

# BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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*Big sun and fish huts. Photo by Shelley Pickard*

## NATURE RULES



*Baltimore Oriole. Photo by Anne Coleman*



*Deer. Photo by Sharon Kowaluk*

### BLA Officials - Spring 2023

Marlin Horst, BLA President

Mike Di Cintio, Vice President

Anne Coleman, Director, Editor  
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

Gary Pirko, Director

Liliane (Lily) Mabson, Director

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



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

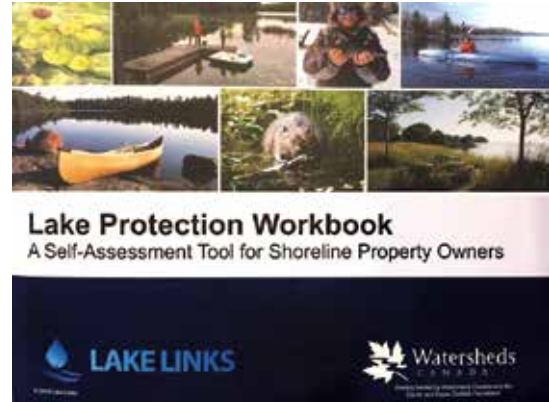
*By Marlin Horst*

As you are reading this many of the seasonal cottagers will have opened the cottage (or are planning to) and welcomed a new season. For those of you who have year round places on the lake I can only express my jealousy. I certainly miss the lake during the winter. As I write this we have just had another dump of snow (winter is still upon us). It has been an odd winter. Hopefully the ice will be out early but who knows (actually, you will know by the time you read this).

We have a new Mayor and Council after the municipal elections in the fall of 2022. I hope all of you exercised your right to vote. The Hastings Highlands Interlake Group (of which the BLA is a founding member) held an all candidates meeting in October. I was the moderator. The meeting was well attended. I had a chance to see many of you there. It was informative to hear the views expressed by the candidates and see them react on their feet. Some did better than others. The BLA Board looks forward to working with the new Council in connection with municipal activities, which affect the lake.

Last year we started to slowly move back to in person events after the easing of restrictions during the pandemic (I know the pandemic is not over). We hope to have a full slate of events again in 2023. The opening event will be held at Birch Cliff Lodge on the Sunday of the long weekend in May from 5 to 7 (PM, not AM). We will again hold a closing event in September. In the meantime we will have another Pike Derby, July 8th and, of course, the Annual General Meeting August 12. Please watch the website or Facebook page for more information on these, and other, fun and often educational events.

We continue to be active in the Hastings Highlands InterLake Group which is made up of lake associations in the Municipality of Hastings Highlands. This group has been instrumental in getting the municipal council to take note of the concerns of the lake associations and given us a voice in municipal affairs. We continue



*Wetlands Canada Workbook*

to advocate at the municipal level for the protection of our lake and others in the municipality. The InterLake Group’s Land Use Planning committee continues to receive notice of any request for a minor variance on any waterfront property in Hastings Highlands and allows us to make any submissions. It is quite surprising what some people would like to build.

If anyone has any concerns regarding actions taking place around the lake please feel free to contact the Municipality for actions over which they have jurisdiction. Many by-laws are complaint based so the Municipality needs to hear from us.

The BLA continues to work towards implementing the Lake Plan. 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. If you would like to help, in no matter how small a way, I would encourage you to contact Anne Coleman (contact details elsewhere in the Newsletter) and let us know that you are willing to volunteer. The more people who volunteer; the easier it will be for all.

The BLA has been a member of FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association) for many years, which is an association of over 500 lakefront owners associations. As a result of the BLA’s membership in FOCA, the members of the BLA also have access to many

*...continued on page 3*

# MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

*By Tony Fitzgerald*

I am a lifelong resident of Hastings Highlands, living on the family farm in Greenview. Together with Judy, my wife of 36 years, we raise a herd of natural, grass fed Simmental beef cattle. We have four grown children and ten beautiful grandchildren. For many years I coached minor hockey in Bancroft, served as a volunteer fire fighter with Monteagle Station and been very active in raising funds for local and global charities, such as the Maynooth and Area Food Bank and Peru Mission. I taught elementary school in Bancroft for just over 30 years. I enjoy playing hockey, music and canoeing.

After retiring from teaching in 2018, I was elected to Council and enjoyed serving the ratepayers of Hastings Highlands. During these past four years I was also the

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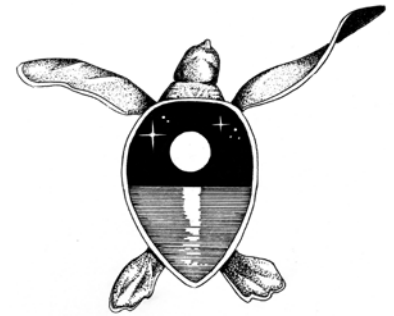
*...from page 2 President's Message*

benefits available through FOCA. Please go to their website at [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca) to see the many benefits membership in FOCA provides. You can also sign up for the FOCA newsletter which is delivered by e-mail every month and has links to many informative articles and updates on what is happening in connection with waterfronts in Ontario. There are also many FOCA events which can be signed up for on the website.

On June 3 the HH InterLake Group will be hosting a seminar on Cottage Succession Planning. The event will be held at Emond Hall in Maynooth from 10 – 12 in the morning. More details will follow and will be posted on the website, on facebook and elsewhere.

Please visit our website regularly to see what is happening around the lake. In addition if you have not provided us with your email 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 along with your cottage address to Membership, contact [mybaptistelake@gmail.com](mailto:mybaptistelake@gmail.com). 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.



*Ode to Turtle.*

*Drawing by John Coleman*

Chair of the Committee of Adjustment and the Vice Chair of the North Hastings Arena Commission.

We face many challenges in Hastings Highlands. Aging infrastructure demands

significant financial investment in our buildings, facilities and vehicles. Our Fire Department needs stable, predictable funding. The health of our lakes requires constant supervision of vegetative buffers and shoreline encroachment. New issues, like short term rental regulation and the initiation of a septic re-inspection program, will take up much staff time, effort and resources.

I am looking forward to serving as your Mayor for the next four years. With the support of our talented, experienced and professional staff, I hope to lead Council in making reasonable, affordable and sustainable decisions for all residents, both permanent and seasonal, of Hastings Highlands.

# BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

*By Anne Coleman*

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

The Mission is to be achieved through the observance of the following goals and objectives:

- To monitor water levels and quality on an on going basis.
- To actively promote land use planning policies and programs for the lake, which have a long range vision, and help retain the character of the lake.
- To promote water and boating safety.
- To inform lake residents about official plans, by-laws and building codes affecting their property.
- To inform lake residents about government action which affects them.



*Blueberry Island painting by John Christie*

- To educate lake residents and others about the environmental impact of their actions.
- To maintain membership in FOCA and other non-profit organizations dedicated to the cause of conservation.
- To promote a sense of community among the lake residents through the support of social events.
- To promote fire safety and prevention.
- To promote, maintain and support links with the surrounding community.

Our current board of Directors has volunteered countless hours in various capacities, as have the directors of the past. Marlin has served twice as president since 2011, Shelley has worked the membership portfolio since 2011, Paul and Anne have created the newsletter since 2016, two issues each year, Eric has manned the website tweaking and revamping since 2018, Hilary has been a director since 2013. Our newer members, Mike DiCintio is making a splash with Fish Tournaments, Liliane with scientific observations on lake quality, Dianne keeping excellent financial records, Beth Greenburg is fresh out of the blocks with marketing skills and Gary Pirko, is keen to uphold the Lake Plan; these are our board members. You may note that some are becoming long in the tooth so we invite interested lake residents or cottagers to consider becoming a director. We know that there are people out there who are adamant about the quality of our lake and who would love to fulfill the mission statement of the BLA.



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# BAPTISTE LAKE IN 1916

*Article by Nellie Arthur  
to the Daily Ontario, September, 1916.  
With some modifications by Anne Coleman*

In Northern Hastings, west of Bancroft, is a far scattered tribe of Huron Aborigines, whose present chief is "Johnnie Baptiste" a stolid hunter of eighty years, who lives with his daughter and his grandchildren in his log cabin on the shore of Baptiste Lake. Besides children and grandchildren, Johnnie has many other possessions. He has a meadow facing the sun, containing many shocks of as good hay as one would den, pigs, cows, chickens, canoes and a yellow, bright-eyed deer hound which chaffs at its chain and barks to be free to chase the deer in the great range of forest which begins behind the cabin and stretches far away to the north-west where it joins Algonquin National (Provincial) Park.

Johnnie's broad, round face is usually very stolid but when he smiles, it is very pleasant. He has a peculiar and emphatic way of saying "Yes" making it Yiz with the "I" and the "z" sound long drawn out. He makes very frequent use of this work, for Aboriginal-like, he is no talker. The last few days he has been very much concerned about harvesting his hay. The cleared ground around his cabin is so hummocky from lack of ploughing and cultivating that he has to cut it all with a scythe. This morning he was carefully sharpening it with his sleeves rolled up, when we landed on his shore. "Well Johnnie", we asked him, "did you get much hay yesterday?" "Yiz, quite a few," he answered. Johnnie has a sense of humour. He laughs heartily at a joke and is quick to see one too. One morning we were all sitting in his cabin waiting to take the milk back to the camp—five or six women of us and Johnnie was the only man. A stranger came to the door, put his head in and hesitated about entering but Johnnie called out, "Come and see my girls!"

While all are doing their bit for the Empire, at this time, these humble Aborigines are proving themselves His Majesty's loyal subjects, for the chief's grandson, Leo Baptiste, has enlisted and is accounted the best shot in the 155th Battalion.

It is from this family that Baptiste Lake (Bateese) derives its name, though its real Aboriginal name is "Cinadawaunic". It lies partly in Hastings County and partly in Haliburton, is from twelve to fifteen miles long and extends chiefly in an east and west direction, but has many lateral bays stretching several miles inland. The shore in some places is high reaching up into great over-shadowing hills, which are wooded, chiefly with birch, while here and there is a pretty Norway pine. In other places the shore is low and even rocky. The New York River enters the lake at the head of one of the long inlets to the north-west and flows through Bancroft village and winds about the forest-clad hills to the north-east till it joins the Madawaska, which in turn flows into the great Ottawa.

Most of the long shoreline of this lake is a wilderness of impenetrable bush, out from which old pine trunks

*...continued on page 6*



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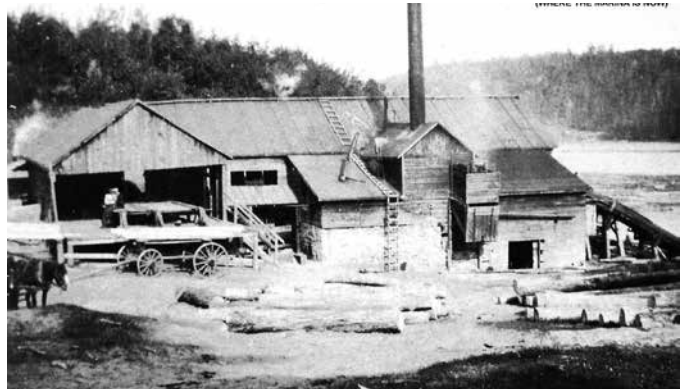
Born and Raised on Baptiste Lake

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...from page 5 Baptiste Lake in 1916

devoid of branches or leaves, rise like masts of shipwrecked vessels in a green sea. Years ago at the time of the pine lumbering industry of the north country, they were passed over as unworthy timber and now they mar the landscape. The silence of this wilderness is now and then broken by the loon's lone cry, by the whip-poor-will's call, by the bark of the hound as it chases the deer through the brake or by the crackling of the bushes as the bear pounds his way through the thicket. Other sounds break the stillness also. Sometimes an "alligator" puffs slowly down the lake, trailing a scow loaded with hardwood lumber from a camp far up the lake. Sometimes a motorboat with its gay flags and noisy engine darts rapidly into one of these secluded bays and circles about in the deep, cool waters. Then the sound of merry laughter re-echoes from the hills; the loon disturbed in his swim soars and flies away to some quieter spot; the waters curl behind the boat in a long swell which laps upon the lonely shore. The boat passes through a gap, past a wooded point where the white roofs of cottages gleam among the foliage. This part of the lake is a broad bay and opposite the camping place are high wooded hills; through the gap we can also see the bright water of the lake stretching far away. Around the foot of the hills, in the morning shadow, the Irondale Railway train goes out westward into the world and in the evening comes back again, leaving a trail of smoke about the hilltops. We watch eagerly at the point for that evening train, for sometimes the conductor or brakeman is kind enough to throw off a daily newspaper, but as there are several pairs of hands ready to catch it, we are sometimes disappointed.

During the excavation and leveling of the ground for his cottage on this birch point, Mr. Fair, of Bancroft recently discovered many curious relics. Bodies were found sitting in their graves with the head leaning on the knees. They were always facing east, probably toward



*Hughes Logging Mill. Site of the present day marina.*

the Happy Hunting Grounds. In the earth over one of these graves, a large root had grown, showing that the burying place is probably three hundred years old. The spears, arrowheads and pottery vases of artistic design, which were found, are at present in the Museum of Normal School at Toronto, and in the Museum of Queen's University in Kingston.

Although Baptiste Lake has its Aboriginal history, it has another past as well. Leading down to its shores are many old corduroy roads over which the lumbermen drew timber in the spring. These roads are now overgrown and the logs composing them are decaying and some have fallen in. It has its past of adventure too, for all who live here have some bear or wolf story to tell. Indeed one of the huntsmen hunting grounds is at the head of the lake.

If you seek to study Aboriginal lore; if you seek adventure or if you seek romance around the campfire, come to Baptiste. If you seek a rest from labour in the office or behind the counter, come to Baptiste and let the breezes fan your brow and revive your brain with pure air and your spirit with the freedom and simplicity of a life close to Nature.

*This article was found by Larry Carmichael in his searches through Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County.*



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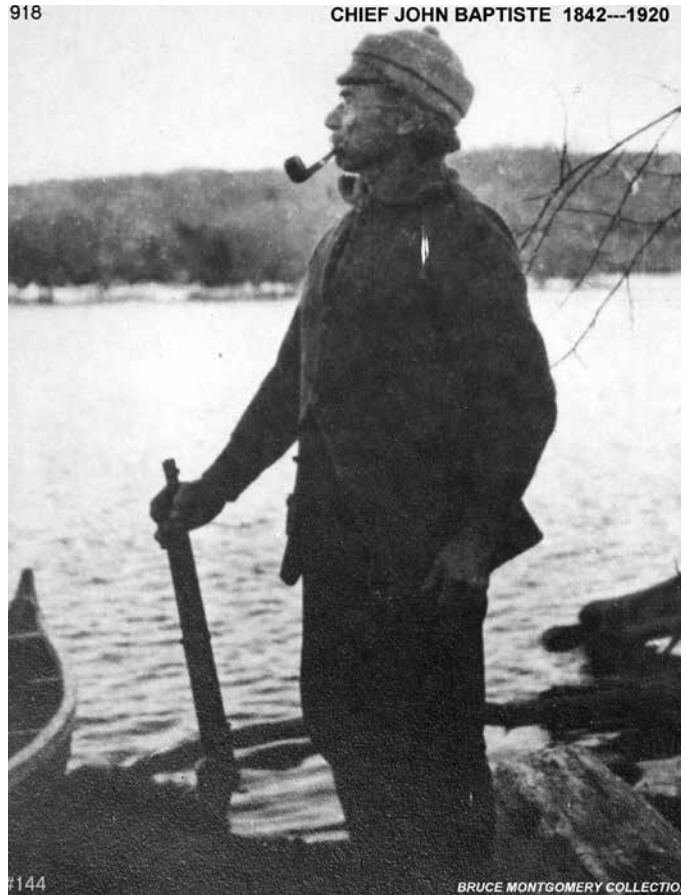
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## JEAN BAPTISTE OBITUARY

Mr. John Baptiste passed away at his home at Baptiste Lake on April 7th, 1920, and was buried in Maynooth R.C. cemetery on April 9th. He was born in Montreal in 1841, and came to this part of the country with his parents when he was ten years old, and later when a young man he married Miss Madeline Benway, of the Golden Lake Reserve, who predeceased him six years ago. They left to mourn their loss five girls and one boy, all grown up, all residing at Baptiste Lake. Four are married and Miss Susie Baptiste is at home. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.—Times.

*His obituary (shown above) was printed in the The Daily Ontario, April 26th, 1920.*

*This obituary was found by Larry Carmichael in his searches through Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County.*



*From the archives of Bruce Montgomery Collection.*

### BRIDGE at the Cottage

If you want to keep up with your BRIDGE habit while at the Lake we are exploring the formation of a Summer Bridge Group.

DeAnna Pirko is looking at organizing a program for beginners to seasoned player.

Play with your friends and make new friends.

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Contact

Anne Coleman  
[amyccoleman@gmail.com](mailto:amyccoleman@gmail.com)

DeAnna Pirko  
[deannatrail@me.com](mailto:deannatrail@me.com)

# CAVEAT EMPTOR AND CAUTION

By Paul Coleman

## Roof "Job"

A few years ago we noticed our shingles buckling at mid roof and shingles sliding down the valley. Son Dave checked it out and lifted 8 rows of shingles that were sealed together yet NO NAILS held ANY shingle down! He lifted the whole section off the roof in 10 minutes! We had to redo "The Job". Calls to the original contractor went unanswered.

Last year I noticed that the other side of the Lodge was starting to buckle and the top row was showing a gap. Oh no this is not happening again! I set up some scaffolding as I was apprehensive to climb on the roof. I also called a buddy just in case there was a chance to save whatever shingles we could. I climbed half way up and found myself weirdly sliding down the roof as 6 rows of shingles moved like a slow avalanche beneath me. Again there were NO nails holding the shingles and my scaffolding prevented me from falling off the roof.

So what was the cause? Poor workmanship, yes. Wrong compression setting on the gun, maybe.

Wrong placement of the nail above the line, most likely. Poor shingles, no.

Bottom line, we got burned for a new roof job. Lesson, Buyer Beware. Mood, not good.

## Dead Heads

Our Lake is loaded with huge submersible logs, some of which get released from the bottom and float silently beneath the surface of the water. This summer I noted what I thought was a small chunk of wood that quite often finds its way close to shore. I tapped it with an oar to bring it close to the boat but it dropped out of sight and then resurfaced a short time later. It was at least 6' long and standing straight up and down! It was not floating sideways which was unusual. There was no way to even move it.

I called 2 buddies who had to dive down with a rope, tie it half way and slowly tow it to shore. It was totally waterlogged and nearly impossible to lift. To our surprise, it was over 10' long!

Lesson and safety practice: take nothing for grant-

...continued on page 9



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...from page 8 *Caveat Emptor and Caution* ed while boating. Stop, look and remove all floating objects from our Lake. We have hauled out old dock boards, 4x4's, 6x6's, huge beams with 8" nails and too many discarded demolition project materials every spring. Remember that the Marina was an old Lumber Mill. The Lake was at one time a River. Many trees were cut years ago and the bottom of the



*Rows of roof shingles sliding off our roof-no nails!  
Photo by Paul Coleman*

Lake is loaded with potential Dead Heads. If you hit one, your motor may be dead, even worse anyone can be injured.

***Generators and Furnaces***

Generators are a God send when the power goes out. Water pipes burst when the generator shuts off. Woah, what happened? Remember that snow storm this winter? Well, the air intake and or the exhaust got covered and the generator shut down. I guess there is a safety feature that has a default switch and it worked. Lesson: check the location of your generator and ensure that it is clear of any potential snow drift.

Which reminds me of the time we lived in Whitby and came here on weekends. Alarm Force called to say that the temperature in the cottage had dropped to 5 degrees. It was midnight and minus 30. I drove the 3 hours to start the wood stoves and saved the pipes from freezing. Turned out that the water line from the furnace got plugged and the shut off switch engaged and shut down the furnace. The second time the furnace shut down an air pocket plugged the water line and again the furnace shut down. So, check the piping and oh yes, change your air filters. You're welcome, LOL.

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# A PLACE FOR THE ARTS – A HISTORY

*By Harold Eastman and Leilah Ward*

Two events in the fall of 2013 led to the creation of A Place for the Arts.

The first was the closure of the Rural Roots restaurant, which was located next to the Art Gallery of Bancroft. The restaurant had become a favourite gathering spot for artists, writers and musicians, and when it closed its doors, creative folks in the Bancroft area felt a strong sense of loss. “Where will we meet?”

At the same time, stories began to circulate that the old Bancroft elementary school, just up the hill from Rural Roots, might be available for purchase from the school board for a nominal sum to serve as an arts and creative centre.

The two events felt like some kind of convergence, and it wasn't difficult to draw 20 or 30 people together for a couple of community meetings in early 2014 to discuss the school conversion. It soon became clear that such a task would be much too costly in terms of necessary renovations and volunteer effort. But the seed of interest in creating “a place for the arts” in Bancroft had been sown, and a smaller group continued to meet. A church building outside town was considered, then a space in one of the buildings owned by the province along Highway 28 at the south west entrance to the city. Neither possibility panned out.

Then the group heard that an artists' studio at the east end of 23 Bridge Street was going to be vacated in the late spring. The group approached the landlord, Burke Chamberlain, and worked out a lease for the street level shop space, a large second floor storage area, and a street level annex on the east end of the building.

Volunteer crews spent a good part of the summer cleaning, painting and doing minor repairs, and in August, 2014, A Place For the Arts opened. The shop space was to serve as an exhibition venue for a co-op-

erative of 20 or so artists who paid a membership fee each month for the privilege of showing their work. For a separate fee, artists could also rent studio space upstairs and in the annex. The shop space, furnished with plenty of places to sit, soon came to serve as the gathering spot for makers and appreciators of art, as the founding group had hoped.

In the following spring, the meeting-place function was further enhanced when a small espresso and snacks bar opened in the space. And in the fall, the co-op decided to sublet the annex space to an anti-poverty group, the North Hastings Community Trust. The result was that the shop became a vital and often noisy place of comings and goings, friendship and debate.

Over the next several years, A Place for the Arts continued to innovate in terms of its governance and policies, its membership structure and its programs. A new membership category for musicians was created. A popular weekly open-mike event, John Forman's 7-11 Café, found a new home in the space, and attracted standing-room-only crowds. Writing and photography groups were established.

Exhibition Guidelines were established governing art displayed by APFTA, space was expanded to allow for yoga and Qi Gong classes plus fundraising parties, then changes around the coffee bar and NHCT presence were made. Finally the added space was removed leading to a quieter atmosphere for the shop. The Muse became a fully independent enterprise

Now, as we approach the end of 2022, A Place for the Arts has survived through the shut-downs of 2020 and 2021 and has increased membership to 40 artists. Part of the Annex space is available to rent for members and non-members to exhibit their work. A great team of people are working together as the Executive Committee for the continued success of this artists co-operative.

# ICE FISHING

*By Mike Di Cintio*

This winter has been crazy for everyone with the inconsistent weather and the extreme inflation of necessities. Not to mention the total lack of road maintenance in Hastings Highlands that has cost some people their vehicles and some their lives. We have all been put through the ringer this season but open water and boating season is almost here, I for one, cannot wait for summer. As much fun as I have fishing through the ice, it has always been much more challenging compared to open water fishing and this year was no exception. Every item I bring with me on the ice is essential from the boots, to the auger, to the baits, there is a lot of stuff you need to have a safe, comfortable and successful ice fishing trip. Aside from actual fishing gear, you need to make sure you have reliable transportation, warm waterproof boots, proper clothing, ice spud bar, ice picks and most importantly a charged phone. Obviously going through the ice is the worst-case scenario, but even on safe ice with all the proper gear the one thing I see so many people overlooking... is frostbite on the hands.

For years I would go ice fishing and make the same mistake every time, reaching in the minnow bucket and scooping slush out of the hole with my bare hands, even with a scoop sitting right beside me. I would be set up thinking I have it all under control, but then the fish start biting, the adrenaline gets pumping and all common sense goes right out the window. I would get my hands soaked in minnow water, slush and fish slime... give them a quick wipe on my jacket and keep fishing. But all it takes is a few minutes of exposure to the cold wind and you can get frostbite on your fingers multiple times without even knowing it. After years of doing this all it takes is a little bit of cold for my fingers to go white and numb and yes it is very painful. Please learn from my mistakes, and use that minnow scoop to get your minnows, use the ice scoop to get rid of the slush in the hole, and if your hands do get wet, dry them off and warm them up right away.

Aside from ice safety, I would like to make note that this year has been great for fish activity on Baptiste Lake. I have caught and heard of others catching many walleye in the 12-16" range, this is a very good sign of successful spawning over the last 2-3 years. I am hoping that everyone follows proper fishing ethics and releases

larger 20"+ walleye so we can continue to see their population thrive in our lake. My lure of choice for the 2023 ice fishing season has been the medium size dinner bell spoon by Frostbite for my active jigging rod, and a size 2 octopus hook with a split shot on the line and a live minnow on the hook for my tip up.



*Selina holding her  
37 inch 12 lb pike.  
Photo by Mike DiCintio*

I am very pleased to announce that the BLA will once again be hosting the annual Pike fishing tournament with a few small changes to the rules based on your input. The tournament will be held on Saturday July 8th, and will be the same price per team. The tournament is now open for registration and a list of prizes and rules will be posted on our website by spring. Last year we had an amazing prize pool, a great turnout and a massive haul of pike at the end of the day. We are all pumped to get on the water and slay some more pike this summer. This year we have a few very generous volunteers that will be offering a fillet service to anyone that wants to learn how to clean pike at the end of the tournament. Stay tuned to MAD Fishing on Facebook for fishing tips, pics and videos from Baptiste and surrounding lakes. Thanks to everyone that helped out last year with a big shout out to Trever Olszewski for doing all the leg work to hand out the flyers in town for every tournament we have held.

I would also like to mention to all BLA members that I have started a pick up sports league, we have indoor floor hockey on Monday nights in Maynooth community center, basketball Wednesday nights at York river school gym, and soccer Friday nights at York river gym as well. These sports are all inclusive, non-competitive and mainly just for fun. Soccer and basketball will continue through the summer and you are all welcome to join. You can find more info on my Facebook group Bancroft & Area Pick up Sports as well as weekly updates on games. Thanks for reading and I hope to see you all on the lake this summer!

# OUR NORTH ROAD SWEET EXPERIENCE

*By Michelle Parker*

Drip. Drip. Drip. That is the sound of Spring to our family. To us, maple syrup is more than just a food. It is the promise of making memories with family and friends. We are so blessed to have been doing just that for over 20 years. We started out by tapping 8 trees and boiling our sap down over an open fire. The whole intention was to get outside and spend time together as a family. We would enjoy standing around the fire together, basking in the glorious sun and laughing together over our failed attempts at baking bannock on a stick. Each year we bought a few more spiles and pails and my husband would

upgrade and make changes to our boiling method. We now tap over 100 trees. We always dreamed of one day having an actual “sugar shack.” That dream came true as a pandemic project. Now we enjoy the luxury of boiling our sap down in the comfort and warmth and out of the elements. One thing that will never change is the promise of making memories together.

It’s always all hands on deck as we gather the sap daily from the buckets using a toboggan and wearing snowshoes. Sap is stored until the weekend when it is boiled down to make syrup. A good week’s collection of sap that is 2 or 3 percent sugar can take 12 or 13 hours to reduce to syrup which is 66 percent sugar. The boiling is a great social time as neighbors and extended family gather to enjoy the experience and break away from the cabin fever that a long winter can bring on.

So, if you happen to be down the North Road in spring and you see steam swirling through the trees, please drop by. And if you’d really like to experience the true magic of maple syrup, we always have extra snowshoes available if you’d like to collect some of the purest, sweetest sap our trees give us. Getting to make maple syrup has made life sweeter for us; we’d love to share our “sweet” experience with you.



*Collecting sap. Photo by Michelle Parker.*



*Boiling sap. Photo by Michelle Parker.*

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# DOES A LAKE NEED LIME?

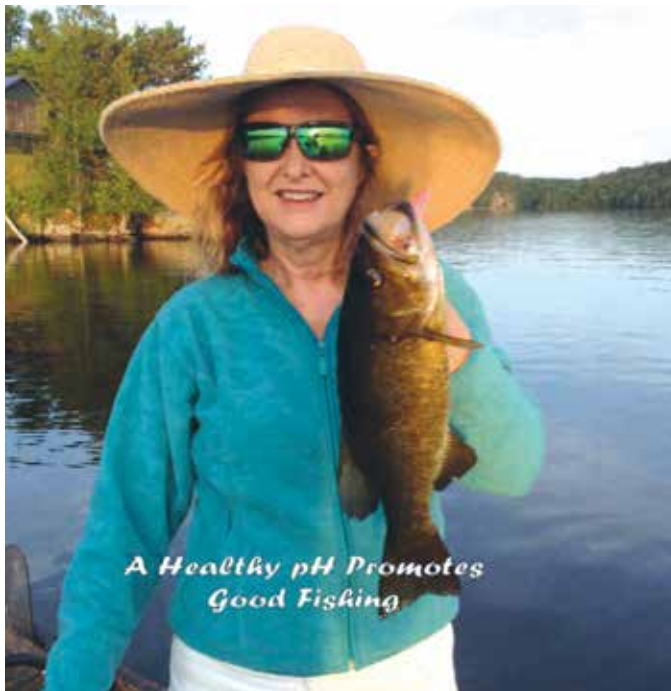
*By Gary Pirko*

The quick answer is a question; What is the lake's pH? A healthy lake in Ontario is 6.5 to 8.5 pH, according to the Ontario Biodiversity Council.

Remember those days of High School Chemistry studying pH? pH is the "potential of Hydrogen". The scale ranges from 0 (Acidic) to 14 (very basic / alkaline). The chemical formula for Lime is CaO (Calcium Oxide). It is a natural compound often used to bring up the pH in deficient soils, or in some cases lake bottoms. –

A report written by Solitude Lake Management, a USA Company, notes "Lime can be incredibly beneficial for freshwater suffering from acidic water that is low in pH, which directly affects the availability of nutrients necessary to sustain aquatic organisms." (Reference Improve Water Quality with Seasonal Liming, Solitude Lake Management).

What does lime do in a freshwater lake? Lime neutralizes acidic waters, minimizes stress, and detoxifies heavy metals. Lime enriches a lake by adding calcium, an important nutrient, and releasing phos-



*DeAnna Pirko and her catch. Photo by Gary Pirko*

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phorus, another important nutrient, from the lake bottom mud. Throughout the day, many factors can cause water pH to fluctuate, such as photosynthesis and respiration from both plants and algae. Limestone contains mineral properties that can help maintain pH at more constant and desirable levels, making it an effective and sustainable technique for promoting the long-term health of your lake or pond – particularly if you desire a successful fishery. In the late 1970's and early 1980's liming of Ontario lakes impacted by acid rain was conducted with MECP (Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Parks) and MNR to help the treated lakes recover. (Reference Liming of Sudbury lakes: Lessons for Recovery of Aquatic Biota from Acidification).

What is the pH of Baptiste Lake? Historical testing of pH has not been found at this writing. Although water quality reporting does show lake monitoring through FOCA/MECP, Lake Partners Program (LPP), for Calcium. Calcium functions as a pH stabilizer, the higher the Calcium the higher the pH. The results of Calcium in Baptiste are low. (See Chart) Over the past 13 years it has been as low as 3.9 mg/L and as

*...continued on page 14*



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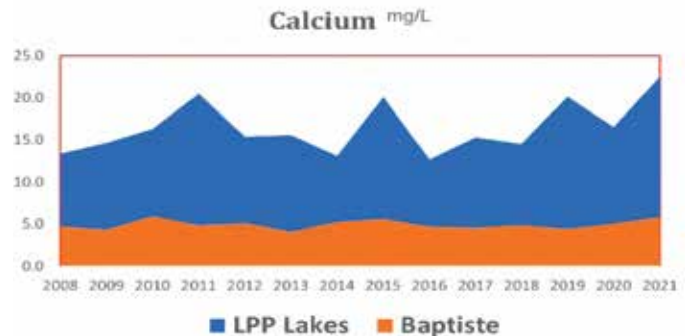
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*...from page 13 Does a lake need lime?*

high as 5.9 mg/L, with 5.8 mg/L in 2021. Calcium Levels below 10 mg/L are of concern. Levels below 3 mg/L are thought to place aquatic food webs at risk, depending upon a lake's characteristics and analysis of long-term water quality trends.

Back to the question of Lime, is it good for Baptiste? A confirmation bias would be yes, but the MECP, responsible for water quality, opinion should be sought. The thought of shore owners using Lime to stabilize and encourage growth of vegetation on their properties might be a positive thing. At this point it looks as though it could not hurt, and possibly help beautify the shoreline and the health of the lake. Hopefully, more information from experts will guide the BLA to generate a recommendation on this crucial matter.



*Chart shows*

*This article was collaborated with Fred McConnell, Trent University Master's Bioenvironmental Monitoring and Assessment, Lake Ecosystem Steward.*



*Mike holding Selina's huge Pike. He challenges you to catch a bigger fish than this in the tournament.*

*Photo by Selina.*

## *A Place For The Arts*



*Baptiste Lake Dam High Falls.  
Painting by Kathy Haycock*

### **The North Hastings Community Trust**

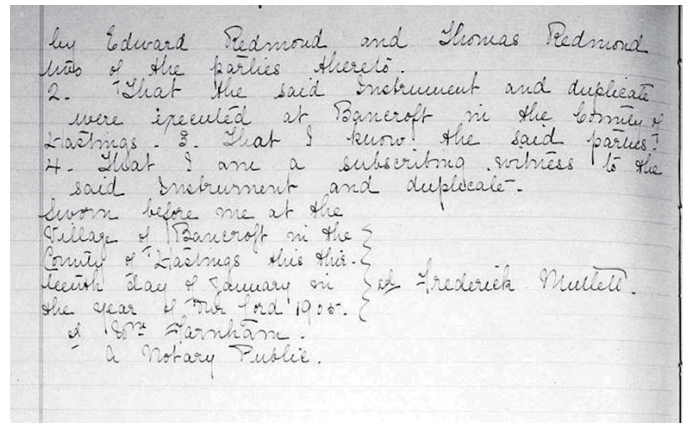
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*We all need help sometimes.  
We all have something to give.*

# HOW REDMOND BAY GOT ITS NAME

*Contributed by Larry Carmichael  
Edited by Anne Coleman*

Larry shared with us a handwritten copy of an Indenture, No. 352, entered and registered January 14, 1905 in the Township of Herschel between Edward Redmond of the first part and Thomas Redmond of the second part, both from the Township of Herschel. The sum of money agreed upon between the member of the first part and the member of the second part was \$1.00. For this sum of money, Thomas Redmond, the son of Edward, took ownership of Lots 13 and 14 in the 3rd Concession of this Township and the west half of Lot 14 in the second Concession of said Township, County of Hastings, containing 250 acres. Thomas Redmond was subject to the same reservations, limitations, promises and conditions expressed in the original grant thereof from the Crown. The first party assured all present at the signing of the Indenture that there were no encumbrances on the land. The condition of the agreement between the parties was that Thomas Redmond “provide the said party of the first part with food, shelter, bed and bedding, clothing and medical attendance, suitable and proper to his age and condition of life during the term of the natural life of the said party of the first part and also with the sum of one dollar per month, provided however, that if at any time hereafter, the party of the first part shall with or without reason, be dissatisfied with the food, clothing and maintenance provided for him by the said party of the second part,



*The last page of the 1905 Indenture No. 352.  
Photo by Larry Carmichael*

he, the said party of the first part may demand in lieu of such food, clothing and maintenance, the sum of eight dollars per month.” This amount of \$8.00 was to be paid on the first of each month thereafter even to his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns.

We, Paul and Anne, took the liberty of summariz-

*...continued on page 16*



*Properties referred to in the Indenture.  
Photo by Larry Carmichael*

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Township of *Herschel* Lot No. *141 Third* Concession. 167

NO. OF INSTRUMENT.	INSTRUMENT.	DATE.	DATE OF REGISTRY.	GRANTOR.	GRANTEE.	Quantity of Land.	Consideration or Amount of Mortgage.	REMARKS.
A 352	Patent July 15, 1897. B.T.S. Jan'y 12, 1905	July 15, 1897.	Jan'y 14, 1905	Crown. Edward Redmond	Edward Redmond. Thomas Redmond	99 <sup>ac</sup> 250 <sup>ac</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Grant. 281 <sup>ac</sup>	Sub 14 Super alia subject to patent remain because of Hanky of 1st part

The Crown patent July 15, 1897. Photo by Larry Carmichael

...from page 15 How Redmond Bay got its name  
ing the Indenture but we include the final page of the transaction as recorded, the Patent and the map, which shows the lots in question. Edward Redmond, party of the first part, received a Patent (legal title) for the properties as a Grant from the CROWN in

1897. It's a huge chunk of land; somebody was smart. That might be how Mud Creek was renamed Redmond Bay!

Thank you Larry for sharing this jewel of history.

## BLA 2023 Events

### OPENING EVENT

MAY 21, 2023, BIRCH CLIFF LODGE

### PIKE TOURNAMENT

JULY 8, 2023

### AGM

AUGUST 12, 2023, BIRCH CLIFF LODGE

### CORN ROAST

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# A TRIBUTE TO PETER OLIVER



*Sunset. Photo by Shelley Pickard*

Sadly, Peter Oliver, one of our prominent lake residents, passed away in September, 2022. He was a positive contributor to the interests of the lake. When he first decided to build a cottage here, he generously offered to orchestrate several fundraising events in the form of barbecues and dinner party. His restaurant staff helped in setting up a delicious dinner party at Birch Cliff Lodge, then at a later time, a pig roast, which was very well attended and he also enhanced a corn roast with his culinary genius. Much of this hard work and time contributed to the funding of the Baptist Lake Plan which has been instrumental in maintaining awareness of the stewardship of the lake.

Peter and his family are very positive ambassadors of shoreline protection. Their beautiful cottage property has been allowed to return to its almost natural state with attention made to natural species thus contributing to the health of habitat. We pay tribute and gratitude to Peter and his family for their contributions to the lake, past and present.

*We include here the official obituary as printed in the fall of 2022.*

*...continued on page 18*

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...from page 17 A tribute to Peter Oliver

### PETER OLIVER OBITUARY

OLIVER, PETER “CHIEF” CHARLES HOWARD Born July 30, 1948, in Cape Town, South Africa Died September 21, 2022, in Toronto, Canada Surrounded by his wife and children, Peter (74) passed away peacefully, after a battle with cancer. In a life full of accomplishments, Peter had no greater passion than his family. He relished every opportunity to teach his grandchildren about nature’s interconnectedness at the family cottage on Lake Baptiste, his heaven on earth. After a long day in the garden, he could be found on his deck with a gin and tonic remarking “This is living.” He is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, Maureen; his children and grandchildren, Vanessa (Jaysen Smalley, Scarlett, Connor, Owen), Jessica (Alain Brandon, Ben, Eliane, Nicholas), Andrew (Alana Oliver, Jack, Charles) and Marc (Christine Oliver, Victoria). Peter’s career in the hospitality industry spanned 45 years, including nearly 30 years at the helm of Oliver & Bonacini Hospitality. A natural leader, Peter’s greatest strength was his ability to inspire and excite others with his trademark “YOU are the most important person in

the company.” Following Vanessa’s diagnosis with type 1 diabetes in 1985, Peter began volunteering with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and never stopped. Even while battling cancer, he devoted himself to the \$100M Campaign to Accelerate, for which he helped raise \$69M. In his final days, he expressed disappointment in not achieving this goal. “A meaningful life,” he said “is a series of goals and achievements.” In 1992, Peter founded the Leacock Foundation, which has supported thousands of children with educational programming in Toronto and in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. The family is grateful for the professionals who provided Peter with care, including: Drs. Menjak, Sahgal, Zappieri, Leighl, Desson,, Dev, Selby and countless nurses who worked under stressful circumstances with inadequate infrastructure. It is thanks to their commitment Peter lived his final chapter in dignity. In lieu of flowers, donations to the JDRF \$100M Campaign to Accelerate or the Leacock Foundation are appreciated. Condolences or memories can be recorded at [peteroliver.ca](http://peteroliver.ca).

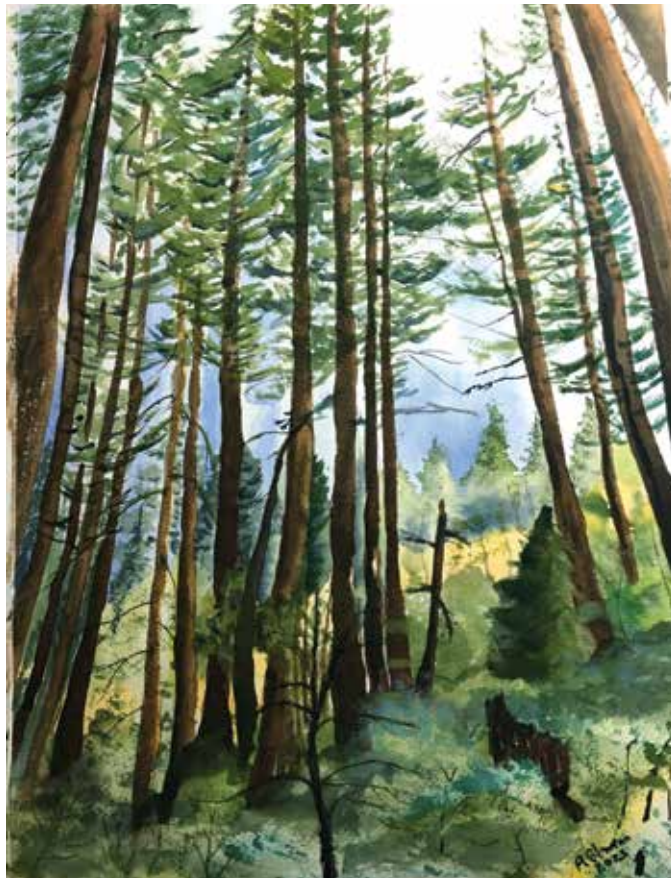


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*Forest Walk. Painting by Anne Coleman*



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## BACK THE CAT

*Kim Bishop, Chair & Debbie Speck  
Back the Cat Campaign*

### Dear Friends,

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This gap could put you at risk.

If you have an accident, or experience a health emergency in our community, you do not currently have fast access to the diagnostic technology that can accurately reveal what is happening to you. We know how important time is too providing a quick and accurate Diagnosis which translates to better patient outcomes.

This means waiting for help at a time when every minute counts. This means waiting when there is pain,

and this means travelling to care when you want care to come to you.

But just as we did during the darkest days of the pandemic, if we work together, we can protect our community and we can bring this care home. Having local access to a CT scan allows an earlier diagnosis to provide required directed care for patients.

It's time to join our effort to Back the Cat in helping us meet our \$2.5 million goal because together we can bring a much-needed CT Scanner to Bancroft.

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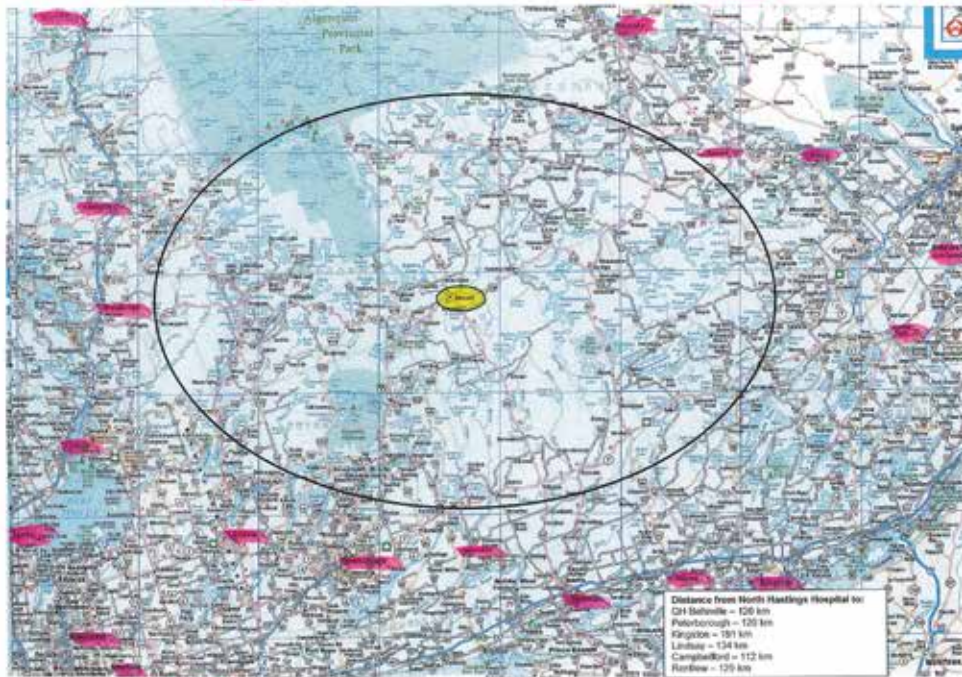
Your investment today means a better chance for our community tomorrow.

When you Back the Cat you will save lives.



Map of South-Eastern Ontario & North Hastings Hospital in Bancroft

*Pink highlighted locations are the nearest hospitals to Bancroft with CT Scans.*



*This map shows the area around Bancroft that people would have to travel through to access the nearest CT Scanner.*



# BIRDS CREEK CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS PROPOSAL

## *To the Town*

We are writing in support of the proposal to improve the trails in Birds Creek. We are adding our vote as the local lake association to the request to council to allow volunteers to clear the trails making them useful for hiking in the summer and cross country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.

Hastings Highlands prides itself as being a four seasons playground and this initiative will benefit both local residents and visitors to the area.

Hastings Destination Trails has been instrumental in developing trails in the other nearby municipalities and has the knowledge and experience to ensure that the work is done professionally.

Tourism and outdoor activities are key drivers of our local economy. The improvement of trails in Hastings Highlands will greatly contribute on many fronts.

We urge you to adopt the proposal to maintain and develop the trails at Birds Creek.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Baptiste Lake Association*



*A view from Sumcot Road overlooking Elephant Lake. Photo by Anne Coleman*

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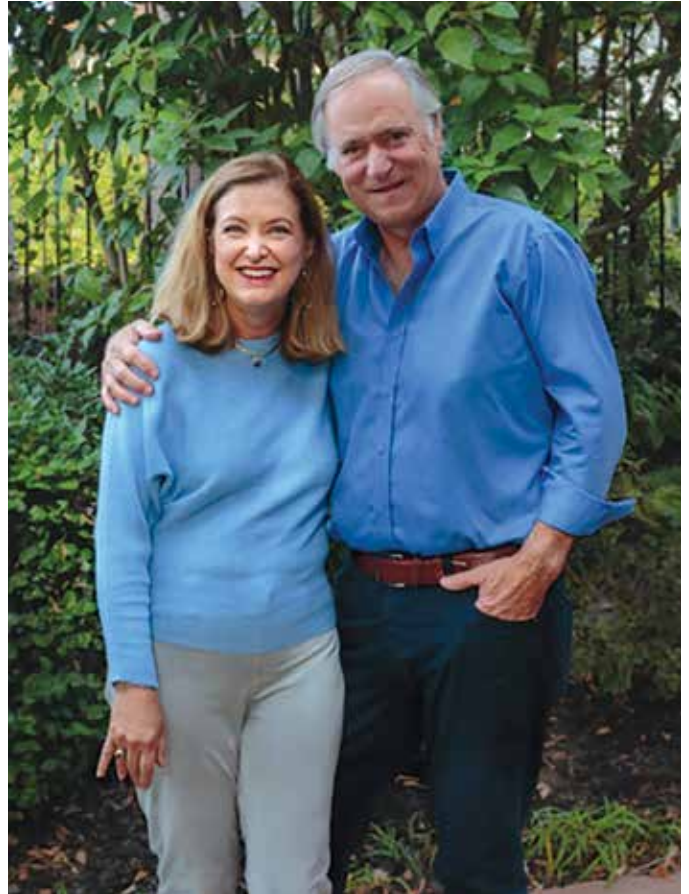
# NEW DIRECTOR

In 1959, Gary Pirko and his family traveled from Ohio for their first vacation at Baptiste Lake. That trip, and the novelty of Baptiste Lake, generated a passion in Gary for lake-life. At twenty-six years old, Gary purchased the cottage at 753 North Shore from his friend and mentor, Elden (Andy) Anderson. For sixty-four years, Baptiste Lake has represented a great deal to Gary: relaxation, friendships, accomplishments, the beauty of nature, and most importantly -- a home.

Gary lives with his wife, DeAnna, in Laguna Niguel, California, in the months they cannot be at Baptiste Lake. They have two children: David and Suzanne. DeAnna is a retired pediatrician, David is an attorney in Palo Alto, California, and Suzanne lives in Fort Drum, New York. The children have grown up as "Cottage Kids" and cherished every Summer of their childhood as that special place in Canada.

Gary was in the paper packaging industry. He started a corrugated container manufacturing company in 1983. He sold it in 2009 but stayed on in management roles, including until 2014, as President and an Executive Council Board member. Since then, Gary spends two to four months a year at Baptiste Lake.

Gary joins the BLA Board in order to help preserve Baptiste Lake for fishing, hunting, and enjoyment, as well to develop friendships in the community. He has a special interest in supporting the BLA particularly on the Lake Plan and Fishing Advisory Board. In addition to a serving as a member of the BLA Board, he volunteers in the North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery's annual egg harvesting.



*DeAnna and Gary Pirko*



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# WHAT DOES THE MORE HOMES BUILT FASTER ACT (2022) MEAN FOR WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES?

*By Monica Seidel, January 9, 2023  
and Darlene Coyle*

Ontario’s More Homes Built Faster Act (2022), formerly known as Bill 23, has garnered fierce attention from the public since it was first announced on October 25, 2022, following the Ontario municipal elections. The Bill was made into law only 34 days after it was introduced, leaving many residents still wondering what this means for their communities.

The Bill is part of the Ford government’s larger Housing Supply Action Plan aimed at building 1.5 million homes within 10 years. The growth intended in this plan is mainly focused around the Greater Toronto Area and the Greenbelt. However, sweeping changes to Ontario’s land use planning framework are causing concern among residents and municipalities about the unintended consequences to rural communities and natural heritage features (e.g., lakes, streams, rivers, shorelines, wetlands) across the province. Below are four key changes that affect community planning, development, and the conservation of freshwater in Ontario.

**Site plan control** is a development review process permitted under Section 41 of the Planning Act and is historically used by municipalities to review development applications of various types. Following Bill 23, its use is now limited to lots with more than ten units, which is a particular loss for the protection of Ontario’s shorelands and freshwater because waterfront development almost entirely consists of units of less than ten.

The loss of site plan control in regulating waterfront development severely affects a municipality’s ability to impose stormwater management requirements to control the quantity and quality of surface runoff, manage flooding and erosion impacts, and the retention of nat-

ural heritage features. Until an alternative review process can be found in the existing legislative framework, waterfront development affecting our lakes and rivers will be largely uncontrolled.

**Third Party Appeals.** The Ford government originally proposed to scrap all third-party appeals to the Ontario Land Tribunal on matters related to official plans, zoning by-laws, amendments, minor variances, and consents. However, as a result of intense opposition from individuals and organizations like Watersheds Canada, this restriction has been limited to minor variances and consents. Only “specified persons” representing public bodies (e.g., Ontario Power Generation Inc., Hydro One Inc., utility services, railway lines, telecommunications) can now comment on minor variances and consents. Note, conservation authorities have been excluded from this list of specified persons.

Minor variances particularly have been used to grant exceptions to grandfathered properties that fail to meet municipal zoning standards (e.g., setbacks), maintaining the status quo instead of seeking to improve the environmental impact of these properties. Neighbours, community members, First Nations, and conservation authorities will no longer have the opportunity to appeal municipal decisions through these processes to discuss potential impacts a proposed development may have on their property or the watershed they share.

**Wetlands** are important natural features that provide critical habitat for endangered and at risk species, help clean our air and water, store carbon dioxide, and act as “sponges” that moderate droughts and floods by storing excess water during times of heavy rain and slowly releasing it during dry periods. Previously, Ontario’s wetlands had been grouped into “complexes”,

*...continued on page 23*

...from page 22 *More homes built fast act*

which are groups of small individual wetlands less than 750 metres apart, and were given protective status as “Provincially Significant Wetlands”. Following Bill 23, wetlands will no longer be evaluated as a group but as individuals. This greatly reduces the chances that wetlands will be given protective status because smaller wetlands have a harder time meeting the evaluation criteria (e.g., biodiversity, species at risk, groundwater storage, flood prevention, water quality protection, recreation), making these areas even more susceptible to development.

According to a 2018 report from the Insurance Bureau of Canada, “naturally occurring wetlands in southern Ontario reduce flood damage costs to buildings by \$3.5 million (or 29%) at a rural pilot site and by \$51.1 million (or 38%) at an urban pilot site.” The report found that flooding has emerged as the most prevalent and costly natural disaster in Canada, so now is not the time to remove the protective status of valuable green infrastructure that serves to mitigate risks and increase the resilience of our communities.

The Province proposes to offset development impacts by creating human-made wetlands but there are many uncertainties as to whether human-made wetlands can effectively replicate the habitat and ecological functions of natural wetlands. Case studies of wetland offsetting in Ontario have failed to demonstrate desired results. This is a concern for many waterfront communities who have experienced severe flooding in recent years and rely on wetlands and floodplains to mitigate risks in times of heavy rainfall, becoming an increasing concern in the face of climate change.

**Conservation authorities** (CAs) have been severely limited in their ability to help facilitate sustainable development. Following Bill 23, CAs can no longer assist municipalities in reviewing development applications, leaving municipalities without the expertise conservation authorities have previously offered in understanding environmental impacts of proposed development, particularly near waterways and floodplains. CA permits are also no longer required for development projects approved under the Planning Act. When a permit is being issued, the CA can only consider natural hazards (flooding or erosion) as a reason to refuse, whereas previously they could also consider pollution and conservation of lands. Watershed planning, a unique perspective offered by CAs, is severely degraded as a result.

The deregulation of conservation authorities and municipal planning processes, like site plan control, make the lives of municipal decision makers more difficult, especially new Council members who were elected just before the introduction of the Bill. Municipalities typically do not have staff with the expertise and capabilities to effectively evaluate ecological impacts. Therefore municipalities will need to spend more of their limited funds to pay for consultants to fill this gap, leading to potential tax increases for residents.

While Bill 23 is now law, there are a number of regulations (referenced as O. Reg) that need to be made to implement these changes. Therefore, the full effect of the new More Homes Built Faster Act have yet to be seen. Keep up with Watersheds Canada’s Planning for our Shorelands program as we continue to report on how the province’s Housing Supply Action Plan affects waterfront communities and our freshwater resources.

The fight is not over! Sign up for our newsletter to receive updates as we continue working on these issues.

Darlene Coyle

Environmental Policy and Planning Program Lead  
Watersheds Canada

[shorelandproject@watersheds.ca](mailto:shorelandproject@watersheds.ca)



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# PROPER FIREWOOD STORAGE TIPS

By Dale V.

## Knowing How Long to Store Your Wood

Wood that's been freshly cut is called green wood. Green wood is not wood that you want to burn in your fireplace. Instead, it's best to wait to use your firewood until it's "ripe."

That's right. Firewood has to age, which is also called seasoning or curing the wood. If you use freshly fallen trees to warm your fireplace, you'll wind up with lots of creosote buildup in your chimney and a dangerously smokey home.

Other problems that can result from not properly seasoning your firewood range from inefficient to life-threatening:

- Minimal heat output from the fire
- Short burning times
- Carbon monoxide buildup

The general rule of thumb for aging most types of wood is to "season for a season." Giving your firewood at least six months to cure will rid it of most of its moisture.

## Finding the Best Place to Store Firewood

Knowing where to stack your firewood is as important as knowing how to stack it. Some people like the convenience of stacking and storing their firewood in the house beside the fireplace.

This is not the recommended place to store firewood for one important reason: when carrying firewood into your home, there are likely to be a few hitchhikers.

Unless you want spiders, mice, ants, termites, or a number of other pests crawling around your home, keep the wood outside. Besides, it's less likely to age well in the house where there's less airflow to dry it.

Other tips for finding the perfect place to store your firewood include the following:



- Choose a dry, breezy area of your property
- Keep the wood about 20 feet from the nearest door to your house to prevent pests from having a direct route inside
- If you're stacking wood next to a structure, stack it at least a few inches away from the structure to allow airflow behind the stack

## Properly Stacking a Rack

Now you might wonder how to stack firewood for the best results. Wood should be stacked in rows no more than four feet high. You can either use a log rack or pallets and posts.

If the firewood isn't fully seasoned yet, stack it bark-side down so the moisture can continue to easily evaporate from the wood. You can stack the logs bark-side up once they're aged to naturally shield the wood from rain and snow.

If you're using pallets and posts, simply place the pallet on the ground and hammer the posts or stakes in on each corner. Be sure the posts are close enough together to keep the firewood pieces from rolling off the sides, and pile your wood on top of the pallets to keep it raised off the ground a bit.

If you're using a firewood rack, simply set it in place and begin stacking your wood, ends facing front and back, until you've reached an even four feet in height all the way across.

Whatever you do, don't toss your logs in an unorganized pile. Doing so won't provide proper ventilation to the wood in the middle of the pile, causing it to rot rather than dry.

Complete article found at <https://www.logsplitters-direct.com/amp/stories/1224-The-Best-Way-to-Store-Your-Firewood-Until-You-Need-It.html>

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## DONATIONS & AWARDS

*The North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery received a \$500 donation from BLA. Pictured right are, Fred McConnell, Gloria Elstone, Anne Coleman, Carl Ziebarth, Kevin Vance, Paul Coleman, and Kim Stephens*



*Pictured left, Anne Coleman presenting the BLA Award of Service to Cindy and Sabe Belcastro for their participation as directors on the BLA.*

*A second award was presented to Carolyn Guest for her service to Baptiste Lake. No photo available at time of print.*

*BASC also received a \$500 donation from the BLA. The two donations were presented at the Valentine's Day fundraiser hosted by the NHC FH. Pictured right are, Anne Coleman, Colleen Drew-Baehre, Paul Coleman, Sheila Currie, Ian Hendry, Steve Wilkins, and Kim Stephens*



# TWEED & COMPANY'S 2023 SEASON IS GUARANTEED TO ENTERTAIN BANCROFT AUDIENCES!

*By Tim Porter, Artistic Director*

After last year's incredibly successful inaugural season at the Bancroft Village Playhouse, Tweed & Company is preparing for the second season operating the venue with a ton of exciting upcoming local events including concerts, musicals, plays, and more.

First up in the subscription season, check out a new musical from June 14-18 - *Joni Mitchell*:

*Both Sides Now*. Six actor-musicians will take audiences through the fantastic songs of the Canadian, Grammy/Juno-winning icon, including *Big Yellow Taxi*, *River*, *A Case of You* and more. Like the album, the story will examine Joni's activism, relationships, and successful career. Come hear these timeless hits with a new, re-imagined flair.

Then, get ready for an evening of whodunnit murder mystery! *Murder at Ackerton Manor* is having its world premiere July 12 to 16 and everyone's invited to get in on the mystery and mayhem. This hilarious Agatha-Christie-style whodunnit follows three actors (playing seven roles!) as they try to solve a murder case...or two. This is the newest comedy by award-winning Canadian playwright Steven Gallagher. He's delighted to be bringing his passion for murder mystery to Bancroft this summer!

From August 16-27, the internationally successful, mega popular musical *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* will be taking over the playhouse. This must-see performance of the Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber classic has won the hearts of viewers in over 80 countries and will be entertainment for the whole family. With hits like *Any Dream Will Do* and *Go Go Go Joseph*, the performance will have epic

dance numbers, top-notch sets and costumes, and feature a local children's chorus. Tickets to *Joseph* can be purchased as part of Tweed & Company's 2023 Season Pass. Along with *Joni Mitchell: Both Sides Now* and *Murder at Ackerton Manor*, passes start at just \$59.00.

"New this year is we have kept the season pass shows to just the summer months so all of our summer patrons and cottage residents can take full advantage of this program," says Artistic Director Tim Porter, "we are so excited about this season and think it is our best yet. We can't wait to share it with our audiences here in Hastings County!" Rounding out the year will be the return of Tweed's popular holiday family panto. From December 13-23, catch *The Lion of OZ!* A twist on an old classic, this musical theatre extravaganza is all about courage, friendship, and lots of laughter. It'll also feature a local children's chorus, special guest appearances, and lots of holiday magic. And new this year: 15% off Family Pack Tickets are available. Call the box office for more info at 613-478-6060.

Tickets for most performances are already on sale, and the Bancroft Village Playhouse is reserved seating - so book now for the best seats. Prices range from \$22.50 to \$39.50 for the summer productions. One of Tweed & Co's mandates is keeping prices affordable and accessible for everyone, and they are proud to offer some of the lowest prices for professional theatre in the country.

There's plenty of noteworthy concerts, too. Downchild is coming May 5th and 6th, followed by the North Hastings Community Choir's Singing for Spring on May 7th. Then, check out *The Sultans of String* on May 13th and one of the world's most celebrated Eagles tribute bands, *Hotel California*, on May 27th. And, if you have budding performers at home, consider signing them up for Tweed & Company's summer camps for youth and teens, from ages 7 to 18!

Tickets for many concerts and performances are already selling out, book early to avoid disappointment! Get ready for another exciting year of professional live entertainment from Tweed & Company in Bancroft. We look forward to meeting you for the first time or welcoming you back to the theatre! For tickets and more information visit [villageplayhouse.ca](http://villageplayhouse.ca), or call the box office at 613-478-6060.



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# LAKE PLAN INCENTIVE

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### Non-streaking glass cleaner:

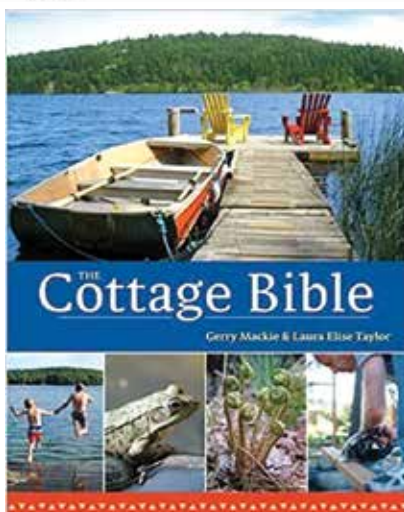
Mix ¼ cup (59 mL) of white vinegar, 1 tablespoon (15 mL) of cornstarch, and 2 cups (472 mL) of warm water in a 34-fluid ounce (1 L) spray bottle. Shake until cornstarch dissolves. Spray liberally on glass then wipe with a clean cloth.

### All-purpose cleaner and disinfectant:

In a 34-fluid ounce (1 L) spray bottle combine 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of borax, ½ teaspoon (2.5 mL) of washing soda, and 2 tablespoons (30 ml) of lemon juice. Add 1 cup (236 mL) of very hot water and shake and mix well until dry ingredients dissolve. It stores indefinitely. To use, just spray and wipe.

### Nontoxic toilet bowl cleaner:

Flush the toilet to wet the sides. Sprinkle 1 cup (236 mL) of borax along the sides of the inside of the bowl. Spray ½ cup of vinegar over the borax and leave overnight. Scrub with a toilet brush and flush.



*This content scanned from page 26 of the Cottage Bible*

**Septic toilet activator:** If there is an odor from the septic tank and to beef up the sewage-digesting bacteria count, try this. Dissolve 1 pound (454 grams) of brown sugar in 1 quart (0.95 L) of hot water and allow to cool to lukewarm. Stir in 2 teaspoons (10 mL) of dried yeast, and immediately flush the mixture down the toilet.

**Dishwashing liquid:** In a bowl combine ¼ cup (59 mL) of soap flakes and 2 cups (472 mL) of hot water and stir until the soap is dissolved. Cool to lukewarm. Stir in ¼ cup (59 mL) of glycerin and ½ teaspoon (2.5 mL) of lemon essential oil and let it cool. As it cools a loose gel will form; stir with a fork to break up the gel and then pour into an empty 34-fluid ounce (1 L) shampoo or ketchup bottle. To use, squirt 3 teaspoonfuls into hot running water. Do not use this in automatic dishwashers.

**Lemon-scent furniture oil:** Mix 1 cup (236 mL) of olive oil or vegetable oil and 1 teaspoon (5 mL) of lemon essential oil. Apply mixture with a soft rag then wipe and buff to a glassy shine.

**Oven cleaner:** Mix the 16 ounces (453 g) of baking soda and ¼ cup (59 mL) of washing soda in a 17-fluid ounce coverable plastic container. Wet the floor and walls of the oven with water using a rag or paper towel. Generously sprinkle the walls and floor with the oven cleaner mixture and leave overnight. Next day, wipe all the grease and film away using an old rag. Rinse well. Use an abrasive pad and some salt on stubborn stains.

### Hard water clothes washer gel soap:

In a medium pot, stir together 2 cups (472 ml) of soap flakes, 1½ cups (354 ml) of borax, and 6 cups (1.4 L) of water. Heat slowly and stir until the mixture is clear. Add ½ cup (118 mL) of glycerin and set aside to cool. When cool, add 2 teaspoons (10 ml) of essential oil, lavender, lemon, or eucalyptus and stir thoroughly. Store in a Mason jar or other container and cover. To use, add 1 cup (236 mL) of gel soap per load of clothes. Make sure the soap is dissolved before adding clothes to the water. Works best in warm or hot water.

**Fabric softener:** Fill the washing machine or basin with water. Add ¼ cup (59 mL) of baking soda, stir it to dissolve, then add the clothes. After rinsing the clothes, make a final rinse with ½ cup (118 mL) of vinegar.

### Steel wool scouring pads:

To prevent soap-filled pads from rusting, put them in the freezer.

**Paint brushes:** If you are going to use the same color of paint again, put the brushes in the freezer between uses so you don't have to rinse them out.

### The magic of baking soda:

- ◆ leave an open box in the fridge to combat odors
- ◆ use it to brush your teeth
- ◆ combine with water and use as a stain remover
- ◆ combine with a little detergent to clean greasy surfaces
- ◆ use it with borax to bleach

**Soaps and shampoos:** Although soaps and shampoos don't contain phosphates, that doesn't mean you should use your lake as a bathtub. Many shampoos have ingredients derived from petrochemicals such as ammonium laureth sulfate, which can be harmful to animals. (And we use it on our heads!)

# AGB: ART IN THE COMMUNITY

*By Molly Moldovan*

By the time you read this, the Art Gallery of Bancroft's (AGB's) exhibition year will be well under way, having begun with a fascinating show of work from eight talented photographers. As I write this in early March, we have in the gallery the Under 19 exhibition, an annual juried show of work by students from North Hastings, Barry's Bay, Haliburton, and some very talented home-schoolers from Hastings County. The exhibition ends on April 1; if you have an opportunity to see it, you'll be amazed and intrigued by the depth of talent on display.

The highlight of our exhibition year will be two exhibitions mounted back-to-back in September and October. Timely and political, September will bring us Truth, an exhibition of work by Algonquin indigenous artists, sharing work that expresses their lived experience as first nations people of the Bancroft area. October's exhibition, Reconciliation, will be a Settler/non-indigenous response that will express the ideas of acceptance, understanding, and how to move forward in a healing way toward reconciliation.

Located at 10 Flint Avenue in Bancroft (just off the main street downtown), the Art Gallery of Bancroft (AGB) promotes 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. This volunteer-led gallery is home to an eclectic shop filled with exceptional work by local artisans and artists.

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 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>.

As a non-profit public art gallery, the AGB funds itself without 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 \$25 to \$500; tax receipts are available for all memberships and/or donations. You can join online at <https://www.artgallerybancroft.ca/index.php/join-and-support/become-a-member>, or in person at the gallery's front desk.

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

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](http://www.mollymoldovan.com) @mollymoldovanstudio



ALLAN O'MARRA:

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# 2023 Schedule | Bancroft Art Gallery

## APRIL 4 - 29, 2023

Laurie O'Reilly  
 Earthscapes  
 (Painting, mixed media, installation)  
 Opening Reception: April 6, 7:30 pm  
 Sponsor: Wilson Timber Mart

## MAY 2 - 27, 2023

Allan O'Marra  
 Allan O'Marra: Living My Muse  
 Opening Reception: May 4, 7:30 pm  
 Sponsors: Pine Cliff Resort  
 Sunny Hill Resort

## MAY 30 - JULY 1, 2023

Elayne Windsor  
 Outside-In (Collage)  
 Opening Reception: June 1, 7:30 pm  
 Sponsors: Richard & Eleanor Yip-Chuck  
 Barbara Fitzpatrick

## JULY 4 - 29, 2023

David Ferguson  
 It's a Circus In There (Installation)  
 Opening Reception: July 6, 7:30 pm  
 Sponsors: Susan Latremoille  
 Pam Gibb-Carsley

## AUGUST 1 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

Bruce Cull  
 Connection and Response  
 (Painting/mixed media)  
 Opening Reception: August 3, 7:30 pm  
 Sponsor: Park View Dental

## SEPTEMBER 5 - 30, 2023

Group exhibition  
 Truth  
 (Painting, mixed media, installation)  
 Opening Reception: Sept. 7, 7:30 pm  
 Sponsor: Reva Realty

## OCTOBER 3 - 28, 2023

Group exhibition  
 Reconciliation  
 (Painting, mixed Media, installation)  
 Opening Reception: October 5, 7:30 pm  
 Sponsor: Auto Nexus Bancroft

## OCTOBER 31 - DECEMBER 2, 2023

Kendra Gadzala  
 For the Moment (Painting)  
 Opening Reception: November 2, 7:30 pm  
 Sponsor: Pat Cooke in memory of  
 Paul D. Cooke

## DECEMBER 5 - 30, 2023

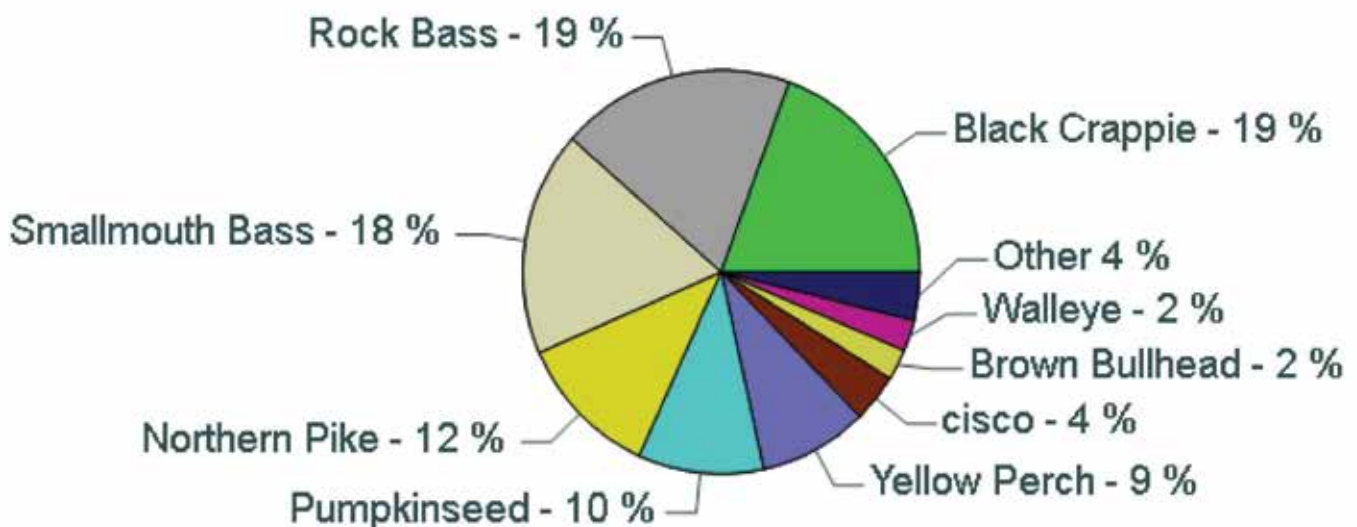
41st Annual Juried Exhibition  
 Opening Reception: December 7,  
 7:30 pm  
 Sponsor: Boyer GMC Buick Bancroft

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# OUTSIDE-IN



## 2016 PROPORTION OF FISH CAUGHT IN LARGE MESH NETS



Based on data from the Broad-Scale Monitoring Bulletin, 2022, we hope that Baptiste Lake will be approved to receive Lake Trout frye from our local fish hatchery. Complete report available, contact [mybaptistelake@gmail.com](mailto:mybaptistelake@gmail.com)

# A PLACE FOR THE ARTS



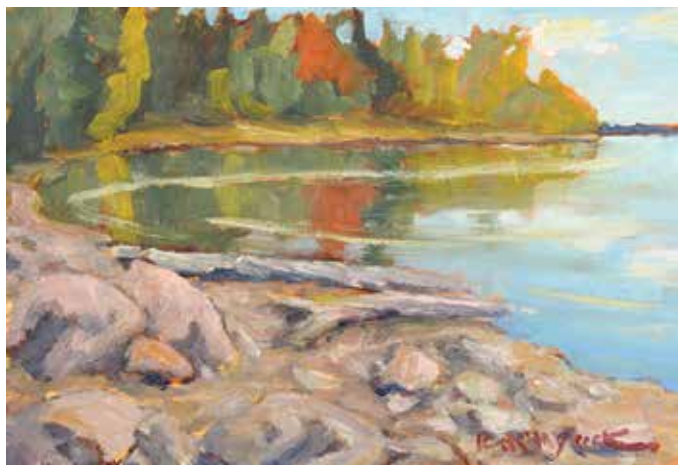
*John Christie painting*



*APFTA member Kathy Haycock painting*



*Plein air group painting at*



*Baptiste Lake painting by Kathy Haycock*



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06:00	n/a	-40 (-39.5)	calm
05:00	n/a	-40 (-39.8) ↓	calm
04:00	n/a	-40 (-39.8)	calm
03:00	n/a	-39 (-39.1)	calm
02:00	n/a	-39 (-38.9)	calm
01:00	n/a	-38 (-37.5)	calm

*Our coldest night. Recorded February 3, 2023.  
Downloaded by Eric Hooey*



*Ice rink on Redmond Bay. Photo by Shelley Pickard*

## ***Cottage Succession Planning Seminar on June 3, 2023***

The Hastings Highlands Interlake Association will be holding a Succession Planning Seminar on June 3, 2023 at 10:00AM in Emond Hall in Maynooth. Further details to follow. The Highlands Interlake Association is an association of lake associations within Hastings Highlands, of which the BLA is a member.



*Storm Coming. Painting by Anne Coleman*



*Photo submitted by Paul van derZalm*

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**MEMBERSHIPS**

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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](mailto:MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com). Please include necessary information to ensure we have your correct mailing, lake, and email addresses.
- **PAYPAL** - Use the link on our membership page on our website [www.baptistelake.org](http://www.baptistelake.org).

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

