



BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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BOX 877, BANCROFT, ONTARIO K0L 1C0

40 YEARS AGO - LOCAL RESIDENT FRANK HICKS RESCUED 5 MEN FROM THE FROZEN WATERS OF BAPTISTE



Frank receives medal for bravery from Natural Resources Minister the Honourable James A. C. Auld

Hearing 5 snowmobilers enter the frozen waters 200 yards from his cottage, Frank Hicks instinctively grabbed a wooden ladder and his canoe to attempt an incredible rescue. Frank himself was capsized into the frigid water but somehow was able to right size his canoe and...

...continued on page 24



Dave Coleman, close to shore, trying to imagine what Frank Hicks experienced 40 years ago.

Next Years Dates

OPENING EVENT

Sunday, May 17, 2020
Birch Cliff Lodge 5-7pm

CANADA DAY BOAT PARADE July 1, 2020

NATURE DAY

July 18, 2020, 10am Coleman's Cove

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

August 8, 2020, 10am Birch Cliff Lodge

CORN ROAST

Sunday September 6, Camp Ponacka 5-7pm

GOLF TOURNAMENT - TBA



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Fall 2019

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Wally McColl

In writing this note for the fall Newsletter it feels that summer has been highly compressed between the Spring Opener and the Labour Day Corn Roast.



Corn roast at Camp Ponaka

In the two short years as President, being part of the BLA Directors Board is both inspiring, satisfying and fun. Our association fosters both strong environmental stewardship and an involved social community.

Although most of the BLA work and activities focus on the short summer season, the association is active throughout the winter. Mostly by email communication, however with a few Directors living full time at the lake, we are able to continue personal contact with our partner agencies.

I feel this partnership, links or teaming with the Interlakes Association, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council (BASC), the Fish Hatchery and Hastings Highlands Municipality is very effective and has demonstrated dividends.

A review of this success includes both ongoing programs and new milestones. The year started with the BLA and the Interlakes representing all the properties zoned Waterfront Residential (WR) in a presentation to Hastings Highlands. The BLA argued against



Frank Hicks and Paul conducting water tests

a provincially proposed ByLaw to allow second residences on individual properties. Second residences on properties zoned WR would add nutrients to the lakes classed as “at capacity” with respect to nutrient loading on fish habitat. Hastings Highlands Council voted to exclude the WR zoned properties from the ByLaw.

The “at capacity” classification for the Baptiste Lake Trout Habitat is critical. Last Spring, in cooperation with the Fish Hatchery, the BLA wrote the MNR requesting to have Baptiste included on the list of lakes considered for Lake Trout restocking. The Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry placed our request under the direction of MNR Bancroft, Jennifer Card. She described the restocking criteria to include suitable Lake Trout habitat, an established Lake Trout population and appropriate genetics of the introduced fish.

Now, under the MNR approved direction by Frank Hicks we have this season's Lake Trout Habitat data. We measured the profiles of temperature and dissolved oxygen for deep areas of the lake, potential habitat. The measurement sensor, named DO Meter, is loaned from the BASC. Thanks Ian Henry.

Having initiated the first of the MNR criteria we are looking forward to continuing with the Lake Trout Restocking process. Please see Paul Coleman's

...continued on page 3



Kevin Vance receives \$1000 cheque for the Fish Hatchery from Wally and Paul.

article on page 5.

This study is an example BLA Citizen Science program. Volunteers using science criteria and measurements in developing cooperative stewardship.

The Federation of Cottagers Association (FOCA), presents Citizen Science Programs in more depth. Thanks Marlin Horst, FOCA President and BLA Past President.

With water quality being an ongoing BLA priority, volunteers continue to measure total phosphorus and secchi depth water clarity periodically throughout the summer season. These measurements and water samples are sent to the Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC) for analysis and posting on the FOCA site (foca.on.ca) under the Lake Partner Program. The yearly data is available for trend analysis, critical for tracking water quality parameters including total phosphorus, the primary nutrient required for algae and weed growth. Decomposition of this vegetation is responsible for reduced dissolved oxygen in the low layers of the Lake Trout habitat.

Noting how the parameters of water quality link to the Lake Trout habitat, these fish are our "canaries in mine" for our Lake health. Whether Baptiste is restocked or not, maintaining the Lake Trout Habitat and understanding "at capacity" means focusing on our reduction of nutrients. Please, no lawn fertilizers. And ensure your septic systems meet approved standards. Thirdly, plant shore line shrubs, available at the BASC. They are low cost, easy to plant and absorb nutrients! Shoreline restoration is quickly becoming the landscaping trend to reduce the urban lawn-to-lake look. And geese will not wander onto your property!

The issue of the dumped broken docks off Redmond Bay is documented on the BLA website. Nevertheless I commend our Director, Shelley Pickard for organizing and assisting a team of friends and neighbours in removing and disposing of this garbage. The cove with the incoming creek winding through the forest valley is now beautiful in the early morning sun



Nature Day gathering at Coleman's Cove

brightened mists. Five herons, finding a new home in the cove, awakened in the mists, to greet me for photos.

The success of the social events is heartening. Lots of friends and neighbours sharing greetings, plans and ideas for our association.

The dining room at Birch Cliff Lodge overlooking the lake is the beautiful setting for our Spring Opener. This dining room donated each year by David Milne, seems to capture nature's celebration of Spring.

Our AGM meeting, again at Birch Cliff looks to the

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Team Coleman proving that golf is easy when you have fun!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...continued from page 3

business part of the BLA. The AGM provides a forum for reporting our programs, looking forward and at the same time assessing how we are doing. Are we measuring up to the objectives of our Lake Plan, our go to vision? I think we often have the same conclusion, we're OK but we need new members, new leaders, new citizen science volunteers with the ideas and vision to maintain the BLA leadership as lake stewards. Hastings Highlands recognizes the township's Lakes economy and looks to sound input.

Nature Day and the BLA Golf tournament, both social highlights are reported separately in the Newsletter. I thank Anne and Paul Coleman for hosting the Nature Day at their Sunrise Cove and for all their work in making the golf tournament such a success. This charity event donated \$1000 to each of the HH Library and the Bancroft charity



Kayaker Susan Latramoille meets fly fisherman on Nature Day.

The Corn Roast, held again this year at Camp Ponacka's beautiful waterfront setting attracted a large group for this end of season celebration. Conversation stretched from looking to future plans to the question of lower than normal water levels. In the process we consumed most of the corn, hot dogs and refreshments! Generous donations allowed our \$500 support to Ponacka's program assisting underprivileged youths at camp. Thanks very much to our hosts Ann and Don Bocking.

Now that many are closing the cottage for the season, the BLA schedule shifts to a more long range outlook. The agenda of the fall meeting of the Interlakes includes the topics of shoreline development and fireworks. Example Bylaws for both have been drafted by our VP, Adrian Hill. Developing Interlakes policy, supported by all the lake associations, provides input to Hastings Highlands Municipal Government.

Stay tuned to our website (baptistelake.org) for the news and updates this winter!

THE KUDER FAMILY AT BAPTISTE LAKE

By Diann Kuder

In 1934, my father-in-law, Luther Kuder made a trip from Greenville, Pennsylvania, south of Erie, to Lake Baptiste to fish. He had heard of the good fishing on the lake, so he came to Birch Cliff Lodge, which was being built by Art and Edith Nicoll. He returned with his wife, Peg, and some other couples several times for the bass fishing. They became friends of Charlie Fisk, who was Edith Nicoll's brother. He was a great fishing guide who introduced them to many prime fishing spots, the riffles and 'the big hole'. John Baptiste and old Sam Baptiste were

often their guides.

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Luther Kuder on the right with his fishing buddies - cool hats

THE KUDER FAMILY ...continued from page 4

In 1943, John Kuder came to Lake Baptiste with his parents for the first time when he was 6 years old. The family often stayed in the cabin 'Dunworryn' at Birch Cliff. It was a 2 day trip from Pennsylvania, much of it on dirt roads.

In the mid 1950's, John and I and some friends drove to the lake towing a Century run-about. They met the young employees of Birch Cliff including Pat Redford and her brother Bob, among others, and became friends. This became a yearly trip and in 1959, John brought his Chris Craft ski boat. More people from Canada got to know John, including Tony Keith, Peter Jones and John Hilton. They had such fun together, including being involved with the yearly "prank" at Camp Ponacka.

John first brought me to the lake and Birch Cliff Lodge when we married in 1973. In the next decade we came most summers and introduced our children, Michael, Margaret and Alison to this beautiful place. The kids loved playing on the playground with new friends, hiking and fishing.

When David Milne purchased Birch Cliff we became friends and grew even more attached to the Lodge. We vacationed there in summer and returned at Thanksgiving, bringing friends with us from Pennsylvania. We had

our annual gathering at the Redford cottage with the McColl's, Robertson's, Sprachett's and their families.

Throughout the 1990's, we thought of owning a cottage and often looked at what was available to buy. In 1998 we found our lake home on North Baptiste Lake Road and moved in on July 6th. Our friendships on the lake have grown and we enjoy bringing our family and friends with us.

In 2001, our daughter Margaret married Keith Hamilton and they spent their honeymoon at our cottage. In 2009, my husband John died after a two and a half year struggle with cancer. Our friends on the lake were very supportive and coming here was very important to us during those 3 summers.

During the last decade, the grandchildren have come into their own at the lake, learning to swim, canoe, kayak, waterski, and fish. My grandson has been at Camp Ponacka these last 3 summers. They love their vacation in Canada and look forward each summer to coming.

LAKE TROUT RESTOCKING PROGRAM

By Paul Coleman

It is not a secret that our Provincial Government has instituted severe cutbacks that could directly place our lake and wetlands in potential peril. We informed you in our last newsletter that our local Fish Hatchery, the envy of Ontario, could be moth-balled as a result of the Ministries mandate not to include in their budget the harvesting of fish eggs and the subsequent release in local lakes.

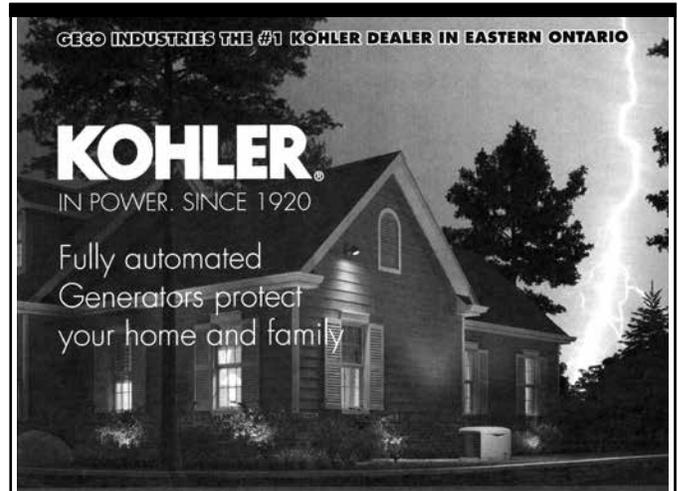
Accordingly, your executive chose to step up to the plate and offer to assist in any way. Figuratively speaking, we did attend the annual fish hatchery fund raising gathering at the curling club and donated \$1000 on your behalf. And yes we ate fish!

In early 2019, ironically during a hockey game in Bancroft, Steve Wilkens and I chatted on the bench about the BLA's support of the fish hatchery and how we could help. While crashing into goalie Ian Hendry, the ensuing conversation led to "see you after the game"! True story, the chatter started on the ice and continued over a beer, typical Canadians putting a new network in motion.

The best way for us to help was to meet with the MNRF to see if Baptiste could harvest its own Lake Trout or to receive compatible stock from other lakes, essentially allowing the fish hatchery to receive eggs and maintain their program.

On January 14th, President McColl, wrote a letter on our behalf to the Honorable Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. He requested that the Ministry approve and recommend future fish restocking of lake trout for Baptiste Lake. Wally went on to say "we would like to formally request that our lake be put on the distribution list of recipients

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of lake trout from the North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery... through collective and responsible restocking programs we can strengthen the population of one of this area's most sought after fish species for our children and for generations to come."

A spring meeting was set up with our local MNRF management during which our eyes were opened to the detail and complexity of initiating such a program.

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Wally and Frank Hicks taking more water samples.

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LAKE TROUT RESTOCKING ...continued from page 6

We learned that there are gaps in data to clarify the status of the population of Lake Trout in Lake Baptiste. That is the critical question. "What is the status of the population of Lake Trout in Lake Baptiste?" The compatibility of Lake Trout Genetics must be determined if eggs from other lakes can be used to restock Baptiste. This is a question to be answered by a Genetic Scientist (whom as we suspected is very busy) because we do not want to upset the balance of the current lake trout population. It is possible that non-native species could suppress our numbers.

Furthermore, we must determine what the status is of the number of Lake Trout in Baptiste. If it is too low, what are contributing factors and would stocking be an option? If it is healthy, is there any benefit to enhance what is there? We must be careful not to overstock an existing healthy population. If we increase the pressure on our trout we could in fact kill it off.

If our trout are "old relics" and not good breeders we could use young juvenile stock to beef up our stock.

Management explained that once a snapshot sample of the population is made through various methods, then the biologists would be able to determine what the status of the population is. The



Morning mist over Lavalley Bay by Anne Coleman

MNRF is not willing to approve stocking over top of an existing population that is sustaining itself. The biologists are willing to receive data from a variety of sources provided there are validated records.

A three-step course of action was agreed upon:

1. Determine optimal and useable habitat for Lake Trout by monitoring Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature on a monthly basis throughout the ice-free period. DO-Temp profiles are taken in the deepest parts of the lake where lake trout are most likely to be found.

2. During this fall, determine potential spawning sites on the lake through observations made during the early evening when surface water temperatures are in the range of 10°C.

3. Finally, carry out SLIN netting next spring from ice out until the surface temperature reaches 15°C. SLIN is an abbreviation for Spring Littoral Index Netting.

Baptiste Lake resident, Frank Hicks, retired fisheries biologist (Algonquin Park) has agreed to oversee the spawning observations and the spring netting. Once the data from the three steps are assembled and a compatible strain of species is available, a decision to restock Lake Baptiste will be made.

Again, networking came into play as the BASC, through Ian Hendry, provided us with an expensive, self-calibrating DO meter (dissolved oxygen) which allows us to do the testing.

Also, by chance, we were informed that Lake Baptiste, through the BASC, has been shortlisted on the MNRF/BASC/Hastings Highlands Boat Launch repair trial program.

We were then informed that we are on the list as a potential recipient of Hatchery eggs once we meet all of the criteria and receive their authorization to proceed. We agreed to provide all necessary knowledgeable volunteers, boats, equipment and funding to conduct the tests.

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THE NORTH BAPTISTE BOAT LAUNCH IS SCHEDULED FOR REPAIRS

By Keith Buck

Initiated by the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council (BASC) in 2017, a combined pilot project was initiated to address boat launch and related safety issues. It is a combined effort with Hastings Highlands and MNRF.

When BASC released its Bancroft and Area Stocked Lakes Access Guide a few years ago they received several comments about some of the water access points causing challenges for residents and visitors alike, i.e. getting their vehicles stuck, having no place to park, poor signage etc. This information was brought to the attention of both the MNRF and the Municipality of Hastings Highlands.

Last year, with the help of the MNRF's Stewardship Youth Rangers, 18 of the 36 water access points in the Municipality of Hastings Highlands were assessed. For each location, ownership was determined, a description of the physical conditions were recorded and the protocols for completing the work were identified.

Safe and efficient water access is an important



Current damaged Baptiste boat launch

issue since recreational fishery generates \$2.2 billion throughout the province (BANCROFT TIMES / MNRF). All concerned agree this project is valuable but due to a lack of staff and budget, the MNRF simply cannot do this project on their own. The Municipality of Hastings Highlands has offered to support the project with manpower, machinery and resources. Four sites have been chosen for the initial block to be refurbished ... North Shore (Allendale Rd.) on Baptiste Lake, Big Point on Papineau Lake, the Bark Lake boat ramp and Hinterland Beach on Kamanisseg Lake. This project falls within the Municipality of Hastings Highlands strategic plan. Aside from the economic development importance of these sites, safety is key. Having cars and boat trailers parked along busy roads is an accident waiting to happen. None of the projects will include work in the water and all the sites will be administered by the MNRF.

Not only is this a great community builder, it also strengthens the local economy. Many communities are facing similar issues. This pilot project will result in a model that can be used by municipalities across the province.

We hope to begin some of the required work in 2019, with the remainder concluded in 2020.

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2ND ANNUAL GOLF DAY AT BANCROFT RIDGE

By Paul Coleman



This year we had another fabulous turnout, great weather and a very competitive group of golfers.

We were pleased to welcome new director Sabe-Belcastro and to thank retiring director Kathy Irwin. Also in attendance were President Wally McColl with directors Marlin Horst, Shelley Pickard, Diann Kudarand and Anne Coleman.

We were so thankful to BLA member Paul Dennis who spent the whole day assisting us in all aspects to ensure that the tournament ran so smoothly while his family played in the golf tournament. Anne was my right hand who tirelessly supported me in all the planning efforts, prize table and overall coordination, even on our 46th wedding anniversary! Dave Coleman and wife Kate Campbell took footage of the event, and ran the awards and prizes.

Most notable was the overwhelming support, generous donations, gifts and prizes offered by so many of our sponsors and advertisers. Our friends from CARE North Hastings, Connie Ingram, Nancy Richard,



President Wally thanking retiring director Kathy Irwin for her many years of dedicated service on the BLA.

Cheryl Connolly and Liz Inglis welcomed all golfers at the putting green contest through the day. They were teamed up with our advertisers from Carte Financial Services, Anne-Marie Isaacson and Laura who also provided nice gift bags for everyone.

I did a terrible job as MC: mispronouncing names, forgetting to introduce folks and made fun of some of those in the audience. For that I apologize Sort of. Thank you to chef Carmen Mooney, owner Danny Jackson, manager Isabella Jackson, Course Superintendent Scott Feenie and staff for a flawless and very successful golf day.

The Coleman golf team consisted of John from BC, Dave and Kate and myself. We missed short putts, flubbed easy chip shots and purposefully tried to avoid being the "2 time" Champs. Once again we apologize for our 1 stroke victory, carting a score of 30 for 9 holes.

Runners up were:

- Jeff Hawkins, Kelly Desjardlis, Chris Hawkins and Mark Hawkins, with a score of 31
- John and Mary Vanderpas Grace and Rob Nyman, with a score of 32

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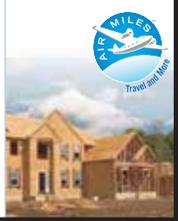
Team Hawkins - 2nd place



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- TRUSSES



2ND ANNUAL GOLF DAY ...continued from page 9

• Marlin and Margo Horst, Sabe Belcastro, Greg Pilacinski with a score of 33

Proxy winners: Closest to the Keg - Carl Pickard, Sheri Dmytruk. Closest to the pin - Theresa Dietrich, Chris Hawkins. Longest Drives - Grace Nyman, Greg Pilacinski.

I continue to receive emails, phone calls and reminders on Facebook and Instagram that stacked teams are being formed so that there will be no “3Pete” by the Colemans’ in 2020. My response is that pro Danny Jackson offers golf lessons at the driving range, putting lessons on the putting green and 2 for 1 golf prices on Tuesdays. I suggest that you take advantage of Danny’s services while we continue to drink cold beer from the BLA golf trophy as a reminder of our sweet victory and another “bragging rights” winter.

In all seriousness, we raised \$1000 for CARE North Hastings and \$1000 for North Hastings Public Library. We suggest that next year you call Bancroft Ridge early to book your attendance. Also, please help me out by hitting up your employer for swag, donations, gifts and hole sponsorships. Thanks for supporting our cause, having fun and interacting with so many of Baptiste Lake neighbours.

Tom and Marilyn Morawetz of Evergreen Farm & Garden graciously donated an airplane ride over Baptiste for our golf tournament.

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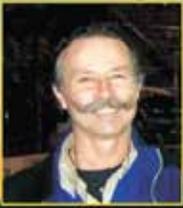
Team Coleman receives the BLA Cup from manager Isabella Byron Jackson



CARE North Hastings friends Connie, Nancy and Cheryl receive \$1,000 from the BLA



Paul presenting dock ladder by Cottage Docks to putting contest winner Julie Mann



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Janice Degnan takes off on memorable flight over Baptiste.

2ND ANNUAL GOLF DAY ...continued from page 10

Our prize winner Janice Degnan could not have been a more deserving winner. Janice was kind enough to send us the following note of thanks.

Hi Paul, I just wanted to say thank you. I was so shocked when my ticket # was called at the BLA 2nd Annual Golf Tournament and I won the prize for the flight over Baptiste Lake. It was very emotional for me because I knew how much my husband Russ would have loved this. Russ and I had signed up last year to take part in the first annual BLA Golf Tournament. Unfortunately Russ passed away the weekend of the tournament on August 6th, 2018. He had been diagnosed with cancer only two and a half weeks before. This year I decided to go with my neighbors at the cottage. It was a great tournament and a perfect day for a game of golf but not the same without Russ. I was shocked when my ticket # was called and what a way to end what had been such a difficult year.

The entire experience from start to finish couldn't have been better. My son-in-law Patrick and I went over to the West Bay by boat. The moment we arrived at the dock we were greeted by Tom and his son Clarke. They were warm and welcoming and put us at ease with a brief safety talk and answered any questions we had prior to taking to the air. We discussed the route and what we hoped to see prior to boarding the plane. The flight was great and we were pleasantly surprised by just how smooth it was including the take-off and landing. The nice weather ensured the views were



Janice gets last minute instructions.

unforgettable and the aerial view of the lake and surrounding area gave an even better appreciation for the beauty of Baptiste Lake.

I think this should be on everyone's "bucket list"!



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ST. MATTHEW'S HOSTS THE FIRST EVER BAPTISTE LAKE TRIATHLON

By Wally McColl and Claire Tonack

Sunday, August 25th marked the date for this community event, part of the Sunday Night Live schedule hosted by St Matthews Church in the village.

In July, Claire Tonack heard about the challenge, popped it into her bucket list and began training.

"It motivated her to get out riding on my sons' mountain bike, going for more frequent and less splashy swims, and running more purposefully."

Claire noted "Despite it being its inaugural year, it was very well organized, publicized and carried out. Volunteers greeted and oriented us, 'spotted' the swim and were stationed at water stations along the cycle and run portions of the event. Supportive community including friends and family cheered us on and contributed to the positive experience in all aspects."

There were three categories (elite, recreational and team) and serendipitously each were represented!

Additionally to the main event there was a Kids (12 and under) 1km Race, a tasty BBQ, DJ'd music, an inspirational talk/sharing from Clive Emery (Trips and Trails) and overall good company/good weather.

The race started with a 750 meter swim on Bap-

tiste Lake landing at Lake View Lodge. This was followed by a 20 km bike ride along South Baptiste Lake Road to Clark Road and then back to the church. After dropping their bicycle off, the racers ran 5km up the Bowen Rd to East Hennig Road and again returned to the church. In the fun category, I have Heather Johns, one of the visionaries for Sunday Night Live, dashing through the finish line!

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Heather Johns taking a photo op at the start line.



Here is Claire finishing the run portion of the race

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Lynn's daughter, Carrie, crosses the finish line with a more relaxed smile

TRIATHLON ...continued from page 12

Way to go Heather!

Claire took mental notes for next year and stated "Next year I will make sure that my chain and sprockets are in a better relationship; will aim to swim more than 100m of front crawl and look forward to a flatter, faster run."

The 1st ever Baptiste Lake Cup depicts the famous pink water lilies that Baptiste is famous for and was won by the top female Claire Tonack and top male Paul Lobe.

The kids were also very much involved and competed in a 1 km run to the boat launch, over to Birch Cliff and back to the church. Congratulations to Isaac Laundry who set a record of 14 minutes.

The BLA participated by assisting in advertising, funding and volunteering. Wally's role as a volunteer aided Adrian Hill in providing safety boats for the swimming event.

A 750m swim doesn't have the same numerical punch as a 20km bike ride. However from the swimmers view, looking out to the marker buoys, facing a head wind and large waves, made a daunting perspective. Speaking with Claire Tonack she exclaimed "I have never swam that far in my Life"!

Yes, I did it! Now the 20 Km Bike Ride.

A duration of each portion of the triathlon leaves



Here is the male winner Paul Lobe on the left at the finish line

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windows where no athletes are in sight. This allows time for the crowd of observers and volunteers at the church to socialize, share refreshments and time for the competitors and have fun.

The initial hill climb for the run, up the Bowen Road behind the village, seems even more arduous than the never ending hill west of Paddy Cox Bay for the Bike ride. Walking up this hill to take in the view of the lake is a morning workout.

Congratulations go out to all of the participants for their participation in this 1st enjoyable Triathlon. A big thank you to all of the volunteers from St. Matthews who prepared all the fabulous BBQ, and Kudos to Rev. Lynn Watson for her vision and the United Church and BLA communities that rally to support and participate in these and other local events. Next year is sure to have much of the same spirit and charm yet hopefully with more participants and volunteers so that the day be blessed with healthy competition and ultimately be sustainable as an annual local experience.

Thank you Clive Emery of Trips and Trails! Clive gave an inspiring evening address which focused on the impact that sports has had on his life. Then the crowd was entertained by our one and only DJ John Hales.

YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

BY PAUL COLEMAN

What you need to know and how you can protect what we all take for granted-Water Quality

Here's the Short Version:

- Lakeshore Capacity Assessment has become the latest buzz "term" that will control our #1 pollutant-Phosphorus
- The BLA is not a regulatory body as some residents suggest. Hastings Highlands is our governing body which is charged to regulate and enforce mandated policy
- The #1 cause of phosphorus effluent is the septic system
- Too many septic systems are failing. Local septic inspections and surveys have begun on Upper Paudash, over 50% were classified as high risk to very high risk
- Other contributors include the clearing of shoreline of native vegetation, use of fertilizers, storm water runoff and increased soil erosion
- Municipal regulations are now being enforced
- Suggested best land owner practices include:
 - Inspecting your septic systems and repairing as required
 - Encourage shoreline vegetation - see page 32-BASC contest
 - Create vegetative shoreline buffers
 - Be reasonable in clearing your view to the lake
 - Do not use fertilizers
 - Pump out septic tanks every 3-5 years
 - Clear septic beds of trees and shrubs



Now for the in depth version.

Currently there are a lot of municipalities that have begun to conduct septic bed inspections. The main reason is to protect our lakes' water quality. The main cause, phosphorus. Our main concern, Lake Trout. Why? Because the health of our Lake Trout warns us about the health of our water.

I have taken most of this material from a Provincial document called "Lakeshore Capacity Assessment Handbook, Protecting Water Quality in Inland Lakes on Ontario's Precambrian Shield", May 2010.

In 2010, numerous Ontario Ministries prepared a handbook which guided Municipalities who carry out Lakeshore Capacity Assessments. In simple terms it is a tool to be used by Municipalities to regulate the maximum number of shoreline dwellings and in turn control the one key pollutant-phosphorus.

...continued on page 15



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Lakeshore capacity assessment will allow municipalities to limit future development on our lakes to prevent inferior and/or unhealthy water quality. Of significance, the report emphasized that to be effective, the process and findings of the lakeshore capacity assessment must be incorporated into municipal official plans and policies. To be clear, the BLA can only suggest best practices. Our government is charged to properly regulate and enforce the rules which keep Baptiste's water quality within acceptable levels.

The Baptiste watershed has a dynamic system with an inherent resilience to stress. — It has the ability to self-regulate and repair itself. But like all inland lakes, there is a limit to the amount of stress that it can tolerate. The near collapse of the Lake Erie ecosystem in the 1960s due to excessive-phosphorus levels is one such example: a coordinated, basin-wide strategy was needed to reduce phosphorus levels and begin restoring the lake's health. Ironically, this summer, a massive algae bloom hit Lake Erie again!

So what can happen?

When the amount of phosphorus entering a water body is excessive, it sets off a chain reaction. **First**, algae proliferate causing a loss in water clarity — the lake user may see this as greener or more turbid water, which is less aesthetically-appealing. In some cases, algae growth is dense and localized — this is called a bloom. **Next**, the algae die off and settle to the bottom of the lake, where bacteria begin the process of decomposition. This process consumes oxygen which, in turn, reduces the level of dissolved oxygen in the bottom waters and reduces the amount of habitat available for sensitive aquatic life such as lake trout. Lakes undergoing eutrophication may lose populations of lake trout and experience shifts of fish populations to other pollution-tolerant species.

While shoreline clearing, fertilizer use, erosion and overland runoff can all contribute phosphorus to the lake, the primary human sources of phosphorus are septic systems — from cottages, year round residences, camps and other shoreline facilities.

I think that many of us follow proper recommended practices but wonder how well we have

really scored in the 2010 government report that suggests:

- Maintaining shoreline vegetation
- Installing vegetative buffers
- Minimizing the amount of exposed soil helps to reduce phosphorus loading
 - Use of a siphon or pump to distribute septic tank effluents to the tile bed
 - Avoiding the use of septic starters
 - Ensuring that all sewage waste goes into the septic tank
 - Pumping the tank out every three to five years
- Reducing water use

All this leads to the BLA conducting annual water quality tests and requesting permission from the Ministry to stock Baptiste with Lake Trout.... The true canary in the mineshaft.

Recently, Dr. Norman Yan, chair of the Friends of the Muskoka Watershed, presented to the Hastings Highlands Municipal Council, a project to use wood ash to replenish the calcium levels in forests thereby benefiting sugar maple bushes and watersheds.

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WHAT CAN WE DO WITH OUR ASHES (NOT 'OUR' ASHES BUT 'WOOD' ASHES)

By Anne Coleman

Although the project is up and running in Muskoka, it gives credence to consider expanding its role in Hastings Highlands. Basically the program involves collecting clean ashes from home owners' fire places, delivering it to collection sites such as storage units or land fill locations, and then transporting it to sugar bush test locations. Tight guidelines had to be developed: covering collection, transportation, testing for contaminants (metals) and hazardous waste. They look for treated, glued, varnished and painted waste. They screen for nails and screws.

The AshMuskoka website is www.ashmuskoka.ca. The project is supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. "It is a practical, scientifically based concept that seems to have high benefits in enriching depleted soils."

In a small way, you may consider taking your own fireplace ashes and spreading them on your property to help encourage stronger tree and shrub growth. They sure do help on those snowy days by placing them on the driveway slopes to increase traction.

"With ASHMuskoka, we will deeply explore this idea that wood ash can safely be used to restore the well-documented damage to forests and lakes caused by widespread calcium (Ca) decline in Muskoka. Restoration should begin by restoring soil and groundwater Ca levels to their pre-acid rain levels. We will take the opportunity to launch this project in local sugar bushes which follows sugar bush operators' recent independent assessment that their sugar maples are suffering from severe low Ca stress."

Why is calcium deficiency such an important issue?

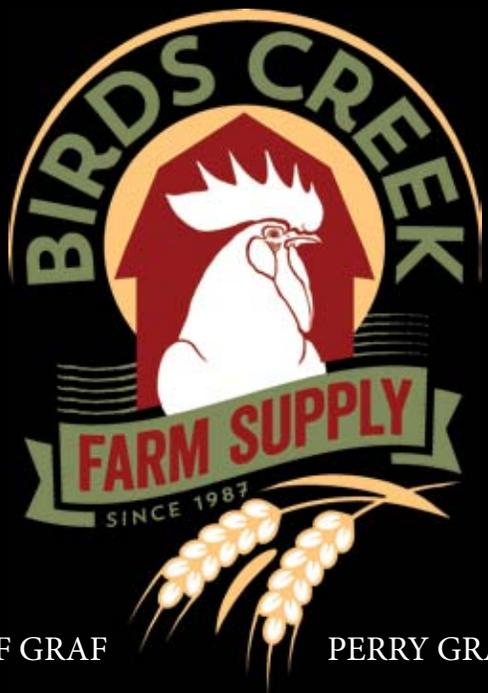
"Calcium (Ca) is essential for all life. Trees are about 1% Ca; fish, 2-8% Ca; and clams and crayfish over 20% Ca. Unfortunately, acid rain has stripped Ca from our environment, and the growth and health of sugar maple, for example, is now limited by Ca supply, while Ca levels in many

Muskoka lakes have fallen by 25 to 40% over the last 4 decades, harming many calcium-rich animals.

A new Ca source, is needed to fix this problem, and residential wood ash can fill this need. As we confirmed in HATSEO, it is rich in Ca; contains other essential minerals; is produced in large quantities by local residents; and is considered a waste. Based on previous surveys, we remain confident that many residents will share their ash to help restore our forests and lakes."

Editors note:

What we need to consider is that zebra mussels need calcium to thrive and if, by replenishing soil with wood ashes and the subsequent leaching into water bodies changes significantly the levels of calcium, then there needs to be a caution before embarking on the use of this program close to lakes and streams.



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BLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By Anne Coleman

To give you an idea of what the BLA did for you in 2018-19, here are some of the highlights:

- Attendance at Hastings Highlands Council Meetings
- Discussions with your Mayor, Municipal staff and Councillors
- Co-ordination of the digitization of all BLA historic documents, minutes, files and correspondence
- Initiated the "Discarded Docks" clean up in Redmond Bay
- Established partnerships and important networks through local involvement and activities which includes:
 - Bancroft Area Stewardship Council
 - Bancroft Fish Hatchery
 - MNRF management and retired MNRF personnel
 - Interlakes
- Initiated the possibility to be the recipient of a 5 year Lake Trout restocking program
- Being considered as 1 of 4 Boat Launch repair

projects in Hastings Highlands

- Organized the 2nd Annual Nature Day with a Kayak and Canoe trip through McGarry Flats followed by a Social BBQ at Coleman's Cove
- Organized the 2nd Annual BLA golf tournament and donated funds to the HH Public Library and CARE North Hastings
- Donated funds to the BASC Garlic Festival, the 1st Annual BLA Triathlon and the Fish Hatchery
- Organized the Annual Corn Roast and contributed funds to Camp Ponacka's children program
- Gathered photos, news articles and stories of interest for your BLA newsletter



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CARING THROUGH CULTURE

BAPTISTE LAKE PLAN

By ANNE COLEMAN

This article is to highlight some of the Baptiste Lake Plan implementations and to summarize a report on each of the chosen areas. There are more actions that are not highlighted in this article but which are also very important. The PDF of the document is available on-line in our web site and also, simply by googling "Baptiste Lake Plan PDF". A huge amount of work went into the creation of this plan with the goal in mind that the lake and surrounding lands be protected. The actions recommended by the Lake Plan appear in black and the report is in red.

LAKE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS AND REPORT (OBSERVATIONS)

PHYSICAL WATER ASSESSMENTS

Encourage more volunteers to continue to collect water quality information through annual or more frequent spot-checking, as well as initiate, with Ministry of Natural Resources staff, the monitoring of tributary streams, and continue to inform residents of the results of this research (including trends over time) in a timely fashion.

This is being implemented on an on-going basis. Several tests have been completed by Wally McColl, Frank Hicks, Paul and Anne Coleman and Eric Hooey. Lake Trout observation is planned for the fall and netting for the spring. MNRF will examine the results and determine if Baptiste Lake qualifies for fish stocking. All this research will be available on the web site.

WATER LEVELS AND REGULATION

Get involved in any proposal for a hydro-



Young Gavin gives us another reason why we care for the lake, to allow him to catch another beautiful fish

electric generating facility affecting Baptiste Lake, and ensure that the proponent conducts an assessment to demonstrate that there will be no negative impact on lake levels and surrounding environments, including lake trout and their spawning activity. (Physical Elements Report) – lake residents, BLA

This past summer we have experienced seemingly lower than normal water levels. It in fact sits within the range acceptable and the outflow from the lake is being carefully monitored by MNRF. All bodies of water connected with our watershed were low. There was communication made with representatives of the BLA and shared with MNRF. A communiqué was published on the website.

BOATING

Consider posting speed limits for boats in narrow water bodies (rivers, channels and some bays) or environmentally sensitive areas. (Stakeholders Meeting August 2008) – lake residents, BLA

Some boat operators continue to travel too quickly through narrow channels causing harmful wakes and damage to wildlife. It was

...continued on page 19



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observed in July that two jet ski operators flew past 3 loons who had to dive out of the way, only to have the PWC operators turn on a dime past the loons again. Only 2 loons were observed to have come to the surface. Needless and harmful, it could also have been children swimming.

Establish a washout station on the lake (site to be determined), and establish a bylaw making washouts mandatory for incoming boats. In addition, signage regarding the washout station and invasive species should be mandatory at all boat launch locations for incoming boats to Baptiste Lake and its watershed. (Stakeholders Meeting August 2008) – municipality.

Washout stations were set up 2 summers ago at three locations and were very successful. This occurred on the May long weekend of 2018. Signs created by FOCA were posted at these sites and at all Hastings Highlands boat ramps. This all requires a great deal of organization and volunteers.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

Continue to promote Loon Watch, and to encourage lake users to respect loon habitat when boating, in order to prevent excessive wake damage or harm to young loons. (Natural Heritage Inventory) – lake residents, BLA

In LaValley Bay we have seen upwards of 8 loons in different smaller bays. We need a collective count to have a more accurate count for the entire lake. If this is an area of interest to the readers of this article and you have made observations, perhaps you could post your data on the web or get in touch with any of the directors of the BLA.

WATER QUALITY

Work to educate lake residents about shoreline preservation and stewardship, and about the shoreline threats to water quality, such as manicured lawns and paved driveways, which threaten water quality by increasing erosion and runoff, and the use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, which degrade water quality. (Natural Heritage Inventory) – BLA, municipality, province.

A special meeting of the HH Council took place on Wednesday, September 25th, which was

attended by representatives from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Hastings Highlands planning department. See minutes of this meeting on the Hastings Highlands website under Special Council Meetings.

The preservation of shoreline continues to be an area which needs improvement for the sake of water quality. The view of the lake seems to take priority, yet we rely on the lake for many important factors, which have drawn us to live or cottage here. Please encourage each other in finding alternative ways to support enjoyment of your property but not at the expense of water quality. Algae blooms and low oxygen kill and eventually we could be faced with an environmental disaster. We are borrowing the land from our children.

LAND USE

Work with the Municipality of Hasting Highlands to update the official plan and zoning bylaws, and to prepare a communications and regulatory program regarding the rehabilitation

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BAPTISTE LAKE PLAN ...continued from page 19

and protection of shoreline areas (shoreline buffers prevent erosion and detract Canada geese). (Land Use Study) – BLA, county, province.

Much as the BLA has a very good, open relationship with the Municipality, there is still much improvement to be made in updating by-laws and their enforcement; also to remain vigilant to by-law amendments. It is tragic when we see properties being prepared for cottage building and that are stripped of the vegetation to make it an easier build; or that the lot is completely altered by filling the land with soil or other fill not even from the lake area. Some streams have been filled in. BLA representatives were instrumental in securing a NO secondary dwelling option for lake front properties.

BACK LOTS

Support the Municipality of Hastings

Highlands and Hastings County in the practice of discouraging the development of back lots (i.e., lots behind lakefront lots) that would place further stress on Baptiste Lake. (Stakeholders Meeting August 2008) – BLA, lake residents.

There is an increase in back lot development. SEPTIC

Work with residents and the Municipality to promote the proper use of septic systems (e.g., Dock Talk), and encourage a mandatory septic re-inspection program of septic systems around Baptiste Lake. (Land Use Study) – lake residents, BLA, municipality.

An inspection process has already been adopted by Dysert et al and Haliburton Highlands municipalities. Mayor Vic Bodnar is preparing a course of action for our municipality to be implemented in 2020.

FISHING EXPERIENCES FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER

Brad Close grew up cottaging and fishing on Baptiste Lake. Here he recounts his childhood experience. “My Grandfather, Bill Frecker, taught me how to fish on The Lake when I was a young boy. That experience helped shape me, and provided me with some of my fondest memories. Thirty years ago I would catch 4-5 pound bass regularly on Baptiste. Now, those fish are hard to find and rarely caught. It was an absolute joy to return to The Lake this August and put a fishing rod in my son’s thirteen year old hands. It only took him three casts off a dock in Dog Bay to land a Smallmouth Bass, which looked and felt like it was well over 5 pounds! Micah was ecstatic, overjoyed! One of the best parts of the experience was when he asked what to do with the fish — keep it or release it. I reminded him of the importance of conservation and protecting the Bass population on Baptiste Lake. Micah happily decided to release the fish. It was a beautiful moment; a new memory formed in our generational line. I know Micah will pass it on to his children and grandchildren!”



Dad in awe of son Micah's prize catch.

THANK YOU CAROL MACLENNAN

By ANNE COLEMAN

This article is to give a big thank you to Carol MacLennan for her many years of serving as a director and then treasurer for the Baptiste Lake Association. She has been coming to the lake at least since she was three years old, based on the family records. "Scott and his family arrived on August 2, 1941 and were with us till the 15th, when they started for their home in Bound Brook. The two girls (Jeannie and Carol) have grown..."

Carol drove up from New Jersey every summer she could, didn't miss many and became involved in a variety of activities available to cottagers around the lake. She especially enjoyed hiking and formed a hiking group, whose planned outings were published in the Bancroft Times thereby creating a very active, large group of hikers.

As treasurer she kept very careful records, which made life easy for the rest of the directors, although it wasn't always so easy for Carol as she lived and worked in New Jersey. Always cheerful and very happy to be at the lake she is now unable to travel due to illness. We would like to share



Jean and Carol MacLennan

her address with you because she loves to get messages, cards or emails while she is convalescing in Florida. You can contact her at

Carol MacLennan

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TODAY'S ARTISTS OF BAPTISTE LAKE

BY SUSAN LATREMOILLE

While the legacy of our famous Canadian painter David B. Milne is closely tied to his roots here on Baptiste Lake there were a number of other artists from the Group of Seven who painted the four seasons and landscapes of our area.

Today, it's good to know that there are more artists who love Baptiste Lake just as much and want to call it home, seeing it as a place that is ideal for contemplation and creativity.

Here below is a recent painting by Anne Coleman of Blueberry Island. Ketha Newman has also completed a beautiful painting of Blueberry Island while Nancy Brookes has a 2019 collection of plein air studies of Baptiste Lake. So much to be inspired by with opportunity each day to discover a new angle, colour or composition.

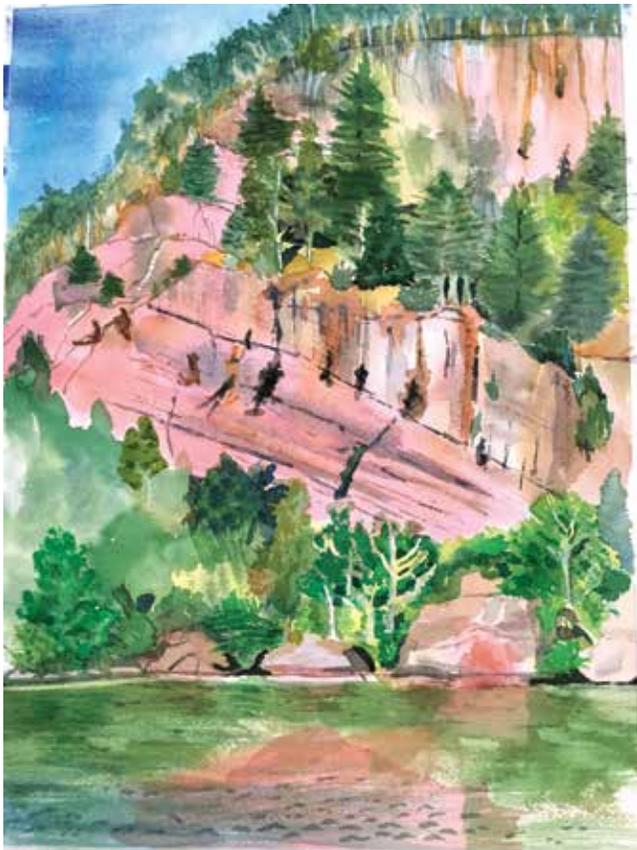
Other artists who currently call Baptiste Lake home include Diana Gurley, Nancy McKinnon, Marc Gagnon and Simon Dann.

Diana, who has lived on Baptiste for several

decades, paints in watercolours and has had a number of leading roles in The Bancroft Art Gallery. She was also a member of the Baptiste Lake Association board of directors, including serving as president and through her community involvement has done a great deal in supporting the local art scene.

Nancy is a vibrant landscape painter who is working with a series of new wildlife subjects. She generally works with oils and acrylics as well as some experimental materials for portraiture. Nancy's studio is situated about 15 feet from the Baptiste Lake shoreline and can be road-accessed on Ponacka Road. Examples of her work can be found on her website at www.rockwoodstudio.com.

...continued on page 23



By Anne Coleman



By Nancy McKinnon



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Marc Gagnon works with watercolours and acrylics and is on a site over-looking Baptiste Lake. Marc has said that painting is a process of self realization and allows him to explore his reactions to nature and our built environments. Check his work at www.migagnonart.com. Marc was one of the artists recently painting at the Maynooth Garlic Festival and 'en plein air'.



By Marc Gagnon

As a recent newcomer, Simon's focus is on black and white fine art and street photography. He pursues a diverse range of subjects ranging from candid style portraits to landscape and everything in between. He is captivated by human expressions, geometry, patterns and light and shadow. Examples of his work can be found on his website at www.simondann.ca

Karen Istead, is a glass artist using fused and stained glass techniques. Karen creates wonderful and unique glass art that beautifully captures the dazzling light that reflects upon the skies, forests and waterways of North Hastings. An avid kayaker, she takes in at close range the movements of water and life along the shoreline.

It's also worth mentioning that our Baptiste Lake artists were featured in the 2019 Bancroft Studio Tour that took place on the last weekends of September, which offered spectacular colour and weather to encourage the visitors.

It's wonderful to be able to say that we have such talent living on our beautiful lake and there are more artists quietly creating new expressions of the beauty of Baptiste Lake.




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RESCUE ON BAPTISTE LAKE

BY CARA HICKS

On the night of March 30, 1979, long-time Baptiste Lake resident, Frank Hicks rescued two men and assisted three others after snowmobiles broke through the ice.

Earlier that evening, three men on two snowmobiles came from across the lake to visit a neighbouring cottage on the north shore. When they attempted to re-cross the lake at around 11PM they were unaware that the ice had broken up and went into the icy water. Two other men on the shore jumped on a third snowmobile to drive out to assist the three in the water – and went in too.

“We heard the first two machines take off and thought it was strange that that the engine sound stopped so abruptly,” Frank says. “Snowmobile sounds fade, they don’t just stop. I was watching from the window when the third machine went out. When I saw the red taillight tip over and disappear, I thought uh oh.”



Frank Hicks

Frank was already getting dressed to go out when the neighbours came running for help and lifejackets. Pat, his wife, called the police – it was before 911 and locator numbers so she had to figure out how to direct the police and ambulance. She also called the hospital to find out how to treat the men when they came back.

Equipped with a section of a wooden extension ladder, a flashlight, and the knowledge that there were five men in the water, Frank went out onto the ice in the dark to see what he could do to help. Guided by the sounds of shouting, Frank made his way 150 metres across the lake. He found that some of the men had got out of the water on their own but at least two hadn’t. He assisted one on the near side of the ice, but one was across the water so Frank came back to

...continued on page 25



Frank Hicks is presented with an engraved silver plate and a provincial service scroll for exceptional courage and bravery from Premier William Davis and Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon

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RESCUE ON BAPTISTE LAKE ...continued from page 24

shore for a canoe so he could get to him. He tells of falling through the ice himself numerous times, about tipping the canoe and having to right it on crumbling ice, and about rolling onto his back with his feet up to empty water from his boots.

Fortunately, everyone survived with only frostbite. But even Frank admits that there were several points that he could have lost his own life.

Frank, my Dad, was awarded medals for bravery. He was presented with the Star of Courage by the Governor General of Canada. He was honoured by all levels of government for his successful rescue. As a child, I was thrilled by the spectacle of it all. I shook hands with some very important people, we stayed in grand hotels and it was very exciting. But the horrible reality is that people awarded medals for bravery, usually get them posthumously.

If you ask my parents about it, Dad will tell you it was something he did when he was younger. Mom will proudly tell you the story, not mentioning that she had to have been scared to death as Dad did something potentially life altering. As a family, we're very proud. And we're also careful on the ice. Because we don't want Dad to have to go back into the icy water.

Sources: family stories, news articles (Bancroft Times, Toronto Star) and Ministry of Natural Resources Memo April 1979.

Receives "Star Of Courage"

In the ballroom of Government House last Friday, September 26th, 1980, his Excellency, the Right Honourable Edward Schreyer, Governor General of Canada presented thirty-one Bravery Decorations at a Bravery Investiture.

During the ceremony, the Star of Courage was presented to Franklin John Hicks of Whitney, Ontario, who saved five young men from drowning in the icy, winter waters of Baptiste Lake, last year.

On the night of March 30th, 1979, three snowmobiles, together carrying five men, had broken through the ice on Baptiste Lake. Mr. Hicks heard their cries and came to their aid with a ladder. He found that all but

Bruce Brereton and Ronald Yanch had climbed to safety on the ice. While holding the ladder out to Brereton and preparing to pull him out of the water, he himself broke through the ice. Undeterred, he climbed back and persisted until he saved the man. Then as Yanch was out of his reach, he got a canoe and ladder from shore. Once again, he fell through the ice but again climbed back. Finally he reached the victim and took him to shore.

There are three Bravery decorations: the Cross of Valour, the Star of Courage, and the Medal of Bravery. Since the decorations were first created in 1972, four hundred and thirty-nine decorations have been awarded.

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BAPTISTE

— Stories from the Lake —

By Paul Kirby

With apologies to Forrest Gump: publishing is like a box of chocolates — you never know what is going to be a success. I have published books which I thought would sell very well and yet dozens remain in my cupboard. I knew *Baptiste: Stories from the Lake* had a built-in market, but never did I imagine the entire 300 copies would sell within 6 weeks.

Sincere thanks go to the executive and the members of the BLA for their support of the project from its inception. It would not have reached the bookshelves without that support. And to all of those who purchased the book, and to Birch Cliff

Lodge, Belcast Cottages, Camp Ponacka, West Bay House, Sunrise Lodge and Sunrise Cove for actively promoting and selling the book, I give my appreciation.

To some publishers a print run of 300 copies is laughably small, but for me it is huge given the cost of printing. I initially wavered on undertaking a second run of the book, concerned about being able to sell more. But after much thought I have decided to print another 300 for the upcoming Christmas period and next summer's tourist season. The copies should be available in November.

The story of (and stories from) *Baptiste Lake* are not restricted to print, however. I continue to receive photos and uncover information which cannot be reprinted. That is why I created kirby.etcetera. This is a free-to-access digital platform where I continually add information, photos and links.

Accessing the platform is very easy: simply send an email kirby.etcetera@gmail.com and in the subject line type one word Extras.

You will receive an automatic reply with a long list of links for you to explore and enjoy. Check back on a regular basis as more is added. If you have things you wish to add please let me know and I will upload your submissions. This is a continuing history of *Baptiste Lake*.

I have been commissioned to write this winter a new history of North Hastings. The skeleton of the book, if you will, is the history of medical and health care: doctors, nurses, hospitals, undertakers, indigenous and holistic healers, and more. And it is more; it is a social fabric history, too. In my research I continue to come across information

...continued on page 27

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Old Bancroft Hospital

STORIES FROM THE LAKE ...continued from page 26

about Baptiste Lake. As a sneak preview for BLA members here is (an abbreviated) story of Dr. Truman Augustus Beeman.

“The first known physician with a medical degree was Dr. Truman Augustus Beeman [1862-1922]. Dr. Beeman was born at Selby, Ontario, March 16, 1862, to William and Jerusha Beeman. William Beeman was a merchant and must have been successful, one assumes, as Truman and two brothers attended medical school. Truman was a graduate of Queen’s Medical School in 1887 and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. He began his practice in Bancroft in 1889. His speciality was Allopathy—today’s modern medicine. Until the mid-1800s, doctors and healers relied on homeopathy and naturopathy. Allopathy’s popularity was ‘due to successful scientific progress including the production of certain vaccines and development of specific drugs that treat disease.’

One of his hobbies was as an enthusiastic amateur archeologist. In the late 1900s, he undertook digs at

Baptiste Lake on the property owned by William Mulcahey. Among the finds were clay pipes, beads, pottery, a copper vessel containing three bits of stone—quartz, chert and graphite, Porcelain beads (European) three varieties, and much more.

[The full link to his findings can be found under ‘Dr. T.A. Beeman’ on kirby.etcetera. Digs such as those undertaken by Dr. Beeman do raise ethical questions about disturbing gravesites. Also is the question of ‘was there an Indigenous cemetery on Mulcahey’s land on the south shore?’ The specimens were held by Ontario Archaeological Museum (Toronto) and are now in the collections of the Royal Ontario Museum. I have been following up with the Natural History team to ascertain the whereabouts of the specimens.]

In late January 1922, his horse and cutter became snowbound while responding to a call in the Paudash area. One version of the story has him crawling to the nearest farm for help (Historic Hastings, p.343 and Bancroft Old Home Week, p.81) and another “only after many hours of strenuous effort was he able to extricate his horse and buggy from snowdrifts” (Dr. Donald Brearley research, p.23). The result of his harrowing experience and the stress on his heart was his untimely death on February 9, 1922, aged 59, in a Toronto hospital.

Looking at his life it appears that Beeman was not one to settle down: he was unmarried and childless, lived as a boarder with various families in Bancroft, including that of Fred and Jane Mullett in 1891 and James Dale in 1911. He was buried in Bancroft. According to historian Gerry Boyce, quoting the Bancroft Times, his funeral was the largest in the history of Bancroft to date.



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Image painted by John Coleman.

We need more volunteers to help out with our water testing and Lake Trout restocking program. Thanks to Mike DiCintio for stepping forward. Thanks also to Paul Dennis for his tremendous support of our Golf Day. Thanks to Bill and Carolyn Bean who offered their help at this years' Corn Roast. It is very much appreciated by all, thanks for getting involved and for helping take the weight off the Directors.

Carol McLellan has resigned as our treasurer and her contributions are officially recognized on page 21. Thankfully Eric Hooey has assumed this daunting task in addition to his webmaster talents. He and Shelley Pickard have teamed up to simplify the advertising and billing process through advanced computer practices. We are extremely lucky to have such talent and expertise in these areas.

Kathy Irwin has also resigned after a long and



Here is Eric Hooey taking one more October run, in front of Blueberry Island, before the snow flies.

distinguished 'inputter' to our Board. We recognized Kathy at the golf tournament and again thank you Kathy for your advice and enthusiasm.

Sabe and Cindy Belcastro who own and operate Belcast Cottages and General Store (the former Scott Cottages) have come forward as new Directors. If you have not been to their store, you must make the effort to see the fabulous selection of goods and ice cream! Thank you so much at a critical time... (Our Board is gently aging and our bodies/minds are not as sharp as they once were.... Editors' note)

CONCLUSION TO THE DISCARDED DOCK STORY

BY SHELLEY PICKARD

Most remarkable was the support of our residents who spearheaded the discarded dock removal from Redmond Bay.

The dock removal started with a concerned Kayaker last fall. Articles were put in the paper and our newsletter, authorities were contacted but nothing seemed to happen.

It gained a little steam this spring when a letter was sent to the paper from Chris and Natalie Brownell and a meeting was set up. Shelley Pickard, Rob Zwicker, Carl Pickard, Brad Perrin from Madawaska Property Management, Wally, Eric and Chris and Natalie decided to review options.

Very quickly, Brad Perrin and another neighbour, Rich van der Woude went over and start-

ed moving docks away from the shore and tying them off in a deeper area. Rob, Carl and Shelley went over a bit later and joined them. They pried all of the docks away from the shores and attached them all together. A huge task!

Later that week Carl, Brad and Michael DiCintio moved the docks from the bay over to the causeway on South Baptiste.

Brad Perrin and his employees at Madawaska Management removed the docks and took them to his shop where they were dismantled and disposed of.

Credit goes out to all involved it clearing up the mess in our beautiful Redmond Bay wetlands.

HYDRO USERS BEWARE

REFERENCE FROM FOCA

Thanks Marlin Horst, the President of FOCA, for passing along the following article about your electrical bill!

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM FOCA

Electricity Pricing

UPDATE: September 17, 2019 – the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has issued an order related to the matter of eliminating the Seasonal Class of customer, by asking Hydro One to file an additional, separate motion. FOCA has learned that Hydro One is proceeding, in order to articulate their “alternative approach” which would not eliminate the Seasonal customer class. FOCA expects this alternative will largely be based on the existing and ongoing

phase-in of fixed delivery costs for low density customers (already underway) which should deal with the “paying what it costs to serve you” issues of the OEB. This approach could avoid most of the significant bill impacts that will result if a customer is changed from “Seasonal” to “R2” (low density). Read the notice from OEB (PDF, 6 pages), directing Hydro One to come back with more information by October 1, 2019. FOCA will continue to post updates here, as they become available.

Note that FOCA will be part of any public or intervenor comment opportunity, and will advise our members of the ongoing status of this important file

NATURE DAY

Nature Day was once again a huge success. We seem to get more participants each year, either because they enjoy the peaceful trip through our wetlands, or they enjoy the food and beverages after! I think that the social aspect is the most important element of the Canoe and Kayak day.



Happy kayakers, Debbie and Diane in McGary Flats

Thanks Eric Hooey and Shelley Pickard for co-ordinating the food and drinks and the Coleman's who offered to host the event.



Nature Day Gathering at Coleman's Cove

Needless to say, we are most thankful to your BLA Board of Directors who tirelessly co-ordinate events, handle finances, manage the website, attract new sponsors and “happily” volunteer endless hours to ensure that the lake quality is protected and that you are happy to be part of the Baptiste Lake Community.



Board members and friends at the Annual Fish Hatchery fundraiser

HUGEL KULTUR GARDENING

BY ANNE COLEMAN

Many of you have taken on the Hugel Kultur gardening as first suggested by Susan Latramoille and Dianna Pirko last year. It was amazing to see how such a small box, filled with leaves, brush, foliage etc gave nourishment to a plentiful and delicious harvest.



OUTSIDE THE COTTAGE

SUGGESTIONS FROM HASTINGS HIGHLANDS FIRE MARSHAL'S SEMINAR

1. Store fuel, firewood, and other combustible materials at least 10 metres from the cottage.

2. Keep roof and rain gutters free of dried leaves and pine needles. Install a screened cap on your chimney.

3. Keep firefighting tools (a bucket of water or sand, shovels, and a garden hose) handy when you're having a bonfire or burning brush.

4. Keep barbecues clean, and be on hand when you're using the stove or the grill. "Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the province, and often that's unattended cooking," explains Ryan Betts, program specialist with Public Fire Safety education in the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Inside the cottage

5. Learn how your smoke alarms work and test them at least monthly. Ontario's Fire Code requires them on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. Regularly replace the batteries and replace the alarm itself every eight years. If you have an appliance fired by wood or fossil fuel, or an attached garage, install a carbon-monoxide detector.

6. Develop a fire escape plan. Designate family members who are responsible to help guests, people who may have trouble getting out on

their own, and pets. Keep keys and cellphones in a handy place, so they can be found during a hasty exit. Once everyone is out and accounted for at a meeting place, call 911 or your local emergency number and report the fire.

7. Keep the local emergency number and directions to the cottage handy at a designated spot and saved on your mobile phone. Make sure guests know where to find them.

8. Clean and check your chimney regularly. Maintain fuel burning appliances.

9. Install fire extinguishers in the kitchen, garage, and boathouse, and in any powerboats, and learn how to use them. Ensure they're maintained and pressurized as per the manufacturer's instructions. (When fighting a fire with an extinguisher, always keep an escape route behind you.)

10. Ensure your address number is visible from the road. Consider ways to make your lane easier to navigate for large fire vehicles.

11. Properly dispose of ashes from wood-burning appliances. Put ashes in sand or in mineral soil in a steel bucket (but don't leave the hot bucket on the wood deck), then spread and bury them, or treat them like a campfire and put water or snow on top.

REMEMBERING MENNA WEESE

BY DAVID HAWKES



Menna testing the waters of Baptiste Lake.

The BLA suffered a great loss this past summer with the death of long-time board member and former president Menna Weese. Menna had a PhD in Chemistry and was a former science advisor in both the Saskatchewan and Ontario governments. She was a self-appointed environmental steward for Baptiste Lake, and a crusader for sustainable lake use and the protection of our natural resources.

Menna was instrumental in initiating the Baptiste Lake Plan. She and I, with the assistance of many others, developed and implemented the Lake Plan. Menna chaired the stakeholder meetings, initiated the scientific studies that informed the plan, and handled relationships with the media and lake residents. She was very “hands on” in terms of her work, often personally undertaking the water testing and measuring water quality, or conducting invasive species tests to send to laboratories for testing. I have passed her longitudinal data sets to our archives.

Menna Weese made a significant contribution to sustaining and improving the environmental health and vitality of our lake. We all owe her a large debt of gratitude.



More relaxing times under a rainbow on Baptiste by Rich Elsdon

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Submitted by HUGH MONTEITH

Art Gallery of Bancroft 2019 Schedule

November 1 – 30, 2019:

Rob Niesen – “Nocturnal Reflections”, painting

Opening Reception Friday, November 1 at 7:30pm

Sponsor: Pat Cooke in Memory of Paul D. Cooke

December 4, 2019 – January 25, 2020:

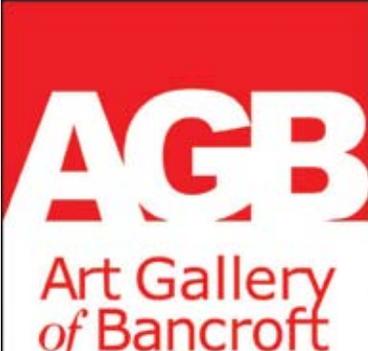
37th Invitational Juried Show

Opening reception Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:30pm

Sponsor: Boyer GMC Bancroft

Another successful Studio Tour took place with the weather being extremely co-operative. New artists enjoyed the excitement of being on the tour meeting art enthusiasts from far and wide. Visitors appreciated the new work created by those local artists who have made the tour a solid attraction. It is due to the hard work of the planners and participants of the Studio Tour that people continue to enjoy and be inspired by the creativity expressed in our visual arts.

More workshops are in the planning stages. Please check for updates at www.artgallerybancroft.ca.



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BASC SHORELINE REHABILITATION CONTEST

Your BLA Executive is offering a great opportunity, for BLA Members.

The Bancroft Area Stewardship Council (BASC) would like to offer a free shoreline rehabilitation package to one luck property owner on Baptiste Lake for the spring of 2020. The prize will consist of an assessment from a professional forester, and planting of up to 100 trees and/or shrubs. The planting will take place in May of 2020. All we ask is that you pay for your membership using the attached form and submit a reason why you would like to rehabilitate your shoreline in 60 words or less. One lucky recipient will be chosen by members of the BASC and the BLA. This is a great way to remind everyone of the importance of having a healthy shoreline and to preserve our water quality.

BLA Membership -

Membership fees collected are used to cover expenses necessary to support our goals. We offer family memberships on a one year or three year term. Cost for one year is \$25 and three years is \$60. Please note that memberships expire on our fiscal year end, Marsh 31st. Please tear out this form and send it in with a cheque made out to "Baptiste Lake Association", Box 877, Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0 or submit your online payment via PayPal. Please see the link on our website: www.baptistelake.org for details, or send an etransfer to info@baptistelake.org, be sure to include info requested below

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Postal Code/Zip _____ Phone _____

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e-mail address _____ Waterfront? Yes / No Water Access Only? Yes / No

____ please check here if you have any objection to the Baptiste Lake Association including your name in our Newsletters and/or on our Website