

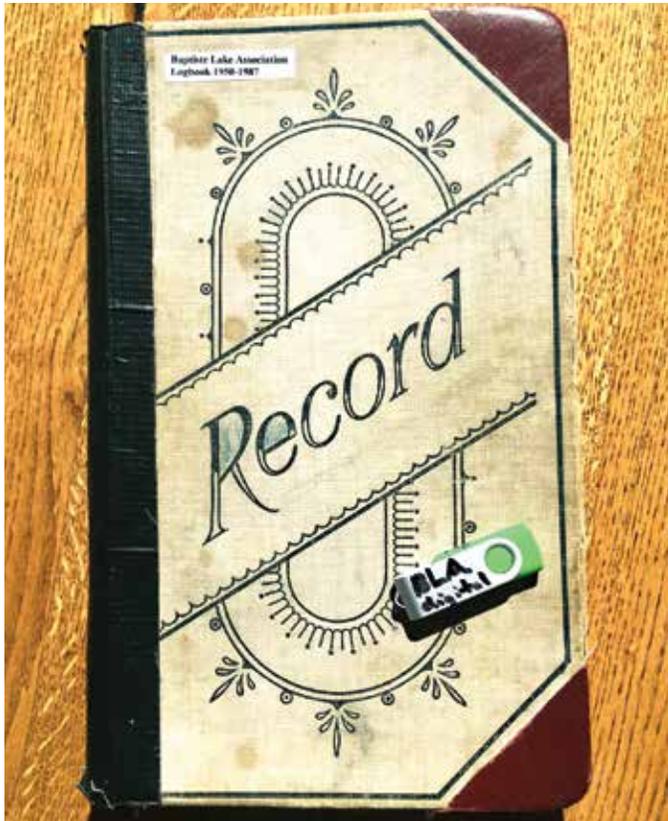


# BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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BOX 877, BANCROFT, ONTARIO K0L 1C0

## BLA MINUTES FROM THE PAST



Above is the Original 1950 BLA Minute Book. It captures the historic events encountered by your Original Board of Directors. Raise a glass in their honour and learn more on Pages 8 and 9.

## THE BELL THAT RANG TO SAVE A LIFE



Sunrise Lodge from the 1950s. Full story on pages 4 to 7.

### Events

**NATURE DAY**  
CANCELLED

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
CANCELLED

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

August 8, 2020 (To be confirmed),  
10am Birch Cliff Lodge

**TRIATHLON**

August 23, 2020 (To be confirmed)

**CORN ROAST** Sunday September 6 (To be confirmed), Camp Ponacka 5-7pm



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Wally McColl

The Spring Equinox! From the dead of winter, spring seemed much too far off.

Not that winters at Baptiste are without their own special charm and beauty. It is not all just snow shoveling and fighting biting winds. Well there are those days too, easily forgotten by the beauty of brilliant sun on sparkling diamond white snow. I don't have to convince any of the 900 or so members of the snow sledders club that enjoy the fresh air, scenery, good food and groomed trails. Those that prefer their outings at a quieter pace have their own backcountry ski hideaways. Living on the lake I have the time to enjoy both activities. Our skiing is not as organized or supported as is the snowmobiling. I would encourage the BLA members to consider how we could influence the development of the skiing opportunity; a benefit to this healthy sport and to the tourism community. My skiing photos capture my approach to Blueberry Island from the north side of Mink Island in La Valley Bay.

Now suddenly, as we begin our BLA Spring plans, the news has exploded with the Coronavirus reports, exponentially paralleling the spread of the virus!

In attempting to limit the person to person transmission, will we be able to have our social get-togethers beginning with our traditional Spring Opening? We can only follow the guidelines!

In considering the content for my Spring News Letter message, I flipped back through our Fall 2019 Newsletter. I must congratulate again all those who contributed and to Paul and his team of editors bringing it all together! I soon realized that the ideas I imagined addressing here I had already touched on last Fall! But I cannot just cut and paste to this issue!

I did write in Fall that our plans and activities continue throughout the winter. The internet, email and our web, providing links for communication to our members and the community including: the Ministry of Natural Resources and



*A winter view of Blueberry Island by Wally while cross-country skiing.*

Forestry (MNR); the Interlakes Association; the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council (BASC); the Fish Hatchery and HH Municipality. Having Directors resident here at Baptiste provides for personal contact with the partner agencies and our social planning.

For me, the highlight report for our winter planning looks to the continuing Lake Trout Program. This Citizen Science work, with the direction of Jennifer Card and Erin MacDonald at MNR and Franks Hicks, our own retired fisheries specialist, began last summer with monitoring the Lake Trout Habitat. This involved a series of temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles in the deep basins.

Then in the Fall, in the darkest, coldest nights we attempted to observe Lake Trout on rocky shoal spawning beds on Millionaire's and the west side of the deep main basin. Equipped with 2 boats manned by myself, Frank, Paul and Michael DiCintio and various powerful lights to illuminate these spawning beds, we waited. Fingers trembling with cold and fortified with hot coffee to keep us going. On those crystal clear moonless nights, away from any urban light pollution, the clarity and brilliance depth of in-

*...continued on page 3*

finite star constellations amazed and challenged our imagination. Batteries failed, submersible cameras with Gerry rigged lighting floated away and the temperature plummeted as we wished that we were better layered to ward off the cold!

We did not see our expected pair of spawning Lake Trout. Perhaps we were being too invasive with our powerful lights!

Now we are planning the next exciting phase of this ongoing Citizen Science Lake Trout program. This 3rd phase, requires sampling the native Lake Trout population and determining the genetics in comparison to that of the Trout raised in the Fish Hatchery. Both are critical in developing this science based plan considering the possibility of Lake Trout restocking in Baptiste.

The MNRF will provide guidance and protocol. Frank Hicks will direct our field netting activity. And new to the BLA programs, we are planning for the High School Students in the Northern Environmental Research Development Studies (NERDS) to participate in placing and retrieving the nets. The BLA will contribute the required boats and services and logistics.

What might we discover? Does Baptiste have a sustaining Lake Trout native population? Is the Lake an appropriate candidate for Lake Trout restocking? Are the genetics of the native population compatible with the Fish Hatchery raised Trout? Stay tuned for an update perhaps later in the summer.

This Spring the BLA winner of BASC Shoreline Rehabilitation contest will have up to 100 shrubs planted on their shoreline property. The contest was detailed on the back page of the Fall Newsletter. What a great way to highlight the importance of shoreline vegetation in reducing nutrient flow into the lake. It all ties together for the dissolved oxygen required for the Lake Trout and our already "at capacity" designation.

Also Anne Coleman wrote a critique on the implementation of our Lake Plan. The Plan, ratified by our membership, is the backbone of our ongoing stewardship for Baptiste. Many of the directives identified by Anne have an underlying link to water quality, the critical parameter

for lake health and our enjoyment. We have had continuing volunteer programs to measure water quality parameters and submit the data to the Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC)

The data are analyzed and posted with the Federation of Cottagers Association (FOCA) completing the Science link for trend analysis of current and historical records.

The volunteer participation for the ongoing implementation of our Lake Plan is critical. From experience I underline that volunteering does not feel like work. The satisfaction in contributing ideas, talent and time is complemented by the fun and social interaction.

Please access the link we have with our members through our Website and social media. The front page of the Newsletter lists all the Directors and their primary responsibilities. My thanks to the amazing work and leadership of each of the Directors. As we might imagine, for new science and/or social events our association always benefits from new Directors and fresh ideas.

I close in wishing everyone the best for our 2020 summer. See you at the Lake.



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# THE MAKING OF SUNRISE LODGE

By Paul Coleman



*Sunrise Lodge circa 1950s.*

I have lived and worked on the Sunrise property for quite a few years. It is like repairing your first home. You find things and wonder “how they got there”. You see things and wonder “how was that built”. I have been under the cottages and have seen strange forms of supports ranging from tree stumps to blocks to cement to massive beams. I have become more intrigued about the grounds and the structures; where did the Coca-Cola signs that were covered with 4 layers of flooring in the sunroom come from? Apparently from a friend who was also a scrounger. The tables, the counters, the shelving, the gas pumps, the hydro lines? And how and who cut in the road after the war?

As fortune would have it, the granddaughter of the original owner called us to hold her wedding on the property this year. It was meant to be. I had a chance to introduce myself to Joan Burlison, the grandmother of the bride to be and the wife of Jim who built Sunrise... and a whole lot of excitement, history and intrigue began to unfold.

In 1948 Jim Burlison purchased the lands of Sunrise from Amelia Maude. Jim was one of the

original weekend warriors on Baptiste Lake. He acquired materials from anywhere in Toronto and hauled them by truck to his prized property. The windows in the sunroom of the Lodge have “De Havilland” inscribed on them. (It turns out that the Burlison family were very involved during the war with the manufacturing of the Avro Lancaster, the Chipmonk and Vickers airplanes!) Jim, a scrounger by nature, purchased rough lumber from whomever. We can attest to its “roughness” by the number of splinters that we have picked up over the years. We are not sure how Jim cut in the road from North Baptiste to

*...continued on page 5*

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SUNRISE LODGE...continued from page 4

the Lake but we do know that he purchased more used lawn mowers and broke more crank shafts than you can imagine. He probably met more adventurous folks in the area who helped him fell trees and clear the path to his new home. He did acquire an old Gravelly lawn cutter that was returned to his son Don with plans to bring it back to life.

Jim married Joan in 1955. She was not aware that she would soon be the chief cook and bottle washer, the leader of a squad of staff and volunteers and the #1 Chef on Baptiste Lake. Guests enjoyed 3 meals a day in the Lodge and Lake Residents enjoyed Sunday Turkey suppers that were the rave of the area. The Lodge had seating for 25-30 guests at 8 tables. (The tables were purchased for \$3 from a renovated Bell Canada cafeteria in Toronto). There was a very large kitchen with 3 sinks and huge cupboards. The staff ate in what is now the front entrance of the Lodge... A real Downton Abby feel!



Joan Burlison in front of the porch leading to the Lodge dining room.

It seems crazy to think that my mother in law, Mary VanderZalm did exactly the same thing, years later, when she and John purchased the property in 1974. Joan and Jim hired many of the Casselman family and others to ensure that all of the guests were well treated. My good friend Tim Kukavica, who married Glenna (Casselman), actually had his honeymoon in cottage #4, dubbed the honeymoon suite!

Jim initially built 5 cabins and a Tuck Shop with his father George. (George was involved with the original design of the Avro Lancaster landing gear.) They also had brother in law Don Roberts and a stream of volunteers who helped do the grunt work of clearing the land, running hydro and eventually installing a gas pump for the boats on the Lake.

After which they built the main Lodge. There is a magnificent, gold, ship's bell with an engraving...

...continued on page 6



Bill Coopers airplane fueling up at Sunrise Lodge.

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ing “Sunrise Lodge” that it is believed to have come from the Vickers shipbuilding company based at Barrow-in-Furness, northwest England. George either worked there during the war or “inherited” it through some form of networking. This Bell hung outside the sunroom of the Lodge and was used to call guests 3 times a day for meals. If it rang long and hard in between meals it meant that there was an emergency at the lake and help was needed. This early “Warning Tool” saved the life of Jack Quilin who having suffered a heart attack, was brought to the Lodge by boat and was transported right away to hospital. Jack survived and the Bell continued to be a symbol of life support or emergency assistance for the area. i.e. the original first responder. Jims’ sister Cathy looked after the books and ran the “Tuck Shop” which was later referred to as cabin #7. It offered candy for the kids and bread, milk and other supplies for the guests.

She also helped out with the American plan serving breakfast, lunch and dinner to the guests. Joan seems to recall charging \$150/week which included 3 meals per day. There was also romance at Sunrise. Jim’s sister Cathy met her yet to be husband (Don) at a dance at the Arlington Hotel. Don had been staying at the Arlington with some buddies from Willowdale in Toronto. He was so smitten by Cathy that he walked from Maynooth to Sunrise to catch up to her, he was really struck by her!

During our visit, Joan rhymed off all 11 kids from the Casselman family as if it were yesterday... You could see her eyes light up as the memory of the “good old days” came streaming back. Jim Casselman would cut ice blocks and load them in the old barn and cover them with straw



so it would last well into summer.



Betty Casselman in front of the Tuck Shop where kids loved to purchase pop, candy and ice cream.

She recalled that there was a piano in the sunroom for the guests to enjoy before dinner was served. Each night at 9 pm guests were offered tea and cookies. The Lodge had 2 cooking stoves and Joan would get up at 6 am to make the most delicious homemade pies and breads that were to die for! She made blueberry, peach, and lemon meringue pies all the time, usually 15 at a time. She might sell one for .75¢ if you were lucky.

She recalled how Tim Kukavica shoveled the snow off the roofs! She recalled that old #8 cottage was built like a motel with 3 units joined together and served as a spare building where friends and volunteers could sleep.

Sometimes folks might use the cots in the Tuck Shop as an overflow area! The kids would sleep in the old boat house by the water; it must have been an amazing time for the cousins to hang out and be a part of the original Lodge experience! Joan remembers a lot of bears coming to visit. One day she saw momma bear ambling towards son Don in his play pen, she quickly rescued him! Don recalls his dad using 45 gallon drums to store scrap food from the kitchen. The bears found it easier to squeeze the middle of the drum and pop the lids off... The original bear hug!!

The floating docks proved to be the original “lift docks”. They were huge, attached to the cement dock with massive hinges and lifted up and over with a tractor. Years later, the VanderZalm

...continued on page 7

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## SUNRISE LODGE ...continued from page 6

gang would lift them by hand! I remember Anne falling gracefully into the water after she lost her footing. We all gasped as she slowly sank under the surface of the water, only to reappear soaking wet and laughing like crazy, whew!

Sam Baptiste, a charismatic fella with long pig tails, as described by Joan, would often hang out with Jim. He would come over in his canoe and we can only imagine the tales that those two would have spun! Joan and son Don recall the time that neighbour Mr. Nourse forgot to raise the landing gear from his plane and flipped it upside down in the Lake. He survived thankfully but what a sight that must have been. Joan can't say if artist David B. Milne visited Jim but that would have been cool. Coincidentally, when the VanderZalms owned the Lodge, Robert Bateman showed up one day and asked Anne if there was somewhere good to do a landscape painting. Anne gave him our canoe and off he went. Years later our son John was working on his PHD, interviewed Bateman, who in turn gave John a book of his art with the inscription... Thanks Anne for lending me the canoe!

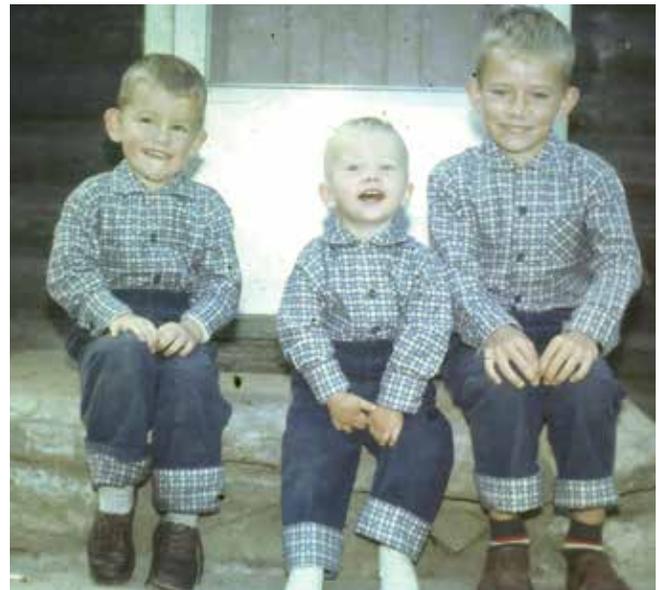
There is an old cold cellar under the Lodge, with an inscription in the cement "Dandy's dug-out". Turns out to be named in honour of good old Fred Dandy, an elderly fella who had lost his wife and came to the cottage for the summer to help Jim do whatever. There was no hydro nor refrigeration earlier on and this was packed with ice to cool and store their fruits and veggies. There are footprints of a child in the concrete landing at the entrance of the Lodge, dated 1954. These turn out to be cousin Grant's. A few years ago, he returned to Sunrise for old time's sake. He cried when he saw his footprints as a young boy. We all get emotional when we "return to our roots".

Jim did boat repairs, taught water skiing to

anyone who wanted to learn and organized fishing derbies. He was very unselfish in offering his time to make the Lake experience a memorable one. Jim was also a bit of a cheeky guy. Maybe what I am about to reveal is a little "off side" but here goes... Jim at one time worked at a meat packing and processing plant. He was able to "acquire" dried beef products and bring them to the cottage. He sunk a number of logs in the cove and tied them together to form a crib. Then he mixed the beef with bags of oats and barley. Guess who came for dinner? Pickerel!! Yes, maybe not the appropriate way to attract fish, but...

Jim and Joan Burlison had 2 boys, Don who married Charlene, and Geordie who married Cindy. Don and Charlene have two daughters, Chelsy who is married to Craig and whom have a daughter Madeline. Their other daughter Katie plans to hold her wedding at Sunrise in the future.

It will be our pleasure to host their beautiful wedding on the property that their grandad built. More of the story in a future BLA Newsletter as we hope to share more of the Sunrise Story.



Geordie (middle) with cousins Philip (left) and Grant (right).

# BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION LOG BOOK 1950-1987

By Anne Coleman

The flash drive (shown on front cover) in the photograph contains all the records of the Baptiste Lake Association Log book from 1950-1987. The digitization project is the dream child of Chris Chattwell, the careful archivist of the BLA written records. She approached the directors about 2 years ago to inquire if we could begin such a project. Fortunately it has been approved and the first phase is complete. Tiffany Daley, the Heritage and Youth Services Librarian who has museum record keeping training, accepted the job. The logbook in the picture is an awkward size so she had to work some magic in scanning and then seaming the pages together. Shelley Pickard added to the project by donating her scanner which allows Tiffany to work from home, rather than after hours in the library. This digital file is posted on the webpage thanks to Eric Hooey and we know that, once you explore through the minutes you will find names repeated. These are the names of the loyal, committed members of

the Association, many of whom have been on the lake for generations. Phase two is presently being constructed by Tiffany and we hope in these uncertain times that all will go well. We look forward to phase 2. I call phase 3 the records that already appear on our webpage. It's an honour to be part of a group who care about the lake and its environs so that future generations can find peace in all that it has to offer. It is absolutely critical that we keep the Lake clean no matter what it takes.

It was amazing to read the original hard covered minute book which records the very first hand written notes for your Association in 1950. The scribe used an ink pen as one would see in an old movie. The hand writing is impeccable. There are no "strike outs", no typos, nor erasures. It is what it was. Clear flowing penmanship that is not likely seen today. The original name of the BLA was "Baptiste Game and Fish Protective Association". It 1951 it was moved " that the Association

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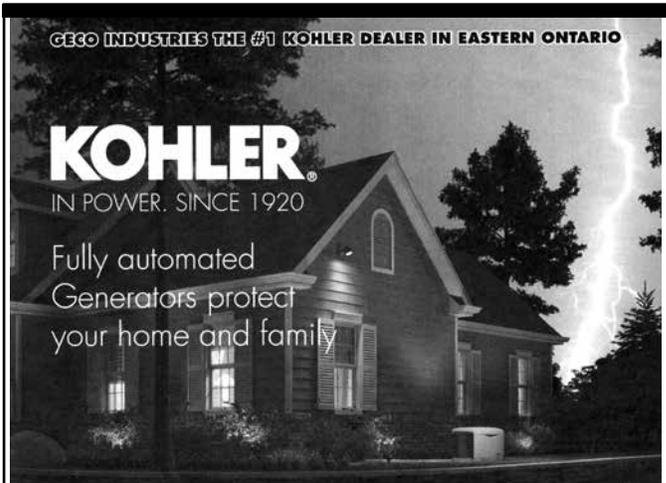


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LOG BOOK...continued from page 8

request the Department of Games and Fisheries to conduct a survey of the lake and advise us as to what kind of fish are suitable for these waters and that future requests be made to stock the lake as the Department advises". In addition, another letter of request was sent to the Department of Lands and Forests to ensure that the lake level be maintained at 13 feet. Later on, a letter to township council requested a meeting of the town clerk concerning the need for improved roads.

In 1952 the Fish and Game Committee reported that the Lake was being fished out. A re-stocking program was suggested and a need to teach conservation to the old and young alike. A motion was made to print and distribute conser-

vation posters calling upon fishermen to observe a 15" minimum for bass and 18" for pickerel.

In 1987 the minutes report: "It was noted that excessive weed growth had occurred in some areas around the Lake, and this was thought to be due to the presence of phosphates in the water which had passed through septic systems, the use of lawn fertilizers, and even people bathing in the Lake who use soaps and shampoos". Does all of this sound familiar? After 70 years the issues are very similar!

This should give you an idea of the challenges that the original executive had. The full description of the issues, activities and motions are fully documented on our website. Have fun taking a look at the past.

## CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS IN THE FALL & SPRING

By Paul Coleman

Failing to clear your gutters can lead to water and ice damage. Although you don't like to climb a ladder, it is in your best financial interest to do so.

Is it possible that heavy rain can pull the gutter right off your roof? Yes. Could they allow water to seep into your home? Yes. Can they cause mold? Yes. I am sure that you tighten your hockey helmet screws once in a while, so why not check how your eaves troughs are attached to your roof and make sure they are tight?

Install the gutter shields, they are amazing.

Have you noticed that we seem to get more heavy downpours now? Yes, so make sure that your downspouts are large enough to handle the large volumes of rain, AND make sure that the water flows far enough away from the cottage to avoid seepage into your basement area.

I have experienced frozen downspouts which split at their seam. Ice then expanded out of the spout, formed more ice near the floor/wall area and resulted in water actually seeping into the house! Nature does some unexpected tricks.

Think about the hot summers, drought like temperatures and the practice of catching rain water in rain barrels before the hot temperatures arrive. Remember to connect your down spout

to your rain barrel. Use this water for your gardens.

Any more thoughts or ideas? Let us know and share your findings.



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# SEARCHING FOR LAKE TROUT

By Mike Dicintio



*Mike Dicintio assist in tracking Lake Trout.*

On October 20th 2019 just after sunset, Frank, Paul, Wally and I hopped in our boats and headed out on Baptiste Lake with hopes of seeing some lake trout around their spawning beds. We split up in teams of 2, checking the primary spawning beds with flash lights.

While we were out, we placed an underwater video camera (Akasko Brave 4) at one of the spawning beds. Unfortunately, it was too dark to see anything on video without a light.

Although we did find the ideal spawning substrate, water temps were around 53-54 F and we may have been a bit too early.

For the next few days we tested the camera during daylight. We got a few nice videos of the spawning beds on their own without the interference of us being nearby in a boat.

Placement and angle of the camera was quite the challenge, especially in the wind. At first placing it flat on the bottom didn't show more than a few rocks, so I mounted the camera up on a 4ft fiberglass pole facing on a downward angle. At bottom of the pole I used half a minnow trap loaded with some rocks to hold it down. This method gave the best, widest view of the spawning beds.

After reviewing almost 40 hours of footage, we found a total of 4 pike, 1 small mouth, 1 walleye (aka pickerel) and finally on the very last day 1

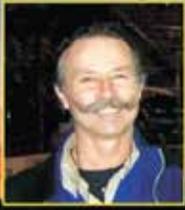


*Wally McCool also tracking Lake Trout.*

lake trout swimming through the rocky spawning beds. The lake trout video was on October 30th at 9:15 am on one of the spawning beds at Millionaires Island, Water temperature was 50.5 F (ideal spawning temperature) and it was dead calm.

After Halloween the winds just got too strong for us to get out there, so we were forced to pack up for the season. All in all it was a great experience, I learned a lot, had a good time, met some great people and will be better prepared for next year. For the next time around, we have an underwater dive light to attach to the camera for overnight footage of the spawning beds which should help get a proper video of spawning in action.

The main goal here is to restock Baptiste with its own lake trout. We are very lucky to have this incredibly rare species of lake trout right here in our backyards, this fish is an icon of the highlands and a recognized heritage species. You will not find them anywhere else in the world which is why they are such an important part of this lake. Hopefully the Haliburton golden lake trout on Baptiste will be here to stay.



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# LAKE TROUT SPAWNING

By Frank Hicks

*(Editors' Note: Prior to Covid-19, your Directors planned to work with the MNRF and the local high students to safely capture lake trout from Baptiste in preparation for egg collection for our local Fish Hatchery. We were not able to complete our tests this year, however we have asked our local expert, Frank, to summarize Lake Trout protocols in this regard.)*

Lake trout generally spawn in lakes along exposed shorelines, off points or islands, or on mid-lake shoals that are exposed to the prevailing northerly or northwesterly winds. Depth of the spawning site is in the range of 1 to 5 meters and usually associated with nearby deep water. Ideally, suitable substrate is comprised of fist sized rubble or angular rock, and may be interspersed with larger rocks or boulders. Smooth bedrock is not suitable unless there are pockets of rubble on the surface of the bedrock. Wind is very important to spawning as it serves to clean the rubble, oxygenate the water in the interstices of the rock, and may initiate the onset of spawning. Unlike brook trout spawning shoals, lake trout do not depend on upwelling water on the shoal.

Lake trout are fall spawners and while timing is variable, experience from Algonquin Park suggests that pre-spawning activity may commence as early as late September or early October when water surface temperatures approach 15°C. Male lake trout arrive on the shoals first, gradually increasing in numbers and then followed by the female trout. Spawning generally occurs in mid-October when the water temperatures are at 10°C. Heavy onshore winds may initiate spawning or it can be drawn out over time if conditions are calm.

During spawning, fertilized eggs are deposited among the interstices of the rock rubble. Incubation will take approximately 6 months before fry emerge from the gravel, swim to the surface, fill their air bladder and in the wild disappear for 5-6 years before they begin to show up in the fishery. Compare this with smallmouth bass or walleye, where there are many more eggs deposited, parental protection occurs in the case of bass and they enter the fishery within two to three years. Planktivorous lake trout mature in about 5-6 years and piscivorous lake trout may take 9-10 years before they are mature and ready to spawn.

In order to collect fertilized eggs for the hatchery, it will be necessary to monitor the progress of the spawn after surface waters have cooled to 15°C. This entails visiting numerous potential spawning sites during the evening with broad beam lights, not spot lights, to see if there is any lake trout activity on the shoal. If there is activity, capturing an occasional lake trout will enable us to determine sex and maturity. When the lake trout are ripe, we will have to capture both males and females, strip the eggs from females and fertilized them with milt from the males. Capturing lake trout entails using a large seine, trap nets or small mesh gill nets. The latter is the most preferred because they are the most efficient and easily used technique to capture lake trout without harming them. 1.5, 2.0, and 2.5 inch gill nets catch the trout in the mandibles and maxillary bones of the mouth and do not gill the trout. Using gill nets will have to be under the authority of the MNRF and transportation of the fertilized eggs will need to be coordinated with the hatchery.

# HASTINGS HIGHLANDS STATE OF THE COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

By Paul Coleman

Now is a good time to reflect on how well our new Council, the reshuffled administration and outside staff have done. I have read the Mayor's State of the Community Report and have researched some of the topics on our behalf. Should you have issues with the Town, I suggest that your Administration is most receptive and do not bite. If my facts appear to be incorrect you can rest assured that my good friend Bill Cheshire will let me know... right Bill?

Personally, the roads this past winter have been very well maintained. It seems recently that a lot of preventative work has been done to the ditches to limit runoff from the hills. Thank you for your efforts. The pothole patch crew did an amazing job during the summer and fall even though it seemed to be an endless task. I gather that there are limited funds to do a proper job but hopefully we can replace some of the worst pavement challenges by being added to the upcoming capital project list. Apparently, funds have been approved by the Federal and Provincial Governments to address Highway 62 north of Maynooth to Maple Leaf. The Federal Gas Tax Rebate funds will not be used for "Discretionary" purposes but rather "Obligatory", meaning they may be used for improving roads. Similarly, we have received \$615,000 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing which I believe is going into a discretionary reserve. Of interest, the Town sold 4 lots in Birds Creek which must be developed to support 4 rental units on each parcel of land which will

help address the local housing shortage and increase assessment for taxes.

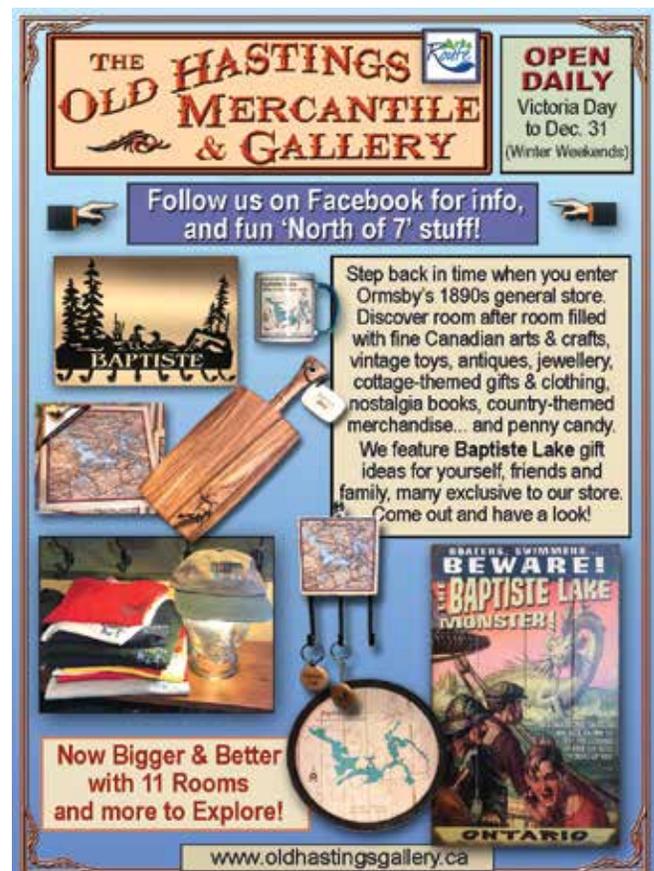
It seems a long time ago that last spring created extreme flooding throughout the region. Many of us wondered why the Province has not instituted better catchment basins to direct run off and to help avoid widespread erosion. To the Town's credit, over 30 culverts and aging infrastructure were replaced last summer. It was impressive to learn that most of the work was conducted by our staff and with our equipment. Limited funds for the use of rented heavy duty equipment were required. Had we contracted this work out it may have doubled the cost. Thank you for handling the traffic with minimal delays and conducting much of the work late at night. We have applied to the Province under the Disaster Relief Assistance Program to help compensate our expenses. I also

...continued on page 13



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understand that the Williams Lake Road Bridge was wiped out at Easter time yet temporarily replaced on Easter Monday. This is reassuring that we may also be supported around the Lake should disaster strike. Speaking of which, the Town has further enhanced the Emergency Management Program whereby the Mayor, CAO and department heads meet regularly to discuss local needs, and network with other Municipalities and Ministries for support. If you have any concerns give them a call like I have inquired about our boat launch which is on their radar to repair.

Our dumps, more affectionately called waste disposal sites, previously known as the Baptiste Shopping mall, are in a bit of turmoil. We have lost the previous recycling company and are in the midst of forming an agreement with a new company. You may want to check out a potential anaerobic digester being talked about by the District of Nova Scotia. It is something that we and other Towns may consider to convert their organic waste into power. I think that we must reinvent how we do things as Mother Nature keeps reminding us that we are in trouble.

Some of the Town's community centers are being "decommissioned" i.e. shut down. Some generated \$300 in revenue and cost \$10,000 to maintain. Sounds like the Bank of Nova Scotia shutting down in Maynooth... A sign of the times.

The Town has introduced a program called AMPS (Administrative Monetary Penalty System) Our by-law Officer and Fire Chief now have the authority to fine irresponsible property owners and add any fine or clean up charge to their tax bill. Previously, owners were taken to court and the costs often far exceeded the fines. Accordingly,

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our Officers refer to the Municipal Act of Ontario for guidance, give a warning, follow up with a notice of fine and eventually place the charges on the tax bill. This process gives an immediate resolution to the infraction and keeps revenue in the Municipality.

Septic system inspections are on the Town's radar, more so around water ways. Their approach for now is Educational. A review of current regulations is being vetted for fairness and consistency throughout the region. You may want to ask your septic disposal owner to give you an assessment of the health of your system.



*Spring arrival of Bufflehead Ducks by Anne Coleman*

# MAINTAINING YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM PROTECTS YOUR INVESTMENT

As you may be aware, the health of our septic systems depends on how the tank and bed are used and maintained. Some of us really don't care, we just know it is there and may have it pumped out as an afterthought.

We should in particular, become more aware of upcoming legislative changes and be prepared to pay more attention and protect what is going into our Lake waters.

Interestingly enough, a healthy system may protect your investment and more importantly the environment. If we take a more positive and proactive approach we will succeed in preserving our surroundings.

Here is some information from the Ontario government for you to consider:

- A septic system is like any other equipment in your home. If you operate and maintain it responsibly, it will work well and last 15-25 years.
- A poorly maintained system may endanger your family's health and nearby water sources. You definitely do not want to contaminate your well nor that of your neighbours.
- Ask your pump out person to inspect your system and avoid costly repairs by addressing issues sooner than later. This will add years to the life of your system.
- Don't drive over it, including snow sleds

- Have it pumped out every 3-5 years unless you are told by a reputable inspector that it is not necessary

- Avoid foods, compost, grease, anti-bacterial soaps, bleaches and harsh cleaning products entering the tank

- Never send paints, solvents, pesticides or other toxic chemicals into your system. Sounds simply but scary to think this happens.

- Keep trees and shrubs away from the leaching bed

Our local government is counting upon an educational approach at the moment but we can be sure that a more regulatory approach will be coming.

Inspections at the time of sale or at the time of a regular pump out may require a "Certificate Of Inspection". Random inspections will not be ruled out as some parts of the Province have regular mandatory inspections. So let's be proactive and more responsible.

Here are some signs that your system is failing:

- Spongy spots near or on your leaching bed
- Sewage on ground or near the bed
- Odour in your basement or outside
- Poor water quality at your well or intake
- Slow moving or backed up drains in your home



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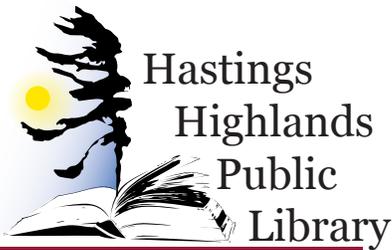
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# WELCOME TO YOUR LIBRARY!

By Anne Coleman



During the period of the Covid-19 virus, the library remained open for staff to continue working their regular hours, but was closed to the public. Staff took the opportunity to better organize on-line learning capabilities especially for our students, to continue the creation of digital heritage records and to revamp the circulation shelves to better serve patrons on our return to normalcy. The Staff needs to be applauded for their selflessness.

For those new to the area, the Hastings Highlands Public Library (HHPL) is located in the heart of Maynooth, in the same building as the Hastings Highlands Municipal office. The Library strives to inspire lifelong learning to advance knowledge and to strengthen our community. Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in library use and is quickly becoming the hub of our community. Our modern facilities include a business centre, several large activity areas and a program room with a kitchen, which can be booked for events. Some of the services that are offered to our community include: Internet access and WIFI, 11 computer workstations, Online Public Access Catalogue accessible from home, Overdrive access – allows downloading of e-books to an MP3, iPod or e-reader, InterLibrary Loan, Business Centre (fax, photocopy, scanning), E-Resources (Britannica, A-Z Travel, Novelist), E-magazines, and a Cultural Corner showing monthly displays of local art.

The HHPL offers a variety of services to appeal to patrons of all ages. Our regular weekly

programming and special events can be found on our website and you can follow us on Facebook. As an example, we have ordered books for the annual 'Forest of Reading' adventure. Books by Canadian authors have been obtained in the following three categories: Blue Spruce Picture Books (Ages 4-7), Silver Birch Express (Ages 8-10) and Silver Birch Fiction (Ages 8-12). Ask for a 'Forest of Reading Passport' at the front desk for each child to track the books they have read. If you have any questions or need to find out more information about your library, please contact us through the information below:

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librarian@hastingshighlandslibrary.ca,  
hastingshighlandslibrary.ca

The Hastings Highlands Library is here for you to use. We look forward to seeing you soon!



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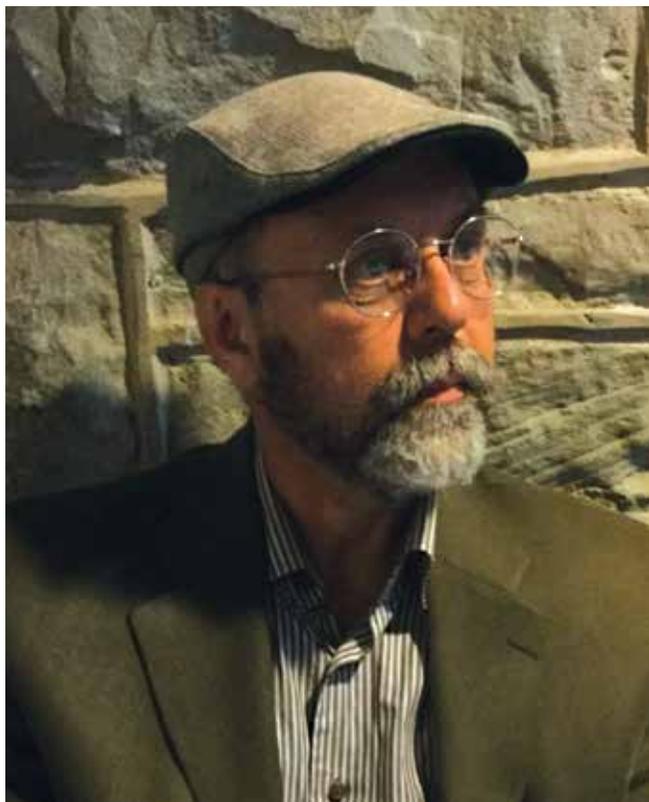
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# WHO IS MARC L. GAGNON?

By Anne Coleman



Marc Gagnon

Who is Marc Gagnon? For many cottagers and residents around the lake he is a familiar person, but with the recent influx of new visitors and full-timers, Marc may be a new name. With a background in architecture but 40 years of experience in water colour painting, as well as acrylics, he could have been a Group of Seven member had he been in that time period. His art is expressive, experimental and rich. He is a man who appreciates the detail of nature and is able to interpret it.

What better to do on a crisp, sunny Family Weekend afternoon, than travel to the other side of the lake to visit with this renowned water colour artist living on our own Baptiste Lake? Tucked away on Ranger Road, Marc Gagnon and his sparkly wife Barbara, live in an amazing home they have been sculpting for several decades. The snowy setting is a perfect background to showcase their architectural

choices.

As a young couple, whose university days centered in Kitchener-Waterloo, Marc and Barbara knew that they wanted to own a cottage. After graduating, not even owning their own car, they rented vehicles on weekends and explored around Southern Ontario seeking out areas of interest and practicality. Coming eastward was a new adventure for them and they finally chanced upon several lots for sale in the early 80's along Ranger Road. For practical and esthetic reasons they decided on the lot where now is located their permanent home. It was the rock face, rugged and steep, facing the lake, which caused them to fall in love with this location. Their appreciation of the Canadian Shield is not the usual but then, they are not a couple that seeks out the usual.

Marc formed his own architectural company after several years of working for other companies and his design offices created large-scale projects for the Royal Bank. Barb enhanced the buildings with her interior design flare. They enjoyed success in their independent business for 18 years but Marc's heart was in the fine arts. In 1999, he decided to pay serious attention to his practice in watercolour painting. He painted every day, experimenting with colour combinations, brush strokes, style and paper. He believes when one paints frequently and approaches the subject with a free mind, the medium allows the artist to explore and uncover amazing results. His style is loose and experimental. Vibrant colours and fearless movement of the subject result in gorgeous paintings. The subject speaks to him and he listens, reacts then interprets his feelings toward the subject.

In his professional approach to Watercolour and acrylics painting, Marc has given much time to the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour. When you visit his website,

*...continued on page 17*

MARC L. GAGNON ...continued from page 16

www.mlgagnon.com, you will see the long list of accomplishments and service Marc has given to his peers. As well as inspiring colleagues, Marc has run countless workshops to share his knowledge and creativity. He has a very clear, simple manner of explaining techniques to the students thereby encouraging them to keep the learning process uncomplicated. His main message is that the individual, who wishes to make progress in painting, must paint as much as possible. It is only then, that the discoveries are engrained and developed. That is the truth for anything. The more one practices, the more one becomes expert.

Barb and Marc have lived full-time on the lake for the past three years. They continue to sculpt their home, which started as a "tiny" home concept to now, a very attractive, unique home within which light sources, height, design and decorative yet functional elements are complimenting each other resulting in an extremely pleasing living space. They realize now by living here full time that the lake has



Grandeur (Watercolour)

a very different vibe of peace and connection with nature during the winter than the frenzy of the summer and it is becoming their preference. Winter is a recovery time from the onslaughts of the winter. This leads the artist to find new expression of familiar subjects.

I invite you to visit Marc's website to gain a clearer picture of his fantastic versatility in style and use of colour. His work is a collector's must. We are most fortunate that Marc calls Baptiste Lake home and that he gives credence to the power this lake has to inspire people.

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CARING THROUGH CULTURE

# PHOTOGRAPHER AT WORK ON BAPTISTE

By Susan Latremoille



Photos by Simon Dann

Baptiste Lake is fortunate to have many artists living and working on its shores. You may have visited some of them on the Bancroft Studio Tour last fall.

One of these artists is photographer Simon Dann who began his photography career developing film in a dark room when he was 10 years old and has been a passionate photographer ever since.

While his focus is mainly on doing “street photography” - catching fleeting moments of interaction between people and expressions of human emotion, he will also aim at landscapes and patterns. Though his preferred medium is black and white photography, he finds some landscapes are better seen in colour.

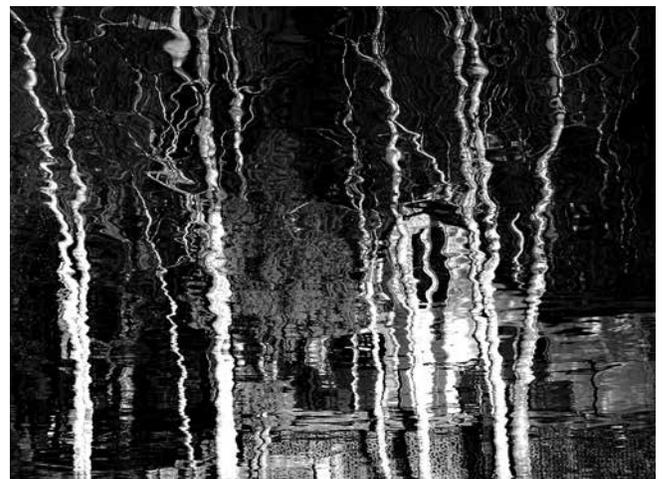
Simon’s extensive travel has allowed him to take photos in such places as Hong Kong, China, the Caucasus, Europe, Belize, Fiji and

Australia and right here on our own lake.

Simon had his first solo show in the spring of 2018 at Gallery 814 in Toronto and is exhibiting new work in two Toronto locations as part of the 2020 Contact Photography Festival in May 2020.

The first group will be shown at the 2nd floor gallery of Rapp Optical on College Street, and the second collection will be part of a group showing at the Image Foundry on Dupont Street in Toronto’s Junction District.

Simon posts regularly on Instagram with a following from around the world. Check out a few of his works in this newsletter, and on his website at [www.simondann.ca](http://www.simondann.ca) or on Instagram at [simondann18](https://www.instagram.com/simondann18). You will find his work intriguing, unusual and perceptive as shown below.





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# HOW TO DETER COUGARS FROM MY BACKYARD?

From Canadian Wildlife Federation

Ok, ok, I know what some of you are thinking and lets just stayed focused here boys. The information below was taken from the Canadian Wildlife Federation and accordingly rated ‘family’.

Cougars are secretive animals that tend to avoid direct contact with humans. Having said that, cougars will sometimes appear in urban areas, so it’s important to do what we can to avoid enticing them to our properties. Cougars could view a domestic dog or cat as easy prey. The good news is there are steps we can take to protect our cherished pets from a wandering cougar, including:

- Be sure to supervise pets when they’re outside, especially from dusk to dawn when you should be most wary of cougar activity.
- Don’t let a fence give you and your dog a false sense of security. Cougars can jump high – about 5.5 metres.
- Animal-proof under sheds, porches, decks and other structures to reduce potential hiding places for cougars.
- When walking your dog in cougar territory, use a leash that is no more than two metres in length.
- It’s best to feed your dog inside. If feeding outside is your only option, make sure to clean up once your dog is finished eating. Not only will this help to prevent attracting cougars, it will also help to prevent attracting cougar prey, such as squirrels and raccoons.
- Don’t leave your dog outside overnight. If you don’t have an alternative option, keep your canine in a secure kennel.
- If cougars are in your area, you may want to

take a break from feeding your feathered friends. Bird feeders can attract many animals, including animals that may attract a cougar, such as squirrels and rodents.

• There are many reasons why we shouldn’t feed wildlife: we often provide improper food, it can cause animals to lose their natural fear of people and it can help spread disease. Here’s another reason: it can attract unwanted animals. Attracting deer to your property can inadvertently attract cougars because deer are a favourite cougar prey.

- Make sure your garbage and compost are kept inside or in a secure container outside. It’s a good idea to wash them out regularly to reduce odours.
- If you have fruit trees, make sure to clean any fallen fruit from the ground so you don’t attract any potential cougar prey.
- Motion detector security lights may frighten away a wandering cougar.



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*The Board of Directors is very pleased to have added Cindy and Sabe Belcastro as new Board Members to the BLA. It is only fitting to introduce them to you and give a little background as the new owners of the original Scott Cottages on the North Shore.*

In 1955 Alex and Frances Scott began the construction of 6 cottages, a store and a gas pump in Lavalley Bay. Families will always remember hauling gas from the pump to the boat and then spending time in the store that never changed from year to year. They were memorable days that will always be embedded in kids' heads. They took pride in sharing pictures of the fish that they caught and were honoured when Frances allowed them to be displayed under her glass counter. The child had bragging rights and challenged their friends to catch a bigger fish than the one in the "trophy case". Frances would never accept a tip if you said "keep the change". Nope, she went to her little cash drawer and counted out every penny, because that was the proper thing to do, good Karma I suppose. Then she wrote down the money in her book, by pencil.

How things have changed. Cindy and Sabe Belcastro purchased Scotts in 2012 and transformed it into a modern day kids' ice cream and candy paradise. They provide supplies to satisfy every vacationers shopping list. Computers replace pencilled note pads and new refrigeration units replace the wall to wall freezers that had been jammed near the old front entrance. They saved many of the artifacts and decorative wall boards to incorporate into their new home. They are blessed to have received the original fish photos that were under Frances' counter top as well as the historic Scotts' photo album.



*Aerial view of Belcast Cottages.*

Like many couples who worked in the big city, the call of the north kept ringing. Their jobs were stressful, they were in their mid 50's and they got to a point where balancing work, love and play was not happening. The name has changed to Belcast Cottages and General Store but the traditional feel of the rustic cottages has not. Each cottage is named by colour and specifically staged with appropriate furnishings. This became the next chapter of their lives

Cindy says: I invite you to visit us here at the store to share a story, say hello to Maple (our store Dog) or just pick up your daily groceries, ice, worms and of course Kawartha ice-cream. On occasion and like a good neighbour borrowing a cup of sugar we have been known to run upstairs for a lime, onion, or potatoes and we are happy to do this for our customers. Like Mrs. Francis Scott before us we love that families are returning with the next generation and keep the stories alive. We hope to provide a setting that inspires the love for Baptiste Lake and all it has to offer.

Love, for us here comes in so many packages, love for Family which play such an important role in our success, from my mother making all the curtains, to our sons coming together

*...continued on page 21*

BELCAST COTTAGES ...continued from page 20

from far and wide to build shelving in the store, planting trees and bringing us into a new era of technology, not an easy task.

Love is waking up each morning having the privilege to love where your home is located, love that we can have social connections and relationships with those that visit us here either to stay in the cottages or bring the family for ice cream after enjoying a day on the Lake or a convenient walk to the store. It is truly a pleasure to be able to walk downstairs and serve our "Happy I am on vacation customers" or like a Cheer's Bar where your regular neighbourhood friends stop by for a visit. Sabe, has always loved a good story, either to tell one or to hear one. Sharing hilarious parts of their lives, it is all part of the relaxing atmosphere we enjoy and hope you do too? We still manage to have time to enjoy fishing, visiting, and campfires as well as so many other activities. We look forward to your visits.

*"Life doesn't make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that, the better for us all." - Erik H. Erikson.*



Proud boy caught this 2 lbs. bass on August 29, 1998.

Erik H. Erikson was a German-born psychoanalyst who became one of the most famous and influential thinkers of the twentieth century.



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# ICE DAMAGE AHHHHH

By Paul Coleman

This year I decided to be lazy and not shovel the decks or rake the roofs... a big mistake! Anne told me that I was playing too much hockey and not concentrating on household chores. So it's like early March, after the massive dump of snow. We are having a nice glass of wine, admiring the warmth of the fireplace when she says "look over there". Where? "Water coming from the top of the wall". What! Impossible, it's minus 20! Little did I realize that the ice on the roof was 8" thick and 3-4 feet deep in the valleys... ahhhhhhh.

In years gone by I used a hatchet to chop at



*Ice and snow from bedroom balcony.*

the ice but in the spring I found that I had been too aggressive and cut through the tin and the shingles. Ooops. So this time I used a hammer, in particular the claw. But hours of smashing the dam of ice proved too tiring for my aching arms. I would rather be shooting pucks. When you are proud and desperate ones' mind becomes very creative... The Reciprocating Saw!

Yes, woody woodpecker can destroy a tree, I can destroy the fields of ice. It worked. I started in the middle making sure not to puncture the shingles. It came off in layers. I became adept in "slicing/hammering" to the left and to the right. Then I smashed the last 2-3" with the claw of the hammer to finish the job. Then I cleared the ice jam in the eaves and make a phone call to Paul Lobe, "I need help! Paul, my arms are falling off, I cannot shovel the snow of the roof". You run marathons and triathlons in the summer and run



*Solid block of ice build up in the soffit.*

the lakes in the winter". "Can you help?" Yes, he came right over and went into overdrive and worked like a machine. He climbed on the roof, pushed the bulk of the snow to the eaves and I pulled it to the ground with the snow rake. Then he cleared off the decks. But wait, I should not have been so smug. 3 days later after we hit 9 degree temperatures, the water was still coming into our home! In disbelief and desperation I cut open the soffits which were 3 feet UNDER the roof.

I found a block of ice solidly frozen between the rafters and slowly melting through the warmth of the home. I had no idea that ice can form that way and create so much potential damage.

So lesson learned. Play less hockey and use the snow rake to clear the roof after every snow fall. OR hire the BLA Triathlon Champ, Paul Lobe to help out when it counts.



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# EMAIL & MAILING ADDRESSES NEED TO BE UPDATED

By Eric Hooley

Please help us update our records for your current email address and updated Mailing Address (for your Newsletter).

Your BLA Webmaster, BLA Membership Director, and Newsletter Editor do not have valid email addresses for about 15% of our members and only 30% of our members are registered as users on our web site.

For current members having your correct email on file with us, provides the following benefits:

1. To advise you of your membership status.
2. To contact you if a neighbour of yours reports property damage to us, such as a tree down, or your boat is sinking or your dock is drifting away/missing or there is a fire on your property.
3. To receive automated emails (a maximum of 10 a season, last year 5 emails were sent, this year so far just 2 about important issues for BLA members and reminders or changes to upcoming BLA events.

ing BLA events.

If you did not receive 2 emails this season about COVID-19 and the cancellation of the opening event, then we do not have a correct email address for you on file. If so please contact [BLA@baptiselake.org](mailto:BLA@baptiselake.org).

The advantages of being registered on the website are:

1. You can upload photos.
2. You can participate on our discussion pages.
3. You can list items on the Swap/Sell/Buy pages
4. Soon you will be able to check the expiry date of your membership

All other functions on the website are enabled even if you are not a registered user of the website. To register as a user, please go to <http://www.baptistelake.org/WS/Main/userRequest.php>.

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# DAVID FERGUSON, LESSONS IN WOOD

By Anne Coleman



Part of the collection that will be exhibited June 6th, 2020 at the APFTA on Bridge Street, Bancroft.

In the face of the covid-19 virus, humanity has had a monumental pause to meditate, shift its social idealisms and be afraid. We have in our midst a man who has contemplated the reality of social and ecological disorder long before the onslaught of the virus and has been successful in expressing our human reality into beautifully designed pieces of wood furniture. They are practical works of art. In place of a list of exhibits at the Bancroft Art Gallery, since they are not confirmed at this point, I chose to share with you some facts about one of the Art Gallery's past presidents and an extremely talented, mindful wood artist from our own area.

In the nineties, David Ferguson exhibited photography in public and artist run galleries across Canada. That paralleled a career in art

installation that even garnered an exhibition design and installation award from the Art Gallery Association of Ontario in 08.

Beset by doubts about the actual state of the emperor's clothing and wanting more solitude, he moved to the country. He has accomplished building himself an off grid passive solar home, and subsequently became more involved in Bancroft's local art scene. He was able to nudge the Art Gallery of Bancroft towards more professionalism and to help elevate its profile in the region. That culminated after 7 years with a term as the president of that organization. Many

*...continued on page 25*



Close up of Text Table by David Ferguson.

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DAVID FERGUSON ...continued from page 24

of our Baptiste Lake residents have visited his beautiful home while on the studio tour. David has been involved with the regional studio tour (Bancroft and Area Studio Tour) for several seasons and he has also played a small part in the inception of the nascent artist run facility in Bancroft (APFTA)

He is currently enjoying the relative seclusion of living off grid but wondering if the line 'there ain't no cure...' applies as he makes furniture and cabinetry in wood in the woods and then dreams of making it more expressive. His finished custom work is in the homes of several lake residents.

David Ferguson, in his artist statement says, "I think we need to understand better how our minds and thinking actually work if we are to effectively deal with the immense challenges that our species is facing socially and environmentally." He has a short poem on the lid of a modern looking hall bench that reads: gloves, hats on or off - the fog of culture stays on- fitting close as skin. There is an existential mirror and a coat tree of enlightenment and enough other pieces to fill the room. Local hardwoods have been sourced and skillfully used for the woodwork in a style sometimes refined rustic and sometimes contemporary but this is only the

entry into the work. It's really about some ideas that he has encountered in reading about minds and brains!

When our social reality changes in a few months, there is reason to visit David's exhibit and ponder that he vocalized before the virus changed our lives. Tipping points.



You are alone mirror by David Ferguson.

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# HOW HAS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AFFECTED OUR TURTLES?

By Kelly Wallace

Nature will continue its normal course as the new Turtle season unfolds. What we do not know is how the change in our human behavior will affect all wildlife in general.

First off, there is less traffic on the road. That, by deduction, should reduce the number of animal contacts with vehicles and accordingly drop the number of injured turtles being sent to the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (OTCC) for medical attention. On the other hand, wildlife may become less cautious and begin to wander onto our roadways as they become more comfortable with less traffic. This can cause a more serious problem for both us as drivers and “they” as game.

On a plus side, odds are better for unassisted turtle crossings. On the minus side, injured turtles may not be picked up quickly enough and may be carried off by a predator. Deliberate turtle strikes may also increase as some individuals take

their frustrations out on animals for fun or sport. Poaching and other illegal wildlife activities may also increase this year as people have more free time on their hands.

As the “normal” steady stream of traffic drops, so does the noise and flood of light from the car. Animals then drop their guard and automatically attempt to reclaim their natural corridors once traveled by their ancestors. Thus there are more wild life sightings on the road and more chance for collision. It is therefore advisable to be more cautious as drivers and more alert to the fact that there will be more wildlife coming on to the road.

What may also be a problem for the Turtle is that predators will have less fear of being on the road shoulder and have a field day attacking the nesting grounds.

If you are comfortable with assisting an injured turtle please note that the OTCC is open for business. If you encounter an injured turtle no matter where you are located in Ontario please contact the OTCC hotline at 705-741-5000. The OTCC medical team and staff have implemented all government recommended precautions to avoid social contact at their facility and have implemented new measures to allow turtle admissions to continue, without direct human to human contact. If you are not able to drive the turtle to the OTCC it would of course be appreciated if you could report the injured turtle to the OTCC so arrangements to transport the turtle to the OTCC via Turtle Taxi volunteers can be made.

Thank you for caring and helping the turtles and other wildlife during these unprecedented times. Feel good about your efforts to assist turtle road crossings, for protecting their nests and for allowing hatchlings to survive. Take care and be safe!

If you have any turtle related questions please do not hesitate to get in touch via email: [thinkturtle@yahoo.com](mailto:thinkturtle@yahoo.com), Cell/Text: 647-606-9537 or Facebook: [thinkturtledi](https://www.facebook.com/thinkturtledi).

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*Image painted by John Coleman.*

The Covid-19 virus has prompted us to rethink how we manage our households differently from what we are normally accustomed to. First we take care of our own situation; kids, parents, food, water, fuel and information through phones, satellite and the internet. Once we isolate ourselves from others we then find ourselves doing things that we have put off for years. Like going through old photos, tapes, CD's etc. We fix things that should have been fixed a long time ago. We read more. Then we think of faraway friends and relatives. We actually call them! Some call us! We connect because we care but have been "too busy" to reach out.

Folks on our road started a small "help your neighbor program". It soon doubled and doubled and doubled. A small group offered to assist anyone in picking up food and supplies. Soon the numbers ballooned to over 12 families. The purpose: to offer help picking up groceries or supplies and to minimize the number of trips to town and the number of people possibly being exposed to the virus. No questions asked, just if you need help we are here for you. Through this group we learned that our good friends at Foodland offered to accept phone orders for groceries, pay over the phone and have the groceries placed in the trunk

of your car. Thank you Joe and Carol Favot to you and your team for caring for us during these awkward times.

Next came the BLA team of sewists who demonstrated their skills in making masks and isolation gowns for our front line workers. Thank you Kathy Schachtman, Kate Irwin, Gabby Coe, Penny Anderson, Terry Woodward, Ann Ramsay, Lois Ward and a multitude of others that I am not aware of at this time. Thank you Brian Alexander for your very kind donation of medical gloves for the VON.



*Some samples of masks by the Baptiste Ladies team.*

We are very impressed with the number of folks who volunteer their time on boards and committees and actually do things by delivering Meals on Wheels, driving people to doctor appointments in or out of town and helping to run sports programs for the youth of our community. Of interest, the

*...continued on page 28*



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

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LAKE TALK ...continued from page 27

Dukes of Durham Senior Hockey Association graciously donated a truck load of skates and hockey equipment for use by kids at the York River Public School and the Bancroft Boys' and Girls' hockey Associations. Having coached and played for years with the Whitby area I asked my buddies to look for gently used or new hockey gear that their families no longer used. Their response was overwhelming and I encourage anyone on the lake who has connections in their home town to do the same. We can all repurpose "stuff" to help reduce the cost for kids registering in their sports endeavours.

The BLA is excited to hear that Rev. Lynn Watson, minister of the local United Church, is spearheading the 2nd Annual Triathlon, hopefully on August 23rd. There will be individual races as well as team races where a team of three can compete with team members choosing to run, bike or swim... Sounds like fun. For more information check the website: <https://baptistelakecommunitytriathlonitsyourrace.com>. There will be a BBQ and a block party with all funds raised and donations going to local charities to be determined.

We just received information of another book

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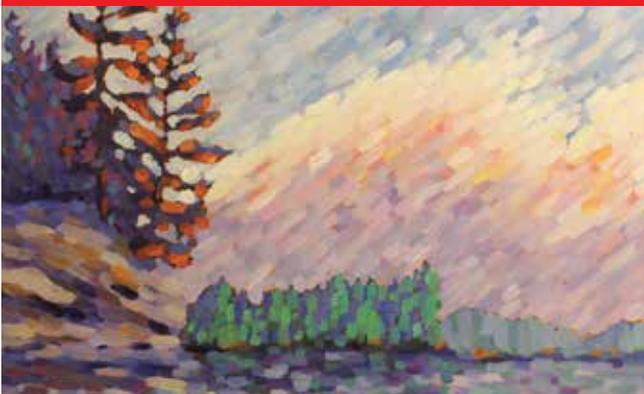
## Summer Art Program Update

It is with deep regret that we announce that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Haliburton School of Art + Design summer program is cancelled.

This cancellation includes the weeklong courses and Saturday workshops, from May to November, listed in the summer calendar.

Visit [HSAD.ca](https://HSAD.ca) for information on alternative options and opportunities offered online this summer.

Art: *Down the Lake*, by Luke Despatie, HSAD faculty member



Hockey gear donated to the Bancroft Boys and Girls Hockey Association from the Whitby Senior Hockey Association.

that contains information about Baptiste Lake and surrounds. It is called Whiskey and Wick-edness, Hastings County North, Gold Rush and Ghost Towns. Check it out from our local retailers.

The BLA directors have been most supportive of charitable organizations and social activities alike. The fish hatchery, BASC, CARE North Hastings, HH Public Library. We are pleased to have so many Lake residents join us on Nature Day, Golf Day, opening and closing events and of course the Annual General Meeting.

Lets' remember to thank all of the Advertisers who support our BLA spring and fall Newsletters. They are the ones who supplement our annual dues revenue and allow us to support those in need with limited funds.

I read in the Bancroft News an article by Dr. Ashley White regarding sunscreen. It was a reminder that so many of us have suffered skin damage as kids where sunscreen was not commonly used. And now we are paying the price with annual checkups with the skin specialists. Dr. White talked about "that spot in your back that you could not reach". We sustained second degree burns when we were young and this area is now particularly vulnerable to future UV insults. How true that she describes sun spots, age spots or freckles that have appeared through mistreatment or through genetics. The cute fair skinned fair haired youth are now much aware of potential skin cancer. She reminds us to use a sun block rather than a sunscreen to block the UV-A and UV-B rays. They are called "broad spectrum" and should have an SPF of 30 or higher. Sunscreen should be applied in the winter months as the sun's rays bounce all over after

...continued on page 29

LAKE TALK ...continued from page 28

being reflected by the snow. Don't forget to cover your left temple when driving as that is more exposed. Thankyou Dr. for your words of wisdom and to help prevent unnecessary skin damage.

I know that some of you are tired of hearing about water quality and soil erosion and septic maintenance. I too have felt that way. It is the same "stuff" in every article. Why is it being repeated in so many journals time and time again? Who is not listening or is it that Nature can't keep us to us? The danger that I realized is that I was becoming numb to reading the same thing over and over and almost getting to the point of giving up. Then I read an article from RIO DE JANEIRO "Don't smell the Water"! Turns out that companies have been struggling to meet RIO's surging demand for bottled water as taps that were already supplying

the population with a foul tasting, smelly liquid suddenly ran dry. For more than a month, tap water in several parts of Rio has been cloudy, sometimes brown. Authorities said that the issue was caused by geosmin, a naturally occurring organic compound produced by algae. Activated charcoal and clay have been added to the water in a bid to neutralize its odour and taste. Things got worse when detergent was also found in the water supplied to the population. Coupled with that, millions of Brazilians do not have access to sewage collection. You may recall that the Zika virus epidemic of 2018 caused havoc at their Olympics.

Anyhow, thanks for letting me rant, I hope that we all band together more so now that the Covid-19 virus is here. The Earth is getting a pollution reset and I hope that we will all be better off for it.

## FEDERATION OF COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION (FOCA)

The BLA is a member of the Federation of Cottagers Association. Our past President Marlin Horst is now the President of FOCA who represents our interests at a very high level. Marlin has provided us with a nice summary of the topics and work in progress.

The Annual General Meeting was held this past March and the following are some of the highlights:

### Confirmation of FOCA's strategic priorities

- Strengthening Lake Associations
- Effective Government Relations
- Science in Action
- Bridging Gaps in our Rural Communities

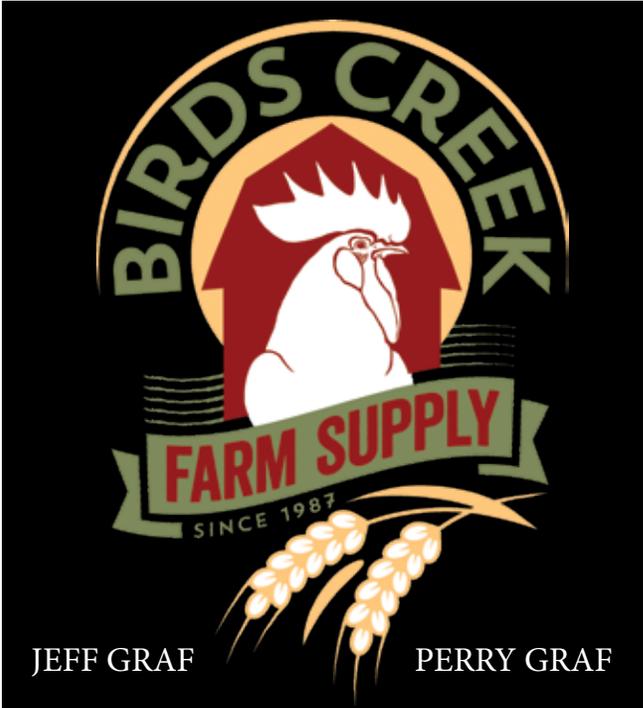
### Active Files include

- Electricity pricing
- Flooding and high water issues
- Conservation Authorities
- Property Tax Re-Assessment
- Bill 132

### Important FOCA programs and topics

- Cottage succession
- Risk management for associations
- Lake Partner water monitoring
- Microplastic and Ontario Lakes
- Asian Carp
- Septic re-inspection

Go to the FOCA website [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca) and get more details about how FOCA works for you and Lake Baptiste. Thank you Marlin for your tireless efforts and unwavering support to the BLA.



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# SHORELINE REHABILITATION CONTEST SPONSORED BY BANCROFT AREA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (BASC)

BY WALLY MCCOLL

The Baptiste winners of the BASC Shoreline Rehabilitation Contest, selected by the BLA Directors are David and Carol Slade. Their cottage is located on Blueberry Island. A very pretty, scenic location, however their shoreline is quite steep and in danger of erosion as show in the photo below.



*Endangered shoreline prior to rehabilitation by the BASC.*

On May 2nd Ian Hendry, the BASC President and Fred Werner, retired forester, carried out the site evaluation to determine the optimal tree and shrub species and the planting strategy.

On May 11th, Ian Hendry, Fred Werner and Steve Wilkins, arrived with three bags of shrubs, two bales of straw, ropes, pails, shovels and hip waders.

Then the fun started. How to mountain goat that slope with shrubs, water and shovels.



*Ian Hendry and Steve Wilkins.*

Ian and Steve were remarkably agile in balancing themselves while digging holes under Fred's professional instruction. For me, I mostly filled the gofer/photographer role trying not to slide down the slope but still catch the action. In the last phase packing straw around the new plantings, provided the moisture holding mulch.



*Ian and Fred Werner packing the straw around the new shrubs.*

Ian Hendry's take on the day is worth noting as encouragement for the BLA.

"It truly was an adventure, and I will never forget it. Freezing cold, travelling across the lake to a challenging landing, slugging everything up

*...continued on page 31*



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SHORELINE CONTEST...continued from page 30

the hill, and planting on a steep embankment. Do you think maybe next year you could find something easier. I'm kidding of course. The challenge is what made it so much fun.

I am so grateful to you and the Baptiste Lake Association for all of the support you have given to the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council. This is just another example of what can happen when organizations work together."

A job well done. Thanks to the initiative of the BASC in the promotion/sales of shoreline shrubs and this demonstration, our BLA members will be encouraged to plant their own shoreline trees and shrubs for erosion prevention and nutrient uptake.



Ian Hendry (left), Steve Wilkins (center) and Fred Werner (right) completing the cold May shrub planting project.

## MAPLE LEAF SNOW SKIMMERS CLUB INC. TRAIL

BY GEORGE TSAGRINOS

Many of the volunteers for the club reside on Baptiste and are to be congratulated for their tremendous efforts in repairing and maintaining the trails this past season. Although the season had a late start due to 2 unexpected ice storms, the Team led by President Dana Ogden, began to build up a good trail base.

There is a new Board of Directors, the Facebook Page is full of information and accomplishments, and there was at least 4 times the amount of traffic on the trails this year.

Here is a photo of one of the 7 major bridges that were re decked this year.



Team of Snow Skimmers.





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Photo by Rob Zwicker

**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](http://www.baptistelake.org) for details, or send an etransfer to [info@baptistelake.org](mailto:info@baptistelake.org), be sure to include info requested below

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