



BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

www.baptistelake.org Box 877 Bancroft, Ontario K0L 1C0 mybaptistelake@gmail.com

SEASONAL CHANGES



Photo by Anne Coleman



Photo by Anne Coleman



Hatching Map Turtles. Photo by Monica Seidel



McGarry Flats Sunset. Photo by Anne Coleman

BLA Officials - Fall 2022

Marlin Horst, BLA President

Mike Di Cintio, Vice President

Anne Coleman, Director,
Lake Plan Implementation & Secretary

Paul Coleman, Director, Editor

Eric Hooey, Director, Webmaster

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

Diane Jared, Director, Treasurer

Beth Greenberg, Director

Hilary Phillips, Director,
Lake Plan Implementation

Sabe & Cindy Belcastro, Director

Liliane (Lily) Mabson, Director

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marlin Horst

I am writing this just after Labour Day and the nights have started cooling down but the days generally stay warm. I like the heat. I found the weather to be a little odd this past summer. The weather was largely sunny (and the rainfall was way down) but the lake was windy. We did not get in near enough kayaking

This was the first year in three years that we could again have in person gatherings. The pandemic is not over but it has become part of our lives.

We once again had the opening event on the May long weekend at Birch Cliff Lodge. It was great to see so many people show up and get caught up again. It was like we were all coming out of our shells. A big thank you to Birch Cliff Lodge for allowing us to use the Dining Room.

On the July long weekend we had the second annual pike tournament. It was again a very popular event. I am not personally a fisherman but anything that brings the lake together is good in my book. A big thank you to Mike Di Cintio for spearheading this. He worked very hard to make this a success. We look forward to holding this event again next year.

We held an in person AGM in early August. I was happy to see the large number of people attend. We



*Large turnout at the AGM.
Photo by Shelley Pickard*

had a number of presentations including one from Watersheds Canada, which was very informative about invasive species (microscopic crustacean species). We also welcomed a new director, Beth Greenberg. I am confident she will make a positive contribution to the association.

On the Sunday of the Labour Day weekend we were also able to hold the Closing Event again at Camp Ponacka. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but I understand it was a great success. Thank you to Camp Ponacka for allowing this event to take place.

The BLA continues to be part of the Hastings Highlands Interlake Group and FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association). The Interlake Association will be hosting an all candidates meeting on October 8 at the Municipal Office in Maynooth in connection with the fall municipal election. Please note that as a property owner in Hastings Highland you may have a right to vote. Please go to the Hastings Highlands website which contains information on the election and various links. Please exercise your rights to vote.

We continue to see boaters who are not being respectful of others. I personally love boating but we should be cognizant of our neighbours on the lake. I would encourage all of you to understand and abide

...continued on page 3



*Great weather, great turnout.
Photo by Paul Coleman*

BLA ACTIVITIES 2022

By Anne Coleman

As was pointed out in Marlin's president's report, the BLA was busy this past spring and summer returning to in person meetings and events. We no longer had to rely on Zoom to conduct our Directors' meetings and being together in the same location was energizing. It seemed easier to share ideas. The Directors have at least 4 planning meetings between March and October. Add the AGM, and we are able to cover many issues and details concerning our lake.

Our message to new residents and cottagers is that we welcome you warmly in joining the Baptiste Lake Community. Whether you realize it or not, by virtue of sharing the shoreline and/or property in the backlots, you have become a contributor to the lake, positive or not. That concept will eventually grow on you as you become more appreciative of what infinite values you glean from this environment. You will want to protect it and that is the mandate of the BLA.

The BLA held its Opening Event at Birch Cliff Lodge, thanks to David Milne and his staff, and also to the volunteer efforts of the Directors. We brought sandwiches, appetizers, desserts, and drinks to share with all who attended. It is a great way to connect with people from all points around our very large lake. The west side gets to meet the east side, so to speak.

...from page 2 President's Message

by the rules of boating. If we all follow the rules we can all enjoy our lake together.

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



The corn roast at Camp Ponacka.

Photo by Paul Coleman

Later in the summer, anglers had a beautiful summer's day to test their skill and their equipment in catching as many Pike as possible at our second annual Pike Tournament. Mike Di Cintio puts countless hours into the success of this event and he is passionate about putting a dent into the Pike population in Baptiste. The ever changing structures of the Baptiste fish population due to gradual climate change, the aging of the lake and direct human interference, forces

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...from page 3

the angler who has fished this lake for decades realize that the changes are rapid. (See Mike's full report)

At our AGM, also held at Birch Cliff Lodge, we were pleased to have Mayor Tracy Hagar address us. She fielded many questions including the Shoreline By-Law and proposed Septic testing. This testing is an absolute necessity upon which the incoming Council must take action.

Our Keynote speaker, Christopher Dennison, drove all the way from the Thousand Islands, where he resides, to give us an animated seminar on Microscopic Invasive Crustaceans. This is a growing concern in other lakes but it is something easily introduced to our lake if proper preventive measures are not taken, such as boat washing before entering the lake. We have included Chris' bio in this newsletter.

Overall, there were many lake association members in attendance and they raised many excellent questions around shoreline over-development, boat sizes, lack of respect in general for the lake community, and their suggestions for improvement truly demonstrated their genuine concern for our lake. Thank you all who attended. The minutes for this meeting are available



Cindy and Sabe with Food Bank donations.

Photo by Matt Belcastro

on our website.

On Sunday, September 4th, Camp Ponacka and the BLA hosted one of the most successful corn roasts that the present Board has experienced. Approximately 120 people arrived and thankfully we had enough corn, hot dogs, chips, drinks and watermelon to satisfy everyone. It was noted that some people couldn't find docking space otherwise we would have had more visitors. The weather was perfect. Don and Ann Bocking are ever gracious and generous offering their beautiful property for this event. Besides the roast, we ran a food drive to which many people contributed. Belcast Cottages, on the North Baptiste Lake Road had monitored a secondary food drive at their general store earlier in the week, so with the two combined, we had a sizable amount to offer. Delivery to the Maynooth Food Bank was made and gratefully accepted.

The BLA has again made donations to the Fish Hatchery and to the North Hastings Community Care.

We have one more directors' meeting in October and the fall Newsletter to get to the presses, and this director is taking a winter break. It is my favourite time of the year with the thought in mind that the lake is getting a restorative break as well, I hope. Have a great fall and winter.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHRISTOPHER DENNISON

By Anne Coleman

Christopher kindly accepted our invitation to address the AGM this past August. Raised in the heart of Thousand Islands National Park, Christopher has devoted his professional and academic career to finding integrative solutions to issues of wildlife and freshwater conservation.



*Chris addressing AGM attendees.
Photo by Anne Coleman*

Chris holds both a BA (Political Science) and BSc. (Biology), and has previous experience in project management, environmental policy analysis, and ecological fieldwork. He has contributed to various conservation-related initiatives, including the Western Chorus Frog Long-Term Monitoring Project and the Landon Bay Nature Camp Program. While serving as Municipal Policy Intern with Watersheds Canada in 2021, he aided in the development of the Planning For Our Shorelands project and worked diligently to communicate the current need for sustainable, ecologically-sound shoreland land-use policy in Ontario. Chris lives in the beautiful Thousand Islands and is excited about current and future initiatives that strengthen conservation efforts in the region and abroad.

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

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*BLA Directors at corn roast.
Photo by Rob Zwicker*

An advertisement for Team Grant Real Estate. The top half has a blue background with the text "TEAM GRANT" in large, white, outlined letters. Below this, contact information is listed: "phonegrants@gmail.com", "www.phonejoan.net", and "613-332-0332". Two oval-shaped callouts feature the names "Chris Grant" and "Joan Grant" in white text, with "Real Estate Salesperson" written below each name. The bottom half of the ad shows a scenic view of a lake with a forested hill in the background. Overlaid on this image is the text "Born and Raised on Baptiste Lake" in white. At the bottom, the "RE/MAX" logo is prominently displayed in red and blue, followed by "Country Classics Ltd., Brokerage" and "Independently owned and operated." in white. A small RE/MAX logo is also visible in the bottom right corner.

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NEW DIRECTOR

Beth Greenberg

Beth Greenberg and her husband moved from Guelph, Ontario to Lake Baptiste 3 years ago. She enjoys exploring the area as well as boating, kayaking ATVing and snowmobiling. They have adult twin sons in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and a daughter on Vancouver Island., B.C.

Beth is an executive coach and facilitator with a passion for working with individuals exploring next steps and working together through the career journey. She is a small business owner of Greenberg Consult-

ing since 2009, which delivers webinars, management workshops, career planning and coaching for executives as well as individuals from diversified industries.

Beth has over 20 years of broad-based business experience which includes Leadership, Credit Auditor, and facilitation in the Financial Services industry across Canada.

As a lifelong volunteer she believes giving back to the community makes a difference and is looking forward to working with the BLA.



February Beauty. This is why some people stay all winter. Photo by Anne Coleman



Beth on one of her favourite walks.



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2022 FISHING ON BAPTISTE LAKE

By Mike Di Cintio

This year we hosted our 2nd Annual Pike Tournament, with a great list of prizes from Mack Attack, Shimano, MAD Fishing and Rapala. As many of you noticed the rules were a bit different this time with prizes awarded to the teams with the most total combined length of Pike. This rule was set in place to give more incentive to families and groups of friends to come out fishing. It helped level out the playing field for those who don't own a super fast bass boat.

The tourney turned out to be a great success with well over 500 pike caught and removed from the lake. This rule gave a reason for people to keep even the small snout rockets because every inch counted towards a prize. This was the first time anything like this has been done and although it was a bit confusing for some, most people were happy with the changes.

Just wanted to say thanks to all who sponsored, participated and volunteered with this tournament, and we hope to see you all again next summer for the 3rd Annual Pike Fishing Tournament which will be held on Saturday, July 8th 2023!

We have taken everyone's concerns and ideas into consideration and made a few small changes to the rules for next year. There will still be prizes for total length per team, but places 1-10 will be limited to 3 fish per team. There will also be one single biggest fish prize, as well as a separate total length prize with no limit on how many fish are entered. Once again a very new style of tournament rules but definitely this gives a good chance of winning to many different groups of anglers.

Entry price will remain the same, \$50.00 per team. You can sign up anytime for next year's tournament by E-transfer to mybaptistelake@gmail.com Any questions regarding the tournament you can email me directly at m_dicintio@hotmail.com.

As for fishing on Baptiste this summer, I have noticed



One of the prize winners at the 2nd Annual Pike Tournament. Photo by Mike Di Cintio

a few changes, as I am sure many other anglers have noticed as well.

The lake is definitely in a state of dramatic change! I have noticed this mainly in the last 2 years with this year being the most noticeable. The pike and crappie populations have both sky rocketed. Small mouth Bass population is still doing very well, and one very odd species is on the rise....the CATFISH! Brown bull-head catfish to be specific. They have always had a small population in our lake, but this year I have noticed they have regular feeding times and have taken over a huge area of our lake. Unlike Northern Pike, catfish are not a problem to our fishery, they are actually a sign of a healthy eco system, but more noticeably a sign of movement toward a Eutrophic lake. Over time, all lakes eventually move towards becoming Eutrophic which means highly fertile, shallow and lots of organic life like weeds, bugs and fish.

Certain things beyond time and natural factors will make this process accelerate. Mainly erosion. This occurs when pieces of land get pushed into water... making the water more shallow. This in turn allows the sunlight to reach closer to the bottom, which makes the

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weeds grow more.

When the weeds grow faster and thicker, they die off and pile up on the bottom. Once again making the lake more shallow. This continues every year creating more weeds and less water depth. Eventually certain bays will become similar to the Kawartha Lakes, shallow, weedy and full of algae blooms. This will be great for fishing for a few years because of the increased, weed and bug life. But it is not a good sign. It really is just the life span of the lake shortening.

We can try to slow the process down if we were to limit the activities on the water that create the most erosion. Constant wakes from large boats and small water craft, as well as shoreline construction and dumping sand contribute to the aging of our lake.

It is our lake, and the science behind it is very clear. We can see the future of our lake just by looking at other lakes around us. It is up to us to decide how we want our lake be. Hopefully some of these damaging activities can be limited so we can slow down the aging process



Great catch. Photo by Mike Di Cintio

of our lake.

On the upside, we are very close to starting our spawning bed rehabilitation program on Baptiste. We have received applications and hope to receive approval to work closely with Watersheds Canada and the NDMN-RF. With some help from volunteers and money raised from a few more pike tournaments, financial support or product in kind, the spawning bed enhancement project will hopefully commence by summer 2024.

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BAPTISTE LAKE MEMORIES

By Peter Mason

Back in the 50's & 60's, my family would pack our belongings & head up to Lake Baptiste. The purpose of our trip: to spend vacation time at Grace & Kenny Van Courte's cottage. They were VERY good friends of my Mom & Dad. In fact, my Mom went to Norway Public School with Grace. They were Uncle Kenny and Aunt Grace to me. And let's not forget their daughter, Penny. Their cottage was situated on the north side of the lake and, at that time, there wasn't road access. We would park on the south side of the lake and my Dad would give the honk signal (3 short & 2 long) for someone to come and get us. By boat, it was always Frank Hicks (the owner of Camp Comfort) who would come to get us. Our gear would be loaded to the gunnels and I was always afraid we'd tip over and sink at some point. Never happened though.

CAMP COMFORT : There was a main lodge and 5-6 red & white cottages on their property. There was a dock for boats and a diving board on the end. On occasion, there would be Square Dancing going on in one of the cottages. We weren't allowed in but we'd sit out & listen to the music and laughter. It was the place to be for both grown-ups and kids. There were not a lot of kids around but Frank and Ann Hicks had 3 kids : Frankie Jr, Marion & Bobby. We'd get together almost every day and every day was an adventure.

- Frankie was the eldest so naturally us kids all looked up to him. I certainly did. He was the Outdoors Man. When we caught fish, usually Rock Bass, we'd head over to the island across from the cottage and Frankie would clean the fish & start a fire. How good were those Shore Lunches!!! On occasion, we'd go up to the cottage in the winter. How we got across the lake? I can't remember. Anyway, I went rabbit hunting with Frankie

& Bobby and Frankie bagged one. Skinned and cleaned the rabbit right then and there. And, we'd go ice fishing and actually caught a Ling or two...

- I hung out with Bobby, the youngest, as he was my age. Not a big guy but big on laughter. And knew how to go about getting things done. He actually had a paper route and I would go out with him to do the deliveries all around the lake.

Marion Hicks was the only daughter (a redhead) and she hung out with Penny. I don't have a lot of memories of her but do recall that her parents bought her a horse. And, I kid you not, it was blind !!!

The Neighbourhood : there were not a lot of people on the lake back then. I remember Jack & Gwen Kerr who had a cottage next to Kenny's cottage. I remember a guy, I think his name was Carl Gamble, who had a place on the lake, and he owned the biggest boat around. And, last but certainly not least, a guy who everyone called "Bowser". He had a speed boat and loved to whip around the lake and if you were in the boat with him, he'd scare the living bejesus out of you by

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...from page 9

making these incredibly sharp turns. Bowser : the name fits perfectly.....

Paul: I'm saving the best for last because I think it will fit perfectly into your Newsletter. Here goes...

Many, many afternoons, we'd run along the shoreline, past Camp Comfort, and end up at the Baptiste cabin which was in a bay just around the corner from Camp Comfort. Rosie, Sam's wife, was always there and would welcome us into her home. The stove was always going, it was incredibly warm, and Rosie would always reach into a jar and give each of us a Humbug. Sometimes we'd get a piece of Jerky. Neither Sam nor Jackie Baptiste were ever there but no doubt they were around.

- I recall Jackie would go out at night with several friends and fish up and down the lake right in front of



Sam and Jackie Baptiste. Sam is the man who shot the bear. Stock photo received from Peter Mason.

the cottage. They'd be singing away. I'm sure they'd had a few.

- The garbage that we made was put into a hole WAY back behind the cottage. And, invariably, it attracted bears. There was a Black Bear that became a regular visitor. Sam, God love him, sat out one night, by the garbage pit, rifle in hand, waiting and waiting and watching. The bear finally made his appearance. Sam flipped on the flashlight taped to the rifle and dropped the bugger first shot...

P.S. I actually remember Mabel. Rather a large woman if memory serves. We used to go over to Birch Cliff Lodge for an ice cream cone.



Dreamcatcher ink drawing by John Coleman.

FALL FISHING TIPS

By Michael Di Cintio

As the summer turns to fall, the days get shorter, and the lake starts to cool, getting ready to “flip” or “turn-over”. Lots of changes are happening and one unique event, I have noticed, is an underwater war between Smallmouth Bass and Walleye. During the summer months Walleye dominate the rocky shoals while Smallmouth Bass hold their ground on shallower rocky points and weed beds.

As Fall approaches the Largest Smallmouth gather in groups of 4-10 fish and push the Walleye off the rocky points to go dormant for the winter. If you get out early on a calm late summer/early fall morning when the fog is thick and the air is cold you might be lucky enough to see this battle on the surface of the water. The big Smallmouth will skitter along the surface in groups then dive down to the bottom, over and over for sometimes up to an hour. In my opinion this is to deter or scare any Walleye pods sitting on the bottom while the Smallmouth set up for the winter and is an awesome sight to see for sure.

My preferred fall Smallmouth fishing technique is

sharpshooting drop shot rigs or Carolina rigs with size 2 octopus hooks and a live minnow. Sharp shooting just means driving around slowly, waiting until you see a mark on the fish finder... then dropping the bait down to it. This technique has worked great for me for years.

Enjoy the fall season everyone, hope to see you at the 2023 Baptiste Lake Pike Fishing Tournament.
Tight lines.



“Hey granddad how’s this, asks Cooper”.
Photo by Paul Coleman

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THE BLA PROPOSED WALLEYE SPAWNING BED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

From Watersheds Stewardship Report

Fish habitat enhancement projects are a way for stewardship organizations, lake associations, fish and game clubs, and other groups to improve their local lake ecosystems. By working collaboratively with others, the community can rally together and enhance lake quality and fish habitat.

Planning a walleye spawning bed enhancement project involves seven key steps:

1. Determine your Objective
2. Consult Experts and Key Stakeholders
3. Obtain the Necessary Permits
4. Choose your Project Site
5. Plan your Project
6. Fund your Project
7. Communicate your Project Plan

(From Watersheds Canada Fish Habitat Toolkit)

THE BLA IS IN THE FIRST STEPS OF PLANNING THE WALLEYE SPAWNING BED ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.



*Rainbow over Blueberry Island.
Photo by Penny Anderson*

Mike DiCintio and Paul Coleman have contacted the MNRF and Watersheds Canada to proceed with the application process.



Completed walleye spawning bed project on Diamond Lake near Killaloe. A You-Tube clip is available through Watersheds for more details.

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WATER TESTING ON BAPTISTE LAKE

By Lily Mabson and Anne Coleman

One of the recommendations in the Lake Plan is to have an on going water testing schedule.

Julie Carter and her family are doing the water testing in the deepest basin of the lake, off of Bower's point.

This program is administrated by the Lake Partner Program, a government sponsored program partnering with the Ministry of the Environment. The Lake Partner Program is a province-wide, volunteer-based, water-quality monitoring program. Volunteers collect total phosphorus samples and make monthly water clarity observations on their lakes. This information will allow the early detection of changes in the nutrient status and/or the water clarity of the lake due to the impacts of shoreline development, climate change and other stresses. Our contact there is Liz Favot.

They send out the 2 testing kits and the results are returned to them, the first in May, the second in November. The first test (May) measures phosphorus, calcium and chloride levels, and the monthly, spring, summer, fall Secchi tests monitor particulate matter in the water or water transparency.

The results are entered in a data base that you can access online through the Lake Partner Program website. There is no feedback to know if the results we send are received and duly entered.

There is also someone else testing at another spot, closer to Rabbit Point however the Lake Partner Program does not share that information.

A view towards the narrows. Painting by Anne Coleman



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SLEEPING THROUGH THE SCHOOL YEAR – A FRESHWATER TURTLE’S STRATEGY FOR SURVIVAL IN ONTARIO

By Monica Seidel

Growing up, many of us would have welcomed the idea of sleeping in and missing school. Perhaps there was an early morning class or teacher you were not fond of, or you had to trek through the cold to get to school in the wintertime.

If someone had offered you the option to simply sleep through half of the year, bypassing the cold and school year, would you have done it? How would you have been able to survive sleeping that long?

While they are not worried about skipping school, Ontario’s turtle species have to resort to extreme measures to survive our cold winters. In total we have eight freshwater turtle species who call our province home: Blanding’s, Eastern Musk, Northern Map, Painted, Snapping, Spiny Softshell, Spotted, and Wood.

Turtles are cold-blooded animals who need an external source of heat to control their body temperature. This summer you may have seen many turtle species basking in the sun on a log or rock as they warmed up.



Blandings Turtle. Photo by Simon Lunn

When turtles are cold, they become slow and sluggish, making them more susceptible to predation and being hurt on roadsides. They will also become slower in finding a hibernation site, nesting area, or mate.

How Turtles Have Adapted

To skip through Ontario’s cold, long, and dark winters, turtles use a technique called hibernation. In late fall, turtles dig down to the bottom of certain water bodies and enter an induced sleep underneath the soil until they can re-emerge in the spring.

“Anti-freeze” turtles

Interestingly enough, some turtle species have further adapted so they can successfully sleep through the winter. Painted turtles have skin that seems to resist ice forming into their bodies, allowing them to better survive at below zero temperatures (Muir et al, 2013). Snapping turtles can survive some of their bodily fluids freezing for short periods of time (Packard et al., 1993). No matter whether you are going back to school or hibernating, you still have worry about freezing during the wintertime!

Turtles must also have enough food stored up to survive through the winter months so they can emerge and find food in the spring, fend off predators, and overcome lactic acid build-up. Fortunately, cold temperatures at the bottom of waterbodies mean turtles slowly use up their food supplies.

Spring “breakers”

Turtle species may hatch from their egg in the fall, meaning they have to find a suitable hibernation site quickly before winter comes. If these eggs do not hatch before winter, there is a very low chance of survival as the eggs will freeze and irreversible damage to the cells will occur.

Some species, therefore, have adapted to hatch the

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Photo by Paul Coleman

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following spring. Species like the Midland Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta marginata*) can survive the winter in their nest because of their large yolk sac. Species that have this adaptation may experience additional benefits such as avoiding hatchling predation in the fall, avoiding the risk of dying during an early winter or early freeze, and emerging from their egg in the spring when there are ideal weather conditions and plenty of food available.

Turtles are amazing creatures who have adapted to a province known for its extreme weather. They are so smart that they have figured out how to live through tough Ontario winters without having to directly deal with the snow, short hours of sunlight, and -40°C temperatures – perhaps they really do not need school after all!

Helping Turtles Get to their “Beds”

Turtles are long-living species with a late sexual maturity. They do not have a coping mechanism to produce more eggs as a response to declining population size, which all eight Ontario turtle species are currently experiencing because of road mortality, habitat fragmentation and destruction, and egg poaching for the pet trade. This means it is especially important to know how you can help turtles have their best chance at survival as they look for their hibernation sites this fall.

If you see a turtle crossing the road, you can help it in the way it is already walking. Turtles often return to the same nesting and hibernation spots each year, so they will restart their journey across the road if you move them in the opposite direction they want to go. Please make sure it is safe for you to stop and exit your car



Nesting Snapper, June 2022. Photo by Paul Coleman

before helping any wildlife cross the road.

How can you safely pick a turtle up? This is a great video (Youtube: How to help a snapping turtle cross the road) showing how to help a Snapping Turtle cross the road, as special considerations must be made for them. For all other turtle species, you can safely handle them by firmly grabbing them in the middle of their shell (like a sandwich), using both of your hands.

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You can always be ready to help turtles by having a few key items in your car:

- Safety equipment for yourself like a reflective vest and gloves or hand sanitizer (70% alcohol or more).
- A flat shovel or car mat to help place large turtles on and drag them across the road.
- A plastic bin with a lid. This can be used if the turtle is injured and needs to be brought to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Make sure to wash your hands after handling a turtle as all species in Ontario naturally carry salmonella which can be passed to humans. If you find an injured turtle, please contact the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (705-741-5000) or an Ontario licensed wildlife

rehabilitator for instructions to help the turtle.

Sources

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PROPANE BUYERS BEWARE!

By Shelley Pickard

Every year we wait with anticipation and dread for the moment when our propane supplier sends us their fixed rate for propane for the upcoming season. Almost every year it is a battle to get the best rate we can. This year was no different.

We started heating year-round in 2013 when we rebuilt – took down the family cottage and built our current home. We were still doing weekends, hadn't retired, but wanted to be able to come to the place we loved all year round and not just three seasons. We put in in-floor heat, a boiler, an air-handler, a generator and a woodstove to try to make sure that we would be kept warm and toasty. Our hot water tank runs off our boiler and we have a gas stove. We settled on a propane supplier based on what we knew at the time and away we went. Since then, we have retired and moved to our bit of paradise on Baptiste Lake.

This year we expected that the propane price would



The rising costs for essentials is dramatic.

What to do?

be going up. Housing costs were up, gas prices sky-rocketed and our grocery bill was getting scary. When we got our propane rate, we were flabbergasted... It had gone up almost .30 cents a litre!

People from all over started discussing their pro-

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pane costs on social media. There was a push to start propane “groups”. (If you are in a group you benefit from better pricing). I heard about people who had the same supplier and yet the pricing that they had each received was different and all over the map! People who only used propane as a secondary source for heat were getting cheaper prices than people who relied on it as their primary heating fuel! People were next door to someone being offered a better deal! The price didn’t seem to relate to volume or distance or anything that I could pinpoint. It didn’t make any sense!


So... I contacted my provider to see what was going on. A few years ago, we had started a Baptiste Lake Group to help get us better pricing. They said that they didn’t have many members in our group and that if there were more members it may mean they could reduce the price as it was based on overall volume. I found that there were some people that I knew that used to be on the list and obviously weren’t anymore as I had heard that their quoted price was different. So in the end, the supplier asked me to put together a list of customers who should be in the Baptiste Lake Group. I posted this online and got a very good response!

Someone posted and pointed out to me that there were a lot of people who used different suppliers and why was I concentrating on one, so I started emailing and phoning other major suppliers in the area and comparing the costs. During the back and forth with the various suppliers, my supplier decided to reduce their price for the Baptiste Lake Group. When another supplier heard what was now being offered, they


also decided to consider the same for their Baptiste Lake group customers. Seems they do have room to move and will when faced with questions from their customer groups.

Personally, I think that group pricing is unfair. The suppliers can and do take advantage of people who are uninformed. Who knew you had to belong to a group? Should pricing depend on who you know and associate with? Hmmm.. is it to my advantage to join some club just to get better rates for propane? Should they not be able to set their price based on their company or branches volume as a whole? Do they buy just for one group at a time? I think their profitability should be based on their ability to get and retain customers. If they have more customers and therefore a higher volume their overall volume would go up and their cost should go down. Then they could pass this savings on to all their customers. Their goals should be to give us the best pricing and best customer service!

Until such time as they change the way they do pricing, please let your provider know that you want to be part of the Baptiste Lake Group. You may not make it for this year as the deadline will likely have been before this was printed but there is always next year!



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FROM THE LIBRARY

By Anne Coleman, Board Chair

The Hastings Highlands Public Library continues to serve as many people as possible. We hired a new CEO in November. Wendy Keating is a highly motivated leader who has former experience with our library plus she has roots in our community. Since her acceptance of the CEO position, she has been extremely busy encouraging the building of new programs, executing the critical cleanup of forgotten items in storage and, through book sales, moving donated printed materials out to the public. There is definitely a freshness of atmosphere. Wendy is hoping that we can replace older furniture, some actually fraying apart, with a sorely needed new supply. She reaches out to many outside organizations to encourage them to use our facilities by sharing their expertise.

Although we are closed Sunday and Monday, our available hours have not changed. We are open Tuesday to Thursday from 10:00 to 6:00 and Friday and Saturday, 10:00 to 3:00. The Board wishes to have more hours added but that requires increased Budget so we will be patient. We are very appreciative of the strong



Hot spot on the sidewalk to play chess.

Photo by Jessica O'Reilly

support that we receive from the Municipality, which translates into a wonderful space for visitors and local patrons. Some of the programs offered in the last months include the Music Group Friday mornings, Yoga with Eleanor every Thursday 4:00 to 5:30, Yoga with Julie VanderWal every Wednesday but summer only, teen drop-in, Musical Instrument Lending Library, Seed Library, Plant Sale, TD Summer Reading Club, Fairy Doors paint seminar, Gardening workshops, Indigenous Resource Centre Donation, Bridge, Scrabble, Sew 'n Sews, Bob Ross Paint Night, Art Gallery exhibits, Tiny Art display, Nutritional Awareness, Come Drum with Me, Line Dancing with Eleanor, Provincial Parks Passes, Reading on the Deck, E-Resources and DVD pool. All this and more to come this fall with a renewed Book Club, an ASL Introductory Course, collaboration with the New Community Centre, Reading, Rhyming and Running Around, Euchre, Halloween activities, more Teen programming, Watersheds Canada's contribution of a back pack initiative and most importantly, **NEW BOOKS.** Our learned staff is constantly select-

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ing reading material for recent and loyal patrons. Summer cottagers, drop-in visitors and all permanent residents profit from these fun programs. Information is readily available through our web page, Facebook and Instagram. We thank everyone involved for this amazing work in such a “small library”

We, the Board, are grateful for the energy and intelligence, which motors our library. We are also most grateful for all the monetary donations received over this past year. More importantly we are extremely appreciative of the voluntary sharing by members of the community to enhance our programming. Eleanor, through yoga, interest sessions and line dancing has contributed to the health of many participants; all done voluntarily. Julie gave of her summer vacation time in sharing her yoga expertise. The music group plays every Friday morning, which contributes an amazing vibration to the library. You should come and listen.

The gardening seminars conducted by Leslie were a great injection of knowledge this past spring. There are many more volunteers who add to the renewed life in the library and we recognize their contributions.

As the election approaches, the library will be preparing for a new group of Trustees. Our Board has served for the past four years on a volunteer basis and some members have been on the Board for much longer than that. Council will appoint new Trustees in 2023 based on applications tendered by members of the community. One has to be a current resident to apply. We look forward to new energy and expertise offered by those interested in becoming a trustee. The importance of work done by the Board cannot be understated. As chair of the Board, I am deeply respectful of the time and solid contributions made by our Trustees. The collaboration with Wendy, Kristen, Jessica and Tiffany has made our mandate of governance very positive. It is wonderful to be operating through open doors with renewed life.

BANCROFT AREA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (BASC)

By Paul Coleman and Ian Hendry

I would like to present to the readers a thank you note from Ian Hendry, chair of the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council.

“Dear Paul,

I would like to give a heart felt thank you to the Baptist Lake Association for your generous donation to the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council.

Your donation was used to help fund our Wonders of Wetlands event which took place at Joy Bible Camp on June 1, 2022. We bussed in approximately 300 grade 3 and 4 students from Apsley and Whitney, to educate them about the importance of wetlands and good stewardship practices.

Over the years it has been great to work together with the BLA on many stewardship projects and we hope to work with you again.

Your support is greatly appreciated. It’s so nice to

work with groups like yours with the common goal of preserving our environment.

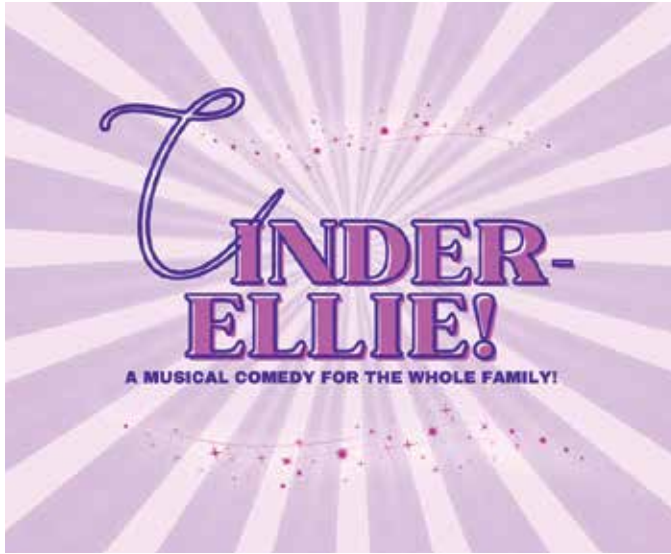
Again, thank you so much.

Ian Hendry, Chair.”



*Ian Hendry hard at work at the fishery.
Photo by Paul Coleman*

VILLAGE PLAYHOUSE OFFERS JAM PACKED FALL SEASON



By Tim Porter

After spring and summer theatre seasons that exceeded all expectations, Tweed & Company Theatre could not be more excited to present their fall season of concerts and performances at the Village Playhouse!

Mamma Mia proved to be the smash hit experience of the summer, selling out all 20 performances, and extending twice due to popular demand. The rave reviews flowed freely throughout the month of August, and many are already looking forward to summer 2023 with anticipation. Next season's plays and musicals will be announced in December...stay tuned!

But first, there is still an incredible line up of fall concerts to come in 2022. Kicking off on September 24th Tweed & Company will showcase their latest production currently in development, URSA: A Folk Musical. Catch this beautiful original show featuring four actor musicians here in Bancroft before it plays major stages across the country. Then on October 8th, join celebrated Beatles tribute band the Liverpool 4 for a two hour concert of all your favourite Fab 4 hits. On October 22nd, Tommy Youngsteen, with members of famous Canadian bands like Sam Roberts, the Arkells, the Trews, Serena Ryder Band, Stars and more will bring their hit show Rumours: A Fleetwood Mac tribute. 8 PM performance is SOLD OUT so we've added a 3 PM which is selling quickly! Act fast! To round out the fall season, join former Great Big Sea guitarist Séan McCann for Shantyman!

The TIFF film circuit program will also return this fall, featuring new independent films the second Tuesday of every month from September to May. Films will

be \$12.00 each, or \$80.00 for a season pass of 8 films.

Then this holiday season, stay tuned for a series of concerts and special celebrations around the holiday season, rounded out by our first ever family pantomime, Cinder-Ellie! Bring the little ones for an hour and 30 minute extravaganza of pop hits, fabulous dance numbers, and unforgettable characters in this new interpretation of a perennial classic.

Tickets will be going on sale later this year for our 2023 season, with spring concert passes and season passes available at a discount rate. Book early to reserve your favourite seats and save money on the stellar new line up!

Tweed & Company Theatre assumed operations of the Playhouse in January of this year. We are a registered Charity that relies on the support of our sponsors and donors to make magic happen on our local stage. Please consider donating today through Canada Helps, and get a tax receipt for any amount over \$20.00. Thank you to everyone who has supported and attended so far, it has been such a joy to welcome you back to our beautiful venue. See you this fall!



BLA donates to the Fish Hatchery. Steve Wilkins accepting the cheque from Paul Coleman.

AGB: THE LITTLE GALLERY THAT COULD

By Molly Moldovan

Located at 10 Flint Avenue in Bancroft (just off the main street downtown), the Art Gallery of Bancroft (AGB) might be one of the best-kept secrets of the region! For nearly 40 years this volunteer-led gallery has been promoting art and the creatives who make art in our area and beyond by mounting monthly exhibitions and hosting artist talks and workshops by featured artists. The gallery is home to an eclectic shop filled with exceptional work by local artisans and artists. The AGB has a permanent collection of considerable depth, some of which is currently on view at Bancroft's town council chambers.

Our mission in operating and maintaining a public gallery is to educate and enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the arts. The AGB provides artists, at all stages of their careers, working in any media, the opportunity to exhibit in a professional gallery venue. We present contemporary visual art by artists from the immediate area, region, and nation.

Like many small galleries and non-profit organizations, the AGB could not exist without the generous gift of time from our volunteers. Volunteers truly are the lifeblood of our gallery. New volunteers learn the day-to-day business of gallery operations. They are given insight into the intent and meaning of each exhibiting artist's work, creating opportunities for interesting and enlightening discussions with the visiting public. If you are someone with time and energy and want to become more involved with your community, the AGB may be a perfect fit! Your involvement could be as much, or as little, as you would like. For more information, visit <https://www.artgallerybancroft.ca/index.php/join-and-support/become-a-volunteer>. Presently the gallery is also looking for a new Board of Directors President (for more information, visit <https://www.artgallerybancroft.ca/index.php/about-agb/gallery-news>).

Exhibitions are ongoing for the remainder of 2022. The opening reception for Larry Ostrom's photography exhibition, Variations on a Theme, will be on Friday, September 2 at 7:30pm. Openings are a wonderful opportunity to meet exhibiting artists, hear a short talk, ask questions about their process, and gather with a community of folks interested in the arts. Everyone is welcome!



Creative entrance to the Gift Shop and Gallery.

Photo submitted

October brings us Subtext, an exhibition of work by the AGB curatorial committee: Molly Moldovan, Kelly O'Neill, Robin Tinney and Leilah Ward. November's exhibition will present a new body of work by Arne Roosman entitled, The Twenty-Six. Arne is an iconic local artist who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. December's annual juried exhibition always attracts a large, diverse entry of interesting work, with prizes awarded in a variety of categories. Artists inter-

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ested in submitting their work for consideration can find an entry form at <https://www.artgallerybancroft.ca/index.php/for-artists/compete-in-juried-exhibition>.

As a non-profit public art gallery, the AGB funds itself without municipal or arts council support. Memberships form the single largest component of the gallery's operating budget. Members have a vote at the annual general meeting and receive regular updates on events. An AGB membership makes an amazing gift to anyone in your life who is interested in art and culture. Most importantly, your membership supports the AGB's ongoing activities and, by extension, the artists who exhibit there. Membership ranges from a modest \$20 to \$500, with tax receipts

available for memberships of \$50 and up. You can join online at <https://www.artgallerybancroft.ca/index.php/join-and-support/become-a-member>, or in person at the gallery's front desk.

As I write this, the curatorial committee is gearing up to review submissions and schedule the exhibitions for 2023-24. It's shaping up to be a very exciting exhibition period. Please come out to see for yourself!

Molly Moldovan is a visual artist living and working in North Kawartha since 1989. She is an AGB Board member and serves on the gallery's curatorial committee.

www.mollymoldovan.com
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How to use recyclable materials in a fun manner

Cindy collected items from various sources, including stuff at the side of the road to create this wonderful rendition of Cheryl Crow. No offense Cheryl. Photos by Cindy Belcastro



DARK SUNRISE

By Hilary Phillips

The feature film production of Dark Sunrise is finally finished! It is a dark fantasy thriller, based in Norse mythology, crossing the ages with its battles taking shape in the present day with crows and magic. It has been a long haul with principal shooting done back in the Spring of 2015 on location at Sunrise Lodge on Baptiste Lake. We also shot in and around Maynooth and Bancroft. We were just thrilled to have several local actors and musicians on the project. Our theme song was written and performed by Brad Culver, accompanied by the young singers Carson and Sydney Winmill and Clorissa Newman. Music direction by Diann Winmill, local music teacher extraordinaire! Kirk Bates also added one of his many country tunes to the soundtrack. We are very thankful to the local businesses that came onboard to help us launch this project from Bancroft Breweries, Bancroft Bed & Breakfast for our auditions to Whatnot Studios for soundtrack recording and mixing. 2016 saw us return to film the retakes in the area, wildlife and establishing footage, then it all went into the dark rooms of editing suits and sound mixing studios for the post production. For a micro budget indie film post production is by far the longest part of the process, hence it just being finished. However, we had a



If you're planning on making a film, you'd better budget for lots of food for your crew.

Photo by Hilary Phillips

pool of colleagues who stepped up on weekends and between jobs, writing the score, creating the sound design, special effects and finally harmonizing the final mix. We could not be happier with the results of all the hard work from our 'Crow' team. We look forward to having a public screening in Bancroft in the near future!

BLA 2023 Events

MAY OPENING EVENT

Birch Cliff Lodge
Sunday, May 21, 2023
from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

PIKE TOURNAMENT
Saturday, July 8, 2023

AGM

Birch Cliff Lodge, 10 - 12:00 noon
Saturday, August 12, 2023

CLOSING EVENT

Corn Roast and Barbecue
Camp Ponacka
Sunday, September 3, 2023
5:00 to 7:00 pm

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AFTER 50 YEARS, WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT RETURN TO LAKE IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK

By *CBC News*

Cutthroat trout have been in dramatic decline, and are ranked as threatened under the provincial Wildlife Act. Parks Canada hopes they will thrive in Alberta lakes.

For the first time in 50 years, westslope cutthroat trout are swimming in Hidden Lake again — a feat of conservation that Parks Canada experts have worked on for more than a decade to achieve.

Nestled high up in the Skoki Valley of Banff National park, specialists laboured through trial and error to restore habitat ideal for Alberta's native, and at-risk, westslope cutthroat trout. This summer, thousands of fishlings strong enough to survive in the wild are swimming free in the lake again.

"I just can't even believe that we're finally putting westslope cutthroat trout back in, it's like the pinnacle of our work," said biologist Megan Goudie. "A day I thought that we might never see, but here we are."

Fertilized eggs are transferred from the hatchery to remote stream-side incubators that protect them from becoming prey. The buckets cradle the growing trout and simulate a nest environment as water flows through tubes and a valve set up just so in a moving stream.

If all goes well, in five years this population of tiny fishlings will mature enough to reproduce.

"They were self-sustaining in this lake in the '50s," said aquatic specialist Shelley Humphries. "So we fully expect that they're going to be just fine in this lake going forward."

Trouble started in the 1900s, when officials introduced non-native species to many lakes in the National Park to stock them for anglers seeking out an exciting catch. The park stopped the practice decades ago, but the damage was done.

Brook and rainbow trout flourished, and choked out the native species. Then, increasing water temperatures made it more difficult for the fish to survive.

Across the park, they now occupy less than 10 per cent of their historical range.

We're fixing a mistake that we made about 50 years ago at this location."

To fix that mistake, Parks had to accomplish several uphill battles:

- The fish need cool lakes to thrive.
- Because of years of breeding with introduced popu-

lations, they needed to find genetically pure trout.

- The introduced species, namely the non-native brook trout, needed to be removed from Hidden Lake.

When the province first listed cutthroat trout as at-risk, Humphries said they embarked on a spawning survey to find where these fish were nesting.

Then, a chance discovery helped establish Hidden Lake as an ideal habitat for this conservation project. They found a waterfall downstream.

A waterfall in the Skoki Valley of Banff offers at-risk fish protection. (Helen Pike/CBC)

"It's not on our maps and you can't see it from the aerial photos," Humphries said.

"We're so happy that there's that waterfall down in the valley. It's going to stop trout from getting back up here and undoing this conservation project that we've done."

With nearby glaciers to keep it cool, and protected by that downstream waterfall, Hidden Lake became the refuge the team was looking for.

Then they got to work, first trying to remove non-native species manually by netting, angling and electro-fishing. But that proved frustrating and ultimately unsuccessful.

After two years, a water cleansing treatment offered Parks a blank slate — a lake free from any fish at all and ready to re-introduce the westslope cutthroat trout.

"They're threatened. There's not that many of them, and we can't go buy them from someplace. We needed to find them on the landscape," Humphries said.

After training from a hatchery, and rearing the eggs in a mobile incubator, the eggs are sturdy enough to live in the stream.

And those are the alevin — newly spawned trout still carrying the yolks — swimming in the bucket contraptions, being checked on by Parks caretakers until they are ready for release.

The above article has been condensed. To see the full article, access CBC under the title provided. We include this article for the newsletter to highlight the fact that too much human interference can be very detrimental without the proper study before proceeding with changes. The BLA is fully aware that a proper application process is paramount before adventuring into any restocking or spawning bed enhancement take place.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION RE: FLOATING ACCOMMODATIONS ON ONTARIO'S WATERWAYS

'Floating container dwellings/accommodations have emerged as a new blight on the waters of Georgian Bay in Ontario. They may be coming to other areas of the Province too, in time. These repurposed shipping containers are marketed as floating homes, but can be a navigational hazard, a visual scar, and an environmental risk. They are currently subject to no building, safety or environmental standards, and pay no property taxes.' From <https://foca.on.ca/land-use-planning-overview/>.

The Ontario Government has posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO #019-5119) a Bulletin asking for public input on the same issue by April 19, 2022. The notice states that no regulatory changes are being proposed at this time; this is described as a posting for consultation purposes to "inform consideration of potential future changes" to address concerns about these types of structures.

USLA and our community members are concerned about 'floating accommodations' after reviewing the information provided by other lake associations in Ontario, FOCA and municipalities already experiencing the effects of these clearly nonconforming floating structures including the following environmental and community concerns:

Environmental Impacts:

- Stoney Lake, the Crown Islands and the First Nations islands are already over capacity with boat/camping pressure from the TSW. For many years, boaters have anchored, camped, dumped garbage and raw sewage on the islands and in the lake, cut down and destroyed trees on these islands in Upper Stoney and throughout the Trent system which will only be exaggerated by additional pressures from 'floating accommodations'.

- There are many existing stressors impacting the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems in Stoney Lake and the Trent Severn Waterway. Increased pressure

from floating homes will lead to more rapid decline in water quality, fish, wildlife, species at risk and ecosystems.

- impacts to water quality from dumping of wastewater/septic into the lake.
- anchoring to shorelines/lake bottom - destroying natural shorelines, lake bottom.
- destruction of species at risk habitat, fish habitat and lake sub-straight with large anchor systems.
- shoreline erosion caused by additional boating pressure associated with floating homes.

Public Safety and Navigational Impacts:

- navigational hazards created by 'floating accommodations' and boats tethered to them increase the risk of boating accidents.
- Emergency response - WHO and HOW (fire, police services to these floating accommodations) and increased costs to local municipalities and tax payers.

Increased Conflicts and Costs to Municipalities:

- Landowners, those paying taxes and ultimately adjacent to these floating homes/ accommodations will be impacted along with the need for municipal governments to fund enforcement and other resources in response to garbage, recycling and noise bylaws, fire, emergency.

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"Over 1100 Properties Sold Since 1983 and 5 Cottages/Homes Sold on Baptiste Lake in 2020"



Entering Muskie Bay. Photo by Elice Vink

...from page 25

• Increased user conflicts and complaints to local municipalities associated with noise and impacts to residents and cottagers.

We believe that each level of government in and around Stoney Lake is responsible to ensure that ‘floating accommodations’ do not occur in our waterway. We strongly encourage the following:

1. Municipal Governments (Douro Dummer, Selwyn, North Kawartha) must enact bylaws that prohibit or restrict the placement of these structures on or adjacent to any municipal docks or access points on Stoney Lake.

2. Provincial Government (MNDMNRF) – amendments to the Public Lands Act to prohibit the placement of these structures on or adjacent to any Provincial lands or access points in Ontario waterways.

3. Federal Government – Immediately prohibit the movement of these ‘floating accommodations’ into Federal waterways, lockages, including the Trent Severn Waterway. Note from FOCA: at the April 12, 2022 meeting of the Ontario Recreational Boating Advisory Council (ON-RBAC), Transport Canada clarified that they consider these floating container structures as ‘vessels’ which are therefore subject to the regulations of Pleasure Craft Licensing under the Canada Shipping Act 2001.

4. Federal Government / Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) - as the owner of the beds of the waterway, cre-

ate appropriate legislation and regulations to prohibit anchoring floating homes on the bed of the TSW or any inland federal waterway.

Sincerely, Jacqueline Ouellette

USLA Environment Director on behalf of USLA Directors and our 300+ members. Submitted to Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO #019-5119). Cc Trent Severn Waterway Director. Cc Curve Lake First Nation Chief and Council, Williams Treaties First Nations. Cc Municipalities/ Townships of Douro Dummer, North Kawartha and Selwyn.

The above concern was raised to the BLA and we wish to receive your responses.



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Our grand daughter Stella created this wildlife drawing and we invite our readers to submit their children's or grand children's wildlife drawings to be printed in the next newsletter.



Summer Goodbyes

Our hummingbird friends have left for winter, but we know they will all return, as well as our summer residents. Photo by Anne Coleman



Our president Marlin was looking for a Blue Heron, went to the east coast, survived a hurricane, and found the Big Auk. This explains why he wasn't at the corn roast. Photo by Margot Currie

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MEMBERSHIPS

Please check the label on your newsletter envelope for your current membership status and expiry date.

We offer memberships for one or three year terms. Cost for one year \$25, three years \$60. Please note that all membership expiry dates are March 31, our fiscal year end. We offer 3 methods of payment:

- **CHEQUE** - Please complete this form and send it along with a cheque payable to "Baptiste Lake Association", PO Box 877, Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0.
- **ETRANSFER** - Send payment to MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com. Please include necessary information to ensure we have your correct mailing, lake, and email addresses.
- **PAYPAL** - Use the link on our membership page on our website www.baptistelake.org.

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