

LIVINGSTONE LAKE NEWS

June 2021

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect that this land, which we enjoy and love, was once the sacred land of the Algonquin People. We are committed to continuing their stewardship by preserving the water of Livingstone Lake and the surrounding forests to the best of our ability.

President's Message by Brian Wiese

Hi Everyone,

I am sure that most people are glad to say goodbye to 2020. The current year did not begin as we would have liked, but better days are ahead. Your executive managed to have one in-person meeting last year and have been dealing with issues of interest and/or concern on your behalf.

Lumbering around Livingstone Lake has not been completed yet. There is still an ongoing discussion with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the logging management company regarding the future plans for the gravel pit at the corner of Laurel Road and County Road 12 (Livingstone Lake Road).

The newest issues are Haliburton County's proposed changes to its Shoreline Preservation by-law and the increase and effect of blue green algae blooms in Muskoka and Haliburton lakes. Please see the article on page 12 and visit Beshore.ca for more information on how you can support naturalized shorelines.

I would like to thank all the Executive Committee members who have devoted time and energy to make sure our lake remains special. Looking forward to the cottage season ahead, and to not worrying about social distancing, so we can hopefully meet in person.

2021 Association Executive

President—Brian Wiese

Email: dumbrowsky@rogers.com

Vice-President—Wayne Parker

Treasurer—Dee McLaren

Lake Steward—Karen Hammond

Recording Secretary—Susan Wiese

Newsletter Editor—Bev McHenry

Members at Large:

Steve Bollinger

Pat Dubé

Dave Fitton

Phil Gilmour

Welcome James!

Welcome to James Schwartz, Livingstone Lake's newest resident. Last August, James purchased the former Love cottage on the south-east side of the lake. He says he's been looking for a property in the Algonquin area for some time and is very happy to finally put down roots here. He lives in Toronto and plans to continue spending a lot of time here with his partner, Roxanna and his 10-year-old daughter, Sofia.



Gravel Pit Report

By Wayne MacGregor Parker

While the rest of the world has been on hold for much of what constitutes normal activity this past year, our Laurel Road pit challenges have remained persistent, predictable and unresolved. In spite of another season of ongoing and rigorous efforts by your executive, resolution remains frustratingly elusive. Many of our direct appeals involve carefully navigating between various agencies and authorities and so much of the conversations are necessarily privileged and must be coordinated and nuanced to achieve results. We have cultivated some useful relationships along the way and are grateful to those administrators who are willing to help look into the problem with a view to resolution.

Here's a summary of a few key efforts undertaken this past year. I want to particularly thank Phil and Gary Groce and Brian Wiese for helping me with these conversations and follow up.

- We learned the Township Mayor's appeal (an effort we began in 2019) to the MNRF Minister fell on deaf ears.
- Numerous incidents last summer involving target shooting, excessive late night noise and ATV activity were reported to the OPP and TIPS line.
- Direct appeals were renewed to MNRF for resolution.
- MNRF, in conjunction with Westwind, proposed some reforestation in the future as well as increased patrols by Conservation Officers and OPP.
- OPP and MNRF review pit and declare it "safe" for shooting, camping and other Crown land use. MNRF declined direct appeals to close the pit.

Gravel Pit Report **Continued.**

- Phil and Gary Groce make and post no shooting signs in the pit.
- Haliburton ATV club agrees pit is not a good place for ATV activity due to proximity to residences. They post signs and advise members.
- OPP and Conservation Officer patrols increased. Anecdotally, pit activity is periodically monitored but no violations cited or charges laid.
- We solicited an official opinion on the safety of shooting in our pit from a highly respected retired MNRF firearms expert and avid hunter. Among many other important credentials, he was instrumental in developing the Ontario Hunter safety program, taught and lectured on firearm safety and served as a firearm safety advisor, trainer, instructor and examiner. His conclusion, *“In my opinion allowing or promoting shooting of firearms at this site presents a potentially dangerous situation, increases the anxiety of adjacent land owners and cottagers, and would continue to foster a poor image of otherwise responsible firearms owners.”*
- We engaged our local, municipal Councilor Dailloux in a 4-hour site tour. She agreed to take up the cause again and engaged Mayor Moffat in a direct appeal to MNRF.
- To date, MNRF’s response has been to reaffirm earlier commitments to reforest portions of the pit, increase patrols, and continue to support lawful firearm discharge and other Crown Land uses.
- The Mayor’s office is renewing efforts to get our MPP Laurie Scott engaged on our behalf.
- We have recently secured a commitment to tour the pit with the MNRF and OPP sometime in August. We hope to have the Township and our MPP involved as well. We will aggressively assert that we are not asking to rewrite or set aside Crown Land Use Act provisions, rather simply seeking a decision that *this* pit, due to its proximity to a residential neighborhood is closed due to safety, noise and nuisance concerns.

And so the battle goes. Maybe by the time of the AGM we will get some better news to pass along. I remain convinced that a responsible legislator with appropriate authority, once on site and experiencing firsthand the noise and disruption of shooting, large camper gatherings and loud intense ATV activity will agree that this is not something local cottagers should have to endure when there are so many other sites nearby that are better suited and far from people.

New
news
in
June!

A big thank you to Westwind!

At their expense, they have planted over 3000 trees as a step in the rehabilitation of the gravel pit. Signs and fencing have been erected to help keep out vehicle traffic.



To Weed, or not to Weed?

Thinking of removing aquatic vegetation from your shoreline or around your dock and swimming area? STOP! In Muskoka, it is illegal to remove vegetation from the water without a permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Furthermore, these so-called “weeds” are actually helping to keep our lake healthy.



Aquatic vegetation helps remove phosphorus from the water. Phosphorus is considered one of the major stressors contributing to algal blooms. Fortunately, we have not experienced a bloom on Lake of Bays and our water quality is excellent, but one would seriously and negatively affect our enjoyment of the lake and property values.

Aquatic vegetation also provides fish habitat—both feeding grounds and spawning areas.

Some companies recommend agitators to minimize plant growth in the water. While not illegal, these devices disturb silt from the bottom of the lake and greatly increase water turbidity. Disturbed silt can smother fish eggs, cause damage to the sensitive gills of fish and potentially interfere with particulate feeding. Turbidity makes it more difficult to treat water for drinking and reduces light penetration which affects the growth of phytoplankton, negatively impacting the entire aquatic food chain.

Disturbing the bottom of any waterbody, whether by pulling vegetation or using an agitator could release contaminants, including cadmium, mercury, lead, excess phosphorus, pesticides, PCBs and others, which had been safely contained in the silty bottom.

So rather than trying to get rid of aquatic vegetation once it's there, why not address the cause? Aquatic plants often grow where nutrients such as phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium are plentiful. Efforts to prevent excess nutrients in the soil along the shoreline from reaching the lake are our best line of defense. This can be done by:

reducing or eliminating lawn areas which have shallow root systems that do not absorb many nutrients; never using fertilizers (which all contain phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium); and establishing deeper and wider buffers of indigenous, deep-rooted shrubs or trees along the shoreline that filter out excess nutrients from the soil before they can reach the lake water.

If you are interested in getting help to renaturalize your shoreline, visit naturaledge.watersheds.ca. They offer advice on indigenous plants, planting plans and subsidized rates for shoreline property owners.

Concerned about maintaining natural shorelines and preventing blue green algae blooms? See the ads on page 12 and visit Beshore.ca to support naturalized shorelines in Haliburton.

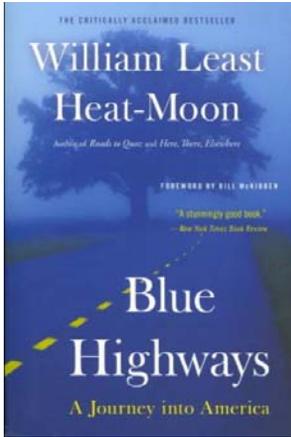
By Caroline Konarzewski
Lake of Bays Association

Article provided by



Cottage Reads

Here are some great book suggestions for the summer!



Blue Highways

By William Least Heat Moon

A story about a man who decided to travel on all the blue highways as outlined on a map of the US and what he encountered and the people whom he met. Long before Trump was wreaking havoc on the excited states.

Recommended by Brian Wiese

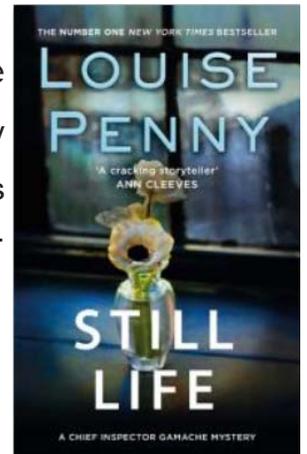
Still Life

By Louise Penny

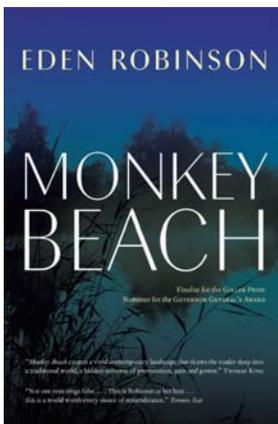
Still Life is the first book in the Chief Inspector Gamache Canadian mystery series written by Louise Penny.

This critically acclaimed series is primarily set in the idyllic rural Quebec town of Three Pines. Chief Inspector Gamache is the main character and the 16 book series focuses on Gamache and his team solving various murders and crimes.

The books are extremely well written and are rich in character development, interpersonal relationships and have some quirky but endearing characters. The books consistently make the top sellers lists. If you enjoy mystery novels without all the graphic crime scene depictions you will likely enjoy this series. Perfect cottage reading!



Recommended by Phil Gilmour



Monkey Beach

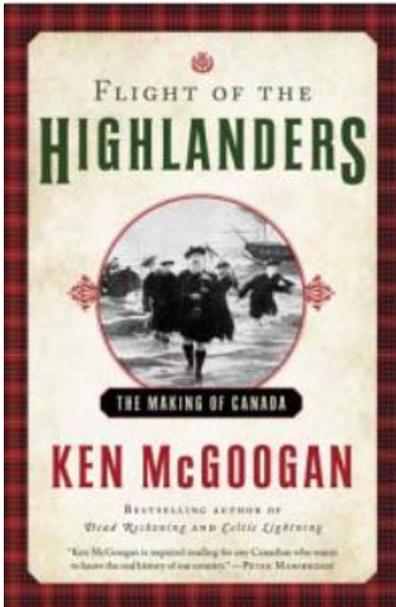
by Eden Robinson,

Eden Robinson is a member of the Haisla and Heiltsuk First Nations and the author of the Trickster series of books which have been made into a CBC television series. It is the story of Lisamarie a wayward teenager dealing with the disappearance at sea of her brother among the islands of the Kitamaat region. It is a beautifully written, often humorous exploration of her relationships with the rest of her family, especially Ma-ma-oo, her paternal grandmother, as Lisa struggles to learn what happened to her brother.

Recommended by Karen Hammond

The Flight of the Highlanders —The Making of Canada

By Ken McGoogan



This is a good book for Canadians of Scottish decent to read. What sets this book apart from so many well documented accounts is that it goes beyond the clearances, crosses the ocean, and follows the struggles of these wretched souls as they overcome enormous challenges carving out a life and a country here in Canada. In many instances the author brings the story of their descendants right into the present day. A word of caution though: it is deeply disturbing to fully grasp the dire circumstances under which our ancestors and many others came to Canada. I felt frustration and outright anger at the treatment of these poor people.

The book is divided into three tracks. The first provides a good overview of what was going on in Scotland that led up to the Clearances. The debacle of the failed '45 with Bonnie Prince Charlie and its ramifications is well developed and sets the stage for the destruction of the clan system and the complete corruption of a number of chiefs as they abdicated their duties of protection and support in favour of material gain. This set the stage for the Clearances. It was

at this point in the book that my ire began to rise.

The second track deals directly with the forced evictions of poor crofters who had lived for hundreds, if not thousands, of years subsisting on these lands under the collective protection of clan. Heart rending after heart rending account, well supported with direct quotes, tell the stories of widespread brutality at the hands of absentee landlords wishing to improve the financial returns on their lands by forcefully removing people to make room for sheep. They were loaded onto coffins ships with nothing more than the shirt on their backs and then off-loaded at unknown destinations without resources or support. There is one particularly brutal account of the forced eviction of a Gregor as witnessed by Donald Ross.

Margaret McGregor, aged forty-seven years, was the wife of William Ross, tenant, Greenyard. This poor woman met with savage treatment at the hands of the police. She wanted to reason with the sheriff on the impropriety of his conduct, because Mr. Munro, the tacksman, had denied all knowledge of the warrants of his removal. The answer she got was a blow on the shoulder, and then another on the left ear with a baton. That blow was so violent that it cut up the gristle of the ear, breaking the skull and shattering the temporal and sphenoid bones. Result: concussion and compression of the brain. The blow was so forceful that it knocked the poor woman to the ground and caused blood to flow copiously from both ears.

Even after she was on the ground, the police struck her with their batons, and with their feet; and then left her with her head in a pool of blood. Donald Ross could not see the smallest hope of recovery. She was the mother of seven helpless children, and when he saw the poor little things going backwards and forwards, "toddling" around her sick bed, looking with sorrow at her death-like visage, he felt his heart break. The few sentences which the poor woman managed to speak went clearly to show that she had been barbarously treated. Ross's firm conviction was that she was as cruelly murdered as if a policeman had shot her on the links at Tain.

Continued

At this point my blood, my Highland blood began to rise. At the outset the author correctly draws attention to the fact that under the current United Nations definition, these people were not immigrants; they were refugees. In today's terms, their treatment would indisputably be characterized as ethnic cleansing.

The final track deals with what happened to these poor souls once they landed in the new world. Unfortunately, in all too many cases more of the same in the form of poor treatment, exploitation and abuse. Shamefully, the history of mankind reveals a pattern of man's inhumanity to man and the struggle between those who have and those who have not. The Highlander refugee has to fight for every break against overwhelming odds. McGoogan does a good job of taking the reader through a number of the divisive and often abusive situations they had to work through to get established here in the new world. The emphasis in this final section is centered on how these resilient folks succeeded in stabilizing their lives enough to begin to live again. In this final section my temperament at last transitioned from outright anger, through pity, and on to hope. Eventually their fortunes start to improve as homes and communities are established and institutions based on democratic principles are upheld. It was here that hope blossomed into pride as one begins to see the formation of Canada and the profound effect the mass of Scottish refugees have had on the shaping of our country and its unique and very Scottish form of government.

I highly recommend this book. While historically accurate and presented in good taste, none the less the subject material is disturbing to consider in human terms. It is interesting and well written and will directly appeal to Canadians of Scottish decent.

Recommended by Wayne MacGregor Parker



A Septic System that Passed a Recent Inspection ... Can Still Fail.

According to the Lakeshore Capacity Handbook “High levels of phosphorus in lake water will promote eutrophication — excessive plant and algae growth, resulting in a loss of water clarity, depletion of dissolved oxygen and a loss of habitat for species of cold water fish such as lake trout. While shoreline clearing, fertilizer use, erosion and overland runoff can all contribute phosphorus to an inland lake, **the primary human sources of phosphorus are septic systems.**” Thus, keeping our septic systems functioning well is very important for healthy lakes.

As of spring 2021 all 4 Haliburton County municipalities will have Septic Re-inspection Programs running. These programs are extremely important as they tell owners whether or not their system needs repairs, or in rare cases replacement. They check the physical condition of the systems. The results vary by the level of inspections – levels 1 through 4. A level 4 finds more of the problem systems than a level 3 etc.

Even the level 1 re-inspection program in Highlands East has so far determined that 35 % of all systems inspected are at moderate to high risk. So, the re-inspection programs are critically important but more is needed.

The system has been inspected and is physically sound – how can it fail? Here are the **two most common reasons**:

1. Hydraulic overloading

Septic systems are designed with many factors to consider. Two important considerations are:

- How many people will use the system
- An average water usage rate per person

An average incoming amount of wastewater is derived from this information, which then defines the size or capacity of the septic tank and drain field. The purpose of the septic tank is:

- To allow solids to settle at the bottom of the tank
- To allow bacteria to break down the nutrients in the organic waste

In simple terms – if you have too many people using the system or put too much water and waste down the drains you can overload the system. The septic system for a 3-bedroom cottage or house is designed to handle the waste from 6-8 people. If you have more, you risk overloading the system which can then send untreated waste into your tile bed and in the worst case from there into the lake.

Continued...

2. Killing the good bacteria in your system that are needed to break down the nutrients.

Some of the most common ways that this can happen are by using products that kill bacteria.

- Bleach
- Laundry detergent with bleach
- Antibacterial soaps or other products
- Commercial dishwasher rinse aids – use lemon juice or vinegar instead

For Septic Tips <https://www.cohpoa.org/septic-health/septic-tips/>

So, make sure your system gets inspected and then don't overload it or kill the good bacteria.

To read the full Lakeshore Capacity Handbook visit:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/lakeshore-capacity-assessment-handbook-protecting-water-quality-inland-lakes>

Article provided by



Septic Re-inspections Postponed

Due to Covid-19, the Township of Algonquin Highlands has delayed their septic re-inspection program for lakes in our area. They plan to conduct the program here in 2022.

You will be notified about your re-inspection by letter early in 2022. You will be required to be present while the inspector visits your property and you will be required to remove the lids of your septic tank. Outhouses and leaching pits will also be inspected. If any problems are found with your system, you will be required to repair them. Failure to do so could result in a fine.

After your inspection is completed, you will be billed \$179.11 which will be added to your tax bill.

More information can be found on the Township's website at:

algonquinhighlands.ca/residents/septicinfo-pop/septic-reinspectionprogram

Forestry Report

By Wayne MacGregor Parker

Work continues on the current map areas designated for harvesting. Next year is the anticipated completion date so you'll need to continue to be mindful of logging trucks on Dagger Lake Access Road, Hughes Drive, Bear Lake Road and County Road 12. The majority of the remaining work will be up the Dagger Lake Access Road in and behind Kimball and Rockaway Lakes, as well as a small section between Bear Lake Road and Hughes Drive. Westwind confirmed resource extraction from the pit has all but been completed and will be discontinued thereafter. The sand piles will continue to be used on winter roads for the safety of the logging trucks.

I am in periodic touch with both Larry Jardine at Westwind and Clint Black regarding logging policies and efforts in our area. I'm grateful for their professionalism and concerns. One only needs to go to the lumber yard these days to appreciate the necessity and importance of sustainability of forest products to our economy and wellbeing. On a personal note, all the Crown Land adjacent to my land was logged two winters ago. While I gulped and muttered gratitude to the residual of fallen forest senior citizens, especially the missing diseased beech trees, I can honestly say two springs later it is nothing short of exhilarating to witness the explosion of new growth and regeneration that is taking place. It's moments like these that I marvel at the gifts of creation and remind myself that a vibrant and growing canopy of trees does far more for life on the planet than an old decaying forest. The key is achieving a balance of old and new.

That said, I still say farewell to my older friends who I will miss as they make way for the new. And so it goes.

Busting the Biodegradable Shampoo Myth

When the first cottagers settled here on the shores of Lake of Bays it was exciting and exhilarating to jump into the lake and wash with soap and shampoo. There was no indoor plumbing, the lake was right there, and after all, any bubbles created quickly dissipated. It was assumed that a little bit of soap in a big lake was harmless. Turns out that assumption is dead wrong. Even a biodegradable soap is not safe to use in the water. All soap, whether biodegradable or not, detrimentally affects lake chemistry and can have negative impacts on fish and other aquatic organisms.

By Caroline Konarzewski



Information collected by
Lake of Bays Association



Concerned about maintaining natural shorelines and preventing blue green algae blooms?

We know that overdeveloped shorelines are a key factor in the number of toxic algae blooms we are seeing in our lakes. Once blue green algae takes hold, that means an end to swimming, fishing and using lake water in our homes. We need a Shoreline By-law that protects our shorelines, lakes and homes for future generations to enjoy.

Our lives in the County depend on healthy lakes. They are key to our economy, our leisure times, our family time and our property values. A strong Haliburton County economy needs a strong Haliburton County By-law!

Find out more about what other concerned residents and cottagers in Haliburton are doing to protect our lakes for the future.

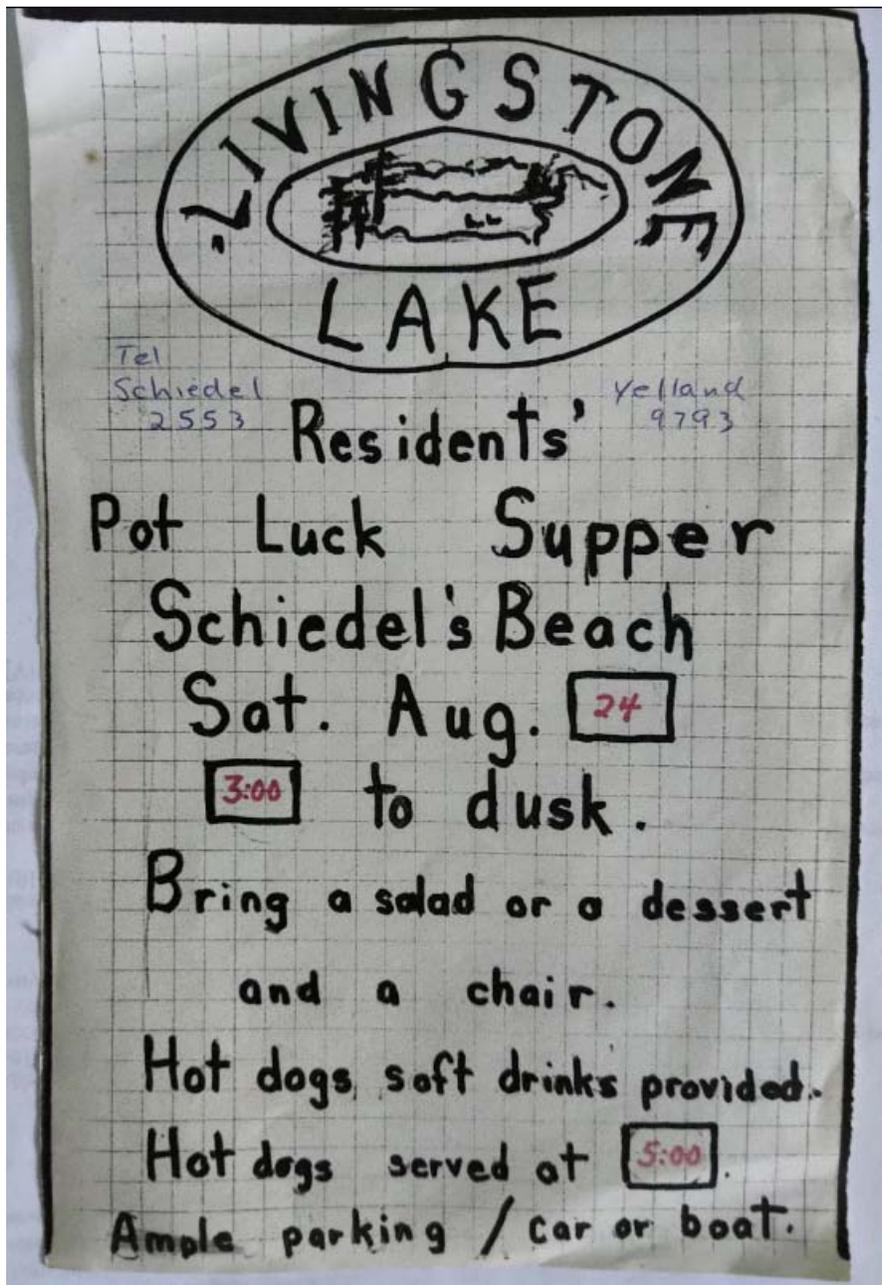
Visit Beshore.ca for more information on how you can help.

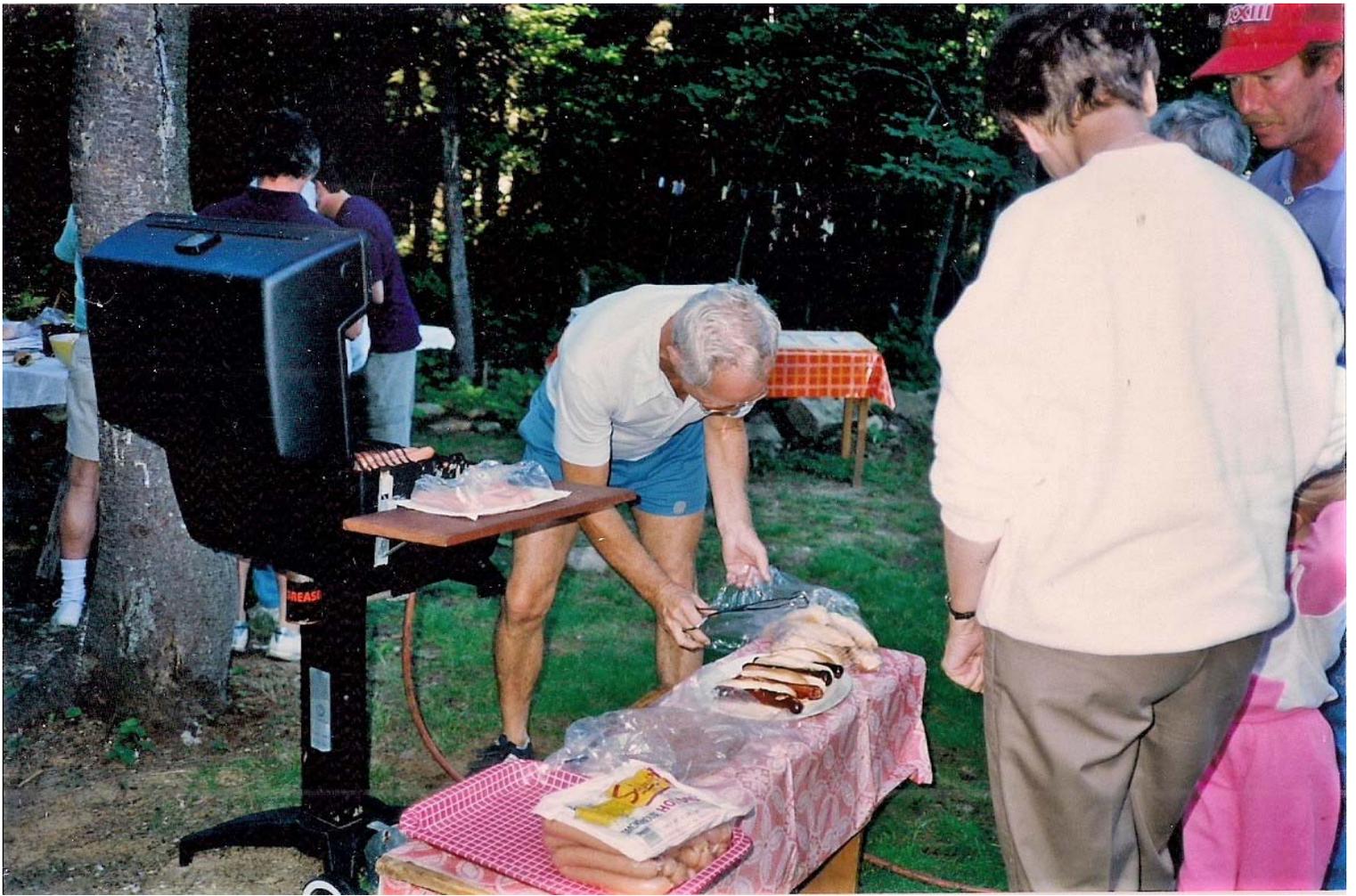


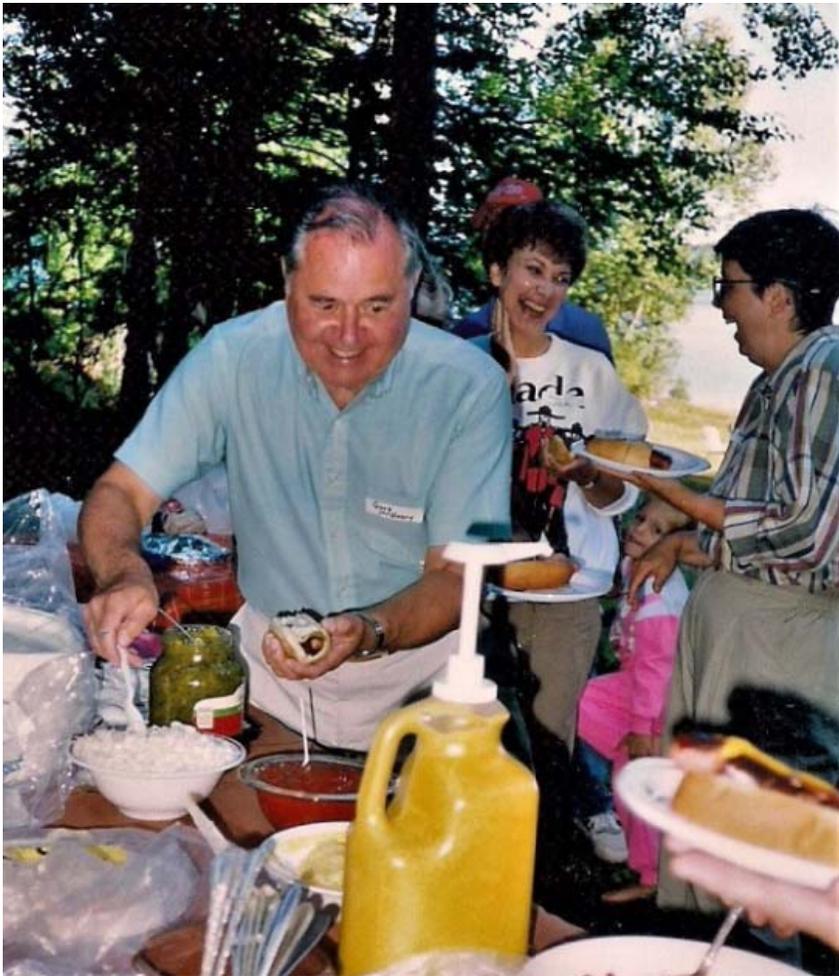
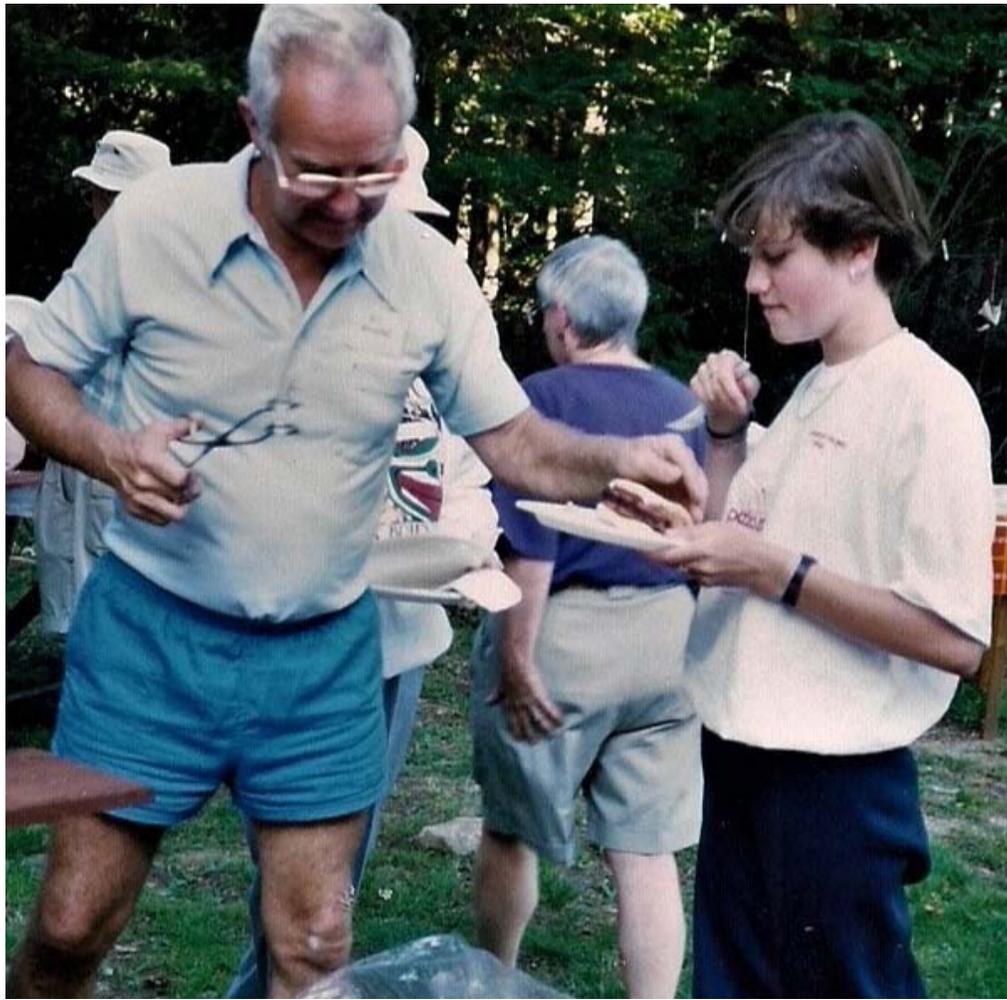
Lake Party 1991

Where did 30 years go?

Celebrating 30 years of lake picnics! Below is the invite from 1991, which is the earliest year we can find any records or photos. The party was originally held for many years at the Schiedel cottage now owned by Dee and Fergus McLaren. Can you recognize anyone in the photos on the following pages? Look for the Bracks, Ruth Reed, Bill Schiedel, Gord McHenry, Sarah Wiese, and others. Photos are compliments of Beth Adams.





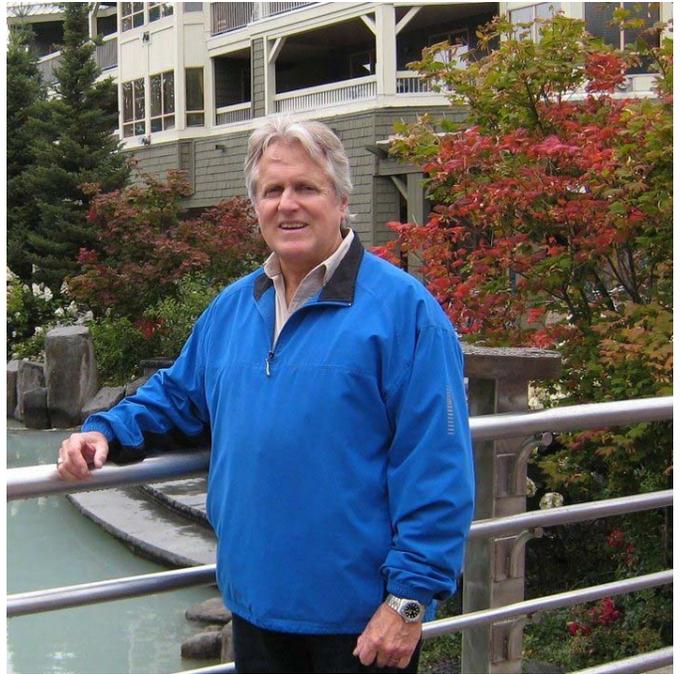


Farewell, George Hughes, Jr. And Margie Adams

George Hughes, Jr.
Passed away April 29, 2021

It is with great sadness that we report that George Hughes, Jr. has passed away just 8 weeks after being diagnosed with a rare form of gall bladder cancer this past winter. George was the eldest of George Hughes, Sr. and Adrienne Hughes' five sons. He is pre-deceased by his parents and brother Jeff. George will be missed by his wife Helen, his brothers, Fred (Liz), Paul (Bonnie), and Mark (Elaine). And, by his nieces and nephews. He will also be missed by his cousins Glynis and Jennifer Hughes.

Of recent years, George was often seen paddling across the lake on his paddle board. He spent his whole life coming to the lake and a good many of those years was with his wife Helen. George will be very much missed at Livingstone Lake.



Margaret Elinor Adams
Passed away January 9, 2021

Margie passed away peacefully in her 86th year in Pembroke, Ontario. Born and raised in Blenheim, Ontario, she maintained a lifelong connection to her beloved hometown and friends and family there. Margie taught kindergarten in Kingsville, and at Melody Road and Gulf Stream Public Schools in Weston, Ontario, before "retiring" from teaching in the mid 1960's to raise her two children, Ian and Beth. She and her husband Paul purchased a cottage on Livingstone Lake near Algonquin Provincial Park in 1969. "The lake" became a central point to the family's lives and remains so to this day. Margie's passion for wildflowers, berry-picking and the natural world became her refuge.



2021 Association Membership Fees Now Due. Membership fees are once again \$20 per year.

This year please mail your \$20 fee to:

[Livingstone Lake Association](#)

[21 Warren Crescent](#)

[Toronto, Ontario](#)

[M6S 4S1](#)

[Make cheque to: Livingstone Lake Association](#)

[Or, send an e transfer to:](#)

[Dee McLaren](#)

doneenscott@hotmail.com

[Or by text message to:](#)

[416-668-0670](#)

PS. Don't forget to donate an extra \$20.00 to the annual dues appeal to support the fund to assist with pit and forestry issues and resolution. Your help is needed.



Reporting Wildlife, Public Safety or Nuisance Violations

[A reminder to please call the TIPS line 877-847-7667 and OPP 888-310-1122 \(non-emergency\) to report wildlife, public safety or nuisance violations when you observe poor behavior in the gravel pits. Documented incidents remain our best hope for closure of the gravel pits.](#)

On a personal note, this year marks the 50th anniversary of spending my summers at Livingstone lake. My parents first pitched tents on our property the summer of '71 when I was 13. That summer marked the start of a long journey of building the cottage that sits on our property today. The ten years, or so..., spent building our cottage was a life changing experience for my parents, my four siblings and myself. Thanks mom and dad for living the dream!
Bev McHenry