

LIVINGSTONE LAKE NEWS

July 2025

Acknowledgement

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

President's Message July 2025



Greetings Livingstone Lake families.

After a very snowy winter and a cool, damp spring, (and more than a few bugs) we can only hope better weather is on the horizon so we can enjoy summer with friends and family at the cottage.

As you read through this newsletter you will find that your Livingstone Lake association executive have been busy continuing to work hard on your behalf. The seedlings planted last year in the gravel pit are thriving, and the berms and fences are keeping ATVs and campers out. Keeping on top of lake health and lake health concerns is ongoing through FOCA and COHCA. Erika, our new Lake Steward has more information for you. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Karen Hammond for all her effort and dedication over the years as she steps down as our current Lake Steward. Karen will continue her involvement with the LLA. We are also thrilled to be able to offer our first branded Merchandise, Livingstone Lake coffee mugs. See order

details later. Importantly, I'd like to thank all the executive for volunteering their time and energy to your association and recognize Bev who pulls this newsletter together.

Our annual lake party and meeting takes place Saturday August 16th at 3:30 pm and we hope you will join us. The party will include a corn roast and hot dogs (or veggie dogs if you prefer.) Due to past success, we will have door prizes this year. You'll receive one entry for your paid annual dues, and an additional entry for every \$10 donation to your association. Everyone attending will also receive one additional entry. Once again we'll have activities for the kids. Please bring any feedback, questions and opinions you may have and we will be happy to address them.

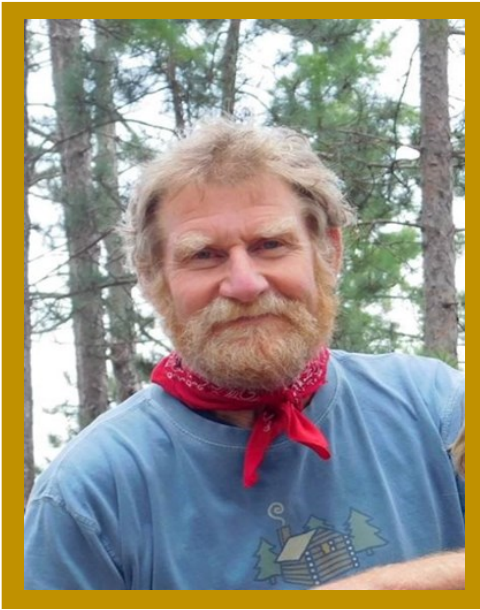
Dues for 2025 are being held at \$20 and can be paid at the meeting, or at any time via etransfer to Dee McLaren at doneenscott@hotmail.com.

Remember to follow us on Instagram @LivingstoneLake and check out our web page at LivingstoneLakeAssociation.ca

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Steve Bolliger, President

Vice President's Report



This past year had the least noise and activity in the gravel pit since Vina and I moved here in 2003. Far and away the highlight of the 2024 lake activity was the late May planting party where many Livingstone Lake Association members and families worked together to plant 3000 Larch seedlings. The land blessed us with ample rain and warm weather in the weeks following the planting, and as a result an unusually high number of trees survived the summer and went into winter with their feet wet, just the way they like it. Good snow cover and protracted freezing temperatures combined to help them weather the winter and emerge this spring in fine shape. Even those in the bottom land that were underwater for a few weeks of snowmelt are growing nicely. Do take some time to walk through our plantings. As you do, here are a few things to keep in mind as you admire these beautiful trees.

Scientific name: *Larix Laricina*

Other common names: Eastern Larch, Tamarack, Hackmatack

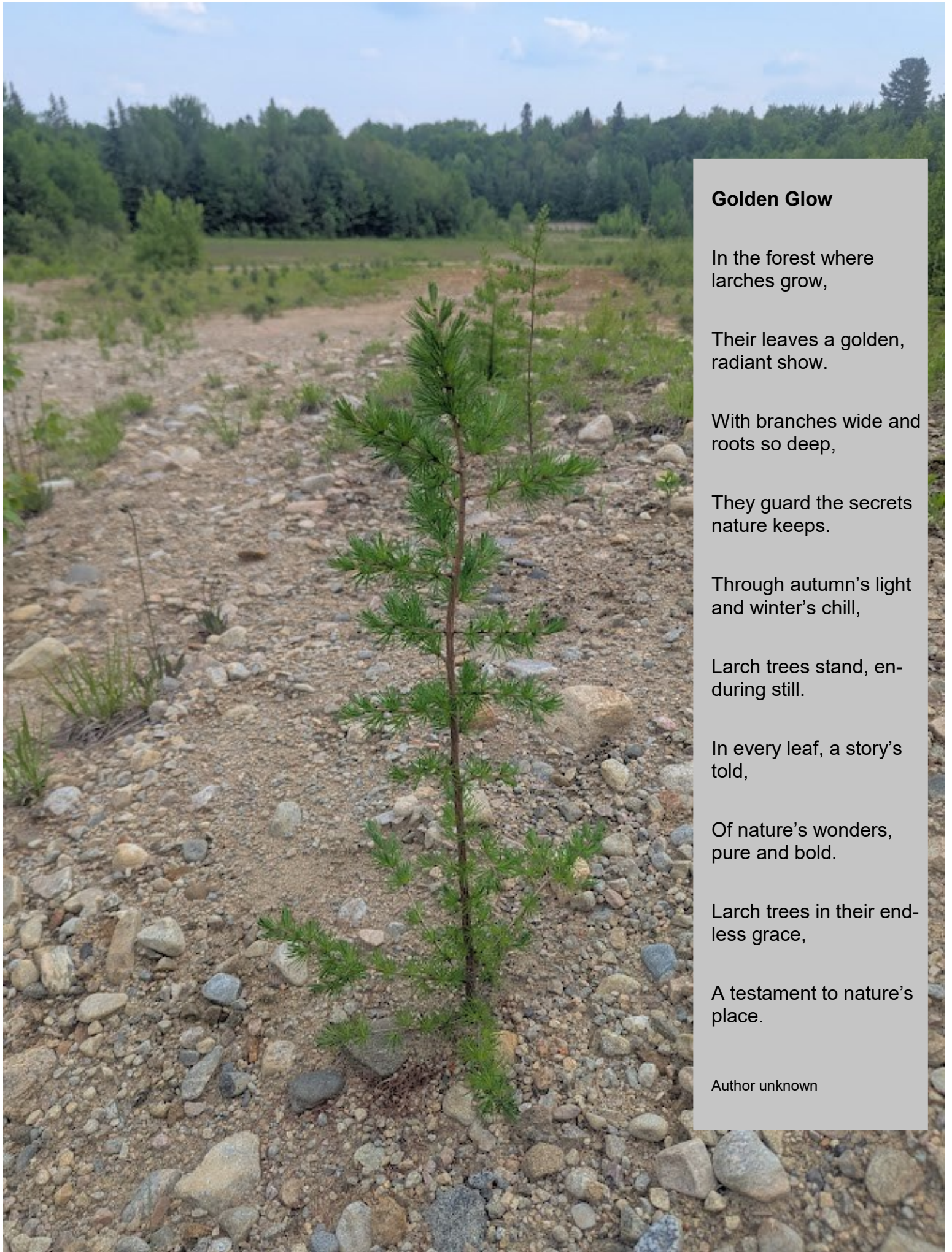
Interesting Facts:

- The name of the tree Tamarack is an Algonquian (or native American language group) term meaning "the wood used for snowshoes".
- This hardy tree grows well in the full exposure of light, but can withstand cold temperatures down to -85°F, as well as wet seasonal bogs.
- The indigenous people of north Canada used the inner bark of the tree to heal hemorrhoids, frostbite, wounds and cuts. The roots and outer bark were also used with a mixture of other tree parts as a remedy of pain, aches and arthritis.
- The Tamarack is found in every province and territory in Canada.
- Most conifer trees keep their needles year round, but Tamaracks are deciduous conifers. Their needles fall off in autumn and new ones grow in spring.
- Tamarack trees are known for their brilliant yellow needles in fall.
- On an evolutionary scale, the Tamarack is very, very old. Tamaracks are considered primitive grandparents to evergreens common today.

By any reckoning, these plantings have been a huge success and we acknowledge the wisdom and support of Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in allowing this pit to be reclaimed as a reforested area. Vehicle traffic has all but stopped, and apart from a few incidents in late fall, shooting has also been significantly reduced. Clint Woods confirmed logging operations will continue for a least one more year. The north pit and Dividing Lake access road will be used to harvest areas towards Kimball Lake with work resuming in the fall and continuing throughout the winter. We are grateful for the care and respect for both common and private property that Clint has maintained during his close contact with our lake and surrounding environs.

Lastly, Livingstone Lake Road, from its beginning at Kawagama Lake road and Nordic roads, east to just past Otter Lake is scheduled for resurfacing this summer. Culverts are currently being installed. The work may cause traffic slow downs on the hill as they can only resurface one section at a time. Let's hope the work is completed before the summer traffic! A traffic jam on Livingstone Lake road is unimaginable being the final road in a long list of roads that get us to the cottage.

Wayne Parker, Vice President



Golden Glow

In the forest where
larches grow,

Their leaves a golden,
radiant show.

With branches wide and
roots so deep,

They guard the secrets
nature keeps.

Through autumn's light
and winter's chill,

Larch trees stand, en-
during still.

In every leaf, a story's
told,

Of nature's wonders,
pure and bold.

Larch trees in their end-
less grace,

A testament to nature's
place.

Author unknown

Lake Steward's Report

Hi Livingstone Lake, I'm Erika Bolliger, and I'm honoured to be taking up the mantle of **Lake Steward** from Karen Hammond. A huge thank you to her for doing such an exceptional job and for showing me the ropes (and continuing to offer her support).



I attended the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association (COHPOA) 2025 meeting with some key takeaways for the **two best** things we can all do to help keep our lake happy, healthy, and a great place for loons!

1. Maintain your Septic System

A functioning septic system relies on good bacteria and adequate time to digest waste. Regular pump-outs (every 3-5 years) prevent sludge overflow that leads to system failure and lake contamination.

Many household products kill the beneficial bacteria your system needs:

- Chlorine bleach and products containing it
- Anti-bacterial soaps

- Dishwasher detergents with chlorine
- Fabric softeners and drain cleaners

Did you know? Just one load of dishes with regular detergent can kill ALL your system's good bacteria for up to four days.

To protect your system:

- Schedule regular pump-outs and inspections (every 3-5 years)
- Consider using EcoEthic Septic Treatment monthly (a probiotic for septic)
- Spread water usage throughout the week
- Limit to one laundry load daily

2. Keep Shorelines Natural (or make them even more wild!)

Naturalized shorelines (with lots of natural shrubs, bushes, trees, etc) filter runoff, prevent erosion, and create essential wildlife habitat while requiring less maintenance than lawns. Plain grass lawns act like pavement, allowing pollutants to flow directly into the lake.

An easy way to start is by not mowing within 10 meters of your shoreline. Maintain narrow access paths while letting the rest return to native vegetation. Throughout Haliburton, property owners report increased bird and wildlife sightings, better fishing, less shoreline loss from erosion, and enhanced privacy after naturalizing their shores.

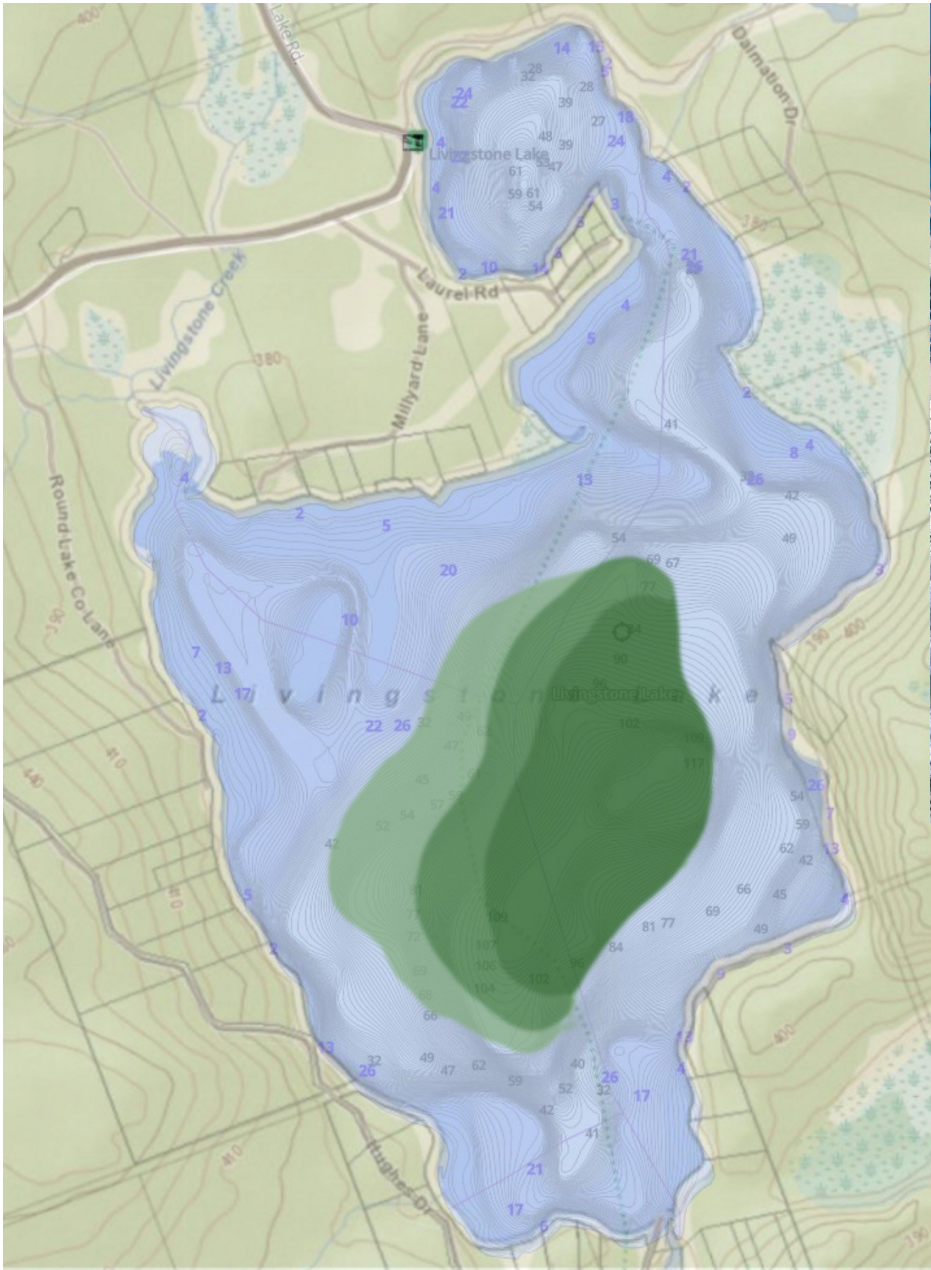
Bonus: Where to Wake!

Large wakes can damage shorelines, destroy loon nests, and stir up sediment that releases nutrients leading to algae growth. Protect our lake with a responsible wake:

- Regular boating: Stay 150m (500ft) from shore when creating wakes

Enhanced wakes (wakeboarding, wake surfing, tubing): Keep large wakes only in the **middle of the deepest, largest part of our lake** (green zones) 200m from shores and in water deeper than 20 feet.

Safe to Wake Zone: Green areas are safe to create wake!



In sensitive areas like our marsh near Livingstone Creek, nothing larger than the wake of a canoe please!

Erika Bolliger, Lake Steward

Did you know?

*Canada Day weekend coincides with
peak loon hatching?*

*Please be extra cautious with wakes
during this critical time.*

Remember,

If you see algae growth,
please call the Blue Green Algae Hotline

1-866-663-8477

Raven Mad



These photos of ravens were taken in early April this year. I had been leaving out peanuts for the blue jays all winter and sometime in March, a pair of ravens arrived and joined the feast. I have never seen a raven in this area. They were very entertaining in what was a long, cold winter. I did a little research and learned that ravens used to be plentiful in southern Ontario but became virtually extinct here due to habitat loss and hunting. But over the last couple of decades they have made a comeback.

It may seem like a contradiction that I feed birds over the winter since I told you all in last year's newsletter to not feed wildlife. Feeding birds is the exception that makes the rule.

Songbirds in North America have seen their populations drop by millions in recent years. This disaster is due to bird flu, bird strikes on windows especially during migration, and domestic cats, mostly feral cats. So feeding birds, especially in winter gives them a better chance at survival.

So, if you're at your cottage during the winter, you may want to hang out a bird feeder. I find that black sunflower seeds work best to attract a variety of birds. But I can't promise that you won't also be visited by red squirrels, raccoons and mice. Best to hang your feeders somewhere they can't reach. Squirrel-proof feeders will keep both squirrels and raccoons away. Mice tend to just eat the seeds on the ground that are dropped by the birds, but it does mean they will be attracted to your cottage. I just put out traps and keep feeding the birds.

In recent years I have seen the following birds:

Goldfinches

Dark-eyed Juncos

Black-capped Chickadees

Red-breasted Nuthatches

Blue Jays

Pine Siskins

Purple Finches

I have also seen Golden-crowned Kinglets. They are beautiful birds no bigger than hummingbirds. They are rarely seen, but live year round in the Algonquin area.

Written by

Karen Hammond



Cottage Reads

Book suggestions for the Summer!



Birding to Change the World - A Memoir

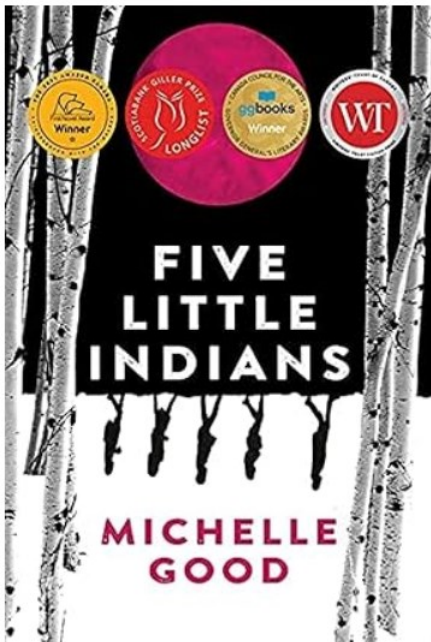
By Trish O'Kane

Published by Harper Collins Publishers 2024

The inside flap sums up the book well: "In this uplifting memoir, a professor and activist shares what birds can teach us about life, social change, and protecting the environment." This is an amazing and powerful story!

The challenge for me, and for each of us, is what I will do after I have finished reading this book? It is enjoyable yet very thought provoking. Thank you Betty Stone for the gift.

Recommended by Vina Parker.



Five Little Indians

By Michelle Good

Published by Harper Perennial 2020

As outlined in Wikipedia, Five Little Indians is the debut novel by Cree Canadian writer Michelle Good. The novel focuses on 5 survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School System, struggling to rebuild their lives in Vancouver, British Columbia after the end of their time in the residential schools. It also explores the love and strength that can emerge after trauma.

Growing up, her mother talked about the traumatic histories and experiences of attending St. Barnabas Residential School in Onion Lake, Saskatchewan. These discussions influenced Good's work. The novel's development took more than a decade, beginning in 2011 when Good was a fine arts graduate student at the University of British Columbia. As part of the writing

process, Good relied on psychological assessments of children who experienced physical and sexual abuse in order to accurately depict these events' long-term impacts on a person's life.

Recommended by Bev McHenry

**This year's Annual General Meeting
and Lake Party 2025
Is the 3rd Saturday in August**

**When: Saturday, August 16th
Time: 3:30 Meeting/ 4:30 Party
Where: Dave & Lisa Fitton's—1239 Hughes Drive**

Last year's fun event was held at the Fitton property. We had a steady down-pour for the entire event but fortunately were able to get out of the rain in Dave's workshop supreme. Thanks to Dave, Lisa, and Kelsey Fitton for pivoting to an inside event so we didn't have to cancel.

Kelsey Fitton and Lori Bolliger



Kelsey and Lisa Fitton



Christine Sprengler



Looking for a Contractor?

Here are some great recommendations from our executive.

Jackson Electric - Alden Jackson 705 788 5862	Clint Wood (tree removal, firewood, road repair, excavation/land clearing) 705-380-5050
Lake of Bays Plumbing - Steve Craymer 705 788 5704	Lock Tree Service – Len Lock 705 766 2246
Muskoka Plumbing Works – Pat Harnock 705 571 4993	All Ways Roofing – Ken Roberston 705 644 9313
MacKay Construction - Devon MacKay 705 761308	Dawson Glass – Ross Dawson 705 789 5222
Craft Timber Works – Kyle Findley 705 380 3739 (Builders)	Brendish Computers – Jim Brendish 705 788 2911
Bacher Construction – Eric Doetsch 705 787 5038	Fireplace King—Tom 708 380 3783



Show your



for Livingstone Lake!

**Order your mugs for \$15
each by going to the
website.**

**Https://
www.livingstonelakeassoci
ation.ca/livingstone-lake-
merchandise/**

2025 Association Membership Fees Are 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

Or, send an e transfer to:

Dee McLaren

doneenscott@hotmail.com

Or by text message to:

416-668-0670

2025 Association Executive

President - Steve Bolliger

Vice-President - Wayne Parker

Treasurer - Dee McLaren

Lake Steward - Erika Bolliger

Recording Secretary - Beth Adams

Website/Social - James Schwartz

Newsletter Editor - Bev McHenry

Members at Large:

Karen Hammond

Pat Dubé

Dave Fitton

Christine Sprengler

Amy McCarten

Coming Soon!

Your Lake Association is creating a What's App group available for Livingstone Lake residents to join and be notified of community alert situations. This group will not be for social news but should be reserved specifically for information like: trees down across the road, power outages, bear sightings, etc. The link to this group, once it is ready to join, will be sent to you in an email.

Regarding social media, there is a plan to create a Facebook group for Livingstone Lake social news. More on that to come.

Let's endeavour

To always take care of our precious Lake.

To be a good steward and help nature and the environment by following minimal disruption practices in all you do in and around the cottage.

To remember to document and report any issues to the MNRF TIPS line.

Reporting Wildlife, Public Safety or Nuisance Violations

Please call the **TIPS line 877-847-7667** and **OPP 888-310-1122** (non emergency) to report wildlife, public safety or nuisance violations

Blue Green Algae Hotline 1-866-663-8477