



BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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Bass or Walleye? Early morning on the lake. Photo by Paul Coleman

TIME TO REFRESH



Young energy at the corn roast. Photo by Hilary Phillips



Loon enjoying quiet lake. Photo Anne Coleman

BLA Officials - Fall 2023

Marlin Horst, BLA President

Paul Coleman, Vice President, Editor

Anne Coleman, Director, Editor
Lake Plan Implementation & Secretary

Eric Hooey, Director, Webmaster

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

Diane Jared, Director, Treasurer

Beth Greenberg, Director

Alan Stephen, Director

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Gary Pirko, Director,
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Monthly
THE ANNEX
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marlin Horst

I am writing this in mid September and the nights have started cooling down but the days generally stay warm. We had a warm June and July but August was a little cool. September has so far been warm. We will see if that continues.

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

On July 8 we had the Third annual pike tournament. It was again a very popular event. Over 50 boats participated. I am not personally a fisherman but anything that brings the lake together is good in my book. A big thank you to Mike Di Cintio for spearheading this. He worked very hard to make this a success. We look forward to holding this event again next year.

We held an in person AGM in early August. I was happy to see the large number of people attend. The Mayor came and gave a good overview of what has been happening in the Municipality since the election in the fall of 2022. We also had a talk regarding fishing and how the health of the fishery is a bellwether of the health of the lake generally. Lots of good information and food for thought. Even non fisherman like me should be concerned about the state of the fishery in Baptiste Lake.

On the Sunday of the Labour Day weekend we were also able to hold the Closing Event again at Camp Ponacka. There was a fairly large turnout and the weather was fantastic. I have to confess that when I gave my little speech I forgot to say who I am. I seem to be having issues with names. Surely not age!! Thank you to Camp Ponacka for allowing this event to take place.

The BLA continues to be part of the Hastings Highlands Interlake Group and FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association). The Interlake Association hosted a very informative Cottage Succession Planning seminar, put on by FOCA, at Emond Hall in Maynooth

on June 3. The event was very well attended and there was some very good information provided. This event took place in the morning and in the afternoon the HH Interlake Executive met. Unfortunately I was elected the Chair of the HH Interlake Group. I really need training in learning to say no.

We continue to see boaters who are not being respectful of others. I personally love boating but we should be cognisant of our neighbours on the lake. I would encourage all of you to understand and abide by the rules of boating. If we all follow the rules we can all enjoy our lake together.

Please visit our website regularly to see what is happening around the lake. In addition if you have not provided us with your e-mail address please do so as this is one of the most effective ways to communicate in the modern world. Please be assured that we use e-mail addresses only for the purposes of the BLA and we do not inundate you with messages. Please send your e-mail to membership@baptistelake.org along with your cottage address. Finally if you are not a member I would encourage you to become a member. The cost is minimal (\$25 per year or 3 years for \$60) and benefits are so much more.

If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other member of the board. This is your association.



Great corn roast crowd. Photo by Hilary Phillips

BLA DIRECTORS FOR 2023- 2024

Back row
Beth Greenberg,
Paul Coleman,
Anne Coleman,
Alan Stephen, Marlin
Horst, Eric Hooey.
Front row Hilary
Phillips, Diane Jared,
Shelley Pickard
(Back row Morris
supporting actor)



MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

By Tony Fitzgerald

Greetings to all the residents of Baptiste Lake. I spent the summer months meeting with many of you as I attended the AGM's of the Interlakes Group, KAPOA, LSPPOA and the BLA. At each meeting, I spoke about key issues in the municipality and some of the actions taken by Council to address them. I listened carefully to the concerns of those who live or vacation on these lakes. Honest, open and respectful dialogue helps me, as the Head of Council, to lead my team as we plan for the future. Thank you for that!

The fall will be busy, as we update our Strategic Plan, complete a structural review of our organization and compensation review, clarify our procedural bylaws and begin preparing our Capital and Operating Budgets for 2024. In preparation for all that, Council and senior management spent a full day on a school bus (I thought I had left bus trips behind when I retired!) touring the entire municipality from end to end. We looked at roads, fire stations, bridges, community centres, graveyards, gravel pits, work yards and recreation facilities. Due to unending financial pressures, such as inflation, high interest rates, frozen MPAC reassessment and unpredictable funding from upper tier governments, we must do a better job of prioritizing where our limited resources should be spent to achieve the greatest effect.

Despite the challenges, I remain optimistic that Hastings Highlands will continue to be the best part of the best country in the world. Take care and God bless,

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Paul Coleman

We met at Birch Cliff Lodge and very much thank David and Ally Milne for hosting us once again. Marlin as always captivated the audience with his insight through FOCA and the Interlake Association. Mayor Fitzgerald gave a captivating and very frank speech as to the challenges facing Hastings Highlands. Fred McConnell, our guest speaker, has become our #1 advocate in assisting us once again through the MNRF mires in gaining headway for approval of Lake Trout stocking via the Fish Hatchery, AND his enormous efforts in attracting funding from Watersheds Canada to revitalize our Walleye and Lake Trout spawning beds. Fred warned us about the Milfoil infestation in Wolleston Lake and to be aware of it strangling invasive damaging effects.

To be very frank, those who were unable to attend and to those who chose not to attend, missed a very important opportunity to acquire knowledge on any particular Hastings Highlands issue and to



*AGM Meeting at Birch Cliff Lodge.
Photo by Shelley Pickard*

understand the enormous effort it takes to make any progress in improving our fishery. In addition, our current and new board members have spent countless hours on our behalf in attending relevant meetings with various levels of government and running water quality tests throughout the year. Sometimes I wonder if it would take the dam to break to encourage folks to get involved and truly care for Baptiste. *Speaking of which, did you hear of any discussion about the dam needing repairs?* If you have any insight please let us know.

Our finances are good, however we are experiencing much higher costs to produce and distribute our newsletter. Please encourage yourself and others to pay our very reasonable membership fee of \$25 to support our initiatives.

Finally we are looking for a volunteer to sit on the Hastings Highlands Land Use Planning Committee and another to sit on the Septic Re-inspection Program Committee. More details to follow.



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NOTES FROM THE SPEECH GIVEN BY OUR MAYOR FITZGERALD

Recorded By Paul Coleman

Mayor Tony gave a thoughtful and straight forward address. He was very candid about the finances, staffing, Councils' priorities and direction. His overriding message was that tax revenue is limited, yet so many priorities need attention. Huge allotments go to the County and School Boards and the cost of roads to Combermere are enormous. I had failed to realize the crazy task that it must be to forge strong working relationships with the government above us, even when there is little to do or say because "they" have the upper hand.

As our Mayor, Tony very candidly said "we are not perfect, we make mistakes, we are restricted by limited funds to do all. We must be good neighbours and work together." Tony said we do not own the lake, we share it. He suggested that we write to Council members re our concerns, offering constructive criticism with an offer to be a part of the solution. Finally, please use the proper tools/procedures/ on line forms to document your concerns and be respectful to our staff and representatives.

NEW DIRECTOR

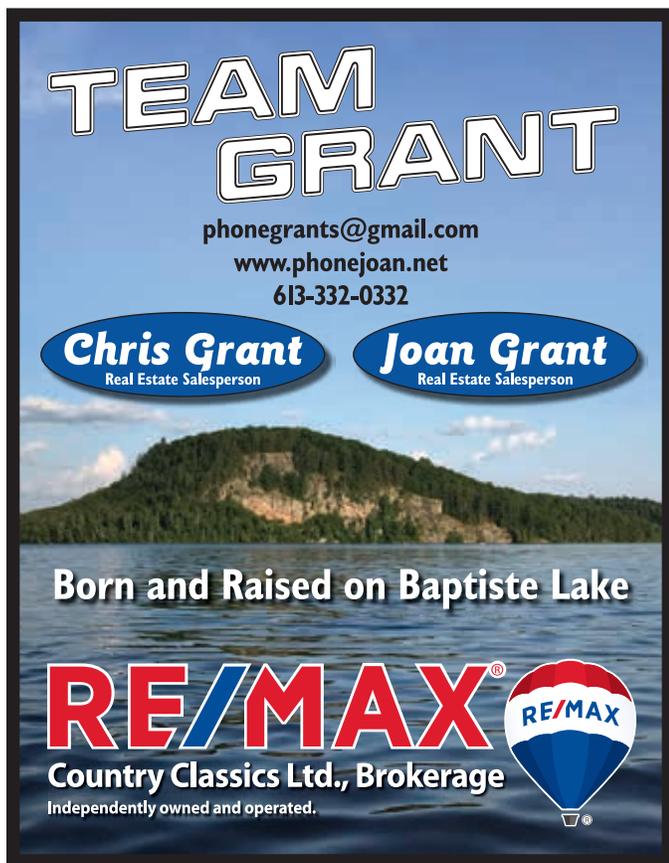
By Alan Stephen



Alan, Jacky and their family have visited Baptiste Lake over a significant number of years. In 2020 they finally moved onto the lake to the west of Camp Ponaacka, their property being overlooked by "High Flight". Their aim was to spend the spring, summer, and fall months at "Valhalla", with day visits during the winter from their current home in Kingston.

Alan has enjoyed a career which began in the Canadian Army and has since transitioned through change management executive roles. They ranged from post secondary education and emergency management, through to health care, long term care, and care for individuals living with diverseabilities.

In joining the Lake Association, Alan believes that it gives an important strong and united voice to the lake residents, while working to ensure the health and stewardship of our lake during these challenging times of global warming. He hopes that the current membership will encourage more seasonal and year-round residents of our lake to belong to the association and believes the importance of socialization amongst waterfront owners can't be overemphasized. He wants to grow the opportunity to connect, interact, and discuss vital issues and updates to our lake, while providing an opportunity to meet neighbours. Participating in social events nurtures and grows a healthy diverse community among seasonal and year-round residents.



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BAPTISTE LAKE MARINA



New docks, renovated store and new owners. Photo by Anne Coleman

By Marlin Horst

As many of you know the Guest family ran the Baptiste Lake Marina for many years. Due to health reasons Carolyn Guest made the decision last summer to sell the Marina. While there was some interest and some agreements were entered into they all fell through. By mid winter it was beginning to look like the marina may not open in the spring of 2023.

A group of water access cottagers who rely on the Marina to dock boats and park cars met informally in the fall of 2022 but nothing really came of it. Then in mid winter 2023 it looked like something needed to be done very quickly. The group became more focused and those who were really interested needed to invest the funds to make it happen. A deal was put together very quickly and the new group closed on the purchase of the Marina in mid April, 2023. It was a lot of work to organize a disparate group of investors, not all of whom knew each other previously. The purchase was done without bank debt. This gives the ownership group a bit breathing room.

Now that the marina was purchased, what to do next. There are all kinds of ideas and plans but after some discussion it was determined that we really need to move forward by baby steps until we have a

better idea of what is to be done. The first year will be a learning curve as none of us have ever run a marina before. The lawn in front of the store/house was cleaned up and new landscaping put in. The docks were repaired and new night lighting installed. The store was completely redone and rearranged with new floors and the ceiling and walls painted and repaired. Moving back from the house the old trailer between the house and the barn was removed. The back lot will also be cleaned up.

In connection with the Store in particular, the ownership group pitched in with sweat equity to make these changes happen.

Going forward we are going to reassess all of the buildings and arrange better organized parking for cars for slip renters and guests. We are putting in better controls on boat storage and repairs. We are trying to run the Marina a little bit more like a business.

The first season has been a steep learning curve and we hope to improve operations next year. In the meantime we have agreed that we will never run out of gas so that our customers can always count on being able to fill up.

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PIKE

By Gary Pirko

Northern PIKE are the top of the food chain in Baptiste Lake. They are a predatory fish species native to North America. Its presence in Ontario's lakes is not new; however, its recent rapid expansion and its effects on the native fish populations have become the focus of environmental scientists, conservationists, and anglers alike.

BALANCE DISRUPTED

Pike have various appetites and adaptability, and thrive in lakes such as Baptiste. They prey on smaller fish, disrupting the food chain. They target bass, walleye, lake trout, musky, rock bass, crappies, and their own minnows. In addition to fish, they will aggressively feed on frogs, crayfish, muskrats, red squirrels, and ducklings. They are not communal fish but stalk in the shallow and deep waters. Their destructive behavior not only affects larger fish but also birds that depend on the smaller fish for subsistence. As Pike become dominant, native fish might be outcompeted for resources, ultimately leading to reduced biodiversity and the potential loss of unique genetic traits that make the native fish resilient to today's lakes changing environmental conditions.

SPAWNING PATTERNS

They spawn in April or May when the water temperatures reach 4- 11 C. They spawn during the day in heavily vegetated bays, often in water less than one foot deep. Females mature at age 3 and lay an average of 9,000 eggs per pound of body weight. A large 34" fish could lay over 180,000 eggs in a period of three days. They broadcast their eggs throughout the heavy weed with one or two males supporting with fertilization. The eggs usually hatch in 12 to 14 days on their own without any parental protection or guidance. They usually grow 12- 36 inches and will live an average of 12 years.



A CALL FOR ACTION

It is not realistic to think Pike can be eliminated from Baptiste. What can be done to bring the Pike into balance?

- **Selective Fishing** – Encourage anglers to “Target Fish” for Pike with Catch and KEEP. Pike are very tasty, a sweet meat made into Pike cakes. With a little bit of education from YouTube videos, or experienced anglers on the lake, they are easy to fillet without the dreaded Y bones.
- **Pike Derby** – Support efforts by participating in the annual July Pike Derby, on the lake.
- **Trophy Fish** – Practice Catch and RELEASE of trophy Lake Trout, Pickerel, Smallmouth Bass, and Largemouth Bass.
- **Habitat Restoration** – Support Watersheds Canada in adding Brush Piles to target areas of the lake, upon MNRF approval. This will increase the woody habitat for small fish to grow and evade the predatory Pike.

CONCLUSION

Northern Pike's impact on Ontario's lakes is complex and requires collaborative effort from scientists, policymakers, anglers, and the local community. By understanding the delicate balance of our lake's ecosystems and adopting responsible practices, we can ensure that the beauty and vitality of our lake endures for generations to come.

3RD ANNUAL PIKE TOURNEY

By Paul Coleman

Once again Mike Di Cintio coordinated another fabulous Baptiste Lake Pike Derby with 52 friends and family registrants. The purpose is to raise funds for Walleye and Lake Trout spawning bed enhancements and to support our local Fish Hatchery. Mike reported that this was the biggest turnout so far with the best prize pool imaginable. He sees this event growing substantially every year as word spreads. Many fishers have commented that less pike and more bass are being caught as an off shoot to catching hundreds of these pike. Mike and Brodie Poulain cleaned, removed that irritable “Y” bone and returned them to the participants for a scrumptious meal.

Please support your local businesses that helped us host another fun and successful tournament: Canadian Tire, Bancroft Roofing Solutions, Up North Beauty and Wellness Clinic, Jamie Jolly Beauty Co, Cedar and Co. Botanicals, Birds Creek Farm Supply, Makin’ Waves Marine, CARE North Hastings, Boyer GM Chevy, North Rush Ink, Bancroft Sport & Marine, Mack Attack Outdoors, Madawaska Property

Management, The Spa Bancroft, Paul Price Ford Inc, Rapala and Shimano.

Before the tournament, Mike, Fred McConnell, and new BLA board member Gary Pirko guided our new Watersheds Canada associates Melissa Dakers and Robert Pye to visit all of our spawning beds. It was confirmed that silt has covered many crucial areas and attention must be given to clean them up and add more rocks. As Mike says “we have the best team of volunteers and partners to revive the Lake Trout population as well as Walleye”.



*Second Place Winners Ryan Gahajan and Emma.
Photo by Paul Coleman*



*Mike Di Cintio and Matt Belcastro
Photo by Paul Coleman*

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Pictured left are the Third Place Winners from left to right, Desmond and Matt Belcastro and Gavin Gerrits.

Photo below shows the first place winners of a new kayak Max Teitelbaum on the left and fly fisherman John Broere

Photos by Paul Coleman



Keegan Hawley won the biggest pike winner. Photo by Paul Coleman



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WATERSHEDS CANADA COMES TO BAPTISTE

By Gary Pirko

On June 29, Watersheds Canada visited Baptiste Lake. This was a significant visit to assess our Lake Trout Spawning Beds. Robert Pye, Executive Director, Melissa Dakers, Habitat and Stewardship Program Manager, from Watersheds along with Fred McConnell, Board Member North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery joined the Baptiste team in the survey.

The Challenge at Baptiste Lake

Baptiste Lake, like many other water bodies, has been facing a pressing issue – the decline in its native fish populations, particularly Lake Trout and Walleye, (sometimes referred to as “pickereel”). The spawning Beds serve as nurseries for the young fish, making them indispensable for the survival and growth of these vital species.



Cooper, Will and Deklan represent future generations who will enjoy the benefits of this program. Photo by Paul Coleman



Gary Pirko, Rob Pye and Fred McConnell.

Photo by Mike Di Cintio

Watersheds Canada has stepped up to the challenge. They are a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and restoring the health of Canada’s water bodies. With community-based support, such as the BLA, they have become a driving force behind revitalizing fish habitat in our cherished lakes.

The Restoration Initiative

The Watersheds’ Baptiste Lake evaluation is that the Lake Trout spawning beds need revitalization. Of the areas evaluated, there are silt deposits and areas that lack of the proper amount of small rock. Silt removal with high pressure water pumps into cloth barriers, to be cleaned on shore, will be a major assist. Additional washed rock will be necessary.

In support of the BLA, Watershed has applied for multi-year funding with Environment and Climate Change Environmental Damages Fund. This funding would support restoration of the spawning beds for both Lake Trout and Walleye. In addition, funding has been requested for a woody debris – brush bundle project to protect small fish after spawning.

While awaiting approval, Ms. Dakers has been working with the MNRF for their approval of the restoration.

...continued on page 11

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...from page 10 Watersheds Canada

The MNRF is completing a Broad Scale Monitoring Program with expected results of Baptiste Lake health in early Spring of 2024.

Clean Beds for Spawning

Lake Trout spawn in the Fall, usually during late October, when the water temperature is 8.9°C to 13.9°C and the reduction daylight hours. Spawning occurs throughout the night on shallow rocky shoals in waters one to 9 feet in depth. A healthy trout will broadcast 1,500 eggs onto rocks that have been cleared by the males. Two to three males will fertilize the tiny eggs. The beds are in areas of high wave action to supply oxygen to the process. They will start hatching in the early Spring in the cold waters.

Walleye spawn in the early Spring, usually April to May, when the water temperature is 5.6°C to 11.1°C.



*Melissa Daker and Mike Di Cintio out on the water.
Photo by Melissa Daker*

They spawn in current moving wind-swept shallow waters one to 6 feet in depth on clean sediment free rock and gravel with high oxygen concentrations. A large healthy Walleye can lay up to 612,000 eggs. The fertilized eggs will hatch in 21 to 26 days.

Why it matters?

Baptiste Lake is not just a place on the map; it's a symbol of our commitment to our environment in a place where we enjoy our cottage life. Be thankful for organizations such as Watersheds to help us follow through on our commitment by helping us on these fish restoration projects.

You can extend your commitment to the BLA by supporting Watersheds, <https://watersheds.ca>.

Thanks to Mike Di Cinto, Frank Hicks, Paul Coleman, and Brad Elkins for their support and lending a hand on the initial meetings.

CANADA DAY BOAT PARADE

Paradise Point Residents

This July 1st, marked the 10th year of the Annual Canada Day Boat Parade on Baptiste Lake.

It was an idea that came to fruition over a Happy Hour with 5 families on Paradise Landing. It has continually grown each year, and the last 2 years we have reached upwards of 25 boats.

The theme has always been to celebrate how proud we are to be Canadian.

In 2019 when the Raptors won the NBA Championship, we combined it with a sports theme. Although the Raptors received many cheers from the onlookers, the same could not be said for the Toronto Maple Leaf's boat.

We leave Paradise Landing every July 1st at 1:00 p.m., and head to Dog Bay. Anyone who wants to dec-

orate their boat to celebrate Canada Day is welcome to join us!

THANKS!

Paradise Point Residents



THE MAKING OF BAPTISTE, PRONOUNCED “BATEAST” FOR YOU NEWBIES

By Paul Coleman



Camp Makwan

Photo submitted by Jim and Patty Vetter.

Hey old timers (with respect), when did you come to Baptiste for the first time? Who brought you? Did you come by train? Did you come from the USA? Was there a road to Camp Makwan or Ponacka? Did you have to blow a whistle from the South shore to catch a ride to the North Shore? What about the regattas? Did you see any at Makwan, Sunrise, Birch Cliff or Ponacka?

Did you remember that there were beauty contests at the Lake in the ‘50’s? Do you have pictures? Did you know Sam? What was he like? Did you see the Alligator? Who was the captain? These are the important questions because they are our history. Without the folks who ran the camps, the resorts, (and yes the farms!), who created the activities, who stocked the lake, who raised funds and promoted community events, we would not be so lucky to enjoy the wonders of Baptiste as we know it.

So here’s the deal. We need your albums before you die! Blunt yes but time is of the essence. Dig out your pictures, your memories, your input as what it was like to be a kid on Baptiste in the 50’s the 60’s and earlier. We need you “young-uns” to talk to your great, and grandparents before the memories fade

into the past and the albums get tossed. You need to talk to the elders (a novel idea eh?) and hear what it was like to build the first cabins and experience in their minds-eye the fun, the laughter and the “how to” to make it happen for you.

There, that’s your homework. Winter is coming, dig out the albums and photos. Write up an article and get it to me by mid April and we will fill the Spring Newsletter with some exciting material to share and to encourage others to write up their piece of history before it is too late.

So I will start to meet the challenge:

My last spring article rant about poor workmanship created numerous requests as to who I would recommend for roof repairs. Jim Vetter called me which led to the story of the Vetter family coming to Baptiste in the ‘30’s. I immediately asked if they had pictures of the 1950’s beauty contest winner, but “no”. I had heard from the Redmond’s that there was such an event and I wanted pictures. We sat down with Jim and wife Patty, had some wine and reviewed their photo album, a treasure chest of pics and dates and memories. Since this is really a winter newsletter I will tease you with some highlights and give you the full story in the spring; only if you agree to dig up your own photos and submit them to us for all of us to share.

Carl Vetter, Jim’s granddad, was a high school teacher in Pittsburgh. He heard about a counsellor position at Camp Makwan and brought Dave (Jim’s dad) as a camper for the next 3 summers. He loved

...continued on page 13

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...from page 12 *The Making of Baptiste*

Baptiste so much he bought the adjacent land beside Makwan in 1940. It is now owned by Jim and Patty who stay for months rather than a couple of weeks a year upon their retirement.

In the early days there was no road along North Baptiste. After a two day trip from Pittsburg everything was loaded into boats at the big end of the lake and brought over to LaVallee Bay. There was no hydro, no phones, no indoor plumbing. It was just oil lamps and stoves, well water and outhouses.

A local farmer/caretaker named Henry Chamberlain every winter would go onto the frozen lake and cut out large blocks of ice with an ice saw. With his team of horses he would then take the ice blocks up the hill to the garage and place a layer of ice blocks, a layer of sawdust, and then another layer of ice blocks etc. until the ice house was filled. The ice would last all summer. Jim and Patty still have some of the old ice boxes in their kitchen for storage.



*Henry with a load of hay.
Photo submitted by Jim and Patty Vetter*

In October of 1957 the Vettters invited friends and neighbours to compete in their annual Thanksgiving football game on said property. The competition was intense with players coming together from both Canada and the United States. (If you were a member of either squad we welcome your input about the games and the shenanigans.) It is our understanding that this game was bigger than the Grey Cup as proven in the Public Service Announcement written by Bob Redford as follows: "the Vetter Bowl is being televised by satellite to Pittsburg and Greenville Pennsylvania and throughout Canada. But will be blacked out

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in the Bancroft area in spite of the fact that as this October 9, 1988 writing the event is sold out!"

Stay tuned for more of the Vetter story this spring.

Next a chance visit from Grant, the 5 year old who left his footprints in the cement step of Sunrise Lodge back in 1954.

Anne and I were fishing when I got a call that Grant was here and wanted to tour Sunrise Lodge as his grandfather had built the Lodge and all the cabins. We rushed back to say our hello's when Grant looked over to the Robertson cottage and asked if Dave still lived there. By chance Dave and wife Donna had just left their dock for a boat ride and we waved them over. Grant was so excited and recalled that he and Dave had once competed in the BLA sanctioned boat races when they were kids. Then, get this, they talked about Mr. Lloyd landing his plane in front of Sunrise with the wheels DOWN! Grant said "I saw it happen and roll". Dave says "I was in it!!!!" Can you imagine this chance visit down memory lane by Grant leading to such a recollection of an event?

Stay tuned for more Sunrise stories as recalled by Grant.

SUNRISE COVE HOLIDAYS

By Alice A. Clerk

The summer of 1984 was the first time my family was here. My aunt, my uncle and dad would come to this lake for the next couple years of their childhood. When they were kids they made memories that they tell us about to this day. When I was seven my parents took me to the Sunrise cottages for the first time, with my cousins and sisters. Our summers were full of swimming and fishing, and the big bonfires while being covered in sticky marshmallows. Swimming out to the platforms was the biggest accomplishment back then. I remember sleeping on the top bunk and telling scary stories when we were supposed to be sleeping. Three summers in a row were spent like this. Outside all day, all week.

Then my brother was born and the next year we moved away, to BC. A few years have passed since the last time I had seen the lake. I almost seemed to forget all about it. Yet the second I came back it was like I never left.

This summer was the first time we were all back together at the cottage in five years. I can't even begin to explain the feeling I get when I'm here. The smell of the fresh air on the way in, while the wind hits you through the car window. I know we've arrived when we pass Belcast (Dad still calls it Scott's Cottages). Their Moose Tracks ice cream is my favorite. When I saw Anne and Cash after five years, it brought me back to my first summer here. Being



Clerk family all the way from Dawson City, Yukon.

with my family this summer, and knowing it might be a long time until I'm back, is very special to me. The bunk beds are still the same, the big fish on the wall is still here. Everything looks just like we left it.

For the last few days I'm here I plan on spending it all at the water. Swimming the day away, catching sun - and catching fish in the evening. At night time I'll be at the fire with my cousins and siblings. I won't be able to sleep at night because I'll be so excited to do it all again, the next day. One day when I'm my dad's age, I'll bring my kids here and show them everything I did as a kid. I'll tell them how I felt being here, and how much fun I had. It just fascinates me that I'm the same age now that my dad was then. One day I'll be old enough to drive my kids here and show them Sunrise Cove.

If you are ever so fortunate to stay at the Sunrise Cove cottage, make sure to fill it with happy memories just like mine.

DONATION TO PONACKA - SOS

By Dianne Jared

The BLA were pleased to once again make a donation of \$500 to Suns of Sphairee (SOS). This fund raises money to send less privileged boys to Camp Ponacka, which has operated on the lake since 1947. The boys are selected from the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization in Peterborough and most attend for several years. The SOS Programme has been running for over 40 years, and is generously supported by Camp Ponacka Alumni, camper parents, and other donors. Last year enough money was raised to send three new boys to camp for two weeks. They returned this August for a month, and were joined by a fourth camper.

Thanking donors, Camp Ponacka directors Anne Morawetz, Don Bocking, and Laura Bocking wrote:

“We are truly delighted to be sending you this thank you message. Our four “Little Brothers”, all returning campers except for Eric, have enjoyed a happy camp stay this August. Isaiah, Kyle and Del are first time four-week campers and have managed the longer stay beautifully.



Isaiah, Kyle, Eric and Del

The summer of 2023 has been the first “normal” summer since pre-covid and for that, we are very thankful.

It has been a pleasure to have Isaiah, Eric, Del and Kyle with us. With your support, their camp experiences will produce lasting results, lifelong memories, and strong friendships. Thank you!!”

Alex Orvis, a 15-year Ponackian, is the coordinator of the Suns of Sphairee. In his annual letter to donors he wrote:

“As you know, there are enormous benefits to attending summer camp. Youth today are faced with numerous challenges where they need to use critical thinking skills and good judgement. Ponacka is able to provide

an environment that is supportive, safe and nurturing. Camp supports children in learning many physical skills, but more importantly it supports children in learning about themselves and others. Ponacka emphasizes teamwork, community and hard work in order to foster independence, confidence and leadership. I have camp to thank for my ability to think critically, build strong relationships and complete tasks with efficiency and dedication. I have made life-long friends and learned important lessons in self-awareness, communication, and community building. I believe that the opportunity to attend camp should be had by everyone which is why I highly support the Suns of Sphairee program.”

Anyone interested in contributing to this bursary fund is encouraged to donate through the Suns of Sphairee page on the Camp Ponacka website (in the Alumni section of ponacka.com) which links to the SOS fund with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Peterborough. An emailed tax receipt will be sent to you shortly after making your donation. A cheque can also be mailed to Alec Orvis, 185 Hunter St. East, Unit 103, Peterborough, K9H 0H1 and should be made payable to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Peterborough, with a memo to allocate it to the SOS Fund.

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THE SNOW SKIMMERS

*By Steve Lang, Baptiste Lake Resident and
President of the Board of Directors Maple Leaf
Snow Skimmers Snowmobile Club*

The Bancroft area is not only beautiful in the summer. For snowmobile enthusiasts, it is a winter wonderland. The area is well served by a few snowmobile clubs that maintain and groom several trails. Baptiste Lake is looked after by Maple Leaf Snow Skimmers (MLSS) snowmobile club.

MLSS is a not for profit, volunteer-run snowmobile club that maintains 300km of snowmobile trails in the area. Our club trails extend from Bancroft at the south to Whitney and Madawaska to the north and Papineau lake to the east. Most of our trails are on scenic former logging roads that are twisty, hilly and well treed. We do have some trails on the former rail bed that may be flatter and straighter, but they are equally well treed.

Our club operates out of our maintenance facility in Lake St. Peter where we have 3 industrial tractors converted for trail grooming operations. They haul 3-meter-wide drags that cut out the moguls, process the snow



The scenic Blueberry Island

and “paves” it into a flat, smooth trail.

But there is a lot that needs to be done before grooming. We have several generous landowners who allow us access to their property. They get nothing in return for this donation so it is very important that we recognize and respect this gift. Trespassing by snowmobilers and ATVer’s is the biggest threat to trail closure.

Then there is the off-season trail work. Trees continually fall and need to be cleared. We brush back the trails and remove some of the tree canopy to reduce the impact of an ice storm. We erect navigation and safety signage. We have 22 bridges to maintain most of them wooden. These bridges are work but they greatly add to the charm of the trails. We move protruding rocks off the trails. And then there is our national rodent!!! The beavers like to clog culverts and if we don’t clear the culverts, we can get washouts and lose trails and bridges.

Then we wait for the snow and cold. Every season startup is different, and we must adapt to what mother nature gives us. We need the ground to freeze up. We pack the snow down into a base before we can groom.

...continued on page 17

A colorful advertisement for 'The Old Hastings Mercantile & Gallery'. The ad features a variety of merchandise including a green mascot, a clock, a book titled 'A Great Canadian Cottage Book', a mug, a map of Baptiste Lake, and a framed picture. Text on the ad includes: 'THE OLD HASTINGS MERCANTILE & GALLERY', 'OPEN DAILY Victoria Day to Dec. 31 (Winter Weekends)', 'Your Baptiste Lake Unique Gift and Stocking Stuffer Headquarters.', 'Step back in time when you enter Ormsby's 1880s general store. Discover room after room filled with fine Canadian arts & crafts, vintage toys, antiques, jewellery, cottage-themed gifts & clothing, nostalgia books, country-themed merchandise... and penny candy.', 'We feature Baptiste Lake gift ideas for yourself, friends and family, many exclusive to our store. Laser cut multi-depth wooden clocks and cribbage boards, mugs, embroidered clothing, hats and towels, pillows, frames and more.', '3103 Old Hastings Road at the corner of Hwy 620, 20 minutes south of Bancroft.', and the website 'www.oldhastingsgallery.ca'.

...from page 16 *The Snow Skimmers*

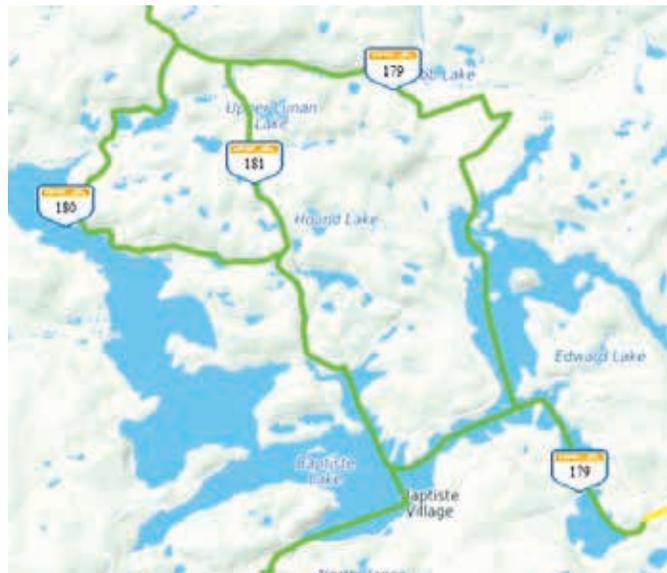
On the Baptiste trails, there are a few ice bridges to build over running water to make the trail safe. And we also stake trails on the lake with orange markers approximately 0.1 km apart. That is about 160 km of stakes. At the end of the season, those stakes need to be removed.

We have about 20 certified volunteer (unpaid) grooming operators. With that base to draw upon, once we are in full swing, we schedule our 3 groomers out every night 7 days a week, conditions permitting. We groom into the night for many reasons. It is safer to groom at night with all the lights on. Also, a freshly groomed trail is fragile and needs to freeze to set up. Snowmobiling on a freshly groomed trail can damage it. There is less traffic at night and it is colder so it sets up better. That said, there are many occasions we will groom during the day too. A snowmobiler should assume a groomer can be on the trail at any time. We do have equipment breakdowns but they normally go unnoticed as we have volunteer mechanics, welders and other skilled trades to repair and maintain the fleet during the day to be ready for later that night.

Baptiste area trails are served by two separate grooming runs. The North trails (MLSS #180, 181, 179 Paradise Point) are serviced by from the E109 connector trail and across Peterson Road. This is our longest grooming run at 100 km with a full route taking at least 12 hours and involves trail side refilling from gerry cans. The south road trails (MLSS#179 from Mud Bay to Birds creek) is an add-on segment of our Bancroft run (B106E). This makes for our second longest run at about 11 hours. These are club routes and not OFSC connector/trunk trails so grooming runs are less frequent. This is why it is important not to beat the trails up. Yes, I am referring to the stand-up jockeys that seem to be practicing for snow-cross racing {evil grin}. It may take us several days to get the equipment down to repair the trail from exuberant behaviour. It can be disheartening to volunteers to see their 12-hour run undone before noon the next day.

But enough of the rant. As volunteers, we do what we do for the love of the sport and we feel good about giving something back. It is so satisfying to see the results of your efforts and knowing what we do is enjoyed by so many. We are doing our part in keeping the area a 4-season community. There are businesses that rely on snowmobile tourism.

The most common request we get is about our trail availability and status. The best source of this infor-



Baptiste Lake area trails

mation is the free OFSC online integrated trail guide. There is a premium \$5 smart phone app as well that preloads trail information and is a great navigation tool even in areas without cell phone coverage. We provide updates to that guide several times a week.

Lastly, we are very active and quick to respond to other queries on Facebook and email (mapleleafsnovskimmers@gmail.com).

An advertisement for Kawartha Docks. The top half features the company name "Kawartha Docks" in a large, white, serif font against a dark background. Below the name is the tagline "Designs for Waterfront Living" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The middle section shows a photograph of a wooden dock extending into a body of water at sunset, with several chairs and a small boat on the dock. The bottom section contains contact information in white text: the phone number "705-931-1497", the email address "jeff@kawarthadocks.com", and the website "www.kawarthadocks.com".

COLD WATER AND ICE

By Lifesaving Society

Drowning doesn't just happen to non-swimmers in the summer. Approximately 35% of drownings in Canada occur from October to April when most people have no intention of going into the water. Snowmobiling and ice accidents account for most of these incidents, but it's important to realize that even at the height of summer, water in Canadian lakes and rivers is usually below 20 degrees Celsius. To stay safe, check the ice to make sure it's thick enough and always wear a lifejacket during activities around the water.

Ice Safety and Cold Water Facts

- Water in Ontario is colder than you think.
- Cold water shock.
- You can only survive a few minutes in cold water.
- Most drownings occur in water less than 20 degrees Celsius.
- No ice is without risk.
- Snowmobiling over frozen bodies of water poses a large risk.

Minimum Ice Thickness for:

- a single person - 4 inches (10 cm)

- a snowmobile or ATV - 5 inches (12 cm)
- a single car - 8-12 inches (20-30 cm)
- a vehicle (full-size pick up truck) - 12-15 inches (30-38 cm)

The Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) has a series of Cold Water Awareness videos with tips on how to prepare for and survive in cold water, including the important 1-10-1 principle. Visit csbc.ca for these and other important water safety campaigns.



Dave Coleman and Cash demonstrating ice safety?

Stay alive, stay ice smart

The Lifesaving Society encourages you to be ice smart - know the basics and be sensible. Most winter drowning victims are male snowmobilers. But everybody needs to be careful around frozen lakes, rivers and streams. Year after year we hear of owners drowning while trying to rescue their dogs (incidentally, the dogs usually survive). Also be aware of lake-front properties running bubblers under their docks.

The Society's drowning data shows:

- Almost two thirds of ice-related incidents occur on lakes and the rest occur on rivers.
- Most snowmobile incidents involve open water/ice holes (62% of all snowmobiling incidents) or thin ice (38%).

Here's how you can be ice smart. First, understand the importance of determining the quality and thickness of ice before venturing onto it. No ice is without risk. Even thick ice may be weak so be sure to measure clear hard ice in several places. The quality and thickness of ice can change very quickly and its

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...from page 18 *Cold Water and Ice*

appearance can be misleading.

There are several steps you can take to stay ice smart:

1. keep away from unfamiliar paths or unknown ice,
2. avoid travelling on ice at night - clear hard ice is the only kind of ice recommended for travel,
3. if you must venture onto the ice, wear a thermal protection buoyant suit to increase your chances of survival if you fall through. If you do not have one, wear a lifejacket/PFD over an ordinary snowmobile suit or layered winter clothing,
4. avoid slushy ice, thawed ice that has recently refrozen, layered or rotten ice caused by sudden temperature changes, and ice near moving water (i.e., rivers or currents),
5. never go on the ice alone; a buddy may be able to rescue you or go for help if you get into difficulty,
6. before you leave shore, inform someone of your destination and expected time of return, and, ideally,
7. assemble a small personal safety kit no larger than the size of a man's wallet to carry with you. The kit should include a lighter, waterproof matches, magnesium fire starter, pocketknife, compass and whistle. You should also carry ice picks, an ice staff, a rope and a cellular phone.

Be Water Smart® in summer, and winter! Always check the ice before you go on it, measure clean hard ice in several places and be wary of varying temperature conditions. Here are some myths and realities to remember:

1) Myth: Waterlogged clothing pulls you down in the water and makes you drown.

Reality: Actually, air trapped in your clothing will help keep you afloat temporarily. Once the clothes are soaked with water, they will be heavier, making moving and swimming more difficult.



HGTV Dave getting attention. Photos Paul Coleman

2) Myth: The better you swim the better your chances of rescuing yourself if you fall through the ice.

Reality: Swimming proficiency plays only a small part in ice-related rescues. After as little as five minutes, cold water begins to rob you of your ability to move your limbs. This makes it very difficult for you to get out of the water, no matter what your swimming ability.

3) Myth: Snow on a frozen lake or river makes the ice surface stronger.

Reality: Snow acts as an insulating blanket, actually hindering ice formation and growth.

4) Myth: If the weather has been cold, the ice must be solid and safe.

Reality: Other factors that are largely independent of air temperature (e.g., wind, a layer of snow on the ice, currents and fluctuating water levels) can weaken ice and make it unable to bear weight. A sudden drop in air temperature, which is actually more dangerous than a sudden rise, can create cracks in the ice.

5) Myth: Thick ice is stronger than thin ice.

Reality: Even thick ice may be weak if it is "rotten" or contains layers of water. Rotten ice has frozen and thawed repeatedly, making it potentially fragile even

...continued on page 20

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...from page 19 Cold Water and Ice

when it appears solid.

Check the ice before you go on it.

Thin ice is responsible for many fatalities each year. Hypothermia, which is a decrease in body temperature, kills people in cold water by reducing their ability to swim or stay afloat. A person who has fallen through the ice can eventually die of cardiac arrest if he or she is not rescued or rewarmed.

Although most victims who fall through the ice are men, it is important that safety tips are practiced by all.

Safety Tips:

1 Always check ice thickness before venturing out. Snowmobiles require at least five inches of clear solid ice and autos at least eight inches to a foot of clear solid ice.

2 Be suspicious. You cannot tell the strength of the ice by its appearance. Temperature, thickness, snow cover, water depth, size of water body, currents and distribution of the load on top of the ice are all factors affecting ice safety.

3 Before you head onto any ice, check with a local



bait shop operator or resort owner for known ice conditions, thin ice areas or dangerous open water conditions.

What to do if you break through the ice?

- 1 Don't panic - the clothes you're wearing will trap air and keep you buoyant.
- 2 Turn toward the direction you came from and place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface.
- 3 Kick your feet and try to push yourself forward on top of the unbroken ice on your stomach like a seal.
- 4 Once you are lying on the ice, don't stand up. Roll away from the break until you're on solid ice.

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CORN ROAST AND DONATIONS

The weather cooperated, Don and Anne Bocking were terrific hosts and the crowd of cottagers attending the corn roast included all ages. It was terrific seeing the young children, teenagers and young parents enjoying the setting and, of course, the food. It is evident that memories are being made for the next generations.

Thank you to those who brought generous donations for the food bank. Paul and I brought these, plus the extra buns and hotdogs, to the Word of Life Outreach on Highway 127 north of Maynooth. Janet Paplinskie, manager of the Outreach, was very appreciative of the donation. They have an extremely well organized storage set up and they help numerous families in the area.

Belcast cottages also ran a food donation initiative and their efforts were delivered to the Hastings Highlands Public Library which acts as a depot centre for the Anglican Church Food Bank.

Baptiste Lake Residents come through again. Thank you all very much.



Word of Life manager Janet Paplinskie, left, accepting donations from the Baptiste Lake Association. Photo Paul Coleman



Belcast Cottages food donations. Photo Ciny Belcastro

BLA 2024 Events

OPENING EVENT
MAY 19, 2024, BIRCH CLIFF LODGE

PIKE TOURNAMENT
TO BE DETERMINED

AGM
AUGUST 10, 2024, BIRCH CLIFF LODGE

CORN ROAST
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, PONACKA



A quickly running brook. Painting by Anne Coleman



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HASTINGS HIGHLANDS SHORELINE PRESERVATION BYLAW



Natural phenomenon on autumn shoreline. Taken October 1, 2023 by Paul Coleman

Ontario Land Tribunal Proceedings: Case No. OLT 22-003939

There has been quite a lot of discussion about our shorelines and vegetative buffer. I can't remember when it all started but I do remember the questions of where did it originate. Was it developed by HH? Was it a "cookie cutter" from Haliburton? Was it downloaded from the Province? I do remember the first time I read a 16+ page document I cringed. My first thought was if I had a tree that was about to smash onto my home I would not wait for a permit!! My next thought was "how on earth can a simple guy like me understand all the wherefores and whereas"! Frankly, I gave up and let others who had more time and energy tackle it. What you should know is that there was an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal Proceedings: case No. OLT 22-003939 with their decision dated September 11, 2023. The appeal was dismissed, however an amendment to the Bylaw added a definition of "vegetative buffer" and included clarification as to what level of maintenance of vegetation is permitted within the buffer. These amend-

ments were recommended by the Municipality during the hearing to ensure that the public better understand the intent of the Bylaw. Following is a part of the official announcement from HH.

Bylaw 2022-005 "Natural Vegetative Buffer" was approved by Council on May 4, 2022 as a bylaw to amend the zoning to conform with the 30 metre natural vegetative buffer policies in the County of Hastings Official Plan. The Province of Ontario's Planning Act requires the Municipality to amend our Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw to conform with the County of Hastings Official Plan.

Under the Planning Act, members of the public, public agencies and other parties may appeal Council's decision to amend the Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw by appealing to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). An appeal of Bylaw 2022-005 was received by the Municipality on or about May 27, 2022 and was submitted to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

The Municipality has kept the public abreast of the

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...from page 22 HH Shoreline Preservation Bylaw

status of this appeal via the Municipality's website and has provided regular updates as to the status of the appeal.

The Ontario Land Tribunal commenced their hearing of the appeal on July 10, 2023 and issued their subsequent decision regarding the appeal on September 11, 2023. A full copy of the OLT's decision can be found on the Municipality's website at www.hastings-highlands.ca

Next Steps

In accordance with Section 34(30) of the Planning Act the Municipality has continued to advise and direct members of the public to assume Bylaw 2022-005 is in place while awaiting the decision of the Ontario Land Tribunal and to avoid contraventions or non-compliance with Bylaw 2022-005 in the event the Ontario Land Tribunal dismisses the appeal.

Due to the Ontario Land Tribunal Decision dismissing the appeal in part, Bylaw 2022-005 will be amended as follows:

1. That Section 1 is amended to add subsection c) as follows:

c) That Section 3 as amended, is hereby further amended by adding Section 3.258.1 for the definition of "vegetative buffer" as follows:

"vegetative buffer" shall mean a natural area, adjacent to a shoreline, maintained or re-established to its natural vegetated state.

• That Section 2 b) is amended to add subsection 5.9.3 iii) e) as follows:

e) for pruning necessary to maintain the health of vegetation and trees, the removal of diseased or dangerous trees, and removal of noxious weeds or invasive plants which have been identified and deemed as such by the Province of Ontario.

The remainder of Bylaw 2022-005 remains unchanged and in full force and effect as of the 5th day of May, 2022.

Bylaw 2022-005, as amended, will be incorporated in Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw 2004-035, as amended.

John Jardine, Municipal Planner
Municipality of Hastings Highlands
jjardine@hastingshighlands.ca
David Stewart, Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Hastings Highlands
dstewart@hastingshighlands.ca



BLA Director Eric Hooley, 76-years-old completes an October ski. Photo by Anne Coleman

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THOUGHTS, RANTS, ACTIVITIES, KNOWLEDGE

By Paul Coleman

For years I did not care about the issues re the lake. I worked too many hours, drove too many miles and navigated too many meetings. The first thing I wanted to do when I got here was to fish, to clear my mind and to wind down. I didn't need to meet people, I didn't want to be involved in lake "stuff", I wanted to prove that I could build a cottage, landscape and renovate. So I get why so many folks do their own thing.

However, this summer I was afraid of forest fires to the point that I bought extra water hoses and was prepared to stand on our cottage to "save the day if necessary". I did write to the fire chief and deputy and council to ask why we were the last county in Ontario to institute the Fire Ban. Our kids in NS were a half hour away from their devastating fire. It was caused by young kids who lit tires on fire and rolled them down a hill. (You know the rest of that story). I now also care more about the fishery. I have not caught a muskeye in over 5 years. Word is that the bass are smaller, the pike are bigger and the

crappy are everywhere. We have helped our friends at the Fish Hatchery raise funds to grow their trout. Hopefully they will soon have MNRF approval to stock our lake. We meet regularly with numerous MNRF and Fish Hatchery folk to make them aware of all the efforts put forth by our volunteers to update them of the water quality and the state of our fishery.

To the owners of the boats with big motors, thanks for staying in the middle of the lake for tubing and wake boarding in straight lines and for keeping the wakes down.

We have tried for years to fix the boat launch on North Baptiste. We have not been successful! HH and MNRF will not agree who is responsible or who owns the land/shore. Wonder why it is hard to be involved? Funny enough, I checked on it last week and noticed what I thought was a large log in the water adjacent to the boat launch. Turned out it is an underwater hydro line to the island. The "beware of danger" sign is covered and hidden by branches.

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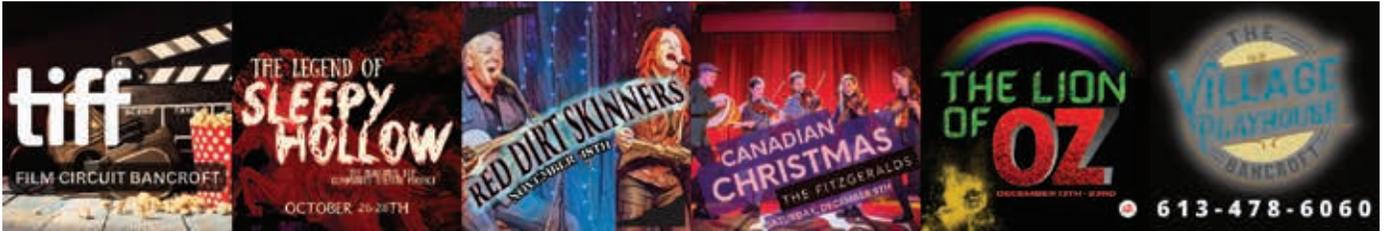
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...from page 24 Thoughts, Rants, Activities, Knowledge

But don't worry, it "won't" be a problem like the one in our cove that literally exploded in flames and shut down the hydro all the way to Maynooth, just saying.

We have run golf tournaments for the BLA and for the kids in town. Many of us are very involved with the HH and Baptiste Community. Our neighbours set up help groups during COVID to assist those who were ill or who could not shop for themselves. That continues to this day and it is what our community is all about.

So think about what you can do. How you can get involved. We need more good deed articles, notices about music nights, family day events and winter carnivals.

Facebook on the lake really worked. Personally we got support in the spring to clean up the logs, big branches and all the floating debris. Later I found a massive floating mat in the middle of the lake and we connected with the owner. Then our guests found a lost dog who ran away from the fireworks. They kept her comfortable overnight and we reconnected her with the owners the next day.

Lastly, who has a defibrillator on the lake? any thought of that? What happens when we need one? Maybe we should fund raise to buy one and keep it at Birch Cliff or the Marina or both. Whose Company wants to donate one and save a life? There's a lot of \$\$ around the lake now and it sure would be nice to receive such a gift/donation.

Peter Oliver, sadly now passed away, was very involved in raising funds for the BLA Lake Plan. He helped create the road map to help preserve our water quality and fishery. We should not forget the efforts of Peter and so many others. We cannot take for granted why we are so fortunate to live here. It is because we have volunteers who care and who unfortunately are aging gracefully and need an injection of youth to move forward. So become more involved.



Three good samaritans tended to Runaway Addie after a fireworks scare. Photo by Paul Coleman

**Fireworks poison our lake!
... and our drinking water.**

Fireworks contain the following poisonous heavy metals which fall into our lake:

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|------------------|-----------------|
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| Strontium | Barium |
| Copper | Aluminum |

These metals along with the toxic ash, cardboard and plastics laced with gunpowder contaminate our lake and eventually the ground water and well water we drink.

Please say "No to Fireworks"
Thank You



www.baptistelake.org

CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BANCROFT VILLAGE PLAYHOUSE THIS FALL



Tweed and Company Theatre has an impressive line-up of autumn concerts, events, and theatre shows coming to the Bancroft Village Playhouse.

They're hot off the tails of an exhilarating summer of entertainment. Their production of the mega musical, *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* was so popular it was extended until early September. Now, they're hosting some of the country's top talents over the next few months before producing another big-box theatrical extravaganza to commemorate year's end.

October will start with country superstar, Corb Lund. On October 11th at 2pm and 7pm, he'll be performing his solo acoustic set as part of a massive tour across Canada and the United States. With countless CCMA, Juno, and other international awards wins and nominations, he's stayed true to his roots as a rural Albertan with ranching lineage. He'll pepper in tales of lawless frontier saloons and muse on the realities of running a modern family ranch in between his set of world-class country songs.

Then on October 19th at 7pm, Bancroft is getting a big dose of funny! The legendary Canadian comic, Bruce McCulloch, is bringing his one-man-show, *Tales of Bravery and Stupidity* to the playhouse stage for one night only. Best known as "the dark one" from the sketch comedy group, *The Kids in the Hall*, Bruce will incorporate stand-up, music, and storytelling to review the bravest (and stupidest) things he's ever done. Brilliant, hilarious, and surprisingly touching, Bruce will tackle a variety of topics like worldviews, family, the struggle to maintain optimism, and so much more as he reflects on the many complexities and joys of being alive.

Whiskey Jack is paying tribute to the late music icon with their concert *The Stories & Songs of Stompin' Tom*. Over their 45-year existence, Whiskey Jack has become a legendary band in their own right through their polished performances and elite band members like Duncan Fremlin, Billy MacInnis, and Douglas John. They'll be rockin' the house on October 21st at 7pm.

At the end of October, Tweed and Company is proudly presenting the inaugural Bancroft Village Playhouse community theatre project. Just in time for spooky sea-

son, this talented group of local performers will be putting on *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Follow humble schoolteacher Ichabod Crane as he tries to capture the attention of Katrina Van Tassel and has his fate dealt to him by the Headless Horseman. It'll be filled with haunting tales, eerie music, and a ton of scary fun! Running from October 26th to 28th, it's guaranteed to be filled with Halloween magic.

The following month will see the return of *The Legendary Downchild Blues Band* on November 3rd at 7:30pm. Back by popular demand, it'll be a night of soulful blues led by the internationally-acclaimed, Juno Award winning troupe. Then, North America's premier classic rock tribute band, *Tommy Youngsteen*, will be covering *The Band's* greatest hits on November 11th at 8pm. British Blues Award winners *Red Dirt Skinkers* will be bringing their genre-defying, famous sound to town on November 18th at 7pm.

Plus, don't miss out on this year's TIFF Film Circuit Bancroft! There will be international and Canadian acclaimed movies brought to the playhouse this fall and spring. Be sure to check out *You Hurt My Feelings* on October 12th at 2pm and 7pm, *BlackBerry* on November 16th at 2pm and 7pm, and *The Man Who Invented Christmas* on December 7th at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are just \$13 for adults and \$7 for youth!

Ring in the holiday season will be hometown heroes, *The Fitzgerald's Canadian Christmas*. The siblings are returning to play crowd favourite holiday songs that'll feature Canadian Champion fiddling and awesome step dancing on December 9th at 2pm and 7pm.

Finally, Tweed and Company Theatre will be rounding out their massively successful year with another annual holiday pantomime. After last year's popular *Cinder-Ellie*, running December 13th to 23rd will be *The Lion of Oz*. A dazzling, hilarious spin on the well-known story, it'll be a performance packed with fun for the whole family. In fact, there's 15% discounts for group tickets of 10 or more, which makes it a perfect holiday event for groups of coworkers or friends. To book this or the family rate, call the box office at 613-478-6060. Individual tickets can be purchased online

...continued on page 27

2023-2024 Schedule

*Art Gallery
of Bancroft*

OCTOBER 31 – DECEMBER 2, 2023
Kendra Gadzala's "For the Moment"
(Painting)

DECEMBER 5 – 30, 2023
41st Annual Juried Exhibition
Opening Reception:
December 7, 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 3 -27, 2024
Brian Longfield's "Manitoba Wildlife"

FEBRUARY 1 – MARCH 2, 2024
Odyssey Immersive
(2-person Collective)
"Where Water meets Sky"

MARCH 7 – MARCH 30, 2024
Student Exhibition

APRIL 2 – MAY 4, 2024
Joseph Muscat's
"Yet there we are"



Rob Niezen's "Cross Cut"

MAY 7 – JUNE 1, 2024
Lynn Vegter Exhibition

JUNE 4 – 29, 2024
William Kingfisher Exhibition

JULY 2 – AUGUST 3, 2024
Nathan Cole Exhibition

AUGUST 6 – AUGUST 31, 2024
Alisa McRonald's
"Abstract Faces"



Brian Longfield's "Manitoba Wildlife Imaginary"



Lynn Vegter Exhibition

SEPTEMBER 2 – 28, 2024
Rob Niezen's "Cross Cut"

OCTOBER 1 – NOVEMBER 2, 2024
Henry Melissa Gordon's
"Alchemy Dream Journals"



*Kendra Gadzala's
"For The Moment"*



Nathan Cole Exhibition



Student Exhibition

...from page 26 Check out What's Happening

and range in price from \$22.50 to \$37.50 with discounts for seniors, arts workers, and students/youth.

There's plenty of exciting afternoon and evening performances at the Village Playhouse in Bancroft this fall. "We're so proud to be the town's year-round source of all things entertainment," says Tweed and

Company's Artistic Director Tim Porter. "It's such a joy to work with and for a community that loves arts and culture." It's recommended to book tickets in advance, as many of these concerts and performances are already selling out. For tickets and more information visit villageplayhouse.ca, or call the box office at 613-478-6060.

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

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- **ETRANSFER** - Send payment to MyBaptisteLake@gmail.com. Please include necessary information to ensure we have your correct mailing, lake, and email addresses.
- **PAYPAL** - Use the link on our membership page on our website www.baptistelake.org.

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