



BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARLIN HORST

As I write this the leaves have begun to fall and many seasonal cottagers are closing up after another fun (if somewhat cool) summer. The association had a very active summer.

The BLA held its traditional "Welcome Back" get together on the May long weekend. Once again Birch Cliff Lodge generously provided the space and the event was very well attended. Peter Oliver and his crew provided great food for the event.

Our AGM in early August was well attended. We heard from Mayor Bloom and Councillors Nancy Matheson and Lorraine Fell regarding events at the municipal level. A lively

discussion took place and I think it was informative for all, politicians and members. We also heard from Chris Drost from the North Hastings Economic



Development Committee. We heard a very informative presentation from representatives from the Toronto Zoo regarding the wetlands evaluation which was undertaken earlier this

year. At the AGM we also said goodbye to Kan and Chris Chhatwal, Penny Anderson and David Robertson as directors. We appreciate all of the hard work each of them has done for the BLA over the years. We welcomed two new members to the Board this year, Adrian Hill and Hilary Philips. In addition to the foregoing we awarded the Ross Viscoff award to Diana Gurley and Dagmar Gontard-Zelinkova. The Ross Viscoff award is awarded to a member of the BLA who made an extraordinary contribution to the association over the years. Diana Gurley was a board member for many years and served as President of the association. She continues to be a supporter and organizes the art fair which is held in conjunction with the Music Festival each year. Dagmar was a board member for many years and began the tradition of the BLA having a member present at all Municipal council meetings (this is the one thing that many other associations are jealous of!). She continues to monitor the mail for the BLA. Thank you to David Milne and the staff at Birch Cliff Lodge for allowing us to use their facilities, it is much appreciated.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...continued from page 1

This summer the BLA held a music festival and again the weather was wonderful. We had a great turn out of members and friends on the lawn and the waters in front of Country Fare. The festival again showcased the large number of musical artists in the area. In addition to music there was art, food, beer (thank you to Peter Oliver for arranging the donation of the beer) and a silent auction. Many people enjoyed the entertainment from their boats anchored on the Lake in front of the stage. A special thank you to George and Susan at Country Fare for providing the venue and also to Mike and Ineke Moxam for all of their hard work in organizing the event. We heard from many of the attendees how appreciative they were that the BLA would do something for the community as a whole. I believe this helps us to build goodwill in the community.

The theme for our traditional Labour Day weekend pig and corn roast was "Your Lake, Your Membership, Your Input". Although I was not able to attend I understand that there was a great turnout. The event was generously sponsored by Camp Ponacka and Oliver and Bonacini Restaurants.

Earlier this year the municipality replaced the dock in Baptiste Village. The BLA made a donation to the Municipality to help defray the costs of the new dock. I would like to thank Councillor Lorraine Fell for all of her hard work in ensuring that the new dock was approved.

In addition to social activities the BLA continues to work towards implementing the Lake Plan. David Hawkes has been tireless in

organizing this as Lake Plan Implementation Coordinator. The Lake Plan is a living document and we must continue to build on and implement its recommendations to ensure that the objectives of the residents, both permanent and seasonal, as set out in the Lake Plan, are achieved. This can only be achieved by volunteers and if David calls upon you I would hope that you would answer the call and do your part to help with Lake Plan implementation. If you would like to help, in no

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TREATY-MAKING, LAND CLAIMS AND BAPTISTE LAKE: A PRIMER

BY DAVID C. HAWKES

As a seasonal resident of Baptiste Lake, I thought it might be useful to provide my fellow lake residents with a primer, or introduction, to the Golden Lake Algonquin land claim Agreement-in-Principle that was announced during the past winter. These are complex matters for those who are unfamiliar with the subject of relations between the federal and provincial governments and Aboriginal peoples, especially those related to land. I spent a large part of my professional life studying these matters, as the Co-Director of Research with the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, as a Professor at both Queen's University and Carleton University, and as a Chief Federal Negotiator.

It is important to place recent developments in context, and to briefly review the history of treaty-making and land claims in Canada. I shall begin by examining the roots of treaty-making in both the Old World (Europe) and the New World (the Americas), and how treaty-making evolved in what is now Canada. Next, I shall look at treaties and land, and the evolution of the land claims process. Finally, I shall focus on the elements of Golden Lake Algonquin land claim Agreement-in-Principle, and the proposed sites on Baptiste Lake.

The History of Treaty-Making

Treaty-making has ancient roots in both the Old and New Worlds. In the Old World, treaty-making can be traced at least as far back as ancient Rome. Treaty-making was used for a number of purposes – to achieve military alliances, to provide for safe conduct, to foster trade, to secure recognition of the independence and national boundaries of states, to promote peace, and to determine the terms of surrender following a war.

Prior to contact, the indigenous peoples of the Americas had their own well-established

treaty protocols and diplomatic traditions. Alliances among First Nations were often modeled on the family unit. Treaties would establish “brother-to brother” relations between different tribes or nations. These alliances were solidified and maintained through adoption, the exchange of gifts, and arranged marriages – methods similar to those used by the monarchies of Europe at the time. These alliances enabled the free flow of trade, safe passage, military alliance, and economic assistance in time of need. When new people came into their territory, be they Aboriginal or European, new treaties or alliances were required.

Fast forward to the time of contact. The earliest treaties between rival European powers and First Nations in North America began on the Atlantic coast and moved inland, following the St. Lawrence River basin. The earliest treaties, involving the Dutch and the French, were treaties of “peace and friendship” designed to quell hostile relations, and to promote trade. These treaties, such as that of 1633 between the Innu and the French, or the more well-known Two Row Wampum between the Mohawks and the Dutch, were oral in nature. The first major written treaty, the Great Peace of Montreal of 1701, signed by France and over 40 First Nations, provided for Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) neutrality in any conflict between England and France.

By this time, the fur trade had become the staple of the North American economy. It is important to remember that European powers, until the 1750s, were satisfied to trade in fish and furs in North America. The permanent settlement of Europeans in New France was not yet government policy. The land was considered too inhospitable. By the time that New France fell to British and allied forces in 1763, land was becoming a central concern of treaty-making. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 promised the First Nations that their hunting grounds would be protected, and acquired by the British Crown only, by fair purchase only, and only with the consent of the First Nations. This sowed the seed of the current federal land claims policy.

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100 YEARS AT BAPTISTE LAKE

BY PETER BROWN AND WENDY HARRISON

We are pretty sure that no one planned for 100 years. It just sort of happened.

In 1912, Tom Maxwell and Marion Reid bought property for \$10 on what is now Fell Road and two years later built a cottage. Summers before 1914 included a few years of renting a spot in the village of Baptiste. So sprang the idea of a cottage for kids to play in the water. No roads to begin with. Just walk down the cottage fronts from the railway track

The cottage was built with a kind of semi-camping idea. Porches were built on three sides of a very high roofed centre. One side was for cooking and eating, the opposite side was for sleeping and front side was for just sitting. It was not long until porches were enclosed and the space allocated to kitchen, dining room and bedrooms stayed that way for 40 years. The centre high ceilinged room was dark and served mainly as a place to store things and keep warm if weather was inclement.

Until 1929, the cottage was not far away for Tom and Marion as they lived in Bancroft. Two of Marion's siblings also had a place on the same shore: Albert and Phoebe Reynolds (and daughter Lugo), and Lorne and Sue Reid. From pictures, it appears the cottage was a family gathering place. One treasured picture in 1916 has all of the Reid clan including some lost to the influenza epidemic in 1919.

Cottage records show steady use through the 1920's and pictures show the addition of a drive shed in 1920 and boat house in 1928 plus a cement sea wall. Tom built well, as all are still in place. But he died in 1932 and until later in the 1940's visits were less frequent as the trip from Toronto would take up to 8 hours via Belleville.



In 1933, Reg Brown showed up looking to date Eunice Maxwell. That resulted in the third generation, Peter and Wendy, and us as present day owners. In 1948, a happy addition to the family presence at the lake was Elwood and Jean Reid just across the bay with their young family, which has meant generations of cousins having built

in playmates. Elwood was nephew to Marion, Phoebe and Lorne. And they built a small cabin for Aunt Lizzie Reid, Marion's sister.

Marion passed on in 1958, and the second generation, Alma and Hazel Maxwell, with sister Eunice took ownership. Alma and Hazel retired in 1967 and 1968 and enjoyed their May to October life at the cottage until 1983. In the meantime, Peter and Donna-Jean added to the tradition of bringing kids to Baptiste with their three daughters. In 1987, both Eunice and Hazel passed on and the family dynamic was much changed. In the 1990's Wendy and David Harrison took their turn in bringing their two kids to the lake.

Alma passed away in 2000 and Reg in 2005. And the fifth generation began the familiar activities of playing on the beach, jumping off the dock, walking through the woods on the railway bed, going over to the Reids to see what they were doing, and going to the candy store.

And so here we are in 2013 celebrating the 100th year of Maxwell, Brown, Harrison families at the lake. We are extremely grateful for this beautiful lake and for grandparents who likely had no idea the enjoyment they were laying down for us.

A NEW DOCK AT HISTORIC SITE ON BAPTISTE LAKE

This article originally appeared in the Bancroft Times on July 4, 2013, courtesy of Lorraine Fell, Councillor for Hastings Highlands

The Municipality of Hastings Highlands, with financial assistance from the Baptiste Lake Association, installed a much needed new dock on Baptiste Lake. Located off Dock Road in the Village of Baptiste, this historic site set the stage for the development of Baptiste Lake.

In the 1800's, apart from Algonquin natives known to roam the land, the area was virtually a vast uninhabited wilderness. When Algonquin Chief John Baptiste settled on the north shore of Lake Kijicho Manitou, the lake was later renamed "Baptiste" for the Baptiste family.

After Confederation in 1867, federal land grants in 100 acre parcels enticed new settlers to this northern area. William Mulcahey, a wealthy Irishman, along with his cook, Paddy O'Neil, were among the first immigrants. Mulcahey chose a 100 acre parcel of land on the south shore of the lake. He built an elegant home, now known as Birch Cliff Lodge. As well, he developed a farm on the hill just to the west.

Mulcahey was an entrepreneur with a vision. Near the turn of the century amid talk of a railroad running along his shore, he built a store on the hill with boarding rooms above to house trainmen and travelers. He placed boxcar cabins on the shore below to handle any overflow.

In 1898, the Irondale, Bancroft & Ottawa (I B & O) Railroad chugged along the lakeshore stopping at Baptiste Station, directly in front of

Mulcahey's store. New settlers arrived. A church and school were built; and Mulcahey's vision of a village at Baptiste became a reality.

In 1910, Mulcahey sold the store to Hiram and Lizzie Grant; there-after known as Grant's store. The Grants spearheaded the move of the church, board by board, from Bowen Road to its present location in the village. St. Matthew's still holds summer services on Sunday to accommodate tourists and seasonal/permanent residents. Some arrive by boat, docking at the village dock.

By 1911, Mulcahey decided to expand his village eastward. Five Bancroft businessmen and their families, who had first arrived at Baptiste via the I B & O, purchased the first cottage lots on the lake, on what is now known as Fell Road.

In the 1950's, the village dock was the site of an interview with Sam Baptiste. Ruth Gordon of the Ottawa Journal referred to Sam as "a legend in his time." The only son of Chief John Baptiste, Sam now 78, had grown up with his family on the north shore. Sam was a popular figure in the village. He guided tourists to the best fishing spots, and was well known to new cottagers. Even though in the article he lamented the dwindling fish stocks, his front page interview garnered more publicity for the burgeoning local cottage industry.

The village dock by Baptiste Station played an integral part in the transportation of

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REFUGE: A SHORT HISTORY OF HERBERT H.M. ALP, ONE OF BAPTISTE LAKE'S FIRST COTTAGERS

BY: KYL CHHATWAL

On a sunny summer afternoon in 1961, 13-year-old Baptiste Lake cottager Chris Irwin got to paddle a real Indian-made birch bark canoe for the first time.

Her father, Roy, whose family had been summering on Baptiste since the 1920s, was going to buy Chris her own Chestnut. First, he thought she might enjoy paddling a canoe built of authentic Baptiste Lake white cedar.

This was one of the last canoes built by Frank Lavalley, a well-known Algonquin Indian who farmed on what is now called Irwin's Lane. Frank was 85 years old when he built the canoe. It was commissioned by a neighbour, Herb Alp, who cottaged on the point north of the Lavalley farm.

Herb built his cabin, Logwood, in 1928. That made him, along with the Irwins, among the first cottagers on the north shore of Baptiste.

(The other north shore residents at the time—all year-round settlers—included Frank and his wife Mary, daughter of Chief John Baptiste; as well as other members of the Baptiste family who lived in the narrows.)

Herb asked Frank to build him the canoe as a way of preserving and memorializing what he considered to be a “very fine” but threatened art form: traditional Algonquin canoe building.

Recalling that afternoon in 1960, Chris talks about how incredibly light the canoe felt to paddle, and how it skimmed across the water like a leaf.

Her memories of Herb Alp are more vague, however. “A quiet, gentle man,” she describes him, “tall, soft-spoken, and very kind-hearted.” Despite the only 15-year age difference between Herb and her father, Chris remembers her parents only ever referring to him as “Mr. Alp,” out of respect.

At the time Herb Alp first saw Baptiste—arriving on the old I.B.&O. Railway in

the late 1920s—small side-wheeled boats known as Alligators had been hauling huge booms of pine logs up and down the lake for six decades. The shoreline was a “tangle” of stray logs and the stumps of trees killed during the initial 1860s flooding of “Long Lake,” the original name for Baptiste.

Tourism was relatively nascent when Herb visited, the first “summer homes” (the word “cottage” did not yet have the connotation it does today) having been built along Fell Road sometime after 1910. They were built on lots partitioned and sold by William Mulcahey, the man who built Grant's General store and the main lodge at Birchcliff.

It was on this early Baptiste, still in its logging and railway heyday, that a young Herb Alp decided to buy the point that now bears his name—Alp's Point. He had the logs for his cabin cut and hauled across the ice that winter. The following summer he cleared the land and built Logwood, paying local labourers a dollar a day to help him.

A glance around Logwood today shows Herb's rough, capable self-sufficiency: from the log staircase to the fieldstone fireplace, still in excellent condition.

Some mornings, when the hired men arrived in their canoes for a day's work, Herb would take them fishing instead, paying their day wages whether work was done or not.

So what made a young man like Herb Alp—only 27 at the time—take on the colossal task of building his own cabin in the wilderness, at a time before power tools or powerboats?

That Herb was strong-willed and robust is clear. But one quickly gets the sense, speaking with people who knew him, that he also had a singular sensitivity to the rugged beauty of 1920s Baptiste. As Jan Boersma, a friend of Herb's and present owner of Logwood, explains it: “It was

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always his dream to build a place like this. Over the years, when he was living abroad [in the United States, and later, Europe] Logwood was his tie to Canada. When he wasn't here he was thinking about it. It was his refuge.”

Herbert H.M. Alp was born in Liverpool, England, in 1901, but came to Canada with his family when he was only two. His father, William Alp, was a Presbyterian minister in Sturgeon Falls. Eventually William relocated the family—Herb, a brother, two sisters—to the Guelph/Stratford area. After high school, Herb attended the University of Guelph, earning a diploma in 1920, and a B.Sc in Agriculture in 1922.



Chris in Herb Alp's Canoe in 1961

At 23, Herb moved to Chicago to join the research staff at Quaker Oats. He would spend the remainder of his working life outside of Canada, mostly in the United States: first with

Quaker, then after 1936 as a professor at the University of Illinois.

During the war years, Herb attained the rank of colonel. Thanks to his agricultural expertise, he was assigned to Brazil to assist in food production, since Brazil was an important food exporter to both the United States and Europe.

Herb became a key figure in the US Farm Bureau in the post-war years, and was eventually relocated to The Hague, Netherlands, as Director of Market Development.

A seasoned traveller, he decorated Logwood, and the winterized cottage he built further down the point—now the home of Pam & Eric Grimshaw—with souvenirs from his

wanderings, such as the wildebeest and antelope antlers still hanging over the fireplace at Logwood today.

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THIRD ANNUAL BAPTISTE LAKE MUSIC FESTIVAL

BY MICHAEL MOXAM

The third annual Baptiste Lake Association Music festival took place on Saturday, July 20, 2013. The public boat launch and the Baptiste Lake Country fare and Inn provided the location. The festival ran from noon until 8 p.m., and featured eight different local bands.

As well as great music, the festival also featured local artists, a BBQ, beer tent, t-shirts and hats, a 50/50 draw, a lottery, and silent auction items. And, while boat traffic was down this year because of the blustery conditions, foot traffic appeared to be up.

The festival is both a fundraiser for the lake association, and a way for the association to reach out to local communities. Proceeds from the event are earmarked for the implementation of the association's Lake Plan. The plan is in place to ensure that the lake's local heritage and natural habitat is preserved. The plan is also a teaching tool about the lake and surrounding area.



THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC FESTIVAL

BY MARGOT CURRIE

Meet Mike Moxam. The idea for a music festival had been in Mike's thoughts for some time before it became a reality three years ago. A past Baptiste Lake Association Director, Mike brought the idea to a board meeting and immediately had the support of the board.

Mike and his wife Ineke first came to Baptiste Lake back in 1984, when their elder son Connor was just six months old. They were introduced to the Lake by Ineke's brother Max and his wife Cathy Irwin, a long time Baptiste

cottager. For many years they rented at Lavalley Bay Cottages. In 1999, they bought a cottage in Dog Bay. Their second Tim is a regular participant of the festival with his band, Blue Son.

Mike has hopes that the festival will continue to grow and become a regular and respected event for local communities. This year Mike was quite pleased to hear people talk about how wonderful it was that a lake association was being inclusive, and reaching out to broader communities.

See you all at next year's Fourth Annual Baptiste Lake Association Music festival. Play on!

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PRESENTATION TO HASTINGS HIGHLANDS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ON LAND USE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BY: THE BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION
(DAVID C. HAWKES)

Our collective vision for Baptiste Lake is to protect, preserve and enhance – for future generations – the qualities that make the lake special to us: the natural beauty, the tranquility, the pristine waters, the natural ecosystems, the recreational opportunities, and the vibrant community that surrounds it. We think that this vision is shared by many residents of this region of Ontario, including those of you on this Council. We all have an interest in keeping the lake pristine for generations to come.

We want to maintain the natural architecture of the lake. We want the natural vistas of Baptiste Lake protected. Proposed developments should be compatible with the natural character of the lake. This means that buildings on the lake should be constructed on a

scale that allows the landscape to remain dominant. Developments that substantially change the geographic or landscape profiles should be avoided.

We have studied the Hastings Highlands zoning bylaw, and zoning practices over the recent past. We find two practices to be problematic. The first is the generous granting of “minor variances”, often stretching the planning concepts of “minor” and “reasonable” to allow for rather surprising new structures and additions, be it a massive boathouse or a garage too close to the road. The result is no cohesive planning strategy.

We understand some of the reasons for this liberal approach to approving “minor variances”. One reason is likely in the nature of the bylaws themselves. For example, bylaw 3.23 restricts the height of a private boathouse to just 13 feet. That seems an unreasonably small limit. Perhaps boathouses should be limited to 20 feet in height. We suggest that the council review such bylaws, and replace them with reasonable limits that they will enforce.

This brings us to the second practice that we find to be problematic – that bylaw enforcement is undertaken only upon receipt of a specific complaint. At first blush, this may sound like simple common sense. After all, it costs money to enforce bylaws. However, this practice leads to selective and uneven enforcement (or non-enforcement) of bylaws, and fails to meet acceptable standards of fairness. For example, we have noticed an increase in the number of lots that have been clear-cut to the water's edge. We have brought this to the attention of council, and we have suggested that a shoreline landscape protection bylaw be developed. In our view, the council should be proactive on this matter. Shoreline residents and local contractors should be informed of the existing bylaws (which prevent clear cutting to

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INITIAL WETLANDS EVALUATION OF EAST BAPTISTE LAKE

BY DAVID HAWKES

On July 8th and 9th, I assisted in the initial wetlands evaluation of the eastern half of Baptiste Lake, a Baptiste Lake Plan project that we are conducting in partnership with the Toronto Zoo.

The western part of the lake was the subject of a wetlands assessment years ago. On the first day, two employees from the Toronto Zoo, Crystal Robertson and Shannon Ritchie, Adopt-A-Pond Stewardship Coordinator and Adopt-A-Pond Wetland Biologist, and I toured the eastern portion of the lake, including McGary Flats, High Falls, Redmond Bay and Dog Bay. On the second day Barry Snider, a biologist with Snider Ecological Services, who has extensive experience in wetlands evaluation, joined us. We toured the same area again, only in greater detail.

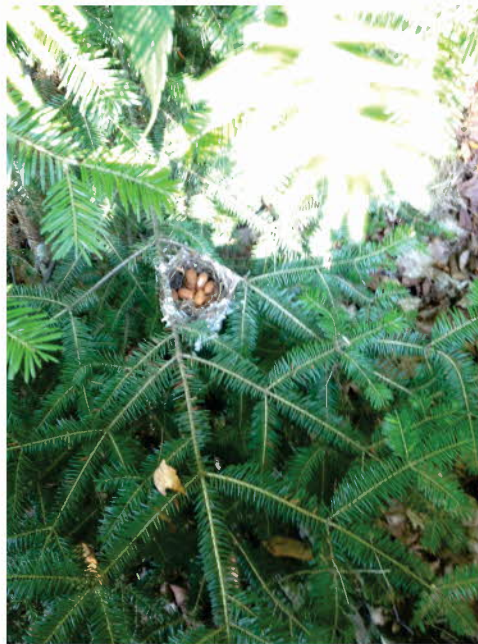
I provided the boat and towed a canoe so

that the biologists and naturalists could paddle the shallower areas. We explored the plants and animals, and even identified an unusual orchid that requires a rare bacterium in order to grow. The three experienced scientists were fully clothed from head to toe while I, the amateur,

wore shorts, sandals and a T-shirt. As I waited in the boat in McGary Flats, the deer flies had a feast! It is amazing to see the size of the wetlands in McGary Flats –it seems to go on for miles, providing a lush breeding ground for fish and other aquatic life.

Shannon and Crystal provided an exciting presentation of their initial findings from the survey to our August Annual General Meeting. All three scientists are returning to the lake for further work this fall, and expect to file an interim report shortly. We shall keep you informed as the wetlands

evaluation continues.



Empty nest being used to store nuts.



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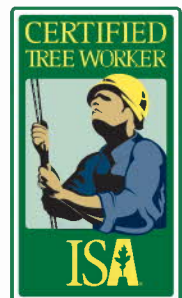
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From contact until the end of the War of 1812, a period of about 200 years, First Nations were not only valuable military allies to the colonial powers, but also important economic partners. With the normalization of relations following that war, the relationship changed. By 1830, government responsibility for “Indians” was transferred from military to civil authorities. This led to various efforts by the colonial government at the time to undermine the treaty relationship and to remove the rights set out in the Royal Proclamation.

Land and Treaties

Colonial authorities now focused on obtaining Indian land for settlers, particularly the United Empire Loyalists (including First Nations) who had remained loyal to Britain during the War of 1812. Between 1812 and the 1850s, hundreds of land transactions took place in Ontario. These included the lands now known as Baptiste Lake and its environs.

For example, it is documented that the Mississauga Nation of the area entered into a provisional treaty in 1819 in Kingston with John Ferguson, on behalf of the Crown, through which they “freely and voluntarily surrendered” their lands to the Crown for an annual payment of 642 pounds and ten shillings, in perpetuity. A confirmation treaty was signed in 1822. The Chippewa Nation entered a similar provisional treaty in 1818 for the yearly sum of 1,200 pounds, which was confirmed in 1832.

These “agreements” appear to be land transactions rather than treaties, which are based on mutual obligations and informed consent, as is the case with earlier treaties and the numbered

treaties that followed. This is why there are outstanding land claims in the traditional territory of the Algonquin, which includes Baptiste Lake.

Following Confederation in 1867, Canada focused on settling the Prairies, and treaty commissions were sent west to “establish friendly relations with the Indians” through treaty-making. The result was a series of agreements called the “numbered treaties” – Treaties 1 through 11 were negotiated between 1871 and 1921 – and covered most of western Canada (British Columbia is the exception). These agreements formalized the mutual exchange inherent in the treaty relationship. The government wanted to open up areas for settlement in exchange for their “bounty and benevolence” toward First Nations, thereby ensuring good will and peace.

The numbered treaties contain provisions for reserved lands, education, tools, and farm implements, as well as ammunition, nets and twine to pursue traditional economic practices. Rights for hunting, trapping fishing and gathering are recognized, annual payments to First Nations members are provided, and provision of a “medicine chest” is mentioned, as are provisions for emergency relief in the event of famine or pestilence.

While there were frequent complaints by First Nations that their treaty obligations were being ignored, it was not until the 1970s that the issue resurfaced in a powerful way. The federal government tabled a White Paper on Indian policy in 1969, in which it proposed to strip First Nations of their treaty and Aboriginal rights. In

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Loons Dog Bay By Kan Chhatwal



Laughing, Eating and Being Merry at the End of Summer Pig Roast

Presentation... *Continued from page 9*

the water's edge), and fined when they flagrantly break the law. If local contractors were to be heavily fined for this practice (say, \$2,000), it would soon stop.

It should be noted that Hastings Highlands already has bylaw 10.3 (c) that requires the maintenance of a 15-meter (50 foot) vegetative buffer zone along the shoreline for all lakeshore residents. Many lakeshore residents ignore the law, growing lawns to the waters' edge, yet the council does nothing to enforce the buffer zone, which is crucial to ensuring water quality, protecting the fishery, and mitigating pollution.

These two practices – generously granting “minor variances” and enforcing laws only upon specific complaint – are ruining Baptiste Lake, bit by bit. We all lose when the

...continued page 15

Loon Watch

By: Chris Chhatwal

This summer two pairs of loons, each with two babies, were spotted on the lake. One family was regularly spotted behind Blueberry Island, and the other pair near Hamilton Bay. There appeared to be a large number of adult loons on the lake this summer. Up to 15 loons at a time were routinely spotted off Bower's Point, and just through the narrows towards Ranger Bay.

Did You Know –

Like many young birds, juvenile loons are really on their own after mom and dad leave at about 12 weeks. The parents head off on migration in the fall, leaving juveniles to gather into flocks on northern lakes and make their journey south a few weeks later. Once the juveniles reach coastal waters on the ocean, they stay there for the next two years. Finally in the third year young loons return north for their first breeding season. Even though they have not been home in awhile, young loons typically return to a lake within ten miles of the lake where they were born.

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He married twice: his first wife, from Cobourg, died young of rheumatic fever. By the time Herb retired in 1967, he'd long been separated from his second wife, a native of the Ottawa area.

While in Holland he met another important woman in his life, not one he would become romantically involved with, but who would become a tireless friend and companion in his later years. Theresa Van Straten worked at the hotel in The Hague where Herb lived. She always wanted to visit America so Herb helped sponsor her move to Chicago.

In 1967 he retired from the Farm Bureau and decided to move permanently to Baptiste. He needed a housekeeper, so he hired Theresa.

Little did she guess, however, how unforgiving winters in Hastings Highlands could be. Logwood by this point was nearly 40 years old and all winter the cold west winds blew through the gaps in the chinking. Herb patched the holes with chunks of wood and whatever else he could find. At night, Theresa hung blankets

to lessen the drafts.

That first winter Herb slept on a cot in the kitchen by the woodstove, cutting a hole in the ceiling to direct the heat into Theresa's bedroom above. He even designed a ramp-like contraption that fed logs into the fire while they slept.

He was not an idle man, and in the early 1970s he built a winterized cabin further down the point for guests (now the Grimshaw's home). After he and Theresa spent a Christmas there, they realized how much more comfortable it was than Logwood and moved in permanently.

In the mid-1970s Herb sold Logwood to Jan and Aleyda Boersma, friends he knew would respect and maintain the beauty of his former home.

Jan fondly remembers how Herb would come over for coffee on Sundays. "You had the sense he wanted to see the old place," Jan says. Herb and Theresa lived on Baptiste until Herb's death in the winter of 1981. Afterwards, Theresa sold the remainder of the property and moved back to Holland, where she still had family.

Just before the North Baptiste Lake Road peters off into Irwin's Lane, there is a small road turning right: Alp's Road. As a boy I remember walking down it and seeing a dilapidated old shack listing seriously to one side. We used to call it "Alp's shack."

Today, there's not much left of it, but this was where Herb used to boil his homemade maple syrup each spring.

After his retirement, Herb even dabbled in amateur logging. He kept horses on his property to haul logs out of the bush that he sold for a dollar a log. Jan estimates that over the years Herb cut and dragged over 700 logs out of the bush. It was probably not something he did for money, but rather, for the fun and challenge.

Neighbours fondly recall Herb's little tractor/bulldozer with which he kept the roads plowed all winter.

When the Alligator boats were still on Baptiste, Herb would collect the logs that slipped free from the boom, storing them in a bay next to his property. Using these logs he built a

...continued page 15



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submitted by DIANA GURLEY

Show Schedule November 2013 - May 2014

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Wed. Oct. 30 to Sat. Nov. 24

plus guest artist – Pat Reynolds, fabric artist

Reception Fri. Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

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December 2013

"Encore"

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selected art works from local Private Collections

Reception Fri. Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

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January 2014

"2 in the Gallery"

Wed. Jan. 8 to Sat. Feb. 1

Works by Susanne Thea and George Raab

Reception Fri. Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

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February 2014

"For the Love of Yellow & Van Gogh"

Wed. Feb. 5 to Sat. Mar. 1

Works by Anita Murphy

Reception Fri. Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

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March 2014

"Michal Manson Memorial"

23rd High School Student Exhibition

Wed. Mar. 5 to Sat. Mar. 29

(NHHS, HHSS, CHSS, MVDHS)

Recep./Awards Fri. Mar.7 at 7:30 p.m.

SPONSOR: Don Koppin Contractor

April 2014

"Classical Abstracts"

Wed. Apr. 2 to Sun. April 27

Works by Allan O'Marra

Reception Fri. Apr. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

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May 2014

"Invitation 2014"

Wed. April 30 to Sun. May 25

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Refuge *Continued from page 13*

homemade barge complete with loading platform.

When families like the Kellers, Skoskies, Campbells, Spencers, Germaines and Biggs were building cottages in Dog Bay in the 1950s and 60s, Herb used to float his tractor over on this barge to help with landscaping. To this later generation of cottagers Herb must've seemed the embodiment of a more rustic, even heroic time, when cottaging on Baptiste didn't come so easily.

There is a photo hanging in our cottage of that summer afternoon in 1960, showing the teenaged girl in Alp's birch bark canoe: my mother. She is squinting at the camera, her paddle resting on dark gunwales.

My grandfather, Roy Irwin, took the picture.

And though he is not shown, somewhere in the background, presumably, Mr. Alp looks on, smiling.

Seven years after this photo was taken—the year Herb retired to Baptiste for good—Camp Ponacka built its Centenary Barn, a museum of

early Baptiste life. To mark the occasion Herb donated his beloved birch bark canoe, knowing it would be preserved and appreciated by the camp.

The text that still accompanies the canoe describes how “Mr. Alp treasured this canoe very much as a memorial of Frank Lavalley” and how “Camp Ponacka is truly grateful to Mr. Alp for donating this very fine work of Indian art.”

Alp's canoe—as far as I can determine—is one of only two surviving Lavalley birch bark canoes, the other one on display in the Bancroft Museum.

Though Herb meant the canoe as a memorial to his friend Frank Lavalley, it has also become, in a sense, his own memorial. A symbol of his generosity, his spirit, and the early, pioneering years of Baptiste Lake cottaging that Herb Alp loved so much.

Presentation... Continued from page 12

natural beauty of the lake is compromised.

We shall do our part to inform lake residents of the bylaws regarding land use and the built environment, and we can encourage lake residents to report those breaking the law, and thus threatening our environment. We need you – the Hastings Highlands Council – to enforce the laws, and to punish those who break the laws. If residents and contractors see that there is no punishment for breaking the law in Hastings Highlands, some will continue to do so with impunity.

We are willing to work with Hastings Highlands on these matters. We are certain that other lake associations and other lake residents share our concerns. We could begin with a suggestion that Mayor Vivian Bloom made to us last year – that Hasting Highlands convene a meeting of lake associations in the municipality to discuss issues of mutual interest. We suggest that you convene such a meeting this summer or fall. We would be pleased to work with you on this event, and to make a presentation to it.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation.

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Treaty-Making... Continued from page 11

response to the negative and highly public reaction, then Prime Minister Trudeau appointed an Indian Claims Commission. Following the report of that commission, the federal government released its first native claim policy statement in 1973 and established the Office of Native Claims the following year. The federal government directed the settlement of comprehensive claims of Aboriginal peoples that retained the right to traditional use and occupancy of their lands. Comprehensive claims were based on assertions of Aboriginal title, while specific claims were based on assertions that a "lawful obligation" had not been discharged.

The federal policy provided an avenue for First Nations that do not have a treaty or land claims agreement to negotiate concrete rights and benefits, guaranteed in federal legislation, in exchange for "undefined Aboriginal rights". Compensation for lost opportunity would be negotiated in lands, wildlife, subsurface rights and cash, initially. Corporate structures and taxation authorities and social and economic development programs were also negotiable. Later developments added more areas of negotiation: resource revenue-sharing, offshore resources, preferential wildlife harvesting for beneficiaries on unoccupied Crown lands, participation in local regional government structures, and recognition of hunting, fishing and trapping rights. Both the comprehensive and specific policies have been updated many times since.

Typically, land claims agreements have chapters on the following subject matters: forest resources; fisheries; hunting, trapping and

gathering; wildlife management; migratory birds; environmental assessment and protection; cultural artifacts and heritage; capital transfer; and governing and management institutions.

Land Claims and Baptiste Lake

The proposed Algonquin Land Claim Agreement-in-principle (AIP) reached this past winter is now in a consultation phase, with all parties and the general public invited to review it. The AIP will be subject to a vote by the Algonquins of Ontario. The Governments of Ontario and Canada will also need to approve the AIP before negotiations toward a Final Agreement can begin. If the AIP is approved, it is expected that the Final Agreement will take several years to negotiate.

The final agreement will not create new First Nation Reserves. The lands ultimately transferred to the Algonquin will become private lands and will be subject to laws of general application. As such, they will fall within existing

... Continued on page 17

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provincial jurisdiction and municipal bylaws. Private property is never expropriated in order to settle land claims. If private property were to be considered as part of the settlement, it would be on a “willing seller, willing buyer” basis.

The draft AIP contains chapters on claims institutions (to receive and manage settlement lands and cash), land (117,500 acres in fee simple, including all surface and subsurface rights), capital transfers and loan repayment (\$300 million in total), forestry, harvesting, fishing (a fisheries management plan is to be negotiated with Ontario), parks and protected areas, heritage and culture (burial and heritage sites and historical artifacts), self-government (for the Pikwakanagan First Nation), taxation, dispute resolution, implementation, and ratification processes.

With respect to lands, Ontario and Canada will retain the beds of all navigable waterways. In addition, settlement lands will be subject, at the time of transfer, to the rights or legal interests of Third Parties (e.g., mining leases, hunt camps, traplines, aggregate pits).

The forestry chapter provides for measures for Algonquin employment and training in the industry, for Algonquin consultation on provincial policy reform, and for Algonquin participation in forest management and planning.

The harvesting chapter recognizes the Algonquin right to harvest fish, wildlife, birds and plants throughout the settlement area. It also addresses the management of Algonquin harvesting rights: the Algonquin are to be involved in harvesting plans and are to monitor activity. There are provisions for harvesting moose in Algonquin Park and for a Trapline Harmonization agreement (both to be negotiated with the Government of Ontario). The Algonquin are also to be consulted on conservation measures and species-at-risk.

The Algonquin are to participate in the management of parks and protected areas. In addition, Algonquin cultural and spiritual sites within these areas are to be identified. There is also mention of a possible Algonquin museum or

cultural center.

The proposed land claim site on Baptiste Lake is on the northeast corner of Hay Bay (Site 19 on the AIP map). Also within the Baptiste Lake watershed is site 22_E on the AIP map, which includes Little Lighthouse Lake and Big Lighthouse Lake, as well as the south side of Hamilton Creek and all of Hamilton Lake.

A New Dock... Continued from page 5

people, goods and services. Long after the I B & O made its final run in 1967, cottagers chose to travel by boat to Grant's store for groceries, supplies and to the post office inside. Many enjoyed a good chat with Mable and her mother Lizzie Grant. Even after the rail line and station were removed, successive owners of the store still attracted customers who arrived by boat.

By then, Herschel Township had built a crib dock with a rock wall behind to hold the bank and provide for parking. As the population grew around the lake, the landing became a focal point for the community. In the 1990's, the crib dock finally succumbed to damage from high winds and waves, and was replaced with a new portable dock. Removed in the Fall, and re-installed each Spring, this dock lasted until this year. Just before amalgamation, Herschel purchased property above Dock Road for extra parking because of all the increased traffic at the dock.

Today, we see a brand new portable dock in stalled at this landmark. Designed for a long life, this dock serves as the main access to this 25 mile waterway. According to the Lake Association, which was formed in the 1940's, there are roughly over 600 permanent and seasonal dwellings on the lake.

After amalgamation in 2000, Hastings Highlands chose “Scenic Routes” to publicize “naturally beautiful” sights in each ward. Herschel named its route Sunset Trail, and it ends at the historic village dock where tourists and residents stop to admire the most spectacular vista of the sun setting on this southern shore.

...continued page 18

President's Message Continued from page 2

matter how small a way, I would encourage to you contact David and let him know that you are willing to volunteer. The more people who volunteer; the easier it will be for all.

We want to hear from you. Enclosed with this Newsletter is a survey. We encourage everyone to fill it out and forward it to us. It can be sent by mail to BLA, Box 877, Bancroft, Ontario, K0L 1C0 or sent by e-mail to info@baptistelake.org. Your input is important and we are looking for your guidance moving forward.

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



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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@baptistelake.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.

A New Dock Continued from page 17

What prompted Mulcahey to settle on this specific lakeshore? Might it simply have been his first panoramic view of this sunset...a found treasure on his doorstep.

Time and people do change the landscape, but the view that greeted Mulcahey roughly 140 years ago is ageless. Preserving a public dock at this landmark allows everyone to enjoy it forever.

An advertisement for The Hastings Old Mercantile & Gallery. The ad is framed with a decorative border. At the top, it says 'THE HASTINGS OLD MERCANTILE & GALLERY' with a 'Route 62' logo. To the right, it says '20 minutes from Bancroft at the corner of Hwy 620 & The Old Hastings Road'. Below this is a red banner that reads '2012 Hastings County Tourism Business of the Year'. The ad is divided into several sections: 'OPEN DAILY through December 31 (Winter Weekends) Mon. to Sat. 10-5:00 Sunday 12-5:00 613 337-5050'; 'Celebrating our 10th Anniversary Year!'; a photo of Lillian and Gary in the mercantile with the caption 'Lillian & Gary in The Mercantile.'; a description of the store's inventory: 'Step back in time when you enter Ormsby's 1890s general store. Discover room after room filled with fine Canadian arts & crafts, vintage toys, antiques, jewellery, cottage-themed gifts & clothing, nostalgia books, country-themed merchandise... and penny candy. We feature Baptiste Lake clocks, mugs, 3D map art, puzzles, hats, clothing, aprons, vintage wooden signs and more!'; and a photo of the 'Old Ormsby Schoolhouse Restaurant & Tea Room, in Ormsby's restored one-room school. 613 337-5067 Open Weekends'. At the bottom, it says 'www.oldhastingsgallery.ca'.



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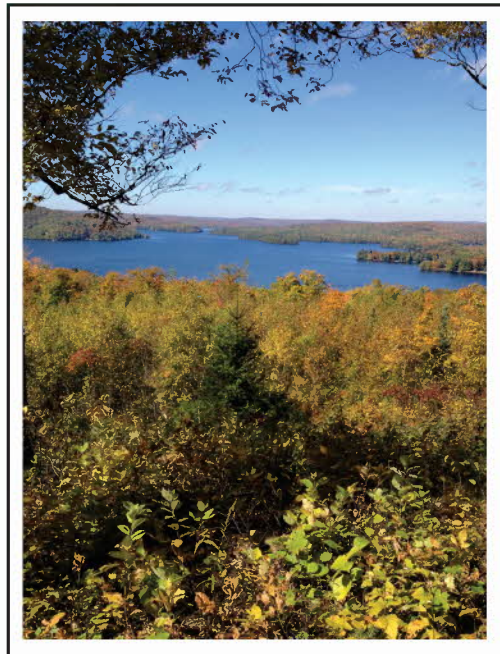
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