



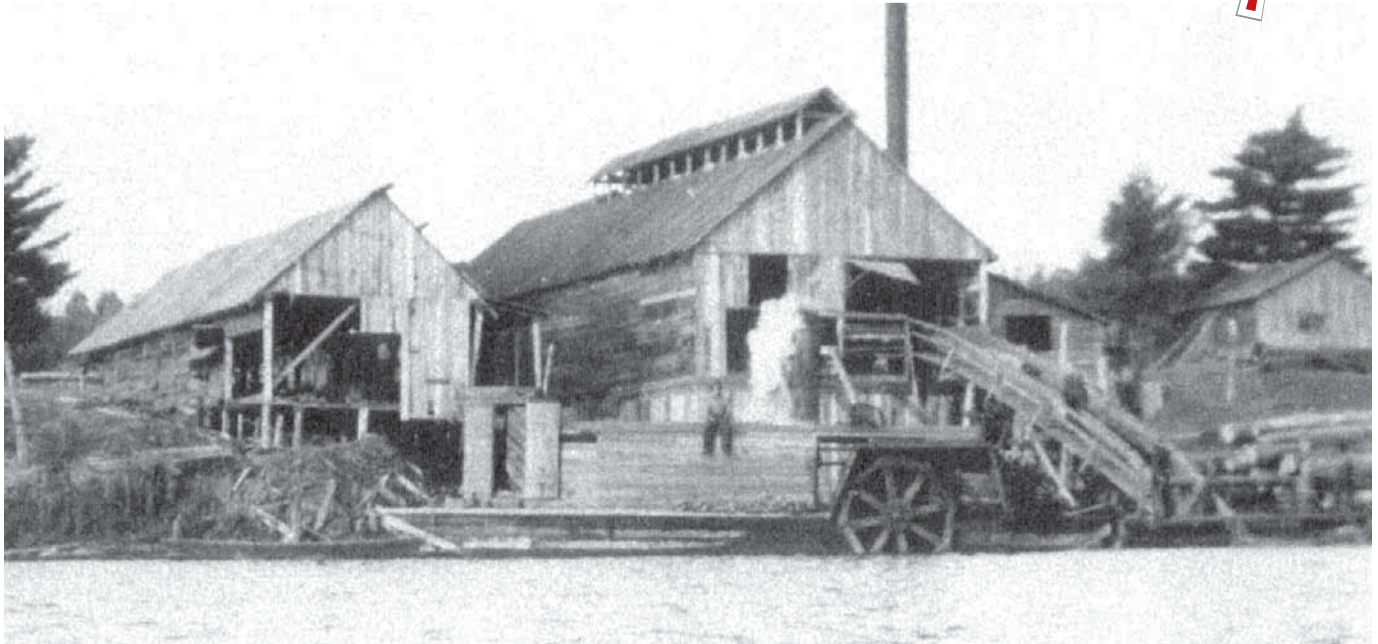
BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

www.baptistelake.org • info@baptistelake.org

BOX 877, BANCROFT, ONTARIO K0L 1C0



ADRIFT ON BAPTISTE



Hughes Landing Lumber Mill, now Baptiste Marina

Victoria Day is supposed to be a happy, sunny start to the summer right? Well not this year! Mother Nature unleashed her fury at Baptiste Lake Marina and ripped its docks from the cement foundation and snapped all of the anchor chains. As the winds howled and the rains poured, the 3 Yanch boys (Steven, Joseph and Tom) had a feeling that the Marina was in trouble and ran to Caroline's rescue. They jumped upon the flotilla of boats and docks that were headed to Goat Island. A couple of boats were started and they maneuvered the tangle of docks back to safety with no damage to any vessel! Carolyn's family worked all night to secure the docks and protect the boats.

The next day, construction of replacement docks commenced and Adrian Hill and the Baptiste Lake Scuba Dive Team arrived with all of its regalia. The Yanch boys dropped coloured weight-lines 20 feet below the surface to Adrian. In the darkened waters Adrian was able to locate 15

anchors amongst the many obstacles that lurked below: fish hooks, broken glass and mussel shells that are razor sharp. Keep in mind that the Marina was once the Hughes Landing Lumber Mill consequently the bottom is the home of screws, nails, metal fittings and railway parts. Not a good space to work blindly, moving soot and sand to locate the anchors. The water was 12 degrees! A normal diver can last 5 minutes without thermal protection and yet Adrian conducted 4 thirty minute dives that weekend. Following which he dove 12 more times that spring to assist Birch Cliff and other cottagers whose docks were in peril.

Carolyn is most grateful to her family and good Samaritans who came to her rescue. She laughs now as she recalls fixing the docks while serving up ice cream, renting boats, pumping gas and greeting her summer customers as if nothing happened! "Thank you to all of my wonderful and loyal customers!" she said" and have a good winter!"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - FALL 2017

BY WALLY McCOLL, PRESIDENT BLA

It is an honour to serve as your President of our Lake Association that has such a proud history going back to the 1950's. With our current team of Directors and volunteers contributing to our Baptiste stewardship I am sure that my President's role will be both inspiring and fun.

The last social event for the season, the annual corn roast was again hosted by Ponacka. Thank you Don and Anne Bocking! The setting at Ponacka is beautiful even on the overcast day that threatened rain. As we fired up the barbecue and the water for the corn there were some worried expressions concerning those in attendance. A good crowd arrived however, along with a clearing skies. We had fun, good food, good wine and good conversations. All valuable for getting together, catching up, exchanging ideas and look-

ing forward to our new programs.

Volunteers and Directors are busy throughout the summer in many programs, sampling the lake, logging data for input to government and environmental agencies. One of the last of these tasks, that I can report, was the Invasive Species sampling test that we do each year supporting this program initiated by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). The window for the sampling is determined by the week scheduled for the equipment and the volunteers' time.

Yes it was August and 1 degree Celsius. The howling winds blew whitecaps against the shore as I managed to pick up Paul Coleman and Eric Hooey to begin our adventure. It was with trembling fingers that we pulled up the fine mesh net for the water samples, drained the samples into

...continued on page 3

BLA Officials Fall 2017

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Director
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Kathy Irwin, Director
info@baptistelake.org

BLA Event Dates To Remember

SUNDAY, MAY 20 - Spring Opening Event,
Birch Cliff Lodge, 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

SATURDAY, JULY 14 - Naturalist Day,
location to be determined.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11 - Annual General
Meeting, Birch Cliff Lodge,
10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12 - BLA Golf
Tournament, Bancroft Ridge Golf Club,
details to follow.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 - Corn Roast,
Camp Ponacka, 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...continued from page 2

labelled bottles, and logged our position, water temperature, depth, wind and weather. We needed to sample three locations on the lake. After the first we took a break for coffee and a warm up back at Sunrise Cove. But it felt good to finish up the task. Paul even logged a school of fish for future reference.

Many volunteers contribute valuable time to ensure that the gathering of data and knowledge is recorded annually to develop sound environmental policies. Your Board of Directors is most grateful for your energy and support.

I would like the BLA to build on this success developing our sampling, measurements or wildlife counts as "Citizen Science". This is not new in Ontario. The Stewardship Network of Ontario helps Citizen Science groups coordinating science activities to publicize their projects and attract volunteers for projects with biological, environmental or conservation goals. Establishing the BLA Citizen Science is a goal for me.

In addition to the excellent points made in this newsletter, my own research lead me to learn the staggering number of injuries that fireworks



Three amigos, Eric, Wally and Paul

cause annually, as well as property damage and environmental pollution.

Fireworks impact loons, deer, beaver and virtually all mammals and birds that live on or pass over our lake. They terrorize family pets and many individuals. They pollute our lake water and the air with particles, toxic chemicals and garbage. Perhaps it is time to get serious about stopping them!!

Thanksgiving Weekend with the magnificent Fall colours also marks the last Directors meeting for the season. We will be looking at new ideas to develop over the winter. We welcome input from all the members. When you have a quiet evening have a look at our Lake Plan, posted on our site. This plan, now more than ten years old, has defined the priorities for the BLA. Check the four main parts of the Plan. Is the Vision still current? How are we doing with the implementation? Bring us your ideas, and volunteer suggestions.

A photograph of a man wearing a white cap and a dark shirt, working on a boat lift. He is leaning over the lift, which is partially submerged in water. The background shows a body of water and some greenery.

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The logo for Highland Timber Mart, featuring a red house icon above the word "HIGHLAND" in large blue letters, "TIMBER MART" in smaller red letters, and "Harcourt" in blue letters below. The phone number "705-448-2268" is at the bottom in large blue letters. The background is a light blue grid pattern.

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UP AND RUNNING....OR READING BY ANNE COLEMAN



Anne Coleman with her Little Library at the Baptiste Marina.

Baptiste Lake Marina is the location of our Free Little Library. Carolyn Guest generously offered to have the Little Library, created by Anne Coleman, installed on the lake-side of her Marina. She has also, with her granddaughter Sam, become the steward of the library, managing books and the maintenance of the structure. Thank you for doing this service Carolyn. There is a world map which is an online feature of www.freelibrary.org and by entering the postal code, our location should pop up with pictures.

There have been many favourable reactions to this library, one in particular, a lady who brought several boxes of very good books to be shared by lake visitors. Now that winter is approaching, Carolyn and I will come up with a plan to care for the structure over those colder months. If you have used the Little Library, drop a line to Carolyn or Anne Coleman and share your ideas.

LET'S SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS!

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BY ANNE COLEMAN

The BLA Annual General Meeting was well attended and again held at beautiful Birch Cliff Lodge. Thank you David Milne and staff for being so accommodating. Our guests this year were Laura Culic, landscape artist from the Black Spruce Art Gallery in Maynooth and Ketha Newman, local water colour artist of high regard. They brought several of their recent works of art to present a mini gallery walk.

Our guest speaker, Laura Culic, spoke to us of the important role we hold as residents of the lake, that being, stewards of the land and conservationists of the natural elements that result in the beauty surrounding us. She shared the story of her urban background but always being pulled to the north to paint as did the Group of Seven. She camped and hiked with her family always hoping that one day she could be part of the area. During a recent motorcycle trip, she stopped at the pottery studio in Maynooth to learn that it was for sale. The friendly vibes and great location told her 'this is the place', so she bought. Laura is so grateful that she can basically paint landscapes of choice right out her doorstep. Her message directed us to be conscientious in protecting our fragile environment by adhering to practices such as are outlined in the Lake Plan.

Ketha Newman participated by sharing her paintings and signing her recent very successful colouring book. She also participates in the Studio Tour at her gorgeous location on East Road.

The business of the AGM was lively. Questions regarding the recent municipal decision to have an at large voting system rather than the ward system were posed to Mayor Bloom and Deputy Mayor Greg Roberts. They also handled



Laura Culic, guest speaker, BLA AGM, shown in front of her painting, Little Bog in the April Woods

points relating to garbage, fireworks, Highway 62 repairs and boat launch repairs in the area.

A new director, Diann Kuder, has accepted the position to work with the present BLA directors and we thank her for her willingness to participate especially as she lives in Pennsylvania. Wally McColl has accepted the position of president while Marlin Horst, past president, will remain as a director. We must extend our deep gratitude to Marlin for the hours of hard work he gave to the Association for the past six years. Margot Currie has stepped down from being an active director and we owe her a deep debt of gratitude for her many unsung efforts to make the Association strong. She was secretary for our meetings, editor of the newsletter and was involved in the organization of many of the BLA activities. Thank you Margot.

The Annual General Meeting takes place the Saturday after the August long weekend. It is an opportunity to make your voice heard and to contribute to the life of the lake.

REFLECTIONS ON BEING PRESIDENT OF THE BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

BY MARLIN HORST - PAST PRESIDENT OF THE BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION



Margot Currie with Marlin Horst

On August 12, 2017, I stepped down as President of the BLA, having been President for 6 years. Considering that our family has only been on the lake since the fall of 2006, I think that it is time for someone else to take over the role. I know Wally McColl will do an excellent job

I have been asked to write a short article on my time as President. I think that most of the directors on the board would agree that if there is one word to describe my approach to being President that word would be to delegate. I am not a scientist; I do not write particularly well; and, I am certainly not what would be described as an inspiring speaker. However, I am willing to approach almost anyone and ask them to help out. Generally speaking, the people of Baptiste Lake have been willing to step up and

help out. It is that willingness to help out that has made the Baptiste Lake Association survive and thrive throughout the years. Whenever I meet with people from other lake associations they often express admiration for all that our association does, and in a fiscally responsible manner.

While there have not been any huge disruptive activities during my time as President, the BLA must continue to monitor activities around the lake and those which affect the lake. One of the things which almost everyone supports is activities to ensure the quality of the water in the lake is maintained. There are many disagreements about what causes water quality to deteriorate, but almost

...continued on page 7

An advertisement for 'the OLD TIN SHED'. The ad features a black background with white and red text. At the top, it says 'the OLD TIN SHED' in a serif font, followed by the tagline '- An intriguing mix of now & then -'. Below this is a red banner that reads '"CANADIAN RETAILER OF THE YEAR!"' and 'CANADIAN GIFT ASSOCIATION'. A circular badge on the left says 'OPEN 362 DAYS A YEAR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!'. To the right is a red house icon with a black roof and a tree. Below the house, it says 'Featuring... Your Cottage Signs Made by Us!'. At the bottom, it lists the address '25 Sherbourne Street Downtown Bancroft' and the phone number '(613)332-6565'. The website 'www.TheOldTinShed.com' is at the very bottom. On the left side of the ad, there is a framed sign that says 'COTTAGE RULES' with a list of rules: 'No party', 'No alcohol', 'Cook up the sun', 'Get your feet wet', 'Enjoy the weather', and 'Be grateful for this day'.



Niral Vithlani Photo

REFLECTIONS ...continued from page 6

everyone agrees we must be vigilant to ensure that the water quality of the lake is maintained. That quest is the cornerstone of the actions and activities of the BLA. The BLA maintains constant water quality testing so that we can take action as soon as any deterioration in water quality arises, rather than waiting until it becomes obvious, at which point it may be too late.

One of the accomplishments of the last few years of which I am most proud is the development of the **Hastings Highlands Interlake Group**. This group has only been in existence for a few years, but it allows the various lake associations within Hastings Highlands to share information, obtain advice from other associations, and to act as one voice with respect to actions taking place in our municipality. As a group, we have a stronger voice with the Municipality than we would if we were simply a number of different lake associations not acting in harmony. Of course, not all actions are unanimous within the Hastings Highlands Interlake Group, and certainly there have been some lively discussions at the meetings of the Interlake group. I will continue for a while to assist the HH Interlake Group on behalf of the Baptiste Lake Association.

The Baptiste Lake Association is certainly not all serious activities. The annual social events on the May long weekend and the Labour Day long weekend are a great chance

to meet other lake residents and cottagers, and get caught up with the goings on in the lake community. One of the great advantages of being on the executive of the BLA is that you get to meet many more people than you would sitting at the end of your dock. We have made many friends among the lake community as a result of being on the executive, and I would encourage anyone who is interested in meeting people to consider joining the executive. Along with some work there is also much fun with the group.

Finally, I would like to add that I am not really leaving the position of President of the BLA so much as moving on to other things. As many of you know I have been on the board of FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottager Associations) for almost two years, and am presently the Vice President. I expect to be on board at FOCA for a few more years. I am also happily continuing to be a member of the BLA as a director. It has been very rewarding.

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BOAT COURTESY AND SAFETY

As a follow up to our spring newsletter, "Boat Right and Be Polite" from FOCA, it is important to note that we have some room for improvement.

Our members have let us know about incidences that have occurred this summer:

- There were many near misses after dark with boats, kayaks, and canoes that had no lights! So heads up! Use a common flash light!!

- Tubing in circles in one area caused a rippling affect that made docks rock and roll! Please go in straighter lines and avoid home front locations.

- Paddle boarders were nearly knocked off their boards as boats did not slow down or came too close

- Small kids were perched at the front of boats with legs over the side or sitting on fishing chairs bouncing around.

FIREWORKS POISON OUR LAKE! ...AND OUR DRINKING WATER

Fireworks have been on the radar of lake associations for several years as their use has spread from Victoria Day and Canada Day to become a regular nightly occurrence by a multitude of residents and visitors.

In July of this year, someone was setting off fireworks on Baptiste Lake on most evenings, sometimes at numerous different spots!!

There is now a growing awareness that fireworks is perhaps the most environmentally irresponsible activity anyone can undertake for the health of our lake, it's plants and animals and for the safety and purity of our drinking water.

Common fireworks are constructed in third world factories with cardboard, metal and plastic parts and powered by gunpowder. To produce the pyrotechnics and colours they use very high temperatures to partially burn heavy metals and chemicals including

Arsenic, Strontium, Barium, Cadmium,

Rubidium, Copper, Aluminum

The cardboard, metal and plastics don't "disappear"; they fall to earth or into our lake laced with gunpowder and those heavy metals and chemicals which contaminate our lake, forests, and drinking water.

Fireworks have long been the bane of dogs, cats and their owners. And while everyone loves to see loons and other birds and mammals, no thought has been given to the impact nightly fireworks has on nests and chicks and the literally hundreds of species that live in or travel to our lake to reproduce.

Our Baptiste Lake Association is accepting responsibility to change opinions, habits, practices and locals laws respecting fireworks by ending their use in environmentally sensitive areas, including and especially on Baptiste Lake.

Please say "No to fireworks"
www.baptistelake.org

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE HITS HOME!

BY PAUL COLEMAN

This summer was the perfect storm for lake pollutants.

But why should we care? Why do we bother to test the waters of Baptiste every year for invasive species and microcosms that can lead to a dead lake?

Read on, this may catch your attention.

Our kids live in Madison Wisconsin. It has two gorgeous lakes with fabulous parks and running paths surrounding them. It is one of the most inviting areas to take the grandkids for a swim and just hanging out, enjoying nature.

But, this year was different! The water was covered with teal blue paint! Actually a massive bloom of toxic, blue-green algae.

Lake Mendota sits in a landscape dominated by agriculture. Farmers use manure produced by dairy operations and synthetic fertilizers used to help corn and soybeans grow. It is loaded with Phosphorus. This spring and early summer, there was a higher than average rainfall and intense storms that washed the soil into nearby streams and into the lake. Then the hot weather came and the phosphorus did its work. The algae grew to form a scum on top of the water. The locks where boaters go from one lake to another became a frothy mass of suds.

There were dead fish on the surface of the water and others swimming erratically in circles and trying desperately to jump out of the water. The walleye died, so did the bluegill, pike and carp. The crayfish crawled out of the water and died on the shore..... BUT, get this, fishermen continued to fish from their boats casting nonchalantly into the stinky water!!! What!?? We just don't get it do we!!

Blue-green algae can cause a host of human and pet health problems when they are ingested through swallowing water or come in contact with the skin or, in some cases, are inhaled by boaters or water skiers as they speed through a bloom. Different species can cause skin rashes, liver damage and worst case paralysis.

Ok, ok, enough of the doom and gloom right. But wait. The Public Health department put up signs warning of the dangers, yet people went to the beaches, got on their paddleboards and pushed through the dead fish.

So what is my point? We all use phosphorus. In moderation I guess it is ok. But if we push the envelope, we humans will disrupt what nature has created. In Madison, the researchers are now warning that this past summers' event will become more common. They said, "if we don't get our phosphorus under control, we are due for a lot more algae blooms and fish kills".

And guess how they ended the report? "They now have invasive species like zebra mussels, which is known to promote blue-green algae".

Source UW-Madison Center for Limnology, Madison in Bloom: Blue-Green Algae Hits Home



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2018 BLA Board of Directors, left to right, Marlin Horst, Eric Hooey, Hilary Phillips, Shelley Pickard, Wallace McColl, Anne Coleman, Diann Kuder, Paul Coleman, Adrian Hill and Carol MacLennan

LODGE NAMES FROM THE 1960s

BY FRANK HICKS

How many Lodges in the 1960's were there on Lake Baptiste? 5, 10, 15, 20? Can you name them? How many are still here? Also, which ones did we miss? Let us know.

Find the answer as you read on.
 Baptiste Lake Resorts circa 1960, Camp Comfort Lodge - Frank Hicks (Sr.), Camp Makwan - Reg Canning, Sunrise Lodge - Jim Bursleson, Scott's Cottages - Alex Scott, Allendale Bill & Toni Wolford, O-At-Ka Lodge - Tom Young, Lavallee Bay Cottages, Forestview Lodge -Ken Lewis, Ranger's Lodge, Camp Ponacka - Bruno Morawetz, Millionaire's Island - Niagara Mohawk Power Co., Cox's Bay campsites, The Chateau (Summers), Lakeview Lodge, Birch Cliff Lodge - Art Nicol, Buckingham Lodge, Wyke's Island cottages - Chester Wyke, Bellaire, and Ramblers Rest Lodge.

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SUCCESSION PLANNING: THINGS TO CONSIDER

BY PAUL COLEMAN

Planning for the transfer of the cottage to the kids can be emotional and complicated. Therefore, in keeping with the succession planning theme from the BLA Spring Newsletter, we have elected to bring more food for thought to you when you have more time over the long winter months.

Susan Latremoille, (susan.latremoille@richardsongmp.com) a lake resident and Wealth Advisor of Richardson GMP, has contributed the following input for your consideration. With her permission I have taken highlights from their Education Library. However I suggest that you seek professional guidance from experts in the field, including legal, taxation and financial.

What are some of the typical issues for you to consider? Are the kids capable of jointly owning the property? Will there be harmony? Do they have the financial resources to maintain the property? Is one child more capable than the other, financially, emotionally and physically? How do you ensure equitable allocation of estate assets to others who do not want the cottage? And what about your lifestyle, will the transfer of the cottage affect you and your spouse?

Some of the financial aspects include capital gains, probate and land transfer tax.

Selling the cottage and dividing the proceeds among the family is something for your consideration. It may however be quite the emotional decision after all the years of hard work and great memories. You could sell to a third party, directly to your children or provide them with a right of first refusal. Selling the cottage prior to your death will have the added benefit of avoiding probate fees and settling up the capital

gains taxes that would otherwise be payable upon your death.

Another option is transferring your cottage to either a Lifetime (inter-vivos) or Testamentary Trust. A Lifetime Trust could be created by transferring your cottage to a Trust whereby Trustees would administer the property, within the terms of a Trust agreement, for the benefit of certain beneficiaries. A Testamentary Trust works in a similar manner except the Trust would be created upon the death of the cottage owner in accordance with their Will. Where a cottage is transferred to a Trust you will be deemed to have disposed of the cottage at its Fair Market Value.

Alternative Ownership Arrangements include Joint Tenancy vs Tenancy in Common. These can be a little more technical in nature so be sure to get that professional advice we spoke of earlier!

Here is some great advice to reduce conflict in setting up an agreement:

- establish a schedule where families share the cottage during prime season and shoulder months.
- determine who will open and close the cottage and take care of maintenance.
- estimate annual expenses and agree on a method of payment for all costs, including capital costs.
- outline how decisions are to be made (majority rules, tie breaking mechanisms, etc)

Consideration of the future is crucial. While a parent may wish for their children to own the cottage, circumstances may change (i.e. children

...continued on page 13

CREATURES WE TAKE FOR GRANTED



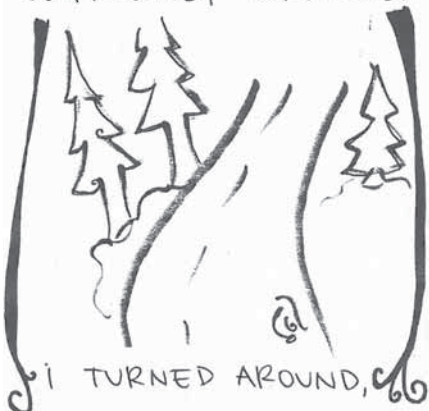
EXPERIENCED, WRITTEN & DESIGN
BY LIA COLEMAN
BANCROFT 2007

AS A KID I LOVED TO SMOOSH PILES OF SLUSH. I'D JUMP ON THEM OR GIVE THEM A SLOW SATISFYING SQUISH WITH MY WINTER BOOTS.



AS A DRIVER I HAVE TO STOP MYSELF FROM SQUISHING GREAT COLD PILES ON THE ROAD. SOMETIMES THEY'RE METAL, OR WOOD... OR BIRDS.

DRIVING DOWN A WINTRY BACKCOUNTRY ROAD I PASSED A SMOOSHABLE LUMP THAT LOOKED SUSPICIOUSLY BIRD LIKE.



GOT OUT AND WALKED OVER TO A FROZEN (?) BIRD.

AS I LEANED TO SCOOP IT UP SHE FLAPPED HER WINGS AND TOOK OFF.



OVER BY THE DITCH WAS HER MALE COMPANION; PEACEFULLY AND WHOLE-HEARTEDLY DEAD.

SHE'D BEEN SITTING STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD...

...WAITING?
GRIEVING?
FIGURING OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT?



I THINK MORE THAN ONE HEART BROKE THAT WINTER DAY.



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BAPTISTE CHURCH

BY WALLY MCCOLL

St. Matthews church is a 97 year old Community Heritage. It was built on property donated by Neil Bowman in 1920 and was named after its 1st minister, Matthew Wilson. Although originally perched high on the hill in Baptiste Village, it was dismantled in 1947 and rebuilt on lower land donated by Mrs. Hiram Grant. The new site is more central to the growing number of residents around the lake and next year is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The church seeks to expand and continue its community focus with more successful fundraisers for capital improvements. Thanks to all for your spirited support and watch for more of its history in the Spring Newsletter.

SUCCESSION PLANNING ...continued from page 11

move, get divorced, die prematurely, children require funds, etc.) such that a child may need to sell their portion of the cottage. You may also want to consider having an agreement signed by spouses that the cottage will not form part of a marital property claim, if allowed under matrimonial law.

In summary, by identifying those issues that may cause conflict, discussing these issues with your children and acting on opportunities available to you to minimize taxes are all key aspects of a successful cottage succession plan. Tax savings, creditor protection, and other estate planning opportunities are all part of the services that your advisors can provide. Give them a call.

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DAVID B. MILNE

David B. Milne is an internationally respected Canadian painter who spent 6 years on Lake Baptiste and produced over 150 paintings during that time. This 10th child of Scottish heritage displayed true Scottish characteristics of stubbornness, hard work, simple tastes and economy. Milne built a log cabin on the east shore of Baptiste overlooking the McGarry Hills and Blueberry Island. His canoe was his main source of transportation, often battling gale strong winds to pick up mail and supplies at Grants store in Baptiste Village. This painting, “Shore Clearing II”, is in the collection of National Gallery of

Canada. The subject is probably the Nourse boathouse and cottage, just south of Sunrise Lodge.

“Yesterday afternoon I finished one of two landscapes I have been working on, ‘Shore Clearing’. An underpainting of lively brown on the bush part, the cleared ground white. Into both of these shapes (trees and cottage and boathouse), reds, yellow, dark grey and greens worked ok, only occasionally sharply defined with line. The large area of water light blue and brown sweeping from side to side.”

Milne’s Diary, Baptiste Lake, 4 February, 1952



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Community Care North Hastings Inc. is enjoying their new look, new logo, but same great service now as CARE North Hastings. CCNH had 2 branches of service that had historically operated as one face in our community for over 35 years. To meet the growth of our community and its needs it was necessary to spread our wings and become our own identities. CCNH Inc. is now operating as CARE North Hastings, a Not For Profit and community support agency, that will maintain its core programming under the leadership of Executive Director, Jennifer Kauffeldt. CARE North Hastings is your connection to maintaining independence, support in your own home and keeping you connected to the community.

Our programs include Meals on Wheels, Volunteer Transportation, and Foot Fix Foot Care Clinics in Bancroft & Coe Hill by appointment, Income Tax Clinic, Recorded Readings, Form Assistance, Security and Reassurance, Social & Congregate Dining in Coe Hill, Nexicom Crisis

Alert and Friendly Visiting.

CARE North Hastings and its volunteers also operate the Coe Hill Community Thrift Shop. This gem of a thrift shop is entirely run by volunteers and accepts donations of all kinds: household items, clothing, trinkets and small furniture. 100% of the proceeds go into our programs. CARE North Hastings wanted a clear name with a direct message. We care. It really is that simple. With the health care system in Ontario in the middle of evolution, it is a good time to bring heightened awareness of what programs CARE offers in our community and for its seniors.

Volunteers are essential to the delivery of our programs and services which makes CARE unique in the healthcare setting. We are looking for volunteers for the Coe Hill Thrift Store & Coe Hill Office. Also we are looking for Brokered Workers in the North Kawartha and Coe Hill areas (Paid position) to assist clients with Home cleaning if interested or for more information, please call 613-332-4700.



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BAPTISTE LAKE: THE EVOLVING LANDSCAPE

BY KEN ANDREWS

Gentle waves lapping over the shoreline on a bright summer's day on Grassy Bay in the northern part of Baptiste Lake. The loon's plaintive call at dusk. Fishermen north of Grassy Bay Island hauling in bass and pike - and pickerel, if they're lucky. An expansive, beautiful vista to behold across the lake. The odd log visible - 'deadheads,' semi or completely submerged beneath the water surface, not to mention stumps here and there. The occasional weedy, even marshy stretch of shoreline.

All of which make Baptiste Lake so distinctive. It wasn't always so.

Two hundred years ago, Baptiste was a very different place. Much of the Grassy Bay area - now water - was a marsh or field of wild rice, harvested by indigenous peoples. Fruit trees abounded, and blueberries and cranberries were harvested as well. A river ran through it, not a lake: the York River, winding through what is now Algonquin Park before joining Benoir and Elephant Lakes further downstream, bisected what is now Grassy Bay and ran south to the Narrows before opening up into a much smaller Baptiste Lake, then as now the deepest part of the present lake.

The York River system originally served both the Huron and Algonquin peoples as a transportation route. Indigenous settlement

occurred in the early 1800s, when Chief Jean Baptiste (after whom the lake is named) and his family left the Ottawa River and settled on the lake, south of the Narrows. Other native families - the Bernards and Lavalles - came to settle on Baptiste Lake.

The area was first mapped in 1819 by the British to determine a waterway from Georgian Bay to the Ottawa River for military purposes. In this survey by the Royal Engineers, the area east of Elephant Lake (present day Baptiste Lake) was described as "a fine and broad deep stream running in an easterly direction through flat and low country, rather marshy." Other surveys followed, including an 1864 study by A.B. Perry in which he gave the name "Long Lake" to the present-day Baptiste.

The surveys, in turn, pointed to opportunities for the timber industry. That's when everything changed regarding the contours of Baptiste Lake.

As Upper Canada grew, logging companies in the 1860s saw rich potential in the thick white and red pine forests in the area north of Bancroft. As a result, the timber industry resolved to harness the massive potential for large-scale logging by flooding the area to facilitate the movement of logs, creating a 50-kilometre lake waterway in the process. After securing a lease on the upper York

...continued on page 17





BAPTISTE LAKE ...continued from page 16

River waters in 1864, the Bronson and Weston Company built the first dam in 1866 at the lower base of the lake, just north of the present-day High Falls near Birds Creek.

Through damming, and the ensuing large-scale flooding which occurred, the lumber industry created a larger waterway system which enabled lumbermen to drive logs more easily from the vast forests of the area along the York River and through Benoir and Elephant Lakes and a greatly expanded Baptiste Lake through to High Falls.

The dam would forever change the contours of the lake. By raising water levels 4-6 feet, waters backed up over the course of the season, flooding marshes and fields and ‘drowning’ smaller bodies of water. Baptiste Lake almost doubled in size. LaVallee Bay was created in the north together with the Redmond flats now visible from the causeway on South Baptiste Road.

Moreover, the widening of the York River created the broad expanse of lake in the area now known as Grassy Bay and Hay Bay. In some sections, islands were created as waters rose but didn’t cover all the low-lying landscape.

The log-run took place in the spring. Trees were harvested and logs piled high on the frozen lakes in winter in harboured booms. When the dam was lowered in spring, the water surge propelled the logs through the lakes before they crashed over High Falls and down the York River to Bancroft, then on to the Madawaska and Ottawa Rivers. The pine logs were squared and sliced to be used for ship masts and homes in both England and the U.S.

Mills sprouted on Benoir, Elephant and Baptiste lakes, and the Bancroft area enjoyed a boom in economic activity, attracting hundreds of new residents drawn to the lumber industry. Two paddle wheel boats - the first steam-powered and the second powered by a modified diesel tractor - replaced exclusively manual labour to move the logs more efficiently downstream.

Eventually, the IBO Railway (Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa) rendered the log-drive obsolete when it was constructed at the turn of the 20th century, since it could transport lumber directly from the mills dotting the lakes. Today, we follow the trail of the railroad’s original tracks by car or truck on the South Baptiste Lake Road as it winds along the stunning stretch of lakeside west of Baptiste Village.

More changes were to occur. The original dam was replaced by a concrete structure in 1932 after concerns (unfounded) about its durability. Interestingly, when the new dam was built, the water level dropped to pre-dam levels, revealing a vast expanse of marsh and field, and thousands of fish perished in the process. A third High Falls dam - site of the current one - was introduced in 1967.

Ultimately, the growth of new transportation patterns and cottage recreation doomed the logging industry on Baptiste after close to a century. The boats which moved logs downstream were retired in the 1950s as high-speed recreational boats began appearing on the lake, creating issues of potential liability related to large log booms.

And the IBO railroad itself eventually

...continued on page 18

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CARING THROUGH CULTURE

closed in 1960; logs could be transported more efficiently by road, particularly following construction of highways 28 and 62. The last mill to close was the Hughes Mill, latterly the Martin Mill, in the 1950s; its location now serves present-day boaters as the site of Baptiste Lake Marina.

Today, as one gazes across the vast expanse of lake which Baptiste has become, the original York River bed is a challenge to visualize. But there are sections of the lake where its original course is still apparent.

At the Riffles, for example, the sometimes treacherous narrow passage which joins Elephant and Baptiste lakes, you'll see boats hugging and navigating the far western side of the lake along the deep original riverbed to avoid the precarious deadheads and weeds nearby. At the entrance to Benoir Lake from Elephant Lake, the meandering course which boats navigate follows the riverbed with marsh on either side.

The original riverbed remains the deepest part of Grassy Bay. That's why you'll find fishermen drawn to the area directly north of Grassy Bay Island: it's the old riverbed which yields the greatest promise for fishing. The riverbed then winds west of the island towards the Narrows.

The Baptiste Lake we now enjoy is a much larger lake than some 200 years ago, before logging doubled its size and changed it forever. Ironically, the timber industry had produced its own seeds of change as new recreational opportunities blossomed. With the creation of

a much larger lake, cottages eventually appeared along the water's edge. Their construction would never have happened had the dam not raised the lake's water level to begin with and transformed the lake in ways the loggers might never have foreseen.

History of course is always with us, if one looks for it. The distinctive era when the logging industry controlled the lake is still visible in the logs protruding above the water surface and stumps which can cause havoc unless navigated delicately. You'll see them in Grassy Bay, in Hamilton Bay near the Riffles, and in LaVallee Bay in northeast Baptiste Lake.

The vast expanse now of Baptiste, enjoyed equally on a warm summer's evening or a frigid and deafeningly silent winter day, yields a beauty which is perhaps the best way to appreciate everything the lake has to offer. History is another.

Stand by the water's edge and imagine the area surrounding you 200 years ago, when rice fields flourished, harvested by indigenous peoples, and the York River served as a major waterway, to be transformed into the much larger Baptiste Lake we know today. Instead of the present-day roar of summer power boats or winter snowmobiles, a very different sound would have echoed across the land 150 years ago, that of the crackling, occasional booming roar of logs being transported to the High Falls dam. It's much quieter now, but just as forbiddingly beautiful.

Ken Andrews, a resident of London, Ontario, is privileged to enjoy the seasonal changes of Baptiste Lake on Grassy Bay with his family. kandrews5678@gmail.com

Sources (with thanks and appreciation): The History of Baptiste Lake (Baptiste Lake Association website); *Touring the Past*, by Bob Lyons; *North of 7 and Proud of It!* (Orland French, editor). With thanks also to Wally McColl, Carolyn Guest of Baptiste Lake Marina, and the staff of the Bancroft Public Library and Hastings Highlands Public Library. Responsibility for the content alone rests with the author.



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MORE TO THE PADDY COX STORY

BY PAUL COLEMAN

Our good friend, Peter Brown, who passed away last year, was able to piece together the original story of Paddy Cox who settled in Baptiste Lake around 1901. The Bay at the south end of Baptiste, past Birch Cliff, is called Paddy Cox Bay. It is situated between South Baptiste Lake Road and Bowers Point.

Peter spoke with one of Paddy's kids, Jack, and learned that Paddy came to Canada from Ireland at the age of 8. He was put up for adoption and taken in by the Louis Levesque family. Later on, Paddy married Matilda (Tillie) Bowers from Whitney and had 9 kids. They kept some cows, pigs and hens. Jack had to cut a cord of wood every day to heat the old wooden frame that had many cracks in the walls and of course no insulation. Uncle Jack, as he was known, started smoking at the age of 6 and lived to the ripe old age of 93! His doctor told him not to stop!

A man named Haskell Sweet had first staked out the land claim on both sides of the bay, but abandoned it and Paddy and Tillie took it over. Paddy worked at general labour in the mills and on the railways, but suffered an injury to one hand, which ended this source of income. He then filled in anywhere that he could. Jack says they ate a lot of fish, and an occasional rabbit they might snare. Berries in season were eaten or sold to cottagers.

This summer, I was able to catch up to the granddaughter of Paddy Cox. Iris (Cox) Wilson, is the daughter of Catherine (#6 of Paddy's 9 kids). Iris remembers the wood stove, the wood box and the tick mattresses and straw bedding. Her mom worked one summer as a housekeeper for a lady



Peter Brown in front of Paddy Cox's home 1952

whose child had milk leg. She cared for the child and looked after the home every day. Her reward was a dress made out of a flour bag! It had been bleached, but I can only imagine how rough it must have been. Iris' mom had to take the cows to pasture in the morning on the other side of the bay and bring them back at night. The bay was filled with logs which were gathered there before going to the Mill. Often Catherine would choose to take a short cut across the bay, over the logs to fetch the cows at night, I can't imagine the risk!

Iris recounted how her mom spoke of doing homework by candlelight, how the water in the night stand dish was frozen in the morning and that they took a boiled potato with mustard to school for lunch. They often had oatmeal 3 times a day. They had 100 pound bags of oatmeal. They fried it, sliced it and took a chunk to school for snacks.

As Peter Brown said, "Paddy left hardship in Ireland for hardship in Ontario but his name will be remembered by many generations who will continue to enjoy the beauty of Paddy Cox's Bay".

Paddy Cox's daughter Margaret had 14 kids, son Mick had 18! The name lives on!



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TURTLES

BY PAUL COLEMAN AND KELLY WALLACE

What the heck! I saw a tiny turtle crossing the road on North Baptiste. I put on my 4 way flashers as a car was coming toward me and another from far behind. I stopped, opened my door and the guy coming at me almost wiped me out! Then the other guy didn't wait and roared by. Anyway, I picked up the baby turtle and watched him scurry to its new home. Is it too much to wait a minute? What if it was a kid? Am I getting too old or is 100 km the new norm on Baptiste? Just saying.....

Coincidentally, this has been a particularly bad year for turtles. A state of emergency was declared in July as 800 injured turtles were treated at the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Center. Countless others were killed on our highways. You may have seen some fencing and barriers along the highway and wondered what they were. The MNRF has become more involved in protecting species at risk. Accordingly, barrier walls are now being installed to prevent Turtles and other small animals from accessing our roads. They are permanent fixtures and will become more apparent with infrastructure upgrades.



Greg Gibbons Photo

That is the big picture. What can we do locally? We can support Kelly Wallace's initiative immediately by informing her where the Turtle Crossing Hot Spots are around the Lake. (kkwalrus@yahoo.ca).

Secondly submit information pertaining to locations you are concerned about and / or consider to be high-risk turtle hot spots to deputyclerk@hastingshighlands.ca to support Kelly' effort to receive funding from the Hastings Highlands Grant Committee.

The funds will be used to install Turtle Awareness Road Signs throughout our area to increase the turtle survival rate during the nesting and hatching periods, typically April to October.

Finally, thank you to our BLA member who informed me that hunting for Snapping Turtles has been banned on Ontario, effective April 2017.

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LOONS

By HILARY PHILLIPS

Earlier this summer I saw a pack of loons in Lavalley Bay. I counted 12-15, hard to tell as some popped under, some flew off as others joined the group. I couldn't figure it out, I thought loons were mostly solitary birds, maybe these were a bunch of leftover males who hadn't found a mate. Nope, I was wrong! Upon some research I found that in summer, many loons begin each morning by flying to a rendezvous lake to participate in some social bonding. They all begin to congregate into a loose raft of loons, the raft then swims about in a sort of slowly turning "square dance". For those who haven't witnessed it, a loon social gathering is an impressive event as the swimming circle can suddenly erupt with loons splashing, chasing, dipping, diving and calling wildly. Even mating pairs leave their chicks tucked in their nest to go join the gathering for a while.

Scientists have suggested a number of hypotheses for these social gatherings, including the possibility that the loons are preparing for fall migration. However, the apparent reasons for loon groups are often inconsistent. Maybe the "square dance" behavior represents a sort of aquatic chicken coop, a tussle for pecking order. Perhaps it involves a bit of play and learning, important skill-building behavior in the animal kingdom. It is even possible that the birds are already working on settling next year's mating-season issues.

Other loon stuff I was wrong about:

A pair that mates for life and returns each summer? Nope. Loons can change mates in



Greg Gibbons Photo

a heartbeat. Sometimes after a failed nesting attempt, even in the same breeding season.

Peaceful birds in calm water? No again. They can fight all day, even stab each other to death. They aim for the breast to pierce the heart. Among males, 30 per cent of the battles are fatal, but for any given loon that may not happen for five or 10 years. Most of the time it's an aggressive chase and that's it. One loon chases off a rival and take its spot in the family. If a male loon invades a mating pairs space, the male fights, if a female loon invades the female fights.

Loons can live for 30 years or more...I did not know that, and young loons don't come north to breed for a few years when they mature.

That's what I learned about the roving pack of loons I saw this summer.



Marcel Van Ruyven Photo

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Submitted by DIANA GURLEY

2018 SCHEDULE

November 1 - November 25

"Charcoal and Silver" portraiture by Arne Roosman and Don Wilson. Sponsored by Pat Cooke in memory of Paul David Cooke, Opening Reception Friday, Nov 3 at 7:30 pm

November 28 - January 27

"Flow" paintings by Freddie Towe. Sponsored by Barbara Allport and Clasina Weese, Opening Reception Friday, December 1 at 7:30 pm

January 31 - February 24

"Faces of Bancroft: Work, Play, Love" photography by Harold Eastman, Larry Ostrom and Eric Weiner, Opening Reception Friday, February 2 at 7:30 pm

February 28 - March 31

Molly Moldovan, paintings, Opening Reception Friday, March 2 at 7:30 pm



Greg Gibbons Photo

April 4 - April 28

"Bee-cause and Effect" wall constructions, Fred Gottschalk, Opening Reception Friday, April 6 at 7:30 pm

May 2 - May 26

Martha Eleen, paintings, Opening Reception Friday, May 4 at 7:30 pm

May 30 - June 30

"Life Forms from the Inside" paintings, Anita Murphy, Opening Reception Friday, June 1 at 7:30 pm

July 4 - July 28

Moses Amik, paintings, Opening Reception Friday, July 6 at 7:30 pm

THANK YOU

Bruce Montgomery for sharing his photos of Baptiste Lake. Thank you Wally, Marlin, Anne, Adrian, Hilary, Frank Hicks, David Milne, Lia Coleman, Jennifer Kauffeldt, Ken Andrew, Kelly Wallace and Susan Latremaille for contributing excellent articles to our newsletter.



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EDITORIAL COMMENTS

By PAUL COLEMAN

Thanks everyone who took time to email me and offer corrections to the Spring Newsletter. I am new to this role so be patient with me as I learn the ropes. First up, the picture of the "Alligator" was apparently a side wheeler tug boat. There were a few versions, some steam powered, and the latter powered by a diesel bull dozer, (a Heil dozer). In the fall, these boats were winched partially out of the water for repairs and winter storage. We will have to get more stuff on the old "Alligator". Help if you know!

The Baptiste Fishing Guide needs to be updated. Open Season for Lake Trout is open from the 3rd Saturday in May to September 30th. i.e. not January 1st!

Snapping Turtles can no longer be hunted.

Regarding memberships, I have reviewed countless old newsletters which had "membership drives". It would appear that 300/600 residents is the best that we could hope for. So maybe we should cool it for a while. Thank you to all of our paying members and in particular to all of our dedicated volunteers.

However, as an Association there are many of you who are tech savvy and much more comfortable with computers than a guy who uses a pencil with his spreadsheets!

There may be times when all of the Lake residents need information quickly.... what if there is an emergency at the lake? Someone is hurt, needs an EpiPen, there is a hole in the dam, fire, flooding, power outage, lost pets or kids...

So you get my point. How is the best way to contact all lake residents quickly?

We need suggestions and volunteers to set up a quick notification and response system on the website or through social media. So, anyone with expertise and knowledge, please contact me!!

For others interested in a little involvement with our Association, here are some ways of getting involved or helping out:

1. Join or renew your membership! There is a form on the last page for just this purpose.
2. Every year, we have fabulous social events

at Birch Cliff and Camp Ponacka. Want to be a chef or bartender? Please volunteer.

3. Our water testing program is a great way to learn more about the environment. Join in!

4. Send in a letter to the editor – I would love to hear from you, even if there are errors!

Hey, talking about social get-togethers, why not have a GOLF Day? Here is an idea, we play 9 holes, team of 4, best ball scramble format (meaning the team will always use the best drive and the other shots to keep things moving). We get lots of donated prizes, maybe do a little fundraiser for the foodbank, hospital, etc and have a great time. Bancroft Ridge has offered us special rates for a Sunday event in August (date to be determined). We all start at the same time, then meet back at the club house for cool drinks and something to eat.

Send me an email if you want me to co-ordinate a golf day. It would be fun.



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Maynooth General Store - Our century old store offers gifts, toys, moccasins, lake clothing, groceries, meats, fresh vegetables, Dutch treats and some hardware. Contact us on Facebook or 613-338-2862. Located beside the Municipal Building. Ladies, if you are lucky you may meet “Eye Candy” Bob!

If you would like to advertise in our Spring issue, please contact Shelley at membership@baptistelake.org

Birch Cliff Lodge – Planning a wedding or reunion on the lake? We have been hosting weddings and special events for many years. Please give us a call for more information. 613-332-3316. www.birchcliffodge.ca

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Greg Gibbons photo

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Membership fees collected are used to cover expenses necessary to support our goals. We offer family memberships on a one year or three year term. Cost for one year is \$25 / three years \$60.00. Please note that memberships expire on our fiscal year end, March 31st. Please tear out this form and send it in with a cheque made out to "Baptiste Lake Association", Box 877, Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0 or submit your online payment via PayPal - please see the link on our website: www.baptistelake.org for details.

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____ City, Province/State _____

Postal Code/Zip _____ Phone _____

911 Lake Address _____ Lake Phone _____

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

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