

# LIVINGSTONE LAKE NEWS

June 2023

## Acknowledgement

Today, we are the stewards of Livingstone Lake (Wawiagama), 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

Cottage season has started with some beautiful and dry weather and while that has been good at taking care of the bugs it has led to some early-season fire bans and caution for all of us as we enjoy our cottages with friends and family safely.

It has been a bit of a quieter winter for your Lake Association Executive. We have been monitoring the status of the gravel pit and logging in the area and attending meetings from FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations) and CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations). There is always interesting information and initiatives and lessons to be learned at these meetings and we look forward to sharing some of them with you in this newsletter and at the AGM/ Lake meeting.

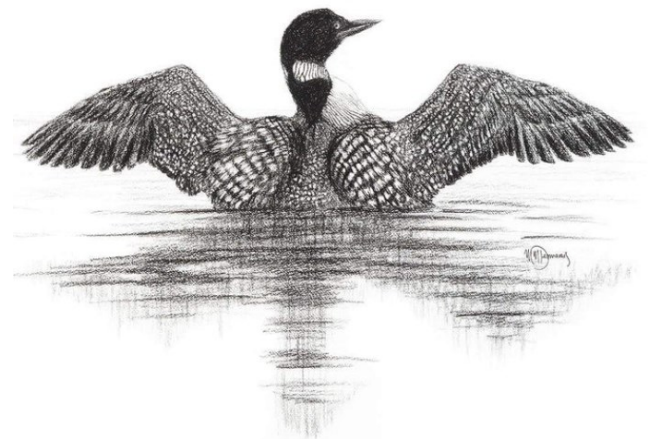
We are looking forward to gathering in person on August 19th at 3:30 pm for our annual get together and AGM meeting and we hope you will join us. The format will be the same as last year where we will provide post meeting appetizers and snacks and some activities for the kids. The location changes this year to Dave and Lisa Fitton's cottage. Please bring any feedback, questions and opinions you may have and we will be happy to address these. We have held 2023 dues at \$20.00 / property. Dues can be paid at the meeting or any time via etransfer to

Dee McLaren our treasurer at [doneenscott@hotmail.com](mailto:doneenscott@hotmail.com).

Please remember to follow us on Instagram@livingstonelake as we will be trying to make more use of this medium for important communication (like washed out roads and fire bans for example!). And check our webpage [livingstonelakeassociation.ca](http://livingstonelakeassociation.ca) for lots of interesting information and photos.

Hoping everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

**Steve**



# Annual General Meeting 2023

**When: Saturday, August 19 -  
3:30 meeting / 4:30 drinks**

**Where: Dave & Lisa Fitton's  
1239 Hughes Drive.**

There is parking for approximately 8 vehicles by the cottage, but you will need 4-wheel drive to navigate the hill. More parking is available next to his garage off Hughes Drive. Dave will shuttle people down the hill in his ATV. Call or text him if you need a shuttle at 705-878-3253 or call him at the cottage land line at 705-766-0704. There is also dock space for 4 or 5 small boats.

Please join us on Saturday, August 19th for our AGM and social gathering.

Get the latest news. See friends and neighbours. Stay for the free appetizers and the chit chat.

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.

## AGM 2022





## If You Go Down to the Woods Today ...



Cottagers near Laurel Road may have noticed a Bear bait station and wondered what it is.

We can confirm that this is an official Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry bait station that the Ministry sets up every five years to monitor the local bear population. There is a phone number listed for information and Amy McCarten called to find out the details.

The MNRF contact advised that these studies are performed on a five year cycle to assess and track bear population density, with sample consistency. The spot just off Laurel Road is one location that has been used for past studies. The location, shown in the picture photographed by Fergus McLaren, also has a barbed wire corral in place to collect hair samples from the bears. They use these samples to obtain DNA and understand the count and differentiation of the bears in the area. The area surveyed contains 40 such "traps". Each "trap" is spaced approximately 2km apart, in a line from Ragged Falls, south to Russell Landing and uses sardines as the lure.

The LL Executive decided to have Amy contact the Ministry with the aim not to question their process, but to question the proximity to cottage properties. The Ministry informed Amy that the project ceases before the July long weekend (a duration of 5 weeks) and has been running for years without reported incident. Amy questioned whether bears would return to the lure, thinking a tasty fish morsel might be on offer there. The Ministry replied that, by that time, food for the bears is plentiful in nature, and they will return to their regular habits.

As you read this, keep in mind that monitoring wildlife populations is critically important and is often under fire when budgets are being cut by the Provincial Government. Contemporaneous year-over-year data is vital to understanding trends in decline, growth and migration of populations. The nearly complete loss of beech trees in our forests is worrisome because they account for 50% of a bear's diet. Predicting the effects of the loss of a primary food source on the bear population will in turn help to manage hunt regulations and other management practices. All linked data is collected from remote sites like ours off Laurel Road.



## **Lake Steward Report**

**by Karen Hammond, Lake Steward**

### **Blue Green Algae Blooms on the Rise**

Experts used to believe that blue green algae blooms were caused by excessive phosphorus from sewage and septic systems. Most of the lakes affected in the past were in southern areas impacted by dense populations and agriculture. We manage sewage treatment and septic systems better now and manufacturers have reduced or eliminated phosphorus in detergents. For a while algae blooms were in decline.

Now they're back. These blooms are now being detected in northern lakes and even in lakes which traditionally have low phosphorus readings such as Livingstone Lake. Phosphorus is a fertilizer and encourages algae growth. But we have also been seeing blue

green algae blooms in lakes which have little to no human impact.

While phosphorus levels are still a concern (human urine contains lots of phosphorus) we have lots of new stressors like low calcium levels, invasive species like spiny water fleas, salinization from road salt, and climate change which is causing warmer air, warmer surface water temperatures and low winds well into autumn.

Livingstone Lake has low calcium and spiny water fleas. These two things severely impact the lake's population of daphnia, tiny organisms which need calcium to survive and are now competing for survival with the spiny water fleas.

Road salt may not be a problem for Livingstone Lake but climate change is causing more lake-affect snow in this area and therefore more road salt is used overall. However, Livingstone Lake Road is usually sanded and not salted.

Another affect of climate change can be low water surface winds. But that does not seem to be a problem on our lake. My observation is that we have had stronger winds here over the last few years.

We know what our annual phosphorus and calcium levels, and water clarity readings are from our participation in the Lake Partner Program through the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Our phosphorus levels are not overly high but our calcium levels are poor and the clarity readings have been getting worse over the last few years. Poor clarity is an indicator of low oxygen levels. Fish, particularly lake trout, need higher levels of oxygen to thrive.

We don't have a measure of our daphnia population but I suspect our daphnia are suffering from the low calcium and the spiny water fleas. Daphnia require moderate temperatures and no salt. Low daphnia populations can lead to algae blooms. Daphnia eat algae. A healthy daphnia population can filter the entire lake every two weeks in the summer. Also, fish eat daphnia and a healthy population can sustain that. Spiny water fleas eat the daphnia too but fish cannot eat spiny water fleas.





## Lake Steward Report - Continued

Given all these factors and the weird algae observed in the south end of the lake a couple of years ago but not collected for testing, I think Livingstone Lake is at risk. A blue green algae bloom would be devastating. We would be unable to use the lake water even for washing or flushing toilets because toxic materials can be released into the air. It couldn't be used for drinking even if filtered, and swimming would be out of the question.

### What Can We Do?

1. If you see a suspicious film of algae (blue green algae usually presents itself as a mat or long strips of bright green floating on top of the water, see photo below), take a sample of it in a clean, unbreakable container. Note the date and time of collection as well as the location on the lake. Contact me (705-783-3270 or [khammond9295@gmail.com](mailto:khammond9295@gmail.com)) and I will get it to the MOE for testing.
2. Maintain your shorelines in as natural a condition as possible. If you have lots of open space from the cottage to the water, consider replanting much of it with native plants at least 30 metres back from shore. Plants filter runoff from our cottages and septic systems. Native plants often have deeper roots than cultivated plants and can filter more. Grass is not a good filter. You can maintain curving pathways to the lake which help control runoff. You can transplant native bushes and wildflowers from elsewhere on your property.
3. Keep your septic system in good working order. Do not flush harsh chemicals, bleach or anti-bacterial products into the system. Be careful with water flow. Too much water flowing into the system at any one time can over load it and cause raw sewage to flow into your septic bed and then into the lake. Space out showers, flushes, dishwashing and laundry. Get your tank pumped regularly (every 3 to 5 years depending on size and use) and have it inspected for problems at the same time. Check around your septic bed for leaks.
4. If you don't have a septic system, make sure your outhouse and grey water pit are at least 30 metres back from shore and make sure your grey water pit is draining well through rocks and sand.
5. Help increase the calcium levels in the lake by collecting clean wood ash (no scrap lumber or non-wood products) and spreading it on your property especially around maple trees. Wood ash is high in calcium. A 750 gm yogurt container used as a scoop a couple of times a year provides enough for each tree. Maple trees require calcium and will absorb it through their roots and release it through their leaves in the fall but a lot of the calcium in the ash you spread will find it's way directly to the lake.



A photo of blue-green algae (Photo credit: [www.highlandseast.ca](http://www.highlandseast.ca))



# Washout!

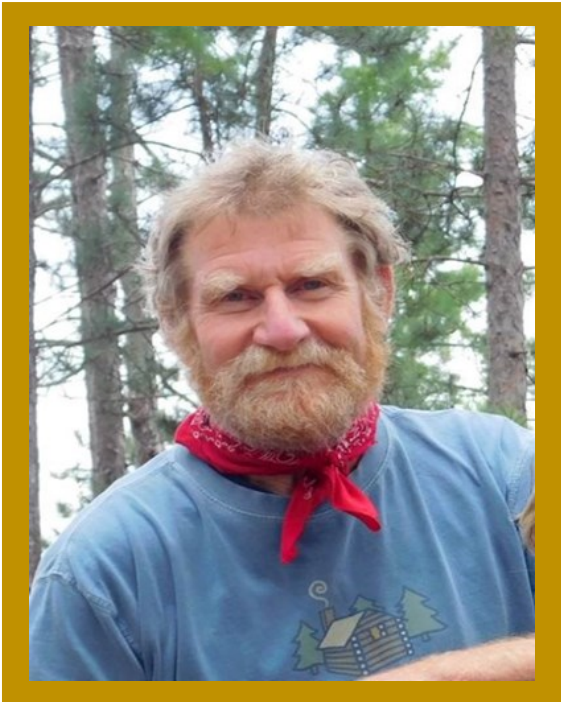
County Road 12 (Livingstone Lake Road) was closed on April 12th due to a washout just north of the freshwater spring on Livingstone Lake Road. The volume of water simply overwhelmed the culvert and ran over the road. At one point it was rushing at least a metre deep. Eventually this eroded the berms on either side of the road and carved a canyon about 15 metres wide that isolated the culvert. Dozens of loads of stone were brought in to reposition the culvert and fill in the washout. It took two days to complete the temporary repairs. At print time, the new pavement had not yet been laid. All this was caused by a rapid melting of the snowpack caused by a week of unseasonably warm weather.





## **Forestry and Gravel Pit Report**

**by Wayne Parker**



This past year has been the quietest I can remember. For the first time in years, I made no calls to the MNRF Tips line to report firearms or camping violations. The pit was quiet and unoccupied. Apparently, our combined efforts are paying off - at least for now. I'm certain we will need to remain vigilant.

Here are some miscellaneous items to report:

Westwind (the forest management company contracted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) had a very slow winter and now anticipates logging will continue through next year. Most of this will be to the east behind Hinterland and Rockaway Lakes. We continue to enjoy a good working relationship.

The boulders blocking the pit were removed for winter access and restored. This will likely happen again next winter until the logging operation is completed. The good news is that once finished, our lake and surrounding areas will not be planned for forestry operations for at least another 20 years.

Westwind is providing some new signage. Members of the LL Executive fixed the fencing damaged by the snow plow and cleaned up the area. Periodic litter clean up is needed so if you see something there please remove it. The more the area looks like it's being monitored the less likely it is that it will be abused.

Westwind is supplying approximately 250 tamarack seedlings for a mid-September planting. Information on the planting will be provided at the AGM including volunteer sign up.

There is a noticeable increase in Crown Land access by boat, ATV and campers. We have been discovered, and the increase in the volume of traffic on County Road 12 in recent years is appreciable. The neighborhood watch principle is our best defense. Never put yourself at risk but do be prepared to ask questions when you can. In the spring, Vina and I watched a strange boat with three anglers pull up on shore at the Wiese property and walk around. Vina spoke with them respectfully and they moved off. I am currently looking into registering our lake and surrounds with the Neighbourhood Watch Program.

Please continue filing reports with either OPP, for nuisance / access issues, or TIPS, for wildlife or firearm abuses.

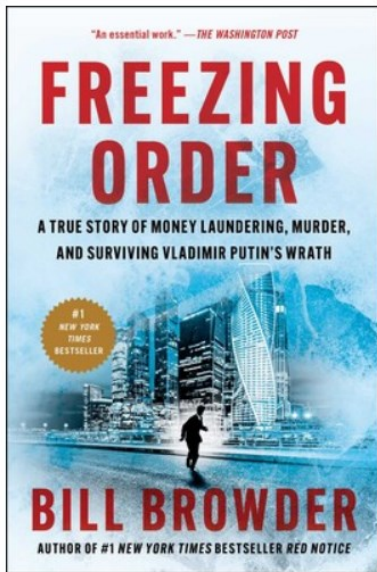
### **Reporting Wildlife, Public Safety or Nuisance Violations**

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.



# Cottage Reads

## Book suggestions for the Summer!



### **Freezing Order—A true story of money laundering, murder, and surviving Vladimir Putin's wrath.**

By Bill Browder

I highly recommend this book, as well as its prequel "Red Notice". I listened to both of them as audiobooks and they are exciting true stories very relevant to what is happening in the world today.

Bill Browder is an American-born British financier and political activist. He is the CEO and co-founder of Hermitage Capital Management, the investment advisor to the Hermitage Fund, which at one time was the largest foreign portfolio investor in Russia.

When Bill Browder's young Russian lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky, was beaten to death in a Moscow jail, Browder made it his life's mission to go after his killers and make sure they faced justice. The first step of that mission was to uncover who was behind the \$230 million tax refund scheme that Magnitsky was killed over. As Browder and his team tracked the money as it flowed out of Russia through the Baltics and Cyprus and on to Western Europe and the Americas, they were shocked to discover that Vladimir Putin himself was a beneficiary of the crime.

At once a financial caper, an international adventure, and a passionate plea for justice, *Freezing Order* is a stirring morality tale about how one man can take on one of the most ruthless villains in the world—and win.

Recommended by Bev McHenry

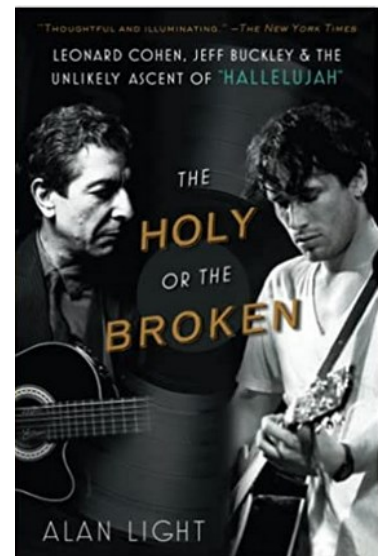
### **The Holy or the Broken; Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley & the Unlikely Ascent of Hallelujah**

by Alan Light

This is an amazing and fascinating book. It's amazing in that it's a book that chronicles and dissects just one song but it's so well researched and well written that it totally fascinates and keeps you turning the pages. The author, Alan Light

is an American music journalist who delves deeply into Hallelujah's ongoing, nearly 40 year journey from an obscure work known only to die hard Cohen fans and the hipster elite to a song that has been recorded hundreds of times in dozens of languages by everyone from heavy metal bands to a variety of artists' Christmas records. These various recordings have hundreds of millions of You

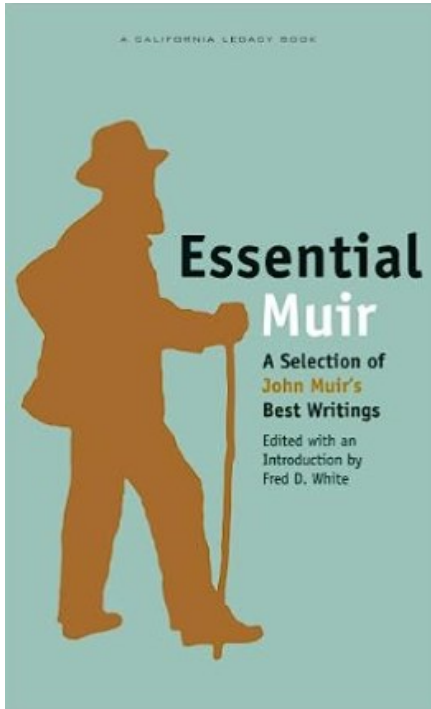
Tube views. It is a song that has meaning for everyone who hears it and the meanings vary dramatically. I was completely captivated by this story and highly recommend it.



Recommended by Karen Hammond



# Cottage Reads Continued



## **Essential Muir - A selection of John Muir's Best Writings**

Edited with an introduction by Fred D. White

John Muir was a remarkable man. A poor Scottish immigrant, he landed in America and was gobsmacked by the opportunity and beauty of his new land. He travelled widely and wrote profusely about the places he visited. He became increasingly interested in conservation and natural resource protection and was instrumental in the move to set aside the best of the best landscapes at the turn of the last century. The founder of the Sierra Club, he writes in the broad, narrative style of the day and is beautiful in its verbal descriptions of dramatic landscapes. Muir's fierce love of nature continues to inspire nearly a century after his death.

Available to loan for those interested.

Recommended by Wayne Parker



*No need to hunt for the pot of gold  
when you are standing on it ...*

Wayne and Vina Parker standing on their dock on Livingstone Lake.



## Life Goes on in Winter. You Otter be here.

In some ways the wildlife is easier to notice in winter when you can easily see their tracks. Below is the track of a **river otter** at the south end of Livingstone lake.



River otters can be found throughout North America. They can live in a variety of different aquatic habitats, including rivers, lakes and large creeks. They also thrive outside of water and can sometimes be seen playing in snow or sliding down muddy hills. Playing helps them strengthen social bonds and practice hunting skills. Their burrows are typically found near water and are often built to be accessible from both on land and in the water.

River otters do not hibernate and remain active under frozen water by breathing through breaks in the ice. River otters are able to hold their breath underwater for up to eight minutes.



Female otters give birth to between one and six pups (usually two to three). The pups are born blind and spend the first month of their lives in their dens with the female. After two months, the female teaches the now-sighted pups how to swim.

Information and otter photos are credited to The Nature Conservancy of Canada. Track photo was taken by Karen Hammond (like the otters, also a winter resident on LL)





# For Sale

## Classic Cedar Strip Canoe

*Lucky Lindy*, is for sale. She is a classic 17' cedar canoe handmade by canoe builder Dan Lindrooth in 1993. Patterned after the east coast Mic'mac design with reverse stem and stern, she knifes through the water and is a dream to paddle.

This is edge to edge cedar planking which gives strength without needing ribs to stiffen. She is in excellent condition and has seen very little use.

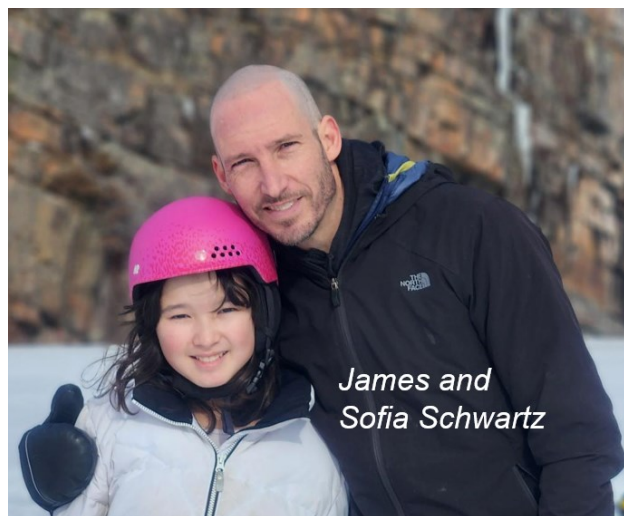


I am offering this first to folks on Livingstone Lake. I purchased *Lucky Lindy* in 2008 for \$1000.00 US and will deliver to your dock for \$1000 cash. Feel free to stop by for inspection or test paddle. Wayne Parker - 705 434 7831





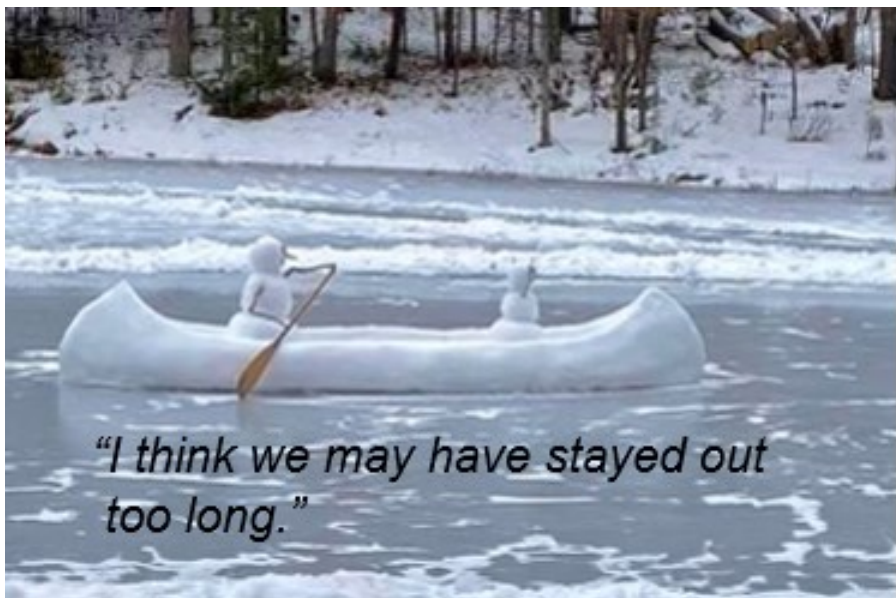
# Memorable Moments



**Do you know what this is?**



**Check the last page for an answer.**





# In Memoria

## Brian Wiese

Passed away June 22, 2023

Our lake community was saddened to learn that Brian Wiese, the Past President of the Livingstone Lake Association died peacefully on June 22 of this year after a very brief struggle with lung cancer and pneumonia.

Brian first came to Livingstone Lake in the early 1970s with his soon to be wife Susan (nee Arnott), to visit at her family cottage on the northwest shore of the lake. Several years later they noticed that the old Round Lake Hunting and Fishing Company cabin on the opposite shore was for sale. They bought it, renovated and used it as their family cottage for many years. In 1997, they sold the cottage to Wayne and Vina Parker who, like many others on the lake, became good friends of theirs. They relocated back to the Arnott



cottage, renovated again and remained there enjoying it every year with their daughters Marie, Sara, Laura and their families including grandchildren and now even great grandchildren.

Brian was a man who presented a positive and dynamic face to the world through his cheerful good nature and optimistic outlook. A lifelong educator, he was generous in his support of the Livingstone Lake community and took a great interest in protecting and sustaining this wonderful environment we all love. He participated in the Canadian Loon Survey for many years and he and Susan looked every year to see if there was a nesting pair in Livingstone Lake Creek next to their cottage. He was an active executive member of the Livingstone Lake Association since its founding in 2004 and was President of the Association for many years. Probably many more than he preferred but he stoically kept on doing the job for us.

He had other talents too. Brian and Susan's cottage is filled with many examples of Brian's creative woodworking skills like the beautiful stair railings he fashioned out of beaver sticks he found in the lake and the frames he built for

Susan's paintings. He was also an avid fisherman coming to the cottage even in the winter to icefish and was an enthusiastic golfer and pickle ball player.

We're going to miss Brian at Livingstone Lake. He impressed himself into the fabric here especially in the way he accepted and included people and forged lake friendships. Fortunately, we have many rich memories to sustain us.

## **2023 Association Membership Fees Now Due. Membership fees are once again \$20 per year.**

### **This year, if paying by cheque, 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

### **2023 Association Executive**

President - Steve Bolliger

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 Sprengler

Amy McCarten

The answer to the question on page 11 is that it is a discarded snapping turtle shell. I'm not sure how it is that an empty shell ended up in the woods. Snapping turtles have few enemies and can easily live for over a 100 years. But snappers can be preyed upon by otters and mink, so it may have been dragged into the woods and the shell left behind after it was eaten. Snapping turtles are a protected species because they are vital for keeping the water in our lakes clean.

Written by Bev McHenry

### **Visit us at:**

[www.livingstonelakeassociation.com](http://www.livingstonelakeassociation.com)



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