

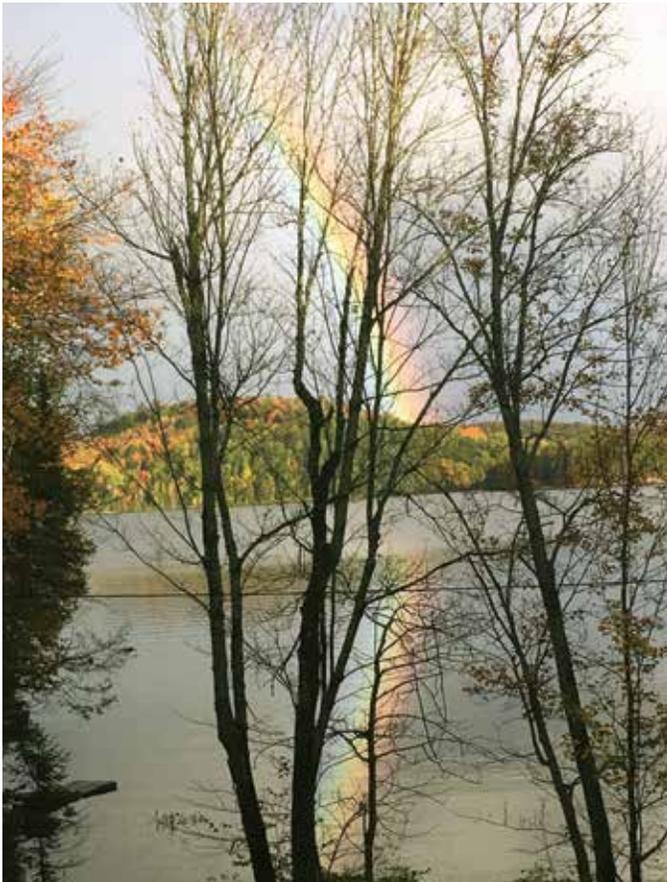


BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

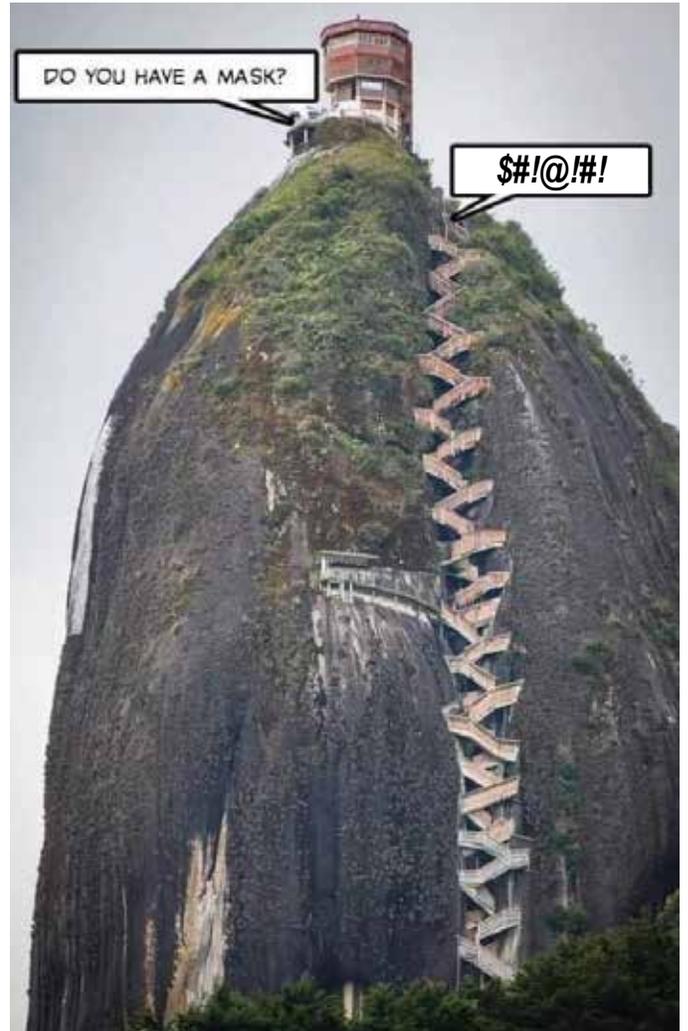
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COVID-19 CHAOS VS. COURTESY AND CONSIDERATION



Baptiste offers a rainbow to overcome our Covid challenges. Photo by Anne Coleman



BLA Officials - Fall 2020

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All of our normal public meetings or gatherings are post-poned until further notice. Your directors have their first official meeting in the Spring of 2021.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marlin Horst

As most of you know I have been on the Board of Directors of FOCA since 2016 and I have been President since 2018. At the FOCA AGM in March of 2021 (in whatever form that meeting may take) I will be replaced as President and take on the coveted role of Past President, with my term on the Board ending at the FOCA AGM in March of 2022.

The past year has definitely been a split year for FOCA. There is the pre March 15 period and then the very unusual post March 15 period.

Up until the Province shut down FOCA was working on a number of initiatives, the largest of which was a survey of waterfront road associations. A final report will be available in the coming months but what I can say is that it has been discovered that road associations go anywhere from simple hand shake deals to incorporated not for profit corporations that spend up to six figures on maintenance and liability insurance and other costs. Road associations cover just about everything else in between. FOCA views Road Associations as a potential growth area as FOCA can provide expertise and organizational assistance (as well as group rates for liability insurance).

Another initiative taken on by FOCA prior to the pandemic was a review of its financial model. Each association which is a member of FOCA pays a base fee plus an additional fee for each member of such associations. This may not be the most efficient model but it is the model that has been in place for decades and it was decided that the model will be retained. FOCA members range from associations with 10 or fewer members up to associations with thousands of members and larger budgets than FOCA (for context the Baptiste Lake Association is considered large but not one of the huge associations). To try to keep some semblance of fairness smaller associations pay a reduced fee (as the charge per member is higher) while larger associations have a cap so that it does not become such a large cost for them that they decide it is not worth retaining their membership. At the March 2020 AGM the FOCA members overwhelmingly agreed to a modest increase in the membership fee for FOCA (largely in line with inflation).

In addition a new General Manager was hired to take on some of the office duties of the Executive Di-

rector so that he could spend more time on policy and fundraising. In the past FOCA has relied on government funding to a large extent and it was not felt that was prudent going forward. FOCA must not be reliant on government sources of funds as it is too likely that they will be taken away. The Executive Director and the present Vice President (who will take on the role of President after me) have some great ideas on how to increase funding from private sector resources.

The last large meeting I was at was the FOCA AGM on March 8, 2020. Then, a week later, the Province shut down (along with most of Canada). Since that date the FOCA operations have been very different. The FOCA staff all work from home. While someone needs to go to the office to pick up mail etc. there is never more than one person at a time in the office. What this shut down has taught us is that it is possible for FOCA to operate with staff not always in the office. The new office manager is planning a new FOCA office setup (either in the present location or elsewhere) that will allow for social distancing and also allow staff to work from home as well as the office.

Post March FOCA has not ceased to operate. It has helped many associations hold virtual AGM's by using FOCA's zoom and Microsoft teams capabilities. FOCA continues to be a resource for associations across the Province. If you have a question related to a Lake Association or anything to do with waterfront living it is likely that the very knowledgeable staff at FOCA will be able to provide you with resources to tackle such issues.

Finally, FOCA is proud to say that they were able to convince the Province to continue the Lake Plan Partnership and are in the process of signing a new 5 year agreement to cover the time from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2025. This is a very important project for FOCA and the lakes within the Province. By having thousands of volunteers take water samples annually we are able to see the health of our lakes and spot any decreases in water quality early enough that we may be able to reverse such deterioration before it becomes irrevocable.

If you have any questions about FOCA please do not hesitate to contact me.

EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

By Paul Coleman

THE GOOD

Read your spring 2020 newsletter - liked it!

I work as a property appraiser and had the pleasure of visiting Baptiste Lake recently.

Not sure if you have one or two in place already, but I've seen (on lakes with lots of boat access cottages) defibrillators and even naxalone at convenient locations, like marinas.

Given the distance from hospitals and ambulance delays, they might save a life.

- Wes Lytle

Paul, my folks owned a cottage on Baptiste Lake close to McGarry Landing for around 17 years (ending around 1972) during which time I spent my early years as a child and teenager fishing around the McGarry Landing area with great success (Large Mouth bass and pickerel). We visited Sunrise Lodge often to pick up milk/bread/gas for the boat etc. but also to use their diving board for fun. I have a video of my brother and friend as young men (1955) enjoying the dock/diving board and showing off in front of a couple of pretty young ladies. Your article brought back so many wonderful memories of Sunrise, Baptiste Lake and my life as a teenager at the cottage. I came across your spring newsletter at Birch Cliff Lodge this last week which I have occasionally stayed at in past decades...thank you for your fine work Paul.

- Tony Niessen

Dear Wally. On behalf of the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council, thank you for the generous \$1000 donation towards BASC. The BLA's contribution will help BASC continue its work in conservation and shoreline restoration. Your support is an encouragement to all of our volunteers and we hope you are able to share that with your membership. On a personal note, it surely was a great adventure this year Wally. Our hope is that this can be an annual event. We look forward to future opportunities to work with the BLA on projects that benefit our beautiful local lakes, including Baptiste.

- Ian Hendry, Chair BASC

Paul my son, Dylan, and his 9-year-old twin sons were visiting from Connecticut for a couple of weeks in early July and spent their 14 days of self-isolation with me at the lake. Dylan is a keen fisherman and



Dylan and the twins



has introduced the boys to the sport, all catch-and-release. Morgan, one of the twins, caught a big bass and a huge pike. Dylan says the fishing has been better this year than it has been for a long time. They'll be back in early August for more fishing and to visit Grandpa of course.

- Bob Weese

To the Editor: On Wednesday, July 22, 2020 we were at our cottage and my daughter Stephanie, her husband Trevor, and our two grandchildren, Matt and Ryan decided to take our pontoon boat out onto Baptiste Lake to go tubing. The sky was ominous looking and I told them I didn't think it was a good idea especially since the forecast called for heavy rain that day, but if they were going to go then make

...continued on page 4

...from page 3

sure they had a charged cell phone with them, but as usual Grampa is too paranoid about those pesky safety issues so they laughed it off. What could go wrong?

Everything started out great until they got to the middle of the lake and stopped so Ryan could get back on the boat and Matt could have his turn tubing. Well the boat refused to start again and guess what? It started to rain. Who Knew? Now it was only a little at first, but then a few minutes later it came down real good. They managed to call the old fools, who were previously laughed at for being too careful and told us of their plight. No sooner had they told us of their plight when their phone died. Guess they should have taken a charged one with them. Again, Who Knew?

We called Baptiste Marina for help and Carolyn at the Marina was great and sent her daughter Janice out in a boat to try and help them. After about a half hour search, we realized that one of us had given the Marina the wrong directions. Now it would have helped had we told them the correct directions to where our boat was, but in the confusion one of us told her to turn left at the end of the Marina instead of right. It's not important as to who said what, and for the sake of my 50 year marriage, if I ever wanted to see our 51st Anniversary, I refuse to tattle on my wife. Anyway, many thanks to Carolyn and her daughter for their effort.

Now a little panic was setting in with the two grandchildren. The older one Matt, was frantically searching the emergency kit for a flashlight (in the daytime), then he started blowing a whistle but it seemed as if no one heard. The younger boy Ryan, started crying that they were all going to starve to death if they weren't rescued soon. To be honest,

unless they had Chicken McNuggets on board that would have happened anyway, because that is all the boy will eat, but that's another story.

Reminiscent of a scene from Bogart in The African Queen, where Bogart jumped into an African River and pulled a boat through it, Trevor grabbed a rope, jumped into Baptiste Lake and started to pull the boat towards shore, while Stephanie paddled with an oar that was a little too short to reach the water and so she was barely hitting the top of the water with the oar.

Somehow they got the boat close to shore near Sunrise Lodge. Trevor was still in the water trying to keep the boat and himself from hitting a few of the large rocks there. Then they heard a voice calling from the shore asking if they needed help. It was Paul, owner of Sunrise Cove. He came out with his boat while the rain was coming down and towed them back to our cottage. We thank Paul for coming out and helping. I only spoke to him for a few minutes, but I found him to be a great guy who cared enough to help them out of a tough situation.

- John and Carolyn Goguen

...continued on page 5



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...from page 4

THE BAD

Hello Baptiste Lake Association. I'm a small motor user and for 20 years I've always enjoyed what seemed to be a level of control over the usage, care and environment of Baptiste Lake. This year the use of Jet Skis seems to have increased and what concerns me is the behavior of the users. They do donuts for hours at high speeds too close to the shore. If this was in the City, the Police would be called and the speeders would be charged with reckless driving. Up to this year, the jet skiers have been considerate and collegial to all boaters, particularly canoeists. How can the BLA educate these new users and regulate the novices from selfish behavior? Thanks so much, happy to be a member and willing to help in any way.

Almost got nailed again today!!! Boat load of 20's age group. They also had a friend on a Seadoo wave jumping very close behind the boat. Not the first time this summer we have had to deal with boaters not understanding boat etiquette. Makes me think there are a number of new boaters on the lake without a license.

THE UGLY

Being a good neighbour requires courtesy, understanding, patience and tolerance. What if your cottage neighbor displays none of these characteristics? What if your neighbor is part of an Airbnb and the owner is not here? How can 12-18 young folks fit in a 2-3 bedroom home? Who controls the noise after 11 or the incessant partying all day? Four wheelers come off the big trucks and donuts in the driveway are the new fad. Not just to start but to play with for hours! So much for a quiet sunset. The bonfires are bigger than ever and the smoke travels right next door. The rude and crude language is not what the



Photo by Ellen Stewart

grandparents expected and seems to be more acceptable than ever. Somehow respectful ownership of the Lake needs to make a comeback.

With stress I witnessed a group of Sea-Dooers buzz in and out of Redmond Bay in close proximity of two adult Loons and a baby. When they left the baby was gone. Since when did you get permission to buzz a defenseless family of loons?! Where is your common sense and decency?

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GREETINGS BAPTISTE LAKE RESIDENTS

North Hastings Community Trust is a non-profit organization located in Bancroft committed to addressing poverty in our area. We would like to introduce ourselves to both permanent and seasonal residents on Baptiste and to make you aware that we provide emergency financial relief as well as focusing on housing and food for those in need. In 2015 we created 10 raised food beds in Riverside Park. Since then we have 13 more as well as 4 big garden rows. Not only do we provide food, we bring people together to help build a stronger, more resilient community. Our Wood Share Program provides heat for those that need assistance during the winter months. This could not happen without the support of Freymond Lumber, the Bancroft Area Forest Industry Association and all the volunteers who work together to ensure that no one is cold. The Rural Food Share Program receives dried, fresh and frozen food to be shared with people who do not have enough. The Harm Reduction & Outreach Program works closely with Bancroft Community Family Health to address addiction and substance abuse. Our Outreach workers connect with people on foot and bicycle offering hygiene kits, food cards, snacks and harm reduction supports. Home Share was created to address our local housing crisis. This model empowers home providers and home seekers with the ability to live in affordable, shared accommodation that is a mutual benefit to all. If you are interested in being part of our work and vision please feel free to contact us at nhcommunitytrust@gmail.com or 613-332-3657.



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CARE NORTH HASTINGS

Dear Board members. On behalf of CARE North Hastings we acknowledge the wonderful financial support that you have offered to us over the years. We were disappointed that we could not provide volunteers to help you with your Annual Golf Tournament this year, due to COVID, but very much enjoy supporting the community through your ongoing generosity. As you know, we have done whatever we could this year, even though COVID has limited our programs which typically has brought folks together like Congregate Dining, Walking Club, Chair Yoga and Smart Exercise Program etc. We are very active with Wheels on Meals, Volunteer Escorted Transportation, our Foot Care Clinics, Homemaking and Home Help Programs and Security and Reassurance. Thank you all for visiting the Heritage Revival Thrift Shop & the Coe Hill Community Thrift Shop. Your support helps our community seniors stay connected and valued.

*Kindly, Jennifer Kauffeldt, Executive Director
CARE North Hastings, division of
Community Care North Hastings Inc*



Jennifer Kauffeldt (left) is most grateful to once again receive, from Anne Coleman (right), a very generous donation from the BLA to assist in their various local programs.



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Left to right, Wally McColl, Taylor Grosklag, Anne Coleman and Ian Hendry

BLA DONATES FUNDS TO THE LOCAL FISH HATCHERY AND BASC

By Paul Coleman

This July your BLA directors donated \$1000 each to the North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery (NHCFH) and to the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council. The cheques were presented to Ian Hendry, Chair of the BASC and to Taylor Grosklag, director of both the BASC and the NHCFH by Secretary Anne Coleman and President Wally McColl. Ian said that he is proud to receive such a grateful contribution and pleased that the BLA is so focused on environmental issues and the health of their Lake. He is also managing numerous shoreline rehabilitation programs including ones on Baptiste. Taylor noted that all funds will be used directly to support the raising of fish for local lakes and hatchery operations. Your BLA is working with numerous partners to consider the receipt of harvested lake trout through a controlled restocking program.

All BLA members are encouraged to watch two short films on cohpoa.org/shoreline-health/. Here Professor Barb Elliot hosts films entitled "Ribbon of Life" and Beginners guide to shoreline stewardship" which explain the importance of having a healthy shoreline, and how it contributes to the overall health of your lake. It highlights what actions you take today will reap benefits for

future generations.

If anyone would like to order trees or shrubs for planting in early May of 2021, they can visit bancroftstewardship.ca and follow the links to our store. It will be ready to go in December this year, and for shoreline planting we recommend our "shoreline bundles", which include 10 stems of each pussy willows, highbush cranberries and red osier dogwood. All native species with deep root systems, and these are what we planted on our 2020 Blueberry Island project. A good rule of thumb is also to look at what species are already on your shoreline. Also, if you choose not to plant, it's best to leave at least 10' from shore natural, and not cut it. Make sure you place your order early as they sell out every year.

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A RANT SECTION

By Paul Coleman

Your Lake Association has sometimes been accused of being some sort of authority that has “no right to tell me what to do”. Quite the opposite we are your voice when the need arises and your instrument to protect your lake, our wild life and our environment. We do receive criticism at times for being too blunt, too educational and too opinionated in a quest to meet the Lake Plan Objectives as set out in our constitution. “Some of you” need a reminder to be respectful to one another. Personally we would rather err on the side of caution and inform folks of bad behavior, rather than read about a tragedy as a result of doing nothing or not enough.

It seems that COVID has brought about chaos, some of the worst behavior and lack of courtesy as seen on Baptiste and surrounding Lakes in years. We have read reports from the OPP in Burleigh Falls and as far away as Tofino BC of the dangerous activities, flagrant disregard for rules, regulations, common decency and abhorrent behavior. It is sad that we are receiving more and more reports of reckless behavior, near

misses and careless use of motor crafts.

First, lets presume that all Baptiste residents are good, honourable folk who are well versed in water safety and polite, neighbourly behaviour. Secondly, let’s suggest many newbies this year were letting off excess steam due to Covid-19: Or that they just don’t know boating etiquette. Thirdly, it is up to all of us to speak up and take an active role to address, to educate and to quell the unusual chaotic activity before it gets out of control.

Every Sport has rules. Every sport has penalties. Every action has consequences. Where is the referee when you get cut off when you have the right of way? What is the penalty when no one with authority is around? In sports we are trained to learn the game and to follow the rules. On the lake we get more and more reports of close calls, near misses, blatant attitude and total disregard for rules, common sense and decency.

Here are some examples of the foolishness encountered here on Baptiste and a “sporting” penalty for

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Makin' Waves Marine



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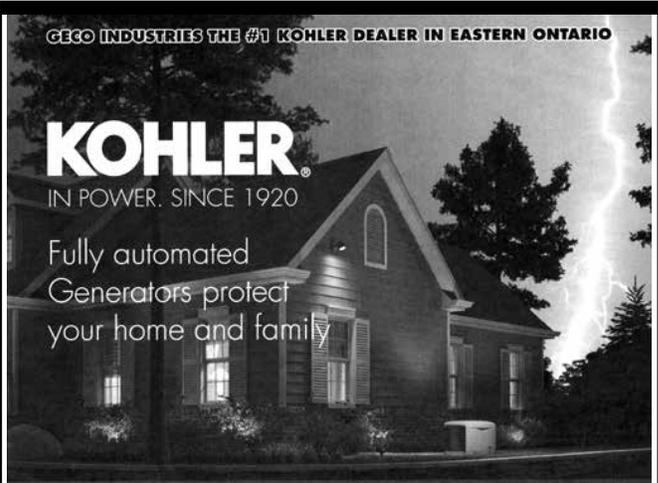


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...from page 8

misconduct.

SEA DO'S AND DON'TS?

• “A Jet Boat (not a Jet Ski) was driven directly through a crowded swimming area onto our beach. Yep, total disregard for kids’ safety, laughs and giggles just showing off his new toy to his buddies.” **Penalty: 3 days in the penalty box plus 3 demerit points.**

• Local Airbnb brings in big trucks with big Sea-Doo’s. The cottage is now filled with testosterone driven “adults” who launch their units and drive cork-screw waves incessantly in front of their rental and their neighboring cottages. They run the machines in endless circles for hours and hours. The shoreline gets eroded, the loons and other wildlife run for cover and we say “What is happening?” Is this the new norm? We have a problem if we do nothing. If they did this on your street in the City they would be charged, right? **Penalty: One week in the Penalty Box, 5 demerit points, 40 hours Community service cleaning garbage along South Baptiste.**

• Sea-Doo’s weaving in and out directly behind tubers waiting to run over some helpless kid who has no idea what danger lies behind them. What are you thinking? Anyone that falls off is toast. **Penalty: 2 day suspension, unless he kills someone, then life in Jail.**

• Sea-Doo comes 10 ft alongside me as I was pulling a water skier. I call and motion that I must turn left to return home. I have the right of way. He does not move. He has a kid on his lap holding on to the steering handle. He moves 10 feet in front of my boat, cuts in front of me and waves to his friends on shore! So, let’s be clear, I have the right of way, I have a skier behind me. He has reckless control of his craft, total disregard for anyone else, cut me off and blindly went to shore as if nothing happened. I have to come to a full stop. How do you license stupidity? **Penalty: 1 week suspension, take an “in person” training course and 40 hours filling pot holes on North Baptiste Road.**

• I am fishing with no one around me and these guys buzzed me with their seadoo!! **Penalty: you decide.**

• I am having a quiet kayak/canoe/paddleboard ride, minding my own business and I get buzzed by Mr./Mrs Sea-Doo! You can’t make this up, it is happening. **Penalty: Put them on a paddle board for 2 hours and see how they feel when someone buzzes them.**

• **One of our guests just read my rough draft of**

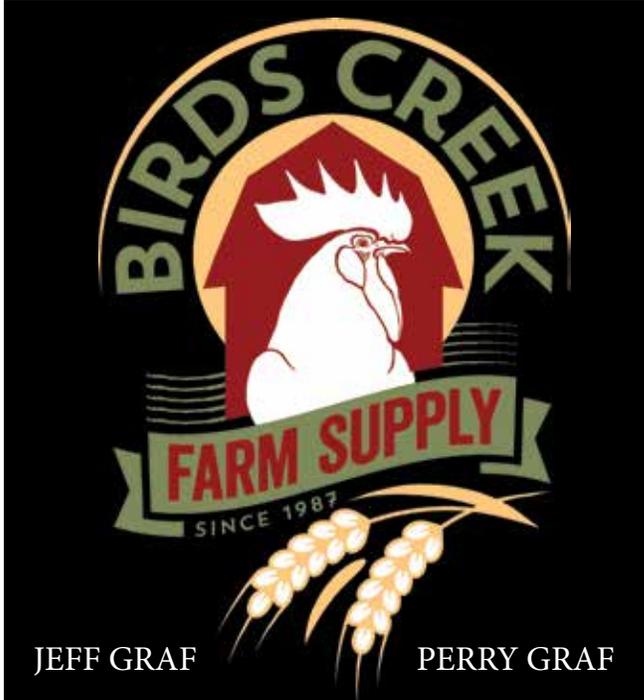
this newsletter and cringed. He told me of two of his buddies having fun on the water. One of them on a jet ski decided to spray his buddy who was on a paddleboard. He cranked it, smoked his friend, shattered his legs, multiple surgeries for over 2 years now and he will never work in the trades again. If that is not sobering nothing is!

• I am working well away from the shore. I hear a scream and a loud crash. I ran to the dock to find one of my sections crushed and a kid crying. The mom let the kid on the running Sea-Doo by himself and then the kid hit the gas and smash! Go figure, one smoked dock.

• Sea-Doo kills baby loon in Redmond Bay. Penalty: work the summer healing injured turtles with the Think Turtle Conservation Initiative.

• **On a good note, I am very impressed with the renters opposite our cove. The boaters were very courteous. They drove in and out slowly with very little wake. They tubed in the middle of the lake or often in a distant uninhabited bay. The young boaters were well educated in water safety, manners and just nice people to be around. Thank you for setting the example for the rest of us to follow.**

...continued on page 10



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...from page 9

BOATER CHAOS ON THE LAKE

• It's sundown, pitch black, 2 dudes crossing from Blueberry towards Belcast... in a paddleboat! No lights, you cannot see them. Yep, one of the fastest fishing boats on the lake just missed them, it could have split them in two. Time to escort them to shore.

• Again sundown. Two girls on paddleboards near the narrow gap by the marina. "What are you doing here?" oh just going across to the cottage, we are ok. No you are not, we will escort you with our boat and lights... Ahhhhh where are the parents?

• A kid? Old enough to drive a fast 16 foot power boat, on his cell phone, runs DIRECTLY at my buddy's Pontoon boat. How can you not see a 24 foot pontoon boat! If it was not for evasive action, disaster could have struck. Fair enough the young man stopped, was totally apologetic and tried to reconstruct the error of his ways.

OTHER: BURLEIGH FALLS IN PETERBOROUGH COUNTY CLOSED TO PUBLIC AFTER COMPLAINTS.

In early July, the MNR closed Burleigh Falls Crown Land due to overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, property damage and safety concerns. The problems grew as spring moved to summer. Teams of visitors filled the grounds which became covered with clothing, fast food containers, food, human waste, toilet paper, plastics, paper, beach toys, diapers, you name it. The only way to stop it was to "Shut it down".

The locals said "because visitors are coming from out of town, they think they can do what they want. They don't have any respect for anyone else's property.

The local folk said "We're punishing everybody for the day-trippers out of the city, but I know it needs to be done to stop this insanity. I hope it just wakes everybody up. Their behavior has consequences. As my grandmother would say, 'your mother didn't raise you that way' and that's I think what everybody has to remember... just being nice to each other and respecting the area we're in. For some reason along our way we

stepped out of that and forgotten social norms."

In order to control the situation, the OPP had to bring in extra officers on overtime to enforce the closure until things settled down... another sad state of society when unruly behavior superceed lawful common practices.

AND NOW TO TOFINO! AN 'OCEAN' APART, BUT THE SAME ISSUE!

The big question is whether personal watercrafts should be allowed to share waves with swimmers and surfers at local beaches. It is like saying "is it ok if ATV's can rip around the bases of a neighborhood ball diamond". Surfers, young and old were awe struck to see two Jet Ski operators run wild within meters of local beach users. Folks with some sort of common sense asked themselves "that doesn't look right, that doesn't look good; that doesn't look safe". If someone asks those types of questions, then it seems reasonable to



Jetski rides the waves within meters of surfers. assume that it is wrong. They wondered if it was just them or if others felt the same way... Typically Canadian Eh! Others felt discomfort and distress. Typical of local politics, the ball was bounced around between the Feds and the local government. The pat answer is always the same: "we do take issues like this very seriously". Clearly they noted that motorized vessels and surfers cannot use the same surf zone at the same time. No matter what fancy words

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are used, it gets down to a lack of respectful and courteous behavior. BUT, who takes control? By-laws are not in place that regulate ocean behavior, yet bylaws do govern launching vessels from public beaches and banning any loud, objectionable or unnecessary noise from a motor vehicle or vessel.

SO WHERE ARE WE AS LAKE USERS?

There is a common thread throughout this COVID Crisis and that is Respect. Respect for one another, respect for authority, respect for property. We must all take a stand for what is right, correct what we know is wrong. It will be difficult to tell someone to chill, or think about what they are doing. But it is surprising what happens when someone is corrected for bad behavior.

We do need some sort of rules enforcement to harness the silly behavior and to ensure the safety of our boaters and protection of our land and wild-life.

We are often caught between the MNRF, the OPP and the local government by-law agencies. Let's hope that folks will take a more responsible approach to water activities this summer and thereby avoid more rules, regulations and enforcement.

To better help you understand the #1 rule when driving your boat is to give way to the person on the RIGHT.

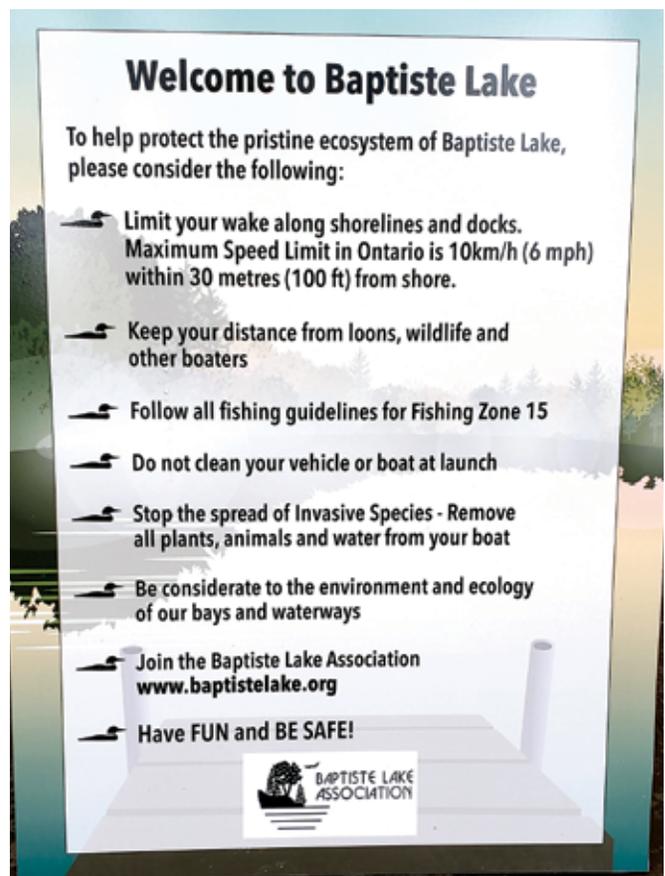
Remember when you were taught to drive a car? "the person to the Right, has the Right of way".

When two vessels are heading toward each other, each must reroute and pass to the right of the other. (A) blows one blast and alters course to starboard, (B) blows one blast and alters course to starboard.



As a general rule, rowboats, sailing vessels and canoes have the right-of-way over power-driven boats. However, if one vessel is unable to maneuver as it normally would, the most maneuverable vessel gives way.

WELCOME TO BAPTISTE LAKE



This is the first year that we have received many emails expressing various concerns about changed behaviour on and around the lake accordingly we reached out to other associations and learned that educational and "good behaviour" promotional messages have been designed on large posters to be placed near boat launches and narrow water ways.



BUILDING ENFORCEMENT IN HH

By Bill Cheshire, Baptiste Lake

During Covid-19, there has been an increase throughout Ontario of building activity including people building without a permit. HH is actively pursuing these offences. Municipalities have 12 months from when the offence first came to their knowledge, not from when you started construction, to commence with legal proceedings. HH apparently has a long list to pursue over the quieter winter months. HH is on a mission to put some teeth in its laws aided by our by-law officer and the building department and employees who must enforce the legislation the province and our council passes. If you have an illegal building it could end up with the courts ordering the demolition of the structure and a significant fine.

So if you are one of those who have been lulled into complacency from past practices in HH, its time to wake up and take the rule of law seriously.

Council passed the Administrative Monetary Penalty System recently and it has compliance teeth and financial impact for those who ignore our laws. And before you overreact, council and the by-law staff fully understand that it will take some time for this system to be fully functioning including a clear understanding by HH residents of the laws and the penalties for non-compliance.

If you aren't sure about that shed you are planning to build next to the property line or whether you need a building permit for that cottage addition or work on your shoreline, call or drop a note to our Chief Building Official, Martin Cox at 613-338-2811 Ext. 255 or email him at mcox@hastingshighlands.ca

Even better would be to check the website: <https://hastingshighlands.ca/services/building-planning/>

What was wrong with the old system of toothless

laws? Well, as usually is the case, if you see that all of your neighbours are ignoring the law with no consequences, then after a while you will too. And that doesn't make for good community standards.

We recently hired a municipal planner in HH who will be reviewing our by-laws for the first time since HH was created decades ago, as well as the County and Province legislation. This includes setbacks of buildings and septs, buffer zones, property standards and many more regulations around the appropriate uses for your property.

Regarding shoreline destruction, HH staff has established good working relationships with both Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. This summer HH staff followed up on reports from concerned residents and found multiple residents clear cutting Crown Land adjacent to their properties. These offences were handed off directly to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to investigate.



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PADDLING ADVENTURES AS TOLD BY OUR KAYAK GROUP

The group consists of Wally McColl, Susan Latremoille, Margot Currie, Lily Mabson, Sarah Schmitter, Shelley Pickard and Anne Coleman. Wally is the first to admit that he looks for open water in the spring even before all of the ice is out and he's the last guy out in the fall. He finds time spent paddling is a rejuvenation of mind each time out. As the air and water temperatures improve, the numbers of participants also increases. We missed out on the BLA Nature Day this year but there was no reason for individuals not to take to the water in the perfect activity for social distancing.

Here are some comments from those who joined in on several of the group paddles.

Margot Currie: Wally created the group we are. Three years ago, he and his wife, Pat, took Marlin and I to Frontenac outfitters to purchase a kayak he claimed "I needed". Apparently, I did, and I purchased. Since then with Wally, many of us have explored the lake bay by bay. A favourite paddle of mine with Wally and Lilly Mabson is paddling up to High Falls and ice cream on Benoir Lake at the end.

Looking forward to many more paddles with Wally and fellow kayakers.

Sarah Schmitter: Trips took on descriptive names: Blueberry, Mink and Deer Island Loop; Sunrise to the Dam; the Ice Cream Loop, which included, as you might guess, a stop at the Belcast Cottages for their Kawartha Ice Cream!

Wally McColl: Our kayak group did not start as the formulation of a club. We have no president, secretary just individuals emailing with ideas of exploring some kayak destination together.

I think the initial paddling together catalyst was Margot and I having kayaks from the same company, Frontenac Outfitters in Sydenham. These Delta sea kayaks, made in Vancouver, are attractively priced, beautifully made and fun to paddle.

Naturally our conversation led to planning excursions together. We would meet at some chosen spot to explore many of Baptiste's bays: Lavalley Bay, Redmond Bay, West Bay with its Diamond Creek beaver

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dam and Dog Bay with the hidden Hound Creek.

Susan Latremoille seeing and paddling Margot's Delta 15s, ordered two of this model. One for herself and the second for her guests and friends. Anne Coleman, Shelley Pickard and my cousin Sarah Schmitter have enjoyed Susan's second Delta 15 kayak.

My highlight trip, started at the Silver Springs Lodge in Benoir Lake. The destination, Millionaires, (Hershel) Island on Baptiste. Three of us Lily Mabson, Susan Latremoille and I slipped into a glassy calm Benoir on a cold clear morning. We had warm tops, hats and gloves. The sun warming as we paddled the pine shaded shoreline bends of Benoir. Then on to the twisty river leading to the open broad areas of marsh grasses at the top of Elephant and Baptiste.

The freshening morning winds tested our endurance paddling eastward past the Watt Lake Creek to the turn southward and the Ripple. Here in the narrows, the river is protected by scenic hills on both sides. In this calm relaxing stretch, we met our first boat of the whole morning! A small boat with a fisherman finding his way through the narrow channel. A cottage just below the Ripple on a beautiful point looking

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south had a picnic table. We stopped for lunch and break. Thank you cottage owners.

Heading south we traced the intriguing eastern shoreline through with its distinctive bays. The northern most dips into a wide marshland where Lighthouse Creek enters Baptiste. In contrast the two large bays to the south are bordered by Pines, rocky shorelines and deeper water. There are no cottages in this wide environment. The southern bay has the often visited "Diving Rock".

From there to Hershel Island is a relatively short paddle. There we said our good byes to a fantastic day, Susan padding west to home, Lily and I past Hershel and on to my cottage. I felt quite invigorated by the thoughts of completing my long imagined Benoir to Baptiste trip, on this beautiful day with two of my kayaking friendsincredible!

Susan Latremaille

Baptiste Lake has a growing community of keen kayakers. Not only is Baptiste the perfect lake to explore by kayak but it is ideally situated to explore neighbouring lakes.

A small group of us trailered our kayaks to Diamond Lake beach in mid September and launched at the shallow beach. We toured the entire shoreline of Diamond Lake - from the densely packed properties on the north shore to the high cliffs and wilderness, to the sandy beach. Diamond Lake boasts clear, clean water and a lot of variety of topography. Kayaking is the perfect Covid sport - physical distancing, exercise, fresh air and best of all a community of Baptiste Lakers who enjoy the camaraderie of a kayak excursion.



Susan quietly enjoying the Diamond rocky shoreline and cliffs

Come join us next summer as we create the "Baptiste Lake Kayak Club"

Lily Mabson. Margot calls it, jokingly, « Wally's Harem ». I call it great opportunities for long, lazy times enjoying the lake, in friendly company.

We are a fluid, democratic, association of Lake Baptisters. Wally goes out from his dock most mornings, seeking out the cool, uncluttered beauty of the lake. You may have enjoyed one of the many pictures of wildlife and read one of his articles in the BLA news letter.

It starts with one of us, (some seasoned paddlers others newbies), having a yen to go and explore a little further and Wally is pressed into service. Emails ensue and finally, out comes the trailer and off we go, exploring the lake from Upper High falls, exploring the bays, Dog Bay, Grassy, others and all the way to the dam. We enjoy chit chat as well as quieter times paddling alone in the group. Sometimes it feels like we are herding damselflies but we all end up in the

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Loading the kayaks onto the trailer

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same place, happy with experiences. We share our pictures and encourage our friends to join us if they feel so inclined. This year we explored Diamond Lake as well and would like to extend our reach to other neighbouring lakes. With time we are becoming familiar with our area. Next time we drive by a local lake we can relate to its presence and contours.

Through our enjoyment of the lakes we have inadvertently become eyes on them. We see it all: the development of the shoreline and cottage properties and hills as well as the more pristine shoreline and distant vistas. We are grateful to those who have adapted their sense of aesthetic to the needs of the lake and its wildlife. Sometimes the experience results in action. Last year, our foray into Redmond Bay led to the volunteer removal of an obtrusive dock dumped in one of the bays on the north side of the shore.

So even though you might enjoy paddling alone, please consider joining us for an exploration adventure or two. We would love to get to know you as we all get to know the lakes. And, I am sure that although Wally is quite happy with his ladies, he would appreciate some gender support!

Anne Coleman: I'm a newbie. The art of kayaking, once explained to and practiced by the newbie, is a superb way to enjoy the lake. I've sailed, wind surfed, paddle boarded and canoed, all relatively connected to the kayaking world but there is a pace of movement that allows one to examine the water inches away, water plants floating just below the surface, shoreline vegetation in its intricacy and talk to the



*Fall colours at Belcast Cottages
ice cream emporium*

loons that approach because you are quiet. Although I participated only a few times in the adventures described, it has created a warm memory of sharing with friends an experience that many others are adapting to their lifestyle. We hope that more people will see this activity as an alternative to the gas-driven, speed related "sports" as witnessed this past summer. It is a marvelous way to stay fit.

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NATURAL SHORELINES: THE “HOW” AND “WHY”

By FOCA

A natural shoreline includes an area of native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and/or trees extending back from the water's edge as well as fallen trees, logs, rocks, and plants below the water line.

FOCA encourages landowners to maintain a natural shoreline.

WHY? The benefits of a natural shoreline include:

- *More time enjoying the outdoors* - Low-maintenance natural shorelines mean less time spent on yard care and more time doing what you enjoy most about cottaging. Take this opportunity to do nothing to your property and reap the benefits!

- *Water filtration & improved water quality* - Natural vegetation along shorelines catches rainwater runoff and sediment, and absorbs the pollutants it carries. Plants act as a physical barrier slowing water flow and redirecting it into the soil where their roots filter excess nutrients and other pollutants. Mowed areas act like hard surfaces from which rainwater runs off, flooding lakes and carrying pollutants straight into the water.

- *Protection from erosion* - Natural shoreline vegetation is your first line of defence against soil erosion. The plants' extensive root systems hold the soil, keeping it where it belongs. Your property remains intact and fish spawning beds remain clear. Natural shorelines adjust to natural disturbances and are remarkably stable. Shallow-rooted species, like turf grasses, won't prevent erosion.

- *Less nuisance algae and aquatic plants* - Natural shorelines don't need fertilizing. Nutrients from lawn and garden fertilizer are a significant cause of algal blooms and can increase nuisance aquatic plants. Too much algae blocks the sun from reaching organisms at lower depths. Massive weed beds can clog waterways. And the decay of so much organic material lowers the water's oxygen level, which affects fish and other wildlife.

- *Protect your investment* - Natural shorelines contribute to water quality. Protect what you value.

- *Maintain recreation quality* - Poor water quality and nuisance weeds affect swimming, fishing, and boating. A natural shoreline helps maintain water quality and control weeds and algal blooms.

- *Good for wildlife and your wallet* - Retaining walls remove habitat and limit aquatic plants' ability to re-root. Retaining walls can be an expensive, temporary fix that are undermined by wave action and seasonal erosion.



The fruits of the BASC sponsored shoreline rehab project from 2019. Photo by Wally McColl

More than 90 per cent of life in the lake begins along the shore. Your natural shoreline will provide shelter, travel corridors, and food for wildlife (e.g. dragonflies, frogs, turtles, fish, water birds).

HOW? To get a natural shoreline, follow these steps for a healthy shoreline and lake:

- 1) Rely on nature and relax - Native plants are adapted to your area. They require little or no maintenance. That means you can eliminate the need to use fertilizers and pesticides on your land. You save money and the environment.

- 2) Preserve the natural shoreline - Leave an area (buffer) of natural vegetation extending back from the shoreline. A buffer 10 metres deep is a good start, and 15 metres even better! Larger buffers provide more protection for your shoreline. Local conditions also influence buffer size, e.g. 30 metres is recommended for cold-water lakes.

- 3) Recreate a natural shoreline - Allow the shoreline to return to its natural state, or plant native species of flowers, grasses, and shrubs. Remove non-native species. Cottage shorelines with previously installed retaining walls can be restored (somewhat) by naturalizing the areas above and below the water line. For best results, remove retaining walls entirely.

- 4) Keep natural contours - Avoid hard barriers such as concrete walls and gabion baskets. Erosion control can be accomplished with low-impact approaches that work with the shoreline to create a sloped shoreline, integrated with aquatic plants. Successful approaches often mimic nature's own design.

- 5) Install low-impact docks - Impacts to shoreline hab-

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NIGHT SKIES: THE “HOW” AND “WHY”

By FOCA

Light pollution is created by artificial light at night, and includes the glow surrounding cities from above (sky glow), glare, wandering light (or light trespass), excess lighting, and lighting that affects wildlife. FOCA encourages landowners to help stop light pollution in night skies.

WHY? The benefits of reducing light pollution include:

Dark skies full of stars - During a moonless night, you should be able to see 2,500 to 3,500 stars and the Milky Way. Star gazing can be an amazing family activity that invokes scientific curiosity, imagination, and discussions of our past, culture, and future! It is estimated that today, only one in ten children will see



By Anne Coleman

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it can be kept to a minimum with less intrusive structures, such as floating and cantilever docks, that don't touch the lake bed or disrupt currents, fish, or plant communities.

6) Build less, enjoy more - Plan to limit shoreline alteration to no more than 25% of the length of your shoreline.

7) Check local regulations - Shoreline modifications may be subject to several regulatory bodies. Keep a paper trail of plans, approvals, details, etc. Check the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Operational Statements to find out if regulations apply to your project, in addition to municipal bylaws or shoreline setbacks.

Bonus points: share this information with someone else at the lake!

a sky full of stars. Because of light pollution, people in cities generally see less than 100 stars on a 'good' night.

Better nighttime visibility, less nuisance glare - Glare is the visual discomfort and hindrance from unshielded light that hits your eyes directly, so you see the bulb or light source instead of details in the lit-up area. Glare can create shadows that mask danger. Lights that are shielded to prevent light from escaping sideways and up into the sky reduce glare, thereby improving visibility.

Increased safety on land and water - Studies indicate that crime levels are independent of lighting. Too much light and poorly designed lighting hinders visibility making areas less safe. Light pollution from unshielded, broad range lights near lakes is made worse by the reflection off water. Glare from land lights reduces boaters' ability to see navigational lights, e.g. buoys, and increases shadows as boaters approach docks and navigational hazards.

Energy and money savings - Fixtures that allow

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light to flow sideways and up are wasting that light energy—up to 30 per cent! And because many people think brighter means better, they use higher wattage bulbs than needed. It is estimated that the sky glow over the United States alone represents more than a billion dollars of wasted energy.

Protection of wildlife and lake ecosystems - Light plays myriad roles in nature, and changing light patterns can disrupt an ecosystem's balance. In water environments, daily cycles for organisms such as zooplankton are controlled by light, while others, such as fish, are attracted or repelled by it. Studies show that moths, fireflies, salamanders, frogs, songbirds and other wildlife are affected when artificial nighttime lighting influences navigation, predator-prey relationships, foraging behaviour, reproduction, mating, and other biological and ecological characteristics.

HOW? FOCA encourages landowners to take these steps to help reduce light pollution:

1) Talk about light pollution - Light pollution is a serious problem, but many people don't know that light can be a pollutant, especially for wildlife. Lack of knowledge about glare and light trespass perpetuates purchases of bad lights and bad lighting design.

When shopping for lights, ask questions and seek out lights that reduce light pollution.

2) Light for necessity - Use lights only where and when necessary. Nighttime lighting in cottage country is typically used for security and walking safety, but too much light can cause a loss of visibility. And if no one's around, lights left on are wasting money and could harm wildlife. Avoid using one big, bright light to illuminate a large area.

3) Choose glare-free lights (and stop annoying the neighbours!) - Lights that are shielded to direct light down on targeted areas stop light from escaping sideways and up. They prevent light from shining into neighbours' windows, lighting their property, or glaring across the lake. Most noticeably, shielded lights reduce glare and sky glow. Technically such lights are called 'full-cutoff' or 'partial-cutoff' fixtures, but manufacturers are more likely to use the terms 'neighbour friendly' or 'glare free'.

4) Aim lights down and away from water - Choose lights that direct light onto the ground, where it is needed. Placing shielded fixtures high up helps illuminate larger areas. When positioning lights, a common mistake is to aim them out at too high an angle. Avoid landscape lighting that sends light from the ground up, and dusk-to-dawn lights that shine all night.

5) Install lower wattage bulbs - Choose the appropriate level of light for the task, e.g. path vs. dock. Often, a lower wattage bulb, used in combination with shielded fixtures and proper aim, will effectively light an area—saving energy and improving visibility. Coach, or carriage, lamps may look stylish but they shine light in all directions. Already got one? Use 25-watt chandelier bulbs to reduce glare.

6) Use dimmers and timers - Bright light is not always needed; dimmers give you multiple options. Timers are useful for decorative lighting, to turn lights off when they are not needed – such as in the middle of the night – saving money and reducing light pollution at the same time.

Bonus points: share this information with someone else at the lake!

FOCA is the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, the province-wide voice for waterfront Ontario. The Baptiste Lake Association is a long-standing member of FOCA, which means all BLA members are also FOCA members. Find out more about FOCA's work, and your member benefits, here: <https://foca.on.ca>



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ADRIAN HILL AND WIFE DEBORA SAD FAREWELL, WE WILL MISS YOU!



Forefront Debora and Adrian sharing a moment with directors Shelley Pickard and Eric Hooey.

After 41 years on Baptiste, Director and Past Vice President Adrian and wife Debora are moving closer to his daughter and grand kids in Lac Heney, Quebec. So back to the area where his family and friends rented little cabins for the first time, for one short but memorable week. That tradition led to a gathering at Smidt's Lavalley Bay Cottage's across from Irwin Lane, a more central place for everyone and now included Eric Hooey. Soon the Schachtmans from New Jersey became part of "the gang".

In 1998, Adrian bought the old Grace and Lloyd Stahle farm house to store his canoes and sail boats. He spent vacations at Smidt's while writing manuals and textbooks at "Graceland", named in honour of the previous owner.

Shortly after he became a permanent resident, he joined the lake association board. He retired from his law practice and then took on the role of running a national lawyer assistance program. He worked full time in a volunteer role on the board and as president of the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention and author of our Federal National Strategy, an endeavour which took Adrian to five continents.

With dial-up internet and unreliable phone service, it was a challenge living in Baptiste Village. But liv-

ing here brought a new commitment to community and he served on the board of Hospice and for eight years on the Family Health Team Board, ending as the first and only Chair who was not a physician.

His team brought more family doctors to a small community than any other in the history of Ontario.

Adrian says "Our lake provided days of sailing, canoeing, swimming and diving and opportunities to help out with neighbours - David Milne at Birch Cliff Lodge and Carolyn Guest at Baptiste Lake Marina. Every year, anchor chains for the huge seasonal anchors would lose their marker floats and fall to the bottom and need to be found in the deep silt and brought back to the surface - all in spring time water temperatures. Our daily pontoon boat trips out into the lake for the dogs to swim circles without bothering the neighbours. Winter snowshoeing the lake and finding every wet spot." Adrian and Debora will always have a home away from home on Baptiste as many of their friends have offered them open invitations of accommodation. "See you in the spring time likely with dogs Otis, Sparky and dive gear..."

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIRECTORS

By Paul Coleman

Please welcome our new Directors and offer them your support as we all try our best to protect beautiful Baptiste.

Mike Di Cintio has been living on Baptiste for about 8 years now, enjoying the awesome scenery and spending almost everyday fishing, mostly just figuring out different seasonal patterns for each species. Mike notes that Baptiste is a very unique lake, with tons of places to explore, lots of wildlife to see and really good fishing all year.

Last fall Mike was invited to help out with the Lake trout stocking efforts, which is still in the works. Just this year he joined the BLA team of directors and will be dedicating his efforts towards the restocking, and long-term sustainability of fish on Baptiste starting with Lake Trout and Walleye.

Lily Mabson has been on Baptiste Lake for the last 7 years, so is a relative newcomer. She is originally from Ottawa, has lived there all her life and has enjoyed careers in both music and elementary school teaching.

Lily says “Retirement has been great! I enjoy all seasons on the lake, swimming, kayaking, gardening in the summer and cross country skiing on the lake or back wood trails in the winter as well as frequent family visits to Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. My enjoyment of our beautiful lake and country has inspired a sense of



Lily leading with Anne and Wally for a trip to the dam. responsibility towards them. I look forward to meeting you and hearing about your experience on Baptiste Lake and to serving our community and lake.”

Jacques Drouin comes to Baptiste via Cedar Lakes in Quebec. He sees the similarities between his former Association (aplcdres.ca) and ours. A lot of the issues relating to phosphates, blue-green algae, other pollutants, zoning regulations, septic, working with all levels of government and sharing best practices with other Associations interested Jacques in assisting us in moving forward with our events and activities.

The Board of Directors would like to thank Wally McColl for all of his diligence in representing the BLA as our President for the past 3 years. Wally has stepped down as President but still remains on as a director who will concentrate more on activities such as orchestrating a cross-country ski trail near Baptiste Lake this winter. Come spring Wally will lead the kayak and canoe trips throughout Baptiste and surrounding areas. Wally remains involved with Citizen Science Projects, Lake Trout Stocking Programs, and any environmental issues. Wally has been and continues to be a tremendous sounding board for all of us.



GROWING GREAT FOOD

By Susan Latremoille

When we think of cottage country, organic produce is probably not the first thing we would think of as being grown in the area. But, actually, there are wonderful farms in Monteaule Valley, near Maynooth. One of which is called The Red Barn Door Farm.

The farm is owned and operated by Keith and Donna Buck who grow certified organic produce including kale, beans, beets, zucchini etc. In fact, they have become particularly well-known for their purple fingerling potatoes.

It typically takes a great deal of dedication and discipline to be 'truly certified' organic as the standards are high and it means that no pesticides, herbicides or chemicals of any sort can be used to grow and or protect the crops.

This year the Bucks took a major step in opening the farm to the public and allowing gate sales. They even hosted a concert one Saturday morning to encourage public interest in the farm and its product offerings.

There are many other interesting farms not far from Baptiste, farms that have been established for decades.

If you are interested in garlic, then the Railway Creek

Farm needs to be on your destination list. Located near Madoc, it has been active for about 20 years and grows numerous types of garlic for both consumption and seeding. Owner, Elly, is extremely "garlic" knowledgeable and provides lots of insight at: www.railwaycreek-farm.ca

Another example of organic farming can be found at the Magnificent Hill Farm, which is owned by Lea Kitter. She offers a variety of pick your own raspberries as well as natural recipes for goat soap from her flock of goats.

Kelly's Wild Blueberry Farm, also near Maynooth, offers a variety of pick your own blueberries from various types and is open for several weeks in August, but only to customers who join their mailing list.

Don't forget the county famous Maynooth Market which is held every Saturday from May long weekend to Thanksgiving

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FISHING ETHICS ON BAPTISTE LAKE

By Michael DiCintio

Fishing is a great pastime that provides hours of enjoyment, relaxation and sometimes even dinner! But before you head out to your dock or boat there are a few things you should know. Every person that goes fishing on any lake is responsible to know the rules and regulations for the zone they are fishing in, exceptions for the lake they are fishing on, and whatever rules apply to the fish species that are in that lake. These rules are important and put in place to help preserve the quality of fishing for everyone.

These rules for Baptiste can be found online here:

<https://files.ontario.ca/mnrf-fishing-regulations-summary-fmz-15-en-2020-01-20.pdf>

Aside from the regulations set by the MNR, there is also an un-written set of rules that all anglers should follow especially when they are a resident, cottager, or frequent user of that lake. While you may not get a fine for breaking them, you could cause damage to the lake or kill a fish that you tried to release.

Here are a few Ethical guidelines that I follow while fishing on Baptiste Lake:

- *Respectful Angling:* Treat others as you wish to be treated, this applies to all aspects of life including fishing. Baptiste is a big lake with many different spots to fish. The general rule of thumb is to stay at least 100ft away from other anglers, If you have to boat by an angler try to keep a low wake and remember they could be trolling 200ft or more of line behind their boats that can damage prop seals if you were to drive over their line. When you are fishing near shorelines, please don't cast lures towards people, other boats or docks that people or dogs are lounging on/or swimming near. Please don't litter in the lake, properly discard of your soft plastics, live bait, fishing line, worm boxes and your cigarette butts.

- *Proper Handling & Tools:* Always be prepared to catch anything, Baptiste has many species from 4inch



Mike focusing on the big fish.

Bluegill to 50inch Muskie. If you need gloves use a rubber/ smooth surface type of glove, anything absorbent like cotton could harm the fish. Don't ever lift a heavy fish vertically by its lips or gills! Hold it horizontally using two hands, one on the gill plate and one hand supporting the belly. Always have a pair of long nose pliers handy for hook removal; forceps can also be useful for deeper hooksets. Having a large rubberized net is very helpful, so the fish doesn't damage itself while thrashing in the net. Have a measuring tape handy and avoid weighing fish by the gills, you can use a plastic bag to hold the fish and attach the handles of the bag to the scale.

- *Release Methods:* Just because a fish swims away, doesn't mean it will survive. Most fish have a very high mortality rate after being kept out of the water for more than 1 minute. Some fish are more resilient than others; in my experience pike tend to last longer out of water while lake trout and walleye are the most time sensitive.

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Try to keep the fish in the net and in the net in the water during hook removal. Hold the fish for a quick picture and release immediately in the same spot you caught it in; the sooner it goes back the more likely it will survive without injury.

- *Target Depths:* Fishing below 30ft deep should be avoided on Baptiste due to the effects of rapid depressurization on fish pulled up from these depths. The effects are not always the obvious bloated belly up fish with bulging eyes; they can also include tissue damage to critical organs including the brain and heart that can kill the fish after the release. Some fish like Trout have a better chance of survival due to their ability to expel gas from their swim bladder to make buoyancy adjustments. Walleye, Bass, perch and crappie do not have the ability to make these adjustments as quickly, and should never be targeted in depths exceeding 30ft. When pike season opens, some people end up fishing for pike in bass spawning areas. Even if you don't catch any bass, fishing near bass spawning beds during their spawning season could scare them off their beds leaving their eggs vulnerable to be eaten. Please be aware of where you are fishing and avoid areas that are being used to spawn.

- *Catch & Release!* Releasing fish is a very important part of fishing, without putting back the breeders you damage the fishery and make fishing much more difficult for everyone, including you. For many years the rule of thumb was to release the small fish so they can spawn at least once, but recent studies have shown that releasing the bigger fish is a much better concept. Lakes that have changed their slot size to accommodate these studies have shown to be much more productive. Walleye and Lake Trout are the most sensitive, most targeted and most kept fish on the lake. They are both well overdue for a re-stocking so hopefully anglers will target them less often and release more of them, at least until their stocking programs are complete.

- *Selective Harvest:* This means only keeping certain fish of a certain size to sustain a lakes fishery. On Baptiste Pike and Rock Bass are the best species to target for food, they are by far the most abundant, easy to catch and they taste great! Harvesting Pike will not only provide a great tasting meal but will also be beneficial for the lake in many ways.

Eater sized fish are called eaters for a reason; mercury, lead and other toxins build up in the meat over time, it

is much healthier to keep a smaller fish to eat as you are allowed to eat more per month. If keeping fish for food, do yourself and the fish a favour and bleed them out by cutting a section of the gills and the main artery in the end of the tail. This method is considered the most humane way causing least pain and will make any fish taste really good.

Baptiste is no Bay of Quinte or Lake Erie; it is much smaller and more sensitive to overharvesting. If you fish here for food, Walleye over 20" should always be released. Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass over 14" should also be released. Some studies have shown that as bass age, they produce fewer eggs and while the amount may be less, the ones that survive will have their potential size and strong genetics.

Not so long ago Baptiste was considered a world class fishery and could be once again if all anglers used proper ethical fishing methods. Once I learned the importance of these methods and the impact they can have on my neighbours, community, and future generations of anglers I realized a few small changes in my fishing methods can go a long way. If everyone were to follow these simple ethical guidelines, we would see a highly positive impact on our lake, and our experience fishing on it.



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PROPOSED NEW BLA WINTER ACTIVITY

By Wally McColl



Starting our trail explorations

Usually we associate the BLA with the three warmer seasons. Now with more of us enjoying the lake year round, winter activities are a new focus.

In late September, with the day's becoming shorter, Susan Latremoille and I were lamenting that our kayaking season would soon be finished. What outdoor adventures might replace Kayaking? We both like cross country skiing. Is there a cross country club or trails in our area? Only Silent Lake, no local trails near Baptiste or Bancroft!

Could we start with some keen skiers and talk up trail formation?

Our friend Ian Hendry, the President of the Bancroft Stewardship Council was our first call. Ian quickly suggested a second contact, Cathy Trimble, who is the chair of the Hastings Trails. The web quickly grew to include Steve Wilkins from the Fish Hatchery and representative of the land trust. Susan hosted Zoom meetings, inviting Clive Emery owner of Trips & Trails, Eric Hooley, BLA Director and cross country skier. Victor Bodnar, Hastings Highlands mayor was included, hoping he would see the benefits to the



Examining the yurt that one can rent for winter camping!

township with an active ski club.

The discussion focused on sites that looked possible for cross country trails.

From Cathy Trimble's description the McGeachie Conservation area looked the most promising to kick off our skiing initiative. Terry and Crystal Bradt were invited to join the group for an in person get together and a walk on the trails. Just days previous I had met Don and Kim Stoneman while kayaking here on Baptiste. Both are enthusiastic paddlers and skiers. They would join us at McGeachie! (I have not included all the people at our McGeachie meeting. My apology.)

Wednesday morning was cool with a dusting of snow lingering in the woods. After our introductions, Terry Bradt, a volunteer and trail maker, talked on

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Terry Bradt giving us a guide talk. The trail making, mature maples and oaks and wildlife.

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history, the natural features of the park, the wildlife and potential for trail use.

With this introduction we looked forward to exploring the trails. They are indeed beautiful, winding their way through open upland mature hardwoods, then dipping into lower paths lined with cedar and spruce abutting broad wetlands and two small streams. We could all imagine slipping along these trails quietly through fresh snow. Don Stoneman talked on the possibility of pulling a track set with his snowmobile!

In summary we all were impressed. The conversation shifted to how do make it happen. Ideas quickly expressed! Volunteer tasks considered.

Susan will again host the next Zoom meeting where we can update on our progress. My job is to inform the BLA members through this Newsletter and our Web.

BALD EAGLE HEARS ABOUT GOOD FISHING ON BAPTISTE LAKE

Photos by Luke Chambers




Home hardware

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LET'S TALK TRASH

By Sabe Belcastro

Did we see a little more traffic on the lake and on our local roads this year? Will this be a norm for the next few years?? Hard to say, we have experienced a lot more visitors to the lake. I believe vacationers will be planning more vacation destinies in our beautiful province with cottage country environment, until the world goes back to normal and vacationers become more comfortable to go out of Canada to resorts or cruises. I think this will take some time.

This brings me to believe that now is the time to help educate the new and also the regular visitors on "how do we deal with our garbage?"

PLEASE take this as a refresher course and not targeting the ones that rent their places out on the lake to family, friends or just to subsidize a little income to pay bills.

For our "new visitors" at Belcast, I have constructed an information board at the General Store, close to the store entrance, which includes the BLA events, "Say No to Fireworks" signs and garbage dumping information. I mention on my board that there is a dump site open in at least one of nine different locations with addresses, and site map locations. For example, if North Baptiste dump site is not open, there is another dump site open. Now, there should be no reason to leave your garbage unattended at the road. Please, again, only take this as constructive criticism as we all need to be educated.

Many times customers have asked me how our recycle program works and I gladly inform them. Many other different communities (such as the GTA) have different ways on recycling so if there is a ques-



Garbage left at the gate of North Baptiste Waste Site.

tion on how to recycle and dispose of garbage please do not hesitate to visit the Hastings Highlands web site "Waste Management and Disposal site", <https://hastingshighlands.ca/services/waste-disposal-recyclable/>

Or simply pay a visit to the General Store and we will gladly inform you about the HH practices. On a positive note there is less garbage left at our recycle site year after year! When we first came to the lake 2012 we used to get garbage pickup, moving forward I believe there will be more restriction at dump site locations on garbage and recycle refuse.

A final note, we would like to thank all of you that visited the General store and respected the social distance and patiently waiting outside the store respecting the maximum persons in store. WELL DONE!!!!

We can't wait to see you next year!!

Thank you, from Belcast Cottages and General Store, Sabe and Cindy Belcastro.

Stay safe, we will beat COVID., Patience is needed.



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LOCAL ARTISTS DISPLAY TALENT

By Anne Coleman



Nancy Brookes showing off her most recent Plein Air Painting on Baptiste Lake.

A windy, cool, blustery day in September and Nancy Brookes and I take to the water, not to catch a fish but to catch a fall scene and translate it to paper. Nancy continues to paint the lake in vibrant colours depicting moods, memories and some fantasy. It was a day not for the faint of heart to be hanging on to paper, brushes and paints but we did it, with some lovely results. Not so much for the prop on our boat, woven with water greenery for having gone through a very shallow section. All is good.

Nancy has been passionate about recording the scenes on Baptiste Lake and area for many years, including cottages, older relic buildings, even abandoned bridges. Hundreds of her commissioned paintings are included in collections all over the world. Nancy's antiques and art gallery, located along Highway 62 through Maynooth, underwent a pause this past summer due to construction and covid. However, she is back in action at the Old Peterson Road Gallery. She has a new collection of wonderful pieces because she used her summer to happily paint subjects she has been meaning to express for a long time. If you ask her, she will tell you that her heart is always in creating a new painting. That is what a fine artist is all about.



Ketha Newman with her 2021 Backwoods Calendar.

Ketha was inspired to make a calendar this year during the spring lockdown when, suddenly, everything ground to a halt and she realized more shopping was going to be done online and that shopping locally for Canadian-made products was becoming a priority for many people including herself. Many of her landscape paintings reflect the changing seasons so it was easy to find images to reflect every month.

The calendar features 12 watercolour paintings to take you through the changing seasons in the backwoods of Ontario, specifically, all of the images are from North Hastings.

The paintings are all watercolours that were inspired by her love of nature and reflect what she sees throughout the year in North Hastings. She has been living and painting from her studio in Monteaugle fulltime since 2004.

She looked for images that represent the activities and scenery of each month such as Fall colours, snowshoeing, maple syrup making and winter birds.

They are available locally at Ashlie's Books and A Place for the Arts in Bancroft, and Bayberry Design in Barry's Bay or people can contact her at ketha@kethanewman.com.

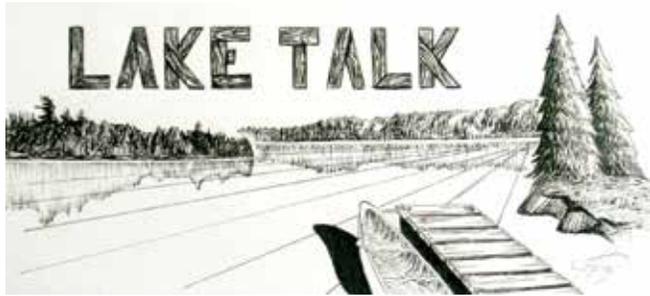


Image painted by John Coleman.

POSSIBLE NORTH BAPTISTE TRANSFER STATION CLOSURE

You should be aware of a consultants' report called Hastings Highlands Waste Management Optimization Study. What it means is that the North Baptiste Recycle/Transfer Station may once again become a Dump. Seriously, Options 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the report suggest closing the location for good. If you think a lot of garbage has been left at the gate this year, wait until they close the site.... It will become a Dump at the gate and garbage will be all over the ditch and road. The report contains pages of information that is certainly well known to the staff at HH and not worthy of repetition. See for yourself, if you have the patience to read through all of their fancy graphs, charts and pretty maps at a cost of \$24,000. You may wonder why we didn't put the money to better use such as fixing the road from the "dump" to McGary Road.

BLA SUPPORTS YOUTH HOCKEY PROGRAM



Celebrity NHL Hockey Player James Neal supports the local BDMHA first annual golf tournament.

Although we were unable to hold our Baptiste Lake Association golf tournament we did however help to organize the First Annual Golf Tournament in support of local minor hockey. The golf day generated over \$5,000 to help offset hockey registration costs to the youth in our area. James being no stranger to the Coleman family having played hockey in Whitby offered to join the excitement in support of our local athletes. We are most grateful to all of our BLA advertisers, and to many of our local businesses who sponsored holes and provided prizes for the competitors. Your BLA executive approved a \$500 donation towards this first annual event.

SHORELINE GARDENING WORKSHOPS

By Siena Smith

My name is Siena Smith and I am a conservation technician with The Land Between Charity, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of the wildlife, habitats, culture, and socioeconomic features that collectively make up the bioregion known as The Land Between (Ontario's Cottage Country). I am emailing you to inform you and your member base of the Design-Your-Own Shoreline Garden Workshops that will often be presented in your area.

In these workshops, participants will learn about shoreline design considerations and walk away with a custom native garden design that meets their needs and tastes, but also serves to increase shoreline biodiversity, attract birds and pollinators, improve water quality, and support overall lake health. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the workshops. Siena Smith Conservation Technician, The Land Between Charity 705-457-4838.

PADDLING BAPTISTE LAKE



Margot Currie and her paddling friends encourage others to join their scenic adventures next year.

RENTAL SCAM

By Paul Coleman

Huntsville OPP are investigating a cottage rental scam where fraudsters advertise a cottage online but never deliver on the stay. This type of scam has been around for the last five or six years, says OPP Const. Jeff Handsor. “It goes away for a little bit and now it’s popped up again.” According to Handsor, the scammer will list the rental on sites such as Kijiji, where the hosts and properties aren’t vetted. The listings use pictures, descriptions, and a real address, giving the impression it’s legitimate. The scammer then asks the victim to e-transfer the payment for the rental. However, when the victim arrives at the property, they encounter the real owner who is unaware that their property is being advertised online. Here’s how you can report a scam. Considering the anonymous nature of sites such as Kijiji, once the money has been paid, it can be difficult to get back. This kind of scam is happening all across Ontario, Handsor says, and people need to be wary when booking rentals. If you are renting a cottage through a site such as Kijiji, before you pay, visit the property with a friend and meet the owner, he advises. This is the most direct way to find out if the cottage is actually for rent.

When paying for the rental, “don’t send your cash

through e-transfer or direct deposit into a bank account,” Handsor warns. Ideally, the site you’re booking through has its own secure payment method where your money is accounted for and tracked, or, alternatively, pay the owner when you arrive at the property. If you are planning to rent a cottage, Handsor says you should rent through a business that specializes in cottage rentals. They’re less likely to scam you as their business reputation is on the line. Finally, “trust your instincts,” Handsor says. “If it seems too good to be true, it’s probably not true.”

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COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

Hello members and friends of the Art Gallery! Following the success of the two community art murals created at last year's Culture Days weekend, we are excited to share with you a similar project to help fight the COVID blues and to beautify our Town of Bancroft at the same time. All we need is you to participate at your own speed and talent level.

Here is the idea: there is a lot of empty space on the fencing surrounding the former Victorian Lady site, facing Hastings Street; that's where the Culture Days community art murals are residing. The owners of the site are very enthusiastic about having more art on the fencing. So, we are now encouraging you to create your own smaller mural to be mounted on the fence as well.

The details:

- Your artwork should be created on a sheet of board or plywood, no greater than 24" (61 cm) in any direction, that can withstand our winters.
- The theme will be compatible with the Town of Bancroft's "Share the Love" banners, and so can be anything (or anybody) you love personally, such as sports, art, music, food, animals, etc.
- Your choice of medium is open as long as it can be mounted on the fence. We expect to coat the work with clear varathane varnish to protect it from the winter elements.
- The Board or other base used for the art must have 4 holes of 1/4" diameter drilled at each corner (or other if non-rectangular) to allow for mounting on the fence.
- There is no deadline for completion; simply bring your artwork to the Art Gallery on Flint Avenue, and Gallery volunteers will look after mounting it.
- The Gallery will not be responsible for loss or damage on the fence after installation
- There is no competition or monetary award for

your entry, this is an effort to have fun and help to block and unsightly deconstruction site.

- You may reclaim your installed art at any time, but it will not be re-installed.
- Should the fencing be removed or the art no longer allowed by the site owner, the murals will be removed and temporarily be held at the Gallery. The Gallery will not be responsible for unclaimed murals 60 day after removal.

This effort is meant to encourage people of all levels of artistic talent, not just "professional" artists. We did this very successfully with last year's Culture Days community art murals, so let's do it again! Let's show why Bancroft has been identified as Ontario's most talented Town

If you have any question about the mural program, please contact the Gallery at 613-332-1542, or email artgalleryofbancroft@gmail.com.

We look forward to receiving your entry!



Photo by Anne Coleman



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CAROL GRACE MACLENNAN

By the MacleNNan Family, edited by Anne Coleman



Carol Grace MacleNNan was born in Plainfield, NJ, to John Scott MacleNNan and Iva Carolyn Ellis. Her Scots-Canadian father had grown up in the small town of Lindsay, Ontario, northeast of Toronto; after studying chemistry at Queen's University in Kingston, he went to the United States to do his PhD at NYU. There he met and married Carol's mother Iva, a graduate of Barnard College whose family roots in the Plainfield area went back to the eighteenth century. Scott and Iva raised three daughters all of whom followed their father into the science field.

After graduating from High School, Carol attended the women's College of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, where she majored in mathematics and was then recruited for a women's internship program at Bell Labs where she learned FORTRAN and worked in the acoustics department.

Carol then joined Bell Labs full time as an analyst of spacecraft data. She and her boss Louis J. Lanzerotti worked together for more than 35 years, collaborating with space physicists around the world on data sent back by such spacecraft as Telstar, Voyagers I and II, Ulysses, and Galileo. Their office conducted work on the Earth's magnetosphere, which allowed Carol to travel to the ends of the earth to set up and maintain instruments in places such as Svalbard, Greenland, and Antarctica. Carol co-authored over two hundred papers on a variety of topics in geophysics.

Perhaps her greatest love (apart from her daughter and grandchildren), was for the family cottage on Baptiste Lake that was built by Carol's father and grand-



father in the early 1920s. It hasn't changed much over the years despite the addition of a second floor, road access, and indoor plumbing. Carol spent as much summer time at the lake; in the 1950s she had a summer job in the tuck shop at nearby Birch Cliff Lodge, and as late as the 2010s she was serving as the treasurer of the Baptiste Lake Association.

Carol died in Sarasota, FL, on the 25th of August 2020, from complications of a stroke. She is survived by her sister Iva Sue of Los Angeles and several Canadian cousins as well as daughter Carrie and grandchildren Tancred and Beatrice of Sarasota.

The Baptiste Lake Association is grateful to Carol for her generous service as treasurer for many years. She drove from Pennsylvania each summer to enjoy retirement, yet was willing to carry the responsibility of the important position as treasurer. Her bright, intelligent approach to life is an inspiration for many. If you wish to see more photos of this incredible woman and her contributions to life, see her memorial page, created by her daughter Carrie, at cgmacleNNan.wordpress.com. We never really know the treasure that lies within those around us.

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