

# LIVINGSTONE LAKE NEWS

June 2022

## Acknowledgement

Today, we are the stewards of Livingstone Lake (Wawigama), and we acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Algonquin, the Huron-Wendat, the Anishnabek and Odawa people.

## President's Message - Steve Bolliger



Hello everyone on Livingstone Lake. After two strange summers I am sure we are all hoping for a return to a more normal summer in 2022, allowing us to use our cottages for what they are intended... the gathering of family and friends to enjoy this very special place.

As you read through this newsletter I think you will find that your Livingstone Lake Executive have been busy and continue to work hard on your behalf. Whether it is dealing with the ongoing issues in the gravel pit, communicating with local logging firms, keeping on top of lake health issues, connecting with other lake associations to share ideas and solutions to common concerns, creating our new Livingstone Lake Instagram account and website, collecting and managing lake association fees, or publishing this newsletter, I'd like to thank all the Executive for their devotion of time and energy to making these things happen.

As always, everyone on your Livingstone Lake Association Executive welcomes your feedback, questions and opinions. We are all looking forward to gathering in person on August 20<sup>th</sup> for our annual get together and AGM meeting and we hope you will join us.



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## Annual General Meeting 2022

Please join us on Saturday, August 20 for our AGM and social gathering. Once again we will meet on the Dubé property at the barn—rain or shine!

Come for the information, the news, the friends and this year the **FREE appetizers!**

No need to bring anything but yourself, a chair and whatever you'd like to drink.

Feel free to bring along any guests you'd like.

**When: Saturday, August 20**

**Time: 3:30 meeting / 4:30 drinks**

**Where: The Dubé's place at the end of Laurel Road**

**Bring: BYOB, a chair, and please bring any questions you might have regarding lake issues and we will answer them at the meeting.**

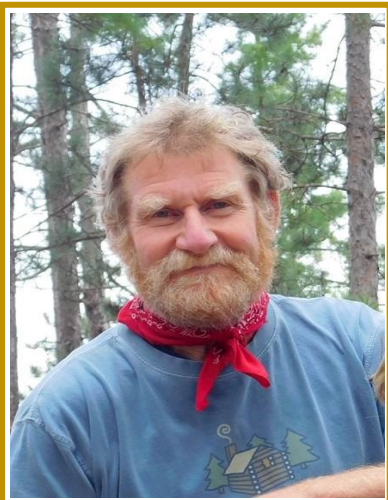
## New to the Lake!

### Alex and Ania Trica

Last summer, Alex and Ania Trica joined us on the north shore of Livingstone Lake. We are very happy to welcome their family, including a young son. They have shared it will be a “family place”. They have introduced the lake to Alex’s mother, and to his Aunt and Uncle. Alex is a lawyer and Ania is an interior designer. Last year during COVID, they both worked from the Lake as much as possible. Beth Adams next door says it was nice to hear the screen porch door again, and see them down on the rocks with their morning coffee. The Trica’s have been out and about on the lake in assorted kayaks and canoes. They have been enjoying learning about our Livingstone Lake community and its flora and fauna. Join us in welcoming the Trica family to our lake!

### Paul Thompson and Lorri Biesenthal

Paul and Lorri purchased the Pilon cottage (formally Jeremy Hugh’s cottage) on the west side of the waterfall in 2021. They live and work in Ottawa and have five adult children. Paul and Lorri anticipate spending many hours at Livingstone lake with their family and grandchildren. Our lake is not unknown to Paul because he has a previous connection to Kawagama Lake where he grew up visiting a family cottage. Paul and Lorri hope to spend as much time as possible enjoying our lake with their family. Welcome Paul and Lorri!



### Forestry and Gravel Report by Wayne MacGregor Parker

It’s been a busy but largely quiet winter. Here are some highlights.

#### Forestry Update

We presented the loggers, who have been working in our area, with our token of appreciation for their efforts in minimizing their impact on the lake and reclaiming the gravel pit. The crew was most appreciative.

Logging continued over the winter in areas accessed by Dagger Lake Road. The loggers had a lot of equipment downtime and inconsistent weather and will not be able to complete their scheduled harvest this year as planned. We can expect full activity throughout the summer and again next winter before completion. The Livingstone Lake Road (County Road 12) access to the gravel pit was temporarily opened for the winter to allow sand to be trucked out for road sanding. This has since been closed and will remain so. When the logging is finished, Westwind (the logging stewardship company) has agreed to position more rocks to fully close access to the pit from both Livingstone Lake Road and Laurel Road.

Continued



## Gravel Pit Update - continued

Most of the seedlings planted in the gravel pit by Westwind have survived which is a good sign. Some seedlings were run over by ATVs early in the spring before the rocks, at the entrance, were put back in place.

Westwind has suggested we have a planting day where they would provide the seedlings and Livingstone Lake Association would provide a BBQ on site for participating families. I liked this idea but it was too late to order the seedlings and plan the event for this year. I hope that, if approved by the LLA Executive, we can organize this event for early next spring. We'll keep you updated.

It's been almost a full year, and numerous interviews and revisions, but The Highlander weekly newspaper from Haliburton has published a 3-part article largely about our gravel pit and related issues. Please follow the link below to read the entire story about our pit and how it relates to the overall challenges of gravel pits in cottage country.

<https://thehighlander.ca/2022/05/26/shooting-on-crown-land-in-algonquin-highlands-raises-concerns/>

Part 1 deals with Crown land access problems in general. Parts 2 and 3 deal respectively with use of fire-arms and rethinking Crown land regulations along with next steps and challenges.

Thank you to several folks on the lake who shared information and stories included in the text. While I couldn't dictate what was said in the article, I had ample involvement in the development of the story and approval of my own quotes. We're walking a fine line between citizens' rights (as if that's not a hot topic these days!) and the rights and preferences of private land owners. Keeping the message clear is important to avoid alienation and hostility.

A really positive outcome has been the support we received from Algonquin Township and in particular from Mayor Carol Moffatt. She has been direct and forceful in trying to get the message up the ladder to Queen's Park.



Continued

Lastly, two issues to keep in mind related to Algonquin Township.

The revised Shoreline Protection Bylaw is still languishing in council at Haliburton County. The Livingstone Lake Association supports this bylaw but it will likely not be passed before the upcoming municipal elections in October unless we are all more vocal with our support. Please take the time to address your concerns to:

Mayor Carol Moffatt, [cmoffatt@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:cmoffatt@algonquinhighlands.ca)  
Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen, [ldanielsen@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:ldanielsen@algonquinhighlands.ca)  
(Deputy Mayor Danielsen is also the Warden for Haliburton County).

To further support shoreline protection and water quality awareness, Algonquin Township has become increasingly visible and resolute in enforcing current bylaws impacting shoreline development. With the understanding that this is in our collective best interest, a word to the wise seems in order. If residents on our lake are considering new builds or have non-compliant structures (including docks) built without a permit and that are not currently grandfathered, now is a good time to take the necessary steps to bring their properties into compliance.

I am happy to answer any questions. Call me at home, 705-766-1810.

## The Ultimate in Work/Life Balance!

Last summer many of you may have noticed on clear days what appeared to be a raft floating aimlessly around the lake. But, maybe not so aimlessly. It was actually James Schwartz and his floating office.



James set up his pontoon boat with a work station and portable wifi hotspot device so he could enjoy the lake and still be productive by working remotely.

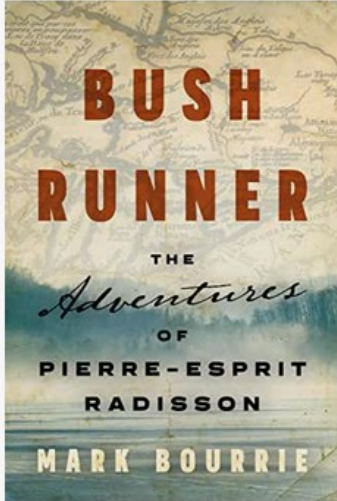
Now, is that the ultimate in Work / Life balance? Maybe the only thing better would be if he had fastened a fishing rod to the back.

How much work actually got done, James? I notice you have a cold beverage next to your laptop and I don't think it's a coke!



## Cottage Reads

Here are some great book suggestions for the summer!



### **Bush Runner—The Adventures of Pierre-Esprit Radisson**

By Mark Bourrie

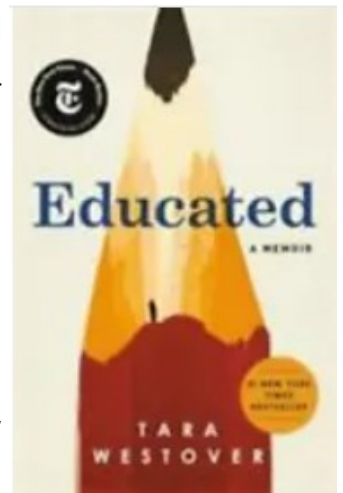
Adventurer. Co-founder of the Hudson's Bay Company. Known to some as the first European to explore the upper Mississippi, and widely known as the namesake of ships and hotel chains, Pierre-Esprit Radisson is perhaps one of Canada's least known explorers. His respect for indigenous cultures and knowledge is rare.

**Recommended by Wayne Parker**

### **Educated**

By Tara Westover

This is a fascinating, true story of a woman who is born in Idaho to survivalist parents who do not believe in formal education, hospitals or any conventional aspects of modern society. She, along with her siblings, is homeschooled by her mother. As a teenager she educated herself and was accepted by Brigham Young University. There, she enters a classroom for the first time at the age of 17. This is a story of someone who rises above the odds, overcomes her brutal upbringing, defies her family, and, through strength of will, becomes an educated and successful person.



**Recommended by Bev McHenry**



### **The Blue Castle**

By Lucy Maud Montgomery

This book is a classic written by a Canadian treasure. If you have read any books by L.M. Montgomery you will know that her style is charming, insightful, and humorous. Nowadays, there are so many new books published weekly that it is easy to forget about excellent books from times past. Goodreads summary: Valancy Stirling is 29, unmarried, and has never been in love. Living with her overbearing mother and meddlesome aunt, she finds her only consolation in the "forbidden" books of John Foster and her daydreams of the Blue Castle--a place where all her dreams come true and she can be who she truly wants to be. After getting shocking news from the doctor, she rebels against her family and discovers a surprising new world, full of love and adventures far beyond her most secret dreams. A good read for all ages.

**Recommended by Beth Adams**



## **Lake Steward Report**

**by Karen Hammond, Lake Steward**

### **What I Learned at the Annual Lake Stewards' Meeting -- Some Scary Stuff**

In early May of this year I attended the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association's annual Lake Stewards' Meeting. This was their first in-person meeting since the start of Covid. I forget how many of these meetings I have attended but it's been quite a few. I always learn something new and try to share my knowledge with my fellow Livingstone Lake residents.

The COHPOA is an organization committed to protecting and enhancing the health of lakes and waterways in Haliburton. Protecting an entire eco-system seems daunting but the volunteers who work there keep stressing that each individual can do two things that have a big impact in protecting our lakes:

1. Manage the flow of water and waste into your septic system and perform maintenance on it to stop it from polluting your lake.
2. Maintain (or restore) your shoreline in as natural a state as possible to prevent runoff from your buildings, vehicles, driveways, and septic beds going directly into the lake. Native plants have deep roots which absorb much of the runoff before it reaches the water. Turf grass has shallow roots and therefore does not have sufficient absorption. Paved or stone-covered areas next to the lake have no absorption capability.

## **Invasive Species**

I attended a presentation from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and listened to a panel discussion by four academics whose research specializes in various impacts on freshwater systems. I learned that Ontario has more invasive species than any other province. We have 440 invasive plants, 184 invasive water species, 39 invasive insects and 10 invasive tree diseases, not to mention wild boars.

The OFAH is conducting a campaign to urge boaters to thoroughly clean their boats if they are moving them to another lake. They are also spreading the word about these best practices to the local marinas from which many boats are transported.

Another success story from the OFAH is the physical removal of hundreds of thousands of invasive mystery snails (yes, that's what they're called) and Chinese banded snails from several Haliburton Lakes. They accomplished this by training local residents in the removal process and organizing "snail removal days". They've been so successful they've been asked to train organizers from other associations across Canada and even as far away as Belgium.

To get more information about OFAH's work check [www.ofah.org](http://www.ofah.org). To locate invasive species in our area check [www.eddmaps.org](http://www.eddmaps.org). If you see something suspicious report it at the Invasive Species Hotline: 1-800-563-7711.

Continued



### Blue-Green Algae Blooms

In listening to the four freshwater experts on the panel mentioned above, I learned that blue-green algae blooms are on the rise in Haliburton lakes and have even been seen in remote lakes that have little human impact.

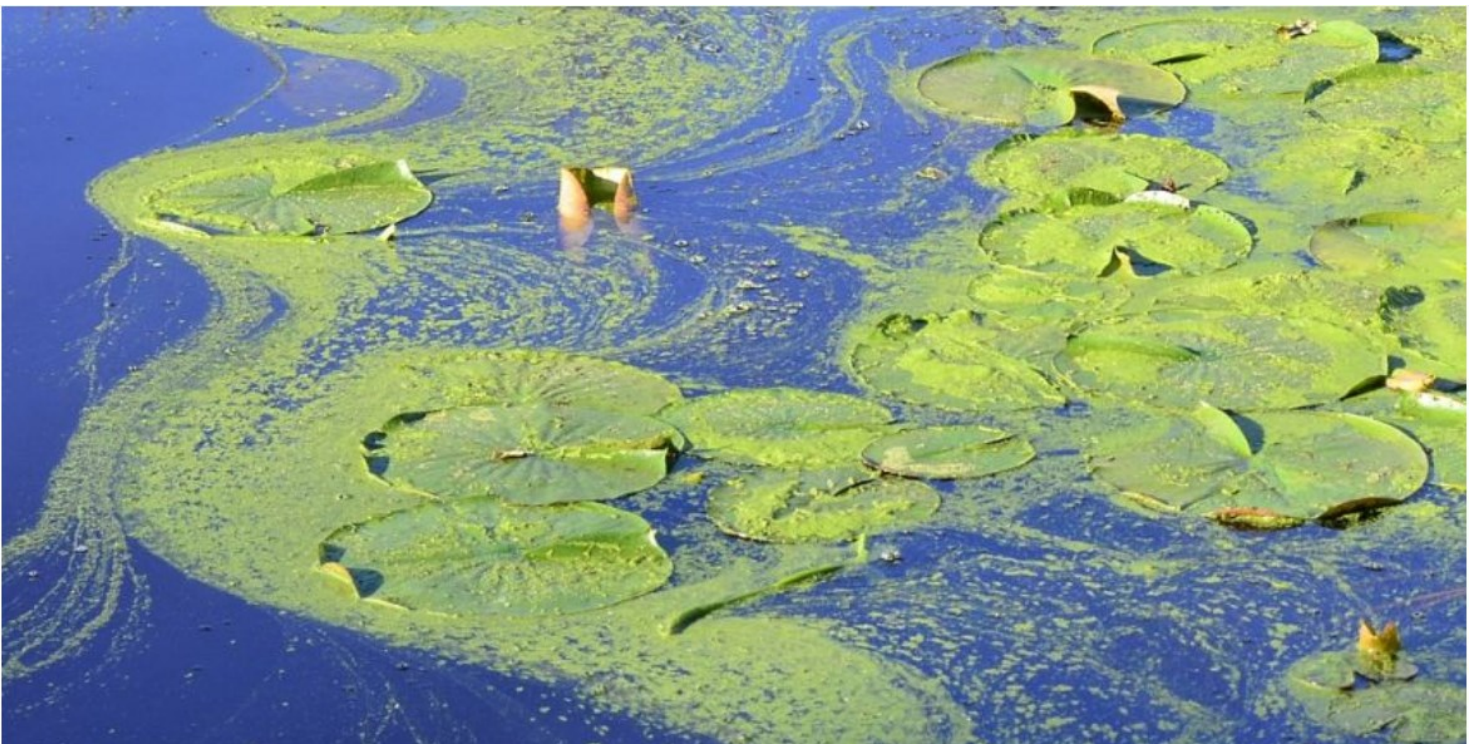
Blue-green algae is actually a cyanobacteria that is always present in freshwater but becomes a problem for people and animals, including fish, when it masses together and forms a bloom. Blooms form a mass or scum on the surface when conditions combine that encourage rapid growth. The blooms prevent sunlight from entering the water and drastically reduce the oxygen levels in the lake. They can carry toxins into your cottage. If there is a bloom on your lake, it's recommended that you do not drink the water, or let your pets drink it, do not wash or swim in it and don't even use the water for flushing your toilet because toxins may be released into the air.

The study of blue-green algae is evolving. The known causes of these blooms are multiple. Excess phosphorous in the water is one cause, warm water temperatures due to climate change is another. Extreme weather events seem to cause an increase in phosphorus levels, maybe by disturbing the organic layers in the lake bottoms. But, low wind speeds during high temperature periods can also contribute because the surface water stratifies and doesn't mix. The loss of small crustaceans like daphnia (freshwater fleas) due to low calcium levels in many lakes on the Canadian Shield, including Livingstone Lake, is also a stressor because these small grazers eat algae.

Phosphorous is a fertilizer so it's a no-brainer to refrain from using fertilizers at the cottage. It's also present in all septic systems because it's contained in human urine.

This is why it's so important to manage and reduce, as much as possible, the volume of water flowing into your septic system. The volume flowing into your tank forces an equivalent outflow into your septic bed and then out into the surrounding soils and eventually into the lake. Native plants in a natural shoreline absorb much of that phosphorus before it reaches the water.

*Blue Green Algae has been confirmed on the south shore of Lake Nipissing (photo supplied by Pixabay.com)*



### What Else Can You Do?

To help you manage your septic system, COHPOA has some new septic tips on their website, [www.cohpoa.org](http://www.cohpoa.org). While you're there, I suggest you download (for a small donation) a new booklet entitled, **Shoreline Living**. It was compiled by several organizations and state government agencies in Michigan. COHPOA has the Canadian rights to the booklet. It has some excellent tips on how to maintain a natural shoreline.

This summer, the Township of Algonquin Highlands will be conducting mandatory septic re-inspections in our area. If you haven't already done so, your Lake Association Executive strongly encourages you to call and book an appointment for your inspection. If your septic system is less than five years old, you are exempt from the program. Even if you don't have a septic system, you need to get an appointment for an inspection of your outhouse, or waterless toilet and your grey water pit.

Your septic system is yours to maintain. It's like having a mini sewage treatment plant right on the edge of the lake. The last time septic systems were inspected in Algonquin Highlands was over 20 years ago. If our municipalities in the city didn't inspect their sewage systems for over 20 years, I think we would be outraged. It's time to get yours inspected now.

Call WSP Canada Inc. at 289-984-0432 to book your appointment. WSP is the agency the Township is using to book and carry out the inspections on its behalf.

### Quick Reference

Ontario Federation of Anglers and  
Hunters website: [www.ofah.org](http://www.ofah.org)

Locate Invasive Species in your area:  
[www.eddmaps.org](http://www.eddmaps.org).

Invasive Species Hotline:

1-800-563-7711

Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners  
Association website (COHPOA):  
[www.cohpoa.org](http://www.cohpoa.org).

**To book your septic inspection  
appointment call:  
289-984-04432**

### Do you know what this is?

Check on the last page for an answer.





# Photos - AGM and Lake Party 2021



**Still practicing social distancing ...**



**Brian gets things started.**



**Somebody's being a good dog.**



## A Special Thank You to Brian and Susan Wiese!

Brian and Sue Wiese have contributed so much to the Lake Association in the 6 years since they took on the roles of President and Recording Secretary respectively. (2016 to 2021) Here is a photo of them receiving a special token of our appreciation when they retired from the Livingstone Lake Association Executive last summer in 2021.

The gift is a plate created for them by a local potter. It has an image of Livingstone Lake. It also has images of loons, noting Brian's years-long participation in the Canadian Loon Survey.

The plate also has the word Meegwetch on the bottom which is Thank You in the Algonquin language. This commemorates their push for us to create a land acknowledgement and their interest in, and support of, aboriginal culture.



## Mitch Kettlewell

Mitch Kettlewell, age 30, died on June 19, 2022 following a tragic accident while working on his property. Mitch lived for the past two years on Hughes Drive on the property his family had named, Camp Kettawa, after relocating from Hamilton.



Mitch was a kind, hard-working and happy man who had a variety of interests and enthusiasms he loved to share with everyone. He was excited about his future plans to build a cabin next to his parents' home. Mitch made friends easily and many neighbours in the area already counted him as a friend. He was always saying, whenever he lent a helping hand, "neighbours need to help each other". Those are words to live by. Mitch is sadly missed by all his neighbours and friends. He leaves his grieving family on Hughes Drive: mother Andrea, father Garry, sister Cassandra and his three adorable nephews, Joey, Jamie and Waylon. For more information, see his full obituary on [Legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com).



# Enthusiasm or Madness? You Decide.

By Bev McHenry

We can all agree that our summer season, in Canada, is simply too short. Many of you have seen lake resident, and swimming enthusiast, Vina Parker getting in her daily strokes as early in the year as mid April, just after the ice goes out, and as late in the year as November 4. Vina, maybe you should invest in a heated wet-suit. Does such a thing exist?



**Vina Parker**

Last Thanksgiving a member of my family decided to waterski! It wasn't even good weather...



**Matteo McHenry DiGiovanni**

## Coming Soon!

James Schwartz, our very own web master, is building a website for Livingstone Lake. We'll let you know by email as soon as it is ready to visit. Also, be sure to check out:



Follow us  
@LivingstoneLake



# In Memoria

John Wismer  
1935—2021

Last December we said goodbye to John Wismer who was a long time cottager on Livingstone Lake. John, and his wife Sally, owned the Wismer cottage (now owned by Alex and Ania Trica) which John had been coming to for most of his life.

John grew up in London, Ontario. After his elementary years at a two-classroom public school in rural London, he attended Medway High School and went on to graduate from the University of Toronto with a Masters of Social Work. John and Sally married in 1960 before moving to Guelph where they settled in, raised their kids, and John began his 19-year-career with the Children's Aid Society. Following retirement, John became active in and passionate about many aspects of his community. These included bird watching, support of neighbourhood and community organizations, an ongoing hunt for a "cheap deal," a devotion to finances and investments, researching family genealogy and history, and a love of music – especially jazz and classical. John and Sally traveled and explored the world together – learning about history, art, culture, and food along the way.

John, along with Sally, was passionate about Livingstone Lake. After retirement they spent their summers here. Together they did all the legwork to set up the Livingstone Lake Association in the early 2000's. At a lake party at Schiedel's cottage in 2004, those attending voted in favour and named John, President. He worked tirelessly for 11 years sharing information from other organizations, attending conferences, and meeting with local and government officials to make sure our Association had a voice. He also liked to visit around the lake collecting membership fees and listening to people's concerns. John would be delighted that everyone on the lake has a copy of the 2015 Stewardship Plan and that trees have been planted to reclaim the gravel pit. Both of which he strongly supported. Thank you John for everything you did to support Livingstone Lake and our Lake Association.



## **2022 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](mailto:doneenscott@hotmail.com)

Or by text message to:  
416-668-0670

### **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.

The answer to the question on page 9 is Ghost Pipe. Ghost Pipe (formally called Indian Pipe) is native to Ontario and grows in moist shady areas. You may come across it when walking in the woods around Livingstone Lake. Ghost Pipe is white because it lacks chlorophyll. This means that it is a mycoheterotrophy plant that can't get it's nutrition from photosynthesis. It lives in close association with a fungus from which it gets its nutrition.



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### **2022 Association Executive**

President- Steve Bolliger  
Email: [thebolligers@cogeco.ca](mailto:thebolligers@cogeco.ca)  
Vice-President– Wayne Parker  
Treasurer- Dee McLaren  
Lake Steward- Karen Hammond  
Recording Secretary- Beth Adams

Website & Social– James Schwartz  
Newsletter Editor– Bev McHenry  
Members at Large:  
Pat Dubé  
Dave Fitton  
Christine Spengler