



BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

MARLIN HORST

As I write this our family has already begun to close up the cottage for the winter. It seems like only last week we were opening up! This was a hot and sunny summer and we would like to see more of these. Like many of you we had a parade of visitors all summer long. A cottage is certainly a social place to be.

The BLA held its traditional “Welcome Back” get together on the May long weekend. Once again Birch Cliff Lodge generously provided the space and the event was very well attended. Light

snacks, beer and wine were available. Donations were good. They can always be better. It was great to meet new cottagers and reconnect with old friends.

We held our AGM in early August. There was a pretty good turnout on what was a beautiful August morning. Carol MacLennan, Treasurer of the BLA, presented the financial statements of the BLA to the meeting. We continue to be in a strong position financially. We had a number of presentations regarding fireworks. Adrian Hill, one of our directors, spoke, as did Nancy Wilson, a local artist who has prepared an art exhibit regarding fireworks. I was not aware of what kind of chemicals are put into the lake every time someone sets off fireworks. It was a very sobering thought. Nancy gave an excellent presentation on the dangers to our water and water quality which fireworks represent. Adrian, who is an avid scuba diver, also spoke of the hundreds of spent firework

canisters he sees on the bottom of the lake.



Mayor Vivian Bloom, along with Councillors Nancy Matheson and Greg Roberts (who is also Deputy Mayor), attended the meeting and Mayor Bloom briefly spoke about what the Municipality has been doing and the

plans for the future. Two of our directors stepped down at the AGM. Mary Milne and David Hawkes have both generously supported the BLA over the past years and I would like to thank them on behalf of the entire BLA for their excellent work while on the Board. In particular I want to thank David for leading the Lake Plan Implementation for the last several years. He has given much time to the

...continued on page 2

What’s Inside

Pg#

President’s Message	1
Temperature Regime of Inflowing Streams to Baptiste Lake.....	3
Fireworks Poisoning Our Lake	5
Coming Soon... ..	6
The Undefined Heroes	7
Welcoming Eric Hooey.....	8
Turtle at Dog Bay	8
Invasive Species.....	9
Loon Platforms.....	10
What A Summer.....	11
Freshwater Jellyfish	13
Your Baptiste Lake Association at Work	14
Natives and Loggers	14
Greetings from the Maple Leaf Snow Skimmers	16
Water Level Control.....	17
Art Gallery of Bancroft Schedule	18
BLA Board of Directors	19
More Commercial Neighbours	20
Membership Form	20

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...continued from page 1

Lake Plan and we will continue to implement the Lake Plan with new leaders. Thank you to David Milne and the staff at Birch Cliff Lodge for allowing us to use their facilities, it is much appreciated.



On a beautiful Labour Day weekend the BLA held its Closing Event at Camp Ponacka. The turnout was such that we ran out of food at the right time. We held a corn roast and had hot dogs as well. We also had beer and wine, perhaps that is why the turnout was so good. The corn was excellent. This event is a great time to catch up with other people on the lake. Thank you to Camp Ponacka for providing the venue (and so much more). Thank you also to all those who made donations which helped greatly to offset the costs.

In addition to social events the BLA is also involved in some initiatives with other lake associations. In early June the Hastings Highlands Interlake Group met. This group is made up of the various lake associations in the Municipality of Hastings Highlands. The group gets together once a year (and has various discussions throughout the year) to discuss common issues and in particular to coordinate the interaction with the municipal government. The hope is that if the various lake associations work together with the municipality, we can accomplish much more than if we all work independently. At the meeting this year the group agreed to set up a more formalized organization. This group and the BLA will continue to work



with the municipality to protect our lakes for future generations.

In addition to the Hastings Highlands Interlake Group, there is also an annual meeting held in mid September of that group along with lake associations in Madawaska and surrounding areas. The purpose of this larger group is similar to the Hasting Highlands Interlake Group but concentrates more on how the various lake associations can help each other. By attending these meetings and participating in the discussions, the BLA is able to learn from other associations in the area and perhaps pass on some of our knowledge as well.

As stated above, David Hawkes has worked tirelessly to implement the Lake Plan. David has now stepped down from the board and the role of Co-ordinator of the Lake Plan Implementation falls to two people. I am very pleased to announce that Anne Coleman and Hilary Philips, both members of our board, have agreed to jointly be Coordinators of the Lake Plan Implementation. Yes, we had to replace David with two people. The LakePlan is a living document and we

...continued on page 3

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...continued from page 2

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 LakePlan, are achieved. This year was the ten year anniversary of the completion of the Lake Plan. We hope that all of the stakeholders in Baptiste Lake will take a closer look at what we can do as individuals to support the Lake Plan initiatives.

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.




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TEMPERATURE REGIME OF INFLOWING STREAMS TO BAPTISTE LAKE

BY FRANK HICKS

There are five major watersheds that originate on the dome, or highlands of Algonquin. The Nipissing, Petawawa and the Madawaska rivers flow into the Ottawa River. The Magnetewan and the Oxtongue rivers flow into Georgian Bay. There are, however, a number of smaller, lesser known watersheds when compared to their larger cousins, which include the Amable du Fond, the Bonnechere, and the York. The headwaters of the York River, which is the source of Baptiste Lake, are located in the vicinity of Little Branch Lake in Clyde Township. The York River flows south through Bruton Township before leaving Algonquin Park, where it enters a series of lakes that are very familiar to us: Big and Little Benoirs, Elephant, and Baptiste. Flowing over the dam at High Falls, the river continues onward through Bancroft and then eastward before joining the Madawaska River at Conroy's Marsh, near Combermere.

There are many lakes, rivers and streams flowing into the York River system, however, Baptiste Lake is the largest water body in the York River Watershed (MNR-2KD2). The two largest streams flowing into Baptiste Lake, beside the inflow of the York River, are McGarry and Diamond creeks. Just as important to the watershed are numerous creeks and streams flowing into the lake from large and small wetlands, and other adjacent lakes. It is these streams, approximately 43, that were identified in the Lake Plan that need to be inventoried, classified, and assessed for their fish community and environmental parameters.

For the past 5 years, I have been installing data loggers in streams around the lake to classify them based on their temperature regime. The data loggers are manufactured by HOB0 and are capable of collecting temperature and light information over an extensive period of time. Information can be downloaded into a computer and the results plotted over the sampling period.

...continued on page 4

TEMPERATURE REGIME ...continued from page 3

A data logger mounted on a brick is ready to be installed.



Figure 1. Data Logger ready for installation

Water flowing into the watershed comes from a variety of sources – surface water from rain or snow melt, and ground water. The maximum and minimum temperatures show the range of temperatures encountered over the summer. The average temperature was used to classify the stream. Arbitrarily, I classified the streams into 3 categories: cold water (less

than 60F), cool water (60 – 70F), and warm water (70F+). The streams with the coldest average temperature were generally ground water. Similarly, streams that flowed directly into the lake through a heavy forest canopy were generally cool. Streams that originated in nearby lakes or flowed through large marshes were often warmer in temperature. These streams were exposed to the direct sunlight and temperatures were warmer and similar to temperatures in Baptiste Lake.

Temperature of streams flowing into the lake is very important in maintaining environmental conditions to support a wide diversity of fish and aquatic organisms. Inflowing streams also contribute to the physical and limnological processes of the lake. With few exceptions, all inflowing streams to Baptiste Lake were cool or cold, conditions that are necessary for supporting aquatic organisms in this area. Inflowing streams from Hamilton, Snake, Hound, Diamond and McGarry creeks were cool to warm. This is to be expected as the stream inflows originated from lakes and marshes are open and exposed to direct sunlight. Nevertheless, temperature in these water bodies should be monitored for changes in the future.

Stream flow was another variable that I noted, but did not quantify. In some cases, there was good flow in the spring, but the stream dried up during the summer. This was particularly evident during summers when it was particularly hot with little precipitation. Streams that flowed continuously had reduced volume in September when I retrieved the data loggers.

There are a few more streams to monitor, but the next phase should look at flow, habitat and biological diversity. We have already made a start on bio-diversity. Several years ago, Chris Chhatwal and I worked with MNR Stewardship Rangers and collected benthic invertebrates from Hound, Diamond and McGarry creeks. While it was only a cursory look at the streams, it was gratifying to note that the organisms collected were typical of unpolluted streams. Subsequently, a group of BLA members, headed by Kathy Irwin, established a permanent site on

...continued on page 5

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TEMPERATURE REGIME ...continued from page 4

McGarry Creek to conduct long term kick and sweep surveys to study the aquatic benthos. A permanent site for this technique will enable us to compare the benthos of this stream with other streams in an Ontario data set. As for fish habitat, studies in Algonquin Park showed the importance of small streams as nursery habitat for juvenile brook trout. In Baptiste Lake streams, little is known about the fish community and their potential as fish habitat.

A final note, many of the streams are unnamed and I had to resort to locating them by using roads, lots and concessions, nearby cottagers, and physical landmarks. Naming them, as suggested in the BLA Lake Plan, would help considerably.



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

BY ADRIAN HILL (BLA DIRECTOR)



Nancy Wilson and Mayor Bloom

Fireworks have been on the radar of lake associations for several years as their use has spread from Victoria Day and Canada Day, to become a regular nightly occurrence by a multitude of residents and visitors. In July of this year, someone was setting off fireworks on Baptiste Lake most evenings, sometimes at numerous different spots.

There is now a growing awareness that fireworks are perhaps the most environmentally irresponsible activity anyone can undertake for the health of our lake, plants, animals and our

...continued on page 6

FIREWORKS ...continued from page 5
drinking water.

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

The cardboard, metal and plastics don't "disappear"; they fall to earth, or into our lake laced with gunpowder and those heavy metals and chemicals which contaminate our lake, forests, and drinking water. Fireworks have long been the bane of dogs, cats and their owners. And, while everyone loves to see loons and other birds and mammals, no thought has been given to the impact nightly fireworks have on nests, and chicks and the literally hundreds of species that live in, or travel to our lake to reproduce.

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

COMING SOON...

BY ANNE COLEMAN (BLA DIRECTOR)



Next spring, you will find a new small structure at Carolyn's Baptiste Lake Marina. It is the latest installation of a Free Little Library. You might be familiar with this organization, having seen some of these little libraries in a variety of urban locations throughout North America.

The motivation behind them is to increase literacy. The little libraries are attractive housings for used good books, which are free for the taking. Donations of good books are most welcome. Please contact me if you have a large number of books to donate as we do not want an overstocking in a small space, nor books left outside.

I created the little library this summer, and am looking forward to installing it in the early spring of 2017. It has been registered with the Free Little Library organization through the Hastings Highlands Library, and I will be the acting steward for this coming summer. Many thanks to Toshi Hino for his help with this project, and to David Robertson for his generous book donation. Some of these books went to the Hastings Highlands Library, but some were selected to be part of the initial collection for our new endeavour.

Our concentration will be on children's books to help them and their parents with the development of reading for pleasure. We trust that you will enjoy this addition to your summer visits to the Marina – besides the ice cream.

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THE UNDEFINED HEROES: OUR STORY



We are a family band with Sam on lead guitar; Carly on vocals and bass guitar; Jackson on drums; Ben and Callahan share rhythm guitar; and finally, Jaycee on keyboards. Music has always been a part of our family and life. We are avid concert goers and find inspiration from a variety of musical artists. It is from these artists that we compile our set lists.

As far as we are aware, the Pirate Ship boathouse put on the first lake concert roughly a decade ago. We made our first attempt later that same summer on the Labour Day Weekend. The band was comprised of another family member and friends from his high school. We did not get the same turnout that the Pirate Ship concert received. Over the ensuing years, we made more and more attempts at the concert with the same effect.

The turning point for us was when Jackson decided to take up the drums. Sam realized how quickly he was progressing, and asked if he would like to perform with the group that summer. He was keen and the first annual Undefined Heroes

concert took place on August 23, 2013.

Planning the annual event is a family group effort. Every year we get together in late winter to decide on the set list for the concert. A variety of songs are chosen that span many years of music, from CCR to the Foo Fighters. We also make a point to showcase the talent our country

...continued on page 8





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THE UNDEFINED HEROES ...continued from page 7
has produced, including the Barenaked Ladies, The Tragically Hip and Bryan Adams. While we all have input, Sam, Carly and Jackson make the final call.

Practice takes place in the months leading up to the concert, with a final rehearsal in the garage the day before. Watching the weather leading up to the event is an everyday occurrence, and so far we have been very fortunate. Sound check is at 6:30 p.m. Boats tend to cruise into the bay and drop anchor around 7:30 p.m.

Every year we are thrilled to play to those who show up. This year's most recent concert saw over 60 boats anchored in the bay, not to mention all the local cottagers sitting on their docks and decks enjoying the music. A thrill for us is when we hear that people time their visit to the lake to take in our concert. How cool is that! So, until next year. The Undefined heroes.

WELCOMING ERIC HOOEY TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Hooley has been on and around Baptiste Lake since 1981, enjoying summer holidays with his sons. He has lived on the lake since retiring 6 years ago. Eric is the new BLA webmaster and our newest member of the Board of Directors.



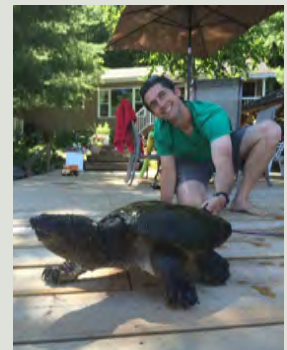
TURTLE AT DOG BAY

BY MENNA WEESE



My son, Dylan, is a Biology Professor. He saw this turtle swimming around our dock and picked it up by the Tail so his 5-year-old twins could be up close and personal.

We saw it again the next day, and since the grandsons are avid swimmers around the dock, we were somewhat concerned; those are some mighty big claws and teeth.



We called the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) who informed us that turtles are afraid of large swimming objects. 5-year-olds might not be large swimming objects!



We continued swimming and have not seen the turtle since, but what a wonderful specimen.

INVASIVE SPECIES

By PAUL COLEMAN

Hey Grandad, You were telling me about Fanwort, are there other Invasive water plants?”

“Yes Cooper, there is Eurasian Water-milfoil, European Frog-bit, European Water Chestnut, Water Hyacinth, and the list goes on. These Invasive species can be freefloating or floating and rooted in the sediment, rooted and underwater or partly under water and partly above the water’s surface.”

“So why should we be so concerned about these plants Grandad?”

“Well Cooper, they are a growing environmental and economic threat to our wetlands and waterways. They grow so quickly and densely that they challenge our enjoyment of boating, swimming and fishing. They crowd out our native plants. While some folks say “So what, it is just a plant!” their devastating impact inhibits water flows. Oxygen levels can also be depleted over winter when the plants decompose. This is extremely devastating for our native fish species.”

“So Grandad, what can we do about the spread of these Invasive plants?”

“Cooper, we must learn to identify these plant species so we don’t inadvertently spread them. We need to clean our boats and trailers and any other equipment used for recreation. Remember to remove all bits of plants, animals and mud before taking boats to another lake. We should also dispose of the stuff we remove into the garbage, not into the compost or gardens as seeds may spread.

“Also of interest, the Lake Baptiste Association(BLA) is working with experts to help identify invasive plants on our lake. They have contacted the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters(OFAH) for their assistance.

The OFAH has partnered with the MNRF and established the Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program(ISAP). Their goal is to ultimately prevent the introduction of invasive species and their spread to Ontario. They locate the species, track their pathways and then take preventative measures to block their spread. They offer education and awareness sites regarding aquatic invading species. They solicit our support

in reporting any invasive species by calling their hotline.

The BLA volunteers are also conducting other tests to record algae content, sediment changes, overall water quality and any findings of invasive species. The data will be compared with previously documented information looking for abnormal change.

“So Cooper, regular record keeping and constant testing is the key to protecting our water quality and to implement, when necessary, any immediate corrective action to maintain the delicate balance of nature.... No different than going to the dentist..... right?”

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LOON PLATORMS

By DAVID RADLEY



Loons are one of the most endearing components of cottage life in Ontario, and we at Baptiste Lake are very lucky to have a good number returning each year. Unfortunately, with the ever increasing number of cottages reducing their possible nesting sites; the natural predators – raccoons, skunks, otters, gulls, ravens and crows eating the eggs; large fish; snapping turtles eating the chicks; and some of our fellow cottagers having little regard for chicks while enjoying their powerboats, the loons have a tougher time hatching and raising their chicks. When loons give the tremolo call, it is because they are stressed or scared. The tremolo call means “back off”.

Out from our cottage in the narrows between the main lake and Lavallee Lake are two islands, the smaller of which has been a nesting site of loons from as far back as the 1960's. Over time because of erosion, this island has diminished in size to the point that it can no longer accommodate a nest.

As the island shrunk, we first tried shoring it up by adding rocks and sandbags, but this approach failed. Taking our lead from a project in Upper Michigan, we constructed a loon platform, and the loons have used it most of the years that we have put it up.

The basic construction is 4” diameter PVC

tubing and 1”x3” wood, covered with black plastic fencing, with supplementary flotation provided by some chunks of blue Styrofoam float material. It is anchored in place by two concrete blocks on plastic covered wire. We gather bulrushes in the fall (we gather ours on South Baptiste Lake Road, just west of the dump), and in the spring after the ice is out, we “stitch” the bulrushes to the platform using some ordinary sisal string (tends to blow off otherwise), and then tow the platform out and anchor it just off the island.

Give a thought to whether there is somewhere near your cottage that would be a good spot for a loon platform. It is tremendously satisfying seeing the results each year. At this time (July 2016), the pair that nested on our platform has one chick.

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WHAT A SUMMER

BY PETER BROWN



I don't know about you, but for me the dominating hot weather of this past summer was unlike anything I can remember over the past 60 years and more. While I was not at the lake every weekend, for the weeks I was up on the lake, the high temperatures and lack of rain never seemed to end.

It was a great summer for boats and I have to say that among our cottage owners we have a variety of crafts, and many that get up to top speed without much effort. And, I saw lots and lots of kids "getting a pull" by their boats on quite a variety of different shaped tubes. And, among something fairly new requiring some skill were the wake board riders. People water skiing has become a lot less common though there are still are some excellent skiers on the go.

My memory at Baptiste drops back to the

early 1950's when at the age of 5 or 7, I really was excited to be driving our own 6 horse power Viking motor (sold by Eaton's Department Store). Of course, with a 6 hp I was not very fast. In the early 1950's Johnson was offering a 5hp which a lot of people (including all the fishing boats at Birch Cliff) were using. Very few people had a 10hp, and wow, those that did were certainly going a different speed. It was even rarer to see a 25hp. Two neighbours of ours on Fell Road, Walter Mullett and Pat Murphy both had a Johnson 25hp on beautiful cedar strip boats made by Peterborough Canoe. Amazing how fast they and could, and how beautiful.

Once we had made it to 1956, Johnson was on the way to delivering more horsepower. First it was 30hp and then it was 35hp. In 1958, they came out with a 4 cylinder 50 hp: a big heavy

...continued on page 12



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WHAT A SUMMER ...continued from page 11

motor but oh my, how it could run. My favourite boat to watch was Wally McColl's. If any of you wonder if Wally can really accomplish things as a BLA Director, then catch this. With that 50hp and his very short but wide Pace type plywood boat, he could fly! – And he was not even old enough to drive a car.

Talking with Wally the other day, we went through all the fun that happened on the lake those many years back, including racing at the cottagers' regatta (held at Makwan every August) where Wally had a lot of success. Among the racers was the absolute top craft on the lake in the late 1950's, which was owned and run by Bill Biggs. Bill had a 70hp Mercury and a beautiful Shepherd craft. Bill was prominent at the Cottagers' Association, becoming President in 1963, and did a fabulous job for us on water levels, which we are still benefitting from today. His cottage, the beautiful white one at the entry to Dog Bay, is now owned by Kan and Chris Chhatwal. They too have been very active over the years with the lake association.

At our cottage in the 1950's, finances meant we had to rely on smaller boat motors. But in 1956, my uncle Ted gave us his Viking 12hp for our 16ft flat bottom boat. Now, being 13 and probably less than 100lbs, I could really go fast but the motor still didn't have enough power for

water skis. Unexpectedly, I got advice from a school friend about how to make a surf board for a motor boat. So that summer I got to work at building my own surf board.

An important difference between skis and this type of surf board, is that the board is attached directly to the boat and riders keep their balance with a handlebar that has been connected to the front edge of the board. To get up on top of the water with a surf board you need less power than with water skis because of the board's width, but you can still make it move left and right behind the boat by leaning the way you want to go. We saw a Peterborough Canoe product when stopped in Dorset this year that reminded me of the board I had built. This type of board was a major part of my summer fun from the time I was 13, until I got an 18hp about age 17, and we could final do double skis.

Still working at the cottage, we have the board I built in 1957, now in its 60th year. Some repairs are due but we can still make it go. My grandchildren Ben, Tim and Amelia got onto the board again in mid-August to keep it going. And, with the challenge given by my sister, I did a run on the Labour Day weekend. My niece Krista's fiancé Dan was impressed. In fact, he took his own turn on the board. A total of 50 years apart in our ages, but having the same fun on the now 60 year old surf board.



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FRESHWATER JELLYFISH

By GREG GIBBONS



Several summers ago, an unusually warm summer on Baptiste Lake, a cottager posted a photo asking what he had seen in the water in the main part of the lake. It turned out he had seen a freshwater jellyfish, *Craspedacusta sowerbi*. I had never heard of freshwater jellyfish until then and was intrigued that such a creature existed, and that there was a sighting in our lake!

Oct 4 2016, I was on my dock. It was a calm morning and the sun was lighting up the rocks in the water, a little over a metre below. I am involved in post production on the feature film *Dark Sunrise* and was considering a special effects scene where the protagonist, Creepy, rises from the depths of the lake and open her eyes. So I was looking in the lake. I saw movement, paid attention and saw it was a tiny creature moving like a jellyfish! I ran up to my cottage, got my camera and managed to capture a few photos as 10 -15 jellyfish drifted past my dock in the current. They ranged from 15 to 25 mm in diameter, clear with and centre pattern, and thin white tendrils. They are very delicate creatures, very fragile and cannot harm humans. The tendrils are too fine to penetrate human skin.

They show up every few years in Ontario to the absolute delight of adults and children.

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YOUR BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION AT WORK

BY PAUL COLEMAN AND MARGOT CURRIE

During the past year, the BLA Board of Directors and volunteers have been quite diligent in completing projects, and informing the public through newspaper articles about our accomplishments and concerns. The BLA continues to gather valuable information to protect the integrity of the lake and the fish. Our team approach is to create committees to conduct surveys with the lake residents, to run tests on the water and to communicate results to our stakeholders. We have an official Lake Plan and its purpose is to conserve, protect and enhance the features of Baptiste Lake.

As an organization, the BLA tries to be proactive, rather than reactive. Volunteers are extremely important, and always welcome. As co-editors of the Baptiste Lake Association Newsletter, we would love to hear from our readership about topics you would like covered in this document. We also welcome articles - historical, scientific, and biographical, etc. from you the readers. So if you are interested in writing a piece, please send it to us.

Until the Spring, have a wonderful and safe winter.



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NATIVES AND LOGGERS

BY PAUL COLEMAN

Hey Grandad, Why does Grandma say “There is something magical about the Lake and Nature provides therapeutic healing and helps her relax”? Me, I had a hard year at school and need some quiet time... You know what I mean Grandad?”

“Yes Cooper, sometimes you do need quiet time by meditating at the shoreline. You know, Chief Katherine Cannon of the First Nations Community taught me that the feeling of calm and oneness comes from listening to the water!”

She explained that Baptiste Lake was once named Kijicho Manito Lake after the Nipissing Grand chief who reigned over this part of the territory. At that time, the York River was named Shawashgon River or “Marshy Waters”.

The Algonquin and Nipissing tribes travelled the waters of Baptiste Lake through to Algonquin Park. This was their homeland and they were known as the “People of the Shallows”. They were members of the Bear Clan and the Madaouskarini Band. They were semi-nomadic hunters and gatherers who harvested, trapped, fished and camped across this vast country between the Ottawa River and Georgian Bay. It is important to recognize that the First Nations Community lived in harmony with the land, depended on the forests and had very little impact on the environment.

As Europeans arrived, the world demand for lumber created Canada’s largest industry and for one hundred years the hardwood forests were harvested and have now all but disappeared.

Our Lake was an important part of that forest industry and Lake Baptiste still holds underwater treasures of a lost generation.

...continued on page 15

NATIVES AND LOGGERS ...continued from page 14

My buddy Adrian who scuba dives in Lake Baptiste sees numerous relics along the old York River bed. He has discovered an underwater garbage dump with one hundred year old bottles! There is a sunken wreck of the old tub barge called "The Beaver". It had a steam engine and is about 20' by 60'. He has also found huge squared timbers and parts of old logging booms. He has seen the remains of an old wooden damn that was used by the loggers in 1930! It held back mountains of water and enabled the loggers to flush thousands of logs down the York River every spring.

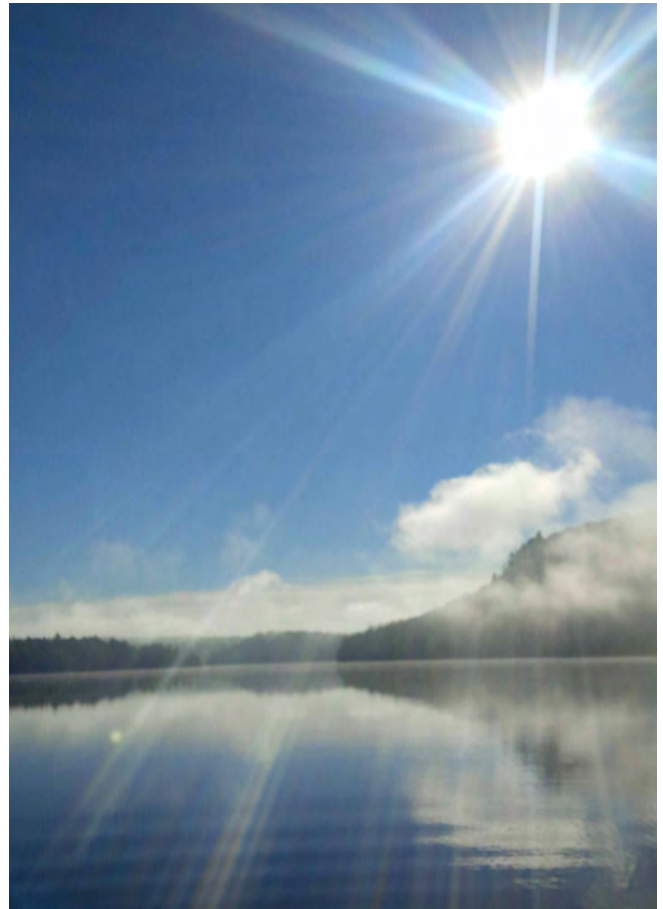
"So Cooper, close your eyes, try to appreciate the lives and hardships of those who came before you, capture their Legends and feel the calmness of the sacred waters of Baptiste Lake."



John Baptiste and his wife, Lynn.



Above photos courtesy of Wally McColl



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GREETINGS FROM THE



MAPLE LEAF SNOWSKIMMERS

It is with great pleasure that we share the news that the Maple Leaf Snow Skimmers were selected as this year's President's Award Winner as the OFSC Club of the Year. After 35 Years as a member club, we were recognized at the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs annual general meeting.

We would like to sincerely thank all of our wonderful volunteers, fantastic businesses and great community for their many years of support—we certainly could not have done it without you.

Just because the snow is not here, doesn't mean we have not been busy. Volunteers have been working diligently on the trails this fall in anticipation of yet another great winter snowmobiling season. Extensive brushing combined with bridge and drainage repairs have been completed. Next will be routine maintenance repairs for the groomers. Although not everyone shares our enthusiasm for a snowy winter, we aim to be ready for whatever Mother Nature sends our way.

We have a new executive/ board of directors that includes some familiar names making it a great mix of seasoned and new volunteers.

- President.....Stuart McDonald
- First Vice President.....Diane Hammond
- Secretary/Treasurer.....Kim Helkaa
- Trail Co-ordinator..... Chris Helkaa
- Assistant Trails Co-ordinator Brian McConnell
- DirectorsGeorge Tsagrinos, Phil Rooney,
Jason Freake, Dana Ogden

The Driver Training Course is being offered this year on December 10-2016. Students must be 12 years of age or older and can register with Neil Crowder (905-668-2896). The cost per student will be \$40 and lunch is provided. Space is limited so please register early.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. If you have some time to spare or perhaps are in need of hours for your school (requirements) — please contact our President, Stuart McDonald at 613-338-5334 or Volunteer Co-ordinator(s) - Kim & Chris Helkaa at 613-338-2655. Many hands make for light work — especially at -20.

Have a safe and prosperous 2016-17 winter season...

See you on the snow!

Stu McDonald

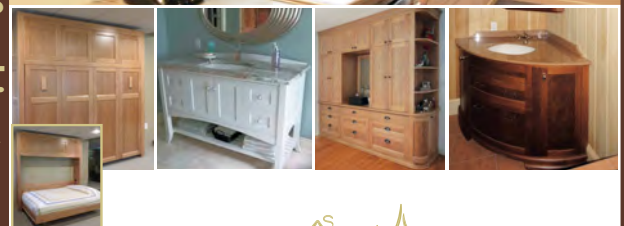
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WATER LEVEL CONTROL AT THE HIGH FALLS DAM

BY WALLY McCOLL



In our Spring Newsletter we had a look back at the history and evolution of Baptiste lake level management from the 1950's. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) defined the important operating criteria for the seasonal lake levels in the late 80's and continue to use this management today. Luke Hillyer, MNR, has been our go-to guy for our current information. He explained that water level measurements are captured electronically and available to him via an Internet link. Very cool.

On July 19th Paul Coleman and I had the privilege of a tour of the MNR office and the dam with Luke Hillyer. At the dam

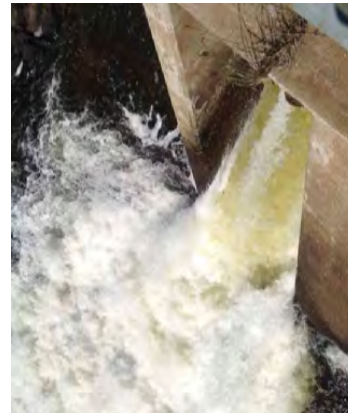


Luke showed us the mechanism for adding or removing stop logs from the sluiceways using a travelling overhead chain block lift. For more precise control of the flow rate there is a smaller sluiceway controlled by a screw operated gate or valve. Water levels are precisely measured by a

sensor mounted on the dam detecting the sensor distance above the water level. It is powered by a small solar panel and transmits the data via an internet link several times an hour. Back at the office the water level and flow rate data are plotted on a digital graph allowing Luke to examine the graphs hourly, daily, weekly or monthly. The sum of these plots are written to the seasonal management graph. This graph overlays the optimal seasonal



water levels, the operating and the maximum and minimum levels. Luke can easily compare actual seasonal water levels to the optimum. It is clear from our examination that he is able



to control our lake levels very close to the optimum. He seems to prefer to have the levels just on the high side of the optimum commenting that "when the water is over the dam, you cannot get it back."

I imagine that is why the lake levels stayed comfortably high throughout most of the relatively dry summer.

Thanks to Luke and MNR management we have the luxury of predictable water levels for docking, navigating and fishing. Good work.





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submitted by DIANA GURLEY

2017 SCHEDULE

*Please note the Gallery is closed
December 25th for the Holidays.*

January & February

“Studio Gesina”

Gesina Laird-Buchanan

January 11 – February 25

Reception: Saturday, January 14th at 2:00pm*

* Please note opening is on Saturday instead of Friday evening.

March

Magical-Mystical-Mythical

Allan O’Marra

March 1 – April 2

Reception: Friday, March 3 at 7:30pm

April

Laura Culic

April 5 - 29

Reception: Friday, April 7 at 7:30pm

May

Invitational Juried Exhibition

May 3 – 27

Reception Friday, May 5 at 7:30pm

June

Ted Duncan

May 31 – July 1

Reception: Friday, June 2 at 7:30pm

July

Jane Burgess

July 5 – 29

Reception: Friday, July 7 at 7:30pm

August

Patrick Stewart

Also: Studio Tour sampler in gallery shop

August 2 – 26

Reception: Friday, August 4 at 7:30pm

September

Marc Gagnon

August 30 – September 30

Reception: Friday, September 1 at 7:30pm

October

Diane Woodward

October 4 – 28

Reception: Friday, October 6 at 7:30pm

November

Don Wilson and Arne Roosman

November 1 – 25

Reception: Friday, November 3 at 7:30pm

December

Freddie Towe

Nov. 28 – Dec. 30

Reception: Friday, Dec. 1 at 7:30pm



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

Lakeview Lodge - Fully equipped 1 bedroom cottages with sofa bed, cot, Satellite TV, microwave & BBQ. Four-season Accommodation in the Village on the Lake. David & Lorraine Leedy. 613-332-3596. www.leedy.ca

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