



Spring 2025 Newsletter

# BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

[www.baptistelake.org](http://www.baptistelake.org)

Box 877 Bancroft, Ontario K0L 1C0

[mybaptistelake@gmail.com](mailto:mybaptistelake@gmail.com)

## Spring Miracles Leave Winter Behind



*Pictured left, is a Bobcat/Lynx? Photo by Linda Cullen, see story page 16.*

*Above, an Otter. Photo by Anne Coleman*



*Hidden Mailboxes. Photo by Arlene McCarthy*

### BLA 2025 Events

#### OPENING EVENT

May 18, 2025, Birch Cliff Lodge, 5:00 to 7:00 pm

#### CANADA DAY PARADE

July 1, 2025 Paradise Landing and ends at Dog Bay

#### FISHING TOURNAMENT

Saturday, July 5, 2025, 7:30 am to 3:00 pm  
Public Dock, Baptiste Village

#### CANOE KAYAK DAY

July 19, 2025, Sunrise Lodge, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

#### REGATTA

August 3, 2025 at Ponacka  
Sign up before the event.

#### AGM

August 9, 2025, Birch Cliff Lodge, 9:00 am

#### CORN ROAST

August 31, 2025, Ponacka, 5:00 to 7:00 pm



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**THE ANNEX  
GALLERY**  
EXHIBITIONS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*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. As I write this in early March we are in the midst of a very snowy winter. If this weather continues we will certainly have a late spring. We are coming off of two back to back snowstorms, which have left a huge amount of snow in their wake. Personally I had the joy of spending 3 unplanned days in Montreal as my trip back from skiing in Switzerland did not end up the way I had planned. That is a story for another time.

We continue to have a full list of events taking place this summer. Please see elsewhere in this Newsletter for details of all of the events. I encourage each of you to attend as many events as possible. It is a great way to meet new people and to get caught up with people you may not have seen for awhile.

**After several years without one, we are going to have a Regatta again this year.** I encourage all of you attend. Let's make this a great event with people of all ages in attendance. A big thank you to the many volunteers involved in getting this going again and especially to Camp Ponacka for allowing us to use their facilities. I hope to see all of you there.



*Team Watersheds with BLA volunteers,  
a great partnership.*

We continue to be active in 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. The Interlake has partnered with the Municipality and **Watersheds Canada** and received a grant to give away shoreline plants to many waterfront owners to try to naturalize as many shorelines as possible. The Interlake will be holding sessions in May and in the fall. Please watch for more informa-

*...continued on page 3*

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## BLA Officials - Spring 2025



Marlin Horst, BLA President

Alan Stephen, Vice President

Paul Coleman, Director, Editor

Anne Coleman, Director, Editor

Lake Plan Implementation & Secretary

Eric Hooley, Director, Webmaster

Shelley Pickard, Director, Advertising,  
Membership Chair, Website Co-coordinator

Diane Jared, Director, Treasurer

Beth Greenberg, Director

Hilary Phillips, Director

Gary Pirko, Director,  
Watersheds Canada Liason,  
Fish Hatchery Liason

Contact us at [mybaptistlake@gmail.com](mailto:mybaptistlake@gmail.com)

*...from page 2 President's Message*

tion on this initiative.

If anyone has any concerns regarding actions taking place around the lake please feel free to contact the Municipality for actions over which they have jurisdiction. Many by-laws are complaint based so the Municipality needs to hear from us. They generally do not take any actions on their own.

As an association we continue to work on the Lake Plan by implanting various actions set out in the Lake Plan and also to update the Lake Plan. It is a living document and continues to evolve as time goes by.

The BLA has been a member of FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association) for many years, 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 visit 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. There are also many FOCA events which can be signed up for on the website.

As many of you know I am a past board member of FOCA, and past President, and am therefore biased. However, one of the benefits of being a FOCA member is that we have access to a special insurance program for homes, cottages and automobiles. One of our cars was stolen a year ago and we had nothing but good experiences with the insurance agent and the insurance company. We were upset to have the car stolen but the service we received was exceptional.

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



*Tapping  
Painting by Anne Coleman*

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.



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# COALMAN'S EDITORS' UPDATE

By Paul Coleman

Hey, it's time for the old boy to step back and spend more time fishing. Anne has been busy working with our fellow directors in preparing this newsletter and passing the baton to others to keep your Newsletter alive. It is time for a refresh as we invite



*The old Kissing Bridge's location is now the Audi burial ground?*

A vertical advertisement for Quinte Health North Hastings Hospital. The top half shows a scenic view of a lake and a forest of evergreen trees under a purple and pink sky. The bottom half is a blue banner with white text. The text reads: "Ready for a change of scenery?" at the top. Below that, "Quinte Health NORTH HASTINGS HOSPITAL Located in the beautiful town of Bancroft". Then, "IS SEEKING ADDITIONAL" with wavy lines on either side. Below that, "EMERGENCY MEDICINE PHYSICIANS". On the right side of the banner, there is a white speech bubble that says "WE'RE HIRING!". Below the speech bubble is a white logo consisting of four stylized leaves or petals. At the bottom right, it says "Quinte Health www.qhc.on.ca".

more input from you to bring topics of interest and importance to you and your family.

Some things for you to know:

1. Someone dumped a fancy stolen Audi in the lake. The MOE called us to assist in lake access for a barge to retrieve it in conjunction with the insurance company. If you get to it before they do, it may be your, very own "Collectors' Item".

2. If you want an amazing artistic experience for your kids, sign up quickly to **Ketha Newmans' summer art classes** through our local campus of Loyalist Collage.

3. Spoiler Alert: did you hear there may be a new restaurant coming to Baptiste? Where? When? Cross your fingers.

4. For those of you who are seasonal and have hired someone to check in on your property, you were wise. We hired trained, rope and harnessed young lads to clear our roofs. Due to the unusual snow and rain and snow and rain, many homes have had basements flooded and significant ice dam damage through the roof valleys. Hope you were not affected.

*...continued on page 5*



*Colemans hire young entrepreneur Josiah Brinkman to save the day, with safety harness and rope.*





*Hey Honey, I got no TV, can you check da dish.*

*Photo by Paul Coleman*

...from page 4 Coalman's Editors' Update

5. A big shout out to all of our fabulous volunteers around the lake. There are so many unselfish and unrecognized folks who ask for nothing other than the experience of helping others. Should you wish to recognize someone, please let us know and we can all personally thank them. **The latest group that will be of interest to you is the "senior" fitness program sponsored by the VON in the Hastings Highlands gymnasium.** Improve your strength and flexibility through gentle routines, steps, balance, laughter and mobility.

6. Sadly, our good friend and neighbor, **Pat McCoil has passed away.** Anne and I were blessed to have spent many wonderful hours with Pat and Wally over the seasons. Wally has been President of the BLA for many years and been one in nature through photography, citizen science programs and our municipal liaison. To Wally, a wonderful human being, we pass along

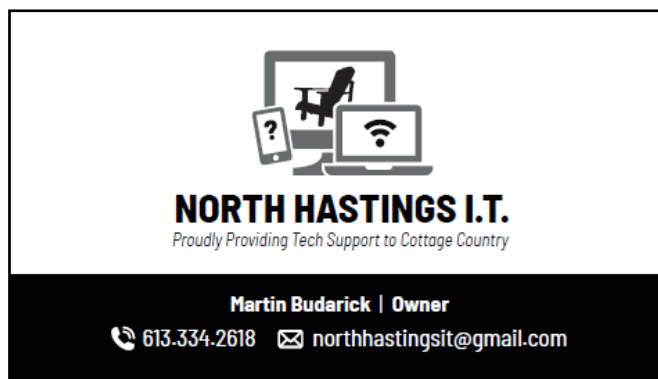
our condolences and we will have many more excursions on the lake good buddy.

7. Every May 15th we await our resident hummingbirds from Mexico and Central America to peck at our window with a "hey Anne, we're back, where's the food. Instinct, changes in daylight, the abundance of flowers, nectar, and insects play a big role in their decision to pack up their bags and move north. Flying low and using tail winds, these little darts can travel 500 miles at a time at speeds of 20-30mph. Now, don't you feel guilty sipping a bevy on your dock after a long journey from the city?

8. Finally, I must confess, I get the message that I am old. I fought the pressure to give up my BlackBerry. I did like the click, click, click of the keyboard. My grandkids took great pleasure in arguing who is the better to transfer my stuff. "Look here granddad, finger print this, move that, copy this, give me the phone you're too slow! Transfer your pics, your emails your other stuff"! ahhhhh. All done, they leave. The next day my phone rings in 2 places, what the hell? They didn't wipe out the old phone. Ok, no problem, I let the battery run dry and put it away. Done. But not so fast. My replacement phone was 3G and not 5G so I didn't get good reception. So after a year I buy a top of the line "Eye" phone. The grand kids pay a visit, swap out the new stuff etc and leave. The next day, 2 phones ring at once.

Funny eh?! Thank goodness we have our new advertiser **North Hastings I.T.**

I dropped in on Martin Budarick in Bancroft to confess my sins and clean out 2 phones. He saved the old man embarrassment from calling the grandkids one more time. Martin saved me a trip to Peterborough. He offers tech support for TV, cell, tablets, computers, accessories and cartridges; and other stuff I will never understand and don't care to. I still have the flashing 12 on my VCR. There, now I feel re freshed, re fragged and re tired. See you on the water.



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

*By Tony Fitzgerald  
Mayor of Hastings Highlands  
Deputy Warden of Hastings County*

Greetings to the residents and visitors of Baptiste Lake and area. As I write this article in early March winter is very much still with us. But we know that spring is just around the corner and the annual ritual of “opening the cottage” will be celebrated shortly.

It is much the same with the Municipality. The winter months are quieter, with hockey, curling, skiing and snow removal being the biggest concerns. But with spring comes a flurry of activity, especially with road maintenance. Frost heaves, ditching, plugged culverts, flooding and potholes are some of the common issues we can expect.

In December 2024, Council passed a **Capital Budget of \$4.5M**, including over 9 km of paving on Mink Lake Road, all totally funded by the municipality. In late March 2025, an **Operating Budget of approximately \$13.5M** will be passed, ensuring the smooth operation of all departments within the municipality. With all the financial challenges we have faced, including inflation, higher interest rates, continued MPAC freeze on assessments, a 22% increase to our OPP bill, union negotiations and no infrastructure funding from the province, I am pleased to report that we were able to do all this with a municipal property tax increase of only 4.7%.

**We are happy to partner with the Hastings Highlands Interlake Association, Bancroft Area Stewardship Council and Watersheds Canada on some lake health initiatives.** As a lake-based economy, we plan on working with these partners to deliver free educational workshops for the waterfront

community and offer free bundles of native species plants to have a positive impact on the health of the lakes and their ecosystems in Hastings Highlands. Stay tuned for further information on this program and please get involved!

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Hastings Highlands Interlake  
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*An information session about the importance  
of a naturalized shoreline.*

**Saturday, May 10, 2025 - 9am - 12pm**

**Saturday, September 27, 2025 - 9am - 12pm**

*Hastings Highlands Centre*

*33011 Hwy 62 N., Maynooth, ON, K0L 2S0*

**PLEASE REGISTER AT**

*lakehealth@hastingshighlands.ca*

*or 613-338-2811 x 200*

*Guidance on how to create your own  
customized shoreline planting plan.*

*A Q&A session with Watersheds Canada staff.*

**SHORELINE WORKSHOP**

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# HASTINGS HIGHLANDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

*By Anne Coleman*

It takes energy, ambition and love to keep an already thriving, successful library buzzing. Since Autumn, there was a fundraiser evening in the form of a murder mystery plus Silent Auction. Among the contributions to the Silent Auction was a beautiful quilt made by the Sew 'n Sews. Penny Anderson offered the quilt on behalf of the group. Many of our BLA members were present at the sold out affair, including Paul Coleman and Andy Morrison as actors. They took on roles of Hollywood characters, weaving tales of misinformation to fool the audience. The mayor and his son were also on stage playing out some scenarios that segued from the script. Thank you to Beth Greenberg and Cindy Belcastro for taking charge of the bar. Several Baptiste Lake residents attended knowing that there would be laughs, comradery and a delicious supper. Krystal Landis did an outstanding job, with her well-organized group of servers, of delighting us with a lasagna meal that pleased everyone. Thank you all for this wonderful representation.

The HHPL staff gave many hours to the organizing of this event as well as the Trustees of the Board. A great deal of hard work paid off.

A few short weeks later, the library staff was again very involved in the Santa Claus parade, "Brighten the Night" under the direction of Amy Doole who created an amazing float to represent the library, including an amazing paper mache puppet designed by Wendy's daughter, Marie, who was briefly in Canada for holidays. The evening was perfect for the parade; cold, clear, full moon and a very large crowd attended making the atmosphere very traditionally Christmas. A little Baileys in hot chocolate didn't hurt the affair either.

Our library staff have made it possible for home schoolers to have educational time twice a month and Maynooth Public School students take turns each week to visit for story time and book exchange. Our CEO Wendy Keating has an enthusiastic group of mostly aged 7 to 12 youngsters who participate in a "Novel Idea Kids' Book Club" from 4-5 o'clock on Wednesdays. That is one excited



*Once a month literary critics happen.*

*Photo by Anne Coleman*

group of youngsters who can't wait for the hour. Wendy also has an adult book club, which meets once a month for animated discussion and great socializing. The Drumming Circle continues each Thursday morning, Sew 'n Sews mark Wednesdays plus some card players attend for bridge and euchre. Please come in on Friday mornings from 10 to 12 to

*...continued on page 8*

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# HASTINGS HIGHLANDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

...from page 7

enjoy the music group. This library is Busy.

Kristin continues to find additions to the collection that are current and anticipated by our patrons. Many people, who arrive in the summer, are amazed at the offerings and quality of the collection. Kristin has reached the 18 year mark of being our assistant librarian and Jessica has been with us for over 12 years as tech and info expert. Amy Doole has been part of the team for almost a year and has added incredible energy and ideas. With Wendy, they share a vision for the library. March Break included plenty of activities for patrons, there will be an "Egg Hunt" near Easter, Canadian National Film Day happens in April, in May, the Board will host a Trivia night plus bake sale on May 10 and of course, a full plan for summer is being created.

Please visit the website for updates and information.



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# BAPTISTE LAKE DAM REPAIRS COMPLETED

*By MNRF Resources*

The Ministry of Natural Resources has successfully completed the planned refurbishments to the Baptiste Lake Dam. As detailed in the previous Spring and Fall Newsletters, the repairs included the following:

- **West Abutment Extension:** A small section of the existing west abutment was extended and raised by 0.5 meters to prevent water from flowing around the dam during periods of high run-off.

- **Stoplog Sluiceways:** Each of the four stoplog sluiceways had a temporary cofferdam installed upstream to facilitate the full replacement of the

*...continued on page 9*



*High Falls aerial view, taken in November 2024.*

*Photos by MNRF*

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*High Falls aerial view, taken in November 2024. Photos by MNRF*

*...from page 8 Baptiste Lake Dam*

stoplogs. Additionally, the sluiceways and the low flow valve chamber underwent abrasive concrete blasting, concrete crack injection, and concrete resurfacing while the cofferdams were in place.

- **Trash Rack Replacement:** The trash rack, which prevents debris from entering the low flow valve chamber, was replaced.

- **Overflow Weir Resurfacing:** The most visually notable refurbishment was the resurfacing of the overflow weir. This involved abrasive blasting and chipping of unsound concrete, crack injection, rebar installation, and pouring a 15 cm thick concrete surface along the downstream side of the wingwall.

To facilitate the repairs to the overflow weir, the MNR scheduled the work for late summer when water levels would normally be below the height of the overflow weir. This scheduling aimed to minimize impacts on natural resources and recreational users.

The successful completion of these refurbishments will maintain functionality of the dam while also extending the service life of the existing structure.


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## GET READY FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL PIKE DERBY AT BAPTISTE LAKE!

*By Gary Pirko*

Mark your calendars and grab your fishing gear—the 5th Annual Pike Derby is set to take place on **Saturday, July 5, 2025**, at Baptiste Lake, 1 Dock Road, Baptiste Village! This much-anticipated event is proudly sponsored and supported by the **Baptiste Lake Association and the North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery**, with proceeds going toward the conservation of Baptiste Lake Fisheries and the support of local fish stocking efforts.

The goal of the tournament is twofold: **to help preserve the Baptiste Lake fishery and to maintain a healthy balance of Pike in the lake.** Whether you're a seasoned angler or a family looking for

a fun day on the water, this event has something for everyone!

Last year's derby was a huge success, drawing 71 boats and awarding prizes to the top 12 places. The competition was fierce but friendly, and participants enjoyed an exciting day on the lake, followed by a lively afternoon weigh-in.

**This year's format will award prizes based on the most total pounds of Pike caught, with a special prize for the longest Pike reeled in.** There will be plenty of excitement at the weigh-in, and a fun-filled atmosphere for all attendees.

**How to Get Your Tickets:** Tickets \$50 per boat, are available through multiple convenient options:

- Email the Hatchery at [events@fishhatchery.ca](mailto:events@fishhatchery.ca)
- Purchase in person at The Underground
- New this year: Buy online using a credit card via the Hatchery's Zeffy Account <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/5th-annual-baptiste-pike-derby>

**This is more than just a fishing competition—it's a chance to come together as a community, support conservation efforts, and enjoy a fantastic day on the water.** Don't miss out—join us for the 5th Annual Pike Derby and help support Baptiste Lake and the Hatchery!

See you on the water!



*On Saturday, February 15th, my 13-year-old grandson, Morgan Weese from Rochester, paid a brief visit to Baptiste Lake with his father Dylan, uncle Bryn, and twin brother Kevin. His ice fishing efforts were rewarded with this nice pike.*

*Mena Weese, the grandmother of Morgan, was a key biologist and water quality expert, helping the BLA. Photo by Bob Weese*



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## BILL CHESHIRE DECEMBER 18, 1944 – DECEMBER 19, 2024

*Appeared in the Wiarton Echo*

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the sudden passing of William “Bill” Cheshire. He left this world at the age of 80 due to complications from heart surgery. He was surrounded by his loving family at his side. We will always remember his smile, warmth, generosity and jovial sense of humour.

He is survived by his wife of almost 55 years, Joan Cheshire, and his loving children Greg (Larisa), Kevin (Meggie) and Carolyn (Brian) and by his seven grandchildren Norah, Emily, Ally, Tommy, Sammy, Abigail and Ben.

Bill graduated from the Wiarton high school to go on to the Ivey Business School at Western University and a long career in Human Resources with various companies. During his career, he remained very active in many charities and Boards. Most recently he enjoyed volunteering at The Compass Food Bank, as well as helping in local government issues. He provided a scholarship award annually to the Wiarton High School which will continue after his passing. He also had a great love of history. He spent a significant amount of time documenting the history of families in the Bruce Peninsula



and was published posthumously in the Bruce County Historical Society’s 2025 Yearbook.

Further to the above Obituary, as it appeared in the Wiarton Echo, **Bill was involved over many decades as a member of the Baptiste Lake Association. His love of the lake was evident in the many articles that he wrote and submitted to the Bancroft Times concerning issues impacting the lake, plus his involvement in the High Falls Water Management Plan in and around 2007.** Bill, Kan Chhatwal, Norman Jull and many others

expended many hours voluntarily to secure the correct information and action to safeguard the Water Management Plan for Baptiste Lake. He was very vigilant in making himself aware of the bylaws and other Municipal business. Not much escaped his attention to the benefit of lake residents. A member of the BLA for many years, he was actually in attendance at the Corn Roast in September 2024 as well as at the Hastings Highlands Interlake meeting last June.

A generous contributor over the years to the Hastings Highlands Public Library, we are grateful for all Bill’s concrete efforts in making our area a better place to live. As many before him, he will be greatly missed.



*Magnificent  
Sunset over  
Grassy Bay.*

*Photo by  
Arlene  
McCarthy*

# COPYRIGHT AT THE COTTAGE

*By Hugh Stevens, 2024 All Rights Reserved*

For non “Central Canadians”, the term “cottage” may be a bit of mystery or even a misnomer. If you are thinking Anne Hathaway’s Tudor cottage covered with climbing roses, you are way off base. In fact, the term doesn’t seem to be used much outside of Ontario, where the term “cottage country” means any place on any lake north of Toronto. (There are a lot of them; over 250,000 lakes in Ontario). In the west, they are referred to as “cabins”, in Quebec as “chalets”—and in Russia, “dachas”, or so I am told. They can be rustic, water-access by canoe only simple abodes with outdoor plumbing or they can be multi-million homes on places like Lakes Rousseau or Joseph in the Muskokas, with every kind of cottage toy (ski boat, sea-doo, inflatable floating bouncy castle etc) imaginable. **For those fortunate enough to own a cottage—and it is not a small number—many have been in the family for several generations (and will now likely attract a higher capital gains tax when they are passed on to the children, given recent budget changes. So much for any new rules affecting only 0.13 percent of Canadians). But cottage life is also embraced by new Canadians and some are even rented out (God forbid) on platforms like AirBNB.**

In my case, our cottage is located in the Kawartha Highlands, Canadian Shield country between the towns of Bancroft and Haliburton. We can drive there on washboard dirt roads. There is hydro (most of the time) but very limited cell coverage. If you walk down the road, and stand on a particular rock in the evening, it usually works. We used to have a landline and dial-up Wifi but it was so slow we gave up, and then the phone company cancelled the “cottage line suspension service” we used to use in the winter. Because, you see, like many cottages, we close up for “the winter” (which generally means between Canadian Thanksgiving in early October and Victoria Day weekend in late May). The power is shut off, the pipes drained, the dock lifted and everything is closed up to await the minus 30C temperatures that sometimes arrive in Jan-Feb.

**So what does this have to with ©? Well, you can’t escape it, even up here at the lake. Whether it is the \$4.99 DVDs we buy at the local supermarket for those inevitable rainy days or the ubiquitous copyrighted board games (Scrabble, Clue, Cranium, you**

**name it) that get trotted out, the © symbol is everywhere.** Cottage country must be the last stand of the DVD, and a lot of low grade Hollywood movies and series that you have never heard of seem to arrive on the shelves of the local Foodland for bored cottagers. But there is no cable and no streaming, so if you want to watch something in the evening, get out the old DVDs. At our place, Bugs Bunny and Tom and Jerry cartoons, dating back to the 1950s and beyond, are still popular as a new generation discovers them, but beware of piracy. One young visitor, having seen the scary FBI warning at the beginning of a Bugs DVD, asked what piracy was because, as she said, I don’t want to go to jail for 5 years or pay a fine of \$250,000.

And then there are the card games, many of them, like cribbage, having been invented a couple of centuries ago. But the Bicycle “Official Rules of Card Games”, first copyrighted in 1887 (our edition is a relatively recent 2006) is indispensable. While the rules of a game (i.e. the mechanics) cannot be protected by copyright—although artwork and design unique to a specific game could be—Bicycle’s edition of the rules is copyrighted

*...continued on page 13*



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...from page 12 Copyright

because of its editorial content, organization, etc.

The local paper, the Bancroft Times (founded 1894) has its own copyrighted copy. You won't find Canadian or Associated Press articles here. **You will find a blow-by-blow description of the local Council meeting where Council wrestled with the thorny problem of the arena's deficit and whether to impose user fees on residents of outlying municipalities that were refusing to pay their share of operating expenses.** This seems only fair, except the problem arises from the disincentive caused by user fees. **If it stops the kids from outside town from using the arena, there won't be enough players for the hockey league. Thorny local issues.** This made me reflect on some of the big journalism issues of the day, such as the OpenAI v New York Times lawsuit concerning OpenAI's unlicensed use of NYT content to train its Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithm. This made me wonder if the Times' (the Bancroft Times, that is) coverage of Bancroft Town Council's meeting would be scooped up by OpenAI's AI machine. We hear that AI has an insatiable appetite for data, in fact that within a year or two there

may be such a shortage of data for AI training that AI may have to produce its own synthetic data. If there is a data drought, no doubt content in the Bancroft Times will be as important to OpenAI as the content it has purloined from the New York Times.

Another manifestation of AI is the use of copyrighted artwork and photos to produce new AI-generated content. A couple of years ago, while gazing at the lake from the dock, I read about DALL E-2, one of the earlier AI programs that could produce images on demand. I created one using the scenery I was enjoying, titled "Autumn foliage, with Muskoka Chairs in the style of Monet", to illustrate my blog on "AI and Computer-Generated Art: Its Impact on Artists and Copyright".

Whether it is broadcasts from "The Moose" (Moose FM Radio, officially known as CHMS-FM), content from the local newspaper, the "Think Turtle Conservation Initiative" that sells signs, decals, and fridge magnets to raise awareness of turtles crossing the road, or information from the local lake association or Fish and Game Club, the integrity of content is protected everywhere by copyright—even at the cottage!



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## REGATTA DAY AUGUST 3RD, 2025



*Aerial view of proposed site for the Regatta.*

Mark your calendars for an exciting day at the Baptiste Lake Regatta! Join us at Camp Ponacka for a fun-filled day with a variety of events suitable for all ages and skill levels. Whether you're a swimmer, paddler, or just looking for some family fun, this is an event you won't want to miss!

Stay tuned for more details and event announcements as we get closer to the date. We can't wait to see you there!

Thank you,  
Sandra and Lindsay,  
[mybla.regatta@gmail.com](mailto:mybla.regatta@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP

*By Anne Coleman*

As of March 31st, our membership stands at a strong 276 members, BUT then renewals are in order after the 31st. The membership will drop to 171. If you look at the envelope in which your newsletter was mailed, you will see on the address label a clear indication of your membership status. Also, when you receive the

general emails, your membership status is at the bottom of the email. **Please consider renewal for this year. The newsletter itself is one of the benefits of your membership, plus the opening meeting in May and the other events sponsored by the BLA during the summer months.** The association is for you and we appreciate you being a part of the attention given to the needs of a community blending with wildlife. It is crucial to maintain the balance of a healthy environment.



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## EVENING AT BAPTISTE

Baptiste's aglow with lambent flame  
At twilight's magic hour  
The hills blue-misted rise above  
In battlement and tower.

We float upon our opal lake  
A friend beloved and I  
Each hour a jewel rare to hoard  
When golden days pass by.

From afar comes sound of tinkling bell  
The lonely loon's weird call.  
On rocky ridge and wooden shore  
Night's purple shadows fall.

From the still beauty that round us lies  
Our spirits drink repose  
The steadfastness and strength of hills  
Through all our being flows.

Arise now the queen of night  
As dies the daylight fire.  
Our cabin gleams with silvery light  
"Dilkusha" Heart's Desire.

Though duty calls us far from thee,  
Still always, night and day,  
Thy memories, O fair Baptiste,  
Shall cheers life's busy way.

Baptiste, beloved in all my moods  
in deep regret we part,  
But ever shall thy charms remain  
Enshrined within my heart.

*Mary H Mahaffy,  
Port Dover 1935*



*Photo taken in the summer of 1935 in front of the Fell Road cottage 'Dilkusha' owned by Rev Frank Wootton and his wife Harriet (Frost) Wootton. Their descendants still own cottages on the Fell Road (Woottons) and on Irwin Lane (Mahaffy/Jareds).*

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# THIS IS MY LETTER FOR THE BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION:

*By Linda Cullen*

We were Baptiste Lake renters for many years before purchasing our own waterfront property in 2011. Our daughters were in high school and starting to have summer jobs which made our cottage rentals more problematic because they could only join us on the weekends. The cottage we purchased was in much need of repair and we were Weekend Warriors as we renovated to make the place more liveable while we were still employed. Our three-season cottage was fine for our small family to use now and again. Once we retired, we started spending more and more time at the lake and began the task of winterizing the water system, replacing windows, increasing the insulation and fixing the roof.

Our neighbour, an avid snowmobiler, began sharing stories of the beautiful scenery up here in the wintertime. The more stories he told, the more convinced we became that maybe we should buy a snowmobile too and see what this was all about. Well, one sled led to two sleds and the rest is history. We have truly been enjoying the wintertime up here on Baptiste Lake. Now

last year, maybe not so much, but this year, it's been phenomenal. Of course, being retired, we don't have to travel on weekends, and we can hit the snowmobile trails during the week when the traffic is lighter and the restaurants aren't quite so busy.

This winter, we have had many wonderful rides on the trails, but especially Friday morning of the Family Day Weekend. Bancroft had just received about 40 cm of snow on Wednesday night into Thursday. The snow was very light and very deep. Friday morning, we met up with another couple, who live year round on the lake, and headed out across the lake. It was difficult to manoeuvre the machines in the deep snow on the lake, but once we got to the trails, they were awesome. While Mother Nature provided the snow, the groomers did a fabulous job of smoothing out the trails. The day was bright and sunny. We stopped to take pictures along the way, here and there. Our leader slowed us right down at one point because he saw two bobcats. They were in the middle of the trail and when we came upon them, they disappeared into the woods; one went left and one went right. We shut off the machines and sat for not quite one minute when momma bobcat came back on the trail and started calling for her baby. She had her back to us and looked over her shoulder at us as if to say "Just give me a minute here while I find my baby". She cried a few times, the baby answered, and momma jumped back into the woods reuniting with her baby. We were able to take many pictures. We were thankful to have seen these bobcats in the wild and shared our pictures online.

My advice is to just get outside and enjoy the weather whenever you can. Share your experiences with others and support the local shops and restaurants.

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*Momma bobcat looking for baby. Photo by Linda Cullen*



# CREATIVE BY NATURE IN MAYNOOTH

*By Amy Doole*

New for 2025, Creative By Nature, Saturday, August 2, 2025, offers a marketplace, fair and fun venue designed to celebrate the creativity, craftsmanship, and artistic spirit of the Hastings Highlands region and beyond. This one-day event will bring together independent makers, artists, and performers, offering the public a chance to explore original fine art, ceramics, textiles, jewelry, woodworking, natural products, and live performances in the lovely town of Maynooth.

Set in a beautiful, accessible outdoor venue near Maynooth's main street, the event will be free to the public and will offer ample parking, a selection of local food vendors, and on-site facilities—ensuring a welcoming and enjoyable experience for all. Whether you're an art enthusiast, a collector, or simply looking for a day of inspiration and fun, Creative By Nature invites you to celebrate the beauty of hand-crafted works and the makers behind them.



**With a nod to our history, we will welcome The Great Canadian Lumberjack Show to the Loggers' Field. An AXEtion packed show! The Great Canadian Lumberjacks bring an exciting family friendly show with disciplines like axe throwing, chainsaw carving, wood chopping, and cross-cut sawing all while keeping the crowd laughing.**

Also in the field The Eyrie will deliver live, up-close, free-flight demonstrations with birds of prey. There's nothing quite like seeing a hawk or eagle in person. It leaves a lasting impression that inspires a lifetime of curiosity and a desire to learn.

Just down the hill you can visit the Maynooth Morning Market or wander the main street and enjoy local shops and restaurants.

For more information:  
[eventscoordinator@hastingshighlands.ca](mailto:eventscoordinator@hastingshighlands.ca)



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# ART IN THE COMMUNITY: THE AGB IN 2025

*By Molly Moldovan*

**New for 2025: We are now selling art supplies, a partnership with The Art Factory in Renfrew! You'll find us at 10 Flint Avenue in Bancroft (just off the main street downtown).**

As I write this, I am still euphoric from the outcome of our first major fundraiser, 43!!, celebrating our 43 years as a public gallery. 43!! Featured an online auction of beautiful artwork donated by artists from across Ontario. The auction culminated at a very fun party at the gallery on March 1 which included a Mystery Art Grab. For the Art Grab, we asked 43 artists to each create a 10" x 10" artwork which would only be signed on the back and were hung on the gallery wall in a grid formation. 43 numbered tickets were sold; and when their number was drawn, ticketholders could go up to the wall and remove the artwork of their choosing. Only then would they know whose artwork they had chosen!

For me, the best part of the Art Grab was that people would choose artwork based on their emotional reaction to the piece, rather than because they knew the art-



*Display of 43 works of art for the fundraiser.*

*Photo by Molly Moldovan*

ist. I think that's how/why all art should be purchased.

**Another "first" for the AGB will be our Artist in Residence program.** The chosen artists will be working in the gallery, their studio for the entire month, one in May and another in November. The residency is thematic – for 2025 it is Finding Community. The artists are free to express that in any way and will have a joint exhibition of their work in May 2026. As both artists are from outside our area and represent different demographics, we expect that the resulting artwork will be interestingly varied and nuanced.

Our exhibition year is now well under way, with another interesting and diverse line-up. Many of this year's exhibitions focus on important themes that in one way or another, touch all of us: mental health, the environment, coping with isolation, loss, and grief. Each artist has their own way of expressing these themes, and individually, their work creates engaging and powerful dialogues with the viewer.

**In May the gallery will host our first Artist in Residence, Kayla St-Pierre.** Kayla is an emerging artist, a recent graduate of the U of Guelph's arts program. Stop into the gallery during regular hours to meet Kayla and see what she's up to!

**June brings us the photography of Scott Maracle** in an exhibition that shows us the world through his Indigenous eye. The intersection of Indigenous life, the vastness of nature and human impact on the natural world underlie the obvious beauty of the images.

**In July Tanya Fenkell's Lost & Found** explores the materiality of fibre, found organic or discarded, man-

*...continued on page 19*



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...from page 18 *Art In the Community*




*August exhibit by James Olley depicts beautiful landscape art. Submitted by Molly Moldovan*

made objects as maps of interrelatedness, unlikely affinities, and interrogations of our current environmental crisis.

**August brings us the landscape art of James Olley** that explores the reciprocal relationship between humankind and the landscape, while also understanding the cyclical nature of humans and the birth, death, and rebirth within our natural environments.

If you are someone with time and energy and want to become more involved with your community, the AGB may be a perfect fit! Your involvement could be as much, or as little, as you would like. More information at: [www.artgallerybancroft.ca/index.php/join-and-support/become-a-volunteer](http://www.artgallerybancroft.ca/index.php/join-and-support/become-a-volunteer).



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Members have a vote at the annual general meeting and receive regular updates on events. An AGB membership makes an amazing gift to anyone in your life who is interested in art and culture. Most importantly, your membership supports the AGB's ongoing activities and, by extension, the artists who exhibit there. Membership ranges from a modest \$25 to \$1,000; tax receipts are available for all memberships and/or donations. You can join online at <https://www.artgallerybancroft.ca/index.php/join-and-support/become-a-member>, or in person at the AGB's front desk.

We hope to see you at our opening receptions, 7:30 pm on the first Friday of every month!

Molly Moldovan is a visual artist living and working in North Kawartha since 1989. She is Chair of the AGB's Board of directors and heads the AGB's curatorial committee.

[www.mollymoldovan.com](http://www.mollymoldovan.com)

@mollymoldovanstudio



*Life Within, ink drawing by John Coleman*

# STEP INSIDE BANCROFT'S HUB OF ARTS AND PERFORMANCE: WHAT'S ON IN 2025 AT THE VILLAGE PLAYHOUSE!

*By Katherine Cappellacci*

The Bancroft Village Playhouse is entering their fourth year of operating the historic building, Tweed & Company Theatre has been working tirelessly to revamp the arts and performance scene in town. So far, every year exceeds the last - so it's safe to say that their 2025 season is going to be the most exciting one yet.

The 192-seat theatre has a year-round lineup of events, from crowd-pleasing concerts like **J.P. Cormier** or **The Plowboys**, to hit musicals like Broadway's smash hit **Jersey Boys**. Other notable upcoming music concerts include Celebrating **Springsteen**: Unplugged, Ginger St. James, Symply Skynyrd, and The AC/DC Show Canada. Jeff Leeson is stopping by on his Jokes on You Comedy Tour, and the award-winning illusionist, Nicholas Wallace, will perform his mystifying show, A Work of Fiction.

April also brings the return of their annual Village Playhouse fundraising event: Friday April 11th. This

year, the Undercover Gala sports a James Bond-esque theme and promises to be an evening of intrigue and fun! There will be a passed cocktail dinner provided by local restaurants, speeches, a silent auction with big ticket prizes, and then a performance by The Undercovers! This musical supergroup consists of three of Canada's most respected vocalists including Luke McMaster, who together will highlight the music of Kenny Rogers, Smokey Robinson, and Lionel Richie.

The gala aims to raise \$20,000 to go towards building improvements and to kick off the campaign for their future elevator addition. With it, every level will be more accessible, opening the doors to new patrons, performers, and partners. **Past gala funds have gone towards dressing room and washroom improvements, new theatre curtains, LED lighting fixtures, and more.** As a registered charity, Tweed & Company Theatre relies on private donations, business sponsorships, and events like this to keep their doors open.

*...continued on page 21*



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...from page 20 Step Inside

**Their Young Company offers year-round after school classes and camps for youth, teens, and even adults. Registration is now open for summer camps that will take place in July and August.** Teen camp participants will be putting on a full public performance of *Into The Woods Jr.* at the end of their session.

Tweed & Company Theatre recently made the 2025 Festivals and Events Ontario Top 100 List for the fourth time. They gathered up eight Broadway World Ottawa awards for their 2024 season, including winning Favourite Local Theatre. They also won the 2024 Ontario Choice Award for Top Performing Arts Venue by Attractions Ontario, and were awarded gold in the theatre category of the Community Votes Belleville awards.

What's the most exciting part of the theatre's 2025 season? Their mainstage productions, of course! This year's theme is Just Imagine...and each upcoming show takes this phrase to a new, extraordinary level. "These shows will spark something magical in audience members," Porter explains. "They'll be reminded that the world is filled with endless possibilities. If you really let yourself think about it, JUST IMAGINE what could happen!"

First up in July, they'll be bringing Bad Hats Theatre's **Alice In Wonderland** to the stage. This six-time Dora Award winning production is a massive family musical that's broken box office records in Toronto time and again. The show is going on tour and stopping by the Village Playhouse from July 9th to 20th.

It's a new spin on the classic tale that follows Alice and a bunch of familiar and new characters as they take a trip to Wonderland. Featuring an original score, creative staging, and a cast of top talent, this show will delight audience members of all ages.

Then they're putting on the Tony and Grammy Award-winning blockbuster, **Jersey Boys**. Playing from August 13th to 24th, this mega musical tells the story of **Frankie Valli** and the Four Seasons. The show is filled with audience favourites like "Who Loves You," "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," and so many other hits. Follow the journey of this group of troublesome, blue-collar boys from New Jersey as they become one of the most successful bands in music history!

From October 22nd to 26th, Richard O'Brien's **The Rocky Horror Show** will inspire audiences to do the time warp. Wrapping up the year, **Hook: A New Family Musical** will burst onto the stage just in time for the holidays. From December 10th to 20th, relive the classic tale of **Peter Pan** through its anti-hero, Captain Hook!

**To catch all four of these shows at a discounted rate, consider purchasing a 4-Show Season Pass.** Plus, pass holders get access to discounted tickets throughout the year. Adult season pass tickets are \$140 +HST, senior 65+ passes are \$124 +HST, and student passes are \$90 +HST. Individual ticket prices range from \$25.50 +HST to \$39.50 +HST with discounts for students/youth, seniors, and arts workers, plus group discounts are available upon request.

There will also be free concerts this summer at their third venue, The Tweed Outdoor Stage.

The company looks forward to welcoming patrons through the theatre doors this spring, summer, and fall. "We are so proud to continue to bring accessible and professional live performances to Hastings County," Porter adds. "When a community has a thriving arts and culture scene, everybody wins." To book tickets and learn more, visit [villageplayhouse.ca](http://villageplayhouse.ca) or call the box office at 613-478-6060.



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## FRANK WOOTTON OBITUARY

Frank Morrison Wootton: A Life of Love, Laughter, and Adventure

Frank Morrison Wootton lived a life filled with laughter, caring, and a deep love for family, friends, and community. His impact on those who knew him will be celebrated for generations to come.

On Friday, January 17, 2025, Frank passed away peacefully at the age of 87, leaving behind a lifetime of cherished memories.

Frank was married to the love of his life, Janet (Jones) Wootton, and together they shared 63 wonderful years of love, partnership, and adventure. **Frank's heart was always at Baptiste Lake, his favourite place on earth.** For over 75 years, he swam, boated, and made lifelong memories there with family and friends. Whether he was taking the family for boat rides, pulling skiers and tubers across the water, sitting on the dock with Janet, or on his pontoon boat, Frank was happiest when surrounded by the people he loved. **Summers and winters alike, Baptiste was a place of laughter, bonfires, and lifelong relationships with many families and friends.**

A Celebration of Life

Frank's life will be celebrated at Baptiste Lake in July, and all family and friends are welcome to join. More details will be shared by the family in the coming months.

See page 15 for family connections.



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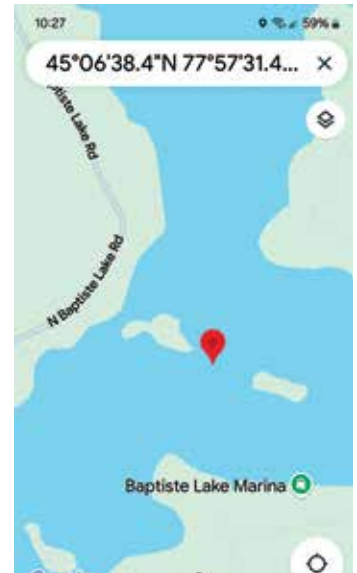
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## STOLEN LUXURY CAR AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE

By Anne Coleman

Rumor has it that there is a vehicle deposited at the point indicated in the image attached to this little blurb. Did locals perpetrate the deed? Drive from Paradise Landing, through LaVallee Bay, then punch a hole in the ice, push the car in, and walk across to the Marina? Is there a body in the trunk? Why choose such an obvious place like a frozen lake to hide evidence? Wasn't there enough snow to just bury it in a massive pile of snow. Is it an Audi? Where did it come from? Did they wear gloves leaving no fingerprints? Did they film the escapade and post it on You Tube?






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# CANADIAN LAKES LOON SURVEY

*Contributed By Susan Latremaille*

*Edited By Anne Coleman*

Do you have a group of young students who need community hours to graduate from High School? Taking part in the Loon Survey might be an interesting, meaningful way of completing these hours. Read on.

**Canadian Lakes Loon Survey:** The Loon Survey helps us assess the long-term health of Common Loons and the Canadian lakes they depend on. Surveyors spend time observing loons at their favourite lake throughout the summer.

**Purpose:** The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey was launched in Ontario in 1981 by Birds Canada (then Long Point Bird Observatory) with support from



*Momma loon and her two babies.*

various partners. It went national in the early 1990s. In 40 years, more than 4000 participants have monitored breeding Common Loons on 4500 lakes. This impressive effort allows us to achieve many important outcomes.

**Location:** Surveys can be conducted on any lake within the breeding range of the Common Loon. Normally lakes need to be a minimum of 60 acres (24 ha) but you may see loons on clear, smaller lakes, in the prairie regions. To assist your decision, visit [tinyurl.com/cllsmap](http://tinyurl.com/cllsmap) (type or paste into your browser) to see where existing survey lakes are (alternative hyperlink is [https://drive.google.com/open?id=19vHvb6SACHLVFMIUot790oa0BQQS-fzz\\_&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/open?id=19vHvb6SACHLVFMIUot790oa0BQQS-fzz_&usp=sharing)). Keep in mind that we welcome additional surveyors on any lake.

For more information on any of these programs, contact: Kathy Jones, Volunteer Manager, Birds Canada 1-888-448-2473 ext. 124, [volunteer@birdscanada.org](mailto:volunteer@birdscanada.org) [www.birdscanada.org/you-can-help](http://www.birdscanada.org/you-can-help)

## HOSPICE

*By Joan Grant*

I am a member of the board of directors for Hospice North Hastings which is a non profit organization dedicated to providing comfort and care for individuals in their final stages of life. We are organizing an online monthly 50/50 draw starting on May 1, 2025 with the proceeds going to Hospice North Hastings to help fund vital hospice services.

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