



Belmont Lake News

2023 Belmont Lake Cottagers' Association Newsletter

EARLY BLCA MEMBERSHIP DRAW

Evan Meyers

Membership has its Rewards - especially if you renew your BLCA membership by July 4th!

We are happy to report that Westben in Campbellford is on board with performance tickets. BLCA members who are providing prizes for the draw are Trans Canada Nissan in Peterborough (a complete car detailing package), Belmont Lake Getaway (two nights' accommodation for two persons), and Pup's Tree Service which is donating two \$50 gift certificates for Havelock Foodland. There are also two \$50 gift certificates from the Unconventional Moose (#7 Hwy east of Madoc).

Please check out these generous local businesses in the ad section of this newsletter and support them when you can. Tell them you are from Belmont Lake!

Renew your \$30 membership by Tuesday, July 4th, to get your name in the draw. You can't win if you are not a member by the early deadline.

The draw will take place on July 5th and the winners will be contacted. ⚓

2023 BLCA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Time	Location	More Information
Belmont Expedition Opens	Sat Jul 1	12:01 am	Around the Lake	thebelmontexpedition@gmail.com
Belmont Lake Fireworks	Sat Jul 1	10:00 pm	South of Big Island	Katherine Deas / 705-778-5253 / deaskatherine@gmail.com
Early Membership Closes	Tues Jul 4	11:59 pm	Great Prizes Available!	www.blca.ca
Annual General Meeting	Sat Jul 15	9:30 am	Stone Hall 6713 Hwy 7 @ Belmont 6th Line	Peter White / 705-778-7936 / pandkwhite@hotmail.com
Dock Concert - Handsome Dewey	Sat Jul 15	3:00 pm	West Shore Munn Bay	Val Marshall / 416-485-1616 / valerie.blca@gmail.com
Sailboat Races	Sat Aug 5	2:00 pm	North of Big Island	John Brunt / 416-593-3925 / jbrunt@blaney.com
Regatta	Sun Aug 6	12:00 pm	Public Beach	Greg Alexander / greg.alexander@sidonia.com Katherine Deas / deaskatherine@gmail.com
Blackout Night	Sat Aug 12	9:00 pm	Around the Lake	www.blca.ca
Golf Tournament	Sat Aug 19	8:00 am	Salt Creek Golf Club	Chris Wiggins / 705-778-7149 / chriswiggins08@gmail.com
Dock Concert - Janet Jeffery	Sat Aug 19	3:00 pm	West Shore Munn Bay	Val Marshall / 416-485-1616 / valerie.blca@gmail.com
Belmont Expedition Closes	Mon Aug 28	11:59 pm	Around the Lake	thebelmontexpedition@gmail.com
Volunteer Appreciation	Sat Sept 9	4:00 pm	FR29-114	Gwen & Ken VanOosterom / 705-772-5543 / gwenvanoosterom@hotmail.com
Fall Hike	Sat Sept 30	9:30 am	TBD - Watch Social Media	Melissa Alexander / 226-750-1465 / melissa.alexander03@gmail.com

Note: Check social media, emails and BLCA signage for updates in case Events are modified.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peter White

Welcome back to another season of sun and fun on Belmont Lake. We hope this year will be one in which the weather cooperates and the COVID-19 virus leaves us alone. Last year was one for the history books for us all. Just when we thought nothing could be worse than the pandemic and an infestation of LDD months, a novel storm, named of all things a derecho, swept through Ontario and Quebec in May with devastating effects everywhere, including Belmont Lake. But what a community response it was around the lake with cottagers rising to the occasion, chain saws in hand to clear our roads and ensure our neighbours were safe. Power outages lingered for over a week in many parts. And once we thought the worst was behind us, a tornado tracked through the mid-section of the lake in July, uprooting more trees and leading to another round of cleanup and building repairs.

Thankfully, the LDD moths all but disappeared, and we were able to hold most of our events that had been put on hold due to the pandemic. The most encouraging revival was the regatta, with a huge turnout, including many young people enjoying the various games and wonderful sausages and hot dogs right off the grill. The Belmont Expedition was enjoyed for the second time, and we were fortunate to have two more dock concerts over the summer. Rounding out the season were the golf tournament, fall hike and volunteer appreciation event. Read more details on all of these events in the pages that follow.

We have another exciting season lined up for you this year with many of your favorite activities scheduled once again. Check out the schedule of events on the front page for details on each of them. And note that we have changed the location for our in-person AGM: It will be held at the Stone Hall, at the intersection of Highway 7 and the 6th Line of Belmont. Make a point of participating in as many of these events as you can and offer to volunteer, if you are able, to keep them going. We are always looking for new ideas for events. If you have something in mind, please bring it forward and we will see if we can find a way to make it happen.

Membership has remained relatively stable over the pandemic years. We've adopted some creative approaches to getting the newsletters into the hands of members and we encourage using electronic transfers of funds for membership payments. The key to the system is the role of Quadrant Leaders and Road Reps who coordinate the delivery of newsletters, calendars and, coming this year, member directories. Setup for the system is led by Board members, who along with other volunteers, package the deliverables for efficient handoff to the Quadrant Leaders. Evan Meyers oversees the recruitment of Road Reps to ensure we have the right resources at the right time. As the pandemic has now wound down but not entirely gone away, we are hoping the Road Reps will be able to have more social interaction with members.

And speaking of the newsletter, special thanks to John Dixon who handles the coordination and editing of the articles and Erin Dixon who manages the layout. We are very pleased with the quality of the final product thanks to them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

We will be focusing on several areas this year. Water quality remains our top priority with our water testing program led by Wendy Vuyk along with Donna Peeling who does the Lake Partner Program sampling. Short term rentals continue to raise concerns in some areas of the lake. We are working with the HBM Lakes Association and FOCA to monitor effective approaches that can be implemented in conjunction with Township council.

I would like to thank the board of directors and road reps for the work they have done and are doing on behalf of our members. You can see the areas of focus for board members in the listing in these pages. It is really a team effort. Combine that with the work that Lisa Levy and Uta Peikert do to put together our beautiful calendar (included with membership) and you can get the picture of a labour of love for our lake.

We welcome any members who would like to get involved with the association. You will find that the time you put in is very rewarding. Just get in touch with any board member or send an email to blca@blca.ca if you would like to join this spirited team.

When you are looking to buy something, need a service, or are interested in some local entertainment, please use our newsletter to help find the right provider. And when you do patronize one of our advertisers, let them know you found them through our newsletter.

Let's have a safe and enjoyable summer on Belmont Lake. ⚓



Photo submitted by Carlos Carvalho.

2022-23 BLCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS LISTING

Title	Name	Phone	Email	Responsibilities
President	Peter White	705-778-7936	pandkwhite@hotmail.com	Coordination, HBMLA, CVCA
Secretary	Greg Alexander	416-238-7700	greg.alexander@sidonia.com	Regatta, Website, Email Blasts, CVCA, Rock Marking
Treasurer	Valerie Marshall	416-485-1616	valerie.blca@gmail.com	Financial Records, Membership, The Belmont Expedition
Director	Katherine Deas	705-778-5253	deaskatherine@gmail.com	Regatta, Fireworks, Social Media, FOCA Conferences
Director	Erin Dixon	416-885-4713	erin@3dform.ca	Newsletter Layout, The Belmont Expedition
Director	John Dixon	613-484-7404	john.dixon@queensu.ca	Newsletter Editor
Director	Evan Meyers	705-778-1588	evanmey@gmail.com	Road Reps, Calendars
Director	Ellen Walsh	416-722-5528	ellenjeanwalsh@gmail.com	Lake History
Director	Wendy Vuyk	613-453-3501	wen.vuyk@gmail.com	Water Testing, Parade of Lights

TREASURER'S NOTE

Valerie Marshall

I am pleased to present the financial statements for the 2022 fiscal year.

We remain in a strong financial position. We had planned to operate at a deficit this past year and reduce the surplus.

We are grateful to have been able to hold all our planned events this past year. It was great to have so many cottagers out enjoying these events. The derecho in May caused a rescheduling of the Pike Tournament and published dates caused confusion for

the Parade of Lights event. That should not have occurred and we will be more vigilant in proofreading.

The largest expense changes from the 2021 budget were the Regatta, Signage, Early Membership Draw and The Belmont Expedition.

Revenue from membership dues is slightly down with 349 members. This compares with 358 in 2021 and a high of 389 in 2019. We welcome the new members who have joined us last year and encourage all to speak with your neighbours about the benefit of joining the association community. I feel the rock marking alone provides benefit exceeding the cost of membership.

Again, Board members and volunteers have offered their time organizing the advertising, production and printing of the Newsletter and Calendar. We continued to realize considerable savings for these expenses.

The Board is open to ideas that add value to living on the lake and we can work with members who bring forward ideas. You may have some ideas from friends on different lakes that you would like to see implemented here. There are opportunities for volunteer involvement even if you are hesitant to become a Board member. ⚓

BLCA INCOME STATEMENT

For Year End December 31, 2022

Revenue	
Membership Dues (349 Members)	\$10,470
Calendars	\$0
Advertising	\$6,306
Pike Tournament	\$800
Regatta	\$492
Government Grants	\$0
Clothing Sales	\$0
Donations	\$20
Interest	\$49
Total Revenue	\$18,137
Expense	
Accounting & Audit	\$0
AGM Expenses	\$131
Bank Charges	\$262
Calendars	\$1,695
Dock Concerts	\$1,510
Early Membership Draw	\$400
Fireworks	\$1,500
Pike Tournament	\$800
FOCA Fees	\$1,520
Golf Tournament	\$602
Insurance	\$2,299
Lake Stewardship	\$1,035
Mail Services	\$200
Newsletter	\$1,820
Office	\$4
Promotions	\$0
Regatta	\$1,416
Rock Marking	\$1,788
Signage	\$1,205
The Belmont Expedition	\$995
Volunteer Appreciation	\$381
Website	\$84
Total Expense	\$19,648
Net Income (loss)	(\$1,511)

BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2022

Assets	
Bank Account	\$11,061
Investments - GICs	\$5,756
Total Assets	\$16,817
Liabilities & Equity	
Equity	
Opening Balance	\$18,327
Net Income (loss)	(\$1,511)
Ending Balance	\$16,817
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$16,817

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

BLCA Board

Recently the BLCA board adopted the following statement to be read before formal meetings of our membership, including AGMs:

"We acknowledge that Belmont Lake is situated on the traditional territory of the Anishinabek Nation. As an Association, we recognize the land and the benefits it provides to us all. The BLCA honours all First Peoples and their valuable contributions, past and present." ⚓

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BBQ

Evan Meyers

There are many fun ways to volunteer. It could be by writing an article for the newsletter, helping at the Regatta, delivering newsletters, serving on the executive, going to council or conservation meetings, water testing, organizing social activities, or anything else you might think of that adds enjoyment and benefit to our lake/river community. Just contact any member of the Executive and, with your help, we will try to make your ideas happen.

The 2022 "thank-you" event took place on August 20 at Gwen and Ken VanOosterom's large and gorgeous property (Belmont Lake Getaway). Ken has built a giant outdoor pizza oven in which Gwen skillfully prepared her own special and delicious pizzas. Back Alley BBQ's pulled pork sandwiches and some lovely desserts supplied by attendees rounded out the menu.

There was ample time for a relaxing meal, friendly conversation with other volunteers and a peaceful stroll around the grounds.

We had so much fun we are going to do it again. Gwen and Ken have generously offered to host the event again, this time on Saturday, September 9th, 2023.

Invitations will be sent out to volunteers in late August. ⚓

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

Uta Peikert

We are always seeking new photographs for BLCA purposes. You can submit photos any time of year at your convenience to photos@blca.ca. Photos in this gallery will be reviewed for inclusion in the annual BLCA Calendar (with credit) and in our social media, website and newsletter.

Calendar photos are selected on the basis of subject-matter interest, uniqueness, appropriate subject matter (native plants and animals, not pets or close-ups of people), promotion of healthy lakefront living, and composition. We aim to select a different variety of subject matter every year. The calendar strives for excellence in photography.

For the calendar in particular, photos need to be in landscape orientation (wide, not tall) and the jpeg file size needs to be at least 1MB, preferably larger. We receive many beautiful well-composed photos that are 300-500KB (1000KB = 1MB). These do not provide enough sharpness when enlarged to 8 1/2" x 11". Smaller photo files, in either portrait or landscape orientation, may be usable in the other media (social media, website and newsletter), bearing in mind that sharp focus is essential. If you have an option, send photos as larger rather than smaller files.

Many people use their smartphones to take pictures. I do as well. Some of the older models take small images while newer models rival digital cameras. There are two easy ways to find out the file size of your phone's photos: 1) Google your phone model's specifications, e.g., "iPhone 13 specs", and it should tell you how many megapixels your camera is. Anything less than 4MP may not be sufficient for the calendar but will still be good for other applications. 2) You can email one photo to yourself and when you open the email on a computer it should tell you the size of the jpeg file.

When you send photos by email, please send them as attachments. Click on the paper-clip icon and attach the file. Don't just drag the image into the email. When you are out and about and capture that amazing photo, email it to photos@blca.ca right away. Then you won't have to search through all your files in February. ⚓



Belmont Lake sunrise. Photo submitted by Kendra Earle.

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS & BLCA EMAILS

Valerie Marshall

The BLCA maintains a secure, confidential database of contact information for our membership. Selective portions of this are provided to members in the BLCA Membership Directory every two years. All 2022 members will receive a copy with this Newsletter. The Directory is distributed only to members, and only in paper form, never in electronic form. If you wish to be excluded or only have partial information in the Directory, please let us know.

The Directory is very useful to contact neighbours regarding property issues after storms, undelivered packages and any issue related to water levels.

Email addresses from the database are used for distribution of periodic email messages ("email blasts") that publicize upcoming events and distribute information of relevance to our community. The effectiveness of these efforts depends on the completeness and accuracy of the information in the database.

If you are not receiving periodic emails from the BLCA, then either we do not have your active (current) email address, or you have unsubscribed from the email blasts. It is also possible that our messages are being quarantined in your email system's "Spam", "Junk" or "Promotions" folder. This can be solved by adding membership@blca.ca to your address book, safe sender list or moving message and future messages to Primary mailbox.

If you ever don't find the emails valuable, simply "unsubscribe."

We ask that you keep your contact information, especially your email address, up to date by sending any changes to membership@blca.ca. Multiple names, phone numbers and email addresses can be included for each cottage. You can also update your information by contacting your Road Rep. ⚓

A GRATITUDE

Evan Meyers

Membership of the BLCA has always been my key concern. Without a strong membership base, it is very difficult to maintain a meaningful cottage association. In reviewing the membership list this year I was struck by the large base of loyal members who renew every year without fail, whether a road rep comes to their door or not. You know who you are. Thank you!

The relationship between our road reps and their cottagers is crucial to the amazing success of the BLCA over the last ten years. Many of our road reps volunteered at the beginning and are still doing their rounds. The road rep turnover each year is minimal. This makes my job easy and strengthens the contact between the association and cottagers. We all know who you are. You make my heart sing. Thank you! ⚓



Aerial of Belmont Lake. Submitted by Carlos Carvalho.

BLCA FACEBOOK PAGE

Katherine Deas

The BLCA Facebook page is our online community hub for asking questions and sharing information, pictures, videos, and updates about everything on and around our beautiful lake.

We post about BLCA social events and about important local issues pertaining to environmental sustainability, municipal affairs, and community news updates. You can message us privately or post directly on the main page.

The following link will take you to the official BLCA page: www.facebook.com/BelmontBLCA ⚓



Ice rescue practice. Photo submitted by Wayne VanVolkenburg.

CAMERON SPALDING: RISING SNOWBOARDER

John Dixon (with thanks to Todd Spalding)

Last year the Belmont Lake News profiled the progress of Belmont's own snowboard phenom, Cameron Spalding. Cameron's been competing on the world stage at the senior level this season, with some remarkable results. He started in Edmonton at the Style Experience, a World Cup Big Air event hosted in Commonwealth Stadium with the largest scaffolding jump ever built. Cameron made his first finals in a World Cup Big Air event, placing 7th.

After Edmonton Cameron competed in the Laax Open in Switzerland. He had a winning run going but fell on the last feature and finished 44th.

The next stop on the World Cup tour was at Mammoth Mountain, California. Mammoth lived up to its reputation for volatile weather and the event was postponed for 2 days due to wind. The top 16 of the 50 riders qualified for finals and Cameron was on the bubble, in 16th place. When the wind returned and the finals were cancelled, the qualifying results stood – Cameron in 16th.

In the Snow Rodeo World Cup at Calgary Olympic Park, Cameron earned his first-ever World Cup Slopestyle podium, ending up in 3rd place! In addition, Canada Snowboard announced Cameron as winner of the 2023 Neil Daffern Award. Neil Daffern co-designed the first twin-tip (freestyle) snowboard under the Barfoot label. His legacy lives on through his charity which aims to recognize Canadian riders who have the potential to be among the World's best riders in their discipline.



Photo provided by Todd Spalding.

At time of writing, Cameron was in Bakuriani, Georgia, for the Slopestyle and Big Air World Championships, to be followed by the "Spring Battle" at Salzburg, Austria, and then two Euro Cup events in Switzerland and Italy. His competition season was to wrap at the end of March back in Switzerland for the Silvaplana World Cup in Corvatsch.

After heading home to sleep in his own bed at Belmont Lake for a few days, he was off to Whistler for most of April to attend a Canada Snowboard spring training camp. His dad, Todd, was hoping that he'd be back home in time to help with putting the docks in the lake!

As of March 2, 2023, Cameron was ranked 15th in the World Cup standings, and the top Canadian – terrific accomplishments for a 17-year-old!

We should also note that Cameron's 15-year-old sister Avery competed in snowboard on Team Ontario at the Canada Winter Games in PEI. She won a bronze medal in Snowboard Slopestyle and at time of writing was preparing for the Big Air event. Their 12-year-old brother Wyatt is competing in the Snowboard Ontario Series in the 13+ age category and has won the first two Slopestyle stops at Horseshoe Valley and Beaver Valley. Avery and Wyatt both had other events scheduled in March, leading up to the Canadian Nationals in Calgary after March Break.

What an accomplished family! Congratulations to all three Spalding siblings! ⚓



Photo provided by Todd Spalding.

BELMONT LAKE DOCK CONCERTS

John Dixon

A popular BLCA program that was launched in the summer of 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic was repeated for a second year in 2022. Two dock concerts were again staged in Breckenridge Bay on the west side of the lake, with the audience distributed in a socially distanced way in numerous watercraft of all types from paddleboards to pontoon boats that were anchored in the bay. The setup works beautifully, as the bay provides a natural amphitheatre and the (lightly amplified) music carries wonderfully across the water.



The SweetGrass Band. Photo by Ron Marshall.

The weather cooperated again last summer, with sunny skies and calm winds for both concerts. The concerts each attracted somewhere between 35-50 vessels at anchor along with numerous local cottagers enjoying the shows from their docks.

The first concert, on Saturday, July 16, 2022, featured Dauncey, a band whose music spans a vast array of genres, from bluegrass and country (old and new) to rock and roll, with lots of original music included. Dauncey has fun doing what it loves, and this enthusiasm rubs off on its audiences. Dauncey appeared as a 4-person group at our dock concert but sometimes includes up to 7 musicians in larger venues.

At the second concert, on Saturday, August 13, we enjoyed a performance by the SweetGrass Band. Founded as a three-piece group in 2010, SweetGrass has since grown to six members. Its repertoire is broad, including songs taken from not just traditional bluegrass but also from country music, folk, old rock and roll and the Beatles – as well as some tunes they have written. The band calls it “bluegrass with an edge.”

The audience enjoyed both performances, with many boaters responding with hollering and tooting of boat horns. Several members posted enthusiastic comments on the BLCA Facebook page: Elaine Cruise Smith wrote “So much fun! Thank you so much!” and John Brunt wrote “Perfect weather, perfect music. Great time!”



BLCA friends enjoying the show. Photo by Ron Marshall.

Special thanks are extended to our gracious host for allowing the use of the dock.

Given the success of the dock concerts in 2021 and 2022, the program will run again in 2023. Two concerts are scheduled, Handsome Dewey & the Swag on **Saturday, July 15 at 3:00 pm**, and The Janet Jeffery Band on **Saturday, August 19 at 3:00 pm**. See their profiles on the following page. In case of forecast inclement weather, the concerts will be postponed to the following day. This decision will be communicated via BLCA social media on the Friday prior to the concert date.



Photo by John Dixon.

DOCK CONCERTS CONTINUED

We hope to see a great turnout at both Dock Concerts in 2023. Come in your vessel with a full crew and be prepared to make some appreciative noise! We have a new venue this summer – on the **west shore of Munn Bay**. As Munn Bay is quite narrow, in consideration of the neighbors please keep your boat's wake to a minimum.

Handsome Dewey & The Swag: 3:00pm Saturday, July 15

Canadian recording artists Handsome Dewey & The Swag are a “no-nonsense” roots rock outfit with a vast repertoire of songs that encompass stories of life, its trials and rigors. They have released 3 albums to date – Diamonds and Gasoline, Troubadours and Barroom Prophets, and Escape the Mundane. The band is currently working on a fourth album, “Sinners Blues.”



Handsome Dewey & The Swag (supplied photo).

Their songs touch the soul and stimulate the minds of the common folk who have all lived, loved and lost. Songs are delivered with intense passion and emotion, honesty and uncanny swagger honed by years of performing live and simply living life.

The members of Handsome Dewey & The Swag are:

Dewey Fanone – Acoustic guitar and lead vocals

Joe Marquez – Drums

Len Pazzozi – Acoustic and electric guitars

Rodney St. Amand – Bass

They have played many shows throughout Canada and the US. In January 2023 the band was featured in a TV show called “Path to Creation” on YES TV.

A sheer uncompromising dedication to their craft is unmistakable, captivating and engaging... check out their youtube channel for a preview!

The Janet Jeffery Band: 3:00pm Saturday, August 19

The Janet Jeffery Band is a five-piece multi-genre cover band. All five members are music veterans and have decades of live performance/recording experience. But all experience aside, they play and perform because they love it!! The band aims to please both a wide variety of tastes and generations. Whether it be a backyard BBQ or an upscale corporate event, The Janet Jeffery Band will provide the perfect music for any occasion.



The Janet Jeffery Band (supplied photo).

The band is composed of the following:

Bass - Ken Grant

Drums - Chad Brooks

Guitar/keys - Bill Davenport

Lead Guitar - Lauchie Headrick

Lead vocals - Janet Jeffery

We look forward to performing for the Belmont Lake Cottagers' Association – Thanks for this opportunity. Be sure to check us out on Facebook! ⚓



THE BELMONT EXPEDITION

Laura Evans

Last summer was our family's first time participating in The Belmont Expedition. We weren't sure what to expect when we signed up with the GooseChase app. We were thrilled to find that the scavenger hunt had many challenging but doable clues in store for us. The adventure had us going on woodsy walks, and boat tours and exploring local historical sites by car, as well as researching answers to local trivia questions. It was a fun, educational experience that we thoroughly enjoyed.

It is sometimes hard to find activities that the whole family wants to take part in. The Belmont Expedition had something for everyone. Our girls enjoyed touring the lake by boat. I loved finding items on my nature walks and my husband loved learning about the local history.

Twenty-three teams registered for the Expedition last summer. The Backyard Missions were just that – at or near home. The Boat Missions were all on Belmont Lake and its bays and rivers.



The somewhat elusive Dolomedes tenebrosus by Island Hoppers.

The Car Missions took us around a loop that included Cordova Lake, Marmora and Havelock. Trivia Missions tested either our knowledge or research skills – the Cordova Library and Marmora Historical Society proved helpful. I wonder where we'll get to go this year.

The Belmont Expedition is not a race – it's just a fun exploration of the local area and its history, with points awarded

for Missions completed (and occasionally, bonus points for especially creative submissions). But that doesn't mean it isn't competitive! Some teams really get into it and the competition heats up as the closing deadline approaches. Based on points



An impressive collection of Cottage Views by Crazy Crayfish.

earned, the following teams were the most enthusiastic:

- **Lobster in the Water** and **Winning by Default** (that was us!): 113 points
- **Deer Bay Dears** and **Goose on the Loose**: 111 points
- **BELLE MONTgomerie**s: 110 points
- **CousinCrew**: 109 points
- **Belmont Roosters**: 106 points
- **Island Hoppers**: 98 points
- **Wise Guys**: 95 points
- **Dragonflies**: 90 points

All teams received participation prizes – coaster sets with the logos of The Belmont Expedition's four Mission categories.

Yes, The Belmont Expedition will be back with a third tour this summer, once again using the GooseChase app. It's easy to use – you can post your submissions on location with your cell phone as you complete each Mission, or you can take photos to be uploaded later. Each team selects a clever name and a mascot to include within the frame of photo submissions (to prove that you were there). Some of the answers (especially for Trivia Missions) need to be very precise – in wording and numbers. The app has a News Feed section that keeps you up to date on other teams' submissions – sometimes these give you helpful hints.

Val Marshall and Erin Dixon deserve thanks for doing the research to come up with the Missions, managing the submissions and technical aspects, cheering on the participants, and awarding discretionary bonus points.

I recommend this adventure to all members of the Belmont Lake Cottagers' Association. I can't wait to see where this year's clues will take us! ⚓



7th ANNUAL BLCA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Peter White

Last August 27th, we were delighted to restart our golf outings at Salt Creek Golf Links (www.saltcreekgolflinks.com) near Warkworth after a two year hiatus due to the dreaded COVID-19 virus. We all enjoyed this quirky course under ideal conditions. Special thanks to Ralph and Carrie Horton for organizing the event this time around. Lunch was catered by Sharpe's of Campbellford (www.sharpesfoodmarket.ca), and was enjoyed by all.

We have booked Salt Creek again for **August 19, 2023. Please arrive at 8:00am for an 8:30am shotgun start.** The golf course has agreed to look after the catering to make it much simpler for us to manage. Chris Wiggins has signed on as the Golf Tournament Coordinator. He will be accepting registrations, collecting payments via etransfers, making up the 4-somes and interacting with Salt Creek to assure everything is ready on the day of the tournament.. There will be no prizes as the focus will be enjoying a social day on a fun golf course. Chris can be reached by email at chriswiggins08@gmail.com or by phone at 705-778-7149 if you wish to register for the tournament.

Look for more information that will be distributed through the various BLCA media (email, website, Facebook page and signage) as we get closer to the golf date. ⚓

2023 FIREWORKS

Katherine Deas

There is no better way to kick off summer than with a glorious fireworks display on Canada Day weekend. We are fortunate to have multiple events reoccurring this year so there is an option for everyone!

The BLCA co-sponsors our lake display, and we are excited that this spectacular event will be back again this year. Special thank you to Bob Prins and his incredible team including pyrotechnicians, safety coordinators and more! It takes a village to put this together, so we are grateful for the huge effort that goes into making it one of our summer highlights!

Boats should anchor south of Big Island at Dusk on Saturday, July 1st, 2023. Please remain at least 150 metres from the barge. Don't forget to post your pictures and videos on our Facebook page!

There are many other Canada Day fireworks events nearby on land as well, such as in Havelock and Cordova Mines. Stay tuned to our BLCA Facebook page for updates.

Please keep in mind that, according to the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, the fire service does not recommend family fireworks or informal neighbourhood displays. Fireworks and pets don't mix so please be mindful of your neighbours and keep your pets inside during any displays. Additionally, the carcinogenic and toxic materials released by fireworks can cause harm to local wildlife and ecosystems. The BLCA strongly encourages those interested in enjoying fireworks this summer to attend only official events.

For more information, please read the "Firework Safety and Reminders" page on the township website (www.hbmtwp.ca/en/news/firework-safety-and-reminders.aspx) or contact your local fire department. ⚓

FALL HIKE

Peter White

On September 24 a small group of BLCA members car-pooled to the Christie Bentham Wetland near Clear Lake. The property is owned and managed by Kawartha Land Trust (KLT), an organization that endeavors to protect 31 properties comprising more than 5,250 acres of important, diverse types of land in the Kawarthas. The hike was led by Hayden Wilson, Land Stewardship Coordinator with KLT.

The Christie Bentham Wetland features over 1,200 feet of natural, undisturbed waterfront on Clear Lake. The Provincially Significant Wetland contributes to the water quality of surrounding bays and Clear Lake and provides vital habitat to breeding fish, birds and species at risk. The property is identified as an important piece of our natural landscape! If you would like to learn more about KLT, you can find it on their website at kawarthalandtrust.org.

We hiked the 1km Kawartha Park Trail, the 1.5km Ruth's Wetland Explorer Trail and the 2km Michael's Limestone Ridge Trail at a leisurely pace, enabling an insightful dialogue with our very knowledgeable hike leader.

Overall it was a wonderful day with perfect hiking weather and outstandingly beautiful terrain.

Our next hike is scheduled for **Saturday, September 30, 2023.** Watch for email blasts and follow our social media to learn how to take part. We are sure you will enjoy it. ⚓

SAILBOAT RACES

John Brunt

The annual Belmont Lake sailboat race took place on July 30, 2022. It was a reasonably sunny day, but there was not a lot of wind. The course was set with inflatable marks in the area north of Big Island. Six boats came out to race, two in the racing division, and four in the cottage division.

The race started with all boats at or near the start line, and the two Lasers in the racing division started to battle it out away from the rest of the fleet. John Brunt and Cameron Smith made their way to the first mark and were overlapped, with both having to tack around the mark. During the tack, Cameron's life jacket caught on his boom, causing him to capsize on top of John. As he righted the boat, the applause from the nearby dock was the highlight of the day. Cameron completed penalty spins for making contact and John was able to sail around the course for the remainder of the race out in front.

The cottage division was much more exciting with several lead changes through the race as the boats made their way around the course three times. Ultimately it was Gerry Hutchinson and his CL 16 that came out on top with his daughter as crew. They beat out Melissa Alexander and Rick MacLeod in the Albacore who came in close second, being passed on the last leg near the finish. The CL 14 of Erin Dixon with her father John Dixon and son Will McCance (John's grandson) on board came third. Special mention goes to Madeline Alexander and Taylor Homer who sailed the full course to finish in a dying wind. The cottage division consisted of a CL 16, a CL 14, an Albacore and a Laser. We are hoping there are more boats out in this division next year.

Following the racing, competitors were invited back for a beer

on the patio at the Brunt/Krupa cottage and the awards were presented. I hear that a few more sailors have moved on to the lake over the winter, and so next year's race should be bigger and better. The key is for everybody who is interested to come out and sail, regardless of skill level, just to enjoy the day.

This year's race will take place at **2 PM on Saturday, August 5, 2023**, with a rain date of Monday, August 7. If there is anyone who is interested in sailing, but doesn't have a boat, there are a lot of boats around the lake that could be resurrected for the day. Let me know in advance and we can try to arrange for more people to get out. Contact me at jbrunt@blaney.com. ⚓



The winning sailors (photo by Sarah De Ocampo).



2022 Sailboat Races underway (photo by Sarah De Ocampo).

BELMONT LAKE REGATTA

Katherine Deas


After a two-year absence due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was great to have the BLCA Regatta return in 2022. Attendance was great and everyone had a great time! Below are the results of the various events (with sincere apologies for any incorrectly spelled or missing names).

The 2023 Regatta will be held starting at **Noon on Sunday, August 6, 2023**, at the Public Boat Launch. Rain date is Monday, August 7.

Our annual BLCA Regatta is a tradition that dates wayyy back and many families have participated for generations. It is a special day to make memories and meet new friends. For anyone

who has never attended, it is a fun-filled day with events for the whole family. Swim races start promptly at noon while our cash BBQ, face painting, nail hammering, and log saw contests also get underway. Egg toss, shoe kick and water balloon toss events are fun for participants and spectators alike! A final round of swim races, the “watermelon races,” round out the day after the much-anticipated tug-of-war contest!

You can join the BLCA or renew your membership at this event. Kindly note that prizes and medals are for immediate family of BLCA members only.

Cool vintage pictures can be seen in an album on our Facebook page. And don't forget to share your pictures and videos online with us! www.facebook.com/BLCA 

Swimming Races	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Diaper Race (2 and under)	Mason Clements	Saren Hardine	Samua Kitunen
Girls 3-5	Quinn Woodhouse	Claire Lawrence	Quyn Maclellan
Boys 3-5	Wyatt Mclellan		
Girls 6-8	Piper Finateri	Abigail Woodhouse	Zoe Woodhouse
Boys 6-8	Jacob Mokedanz	Oliver Mackie	Jacob McDonald
Girls 9-12	Addison Mokedanz	Ava Mackie	Kiara Mackie
Boys 9-12	Dan Lefey	Wyatt Spalding	William Smith
Girls 13-16	Sammy Manieri	Addie Aurich-Howel	Sydney Cameron
Boys 13-16	Beckett Manieri	Landon Gooley	Kyle Alexander
Girls 17-19	Avery Spalding	Madeline Alexander	
Boys 17-19			
Open Women's	Shannon Toms	Kailee Macklin	Kristen Kitunen
Open Men's	Scott White	Colten Lafraugh	Greg Alexander

Boat Races	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Gunwale Canoe (Open)	Wyatt Spalding	Madeline Alexander	Tristan Micks
War Canoe (6/Boat)	1. Oscar Palmer 2. Jude White 3. Nolan Faux 4. Landon Gooley 5. Wyatt Spalding 6. Tristan Micks	1. Fiona Loeffler 2. Thomas Loeffler 3. Mary Loeffler 4. Eleanor Loeffler 5. Hiroto Drew 6. Masato Drew	1. Harper White 2. Madeline Alexander 3. Avery Spalding 4. Sam Manieri 5. Emily Hogg 6. Jafle Autzig
In and Out Canoe (Open)	1. Avery Spalding 2. Emily Hogg	1. Wyatt Spalding 2. Tristan Micks	1. Masato Drew 2. Ella Loeffler
Single Canoe Crab (Open)	Eleanor Loeffler	Cameron Spalding	Ethan Holwell
Backwards Kayak (Open)	Cameron Spalding	Alivia Ferrier	Thomas Loeffler
Long Distance Canoe (Open)	1. Eleanor Loeffler 2. Mark Loeffler	1. Ethan Holwell 2. Cameron Spalding	1. Lucas Murdock 2. Jack Moore
Long Distance Kayak (Open)	Randy Alexander	Todd Spalding	Mark Loeffler

BELMONT LAKE REGATTA CONTINUED

Watermelon Races	Girls	Boys
8 and Under	Madison Marks	
9-13	Addi Church-Howell	Kyle Alexander
14-18	Sam Manieri	Cameron Spalding
19-34	Alivia Ferrier	Mason
35 and Over	Heather Margach	Randy Alexander

Novelty Events	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Shoe Kick	Kamdyn Lindell	William Smith	Benjamin McIntyre
Egg Toss	1. Jack Moore 2. Todd Spalding	1. Evan Mahar 2. Declan Faery	1. Cameron J. 2. Lucas Murdock
Water-Balloon Toss	1. Ethan Holwell 2. T.J. Brinklow		
Egg-and-Spoon Race (under 12)	Kamdyn Lindell	Fiona Loeffler	Hiroto Drew
Women's Nail Hammering	Jenna Clements	Shannon Toms	Pilar
Men's Log Sawing	Dan Gooley	Jason	Colten
Tug-of-War	Team Sawmill Bay - Returning Champions!		

BLACKOUT NIGHT

Greg Alexander

Blackout Night is an annual BLCA event to mark the brilliant night skies that were available during the 2003 power blackout, timed to line up with the Perseid Meteor Shower that occurs in mid-August. This year the Perseids peak on August 12. The Moon will cooperate as it will be in its waning phase that night. If cloud cover is low, we should have a good meteor show.

On **Blackout Night, August 12**, Belmont Lakers are asked to extinguish all sources of light visible from outside (including bonfires) between 9-10 pm. If you rent out your cottage that weekend, please tell your tenants about this event and encourage them to participate.

Blackout Night strives for a total blackout around the lake on August 12, but light pollution is a problem all season long. In the absence of light pollution, a clear, night-time sky can show us 2500+ stars (in addition to the Milky Way). Light levels around the lake are creeping up, but we can reduce the impact our lights have on the natural environment and on our neighbours on the lake.

An article by Evan Meyers in the 2021 BLCA Newsletter ("Preserving the Night Sky," p. 14; see your paper copy or access it on the BLCA website, www.blca.ca) gives practical advice on

how to reduce the impact of the lighting from your cottage. The most basic question with respect to lighting around the lake is this: Do you need the lighting for safety at night, and if so, can you limit its effect on surroundings by selecting appropriate fixtures that shine downwards?

FOCA has put together a "Night Skies" guide for cottagers that includes tips on how to reduce the impact of your lighting and the benefits of doing so. You can find a link to this article at www.blca.ca/resources. [↗](#)



Photo submitted by Wayne VanVolkenburg.

BELMONT LAKE WATER TESTING/QUALITY

Wendy Vuyk

We only did two rounds of testing in 2022, and thankfully, our results were consistent with other years. Thank you to everyone whose efforts to treat the lake well are keeping Belmont in good health! Once again, Caduceon Laboratories performed the analysis at their site in Kingston, Ontario. The chart below shows the results for June and September in 2022. (If you would like to see previous year's testing data, consult last year's BLCA newsletter which is available on the BLCA website). Our phosphorous and E. coli have improved while the total coliform increased slightly this year. Overall, the lake water quality is in great shape.

Total Coliform refers to bacteria that are found in the environment which come from several sources including soil, surface water, human and animal waste and the breakdown of plants. Total Coliform should be under 1000 cfu/100mL. Our results were just over 200 in 2015 but have greatly improved. Higher levels would indicate that the lake is not pristine. Results are generally higher in swampy areas.

E. coli are bacteria found in the waste of animals and humans. A score of 100 or more would result in a public beach closure so our results look good. E. coli cannot independently grow or reproduce in the environment so this is a useful indicator of how we are treating the lake. Aside from wildlife in their

natural habitat, sources are likely to be ineffective septic systems and agricultural runoff. It is especially encouraging to see several sites with zero E. coli!

Phosphorus is a necessary nutrient for plants and algae to grow in lakes. Too much phosphorus can cause weeds and algae to grow to nuisance levels and could potentially change the fish species in the lake. Results under 20 micrograms/litre are good. Phosphorus is present naturally in the lake from decaying plants and eroding rocks. Human activity adds phosphorus as a result of the use of detergents, fertilizer, manure and deficient septic systems.

Overall, these results are particularly impressive as we can assume that the number of people living on the lake year round is growing. Hopefully, improved septic systems are replacing some of the old, and sometimes improvised, systems that were in place in many of our older cottages. Thanks again to everyone for keeping the lake's health in mind! Moving forward, we intend to test the lake in the same five locations, three times per cottage season.

The **Lake Partner Program**, a provincial volunteer-based water quality monitoring program offered by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, tracks other important leading indicators of lake health. Data from this program is not made public until it is reviewed by the program administrator, resulting in a one year delay. Thanks to Donna Peeling for taking the samples for this program for many years.

Table 1. BLCA Data (Analysis performed by Caduceon Labs, Kingston)

Sample Location	Total Coliform [cfu/100ml]			E coli [cfu/100ml]			Phosphorus [ug/L]		
	Oct 2021	Jun 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2021	Jun 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2021	Jun 2022	Sept 2022
North River	30	28	34	5	11	0	5	2	6
Deer River	7	14	26	1	3	1	9	2	7
South End	3	4	34	0	0	8	4	2	4
Crowe River	4	8	6	0	0	0	3	2	5
North End Big Island	3	4	24	0	0	0	4	2	4
Sample Averages	9.4	18.2		1.2	2.3		5.0	3.6	

2022 (and 2021 for Reference) Water Quality Sample Readings.

Table 2. Lake Partner Data

Sample Location	Transparency (Secchi depth [m])				Calcium [mg/L]				Chloride [mg/L]			
	Avg 2017	Avg 2019	Avg 2020	Avg 2021	Avg 2018	Avg 2019	Avg 2020	Avg 2021	Avg 2018	Avg 2019	Avg 2020	Avg 2021
South End Big Island	5.4	4.5	*	*	21.6	21.3	24.7	22.3	5.5	5.9	6.3	6.4

* Data unavailable for this time period.

BELMONT LAKE WATER QUALITY CONTINUED

Transparency, as measured by the Secchi disc, identifies changes in the lake that may be a cause for concern. Our samples indicate that our lake clarity is stable, although sampling in recent years has not yet been reported in the LPP database.

Calcium is an important nutrient required by all living organisms. It supports aquatic animals such as mollusks, clams, crayfish and zooplankton. Levels higher than 2.5 mg/L are required for healthy lakes, and Belmont is well above these levels and has been for many years.

Chloride arises when road salt leaks into the lake. Higher levels of chloride lead to lower levels of zooplankton, the natural restrictor of algal growth. Chloride levels above 50 mg/L can lead to algal blooms, even in a lake with low phosphorus levels. We are fortunate to have low and relatively stable chloride levels in recent years.

We intend to continue participating in the Lake Partner Program in the years to come. Follow this link to their website if you would like to access the historical lake partner data directly: <https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/ontario-lake-partner> ⚓

THE LAND BETWEEN

Ellen Walsh

The Land Between is literally as it sounds – the name given to the incredibly special and rare biosystem that exists in the area between Parry Sound, Orillia and the Ottawa Valley. As The Land Between bioregion sits between the Canadian Shield and St. Lawrence Lowlands, it contains features of both landscapes as well as features completely unique to it. Belmont Lake lies within this region.

The Land Between is also now the name of a new non-governmental organization and registered charity that has been in existence since 2006 and is headquartered in Haliburton. The Land Between charity was developed in partnership with the Indigenous Nations of the Mitchii Saagiig Territory.

The Land Between has various specific and vitally important areas of focus:

1. Research: The organization continues to support and collaborate with many institutions and individuals around research and conservation. Some recent reports focus on bird breeding habitats, shoreline development impacts, and inventory report on the Muskoka River watershed and more.

2. Education: The Land Between provides many educational opportunities at its main headquarters in Haliburton as well as on its website and through Knowledge Circles that are collaborations with Indigenous communities and First Nations partners, as well as toolkits to use to build and practise collaborative leadership. As well, the Land Between has created numerous Community Talks which are webcasts and videos showcasing specific Land Between volunteers and members discussing and providing virtual information on a variety of topics.

3. Conservation: The Land Between supports and participates in many wonderful efforts to keep our natural world pristine and healthy. These projects include the Blue Lakes Project, Bird Buddies, Turtle Guardians, and the Two Rainbows Travelling Children's Museum to name just a few. More information can be found on The Land Between website.

Anyone can become involved with this important organization. The Land Between welcomes volunteers, as well as supports people to become involved and engaged in local campaigns focused on conservation, education and sustainability. Their website even has a Report a Species online form through which members of the public can provide information on a variety of natural creatures so that data can be collected to improve our ability to protect and advocate for animals, birds and aquatic creatures who share the Land Between with us. Donations are also welcome.

Please check out the very informative website at www.thelandbetween.ca to find out more about this amazing organization.



INVASIVE SPECIES WATCH: FANWORT

From www.invasivespeciescentre.ca

Fanwort is an invasive aquatic plant native to the southeastern United States and parts of South America. Today it has invaded parts of the Crowe River watershed in central Ontario, as well as waters in the northern United States, Asia and Australia.

Fanwort is a popular aquarium plant. It may have been introduced to Ontario by someone emptying the contents of an aquarium into a waterway, or recreational boats may have carried plant fragments from an infested area outside the province.

Fanwort grows and spreads aggressively, forming dense mats under or at the surface of the water. It is most often found in slow moving or stagnant water less than three metres deep. The plant can tolerate cold temperatures and stay green throughout the year. It prefers acidic water with a pH of about 4.8 to 7.8.

Range

In Ontario, fanwort was first found in Kasshabog Lake, part of the Crowe River watershed northeast of the City of Peterborough. Since its discovery in 1991 it has spread within the watershed to North River, South Lake and Big Mountain Lake.

Impacts of Fanwort

The fanwort population growing in the Crowe River watershed is the only known wild population in Ontario. If fanwort spreads outside this area, it could disrupt the plant and animal life in other waterways and interfere with recreation.

- The fast-growing plants form thick mats that crowd out native plants, block sunlight to submerged plants, disrupt fish communities and clog drainage canals and streams.
- Dense stands of fanwort can hinder swimmers and boaters and prevent other recreational uses of waterways.
- Because fanwort thrives in acidic water it could spread to lakes on the Canadian Shield, which tend to be acidic.



Fanwort flower, floating and submerged leaves (photo: MNR).

How to Identify Fanwort


- Fanwort is a submerged plant that roots on the bottom of lakes and rivers.
- Under the water, pairs of finely divided fan-shaped leaves grow on opposite sides of the main stem, creating a feathery effect.
- The plants also have small, floating oblong leaves up to three centimetres long.
- Fanwort flowers from late spring to early fall. The flowers usually rise above the surface of the water. They are 0.6 to 1.5 centimetres wide and white to pale yellow, sometimes with a purple or pink tinge.



Fanwort line drawing (IFAS Centre for Aquatic Plants).

Fanwort looks similar to other aquatic plants, including bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*), white-water crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*), northern water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*), water marigold (*Megalodonta beckii*) and coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*). Only fanwort has opposite, finely divided, fan-shaped leaves on distinct stems.

What You Can Do

- Learn how to identify fanwort and how to prevent accidentally spreading this plant with your watercraft. This is especially important in Kasshabog Lake, Crowe River and connecting waterways.
- Avoid infested areas or reduce your speed when travelling near fanwort infestations. Your propeller can break off fragments and spread the pieces to new areas.
- Inspect your boat, trailer and equipment after each use. Remove all plants, animals and mud before moving to a new waterbody.
- Avoid planting fanwort in your aquarium or water garden. Aquarium hobbyists and water gardeners should only use native or non-invasive plants and are encouraged to ask retailers for plants that are not invasive.
- Report sightings to the Invading Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711 or visit www.invadingspecies.com. 

NATURAL BURIAL AT MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY

Mary Ellen Meyers

This progress report follows articles on this topic in the 2021 and 2022 issues of the Belmont Lake News. For those of you who are new to this discussion, natural burial grounds offer a way of caring for our dead that is kinder to the earth than traditional burial or cremation. Natural burial grounds create peaceful green spaces that are sanctuaries for both the living and the dead.

I became aware of this concept during the summer of 2020, while I, like many of you, was searching online for interesting ideas to distract me from the pandemic restrictions. In October 2020, I made a presentation to the Havelock-Belmont-Methuen cemetery board members with the aim of establishing a natural burial ground in Havelock's Maple Grove Cemetery. Their initial response was positive and encouraging.

In the summer of 2022, the HBM cemetery board members accepted the idea of natural burial. They invited Mark Richardson, the Manager of Cemeteries Services for the City of Niagara Falls, to attend a meeting at the Maple Grove Cemetery. Mark related how he had spear-headed the plan to develop a natural burial ground, called Willow's Nest, at the Fairview

Cemetery in Niagara Falls (opened in September 2017).

Mark did a walk-about through the Maple Grove Cemetery grounds with the board members, discussing potential suitable sites for a natural burial ground. It appears that the currently preferred site is a beautiful lot with mature trees on three sides, located in the northwestern corner of the cemetery (adjacent to the caretaker's building).

The next step in the process of establishing a natural burial ground is submission of the required paperwork to the Bereavement Association of Ontario (BAO). The BAO is a government-delegated authority that is responsible for inspecting and licensing cemeteries. This work is being completed by the cemetery board members, in particular Rae McCutcheon. I am honoured to have the opportunity to help with this work in my role as a new member of the cemetery board.

To learn more about natural burial grounds visit www.naturalburialassociation.ca and click on the tab "Natural Burials in Ontario". The Natural Burial Association is a non-profit organization, run completely by volunteers. Their mission is to increase awareness about natural burial and to assist communities across Ontario to create natural burial grounds. ⚓



Photo submitted by Darrell Gasparini.

BOAT NOISE AND THE DECIBEL COALITION

From: www.safequiet.ca/our-initiatives/decibel-coalition/

The Decibel Coalition is a national group of stakeholders whose objective is to enhance existing legislation in the Small Vessel Regulations to include performance standards for boat motor noise set, in decibel limits, for both on the water owner/operators and boat importers and manufacturers. Efficient, effective procedures for on the water enforcement is critical to successful implementation.

The Decibel Coalition members include cottage associations, environmental groups and municipalities. Our numbers continue to grow as word spreads of what we are trying to achieve. As of January 2022, the Coalition has 54 members including 9 municipalities. Members are in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. Together they represent over 95,000 households. The Coalition is run by Safe Quiet Lakes (SQL) and was established in the fall of 2019.

We know that for most people a boat that is excessively noisy is not “sharing” the lake and its operator is being disrespectful to all other lake users. SQL’s 2021 survey found that 95% of almost 6,000 respondents ranked “relaxing on the dock” as very important and 92% rated enjoying nature on the lake or by the shore as a top pleasure. Loud boats were ranked as a major obstacle to this basic enjoyment. Sixty-seven percent of respondents want muffler laws enforced and 67% want decibel limits in the legislation.

Canada’s existing legislation is weak to the point where police will not enforce it. Decibel limits are legislated in many states in the USA and are standard in the European Union. Enhancing the Small Vessel Regulations will bring Canada in line with these jurisdictions.

Current Law in Canada

- If your boat does not have a muffler while operating within 5 nautical miles of land, it is illegal to operate anywhere in Canada. Boats manufactured before Jan. 1, 1960, are exempt. There are some other minor exemptions.
- If your boat has an exhaust diverter / Captain’s Choice, it must be disconnected in quiet/through-the-prop mode in a fashion that it is not possible to switch on while operating the boat.
- All motors that exhaust through-the-prop are legal. This includes outboards, personal watercraft and inboard/outboards as long as the exhaust has not been re-directed through the transom without mufflers.
- Exhaust that exits through the transom or side of the boat and has mufflers are legal.

Regulation Enhancements Proposed by the Decibel Coalition

- Expand the regulation to include performance standards for boat motor noise set in decibels.
- Boat manufacturers and importers must meet the standards as well as on the water owner/operators.
- Easy to understand, easy to enforce.
- Based on international measurement standards and decibel levels
 - 75dBA for shoreline sound level measurement
 - 88dBA for stationary sound level measurement
- Consistent with USA and EU regulations/laws ⚓



Long weekend sunset. Photo submitted by Eric Hanna.

HISTORY OF THE BELMONT LAKE DAM

Donna Peeling and John Dixon

This short history of the Belmont Lake Dam on the Crowe River is based in part on conversations with William (Bill) Steenburgh about his years of living and vacationing in our lake area. Bill presently resides in Pittsburgh, PA, and vacations at Belmont Lake each summer. Christy F. Steenburgh, a cousin of Bill's father, had a farm at Rockdale, north of the Crowe River where the water of Belmont Lake drains towards Crowe Lake. The road to the farm is the present Bowen Road.

Long-time residents and cottagers may remember that the water level in Belmont Lake used to fluctuate a lot. Imagine what our lake would be like now, without our present water-control dams. The original dams on surrounding lakes were built to maintain regulated water flow for hydropower. Round Lake Dam was built to provide power to Havelock and the railway system; Cordova Lake Dam supplied power for the Cordova Gold Mine; and the Crowe Lake Dam was built to power a local lumber mill.

The first dam below Belmont Lake was built in approximately 1931 by Christy Steenburgh and family to ensure a supply of water for their farm. The original dam spanned the Crowe River at the site of a small island about 100 feet up-stream from the present dam. The portion of the dam on the north side of the island had concrete wing-walls and piers, with three ten-foot-wide openings that held stop-logs. On the south side, the barrier consisted of rocks piled high enough to hold back the river water.

A piston water-pump installed on the north side raised water up to the Steenburgh farm. It was a "home-designed" pump, and the system could not be turned off without stopping the flow of water. Thus, the pump ran constantly, week after week and year after year.

The arrangement worked well for some years until one spring when massive flooding occurred in many nearby lakes, due to heavy snow melt and excessive rain. This led to complaints being filed with the Township and the Department of Lands and Forests (DLF). This was long before there was a Crowe Valley Conservation Authority. Consequently, the authorities removed the existing stone barrier and dismantled part of the concrete dam. The wing walls were removed but the piers were left, with all logs removed.

During the following summers (which were very dry), the water level of the lake dropped consistently and the river above and below a single-lane bridge dried up, to the point that not even a small boat could navigate it. Cottages were left high and dry and local residents and cottagers complained.

In 1949 authorities repaired the original concrete dam north of the island and built a new concrete dam with three spillways on the south side of the island. According to a Crowe Valley Conservation Report (Lands and Forests, 1962), "Piers and foundations of the old dam were extended and refaced in 1949. The [new] dam [south of the island] has three sluiceways 9.5 feet wide.... Concrete retaining walls on both sides of the spillway section complete the barrier across the channel."

The piers between the spillways in the new south section of the dam were much shorter than the ones Christy Steenburgh had built in the north section, and this made it very difficult and dangerous to carry the logs to block the openings. It took two or more people to lift, carry and place the logs by hand. The stop-logs were stored for the winter on racks on the island, as the high water in spring would normally flow over the top of the piers and wash the logs away.



South section of the 1949 dam (photo: Bill Steenburgh).



Dam at high water with logs on racks (photo: Bill Steenburgh).

HISTORY OF THE BELMONT LAKE DAM CONTINUED

It's not clear who or what agency "owned" the dam at this stage of its history, but it was operated by local residents including, among others, Christy Steenburgh, Walter Van Steenburgh, Ross Barrons and Walter Hood, who lived nearby. Christy Steenburgh owned the north shore of the river, and Bill's grandfather Stuart Wesley Steenburgh (Christy's uncle) owned the south side.

The spring runoff occasionally still presented problems. In 1962 there was a massive flood due to ice jamming upstream from the dam, exacerbated by the narrowness of the river and the old single-lane truss bridge that had two spans supported by a central pier. This bridge aligned with Williams Lane, just downstream from the location of the present bridge (the current version of which was constructed in approximately 1968).



Old single lane truss bridge (photo: Bill Steenburgh).

The dam eventually became too dangerous and difficult to access, and its spillway capacity was inadequate for some spring freshets; thus, steps were taken to replace it with a more modern system. The new dam was constructed in 1973 about 80 feet downstream from the original one. It has seven 15-foot openings, instead of six ten-foot openings, and a deck with safety railings spans the full length. There were mechanical winches at each opening, to raise and lower logs in the spillways. The logs were stored on the deck when not in use. Wooden logs had a tendency to float, so workers had to climb onto the logs and use jacking equipment to move them down into the spillways below the decking. Braces were placed on top of the logs to keep them in position. Later, a gantry was installed on the deck to make manoeuvring the logs easier and safer. After the current dam was completed, the original dam and most of the rock island were removed. A remnant of the island can still be observed upstream from the present dam.

Following a 100-year flood in 1976, the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority implemented a centralized system to monitor water levels and manage discharge so as to share flooding more equitably. This system replaced local control by operators at each dam.

The boulder-covered bottom of Crowe River upstream of the Belmont Dam was identified as an area that restricted flow of water from Belmont Lake. Parts of the river below Brown's Bridge were so shallow that during the summer it was only knee deep, and shallower in some places. In 1984 a dredging project removed boulders and loose debris to help speed up water flow during spring runoff. All logs were removed from the dam to lower the water level as much as possible. A roadway was made from the site of the old bridge to just above the current dam. An excavator was driven down near the dam and dump trucks were filled. As the river bottom was deepened and cleared of rocks, the excavator moved back up the river, taking its roadway with it. The same process was used in the section of the river between Crowe Bay and Brown's Bridge. The river in between these two dredged areas was deep enough that dredging was not necessary.

The lake level became an issue again in the 2010's. The level was exceptionally low in 2012, and exceptionally high in 2013, due to fluctuations in precipitation. Low levels were exacerbated by dam leakage, the water escaping between and under the logs. In 2013 the BLCA lobbied the CVCA and HBM Township Council to make improvements. Repairs in 2014 included installation of a jacking system that clamps the logs more tightly together, and eight large rock bolts that anchor the dam to the underlying bedrock. The BLCA provided a seed contribution, and significant funding was provided by the CVCA, HBM Township and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Belmont Lake currently maintains a fairly consistent water level because of the good condition of the dam and careful management by the CVCA. Thus, while you enjoy your summer activities, whether fishing, swimming or boating, remember that we owe thanks to a farmer who required a better water supply for his farm and cattle, and this in turn led to stabilized water levels for years to come. ⚓

The Belmont Lake Cottagers' Association extends thanks to Bill Steenburgh for sharing his family history and some of his knowledge about local land and lake history, and for providing the photographs. We also thank Larry Burt (grandson of Christy F. Steenburgh) for genealogical information and for providing access to his book, *The Steenburgh Family History* (2012). If you would like to document your own history regarding either residing or vacationing in the Havelock/Belmont Lake area, please contact the BLCA Newsletter editor, John Dixon, at john.dixon@queensu.ca.

“BELMONT ROSE” DIMENSION STONE

Kent Young

Dimension stone is used in the building, monument, and landscaping industries around the world. The building industry uses the stone as ‘slabs’ for facing the exterior/interior of small and large buildings such as banks and office towers, and for counter tops in residential and commercial projects. The monument industry uses stone for head stones, both above grade and at ground level, as well as for columbariums and mausoleums in cemeteries. The landscaping industry uses stone for curbing, patio pavers, retaining walls and garden decorations.

There have been a limited number of dimension-stone quarries in Ontario able to produce blocks of stone suitable for production and finishing of slabs and monuments. One such operation was started in the Belmont area by my father, Roger Young.

After he sold off the Sylvan Lodge* cottages on the east shore of Belmont Lake, Roger developed an interest in industrial mineral exploration. His mentor was Jim Cumming, P.Eng., a long-time Belmont Lake resident (Fire Road 33, #16), mining engineer and owner of a neighbouring property. In 1962-63 Roger explored, tested and promoted two dimension-stone quarries. One was a granite quarry on Lot 31, Concession 10 of Belmont Township, located east of Peterborough County Road 44 some 18 km north of Havelock. The other was a marble quarry located just south and west of the Village of Actinolite and north of the Village of Tweed in Hastings County.

The granite from the quarry on CR44 has a warm, true rose or light pink colour of remarkable uniformity. It takes a high glossy polish and thermal finishes evenly and well. When we started to market the granite, it was necessary to have a descriptive name, so we labelled it “Belmont Rose” because of the pale pink colour. The name has remained in the industry even though several different companies have operated the quarry over the years.



Quarry in 1965 (photo provided by Kent Young).

In 1964 my father and I formed Belmont Granite Company and began quarrying granite blocks of various sizes up to 4 feet (1.2 m) x 6 feet (1.8 m) x 8 feet (2.4 m) weighing approximately 16 tons. A dimension-stone quarry is unlike any other type of mining operation – the extraction process involves lots of drilling but no blasting. The following describes the procedure that we followed.

The first step is to remove any overburden (grass, dirt, trees) and clean the bedrock surface. A quarry face is created by drilling overlapping holes on four sides of a block using a quarry bar and a pneumatic drill. Our drill used a 2 ½-inch carbide-tipped bit on a 10-foot drill rod. After many holes have been drilled, spaced 2 inches apart in a straight line, the web between the holes is removed using a special drill guide attached to the initial drill rod and the 2 ½-inch bit. The block is then broken off the bottom by hand using steel wedges.



Quarry face on a block (photo provided by Kent Young).

Once a quarry face has been established, only three sides of a block require overlapping holes to be drilled. The fourth side can then be wedged off using steel wedges as noted above. As



Quarry face on a block (photo provided by Kent Young).

“BELMONT ROSE” DIMENSION STONE CONTINUED

each block is removed, its original position and location in the quarry are recorded to identify the direction that the block will be sawn into slabs. Each block needs to be sawn in the same direction to allow slabs to be finished (polished) with the grain running in the same direction. The rock has a grain to it like wood and it can be cut with the grain or across the grain.

The blocks are then hoisted out of the quarry by a derrick and stored on site until they are shipped to a finishing plant. We shipped our blocks by truck to Ontario Marble Company's finishing plant in Peterborough. There the blocks were sawn into slabs of various thickness and then polished before being shipped to construction sites across Canada and the USA. The Belmont Granite Co. quarried about 6,000 cu. ft. of granite during three years of operation.



Blocks stacked until shipping (photo provided by Kent Young).

In 1965, Belmont Granite Co. had 3 employees, 1 large air compressor, 1 quarry bar, 3 pneumatic drills, a derrick, a pick-up truck, a large truck with 2 winches, many drill rods and bits, various tools, and a 14'x20' metal-clad building.

After operating the quarry for three years, we saw advantages to leasing it and enjoying regular royalty payments. In 1967 we leased it to Brooks Marble and Tile Company, a subsidiary of Ontario Marble Co. which had more resources for operations, their own finishing plant, and many marketing contacts in the industry. They operated the quarry until 1974 when the lease was cancelled. Approximately 15,000 cu. ft. of granite were quarried during this time frame.

In 1975, Belmont Granite Co. leased the quarry to the National Granite Company of Alma, Quebec. That firm never operated the quarry as they had a pink granite quarry operating near Alma. They also had never operated a quarry outside of Quebec. They cancelled their lease in 1980.

In 1981, Belmont Granite Co. leased the quarry to Fairmont Granite Ltd., a subsidiary of Rock of Ages Canada from Beebe, Quebec. They operated the quarry until the Fall of 1984 and quarried approximately 25,000 cu. ft. of granite before cancelling their lease.

In 1995, Belmont Rose Holdings Inc. of Markham, Ontario, purchased the property and began expanding the existing quarry and identifying other markets and uses for the granite. They supplied blocks to the Village of Havelock for landscaping between Highway 7 and the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks, as well as in front of the Township Office. The volume of quarried material is not available for the period they operated the quarry.

In 2012, Norway Asphalt Ltd. purchased the property and today they are the holders of the quarry permit required by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). To the best of my knowledge, most of the material currently being removed is in the form of irregular-shaped blocks and/or crushed material that is being used for landscaping in gardens and walkways.

Belmont Rose granite has been used at many sites in Ontario, including the main entrance and polished interior of Casino Rama; on the front of the CHUM radio building; on condominium buildings along Blue Jays Way; the mausoleum at Holy Cross Cemetery in Thornhill; throughout the Toronto Zoo; and at the Reptile Zoo on Highway #7.

In the United States, Belmont Rose was used in the KRON-TV studio building in San Francisco; the Cambridge Savings Bank in Cambridge, MA; the Fleet Centre Building (now 50 Kennedy Plaza) in Providence, RI; and many other locations.

When we visited London, England, in 2011, my wife and I toured the Museum of Natural History. We discovered that wonderful museum's vast collection of rocks and minerals and were pleased to find samples of Belmont Rose in both its raw and polished forms. We have also read that Belmont Rose has been used in Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Indonesia, and Europe.

Here is a small local quarry originally opened and operated by two local people. Their product has been used around the world, shining a light on Belmont Township, Ontario and Canada. ⚓

[* Ed. note: See the story on Sylvan Lodge in the 2021 issue of Belmont Lake News (p. 18).]

65 SUMMERS ON BELMONT LAKE

Laureen (Little) Morris

There is so much history & fun packed into those 65 summers & some winters. In 1957 three couples decided to invest in property on Belmont Lake, as some had rented cottages there and clearly saw the value for their families in this diamond in the rough.



The original 6 (photo provided by Laureen Morris).

They purchased the last properties on Contact Bay from George Wilde and never looked back. The Littles, Browns and Torodes each had 4 children. This made our cottage family a total of 18. The land had to be cleared just to place a play pen for infant Jackie. There was marshy water, and so salt was always kept in easy reach on the shore's edge for our little black water friends. We slept in cars and a large white army tent. A small cabin was built to hold food, dishes and a Coleman stove. Today that cabin is a bunk room.



The little cabin (photo provided by Laureen Morris).

Over the years we have had many traditions and fond memories. One longstanding tradition was getting together at the lake every year between Christmas and New Years to exchange gifts, with each home taking a turn as host. We would toboggan, skate, or go for a sleigh ride. As we grew too big in numbers due to marriages and births, we moved the Christmas celebration at the cottage to the 2nd weekend in August. That's when Santa started visiting us on water skis and leaving gifts on the rafts for the children. This tradition has had Santa arrive by many modes of transportation for over 40 years.

The 12 ladies from the 1st and 2nd generations decided to embark on a 4-year project in which we would each quilt a square for each of the others. We picked our own theme and colours, and we all designed and made one 12"x12" square that would be opened at the next Christmas party. To top it all off, 'Cottage Life' came and took a photograph of the quilts in progress and published a story about our Ladies' quilt-making adventure. At the end of the 4 years, we each had 12 squares to make our own keepsake quilt.



The second generation (photo provided by Laureen Morris).

Many other traditions came and went:

That dump truck load of beach sand delivered every summer; epic water fights; wooden row boats; a hand-made bicycle boat.

Motorboats of all sizes, shapes and speeds; the ever-challenging disk, water skiing, slalom skiing, bare-footing, and some even doing it backwards.

The regattas over by Rogers store – it was a big treat to go to Rogers and get some penny candy. Members of Generation 4

65 SUMMERS ON BELMONT LAKE CONTINUED

are today often seen boating over to purchase penny candy at the Marina. Some traditions are just the best.

Plays written and produced by the kids. Horseshoe tournaments where everyone wanted to get their name on that coveted trophy.

Of course, the card games of Spoons, Euchre and Concentration. Scrabble was very popular with the 3 matriarch ladies. We had scavenger hunts and fishing derbies. The children built tree forts – tree-fort building has never gone out of style.

There were always campfires, singing, guitars, harmonicas, an accordion, and violins to keep us entertained. We often had baked potato, s'mores, spider dogs and marshmallows toasted just right.

We had dress-up dinners and themed parties. A special treat was ordering Chinese food from town. We were lucky to have a raft in the bay to swim to – once you were old enough and had waited the mandatory half hour after you had eaten.

The three cottages were worked on every year, with additions and upgrades. Helping each other was just a given and I even remember nailing shingles on the roof as a little girl. Over the years we installed plumbing, electricity, larger rooms, and even grass. It has been a labour of love for us all and I hope you can tell just how proud I am of our history and the traditions we have passed down to our children and our children's children.

From the original three families we have grown to over 120. There was always someone to sit and talk to, there was

always someone to bounce ideas off, and there was always someone who would come and pitch in when you needed a helping hand. We truly have a wonderful Cottage Family. Over the years friends and family have come and gone. Some have passed on, but all are not forgotten and will always be a part of our cottage family. We miss them daily as everyone is a big part of our Belmont traditions.

Here's to **June & Bud Little, Dorothy & Jack Brown, and Ginny & Ted Torode.** When they started out, I guarantee you that they had no idea it would turn into 13 properties on and around the lake and how many of us would be summering on the shores of our beautiful Belmont Lake. June Little at 95 years is the only one remaining of the original 6, and I know that all are so proud of their legacy. Generations 2, 3 and 4 are definitely enjoying the fruits of their labour.

We were all originally from Toronto. Some have moved permanently to the lake while others lived in Ottawa, Bracebridge, Fort Erie, Port Hope, Scarborough, Uxbridge, Lindsay, Newcastle, Newmarket, Nobleton, Norwood and Bolton. Still others spread as far afield as Gabriela Island and Terrace, BC; Florida; and California. As we don't get to see each other all the time, our yearly Christmas Celebration helps many of us to catch up.

How fortunate we are that our parents made this decision in late 1957. Belmont is an awesome lake that is so loved by all who summer and winter here.

So, if you see Santa flying by on water skis in August, now you will know what he is up to. ⚓



Celebrating 60 years in 2018 (photo provided by Laureen Morris).

THE “BAD LUCK” BANK ROBBERS

Laurie Deshane (from the Havelock Rail, August 2022)

Imagine finding \$230,000 in the woods while hiking through Belmont Township. Well, someday someone might just stumble upon a sack of money stolen from the Toronto Dominion Bank (TD) in Havelock on August 31, 1961, that has still not been recovered. Who could fathom that that much money was stored at a small bank in a very small town such as Havelock!

It took two years to plan this brazen daylight robbery of over a quarter of a million dollars from the TD Bank. The five men were from Quebec and visited Havelock on a regular basis, integrating themselves into the community as tourists, shopping in town, eating at the restaurants, renting cottages, fishing with the locals, creating a personal rapport so that when it was time to pull off the heist, they were familiar. They spent countless hours researching the terrain and the roads that would be used in the getaway. They found out the local TD Bank's schedules and realized that on certain days the bank carried very large sums of money. Hence, their story begins.

The robbers entered the bank by the basement window before 7:00 am that memorable day. The bank manager, George Milliken, entered the bank at 7:45 am, and seeing nothing was amiss, placed a pop bottle in the window - a signal that all was ok and staff could enter. An added precaution: the second teller called in at 8:30 and, hearing George's voice, came in to work. All staff were now at the bank; a teller opened the locked basement door to go to the bathroom; the four men pushed him aside and grabbed Milliken. They stuck a revolver in his back, ordering him to open the vault. They emptied the tills and stuffed cash, bonds and securities into a canvas bag. They corralled the staff into the vault and shut the door. They drove away in a green Buick along George Street to County Road 46.

As “luck” would have it on this particular day, or as “bad luck” would have it, this robbery became one of the largest man-hunts in the history of Ontario at the time. 75 OPP and local citizens worked tirelessly in the daring search. The robbers unfortunately came upon mishap after mishap in their meticulously planned getaway! Their planned route started on County Road 46, heading North to Lasswade Road and continuing along Ridge Road towards Coe Hill. While traveling on County Road 46 they came across men working on the road, so they had to wait for them. By the time they reached Lasswade Road they were met by the OPP; they managed to out-drive them but then they came across a vehicle in the middle of the road that had a flat tire; the driver was waiting for her husband to come and fix the tire. They turned down a side road and ended up bursting their tires. The men didn't count on the police's perseverance and endurance in their uninterrupted, extensive search, working 36 hours without a break!

One of the robbers commented that the “Quebec police would have been sure to go home and get a good night's sleep and start again in the morning.” The OPP eventually tracked the men down: but the adventure of the capture is funny and interesting and just needed to be told.

Havelock was fortunate to have a local author, Grace Barker (now deceased), write this amazing story, “The Bad Luck Bank Robbers”. She captured the essence of the chase, the robbers, the police, the local citizens keen observances, and keeps you wanting to know more. But Grace not only describes the heist; she also introduces the reader to some interesting historical facts of Havelock and area (another story to be told).

I have deliberately not revealed too much of the story, especially the calamity of the day! The impact of the heat, the terrain, the bugs, and so much more during the police chase. I was so excited to hear that this book has now been re-released by Grace's daughter, Donna Adam. It had been out of print for many years but is now available at The Old Hastings Mercantile & Gallery at 3103 Old Hastings Road (613) 337-5050 and at the Tourist Information Kiosk in Havelock. You don't want to miss purchasing this wonderfully written story steeped with history and intrigue. The author holds you through to the very end! There are many locals around still today who will never forget that memorable day! I'm sure there are many stories to tell. ⚓



Photo submitted by Denise Thompson.

THE RICE LAKE PURCHASE

Dr David Shanahan

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At the start of the War of 1812, 60% of the population of Upper Canada was American-born, and this was a security concern for the Crown throughout the conflict. Would those people join an American invasion? Most of the fighting in the war took place in the western part of the province, around the Niagara Peninsula, and communication between that region and Montreal was tenuous at best. Even before the war ended, it had been decided to establish an assisted immigration scheme to bring disbanded soldiers to Upper Canada along with civilian immigrants from Scotland and Ireland. Between them, these immigrants would provide a settled and dependable population to deal with any future conflict with the United States.

The plan was to settle the entire area between the Ottawa River and Lake Erie to prevent incursions by the Americans in any future wars. The Crown turned to the Rice Lake Mississaugas, seeking to acquire the territory behind Rice Lake to use for settlement. The Crown believed that all of this land had been included in the Crawford Purchases back in 1783-84, but this was disputed by the Mississauga, and it was decided to simply make a new Treaty with them to avoid any doubts arising. As William Claus, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs, said in his address to the assembled Chiefs at Port Hope on November 5, 1818, he wanted “to put at rest the doubts with respect to the lands in the back parts of this Country which you seem to think were never disposed of to the King.”

Claus also informed them of a new approach to treaties that the Crown was taking, providing annual, instead of the one-time, payments. This was apparently most acceptable to the Chiefs, who had found their traditional lands incapable of sustaining their people. The principal Chief, Buckquaquet, stated openly that “if it was not for our Brethren the farmers about the Country we should near starve for our hunting is destroyed.” White settlement had been moving into the townships to the rear of the St. Lawrence front since the 1790s, and wildlife had been driven away and hunted to extinction by the increased population of settlers.

Buckquaquet asked that the right to hunt and fish what remained on their territory would be allowed to them under the treaty, and that they would be protected from any negative actions by the new immigrants moving into the region. Claus simply stated that the rivers and forests were open to all, immigrant and Mississauga equally.

The Rice Lake Purchase was signed on November 5, 1818, by various Chiefs and “Principal Men of the Chippewa Nation of Indians inhabiting the back parts of the New Castle

District.” The Chiefs each signed using their clan affiliations (“Buckquaquet, Chief of the Eagle Tribe; Pishikinse, Chief of the Rein Deer Tribe; Pahtosh, Chief of the Crane Tribe; Cahgogewin of the Snake Tribe; Cahgahkishinse, Chief of the Pike Tribe; Cahgagewin, of the Snake Tribe; and Pininse, of the White Oak Tribe”).

The land ceded under this treaty was extensive: 1,951,000 acres, for which the Rice Lake Mississauga were to receive “the yearly sum of the seven hundred and forty pounds Province currency in goods at the Montreal price to be well and truly paid yearly, and every year, by His said Majesty to the said Chippewa Nation”.

At a subsequent meeting, Claus clarified the method of payment of the annuity promised in the treaty. This was necessary, said Claus, “in order to obviate any difficulty or misconception which might hereafter arise”. The £740 would be distributed on a per capita basis, each man, woman and child receiving \$10.

The Rice Lake Purchase was just one of a series of “treaties” which the Crown negotiated following the end of the War of 1812. It opened up the lands to the north of Lake Ontario, giving an unbroken tract for settlement from the Quebec border to the Detroit River and Lake Erie. It was an essential move for the Crown in terms of settlement and military purposes, but the effects on the Indigenous people were far-reaching, permanent, and not nearly as positive.

[Ed. note: The Rice Lake Purchase (also known as the Rice Lake Land Surrender and Treaty 20) encompasses territory that now comprises most of the Counties of Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes] ⚓



Photo submitted by Jennifer Hutcheon.

HAVELOCK STONE HALL SESSIONS

Ron Marshall

The Havelock Stone Hall Sessions is a concert series founded in 2019 by Randy Stewart and me. Both of us are local singer-songwriters. The Sessions take place at the Stone Hall at the corner of Highway 7 and Belmont 6th Line, east of Havelock. This is a former Township Hall dating from the late 19th century. Performances are scheduled at 2:00 pm on the 4th Sunday of every month except December.

The Sessions so far have featured a range of music, from an “Offend-A-Thon” by Randy and me (where audience members feigned offence at original songs and won prizes) to performances by world class musicians such as Juno Award winner Al Lerman and the internationally known Weber Brothers.

After their recent performance, The Weber Brothers posted the following on their Facebook page: “What a great afternoon yesterday in Havelock at the Stone Hall Sessions. Many thanks and much appreciation for all of you who came out and to Randy Stewart and all the organizers, we really appreciate what you guys do and are doing! They’ve got a great lineup of concerts coming up so if you’re around the Havelock area, check them out!”

Randy and I love music. Our main reason for establishing a concert series was to support local musicians by providing a concert-style opportunity, and at the same time to make an intimate listening venue available to audiences in the Havelock area. There are many talented local musicians who deserve to be better known to the broader community.

Benefits from ticket sales and the ‘cookie jar’ also flow directly and indirectly to local causes. Examples of community donations made so far include the Havelock Public School music program, the Peterborough Musicians Benevolent Association, and the Women’s Institute (which operates the Stone Hall). The plan is to continue to support various local causes as part of the concert series.

So, if you are a music lover, pop a note in your calendar for 2:00 on those 4th Sundays. Great music is just around the corner! You can stay informed on upcoming performances on Facebook by following Pineapple Productions, or by searching “Stone Hall” in the HBM Events Calendar at www.calendar.hbmtwp.ca, and also by checking under Local Tidbits on the Havelock Library website (www.hbmlibrary.on.ca).

If you would like to be added to a mailing list, contact me at ronandvalm@gmail.com. 📧

STAYING ACTIVE YEAR-ROUND AT THE LAKE

Kathy Lynch

Perhaps you are thinking of retirement or a permanent move to Belmont Lake. There are so many aspects involved in getting settled, but then what?

My husband Michael and I built a permanent home on the lake, sold our home in Durham, and both retired. We were looking forward to just being at the lake and not having to commute back and forth every weekend. Once we had settled in and enjoyed our first full summer at the lake, we soon realized that most friends and family members do not want to visit in the cold weather. Yes, you can catch up on books that you always wanted to read, all the movies and streaming series that you wanted to watch, but then what?

We started to check some of the activities that were available in the area. Community Care Peterborough offers year-round exercise programs (Zumba, cardio, weights, yoga, line dancing) that are accessible in-person locally at the Havelock Legion (and in other communities), or from the comfort of your own home via Zoom. I would estimate that half the class at the Havelock Legion sessions are residents of Belmont Lake, so these interactions are a great way to keep in touch with what is happening around the lake. You can find information on all of the activities and classes at www.commcareptbo.org.

We wanted to stay active during the long winter months. We had heard about the various curling clubs in the area and thought we should give this sport a try. Both Campbellford and Norwood have curling clubs, but we decided to join the Marmora and Area Curling Club. They offer a reduced rate for first-time curlers, a Sunday Drop-in league for all curlers including beginners, and it was just a 15-minute drive. They have several evenings of mixed leagues, men’s evening league, afternoon ladies’ league, retirees’ afternoon league, and mixed doubles. For more experienced players, there are a handful of Bonspiels. Many people curl with a stick, which is a good option if you are less flexible.

Most teams are selected with a mix of new, intermediate, and expert curlers. The members are always available to assist, answer questions and provide guidance. After the games, players gather in the large upstairs lounge which offers tea, coffee, and bar - great for some social time and getting to know others in the community. Many of the curling members also golf in the summer. We have both joined the weekly golf in the area with the curling members. The Marmora and Area Curling Club is involved in many other community events that are posted at the club, and anyone who is interested can participate. Check out the offerings at www.marmoracurlingclub.com. For details on other area curling clubs, check out www.norwoodcurlingclub.ca/ and www.campbellfordcurlingandfitness.ca/.

STAYING ACTIVE AT THE LAKE CONTINUED

If you are planning your retirement at the lake and want to stay active, there are lots of community activities and events available to you. ⚓

FOCA UPDATES

Katherine Deas

As members of FOCA, the BLCA and the greater community of environmental citizens, we all have an enhanced responsibility to maintain awareness of current news and, wherever possible in any situation, act and get involved. There are many online and in-person resources available to learn more about water stewardship. We encourage you to gather information from diverse sources. And just a reminder to our neighbours and guests, always “Clean, Drain and Dry” your boats when transferring between water bodies to avoid transport of invasive species.

Environmental Citizenship: Recognizing the value of liveable environments for humans and nature, promoting conservation and restoration of resources, and supporting nature protection and biodiversity.

Water Stewardship: Using water in a way that is socially equitable, environmentally sustainable, and economically beneficial.

Here is a sample of FOCA updates and publications shared over the past year – we encourage you to visit their website (www.foca.on.ca) to read more.

- **Proposed Lifejacket Regulations** - Beginning Spring 2023, Transport Canada will begin seeking public opinion on the proposal for mandatory wearing of PFDs (personal flotation devices) on recreational boats.
- **Boating Advocacy Updates** – Transport Canada updates to Pleasure Craft Operator Card and Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations.
- **Shoreline Naturalization** – creating a “no-mow” zone and allowing vegetation to re-establish on its own.
- **Septic System Infrastructure** – Canadian Standards Association for new and existing systems.
- **Responsible Use of Our Waterfronts** – Short-Term Rental in Waterfront Ontario
- **Managing Private Roads** – ‘Good Roads Conference’ and building an effective road association.
- **Green Shovels Collaborative** – Invasive Phragmites: On-the-ground projects to manage, remove and develop control plans for phragmites described as the worst invasive species.

- **Lake Partner Program** – joint initiative since 1996 to collect province-wide water samples for quality monitoring, including phosphorus and algal blooms.
- **IsampleON** – Invasive Species Centre – protecting inland lakes that are free from or at high risk of aquatic invasion, including zebra mussels and spiny water fleas; and interactive data mapping.
- **Asian Carps Threat** – protecting Ontario waterways from these invaders and preventing a Grass Carp invasion. ⚓



Photo submitted by Doug Backus.

THE BELMONT LAKE BREWERY

Ellen Walsh

It was a cold but clear Saturday in the first days of 2023 when I made my way to the Belmont Lake Brewery to meet with owners and operators, Norrie and Julie Bearcroft. We sat down by the beautiful custom-built fireplace in their large yet cozy great room and chatted about the birth and growth of this valued lake staple.

Belmont Lake News (BLN): How long have you been on Belmont? How did you come to be part of the community?

Julie Bearcroft (JB): The background is that Norrie lived in Toronto for eight years with his parents when he was a child, and then went back to England. Later, he married me and we had two children. Then, in the nineties, we came to stay with his parents' very best friends who had a cottage and still do have a cottage opposite here. So we came on holiday, loved it, and kept coming back every year. Then, in 2000, we bought this piece of property, built a house, and came just for the summers. In 2011 we moved here.

Norrie loves his beer and at the time there were really no craft breweries – it's hard to believe now but in 2011 there was really just Churchkey [brewery]. So, we went on a course and learned how to brew beer in England. When we moved here, we put a small set of containers in our laundry room! Norrie brewed beer just for us. We would have parties and people loved it and said we ought to open a brewery, so we thought about it, and then we did it!



Brewery building construction.

BLN: Please tell us a bit about planning and opening the brewery – what was the process?

JB: Well, it took about two years in terms of the process from when we started thinking about it to when we opened. Havelock Township Council was brilliant and very supportive, especially Brian Grattan, the economic development officer, who sadly passed away before Christmas – he was so helpful.

There were many permits and licenses, and one of the conditions was that the brewery had to be in a separate building. We opened in June 2016. We had a thousand litres of beer, a few t-shirts, bottles, glasses, and we thought we would be fine until Labour Day. Five days we lasted, until we sold out of literally everything, every drop of beer!



Brewery opening June 11, 2016.

We didn't realize people on the lake were so thirsty!

BLN: When you first started brewing, was there a specific brew?

Norrie Bearcroft (NB): We do English style beers, and we try to have four on tap at a time. We don't do any fruit beers or sours – just very traditional English style beers. Crowe River was the first beer. We do an English IPA, an amber, a best bitter, a porter or stout – we have about eight beers on a rotational basis and then every so often we do a special one, just for the grandkids, whenever a new one comes along.

JB: They are all the type of beers that if you went to England and walked into an English pub, those are the beers you would find.

BLN: Please describe the business in terms of the different products and the various aspects of the brewery that customers and cottages enjoy.

JB: Well, the main thing apart from the beer is the unique setting and the view.

NB: And the lovely people! I think that it is a social thing for the lake.

JB: Everybody is very friendly – nobody is in a rush. I can't tell you the number of people who have met other people who have become good friends through the brewery. When you are standing in line waiting for a beer, you chat with the people around you and make friends through the brewery. It is just so lovely for the lake, to have a meeting place.

THE BELMONT LAKE BREWERY CONTINUED

NB: There was a chap here once, and he was talking to somebody and he mentioned that he was in Nova Scotia, and the person said “Oh, I’m from Nova Scotia,” from such-and-such town, and believe it or not, they had grown up two houses down from each other in the same town. A lot of people pass through here who are going to Ottawa, Montreal, or who are going east. We have had Americans visit who have cottages here, people from Oak Lake.

JB: One year we had a group of Ukrainians who came from Toronto, who set up on our patio and had an impromptu concert for everybody.

BLN: What are one or two favourite memories that you have of the lake and any experiences you have enjoyed as business owners and residents?

NB: In the summer, about 60 to 70 percent of people who come to the brewery come by the water, so we run an interesting thing – a contest for the first motorboat, first sailboat, first paddleboard, and then we would post it and put a picture on our Facebook. We have had a Viking ship, a huge pink flamingo. One year we even had a guy who flew in a float plane and floated towards the dock. People also drive here of course – we have had a stretch limo, a DeLorean, a school bus. People even swim in, with waterproof wallets! In the winter we get snowshoers, snowmobilers, skiers, skaters, you name it!

JB: I mean the means of transport! We also love when people send photos of them wearing the merch. People have sent photos scuba diving, climbing mountains.

NB: I guess the thing for us is we haven’t been here all our lives, but you would be surprised how many people know us and how many people we know. We have just made a multitude of friends.

JB: The lovely thing is we meet everyone from all over the lake. One couple come for just two weeks every year, and the first thing they do is come here and catch up with us! We get people who come not only for the beer but ice cream for the kids, they come and see Eddie. We just love meeting people and having a lovely time. The funny thing is we never designed it to be that, but it just evolved into this wonderful place to meet and grab a beverage and watch the beauty of the lake.

Check out the Belmont Lake Brewery on Facebook, Instagram or visit their website: www.Belmontlakebrewery.com. And do stop by (by water or road) to sample their lovely brews! If you haven’t found the Brewery yet, it’s located at the north end of the lake, on the east side. By road, it’s at the end of FR17, off County Road 48 just south of the intersection with Preston Road. ⚓



Norrie, Julie and Eddie the Airedale.



Photo submitted by Bradly Fisher.

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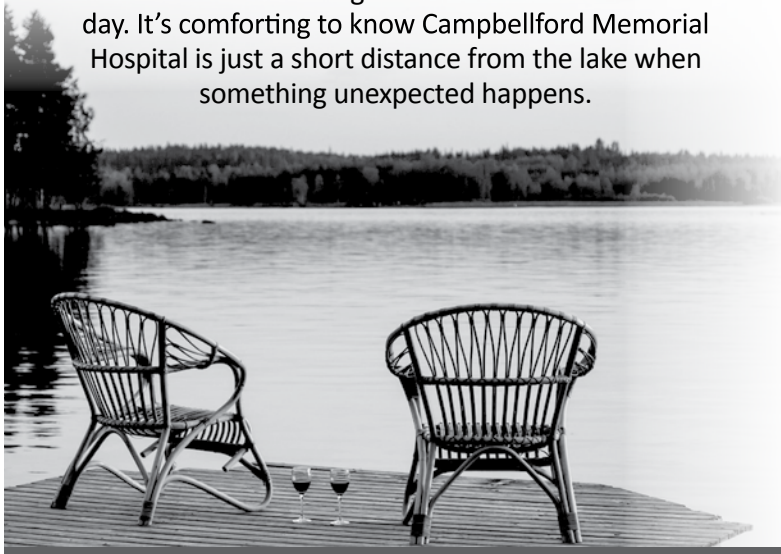
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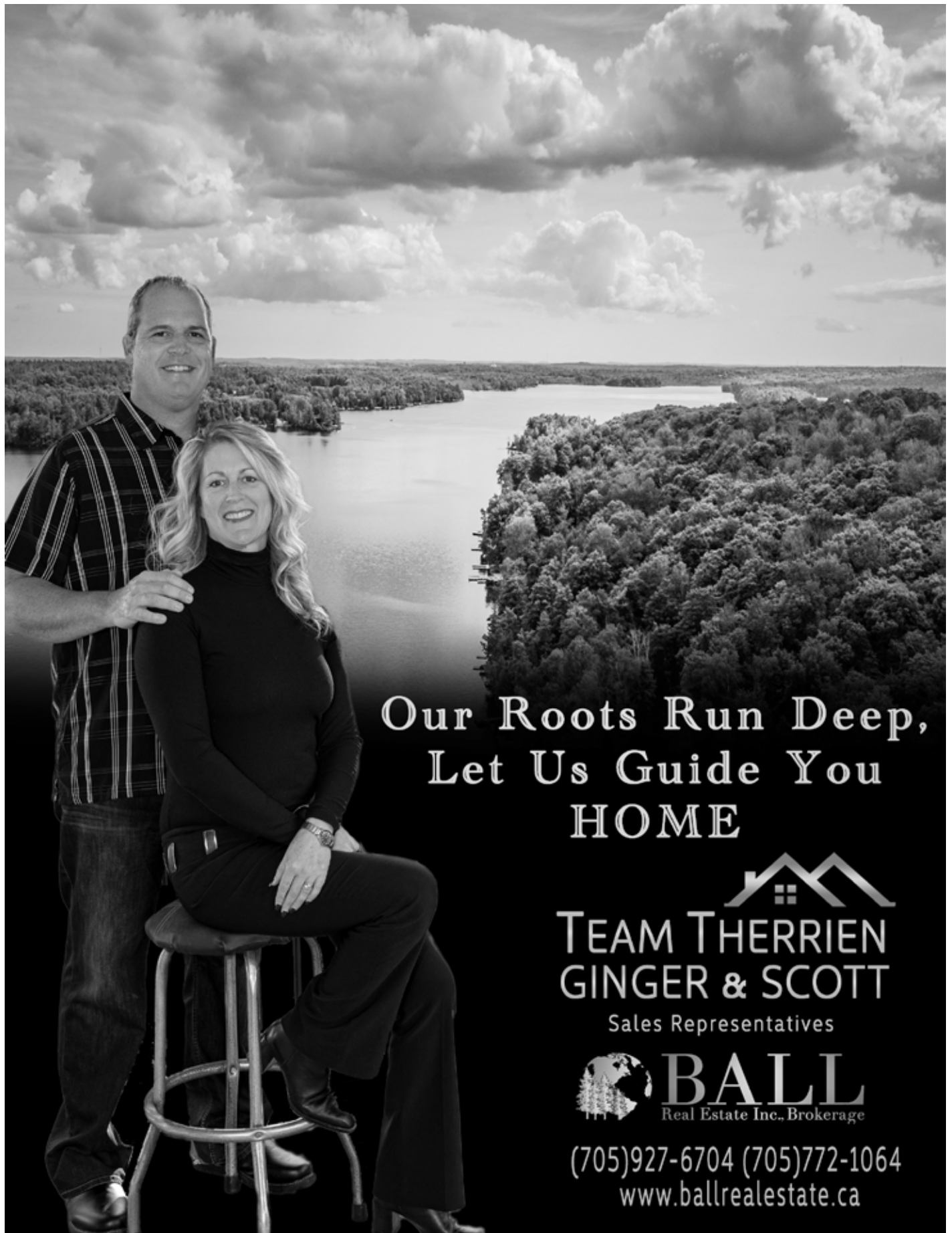
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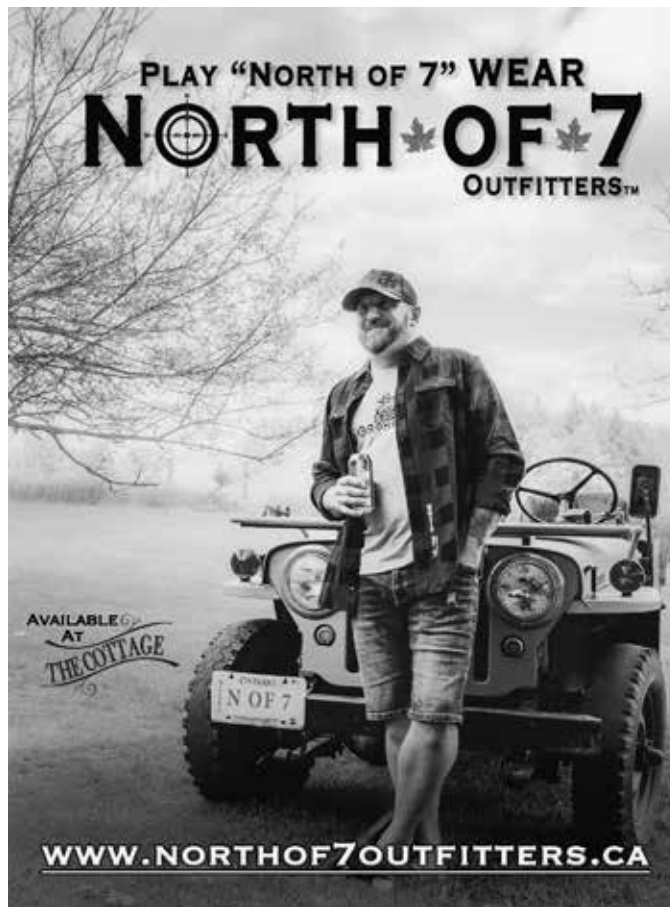


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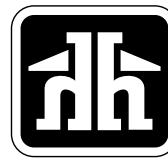
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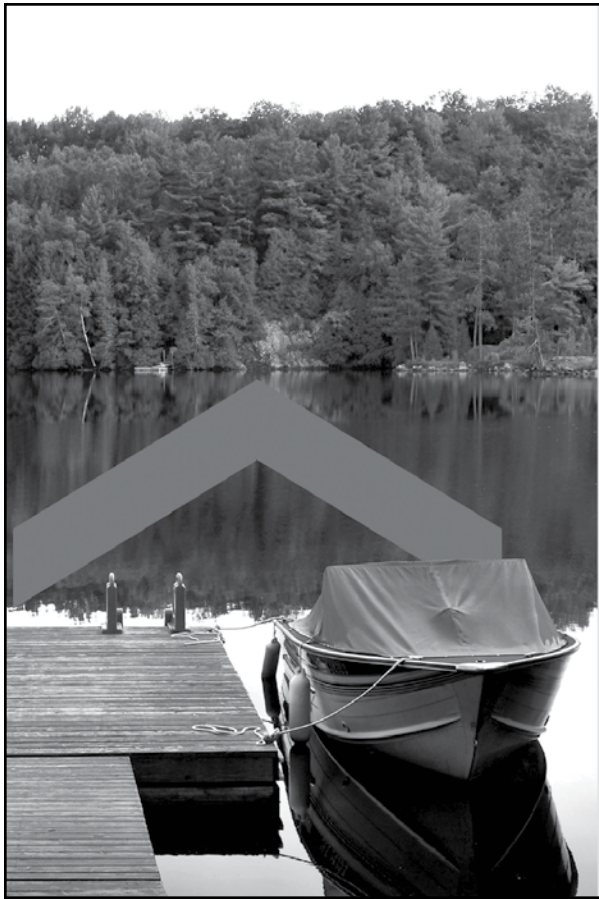
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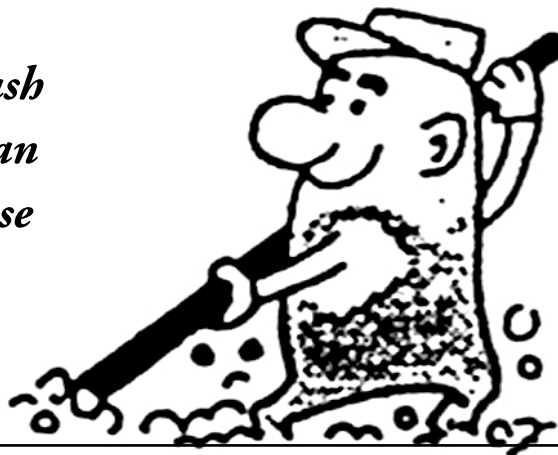
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BLCA Member Registration Form

For New Members or Members With New Contact Details

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY

DO NOT TEAR OUT! Take a photo of the completed form and email to: membership@blca.ca

SECTION 1: BLCA DIRECTORY

The BLCA produces a Directory which includes the name(s), cottage fire road address, phone number(s) and email address(es) of our members. This document is only provided to paying BLCA members in printed format and is NOT downloadable or searchable on the internet and we do not share your contact information with any other organizations. **Please complete this section for our records and check here if you wish to be *OMITTED* from the directory:** ☐

Cottage Owner's Name (Multiple if Applicable)

Cottage Address (Fire Road & #)

Cottage and/or Mobile Phone(s)

Owner Email Address(es)

SECTION 2: HOME ADDRESS

Complete below for new members, or if your home address has changed.

Home Address(es)

Home / Mobile Phone(s)

City

Province / State

Postal Code / Zip

SECTION 3: PAYMENT

Etransfer is the preferred method (please include your cottage address in the payment notes): membership@blca.ca If you prefer to pay by cash, or cheque (made out to Belmont Lake Cottagers' Association) please provide it to your local road rep.

or mail to: BLCA / PO Box 837
Havelock ON / K0L 1Z0

2022 Membership Fee \$30 Etransfer ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque ☐

SECTION 4: BLCA EVENT PHOTOS

Please be aware that the BLCA on occasion takes pictures of participants at our social events and may include these pictures in our publications, our calendar or on our website/social media channels. **Check here if you wish to be excluded from having such pictures used in this way:** ☐

SECTION 5: COMMENTS / VOLUNTEER

The BLCA is a volunteer-run organization, and new help and ideas are always welcome. Give the association as much or as little time as suits your lifestyle. Send your ideas and let us know the areas where you may be able to help including: *environment, regatta, social, road rep, newsletter, rock marking, other*. Include these details in the email when you submit the photo of your completed form to: membership@blca.ca



Belmont Lake Cottagers' Association

Board Roles & Responsibilities and Membership Benefits

BLCA MISSION

The BLCA is a not-for-profit organization run by a volunteer Board of Directors that works with cottagers and permanent residents to:

- Protect the lake environment.
- Monitor and liaise with municipal and provincial governments on issues affecting our lake.
- Guide members on issues affecting cottagers (taxation, water levels, services, etc.)
- Organize recreational activities.
- Promote and encourage a safe boating environment.
- Lobby the organizations that regulate water levels, levy local taxes and provide services to property owners on Belmont Lake and associated waterways.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The modest annual membership fee enables your Board to pay for:

- Summer activities such as Dock Concerts, the Regatta and Fireworks
- Newsletters, website and email distribution to our members
- Membership fees for Member Associations (see below)
- Rock marking
- Insurance

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

The BLCA is a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) and of the Havelock Belmont Methuen Lakes Association (HBMLA).

There is strength in numbers. A strong Association means a healthy environment and a louder voice for seasonal and permanent lake residents. Not only is the BLCA here to help protect your cottage investment and to minimize your ongoing expenses, but it is also a conduit to you having more fun at the lake. We have the ability to take your ideas, and, with the right people, make them happen. We are only limited by your imagination and your participation. **If you are not already a member, and would like to join the Association, please complete the form on the inside back cover and send a photo of the completed form to the email address noted. If your membership information has changed, please complete the relevant sections and submit the form to help keep our records up to date.**



Photo submitted by Bradley Fisher.



The Belmont Expedition entries from NKOTP, Wise Guys, Whiteclaws and FamJam257.