



# BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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BOX 877, BANCROFT, ONTARIO K0L 1C0

## THE LAKE IS EVERYONE'S BACKYARD (AND IT IS THE LOONS' HOME)



*Swimming Tall - Anne Coleman*



*Shoreline Preservation - Watershed Canada*



*Wolf Moon - Cindy Belcastro*

### **BLA Officials - Spring 2021**

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**All of our normal public meetings or gatherings are post-poned until further notice. Your directors have their first official meeting in the Spring of 2021.**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - SPRING 2021

*By Marlin Horst*

As you are reading this many of the seasonal cottagers will have opened the cottage (or are planning to) and welcomed a new season. For those of you who have year round places on the lake I can only express my jealousy. I certainly miss the lake during the winter. However, I am told the ice is out early this year so it will be an early opening to the cottage.

While the BLA does not host any social activities in the winter it does not mean that the board and other volunteers are not doing anything. We continue to keep abreast of what is happening at the municipal and provincial governments and how their actions will affect the lake. The Municipality has proposed a



*Locally grown.  
Photo by Matt Belcastro*

new shoreline by-law. The main change is that the 15 metre buffer zone will be increased to 30 metres. We will continue to monitor the situation. More information is set out elsewhere in the Newsletter

As I write this we are about 13 months into the very unusual circumstance that is Covid19 lockdowns. It has been a strange time. Sometimes stores are open, sometimes they are closed. At this point we are in the midst of a third wave and it appears to be much worse than prior waves, both in numbers and the appearance of variants from around the world (how are they getting here if the borders are closed? – oh yes, people still traveling). To say that the pandemic has changed things is an understatement. One of the great parts of being at the lake are the many social events, not just BLA events. As you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter the traditional opening event has been cancelled. You will also see that there are some socially distanced events that are being planned and I encourage all of you to attend (socially distanced of course). I remain optimistic that we will be able to have a closing event. I could be wrong on that. What we need are a large portion of the population to get vaccinated. I am half way there (one shot) and hope to have the second before July. I encourage everyone who is able to get vaccinated so we can bring this to the end. We are closer to the light at the end of the tunnel but there is still a lot of tunnel to go.

We continue to “meet” with the Hastings Highlands InterLake Group which is made up of lake associations in the Municipality of Hastings Highlands. This group has been instrumental in getting the municipal council to take note of the concerns of the lake associations and given us a voice in municipal affairs. We continue to advocate at the municipal level for the protection of our lake and others in the municipality. Further to that the InterLake Group now has a Land Use Planning committee (of which I am a member) which now receives notice of any request for a minor variance on any waterfront property in Hastings Highlands and allows us to make any submissions. It is quite surprising what some people would like to build.

The BLA continues to work towards implementing the Lake Plan. The Lake Plan is a living document and

*...continued on page 3*

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we must continue to build on and implement its recommendations to ensure that the objectives of the residents, both permanent and seasonal, as set out in the Lake Plan, are achieved. This can only be achieved by volunteers. If you would like to help, in no matter how small a way, I would encourage you to contact MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com and let us know that you are willing to volunteer. The more people who volunteer; the easier it will be for all.

The BLA continues to be a member of FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association) which is an association of over 500 lakefront owners associations. As a result of the BLA's membership in FOCA, the members of the BLA also have access to many benefits available through FOCA. Please go to their website at [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca) to see the many benefits membership in FOCA provides. You can also sign up for the FOCA newsletter which is delivered by e-mail every month and has links to many informative articles and updates on what is happening in connection with waterfronts in Ontario.



*Sweet signs of spring.  
Photo by Anne Coleman*

As I was writing this President's Message, I looked back at my President's Message from spring 2017. I wrote it as my "last" President's Message. How ironic as I wrote about becoming President of FOCA. At the AGM for FOCA held at the beginning of March I achieved that coveted role of Past President (I am still on the board of FOCA), but I am once again President of the BLA. If you would like to be President please let me know!.

Please visit our website regularly to see what is happening around the lake. In addition if you have not provided us with your e-mail address please do so as this is one of the most effective ways to communicate in the modern world. Please be assured that we use e-mail addresses only for the purposes of the BLA and we do not inundate you with messages. Please send your e-mail along with your cottage address to Membership (contact details elsewhere in Newsletter). Finally if you are not a member I would encourage you to become a member. The cost is minimal (\$25 per year or 3 years for \$60) and benefits are so much more.

If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other member of the board. This is your association.

## Fleming College Haliburton School of Art + Design

### We are Open!

Our summer 2021 art program is a specially curated selection of in-studio courses. Explore a range of creative opportunities including weeklong and weekend workshops. In-person studio experiences will adhere to all mandated safety protocols. We look forward to welcoming you back.

Art: Haliburton Heaven by Mary Intven Wallace  
Acrylic on cradled wood panel



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# BLA CORRESPONDENCE, IDEAS, THANK YOU'S AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM RESIDENTS

Hello friends and BLA neighbours. We need you to consider becoming a Resident Activities Co-ordinator. With your help we can implement some cool events for you and the kids and get to know each other better. So, read on and see how you can get involved.

Here are two separate suggestions that may work within the boundaries of Covid, and they may produce a fantastic result.

## 1.) FROM THE ALEXANDERS:

Hey, maybe a fun outdoor distancing idea for an event could be a canoe / kayak regatta with a twist. Have a shotgun start (like a golf tourney) starting with cottagers in your part of the lake, and then travel to different locations, with a goal of meeting folks from other areas. Each group could form their own list of participants and vessels for safety, and prepare their own bubble snacks and beverages.

Wouldn't it be great to capture dozens of canoes and kayaks traversing all quadrants of the Lake

and meeting somewhere for lots of selfies for the Website? Many of you have not experienced trips to different locations such as the pirate ship, Millionaires' Island, Muskey Bay, the jumping rock or the ripples.

Have a great sunny afternoon!

## 2.) FROM J.W. BRINE

How about an end of dock food drive supporting the Bancroft area. So we could select a predetermined day on a long weekend and cottagers could put out non perishable foods in a bag on the end of their docks.

Volunteers could pick the food donations by boat concurrently at the predetermined time on the lake.

*We greatly like these ideas, and need a team of volunteers from all bays, north, south, east and west to make this happen. Send your input to MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com to help get this going.*

## From Sabe and Paul, "The Rink Off" Challengers

Hey, what about a Baptiste Winter Carnival? The idea crossed our minds this past winter when the Topps and Kavanaghs started making an ice rink in front of their cottages and few hundred yards away the Belcastros made their own rink. Somehow I got roped into joining a runaway between the two with Sabe. The kids had a great time and we got to know some new neighbours. So heres the plan. Create a winter weekend carnival where families can skate, ski, sled, have a BBQ, a campfire and even sleigh rides. We heard that on the Ed Robertson side of Baptiste similar activities took place with large sections of ice cleared off for long traversing trails. If you are interested for next winter, apres Covid, drop us a line, offer to volunteer and lets make it happen.

## Council Meetings through Youtube

We would like to remind residents and cottagers of the ability to listen to municipal meetings on Youtube and zoom.

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**Dear Editors**

Hi. How are you? I'm writing because I have now sat down and read the Newsletter of the Baptiste Lake Association: I see that you are both continuing with your Stakhanovite task, with no sign of flagging. Latest issue I guess at about 15,000 words, or one-quarter of a medium-sized novel, with the two of you writing almost half, probably more if we include unsigned pieces. Add to that the pressure of finding all the articles, getting them in place and to length, sourcing the photos, putting them in place, and matching up the ads. Way to go, guys! I'm surprised you even manage to put your feet outdoors any more, I imagine you both chained to the computer getting haggard and pasty: although Anne, to be fair, is spreading her cultural wings far and wide, while Paul is exploring gutters and ice. And do I detect your hand in the septic tank, Paul?

Anyway, brilliant work, I am most impressed. It's not easy putting a magazine together. I hope the residents of Baptiste Lake recognise what a gift they have been given and sprinkle your path with flowers and hosannas on the rare occasions that you manage it into the open air.

Steve Elsworth, author and publisher  
Weymouth, England

**Call to young families and friends**

**Hello all,**

It is heartening to see many new young faces on Baptiste Lake as well as the young children of families who have been here for generations.

The lake is a fascinating place, full of the joys of water, fresh air, family and friends and the discovery of the natural world.

I would like to offer families with children of age 7 to 12 years yet another enriching perspective on



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their beloved lake. That of an introduction to lake stewardship.

When we can gather again, I propose an afternoon pontoon get together. We would start with introductions, a brief look at the topography of the lake on land and follow that with a hands on experience of Sechi disk water testing in the deep trench of the main lake. We would continue on to the private beach of the Herschel smaller island for a swim. People are welcome to bring their own snacks and drinks.

Because of space considerations we would limit this activity to one parent per family.

So, who am I?

I am a retired teacher, grandmother, a BLA executive member and a cottager on the lake. I enjoy my role as citizen scientist and have been testing the water for several years.

I will post some dates and a meeting place on the BLA website and Facebook page as soon as we can gather safely again.

Looking forward to meeting you and enjoying the lake together,

Liliane Mabson

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### BALD EAGLE tracking by Terry Bradt

The Bancroft Field Naturalist Club is participating in the third Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Program. From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025 we will try to establish breeding evidence of all bird species found throughout the Bancroft area. We are asking cottagers to help in tracking Bald Eagles in the summer months since they may be nesting here if seen other than the winter months. Bald Eagles have been making a good recovery since DDT was banned about fifty years ago. If you see a Bald Eagle nest please email hayton\_bradt@sympatico.ca or call Terry at 613-332-1705.

The location of any nest on private property will be kept confidential. Thank you.

### SHOP LOCAL remember that Amazon does not support your local kids ball and hockey teams.

By Anne Coleman

As residents or visitors, we can support our hinterland economy by shopping locally. It happened this past winter that Christmas shopping was a different scene. 'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the back roads, Amazon or other on-line orders were screaming up and down alleys, driveways everywhere. Our own children put out the challenge to me to not use these services as much as possible. Shop locally they said, so I did and then used Canada Post for delivery.

I've always been impressed with the shopping options in Maynooth and Bancroft for unique choices. Step into the Maynooth General Store where Carla keeps a trendy, up-to-date inventory of gift ideas. From kids clothing, adult footwear, linens to decorations for the house, there is always a surprise answer to shopping needs on every shelf. She will even prepare gift baskets for those who require a little inspiration with choosing items and wrapping them, especially if they



Photo by Terry Alexander

can't get to the store themselves, as happened to our son with his Achilles tendon injury. Across the street, Nancy Brookes has countless eclectic antique items not to mention original paintings, prints and cards in her Peterson gallery. Right beside Nancy's gallery is Linda Lang's "Brush with the North" boasting art supplies, hand crafted unique furniture and crafts, jewelry and clothing. It's a very fun presentation.

Did you know that 'Memories' tea room has offered take-out during the pandemic with Chris Hass working hard to have smaller social distancing markets to allow local crafts persons to sell their wares? She also has paintings for sale. You can custom-order baked goods with just a phone call helping those of us who would rather spend time on different projects than doing the baking. Soon the outdoor market will open.

Also, returning to action, is the Sun Run Café. They are now open for take out service, with in café service, when our lock down is lifted. The food is great.

More merchants in Maynooth add to the list of creative options: Cassidy's, where one can purchase specialty tea, coffee, chocolates and as you browse, check out their art.

Foxfire offers antiques, toys, clothing and hand made crafts plus always a friendly conversation.

Of course there is the Madawaska Art Shop, Wilde-  
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wood Art Gallery, the Black Spruce gallery, Toadstone Craftworks, the Hot Tub store right beside the LCBO.

Now back to the Shop Local. The slight sacrifice with shopping locally is that one needs to ship certain items. Our local Maynooth post office handles all these requirements with ease and without the delays of a larger post office. It is extremely handy to have such quick service.

I would be remiss not to include the fabulous merchants in Bancroft who have been so courageous as well in trying to maintain their businesses in such difficult times. Ashlie's book store has new and used books, games and the proprietor, August, can order most individual requests. Down the street, you will find the V & S, Stedman's, whose very inclusive in-

ventory has solved many a dilemma in finding just the right item. Home Hardware seeks to be highly versatile as well offering the latest gadgets plus the ability to order if it's not in the store. A highly trained, friendly staff is a great compliment to make shopping much easier. Have you been to Alice's Pantry, McMichael Jewellers, Zihua Boutique, the Art Gallery Gift Shop, Bird's Creek Co-op, A.J.'s Footwear and so many more?

I offer my apologies to those merchants I have not mentioned but I think that I make the point that it is totally possible to find what you need without opening the proverbial on-line pages that support other communities. With all due respect, this encouragement to shop locally must be in consideration of the Covid advice for out of area folks. We need to support the smaller enterprises before they are lost forever. We can make a difference. Shop LOCAL.

#### **Editors' Note:**

Be sure to thank all of our advertisers who have supported our newsletter for so many years by purchasing their products. With their support we are able to inform all of our residents what is happening on the Lake, and more importantly, to donate funds to the Fish Hatchery, HH Library, local charities and kids organizations throughout the year.

Other BLA Activities to be considered

Kids fishing tournament, Golf Tournament

Annual General Meeting, Corn Roast

Music Festival, Triathlon



*Photo by Cindy Belcastro*

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# HEY GRANDAD

By Paul Coleman

“My friend’s dad won’t eat Pike because of the “Alphabet Bone”. What’s that all about?”

“Well Cooper, it’s called a “Y” bone and my buddy Max T. is a fisherman who likes a nice meal of Pike every now and then. Here is his method for preparing a delicious bone free meal.”

“Make diagonal cuts on both sides of the Pike just behind the gills (along the neck). Stop at the spine and then cut along the backbone to the tail. Don’t cut all the way through the tail. Then flip the fish and make a second cut like the last. Now you can hold on to the tail like a handle and wiggle the skin back and forth while holding the knife firmly as you remove the skin.”

“Take your knife and place it slightly inside the belly of the fish. Cut along the center-line of the fish, “opening” the belly. Remove the guts and you have 2 large fillets full of bones.

Remove the rib cages while leaving as much meat as possible.”

“Next, remove the strip of meat on top of the “Y” bones by running your tip down the “Y” bone line, at

an angle, as you feel the bones “ticking”.

Then look for the line of white dots which is the dreaded “Y” bone. Switch to a 4” knife and cut about ¼” above this line while running your knife softly across the flesh of the fish. Stop when you hear the knife tip ticking against the bones as you move to the tail. Stop where the bones end. Here you will find 2 extra small fillets in the tail that have no bones.

Now make your final cut slightly below the “Y” bone at a 45 degree angle and pull the “Y” bone away from your fillet.

The end result will be five (5) fillets of completely deboned delicious Pike.”

“Hey Grandad, that was so cool I checked it out on “Youtube”. This guy cleaned a Pike in 30 seconds! He cut around the neck, split down the belly, cut off the fins, sliced along both sides of the spine, threw away the guts, cut out the ribs, then he removed the “Y” bone and wiggled off the skin! He was left with two (2) large fillets!”

“Cooper, what’s a “U” tube?”



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# RECENT CHANGES TO THE BLA WEBSITE AND SUPPORT UTILITIES

*By Eric Hooley*

Since my last update on the BLA Website a few Newsletters ago, several changes have been made to the BLA website and to the offline programs used to support the activities of the BLA. In this article, I will describe some of them. Several of these changes were relatively trivial and some were not so trivial. The description of the change is not always indicative of the difficulty or time taken to implement the change.

Recently, changes were made to the menus to make **The Lake Plan** link easier to find by adding it to the top level menu and splitting the links that were on the previous Lake Plan page into 3 categories, "The Lake Plan", 'Research' and 'Implementation' each with their own page. Also the remaining sub items on the former 'Baptiste Lake' menu were added as sub menu items on the 'Lake Talk' menu. In addition, a new menu item was added for the 'Lost and Found' page as a sub menu item on the 'Lake Talk' menu.

In order to make the **BLA Mission Statement** more prominent, it was relocated from the bottom of the Home page content to the top of the page and 'Read more' and 'Read less' buttons were added to display just the first paragraph or to display the entire Mission statement. At the same time, the remaining content of the page (i.e. Important announcements from the BLA) was made to be database driven to make adding and removing posts to the page much easier and quicker.

Changes were made to the photos that display on pages other than the **Home Page**. The number of possible photos was increased from 7 to 15 and the size was standardized so the amount of space taken on the page by the photo is the same from page to page. The quality of the photos was increased as well.

Changes were made to uploading photos to automatically handle image rotation. Even if the image was taken upside-down with your phone, it will be displayed correctly on the **Photos Page**. The main Photos page was modified to display thumbnails rather than the actual photo to reduce the load time of the page. An offline utility was created to create the thumbnails.

A change was made to the New User Account request logic. Instead of needing the hardworking Web-

site Admin (Shelley) to approve each new request, an email is sent to the requestor with a link, which enables their account when clicked. This not only speeds up the process of creating a new account but it also reduces the workload of the Website Admin and verifies the user's email address which makes the whole process more secure.

Regular updates were made to the *Home*, *News*, *Community Events* and the *BLA Events pages* by the Website Admin (Shelley) and myself to keep the membership up to date with newsworthy items applicable to the membership.

Various new links were added to the Links page and broken links were repaired or removed.

All web pages that referenced our old email address were updated to use our new address [MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com](mailto:MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com).

Due to the **Web Camera** at Country Fare no longer being operational, the Webcam page was modified.

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The logo for Birds Creek Farm Supply is circular with a black background. At the top, the words "BIRDS CREEK" are written in a green, sans-serif font, following the curve of the top half of the circle. In the center is a white rooster with a red comb and wattle, facing right. Below the rooster is a green banner with the words "FARM SUPPLY" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath the banner, the words "SINCE 1987" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the logo are two golden wheat stalks.

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The program to send personalized emails to the Membership and to the Web Users was modified to send messages using HTML instead of plain text, which allow formatting (font, font size, text colour).

Several mass personalized emails were sent to the Membership if we had your correct email address. In keeping with my commitment not to send more than 10 emails a year, 5 emails were sent last year and 2 emails so far this year. If you are not getting these emails, please send your correct email address to My-BaptisteLake@gmail.com.

In December last year, our Web Hosting provider (GoDaddy) did an upgrade and moved our database to a new server. Unfortunately the email advising me

of the upcoming change was sent to an old email address from when we contracted with GoDaddy and the email account was not being monitored. Not a problem, because the changes were transparent to you, the users of the website but not so to me, the maintainer of the website. In the course of working with GoDaddy to resolve my issues, it was determined that our website was infected with malware which did not affect normal operation of the website but only search results when entering searches like “Baptiste Lake Association” with the search capability of any browser. Instead of getting a link to our site you got a link to an online drug retailer. I had previously noticed this happening but had no idea why. In order to resolve the problem, I upgraded our subscription with GoDaddy to remove the malware and to do regular scans in future to prevent a reoccurrence.

Also included in this subscription upgrade was using https instead of plain http for all communication. This means that the BLA Website is now using encryption for all data sent to and from the Host Server and your device. The paddle lock icon will now appear beside the URL in most browsers (Google Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Edge) and you will no longer get a “Insecure Connection warning message” when logging into the BLA website as previously was the case with some browsers.

A special area to store the internal documents of the BLA was created with on line access to current Directors via password authentication.

A program was written to manage and invoice our advertiser, which makes for better record keeping and reduces workload for the directors (Shelley and Paul) involved in procuring and managing Advertisers.

“This page generated at date/time” was added to the footer of all web pages.

The internal send email functionality was modified to use a more current and secure function call.

Several internal changes were made to make it easier for me to maintain the website.



*Eric at work. Drawing by Anne Coleman*

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE CREATION OF THE PROPOSED SHORELINE AND TREE PRESERVATION BYLAW

*By Anne Coleman*

## AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL SHORELANDS ARE PROTECTED BY LAW

Conservation Authorities, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Parks Canada have laws and regulations governing docks, boathouses and other shoreline structures.

## AT THE COUNTY LEVEL

Hastings County has a new Official Plan as of 2018. Therein is found clear direction on creating policies and bylaws protecting and improving the environmental well-being of the County, therefore our Municipality.

## AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

The draft Shoreline and Tree Preservation Bylaw has been introduced and has had its first reading. The primary goal of the Bylaw is to fulfill the Legislation from the Province of Ontario and the County of Hastings to regulate shoreline activity and vegetative buffers. The next draft reading is May 19, 2021.

• As a background to the work done up to 2009 by the BLA Lake Plan Committee, we offer in this article the text from the Lake Plan based on the old Official Plan. The new Official Plan reflects important changes in attitude by government regarding the extreme importance of preserving our environment, education of those persons owning property and thereby being stewards of their land. Here is the link for the new Official Plan: <https://hastingscounty.com/government/planning-development/county-official-plan/>

The Baptiste 'Lake Plan' Committee was well ahead of its time in recognizing the dangers to the lake and recommending implementations to rectify these changes.

THE TEXT BELOW IS COPIED FROM THE BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION LAKE PLAN, 2009. P. 34

*January 12, 2002, prepared by the Ainley Group in  
...continued on page 12*

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...from page 11

Belleville. The Official Plan (OP) provides guidance for the physical development and planning decisions of the municipality while having regard for social, economic and environmental matters to ensure that the specific needs of the community are met. The County is currently undertaking a review of the Official Plan, which provides a good opportunity to update current policy.

The “rural” designation covers about 90 percent of Baptiste Lake’s watershed, including about 95 percent of the shoreline. The rural designation permits a number of land uses that may not be compatible with the residential and commercial character of the lake. For example, it provides very little policy direction on the maintenance of natural buffers.

Many other rural/lake municipalities have created a separate waterfront designation that separates the rural policies from those that apply to the waterfront. The Hastings County OP policies that permit development in Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW) are out-dated, and must now be revised to be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (2005), which prohibits new development on PSW located on the Canadian Shield.

No maps are provided in the OP to identify development constraints, such as steep slopes, narrow water-bodies or critical fish habitat. This information should be in the Official Plan so that people will understand the development restrictions.

#### Recommendations – Land Use

• Buildings on the lake should be built on a scale that allows the landscape to remain dominant. Developments that substantially change geographic or landscape profiles – the language of the lake – should be discouraged.

• The BLA should work with the Federation of Ontar-

io Cottage Associations (FOCA) and MNR to continue lobbying the provincial government to continue with the “no development” policy on Crown Land.

• The BLA should support the Municipality of Hastings Highlands and Hastings County in the practice of discouraging the development of back lots – that is, lots behind lakefront lots – that would place further stress on Baptiste Lake.

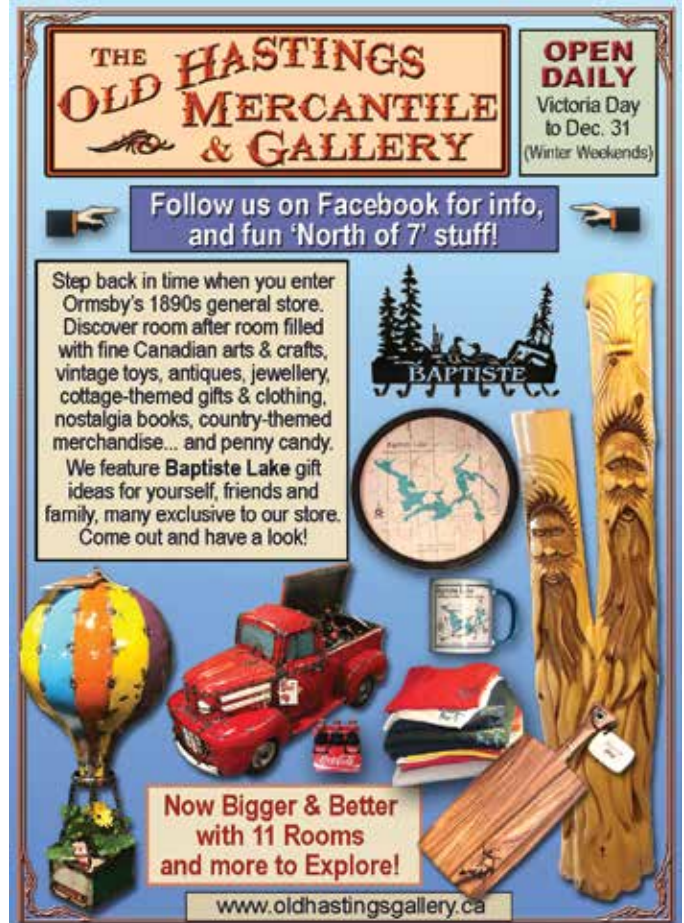
• The BLA should work with the Municipality of Hastings Highlands to update the official plan and zoning bylaws, and to prepare a communications and regulatory program regarding the rehabilitation and protection of shoreline areas. It is recognized that the maintenance of natural shoreline buffers is an ecologically sound practice that prevents erosion, maintains water quality, protects wildlife and the fishery, and enhances the view scape.

As you take time to look at the proposed Shoreline and Tree Preservation Bylaw, much is in line with the above recommendations. We still have great potential in regaining if not reversing some of the negative environmental situations we find ourselves lamenting over.



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# DIANA GURLEY ABOUT THE ARTIST

I was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, and educated in Venezuela and the U.S.A. Art was always an important part of my life, even as a young girl, drawing and painting were my favourite pastimes. My family moved to Trinidad in 1953 where I met and married my husband, Malcolm. In 1957 a company transfer brought Malcolm and me to Jamaica where I studied painting under the guidance of Barry Watson, one of Jamaica's best known artists. I became an active member of the Jamaica Art Association and participated in many art exhibitions during our ten years in Jamaica.

In 1967 we moved to Toronto where I joined the Willowdale Group of Artists serving on several committees and exhibiting my work in many juried shows. Later settling on our property on Baptiste Lake, I joined the Art Gallery of Bancroft Committee in 1994 and served as President for several years, retiring in 2012. As an active member of the East Central Ontario Artists Association, I exhibited my work in many ECOAA juried shows.

Living at our home on the shores of Baptiste Lake, which Malcolm and I fondly called "The Gurley Hacienda", has provided me with so much joy. Not only does the beauty of the lake inspire many of my paintings, but also the support of other BLA members who enjoy painting as well. Here in my wonderful art studio, surrounded with such beauty...



*Acrylic on canvas, October 2020*

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there is always inspiration for another painting.

**Shows – Solo or Group:**

January 1996 - "3 in the Gallery" group show at the Art Gallery of Bancroft

August 1997 "Views & Visions I" Solo show at T.D.'s Art Shoppe, Bancroft

May 1999 "Views & Visions II" Solo show at the Art Gallery of Bancroft.

October 2005 "My Two Worlds" Solo show at the Art Gallery of Bancroft

August 2012 "Views & Visions III" Solo show at the Art Gallery of Bancroft

**Awards:**

Awards from Art Gallery of Bancroft juried exhibitions: Best Drawing in 2000, portrait of "Dagmar", Honourable Mention Award - Watercolour in 2001, for "Chained Canoe", Best Watercolour "Abandoned", Best Drawing, 2007 "Nude #4", Watercolour Honourable Mention Award a 2008 for "Early Morning Canoe" and 2011 Watercolour Honourable Mention Award for "Twilight at the Farm".

My paintings are in private and corporate collections in Canada, United States, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, England and Germany.



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# PIKE IN BAPTISTE

*By Michael DiCintio*

## **Pike Tournament**

The Baptiste Lake Association will be hosting a Pike Tournament sometime in the fall depending on Covid restrictions. This will be a non-profit event. All funds will end up going towards long overdue fishery enhancement projects for Baptiste Lake. We have been waiting for our Lake trout restocking program to be approved, hopefully for this year. The next most important project will be spawning bed enhancements for Walleye and Lake Trout.

The Pike tournament will be a great way to balance out the lake by putting pressure on the invasive pike while funding projects to restore the population of the other fish. Registration forms, rules and details will be posted to [BaptisteLake.org](http://BaptisteLake.org). If you are interested in volunteering for any of these projects, or have any questions about the tourney you can email me at [m\\_dicintio@hotmail.com](mailto:m_dicintio@hotmail.com).

## **Pike Problem**

Right now Northern Pike are among the most abundant fish species in Baptiste Lake. In 2011 a netting survey showed they only represented 4% of the fish population, but a whopping 12% by 2016. Even though they are very fun to catch and taste great, they pose a problem to a few other species of fish that were here before them. They have been making it very difficult for Muskie, Lake trout, largemouth bass and walleye to survive here and could even have contributed to the disappearance of the Lake Whitefish and Burbot.

Pike spawn one month before Muskie. Just after ice out the Pike will head for the shallow weedy areas of the lake and cruise the shorelines to spawn. Since Muskie and Pike spawn in the same areas, those larger Pike fry stick around, growing and waiting for the



*Diana Gurly relaxing while not painting.*

Muskie eggs to hatch so they can eat them. In larger bodies of water, where there are multiple similar spawning areas this does not pose as much of a problem as there will always end being a few batches of Muskie eggs in spots the pike have not yet spawned in. Since Pike have reached such an alpha status in Baptiste, they hover around much of the Largemouth spawning grounds and will feed on Bass fry, as well as push them off their spawning beds leaving the Bass eggs vulnerable to Perch, Rock Bass and other Pan fish. They also compete for food (Perch and

*...continued on page 15*

...from page 14

Lake Herring) with walleye and lake trout.

### Where to Catch Pike?

This really depends on the time of year, time of day and most importantly water temperature. In the spring Pike will be found in shallow weedy areas. As the water warms they will start to retreat to the cooler areas of the Lake setting up around shelves that are close to deeper drop offs. I find Lipless crankbaits and jerk baits work well casting towards a shoreline or patch of weeds. If you know a clear path close to a weed line you can cover more water by trolling either of those baits, or even slow trolling a worm harness with a minnow.

### Cleaning Pike for Dinner

If prepared properly Pike can taste great. The Fish should be kept in an aerated live well until killed and bled out properly by cutting the gills and severing the artery in the spine close to the tail. Leaving the bleeding fish in water will help the blood escape at leave you with a much better tasting fillet. If the fish is left to suffocate without being bled out, the

blood can soak into the meat. I find the easiest method to fillet the fish is to cut the whole fillet as one piece and then work the Y bones out in one strip, rather than the “5 cut method” which leaves many pin bones and takes more time.

### Pickled Pike

Most people release “hammer handles” or smaller pike that seem too hard to clean, but this size is perfect for pickling! It is very easy, all you have to do is cut the fillet off with Y bones still in, cut the meat into chunks and leave in a salt & vinegar brine for 6 days. Rinse well and put the meat into a fresh jar of vinegar, sugar, salt and spices. The pickling process will melt those thin bones.

I am hoping that anglers on Baptise will spend more time targeting and keeping Pike for food. We may never get rid of them, but we sure can put a dent in their population. Pike are not native to Baptise and were not stocked here with any authorization. They are invasive but they have not yet been legally recognized as such. We are currently in discussion with the Ministry about this. Hope to see you all out on the Lake for the Tournament!



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## SHORELINE AND TREE PRESERVATION BYLAW 2021

*By Anne Coleman*

Below is the main content of the proposed Shoreline Preservation Bylaw which will receive second reading May 19, 2021. Not included are the fine schedules. For your own research you can find the links to the bylaw on the Hastings Highlands Municipality website at this link: <https://hastingshighlands.ca/2021/02/04/6300>

The Baptiste Lake Association has presented Council with an official letter stating the Association's support in principle of the bylaw, plus other correspondence from the creators of the Lake Plan. Also, recommendations for amendments to the bylaw as being presented to Council in delegations made by Interlakes and the BLA.

***The following text refers to Bylaw 2021-006 for the Corporation of the Municipality of Hastings Highlands***

To Conserve, Prohibit, Protect, Restrict, And Regulate The Protection, Preservation And Removal Of Trees And Vegetation And Site Alterations On Shoreline And Site Alterations On Shoreline Properties Within The Municipality Of Hastings Highlands

**THIS IS A BYLAW RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING OF THE MUNICIPALITY**

A Municipality may require and regulate the cleaning and clearing of land, not including buildings, or to clear refuse or debris from the land;

A local Municipality has the authority to prohibit and regulate with respect to public nuisances, including matters that are or could become or cause public nuisances;

A Municipality has the authority to prohibit and regulate the destruction or injuring of trees;

A Municipality has the authority to require that a Permit be obtained for the injuring or destruction of trees or any class of trees specified in the bylaw and impose conditions including those relating to the manner in which destruction occurs and the qualification of persons authorized to destroy or injure trees;

A Municipality has the authority to enact a bylaw to

prohibit or regulate the placing or dumping of fill, the removal of topsoil, alteration of the grade of the land;

A Municipality has the authority to add fees and charges to the tax roll for a property and collect them in the same manner as municipal taxes;

A Municipality has the authority to pass bylaws providing that a person who contravenes a bylaw of the Municipality passed under Municipal Act is guilty of an offence;

A Municipality has the authority to establish a system of fines for offences under a bylaw of the Municipality passed under the Municipal Act;

The Municipality authorizes that where any bylaw of a Municipality under the Municipal Act is contravened and a conviction entered, in addition to any other remedy and to any penalty imposed by the bylaw, the court in which the conviction has been entered and any court of competent jurisdiction thereafter may make an order prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the offence by the person convicted and requiring the person convicted to correct the contravention;

Amendments authorize a Municipality to permit the power of entry to be exercised by an employee, officer or agent of the Municipality and that entry on land at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine whether or not the bylaw of the Municipality passed under the Municipal Act is being complied with;

Amendments authorize that where a Municipality is satisfied that a contravention of a bylaw of the Municipality passed under the Municipal Act has occurred, the Municipality may make an order requiring the person who contravened the bylaw or who caused or permitted the contravention or the owner or occupier of the land on which the contravention occurred to discontinue the contravening activity;

Section 446 of the Municipal Act 2001, S.O. 2001,

*...continued on page 17*



...from page 16

c.25, as amended, authorizes that where a Municipality has passed a bylaw under the Municipal Act the Municipality has the authority under the Municipal Act or any other Act to direct or require a person to do a matter or thing, the Municipality may also provide that, in default of it being done by the person directed or required to do it, the matter or thing shall be done at the person's expense;

The Council for the Municipality of Hastings Highlands deems it desirable and in the public interest to enact a Tree and Vegetation Preservation and Site Alteration Bylaw for the environmental well-being of the Municipality and for protecting areas adjacent to the shorelines of lakes, rivers and navigable waterways for the purpose of:

- Achieving consistency with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020;
- Achieving the objectives of the Official Plan for the County of Hastings;
- No further loss of natural shorelines within the Municipality of Hastings Highlands;
- Achieving a greater proportion of natural/native vegetative continuous cover;
- Achieving a minimum 75 percent natural/native vegetative cover overall;
- Achieving a minimum 50 percent high quality natural vegetative cover;
- Achieving naturalized riparian areas on lakes and along rivers/streams;
- Achieving increased ecological health based on the status of indicator species and maintenance of natural biodiversity;
- Minimize the destruction or injuring of trees, natural vegetation, habitat and natural areas;
- Regulating and controlling the removal, maintenance and protection of trees and natural vegetation;
- Reduction of negative impacts on the environment;
- Protecting significant and sensitive natural areas of natural and significant interest;
- Contributing to human health and quality of life;
- Maintaining water quality;
- Reducing airborne pollution;
- Maintaining and enhancing natural habitat;
- Preventing soil erosion and water run-off;
- Preventing topographical changes to the properties in the shoreline areas;
- Protecting, promoting and enhancing the aesthetic

values of land;

- Protecting fish habitat as defined in the Fisheries Act, Revised Statute of Canada 1985; and
- Minimizing stress on watercourses and water bodies.
- It has become expedient for the general and long term welfare of the inhabitants of the Municipality of Hastings Highlands to maintain and improve all shoreline areas within the Municipality by conserving in a natural vegetative state and/or improving the natural state of the shoreline area, 30 metres (98.4 ft.) inland from the highwater mark of all waterbodies in the Municipality.

For the purpose of this article, the "Whereas" introduction to each of the proposed sections of the bylaw was deleted to simplify the reading. The remaining text is copied from the proposed draft bylaw. If by the time the newsletter is distributed and an actual amended bylaw is in place, this article will be historical background.

There is a draft Bylaw 2021-021, Comprehensive Zoning By-law on the table as well. Readings of this bylaw are March 31st, June 2nd, and final reading, July 21, 2021. Please see the Hastings Highlands Website at this link for further details: <https://hastingshighlands.ca/have-your-say-hastings-highlands/>



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# ST MATTHEWS BAPTISTE HERITAGE CHURCH

*By Wally McColl*

St Matthews Church is located in the centre of the Baptiste Village. I have used the term heritage here as the church is among the few remaining original village buildings.

The corner stone says 1943 for the church on this site. Notably the church was moved from an earlier location on the road above the village.

The historical records list all the local families that aided in the move and reconstruction. It is an amazing and heart warming story of volunteer contributions by friends from every local religious denomination and culture, including the indigenous who are the first settlers. The Baptiste family lent their name to the village and the lake.

St Matthews was a beautiful community undertaking.

In honour of this history I am suggesting that the church mission be extended the broader community. The United Church celebrates diversity and inclusion. To structure St Matthews spiritual celebration as ecumenical, appealing to all denominations and cultures, would welcome all villagers and cottagers

This warm sense of meeting as a community will have to wait until the Covid Pandemic has passed but how welcoming that will be in the future.

St Matthews has an attached hall, which has been used for church meetings, hosting dinners and special events. As a community centre, the hall and church might be used for many events. A wedding destination, musical events, cultural centre, artists centre, health or yoga faculty are just a few possibilities.

A centre for indigenous cultural events would truly celebrate the heritage of this beautiful church.

The thoughts and proposals presented are mine and have not been approved by the church. It is my intention here to seed the ideas within the widespread Baptiste villagers and cottagers. I hope to generate interest and feedback for embracing St Matthews as the community centre and Heritage Church that we all might appreciate.

Although we cannot meet within the church buildings, I already have fun suggestions for events on the water. How about a musical, a “hymnathon” with the musician on a central pontoon boat; or a water sports regatta again from boats properly separated.

Fun ideas.



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*This just isn't fair. Photo by Anne Coleman*



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## WHAT IS THERE TO DO AT “THE LAKE”

*By Sabe and Cindy Belcastro*

In the past our clients visiting Belcast Cottages asked us what is there to do at the Lake?? Here are 12 suggestions to enjoy an adventure or activity on Baptiste Lake.

1. Climb the trail at Blueberry Island- The hike to the top is approximately 300 feet and is well worth it for the spectacular views. If the water is calm, you will see the many logs at the bottom of the lake. Like any other trail please take all precautions necessary with proper hiking equipment.

2. Learn how to fillet a pike- If you can fillet a pike, than you'll have no problems filleting any other fish you catch in Baptiste Lake. There is an abundance of pike in the lake and they are a tasty fish to enjoy. A proper fillet knife is a must.

3. Canoeing and Kayaking- Canoeing and kayaking are low impact activities that can improve your aerobic fitness, strength and flexibility. It is a fun activity for the entire family and also allows you to take a scenic tour of the lake. There are several businesses in town that offer rentals if needed.

4. Boat tour of the lake- if you take 1 or 100 boat tours, you will never ever get tired of the views offered around Baptiste Lake.

5. A campfire- There are many different activities that can happen around a campfire. From making s'mores and cooking meals, listening to the loons or even some live guitar tunes. A campfire is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Please always make sure to check the fire ban situation and always put out the fire when finished.

6. Star gazing- The Milky Way still wows me when observing on a clear night. Did you know that there is an estimated 100–400 billion stars in our galaxy alone. WOW Eh!!! There are many apps for your phone that can help with identifying the stars with its constellations and their distance. Fun fact, Sirius is the brightest night star and its distance is 8.6 light years away. One

light year equals almost 10 trillion kilometers away, another WOW!!

7. Family and Friends visiting- What better way to enjoy some time at the lake then with family. There is sure to be some great dinners and conversations. After dinner, we suggest a good old game of cards. Advice from Sabe; do not play cards for money, only play for fun.

8. Fishing- A saying we are familiar with is “A bad day of fishing is better than a good day at work.” I have had a few of those days.

9. Nature walks- Take in some fresh air and feel the day-to-day stresses melt away. An enjoyable outdoor activity that offers the sights of many different forest vegetations and also the relaxing sounds of the many different species of birds.

10. Chilling out- Children playing close by with their favorite beach toys, while you're enjoying an adult beverage with your chair partially submerged in the water.

11. Read or sketch- Draw some of the beautiful views or grab a favorite book and relax. An absolute favorite to many who visit the lake.

12. Affogato at Belcast Cottages General store- Affogato al Caffè, it means “drowned in coffee.” Choose your favorite ice cream and a shot of espresso over the top, it's a must try!

Let us know what your experiences were so we can share with future guests.



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*First blossoms of spring.*

## FROM HASTINGS DESTINATION TRAILS INC.

### Take a Trillium Walk

Welcome back to our seasonal residents. It's been a hectic time in Hastings County with the ice taking its sweet time melting. Apparently as early as last week there was still ice clogging up regional rivers and watersheds.

It's great to see the sun out finally. It's been a very long time. Remember that with the nicer weather comes more car traffic, and definitely more motorcycle traffic, so please take extra care on the highway.

COVID still brings complexity to coming back and visiting. Please remember to follow all public health guidelines.

We appreciate that Hastings County is a second home for many of our residents, and we look forward to welcoming you back when our local resources and health-care system can support your return.

To those seasonal residents who have already returned, such as snowbirds returning from the south, please act responsibly to protect your community by physically distancing, practicing proper hygiene, and self-isolating

as required. When self-isolating, do not leave your residence.

One of the things that can still be enjoyed during COVID is our wonderful outdoors.

We would like to let you know about our new website [hastingstrails.ca](http://hastingstrails.ca), that has useful information about non-motorized trails for your enjoyment and safety year-round. And a new Facebook page, Hastings Ski and snowshoe club <https://www.facebook.com/hastingskiclub/>

We did a pilot this winter, making groomed cross-country ski and snowshoe trails available as an additional service that both permanent and seasonal residents utilized.

There was strong community financial support for this enhanced service available at McGeachie Conservation Area. We will have more details about the possibility of this service continuing into future winter seasons. Seasonal residents particularly found this a fun activity as it gave an extra dimension to their being here, year-round with more things to do.

Get outside and enjoy our trails any season!



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE HASTINGS HIGHLANDS PUBLIC LIBRARY?

The Hastings Highlands Public Library is fully equipped to ensure the safety of all patrons. From sneeze shields installed around the circulation desk, entrance desk and computers, to daily staff screening and the use of hand sanitizers, masks, physical distancing, and extra cleaning of high-touch surfaces we have all the bases covered.

Our hours have been adjusted to ensure proper cleaning of the library before and after its use. We are open for in-person visits:

Mondays and Fridays 11:00 am – 1:45 pm  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 am – 5:45 pm  
Wednesdays 11:00 am – 3:45 pm

In March (pre-lockdown), we were able to start some of our regular in-person programming. The Sew'n sews began meeting on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:30 pm, the Knitting group on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 pm and the Music in the Library group on Fridays from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

New Quarterly Newsletters – Starting in 2021, the Hastings Highlands Public Library began publishing a quarterly newsletter to inform our patrons and members of the community about the exciting things that are happening at the library. Our first winter issue (January - March 2021) came out in January. The first spring issue (April – June 2021) will be posted on our website during the second week of April. Hard copies will be available at the Maynooth Post Office and will be posted at the LCBO and the Maynooth General Store.

E-Resources – With in-person visits to the library being limited, we promoted various e-resources that are available to our patrons from the comfort of their homes:

1) A-Z World Travel – This is an online city-by-city tourist and culture resource for anyone looking to expand their geographical knowledge.

2) Britannica Library – This resource contains fact-checked and objective articles, videos, biographies and more on a wide variety of subjects. It includes a separate area for children and youth.

3) Gale Onefile – This e-resource connects you to trusted content from leading magazines, newspapers and journals.

4) Overdrive/Libby – Sign out ebooks and audiobooks on your computer, tablet, KOBO or phone with your library card number.

5) Novelist – Find your next great read by using Novelist! This great tool will advise you of new books to check out. You can search for books through various filters such as character-driven or story-driven themes.

6) Ancestry/Flickr/Our Digital World – You can gain access to genealogy research, historical documents, and the Hastings Highlands Digital Archives through our website, [www.hastingshighlandslibrary.ca/heritage-services](http://www.hastingshighlandslibrary.ca/heritage-services). In order to preserve the local history of Hastings Highlands and the surrounding regions, the HHPL will accept contributions of historically relevant photographs and newspaper clippings.

7) Kanopy – You can have access through Kanopy

*...continued on page 22*



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**CENTURY 21**  
All Seasons Realty Ltd.

...from page 21

to over 30,000 films and documentaries. Visit [hastingshighlands.kanopy.com](http://hastingshighlands.kanopy.com) and sign in with your library card. Since our Kanopy subscription started at the end of January 2021, we have had 331 visits and 37 items viewed.

Interlibrary Loan – Our interlibrary loan service began again in January. Patrons wishing to obtain a book that is not in the HHPL can fill out a request form and we will seek to obtain the book from another library in Ontario. Please check out our website for guidelines on how to request items through Interlibrary Loan.

Ontario Provincial Parks Passes – The HHPL has two Ontario Provincial Park day passes available to be signed out by patrons. They can be used at any Provincial Park including Algonquin, Silent Lake, Lake St. Peter, Bonnechere, Carson Lake, Kawartha Highlands, and Petroglyphs. Please call 613-338-



*Accommodations for Covid.*

2262 or email [hhplcurbside@gmail.com](mailto:hhplcurbside@gmail.com) to reserve your pass today.

Grab 'n Go Kits – We have begun creating and grab 'n go craft kits for our younger patrons to enjoy. We distributed them upon request for Family Literacy Day, St. Patrick's Day and Spring Break. We will also be providing them for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Please contact the library to reserve your kit.

HHPL Student Bursary – The Hastings Highlands Public Library Student Bursary distributed five \$300.00 cheques in March to the 2020 applicants who completed their first semester of post-secondary studies. We want to provide encouragement for the youth of Hastings Highlands to pursue post-secondary education. Donations made to the Hastings Highlands Public Library Student Bursary are eligible for a tax-deductible receipt.

The Latest Acquisitions – We continue to bring in new library materials each month. Below is a sampling of some of our latest acquisitions:

- The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
- The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles
- Win by Harlan Coben
- The Rose Code by Kate Quinn
- Eternal by Lisa Scottoline
- Surviving Savannah by Patti Callahan
- Blink of an Eye by Iris Johansen
- A Simple Murder by Linda Castillo
- Faithless in Death by J.D. Robb
- Missing and Endangered by J.A. Jance

With the current lockdown in April, staff are still available during the same hours as listed above. Patrons can call or email the library to arrange for curbside pickup, computer use, photocopying, and faxing. Once the lockdown is over, we plan to return to our in-person visits and in-person programming, with an expansion of programming options. We look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Hastings Highlands in 2021.

# WATERSHEDS CANADA - THE NATURAL EDGE

## HOW IT WORKS:

### Step 1 - Discover beautiful native plants

Native plants require less maintenance, and are loved by butterflies, bees, and other animals. You can get started by exploring our plant database and saving your favourites that are best suited for your shoreline property. Please note that this list may contain some plants that are not sold in your region.

### Step 2 - See if we can plant in your region

We are growing, but we're not everywhere in Canada... yet! Get in touch to see if we can help or connect you with one of our partners in your region. We work with local partners to help make your project a success. If your organization would like to learn more about being a partner, please let us know!

### Step 3 - We plan the project together

Get in touch with us to schedule your site visit. We will walk your shoreline with you to discuss any concerns you have, as well as make recommendations on how you can make improvements. If planting is recommended and wanted, we can create a planting plan with you on site. With your input we will choose appropriate plants based on your land characteristics and height preference, and let you place them where you like. Because we do everything on site using an iPad, you're with us making key decisions. So long as we can find an internet connection, we can go through paperwork on the spot, and we can send you a link to complete any final pieces. We're making it as easy as possible!


### Step 4 - Get Planting

We offer subsidized rates for shoreline property owners. Get in touch with us to see what you're eligible for based on your location. Let us guide you in creating a beautiful and healthy shoreline, as well as take care of ordering all plants and materials.

### Step 5 - Watch your shoreline make a difference.

We know that natural shorelines are the best protection for your water quality. It stabilizes soil and slows down nutrients and other run-off from artificially aging your freshwater. Plus, most wildlife spend a portion of their life in this area... it's why we call it the ribbon of life! When you naturalize your shoreline, you're making a future for our delicate waterbodies. After a few years, your shoreline will be full of beautiful plants made for your region! It's

the most important thing you can do for your freshwater!  
<https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca>



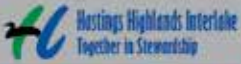
## GOOD NEIGHBOUR CODE

Our Lake properties are a great way to share time with family and friends and your waterfront is where it all starts. Whether you're an owner, family member or guest here are recommended guidelines.

### I WILL

- ✓ Remember that all noise, including casual conversation and barking dogs, carries significantly as it travels over the water surface.
- ✓ Not inflict my taste in music on my neighbours.
- ✓ Do my best to let my neighbours sleep in (a bit) by delaying use of power tools until after 9am.
- ✓ Let my neighbours know of pending tranquility interruptions such as a party or fireworks.
- ✓ Share the waterfront by limiting watercraft operations close to shore (water skier dock drops excepted).
- ✓ Reduce my wattage and unnecessary outdoor lighting so that we can see the stars and reduce the glare spotting nighttime hazards for boaters.
- ✓ Maintain my shoreline vegetation to reduce erosion and preserve water quality.
- ✓ Minimize my near shore wake to maintain natural habitat and avoid damage to my neighbours watercraft and property.
- ✓ Keep my septic system in good working order to help preserve water quality.
- ✓ Obey fire bans, including fireworks, and obtain necessary permits for daytime burning to prevent wildfires.
- ✓ Manage my garbage in a responsible fashion using animal proof containers.
- ✓ Ensure that everyone in our family who drives a boat is qualified to do so and possesses a valid boating license.
- ✓ Not bathe in the water with soapy products because this contributes to poor water quality.
- ✓ Not feed the wildlife as human-wildlife interactions can lead to nuisance, potentially destructive, even aggressive situations.
- ✓ Remember to CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY my boat to prevent the risk of Invasive Species.

**DISCLAIMER:**  
These are probably behaviours that you and your family members are already aware of and adhere to; however, it would not hurt to put them on your to-do.

 Hastings Highlands Interlake  
Together in Stewardship

# BANCROFT ART GALLERY SCHEDULE

**MAY 5 - 29**, Underneath: Juried Theme Show. Opening Reception, if acceptable to COVID regulations: Friday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.  
*Sponsor: Camp Ponacka*

**JUNE 2 - 26**, Melinda Shank-Miles - Fragile: paintings. Opening Reception, if acceptable to COVID regulations: Friday, June 4 at 7:30 p.m.  
*Co-Sponsor: Wilson Timber Mart and TBA*

**JUNE 30 - JULY 31**, Ketha Newman – PAiNtDEM-IC!: paintings. Opening Reception, if acceptable to COVID regulations: Friday, July 2 at 7:30 p.m.  
*Sponsor: Parkview Dental*

**AUGUST 4 - 28**, Connie van Rijn – In the Shadows: paintings. Opening Reception, if acceptable to COVID regulations: Friday, August 6 at 7:30 p.m.  
*Co-Sponsors: Susan Latremoille and TBA*

**SEPTEMBER 1 - 25**, Ken Balmer - Balance paintings. Opening Reception, if acceptable to COVID regulations: Friday, September 3 at 7:30 p.m.  
*Sponsor: Bancroft Eye Care*

**SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 30**: Andrew Ooi – Without Interrupting the System: paper assemblages. Opening Reception, if acceptable to COVID regulations: Friday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m.  
*Sponsor: REVA Realty*

**NOVEMBER 3 - 27**, Chas Burke - Title to be announced: painting. Opening Reception, if acceptable to COVID regulations: Friday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m.  
*Sponsor: Pat Cooke in Memory of Paul D. Cooke*

**DECEMBER 1 - 24, 2020**, 39th Invitational Juried Exhibition. Opening Reception, if acceptable to COVID regulations: Friday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m.  
*Sponsor: Boyer Chevrolet Buick GMC Bancroft*



*Watercolour 2020 - Anne Coleman*



## Are you a current Propane Customer with the Baptiste Lake Association?

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# ATV ETIQUETTE

Trails are a wonderful way to spend an enjoyable day, relaxing and taking in the sights. You will see some spectacular scenery and natural areas as you travel the trails. We ask that you observe these few rules of the trail etiquette so that everyone's outing will be fun and you will help preserve trails for future generations.

1. Please stay on the main trails! Some areas have rare sensitive plants and small animals that can be easily damaged or destroyed. Don't make new trails or use unmarked (unsigned) trails.

2. Some areas may require user fees. Please prepare to pay a fee.

3. Respect neighbouring landowners by staying off private trails and property. Avoid excessive noise.

4. Leave the trail as you found it; whatever you pack in, pack out.

5. Leave the wildflowers and wildlife for others to enjoy.

6. Keep dogs on a leash at all times while on the trail.

7. ALL USERS to slow to a walking speed when meeting up with other USERS and be prepared to stop.

8. Respect and be courteous to other users who are also using shared use trails. Always yield right of way to other trail users who are approaching or passing. Be certain to communicate in advance with riders of Horses, Dog Teams and those walking pets.

9. Use bridges for water crossings.

10. Please slow down when your vision of the trail is restricted.

11. Avoid sudden stops and starts and quick directional changes with acceleration.

12. When snow grooming is occurring we ask that off road vehicles (i.e. ATVs) stay off the snow groomed trails as a courtesy, so both recreational activities are able to co-exist.

ATV Etiquette <https://cottagelife.com/outdoors/atv-trail-etiquette/>

## Use designated trails

Rules and laws around riding ATVs vary from region to region, so before you get out on the trails, check where and when you're allowed to ride. There are lots of trails designated for ATV use, many of which are free to use, and others that charge admission. There are also privately owned trails that you can use if you get permission from the land owner.

## Be aware of your surroundings

Even on a designated trail, you may find yourself in areas that are shared with others. Be aware of who else is in the area and how your presence may affect them. For example, some trails might go by campgrounds or trails for hikers, so you might want to shift down a gear or two to cut down on noise and dust. Everyone deserves an opportunity to appreciate the great outdoors, and you should always respect others who are enjoying nature.

## Respect wildlife

Backroad trails may be your playground, but for some animals, they're home. So leave the areas you ride through intact. Don't ride in a way that damages plants or animal habitats, and don't feed or interfere with any wild animals you may come across. Being out in wild spaces means you might have some amazing animal sightings — just be sure to treat wild animals as you would when you're on foot, giving them a wide berth and plenty of respect.

## Offer the right of way

With great power comes great responsibility. If you cross paths with non-motorized outdoor enthusiasts like hikers, cyclists, and horseback riders, try to safe-

...continued on page 26

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\*Over 1100 Properties Sold Since 1983 and 5 Cottages/Homes Sold on Baptiste Lake in 2020\*



*Deer crossing. Photo by Paul Coleman*

...from page 25

ly pull over on the side of the trail and let them pass. Horses in particular, can get spooked by motorized vehicles, so do everything you can to help keep them calm. And when you come face-to-face with another ATV rider, slow down to safely pass one another respectfully, using hand signals to clearly communicate your intentions.

**Don't leave any trash behind**

Does this even need to be said? Just in case it does: bring a bag with you (or attach a fender bag to your ATV) to bring your garbage and recyclables back home when you're done riding. And to show the trail a little extra respect, you could even take a moment to pick up any stray garbage you come across. No one wants to spend time in woods that are littered with bottles and

wrappers.

**Keep the trail in good condition**

Your ATV's four-wheel drive makes it great for tackling rough terrain, but in certain circumstances, it can also create rough terrain. In particular, ATVs can damage wet paths, making them less fun and tougher to navigate for other vehicles, so if you're on a shared path, avoid spinning your wheels or roaring over wet ground. It takes a vast amount of effort to maintain trails and trail systems for everyone to enjoy, so riding sensibly will help keep them in good condition for future rides.

**No gratuitous engine-revving**

Yes, your ATV is powerful, and you want to show the world. But trust us, no one likes the person who creates a needless racket in the woods when others are nearby. What is the best way to wield power? Humbly.

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# MORE NATURAL REPELLANTS

*By Nikki Fotheringham*

Amazing Products to Use as Natural Mosquito Repellent

Posted on October 2, 2018 by Nikki Fotheringham

There's nothing quite as relaxing as sitting at a campfire under the stars, surrounded by the beauty of nature. That is until nature attacks, and you find yourself being eaten alive by mosquitoes.

Rather than spraying chemicals into the air and your lungs, there are various DIY approaches you can take to keeping mosquitoes and other pests at bay. Here are some of the amazing products you'll want to take with you on your next camping trip.

## Essential Oils

There are plenty of essential oils you can use to deter mosquitoes while experiencing the great outdoors. Rather than putting your DIY skills to the test, using a blend of essential oils mixed with a carrier oil creates a simple, ready-to-use bug repellent that won't harm the environment.

Some of the most common essential oils used for this purpose are citronella (naturally), lemongrass, tea tree oil, and mint. To offset the strong smells, you can use petunia as well. As petunia plants are a natural deterrent to mosquitoes, the essential oil of this plant creates an effective, fragrant repellent.

When using essential oils, be sure to apply them with a carrier oil such as coconut oil or grapeseed oil. This is especially important when applying the oils to children, as their skin is often more sensitive and prone to reactions. Keep your mixture stored away from pets, as some essential oils are toxic to our furry friends.

If you don't feel comfortable applying the repellent to your skin, consider putting it into a diffuser meant for large spaces. It will have the same impact as a citronella candle.

## Smoldering Egg Cartons

Forget about packing expensive citronella candles to take camping. Instead, you can use old egg cartons and coffee trays to create an effective deterrent without smoking out the area. Not only does this method keep mosquitoes away, but it also repels black flies, hornets, and wasps!

Carefully light the corner of an egg carton or coffee tray on fire, then blow out the flame. Set the carton on a plate or in a metal bucket near where you're sitting. The

carton will burn slowly and flamelessly, emitting a light smoke that won't be bothersome or overwhelming. As it's not an open flame, this method is less risky than candles, especially during the dry season.

## Lemon Halves with Cloves

For a mosquito repellent with a pleasing scent, use lemons and cloves to create your own repellent. Simply halve a few lemons, leaving the juice inside, and insert fresh cloves into the lemon flesh. Set them around your common area and watch mosquitoes disappear. Whatever it is about this combination of scents, the pests don't like it and will work to avoid it.

For even better results, set the lemons at the edge of your campfire or near candles, as the heat seemingly boosts the impact of this DIY method.

## Bring Mosquito Repelling Plants

If you have a garden at home, plant flora that has natural pest deterring properties. Lemongrass, mint, catnip, and petunia— the same plants that have effective essential oils— all keep pests at bay. Before you go camping, make a cutting of some of your plants, wrap them in twine, and bring them to hang around your campsite. As the plants dry, the fragrance will keep pests at bay.

## GET YOUR SIGN

Below is an image of a sign made up by the BLA printed on 3 feet by 4 feet corrugated plastic.

There are 20 signs available for interested cottagers to post at their shorelines. If you wish to have one of these signs, please contact [MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com](mailto:MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com).



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**MEMBERSHIPS**

Please check the label on your newsletter envelope for your current membership status and expiry date.

We offer memberships for one or three year terms. Cost for one year \$25, three years \$60. Please note that all membership expiry dates are March 31, our fiscal year end. We offer 3 methods of payment:

- **CHEQUE** - Please complete this form and send it along with a cheque payable to "Baptiste Lake Association", PO Box 877, Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0.
- **ETRANSFER** - Send payment to MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com. Please include necessary information to ensure we have your correct mailing, lake, and email addresses.
- **PAYPAL** - Use the link on our membership page on our website [www.baptistelake.org](http://www.baptistelake.org).

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