



BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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BOX 877, BANCROFT, ONTARIO K0L 1C0



MAMA LOON

*This amazing photo was taken by Wally McColl on a June Kayak trip into Redmond Bay.
We hope that she survived this summer's endless seadoo circuses in that bay.*

BLA Officials - Fall 2021

Marlin Horst, BLA President
president@baptistelake.org

Mike Di Cintio, Vice President
MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com

Anne Coleman, Director,
Lake Plan Implementation
& Secretary
MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com

Paul Coleman, Director, Editor
newsletter@baptistelake.org

Eric Hooley, Director, Webmaster
webmaster@baptistelake.org

Shelley Pickard
Director, Advertising,
Membership Chair,
Website Co-coordinator
membership@baptistelake.org

Diane Jared, Director, Treasurer
treasurer@baptistelake.org

Hilary Phillips, Director,
Lake Plan Implementation
MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com

Sabe Belcastro, Director
MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com

Cindy Belcastro, Director
MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com

Jill Button, Director
MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com

Liliane (Lily) Mabson, Director
MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com

All of our normal public meetings or gatherings are post-poned until further notice. Your directors have their first official meeting in the Spring of 2022.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marlin Horst

As I write this it is clear that Fall has arrived. The leaves are turning and the nights are getting cold. It seems like only last week we were opening up! This past summer the weather was sometimes hot and sometimes very wet. I prefer the heat!

This was again a very odd year. We were not able to hold any social events and had only a very scaled back Annual General Meeting. At the AGM three directors stepped down, Wally McColl, Diann Kuder and Jacques Drouin. We should all send out a huge thank you to them for their service to the BLA.

Also at the AGM we welcomed two new directors. They are Jill Button and Diane Jared. Welcome to the board and thank you for volunteering. I am sure they will all be a positive benefit for the board.

This was a second very unusual year. Covid 19 continues to be an issue. Due to restrictions on gatherings and in order to protect the health of our members all social events were cancelled for 2021 again. Last year I expressed hope that the summer of 2021 would see a return to the social gatherings. That did not happen. Hopefully by the summer of 2022 (fingers crossed) we can again have social gatherings and we can get caught up for three years rather than the usual one. I certainly miss seeing everyone at the social events.

One event, which we did hold, was a pike derby. We were able to host this as people are naturally socially distanced when in their own boat. It was very well received and my hope is that this becomes an annual event. I am not personally a fisherman but anything that brings the lake together is good in my book. A big thank-you to Mike Di Cintio for spearheading this. He worked very hard to make it a success. This event made it into the local paper. It is always nice to get some recognition in the wider community.

Even though there have been no social events the BLA is not idle. The board continued to meet electronically. We are still working towards stocking the lake. This is a much longer process than I thought. We continue to advocate for the lake with our local municipality.

The BLA continues to be part of the Hastings Highlands Interlake Group. Elsewhere in the Newsletter there is an article regarding the Interlake Group. We



Maple contrast. Photo by Wally McColl

are also a member of FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association). I have an article elsewhere in the newsletter regarding an update of FOCA.

We continue to see boaters who are not being respectful of others.

I personally love boating but we should be cognizant of our neighbours on the lake. I would encourage all of you to understand and abide by the rules of boating. If we all follow the rules we can all enjoy our lake together. (See insert on Wakes)

Please visit our website regularly to see what is happening around the lake. In addition if you have not provided us with your e-mail address please do so as this is one of the most effective ways to communicate in the modern world. Please be assured that we use e-mail addresses only for the purposes of the BLA and we do not inundate you with messages. Please send your e-mail to membership@baptistlake.org along with your cottage address. 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.

NEW DIRECTORS

By Anne Coleman

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new directors to the association. They are Jill Button and Diane Jared. We wish also to thank outgoing directors, Diann Kud-er, Jaques Drouin and Wally McColl, whose contributions we sincerely appreciate; more about Wally further into the newsletter.

The rest of the directors continue in their volunteer roles as follows:

Marlin Horst is our fearless president working from Toronto but always available to address BLA needs. Shelley Pickard has the portfolio of the membership and overseeing information that is entered into the Webpages and our Facebook page. Shelley is the person who needs updated contact information from new members as well as those members who have been supportive for many years and may have changed contact information. Eric Hooey does an amazing job on our webpage and is extremely dedicated overall to the cause of Baptiste Lake. Anne, secretary and Paul Coleman create the Newsletter twice a year, a daunting task sometimes as the scope of topics related to the lake, are often very critical. Hilary Philips is our Lake Plan representative and contributor to the newsletter. Cindy and Sabe Belcastro are a strong marketing team for the BLA and have offered great ideas to keep the mission statement alive. Liliane Mabson is a passionate science oriented advocate for lake health. She has observed some negative changes in the water quality this summer, but more on that later.

This is your team who are contributing countless hours to upholding our mission:

The Baptiste Lake Association is a voluntary group



*Top row left to right, Lily, Hilary, Eric, Anne, and Mike.
Bottom row Marlin, Cindy, Jill and Shelley.*

of members committed to representing the interests of the residents of the Baptiste Lake area. The Association works closely with residents as well as all levels of government to conserve and enhance the environment of the lake and its surrounding area. The initial association was founded in 1949.

Remember, all of you are members of the lake by virtue of living here whether you are a paying member or not. Please do your part to protect our lake.

There is more detail on our web page, www.baptistelake.org

We are fortunate to have Jill Button and Diane Jared come forward to help as directors. Diane has accepted the treasurer's position. We include a short bio of each of these ladies.

Jill Button

Jill and her family have been enjoying cottage life on Baptiste Lake since 2018. She and her husband Peter Gill have two adult children: Shannon and Sam.

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WAKES

Be #Wake Aware: Under the topic of Shoreline Preservation and Lake Health link to:

<https://www.bewakeaware.com/> <https://youtu.be/X3bYBPbPOqk>

There has been concern about the effects of large wakes created in the pleasure sport of wake boarding, wave surfing or simply cruising in boats, which produce large wakes, which in turn churn up the shoreline. If your property is being impacted by such events, you may find information helpful to finding solutions in the FOCA links above.

Be aware also that running a bubbler all winter along your shoreline will also have an erosion effect.

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Her human and fur family members; Rory and Luna, their Australian shepherds, along with Jack the cat, love to spend time with family and friends at their cottage located on Musky Bay. Jill and her family live in Ajax and when not relaxing at the cottage, Jill is the Co-Founder and CEO of ThryvX, providing small and medium size businesses, back-offices service including procurement, project management, marketing, social media management, HR, recruiting and training. Jill has many years of experience serving on not-for-profit boards, including as former President, Girls Inc. Durham and previously in fund development at The Denise House. Jill is looking forward to bringing her business and volunteer experience to her new role on the Baptiste Lake Association Board of Directors.



Jill Button, concerned about wildlife specifically waterfowl.

Diane Jared

Diane Jared has taken over the role of Treasurer from Eric Hooey. Diane is a life long cottager on Baptiste Lake and currently owns a cottage with her brother on Irwin Lane. Diane qualified as a Certified Management Accountant (now Chartered Professional Accountant) in Ontario in 1991. She spent all but the first two years of her career working in the UK, where she still lives. Now retired, she is delighted to be able to spend the whole summer on the lake every year.



Diane Jared, an avid sportsperson loves to sail, ski and bike.

BLA DONATIONS

Again this year, the BLA has donated funds to Kelly Wallace in her continued efforts to conserve the turtles. We also made a donation to the North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery to allow their team of volunteers to support their important work. These funds come from membership fees. Thank you everyone who has joined the Association.



Fishing in the cove. Photo by Anne Coleman

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RANGER'S LODGE

By Ed Fry

Greetings from New Jersey. I realize That N.J. is a strange place to be receiving information about the old Ranger's Lodge on Baptiste Lake. Here's the deal. I stayed at Ranger's Lodge every year from 1970 to 1978 when they closed the Lodge (sob). I became aware of the lodge through friends of my uncle. He wanted to go to Canada fishing as we had often done for years with our families. We frequented Charleston Lake down by Gananoque. My uncle said that he'd ask around to see where there was a good place to go. A woman (Mary Arnold) from the cross-river town of Easton, PA had owned Ranger's when it was a fishing camp. This was before the German couples bought it. My uncle's friends recommended Rangers as it was on a good fishing lake and you could take your meals there (no cooking). We decided to give it a try. At \$62/week per cabin and meals included... why not!!!



Photos by Ed Fry

Many of you probably have never seen Ranger's Lodge since it closed in 1978. Hopefully, I can con-

vey to you the wonderful place that it was. Ranger's was acquired by several German couples from Toronto. I'm guessing in the early 60s or late 50s. Ron (Reinhold Wolfgang) Schnurpel and wife, Maria, along with Karl Maier, eventually bought the others out by the time I started going there. At that time there was a mixture of older fishing people and Germans from Toronto as guests. That's my uncle checking out the fireplace.

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At night, kids would do marshmallows and hot dogs on the fire. Earl Huff, from Baptiste, worked at the lodge in 1970. Came by boat for work and left the same way. Hand rolled his cigarettes with one hand. Good trick. The Shnurpels and Karl Maier had apartments up there. There were perhaps 6 rooms on the other side that were also rented out. I stayed in one of the rooms in 1971 for 6 weeks. My cozy little room. I liked it. It was close to everything especially the dining room.



Always something to celebrate. Photo by Ed Fry

One of the best parts of Ranger's was the food. Three square meals a day. Full breakfast at 8:30, full course lunch (soup, salad, entre, sides, dessert, coffee) at 12:30. Dinner was at 6 and again a full course meal was served. My uncle and I were astounded at the portions and quality. German style meals like schnitzel, red cabbage, roast pork, and many others. They had a two-week menu of Ranger's recipes to avoid overlap. One of the waitresses would ring the dinner bell at each meal. It could be heard around the corner to the last cottage. Music to my ears!!!. I don't know how I ate all that food but at age 25, I could eat my weight every day.



Bill Price.

Bill Price of L'Amable was the cook for 1970 and 1971. He was only 19 at the time. I was pretty impressed that he could turn out meals for 50 plus guests. I like to cook myself, so we became good friends. I always say, "it's smart to be friends with the cook." The cook's job was to prepare Maria's Ranger's recipes. One of the girls was assigned to be the cook's helper. That meant peeling potatoes every day with a paring knife. I watched Bill work in the kitchen. He was so fast dicing stuff and preparing. Turns out that he had done a year at George Brown in Toronto for culinary arts. The next year, he attended Algonquin in Ottawa for a different style of cooking. He was very good. Following Bill, there were MaryAnn, Mary, Mae Rowe (from Faraday), Irma and possibly one other. Two of the girls were officially the dishwashers. The original ice shed was next to the kitchen. Later it housed freezers and refrigerators.

The Lodge employed 6 girls and one boy each summer. Two of the girls were waitresses. One was the cabin girl. One was the cook's helper. The other two were dishwashers. The boy did odd jobs. Half

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the girls were local and the other half from Toronto, Kettleby, New Market, Mississauga, etc. The boys were always locals. I was told that the girls' cabin, Trail's End, was the first structure built on the property by the Philadelphia boys organization called the Rangers; hence perhaps the name of the Lodge. It had a living room, small kitchen, bathroom (added later I'm sure) and two bedrooms...each with four double bunk beds. There was plenty of room for six girls and belongings. Some of the girls worked there for one year, others for two. I do remember Sue Martin, who worked there for three years. Since I stayed at Ranger's for at least two weeks in July and then came back to finish off the summer, I knew most of the employees quite well. I always hauled them into town once a week in my VW bus so they



Sailboat safely docked.

could get a change of scenery and pick up things they needed. I also had a small B&W TV that could get one channel (Global) and invited them to watch TV. Hawaii Five O was the favourite and the nightly news. They also helped me with my sailboat, which required two people to keep it from upsetting.

On a windy day, sometimes two girls were needed. Baptiste is a tough lake to sail on. Very gusty, especially going around points, and storms could appear quickly. The girls eagerly awaited the Ponaka boys to visit and a couple of guys around the corner. Maybe Dave Collins is still there. The Ponaka boys had a dance every year and would visit the neighbouring lodges and cottages looking for dates to the dance. Since open bottles of booze could not be transported home, the guests left them in their cabins. Magically they appeared in the Girls' cabin. But I don't think they drank much, if at all.

Rangers closed for good at the end of the summer in 1978. They were not able to sell it as a business, so they subdivided the property to sell. The Lodge, Girls' cabin (Trails End), and first two cabins were sold to a guy in England. The Schnurpel's kept the property with Hi Ho and Rocky cabins, which they used until they built a new vacation home. Karl Maier kept two parcels for himself but later sold them. The rest were sold to former guests and others to build new cottages. I was fortunate to have been a guest for 9 years. It was a wonderful place. Wish you could have seen it.

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MUNICIPALITY

By Anne Coleman

It is an understatement to say that there is a great deal going on in Hastings Highlands. Due to a large influx of new residents heading north from the GTA, heavy demands on the time of our municipality staff and Council are the order of the day. Building permits are through the roof, so to speak. The new pressures on our lake created by the developments on properties here-before, relatively quiet, are disturbing. There is some exaggerated California dreaming demonstrated by architecture choices out there. Our building department is swamped with the demands of people who want things done yesterday. Three quarters into the year, the value of the building permits issued is over \$16,000,000.00, the number of inspections completed is 374 and the actual number of permits is 260. The building activity along the shorelines and on the back lots has created a striking change in how water, once absorbed by tree roots, is now flowing freely into the lake taking with it any fertilizers, poorly maintained septic

effluent and other sources of phosphates that people do not realize is enabling water vegetation to grow rapidly.

While it is wonderful that the area is experiencing such growth, we have to match this growth with strong environmental protection measures.

This leads again to the importance of a shoreline and tree preservation by-law. It was demonstrated in Muskoka that a few individuals felt they had the liberty to desecrate their island property to create some kind of massive clearing. They have been subsequently fined \$370,000 with the order to restore the foliage and replace the soil removed. This could cost over \$1,000,000 but the damage has been done. (See image and short excerpt in this page.) This behavior is only a heart-beat away in our municipality and the impact of this kind of thinking on the health of our lake is devastating. Last year's attempt at introducing a new Shoreline and Tree preservation by-law was defeated but the need is still there and presently, there is a study being conducted by the Municipi-

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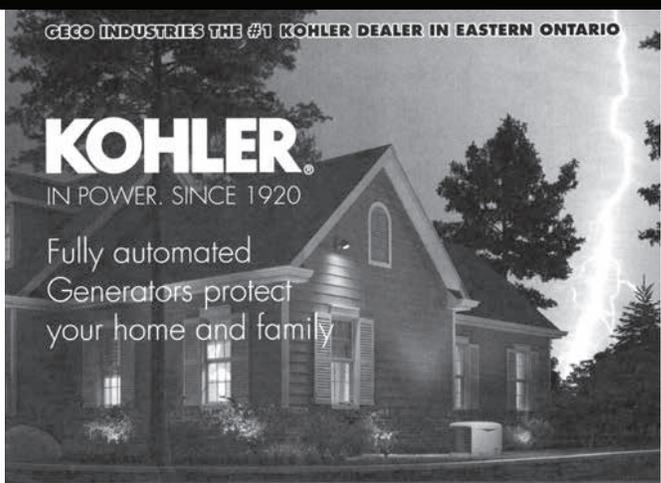


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Following the issuance of Stop Work Orders, multiple property owners and their contractors have been charged under the Tree Preservation By-law and Site Alteration By-law. The charges involve three separate properties, two on Sugarloaf Island on Lake Joseph and the other on Brandy Lake. Orders to Remedy that require the submission of a satisfactory re-

You can read more at muskoka411.com

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pality on shoreline health. To quote from David Stewart’s report to Council, “Council continues to investigate ways to improve shoreline health in Hastings Highlands through education, policy development and manageable enforcement. Presently there is a working group consisting of Council Members, Hastings County staff and Hastings Highlands staff who are working on this investigation.” This initiative is being supported by educational presentations by Watersheds Canada, FOCA and MNRF, which will provide the group with scientific data to support decisions to protect the health of our lakes. It likely will be only a short time away that a new by-law will be introduced based on education and experience gleaned from our neighboring municipalities. The shoreline bylaw in Haliburton is one of the best in the province and it is working. Those individuals who see no need for such measures in a shoreline

by-law may be responsible for a dead lake should nothing be done to intervene in careless and self-ish activities.

Our Fire Ad Hoc report is available on-line in the Hastings Highlands web site. To quote again from Stewart’s report to Council, “The Municipal Fire Task Force Ad Hoc Committee has approved the Draft Master Fire Plan for Fire Services and it will be read up to 3 separate times by Council on the pathway to approval.” Unfortunately, there is no plan to change the existing status of Station 2, located on the North Baptiste Lake Road, this station having been inactive for several years. To reopen it would be financially unreasonable for the municipality and we can only trust that the services available will have a quick enough response time to avoid any major tragedy.

A big thank you goes out to Operations for the recent improvement on the North Baptiste Lake Road. It took the paving company a very short time in July to lay down a beautiful new road. No more asphalt fill ups of nasty, tire shredding holes.

There was a massive cleanup on Dog Bay Road
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after a very heavy rainfall that resulted in a culvert not able to divert the rushing waters. The road was unpassable but after several days of clean up and replacing fill, Dog Bay Road residents could get to their homes safely. Thank you to all involved.

Continuing with Operations, residents need to be reminded of the service we receive at our Waste Management stations. Yes, we have to deliver our own waste materials but that is the way it is right now. If you want private pickup, you can make your own arrangements. Those residents who rent out their properties at various times, need to educate their renters or themselves, of the times that the waste stations are open. Dumping at the gates is plain disrespectful. The municipality has agreed not to shut down any of the waste facilities. A shout out needs to be made to the employees responsible for overseeing the traffic entering the waste sites. They are to be treated with respect and courtesy. Otherwise, they may turn their trained black bears on you the next time you visit. Kidding. Garbage is a universal problem and the constraints surrounding the disposal of OUR garbage contributes to the ongoing crisis. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

Septic tank inspection is another issue for the Municipality and there are plans underway for inspections to be completed in the near future with financial aid from the province. For lake residents, this is a crucial factor in the health of our lake never mind our own personal health.

Council has provided a quick list "Council Highlights" as seen in the image on the right. The main points of the previous council meeting are contained in this message but you can always refer to the website for full Council meeting minutes.

We are part of a growing Municipality. Changes are inevitable but we need to maintain a healthy environment for us and for our future generations.



Hastings Highlands
Beautiful By Nature

**COUNCIL
MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS**

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL, Operations, September 15, 2021

This summary is not inclusive of all agenda items. For a detailed account of the full agenda, please visit our website at www.hastingshighlands.ca and select the Council Meetings, Agendas & Minutes icon



**HASTINGS HIGHLANDS
MISCELLANEOUS GRANT PROGRAM**

Council received six (6) applications as part of the 2021 Miscellaneous Grant Program a program aimed at providing support for charitable organizations and not-for-profit community groups in Hastings Highlands. Council budgeted \$7,500 for this program and chose to allocate the funds as follows:

- Care North Hastings: \$4,000.00
- NH Community Fish Hatchery: \$1,500.00
- Lake St. Peter Craft Group: \$950.00
- Porterville Dert League: \$750.00
- LSP Property Owners' Association: \$250.00



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Council awarded "RFP HH-2021-06 Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Services (East Lake WDS)" to National Grinding Inc. with a lowest bid price of \$53,375.00 (excluding HST). National Grinding Inc. will grind construction and demolition material at East Lake Waste Disposal Site (WDS). Once ground to an appropriate size, the Municipality can use this material as cover at any of the Municipality's WDS. As per Ministry ECA requirements WDS are required to be covered on a weekly basis.

ADMINISTRATION

Council reviewed the Emergency Management Program and Emergency Response Plan for first reading (Draft Bylaw 2021-020). This plan is a requirement under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. View a copy of the [Emergency Management Program and Emergency Response Plan](#).



HASTINGS HIGHLANDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Council reviewed the Master Fire Plan Bylaw 2021-062 for third reading and adopted the plan in principle and directed staff to bring back a report with a financial analysis of each fire station within the Master Fire Plan to generate a discussion amongst Council.

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

Council approved amendments to the Municipality's Exotic Animal Bylaw (2021-037) to include the Municipality's authority to implement and administer an Administrative Monetary Penalty System. Subsequently, Council reviewed for first reading, amendments to the Municipality's A.M.P.S. Bylaw (2021-018) to include set penalties for non-compliance of the Exotic Animal Bylaw. The second reading of the A.M.P.S. Bylaw is scheduled for October 20, 2021.



NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL: October 5, 2021 (Planning Meeting)

You can read more at www.hastingshighlands.ca



This is in honour of the children who died while in attendance at the residential schools. Remember Baptiste Lake was named after the Baptiste family.

THE CHANGING REALITIES OF COTTAGE COUNTRY

By Terry Rees, FOCA Executive Director

FOCA is proud to say that they were able to convince the Province to continue the Lake Plan Partnership and has signed a new 5 year agreement to cover the time from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2025. This is a very important project for FOCA and the lakes within the Province. By having thousands of volunteers take water samples annually we are able to see the health of our lakes and spot any decreases in water quality early enough that we may be able to reverse such deterioration before it becomes irrevocable.

At the FOCA office, we routinely marvel about how little has changed over the decades, since this organization was first founded in 1963. Member surveys across the years have continued to tag 'water quality' as a top concern among waterfront property owners, and FOCA's Vision and Mission statements still reflect this focus:

I notice that we continue to address challenges in 2021 that are not dissimilar to those of 20 or even 50+ years ago. What has changed is our increased understanding of most of these issues and emerging examples of how these many factors, together, can impact

the ecology of the province and the continued use and enjoyment of these areas, into the future.

Our lakes and inland waterways face multiple environmental stressors, from nutrient and road salt pollution, to invasive species, to climate change. Looking ahead, many of these factors are likely to intensify. Major water quality issues like blue-green algal blooms could translate into significant negative impacts on our use and enjoyment of our lakes, on property values, and on our local economies.

As we face dynamic environmental conditions that can undermine the excellent quality of life provided by living around healthy freshwater ecosystems, we all need to double-down on our stewardship efforts.

And, as atmospheric, biological, and hydrologic conditions evolve, so too does the 'people part' of cottage country. Many shoreline properties are changing hands, as people from the big wave of new cottage families in the 50s and 60s either pass down their properties or sell them as they age or as their family situation dictates. Rising urban real estate prices, the pandemic, and the availability of improved (if still marginal) internet and

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cell phone access, has led to many new entrants in the waterfront community across Ontario. New full-timers along with seasonal owners are now stretching out weekends to spend more time at the 'cottage'.

The advent of a growing cottage rental market means that formerly seasonal properties are now occupied almost full-time, and the occupants are new to the community, or at least transient. We face a situation of 'shifting baselines' and changed expectations of waterfront and rural living that is unparalleled in our lifetime.

Traditional models of land and water stewardship, which includes understanding underlying conditions and engaging the community, will increasingly be challenged in the face of these changing demographics. It will continue to be in our shared best interest to keep ourselves informed, and to heed the signals that our lakes and waterways send us. In that way, we can all contribute to a thriving ecosystem for the years – and generations – ahead.

For community organizers, volunteers, and associations, so many things have changed over the past 18 months; our events, our member connections, and many of the activities and relationships that make our communities so rich and vibrant were put on hold or significantly altered.

We take your comments to heart about the information you need, how you like to receive it, and how we can serve you better – and we hope our member offerings reflect this.

Thank you to everyone who has provided their ideas, their energy, their insights and of course your financial support to this organization, as members and supporters. Thank you also to our dedicated volunteers, especially our Board of Directors and committee chairs that support this organization, and to the staff who are so very diligent and skilled and thoughtful in serving our

member associations.

I wish everyone the best for your health, and for your extended lake families and friends. I encourage you to continue to support our rural communities and to make the most of our changing world, and the waterfronts that sustain us.



How old am I? Photo by Lori Alampi

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An advertisement for 'Kitchen Magicians'. It features a wizard in a red and yellow robe on the left, a photo of a man (Ron Lee) on the right, and a list of services in the center. The background is a blue and white gradient.

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An advertisement for 'The Old Hastings Mercantile & Gallery'. It features a collage of various items including a hot air balloon, a red pickup truck, a map, a mug, and a wooden carving. The text describes the store's offerings and provides contact information.

“HEALTHY SHORELINES - ‘HOW’ AND ‘WHY’

By Terry Rees

Waterfront property owners are fortunate to be able to enjoy such a legacy of healthy freshwater resources across this great province of ours. We also share responsibility as people who steward the land, and that need to look out for the long-term sustainability and health of our lakes and our shorelands.

A healthy shoreline is a natural shoreline; leaving the existing native trees and shrubs intact supports healthy fish and wildlife populations and better water quality.

Augment Mother Nature’s existing work with some native plants and allow it to fill in over time. A variety of native plants allows for so many important

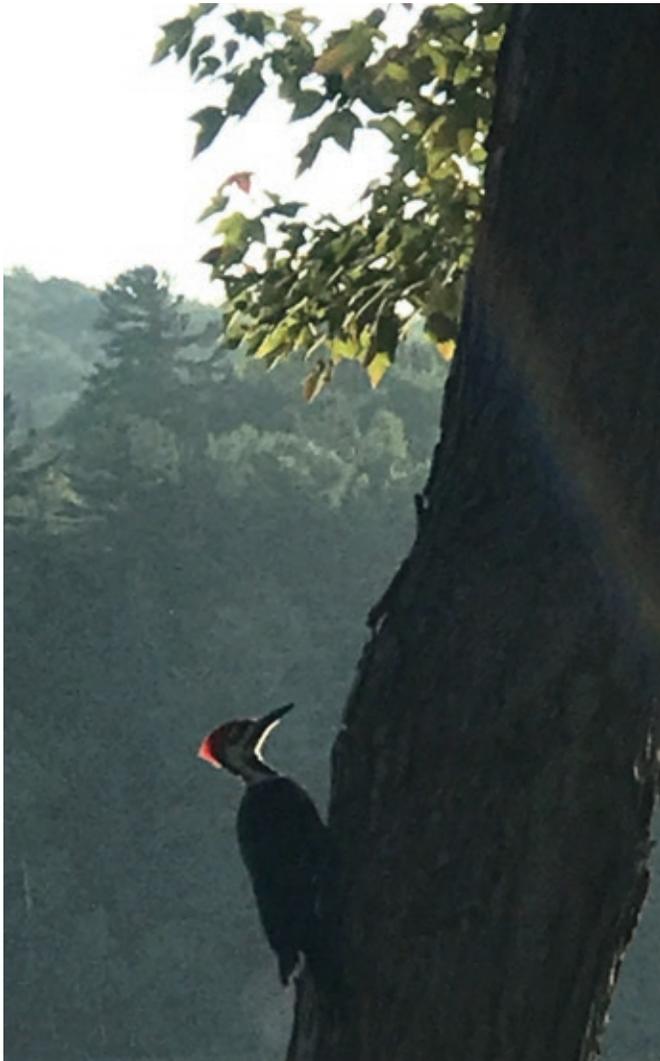


Photo by Marya Howell

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life processes to take place along your shoreline: the spawning of fish and aquatic insects that feed them, habitat and cover for frogs and turtles and so many of the critters that are signs of a thriving and healthy lake or river.

A sustainable property will have a good buffer of natural plants right along the shore’s edge but can still enjoy some clear areas well back from the water, where kids can run and play. But right at the water’s edge, aim for a selection of shrubbery, rocks, fallen logs, grasses, small trees, and natural debris. In addition to being great habitat, this protects the water quality and prevents shoreline erosion due to deep and varying root depths. If much of your property is lawn leading straight to the water, you may have problems with geese which invade manicured area and leave behind a mess everywhere. A barrier of natural habitat right at the shore’s edge discourages geese from landing here or moving up further onto the property.

Find more resources on FOCA’s webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/shoreline-owners-guide-to-healthy-waterfronts/> and share FOCA’s video about Natural Shorelines, which you’ll find posted here: <https://foca.on.ca/cottage/>.



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1ST ANNUAL PIKE TOURNAMENT

By Mike Di Cintio

The Tournament was an amazing day that's for sure. We had a great turn out, lots of families and kids came out to fish, and we got rid of a whole bunch of pike that day. All in all, it turned out to be a really fun event for everyone involved.

We also raised a lot of awareness of the fact that Pike are invasive in Baptiste and severely damaging the other species that are native to this lake or stocked with permission.

We hope to see everyone on the lake put more effort into targeting and keeping Pike, instead of focusing on the already damaged Walleye/ Lake Trout population. There are still a few greedy, stubborn and uneducated anglers going out to keep those 5+lb breeder Walleyes. You know who you are...we know who you are.. and we can only hope you change your ways before the damage you cause hits a point of no return.

From now on myself, and the BLA will be putting forth 100% effort into rehabilitating and balancing this fishery through multiple programs, research and articles to help everyone understand what is going on in our lake, and how we can all help make a difference.

Next spring we will be hosting the 2nd Annual Pike Tournament, hopefully with more sponsors and bigger prizes. The date is set to the 2nd Saturday in June, June 11, 2022, which will be a much better time of year for Pike activity. The only difference in rules is that this time around it will be total length wins, with a separate prize for the single biggest pike. I believe this rule will give more incentive for anglers to stay out longer and keep more pike.

To register, E-transfer \$50 to mybaptistelake@gmail.com along with the name of the driver of the boat and your team will be entered.

Any questions or comments you can email me directly at fishingdirector@baptistelake.org



Pike tournament participants. Tournament winner in the center Virginia Haggith.

DONATIONS FROM BAPTISTE YOGA GROUP HELP THREE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

By Chris Drost staff, Bancroft Times

The Baptiste Lake Yoga group under the direction of Susan Latremoille, is making three generous donations to local organizations this year, the North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery, the Bancroft Hospital and the Art Gallery of Bancroft. This is not the first time these very welcome donations have been made. “It is our way of giving back to the community,” says Susan Latremoille.

Latremoille charges yoga participants \$10 each week and the money accumulates over the year to be used towards donations to worthy local causes. “I am not in the business of yoga. We have 10 to 12 individuals who come for yoga on a Sunday morning. If the weather is good, we do yoga on the deck, or inside if it

is not. Some are from the lake, some are permanent residents, while others are seasonal,” explains Latremoille. While she makes the decision on where to donate the funds, she always runs it by the group first and they say, “Whatever you think.”

“The fish hatchery is so necessary as we are losing fish in Baptiste and other lakes. It is good for conservation, for food and for the economy. It is amazing that the hatchery runs entirely with volunteers and has no government funding,” says Latremoille.

The government does not provide equipment for the hospital “and I think it is high time we had a CT scan in Bancroft,” she says. This will eliminate the need for so many residents needing to travel out of town for these scans.

The Art Gallery of Bancroft usually raised funds through events but COVID-19 made this impossible in the past year. “I believe it is important to have arts and culture in our community,” adds Latremoille.

“In my mind these are all very worthwhile organizations in our community. We all need to be part of the same community. We are all in this together. Let’s just make it happen.”



Foggy morning start. Left to right Eric, Rob and Mike. Photos by Paul Coleman



Longest pike, Honourary winners Cooper and Deklan.

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BLA SUMMER EVENT - FOOD DRIVE

By Anne Coleman

The usual social activities of the BLA were curtailed this summer. Therefore, a call went out from the BLA asking for ideas for COVID-safe initiatives for Baptiste Lake residents' participation. The Brine family offered the idea of a Food Drive with Dock to Dock pickup. We chose Saturday August 21st for the date. Lily Mabson had contacted the Hastings Highlands Health Department earlier in the month to confirm protocol measures, announcements of the event went out on FaceBook and our Webpage giving details of the day and we were off and running.

Cindy and Sabe Belcastro put a shopping cart in front of their general store on the North Baptiste Lake Road to draw curiosity. They had an enthusiastic response in food and other donations. Shelley Pickard worked the South end of the lake by anchoring her pontoon boat near the marina with a large banner.

The resulting collection of food and stock items by Shelley, Baptiste Lake Marina and Belcast Cottages, amounted to a large number of parcels, which were quickly delivered to the Food Bank on Monday.

We would like to thank all the participants, donors and volunteers for their time during that beautiful sunny summer Saturday plus the other days before and after.

The effort was greatly appreciated by the Food Bank and we intend to make next year's BLA drive even better.



Volunteer accepting donations.



Cindy's food basket ready to roll.

ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE OF JUNE 10, 2021



Photo by Greg Gibbons at 5:40 am.

by Greg Gibbons, Lavalley Bay

Predawn June 10, 2021: an annular solar eclipse was beginning just beyond the horizon of Baptiste Lake. Parts of Canada would experience the full eclipse, but here on Baptiste Lake we would be treated to a near total annular eclipse. An annular eclipse occurs when the moon is at the far range of its orbit, so its disc appears slightly smaller than average. When the moon is in this position during an eclipse it can only obscure part of the sun's disc. During the eclipse on June 10, the moon's apparent diameter was smaller than that of the sun.

I woke up at 5 am on June 10. The sky was lightening into cool pinks and oranges as sunrise approached. Sunrise on this morning was to happen at 5:24, but it would take the sun several minutes longer to poke over the forested hills across the bay from my cottage. I made coffee and took my camera down to the dock to wait for the sunrise.

For us the eclipse would begin at 5:27, quickly reach its maximum coverage at 5:40, and slowly finish by 6:30.

As I waited on the dock, 5:30 came and went, the brightening dawn sky getting noticeably dimmer, until at just before 5:40, I was greeted with such an amazing eclipse. I have never seen an eclipse at dawn and it was a truly remarkable experience. I have the dark eclipse glasses because it is unsafe and impossible to look at the eclipse directly, but

found the best view was through the digital viewing screen of my camera. I was using a Nikon with an older zoom lens. I stopped the lens down to its smallest aperture (f 32) and set the shutter speed to 1/4000.

The above photo is what I saw.

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MILFOIL: WHY YOU SHOULD CARE. DOS AND DON'TS.

By Liliane Mabson

Eurasian milfoil has taken over in many more of the slower waters of our lake this year. It was present before but not nearly to the same extent.

This is what it looks like.

Note the reddish tips, bushy and limp stalks.



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IF YOU ARE A FISHERMAN

this is what it means to you.

Less fish. How much less? We do not know yet.

For sure though, fish cannot swim through it. It takes over their shoreline habitat. When it dies it gobbles up the oxygen that is requirement for a healthy fish population.



More mosquitos.   Milfoil fields provide an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

What can you do?

STAY CLEAR OF IT. Your propeller, paddle or fishing gear breaks up the milfoil and each tiny piece can start a new plant. Eurasian milfoil is very invasive, difficult and costly to manage.



IF YOU ARE A SWIMMER.



Reduced swimming area.

Milfoil will quickly create a massive slurry of weed that is unpleasant if not impossible to swim through.

What can you do?

Consider devoting part of your time in the water to monitor your area and keep it free of new Eurasian Milfoil shoots.

As much as possible, pick it from the root and do not leave it in the lake. You will be making the problem worse than if you had done nothing each tiny piece can start a new plant. Eurasian milfoil is very invasive and extremely difficult to manage.

(We have had fairly good success managing our properties' shorelines this way.)



IF YOU ARE A COTTAGER



this is what it means to you:

A clogged up swimming area, not to mention depress the value of your property.

Note that Milfoil grows in shallow to 3 meters or 9.84 feet of water.

Less wildlife. Much of the wildlife you enjoy depends on fish and native aquatic plants to thrive.

What can you do?

Do harvest it by picking it out from the root. The

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 website www.belcastcottages.ca.
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...from page 18

milfoil will break up very easily, mostly at the tip. Make sure you get every piece out of the lake and place at least 30 meters from the shoreline, otherwise it can find its way back into the lake and reproduce.

Do not pick it and leave it in the lake. You will be making the problem worse than if you had done nothing as each tiny piece can start a new plant. Eurasian milfoil is very invasive and extremely difficult to manage.

Do spread the word to your neighbours. Many people do not know the threat that milfoil presents and how to address it.



Milfoil photo

From the larger perspective,

- Do keep your septic tank in good working order.
- Do keep your shoreline planted and as natural as possible.

All plant life thrives on the nutrients that leech into the lake from bare shorelines. Other factors such as light and water and ph levels do affect growth patterns of milfoil as well, but nutrient over feeding of a lake is a key one that we can control.

- Do let your guests know how to deal with it if they encounter it while enjoying the lake.
- Put up a bat house to take care of all the extra mosquitos around.



IF YOU ARE A BOATER
 this is what it means to you:



Milfoil establishes in great masses and limits your access to shorelines and fishing areas. It tangles in your propeller.

What can you do?

STAY CLEAR OF IT. Your propeller, paddle or fishing gear breaks up the milfoil and each tiny piece can start a new plant. Eurasian milfoil is very invasive, difficult and costly to manage.

Please wash your boat where you took it out of the water. Invasive species travel from lake to lake on boat hulls.



IF YOU ENJOY THE LAKE
 in any way:



Please do not take our lake for granted Our lake's health depends on it. Be a good steward You are a meaningful piece of the puzzle. Learn about it and care for it It will add to your enjoyment and ensure others after you will be able to enjoy the lake as well.

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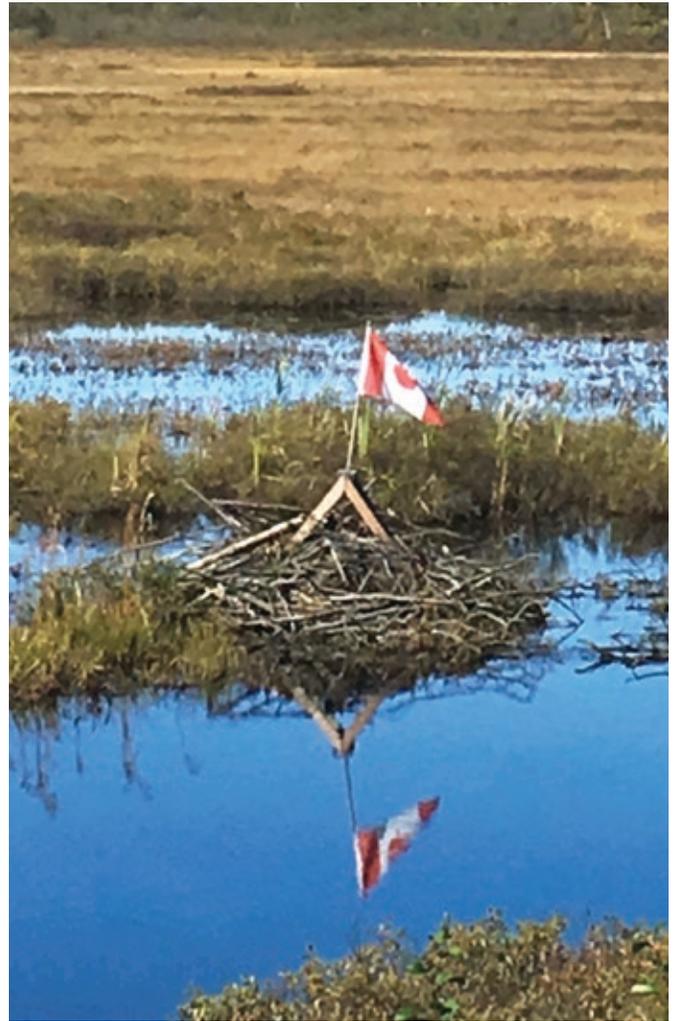
Practice gratitude and keep your sense of wonder alive.

Please consult Ontario's Invading species program or another site for more comprehensive information on Eurasian Milfoil.

- Take care, Lily Mabson



This is why we need water testing.



Find the all canadian beaver on Highway 127.

Photo by Anne Coleman

CITIZEN SCIENCE THROUGH THE LAKE PARTNER PROGRAM

By Liliane Mabson

The second component of the testing on the lake happens throughout the season. Twice a month, from May to November, a Secchi disk reading is taken in the deepest part of the lake to measure water clarity. This

metric measures the amount of materials that are suspended in the water such as algae, sediment and rock. Water clarity among other metrics, determines lake health otherwise known as the trophic status of the lake.

The Secchi disk is lowered in the lake until it cannot be seen. This reading is noted. The disk is then lowered into the water again and then slowly raised. A reading is taken of the distance at which it reappears. An average of both readings is determined. Water conditions and time of day are noted as well.

Approximately 600 volunteers across lakes in Ontario each year provide baseline testing from which variations can be monitored and trends understood. The results of the testing can be seen on the Lake Partner Program website and through the FOCA website as well.





“Tested by time”. Watercolour painting by Anne Coleman



Photo by Anne Coleman



Photo by Bob Weese



Photo by Anne Coleman



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SPECIAL THANKS

By Anne Coleman

A huge thank-you goes out to Wally McColl. Officially a director of the BLA for over 17 years during which time he served as President for several years and liaison to the municipality, Wally has had his heart in the life of the lake since childhood. He lives with his wife Pat in the cottage that his grandfather built decades ago. You can see him



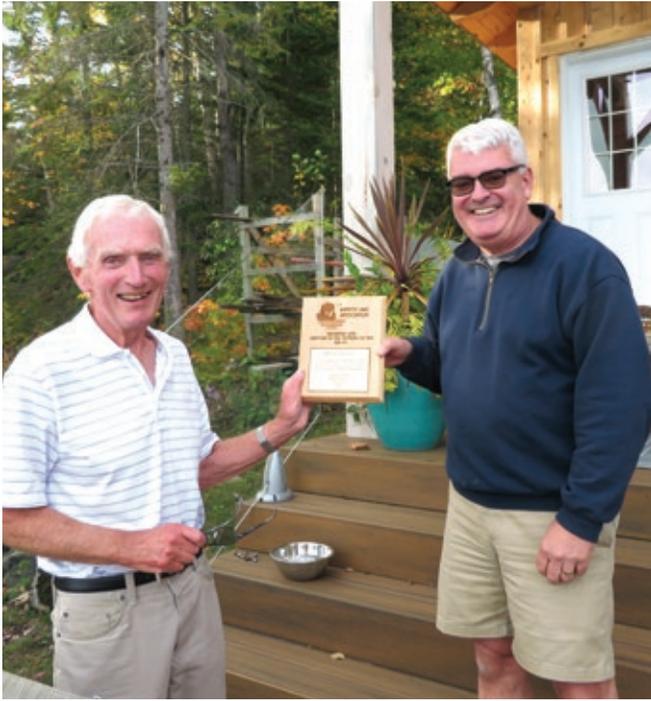
The lake's kayaking icon, Wally McColl.

most days kayaking if you get up early enough (and if there is no ice on the lake) taking photos of wildlife and the misty moods of the lake. As a young teenager growing up in Bancroft, he had many odd jobs around town including delivering newspapers and later with the owner's half-ton truck delivering groceries after school and Saturdays for a small enterprising business understanding the needs of many families in the outlying area. His socializing skills were being honed. He loved being out of doors all year round especially around Lake Baptiste at the family cottage. Ask him some time about a New Year's celebration with David Milne on the ice. Wally remembers visiting David B. Milne's, the artist's, cabin where he saw stacks of special "paper", paintings to be sure.

Besides kayaking, Wally has enjoyed the various activities that the lake offers, from water skiing in the 50's behind a 30 HP, then a new powerful 50 HP, cross country skiing from one end of the lake to the other, snowmobiling extensive distances along our trails, fishing and socializing with family and friends on his pontoon boat. His wife has always shared in as many of these adventures as she could, even though she is not an ardent swimmer. Wally has been known to launch his kayak as soon as the ice is out and as late as snow squalls surprise him on an outing.

Water quality testing, "at capacity", citizen science, shoreline preservation, stewardship, these are topics that are top priority for Wally whose vision is to educate people who use the lake in various manners so that, through knowledge, these people will continue to enjoy a lake that is healthy. His science education led him to an interesting, inspiring career in applied environmental research both

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*Wally McColl receiving his award from Marlin Horst for 17 years of service to the BLA.
Photo by Anne Coleman*

...from page 22

in government and industry and now as a retired, permanent resident on the lake, he concentrates his experience in the area of Citizen Science. He knows that with continued collection of data pertaining to water quality, we can prove that the stresses of development around the lake, poorly executed, will negatively affect all of us. His message to government is to create by-laws that are enforceable and clear in their authority to protect our environment.

Wally is not alone in witnessing those properties that have ignored common sense in their landscaping choices to naturally protect their shorelines. There are however, many properties that are wonderful examples of replanting and restoration, such as the Group of Seven Cottages and Peter Oliver's Point resulting in beautiful grounds with a view of the lake.

The BLA has remained strongly active thanks to leaders like Wally who gladly volunteer their time to keep the mission of safeguarding the lake alive.

A round of applause goes out to him for using time toward this purpose. And folks, he wants to keep on keeping on.



A familiar scene for an early morning Wally adventure. Photo by John van der Zalm

An advertisement for Vance Motors. At the top is a red Ram pickup truck parked in a field. Below the truck is the Vance Motors logo in red script, followed by the Chrysler winged logo. Underneath are the Dodge, Jeep, and Ram logos. The website address www.VANCEMOTORS.com and the phone number 1-800-55-VANCE are listed. A QR code is on the right. At the bottom, a red Jeep is shown in a desert-like setting. Text at the bottom reads "SALES, LEASING, PARTS, SERVICE, AND DETAILING. Proudly serving Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, and Ram Fans for over 78 years!"

HASTINGS HIGHLANDS INTERLAKE GROUP

By Marlin Horst

Several years ago I met with representatives of Papineau Lake and Kamaniskeg Lake at a restaurant in Bancroft to discuss how we could interact with the Municipality on a more co-ordinated basis. That meeting was the genesis of the Hastings Highlands Interlake Group. There are presently six lakes from Hastings Highlands that are part of the Interlake Group. The group gets together once a year (and has various discussions throughout the year) to discuss common issues and in particular to coordinate the interaction with the Municipal government. As I am sure none of you will be surprised to hear is that this year our annual meeting was over zoom. It is good to get together but a zoom meeting cannot replicate an actual in person meeting.

Over the years the group has become a much more cohesive group and the relationship between the lakes and the Municipality has become much more collaborative. That is not to say that the Group is happy with everything that happens at the Municipal level but at least we are now at the same table.

One of the major things the Interlake Group has done recently is to examine the fire department pro-

posals for modernization and consolidation and provide input into the process. The Municipality accepted our report, even if they did not take all of our recommendations.

One of the main things the Interlake Group has been able to do is form a Land Use Planning Committee of the Interlake Group. I am a member of this committee as is Bill Cheshire of Baptiste (Thank you Bill for your incredible input on this committee). The Municipality has recognized this sub-committee and all applications to the Committee of Adjustment and all changes to the Municipal by-laws which have an impact on water front properties are sent to this subcommittee. The Land Use Planning Committee looks at all applications. Many applications we do not make any comments on and in respect of others offer suggestions for improvement. Some applications are clearly doomed to fail and we do point those out as well.

The hope is that if the various lake associations work together with the Municipality we can accomplish much more than if we all work independently. This group and the BLA will continue to work with the Municipality to protect our lakes for future generations



Papineau Creek. Photo by Ellie Paulini

DOUG MCKENZIE

By Anne Coleman

A local woodworker, who has been creating beautiful charcuterie boards, paddles, screen doors and tool handles for decades, continues to provide solutions to broken garden tools, a new entrance door or wedding gifts. His workshop is an intriguing warren of stored wood, drawings and finished products. It is a must see. His business is located south of Bancroft, along Highway 28 just before Paudash School Road. Be prepared to be dazzled and inspired.



A seasoned artist, always coming up with new ideas.

TORONTO/ BAPTISTE LAKE ARTIST KYLE GIBBONS

By Hilary Phillips

Kyle Gibbons has been a quasi resident of the lake since infancy. His present choice of career, cabinetry and furniture design, is influenced greatly by the time spent growing up in the natural surroundings of our lake. Below is the introduction to his master thesis as presented to Sheridan College/University.

“Erratic Design, an exploration of Genius Loci in furniture. Genius Loci, which directly translates to, the spirit of location or the spirit of place. In Latin it literally refers to deities that protect certain locations and embody the characteristics of a specific area. In modern art/architecture terms, genius loci refers to the unique aspects of a space that are experienced by people in the vicinity. It is the concept that every space is intrinsically important, offering something more than what the eye can see. Texture, form, and mass (both physical and aesthetic) all have a role in the spirit of place.

The current Erratic Series reflects my fascination with the Neolithic ruins and the enigmatic ambience they share with glacial erratics in Ontario. For context, glacial erratics are boulders of bedrock that have been plucked from their original location and carried – often great distances – by the slow movement of glaciers. When the glacier melts away these boulders are left behind in seemingly incomprehensible locations, lying in stark contrast to the local geology. Their out-of-place nature creates a similar

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Coffee table and side tables by Kyle.

...from page 25

circumstantial atmosphere to Neolithic structures: one of stoic permanence and elusive mystery. They captivate the imagination and draw speculation about their origins resulting in a plethora of lore and fairy tales.

My work has always walked the line between artistic expression and functional form. Each piece I make is a technical experiment that celebrates a new technique I have become enamoured with. It can often be an anxious, messy process full of stress and passion, however, the result is always unique.

Nowhere is that process more evident than in my capstone. The Erratic Modular Series interprets the stoic mass of a fractured boulder as three faceted tables that can be moved around a living room as needed. The varied mitre joints, mixed grain patterns, and negative spaces intrigues and invites closer examination. For me, these tables represent the culmination of my woodworking expertise, and play with themes I hope to carry into future designs.”

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DEC 1-24, 2021, 39th Invitational Juried Exhibition. Opening Reception, if acceptable to COVID regulations: Friday, December 3 at 7:30 pm

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2022 SCHEDULE

Closed February & March

MARCH 30-APRIL 30 Jessica Lin – Photography/Installation. There’s no Place Like Home. Opening reception April 1 at 7:30 pm.

MAY 4-28 Tanya Fenkell – Watercolour Emotional Landscapes. Opening Reception May 6 at 7:30 pm.

JUNE 1–25 Melinda Shank-Miles – Paintings-Fragile. Opening Reception June 3 at 7:30 pm.

JUNE 29 – JULY 30 Freddie Towe – Collage and Mixed Media. This Day. Opening reception July 1 at 7:30 pm.

AUGUST 3–27 Ketha Newman Paintings. PAiNtDEMIC! Opening reception August 5 at 7:30 pm



A flat minor. Painting by Chas Burke

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LIBRARY NEWS

By Anne Coleman, Chair

Hastings Highlands Public Library continues to play an important role for the community. Curbside pick up kept patrons happy and our staff did a wonderful job adapting to the protocols demanded to allow this service. We are now open almost regular hours, 10:30 to 2:00 Monday, Wednesday, Friday and 10:30 to 4:00 Tuesday and Thursday. Plus we are open Saturday. Should everything remain as it is today, we will also be open between Christmas and New Year's for two days. Check the website for updates on these changes.

Our CEO, Rod Moffitt, has retired. After three and one half years of building programs, handling the responsibilities of manager and treasurer, efficiently dealing with the Covid issue, Rod has decided to enjoy a true retirement. Kristin Seaborn stepped in as acting CEO for 6 months but would like to return to her former position as Collections Librarian. We hope that we will find a candidate to fill their shoes, not an easy task.

Programs are returning to the Library. Sew n Sews, the knitting circle, Book Club, Come drum with me, Author presentations starting with Brock Breenlaugh, hopefully soon a yoga class in the gym and more early childhood play programs.

There are reading challenges offered and the response to these is strong. There is an ongoing book sale, plus Patron Picks in new books recently on the shelves and access to Ontario Parks Passes. So much conversation and sharing.

The Heritage pages are being developed with an educational theme examining the early schools of our area. If you have pictures or stories, you can become part of the Library's efforts in building this historical resource. Our staff have created a beautiful newsletter which can be found on the library website and our BLA website.

Many heartfelt thank you's go out to our hard working staff who have maintained the library throughout Covid, have stayed healthy and are positive about the position that the library holds in offering millions of possibilities in learning. Well done.



Maynooth, Ontario was first known as "Doyle's Corners" in 1861 until 1871 when it was officially changed to Maynooth.



One room school houses: S.S. No 1 (Secondary School). Estimated build was before 1865 and along Hastings Road near Maynooth. S.S. No. 2 was in Hybla; S.S. No. 3 was built south-east of Maynooth. Other schools were constructed in Montegale, Bangor, Carlow, Baptiste, Hickey Settlement, and Lake St. Peter.

The above assembly of photos is an example of the heritage pages content in our library website.

By Tiffany Dalley

BLA Publication Credits

Paul Coleman, Editor

Anne Coleman, Editor

Shelley Pickard, Advertising Liaison

Rachel Etmanskie, Graphic Designer

Hannah Lithographers, Printing

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