metalwork in Ladakh, India, to yurt construction in Mongolia and architecture in Bhutan. After moving to Canada, Raphael ventured into maple syrup production in eastern Ontario. Six years later he began his broom business, his love of broom-making a natural extension of his passion for wood.

Tanya grew up in Perth, Ontario. She was home-schooled in a highly creative environment. Her parents are the founders of the cooperative board game company

Family Pastimes. Tanya learned painting, graphics, calligraphy, and layout from an early age. At Queen's University in Kingston, she earned a degree in Fine Arts in lithography. She went on to do a Master's in Art Therapy and pursued a variety of interests, including bookbinding, teaching, yoga and massage therapy, before discovering Ukrainian egg art, or Pysanky.

A way of life

Raphael: "In the relative scheme of things, what we do is very simple and has been done by countless generations before us. What distinguishes our work in this day and age is the fact that we make beautiful objects from start to finish, largely by hand." He explains that everything they do involves slow

processes that require care and attention at every stage, no matter how often one has done it before. "This living process of involving ourselves with natural materials, tools and design is our daily reality."

"We are very grateful to live in the larger communities of Burridge and Westport that support what we do. We are privileged to have met many people of diverse backgrounds, drawn to the beauty of Eastern Ontario, mainly because of the lakes around us. Our clientele is largely drawn from the surrounding lake country, including Wolfe Lake, as well as Ottawa and Kingston."

Raphael remembers: "Since my early days in Burridge, I have canoed on Wolfe Lake in ALL

weather. It all started with a strong friendship with Camp IAWAH. Since then, I have made furniture for several people around Wolfe Lake and we have formed friendships with many Wolfe Lakers."

"We are inspired by the natural world, which is all around us, and an ongoing study of craft traditions from many cultures. The wide variety of seasonal activities and the challenges of taking on new projects ensure a continuous flow of new ideas and inspiration."

Moving forward: "We both hope to continue designing and creating meaningful work for the foreseeable future."



RAPHAEL'S BROOMS & WOODWORKING

Raphael's work is both functional and decorative. He has brooms, whisks, copper dustpans, carved wooden bowls, and chairs available and on display in his showroom. Furniture and art projects are made to order.

"Broom making begins in the dead of winter with long treks through the forest, selectively cutting hardwood saplings for handles." Raphael has many friends around Wolfe Lake who let him search for suitable trees for his art projects.

"Furniture and bowl carving quite often begins at the same time with the selective cutting of trees. For indoor furniture, the wood must be sawn and air dried for at least a year. I keep busy at my shop year-round, making brooms and custom woodwork projects that are carefully designed. We welcome people to visit our workshop and showroom. There is always something of interest going on."

COME AND VISIT

Raphael's and Tanya's work is showcased at their Burridge workshop and showroom in the restored village cheese factory at 326 Burridge Road. The showroom is open daily from June to September. Want to come another time? Just call to make an appointment: 613-273-5693.



TANYA'S PYSANKY & MORE

Pysanky are Ukrainian Easter eggs, decorated using an ancient wax-resist method, similar to batik. The name comes from the Ukrainian word "pysaty," meaning "to write." Following a brief introduction to Ukrainian egg art at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tanya has gone on to make it her own. "Little did I know at the start of this adventure that this pursuit would reconnect me to my Ukrainian heritage and with the community of artists who continue to keep this tradition alive."

Tanya explains: "Ukrainian eggs are hand-decorated, with symbols that carry meaning and good wishes. I use local free-range eggs as the shells are strong and untreated. The egg is decorated using a wax-resistance method. Beeswax is melted and applied onto the egg, then dipped in successive dye baths."

My favourite part of Pysanky is the great 'reveal' when - at the end of working on an egg - the layers of blackened beeswax are melted off and the completed design is visible for the first time. It never ceases to be a moment of great magic and joy."

Tanya uses a variety of eggs to make her Pysanky, including chicken, duck, goose, turkey, and ostrich eggs. They come with either a display stand or a ribbon and tassel for hanging. She also offers a selection of handbound journals and sketchbooks made using Japanese chiyogami papers.

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Say YES to a Lead-Free Future

Hey guys, did you get stuck on this year's puzzles at all? If so, here you'll find the solutions to Critters Riddles and Who am I. Just turn the magazine around to find them. **CRITTER RIDDLES:** A. Because they don't know how to cook; B. A porcupine; C. The lake was frozen; D. Teddy bears (they're already stuffed); E. A goose (geese have feathers called down); F. A bat. **WHO AM I:** G. A frog. **FOREST PUZZLE:** H. The deer walked on the forest floor, the squirrel moved through the branches, and the owl flew in the sky.

Kids' pages

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

GOT GEESE?

There's a grant for that! RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program is booking site visits to plan for Spring 2026 planting.



Grants can cover up to 90% of costs to naturalize your shoreline with native trees, shrubs and plants. Custom site plans will preserve your water access and view, while adding habitat and natural beauty.

Natural shorelines help:

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

Free site visit provided!



For more information:
Meaghan McDonald
613-692-3571 ext 1192
www.rvca.ca/shoreline



2K25-2815-RVCA

FISH SPECIES

found in Wolfe Lake

Walleye

Smallmouth Bass

Largemouth Bass

Northern Pike

Yellow Perch

Rock Bass

Black Crappie

Pumpkinseed

Bluegill

Brown Bullhead

Whitefish

Burbot (Ling)

White Sucker

Emerald Shiner

Central Mudminnow



Fishing regulations for Wolfe Lake (Zone 18) available at
<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary/fisheries-management-zone-18>



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Please contact Anna Rijk at com-wolfelake@outlook.com for more information on advertising in next year's edition.

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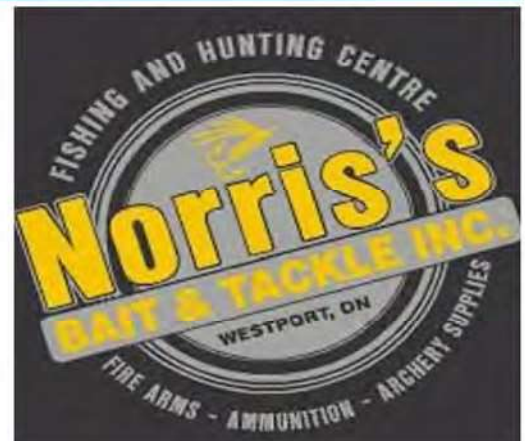


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LISA'S LOVELY LEMON LOAF

By Lisa Arsenault

So zingy, always a hit! Change it up a little with poppy seeds, blueberries, raspberries, etc. This loaf is best prepared a day ahead of time so that the glaze has time to soak completely into the loaf. It also freezes well. Please note that the recipe is for a single loaf.

WHAT YOU NEED

Loaf

½ cup soft butter
1/3 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 ½ cups sifted flour

1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
½ cup milk
Grated rind of 1 lemon

Glaze

¼ cup sugar
Juice of 1 lemon

WHAT YOU DO

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly grease 1 loaf pan and set aside.
2. Rub the lemon zest into the sugar.
3. Prepare the glaze: combine the sugar and lemon juice and set in a warm place, stirring occasionally, until needed.
4. Cream butter, add sugar and beat until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating for a full minute after each addition.
5. Sift flour, baking powder, and salt together and add to creamed mixture alternately with milk, beginning and ending with dry ingredients.
6. if you're going to add something extra, now's the time to gently stir it in. Careful not to overdo it.
7. Spoon into prepared pan and bake about 1 hour or until a toothpick tests clean. Leave in pan and set on a cake rack.
8. Important: while still hot, poke holes in the loaf with a kebab skewer or thin chopstick, then slowly pour the glaze over the loaf.
9. Turn out of pan when cool and wrap in plastic and then aluminum foil, and store for a day or so before serving.

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