

# THE NORTHERN REFLECTION

SPRING 2022



*By Luke Mellors - President*

## President's Message Spring 2022

I always get excited about the Spring newsletter.

Over the winter months, the WLHCA executive meets to share ideas and to plan our summer events, then we package it all up with articles and photos in the Spring newsletter. Spring is also when I get to connect with all of our supporting partners who generously contribute through ads in our newsletter; I also get to make new connections and learn more about what is happening locally, such as the opening of the new Edge Café.

After two summers dampened by the pandemic, this year seems to be different and this is exciting: we are able to hold our first social and community events in two years. Our community BBQ is planned for July 24th, 11am to 1pm at the Legion – everyone welcome! We hope to have special guests from around the area to provide insights on a variety of issues and topics. In addition, with Council elections coming this fall we will invite candidates to the BBQ so you can meet them and ask questions.

Summer 2022 brings the return of the popular Wollaston Lake Poker Run, on the August Civic long weekend! As well, we are planning a regatta on the lake and looking at

other opportunities for social interactions. Through a new Community Engagement Committee, we are seeking to involve the wider community of users of our recreational waterways in Wollaston. Please stay tuned for more information about these events on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WollastonLakeAssociation>

Although we couldn't hold social events the past two years, the Association has been very active in lake health activities. Joanne Pozniak and the Milfoil Action Committee continue to do a fantastic job bringing the entire community together to tackle this issue of concern. Their community outreach included information and display tables at the August 2021 grand opening of the Coe Hill Grocery Store and at the public boat launch on the May 2022 long weekend. (Watch for another event coming up at the boat launch July 1st, supported by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.) Our water quality and invasive species testing program has continued over the past two years, expanding to include neighbouring lakes, with residents on those lakes volunteering to help. In March of this year, we were informed that we were successful in our application for a \$1000 grant to support our

Milfoil Action Plan. We have also reached out to our local government, presenting two delegations to Wollaston Council to keep them informed about issues related to lake health.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Sunday August 7th at the Coe Hill Legion. Following the famous "Legion breakfast", members will hear reports on our various initiatives. This year will include a draft State of Lake Review completed by our Lake Steward. This is a scientific review of a multi-source long term dataset of our lake, completed to a Watersheds Canada recommended standard. The Review will provide an analysis of trends, and will act as a baseline to support public discussion, municipal policy and community information. This work is two years in the making and is extremely valuable for how we as an Association approach and support lake health. A big shout out to Fred McConnell for his work and dedication in getting this completed.

After two years of meetings online and conversations at a distance, I look forward to meeting many of you in the months to come and share with you the great work the Association is doing for Wollaston Lake and our community.



By Fred McConnell - Lake Steward

## Lake Steward's Report

Spring 2022

**W**ater quality testing is underway for 2022, and the milfoil bed markers will be deployed as soon as water

levels go down so our markers are not underwater. Higher amounts of rainfall this Spring have kept the lake level higher than usual.

### Wollaston State of the Lake Overview

Wollaston Lake, like lakes within the region, is in the process of transition based on the effects of a number of stressors such as climate change, invasive species, shoreline and adjacent development, increased short term rentals, increased angling pressure, and increased pleasure craft traffic (to name a few).

The Wollaston State of the Lake Report (first draft to be presented at the WLHCA 2022 AGM) provides a summary of the most current and relevant environmental information on Wollaston Lake and its watershed. The report is the first step towards preparing a Lake Stewardship Plan, which is an action-oriented document to guide stewardship activities and land use policy for the long-term protection, maintenance, and restoration of the Wollaston Lake environment.

The State of the Lake Report documents and summarizes relevant information on Wollaston



Lake up to December 2021 referencing a broad range of sources of information (see partner list). It compares Wollaston Lake with similar neighbouring lakes on a number of water quality metrics. The report provides an overview of the values and issues that the community wants to address, based on the Love Your Lake survey results. It summarizes key science-based observations, local and social knowledge about a wide range of aspects that contribute to the Lake's character including a history of the area, information on land use, development, water quality, water levels, natural habitats, endangered species, invasive species, wetlands, as well as fish and wildlife.

### Partners

The Wollaston Lake Home and Cottage Association (WLHCA) is partnering with a number of environmental expert organizations including the Trent Aquatic Research Program (TARP), Watersheds Canada, The Land Between, the Ontario Ministry of Environment

Conservation and Parks (MECP) and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) for advice, program information and peer review of aspects of the report. Wollaston Lake is a cold, deep, naturally reproducing Lake Trout Lake deemed "at capacity for further development" by the MECP, as first recognized in the County of Hastings Official Plan 2002. Because Lake Trout is a sensitive species, dating back to before the last ice age, that is adapted to a narrow range of environmental conditions, it is an excellent indicator of the health of fragile aquatic ecosystems. As an "indicator species", it can be thought of as the "canary in the coal mine" as it will be one of the first (but not the only) species to be impacted by changes to its environment brought on by the aforementioned list of stressors.

The following is an example of the type of data presentation and comparisons with similar lakes in the area the report provides:







Total phosphorus ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) is an important water quality parameter as phosphorus is a growth-limiting nutrient that supports algal biomass. Values below  $10 \mu\text{g/L}$  are generally associated with good water quality and typically support low algal biomass.

## Total Phosphorus (filtered - all in micrograms per litre – ug./L)

Date (2021)	Lake Partner Program (MECP)	WLHCA Program				
		Main Lake: Deep spot	Main Lake: Deep spot	Second Lake	Third Lake	Inlet
May 27	N/A	2	2	3	7	
June 22	N/A	4	18	12	8	
July 19	N/A	20	19	12	8	
Sept 7	N/A	10	8	10	9	8.18 (Aug.)
Sept 27	N/A	5	4	44	17	
<b>2021 Average</b>	<b>8.3 (2019)</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>8.18</b>
Historical average: 1997 to 2016**	6.7					





Lake	Average*	2020	2021
Anstruther	4.78	4.60	5.65
Beaver	6.51	7.97	7.32
Big Cedar	6.43	11.16	5.64
Bottle	9.26	11.60	10.52
Catchacoma	5.53	8.78	5.43
Chandos	7.34	10.28	9.83
Crab	6.94		7.92
Crystal	7.60	8.49	10.42
Eels	5.82	8.66	8.39
Gold	6.05	11.30	5.89
Jack	5.31	7.12	6.12
Kasshabog	5.49	10.45	6.79
Long	6.85	15.07	6.89
Loon Call	5.23	5.80	8.62
Loucks	4.62	4.95	2.05
Lower Stoney	14.68	25.71	15.10
Mississauga	5.83	8.49	6.57
North Rathbun	10.58	16.29	10.23
Pencil	7.06	6.79	7.33
Picard	6.23	7.89	6.17
Raccoon	5.12	8.14	5.53
Rathbun	7.63	11.81	5.50
Salmon	5.89	8.54	5.95
Upper Stoney	8.09	10.80	8.59
Wollaston	6.7		8.18

*Total Phosphorous Comparison (TARP data ug/L)*

*\*The average was calculated using all of the data we have for each lake between the years of 2015-2021 which for most lakes is 4 or 5 sampling years. Wollaston historical average is 1997 to 2016 of Lake Partner sampling data.*

#### **Process**

During the Lake Planning Process, two key documents are produced: a Report on the State of Wollaston Lake and the Wollaston Lake Stewardship Plan. The State of the Lake Report is the technical document summarizing the known information about the various environmental and social characteristics of the lake and its watershed. Its purpose is to provide and confirm key observations about various aspects of the lake in order to provide recommendations based on science and consensus, that are to be considered by the Wollaston Lake Community and included in the Lake Stewardship Plan. The Plan is a stewardship document intended to guide actions towards the protection and management of the environmental characteristics important to the health of the lake. The target community for both documents is defined as anyone who works, lives, or plays within the Wollaston Lake watershed, and



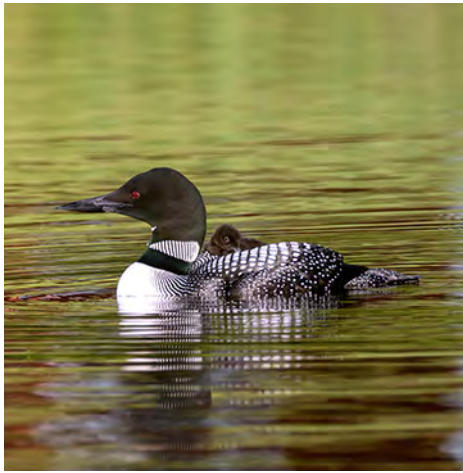
includes all agencies responsible for the management of land, water, wildlife, fish and other resources, not limited to:

- Permanent and seasonal residential shoreline and watershed property owners;
- Commercial operators, owners and users (e.g. resorts, camps, rental cottages, marinas);
- Day users (e.g. anglers, boaters, tourists); and
- Interest groups, government and non-government agencies with an interest in the state of the lake.

**Additional Community Outreach**

New for the 2022 water quality testing season, the WLHCA is reaching out to initiate water quality testing at additional points of the Wollaston Lake watershed as well as adjacent lakes within Wollaston Township. With our assistance Urbach, Finnigan, Ragged, Casteroil lakes and Deer River headwaters (Wollaston Lake watershed) have been enrolled in the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) Lake Partner Program. One sample on each lake will be completed

early in the summer and will be used to inform water quality testing planning for the 2023 season.







*Submitted by Joanne Pozniak,  
MAC Chair*

**Milfoil Action  
Committee Update**

**EXTRA, EXTRA  
READ ALL  
ABOUT IT...  
Ontario's NEW  
WATERCRAFT  
REGULATIONS**

Invasive Species Act Regulations (January 1st, 2022), which states that all watercraft owner operators **MUST** now “clean and drain” their watercrafts **BEFORE** they **ENTER** a waterbody and **BEFORE** they **LEAVE** a waterbody. Operators who do not do this risk a fine or being summoned to court by a Conservation Officer. This is **AMAZING** news for Wollaston Lake and Ontario as a whole, to help to slow down the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species via watercraft users. For more information on the new regulations please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-species-ontario> or WLHCA website.

**Before launching,  
and before  
leaving...**

**CLEAN and DRAIN...  
IT IS NOW THE LAW!**

**A**nd just like that the summer is upon us, and the work of the Milfoil Action Committee continues for its second year! On May 21st, MAC was at the Wollaston public boat launch sharing the New

**2022: The MAC in ACTION**

After 4 winter months of community discussion and planning, here are our ACTION ITEMS for this season:

Wollaston Township  
ACTION ITEMS:

- MAC delegation to Wollaston Township Council in July 2022 to:
- Present this season’s action items and request continued funding needed to support lake health
- Follow-up July 2021 delegation discussion about the installation of an information box and collection bin for plant debris at the public boat launch. This is especially important to promote awareness of the new laws and to help operators abide by them
- Follow-up discussion re potential for temporary storage of harvested milfoil (for drying) at the public works yard
- Addition of lake health information to the Wollaston Township website

Around and In the Lake  
ACTION ITEMS:

- Additional benthic mat installations on major beds
- Bay at end of Lawrence Lane, Second Lake and Mud Bay (2021 permit)
- Deer River outlet (pending permit approval)
- Mechanical harvesting in high traffic boat areas (between Big Island and Bear Ridge Campground)

- Pending drying and disposal site for harvested milfoil
- Pending trucking of harvested milfoil after harvesting
- Purchase and installation of 10 NEW yellow buoy milfoil bed markers this season (56 markers in total)
- Addition of markers with signs
- Drone imaging of major milfoil beds as required by permit applications and to assess year over year growth rate
- Community Youth Contest: “Help Keep Wollaston Lake and Deer River Healthy and Clean”
- Education blitz “NEW WATERCRAFT REGULATIONS” handout available at community retailers, Township Office and website
- Community education sessions at Township boat launch and WLHCA BBQ
- Community outreach to other lakes in Wollaston (e.g. Casteroil, Finnegan, Ragged, Urbach ...)
- Continued fundraising efforts (Awarded Ontario Invasive Species \$1000 Microgrant)

If you are interested in getting involved with this committee or other activities related to lake health, educational resources, community events and contests **THIS SUMMER** please visit the WLHCA website or Facebook page to get in touch with us!





*Submitted by Tim Pidduck, General Manager*

## Crowe Valley Conservation Authority

I would like to thank the Wollaston Lake Home & Cottage Association

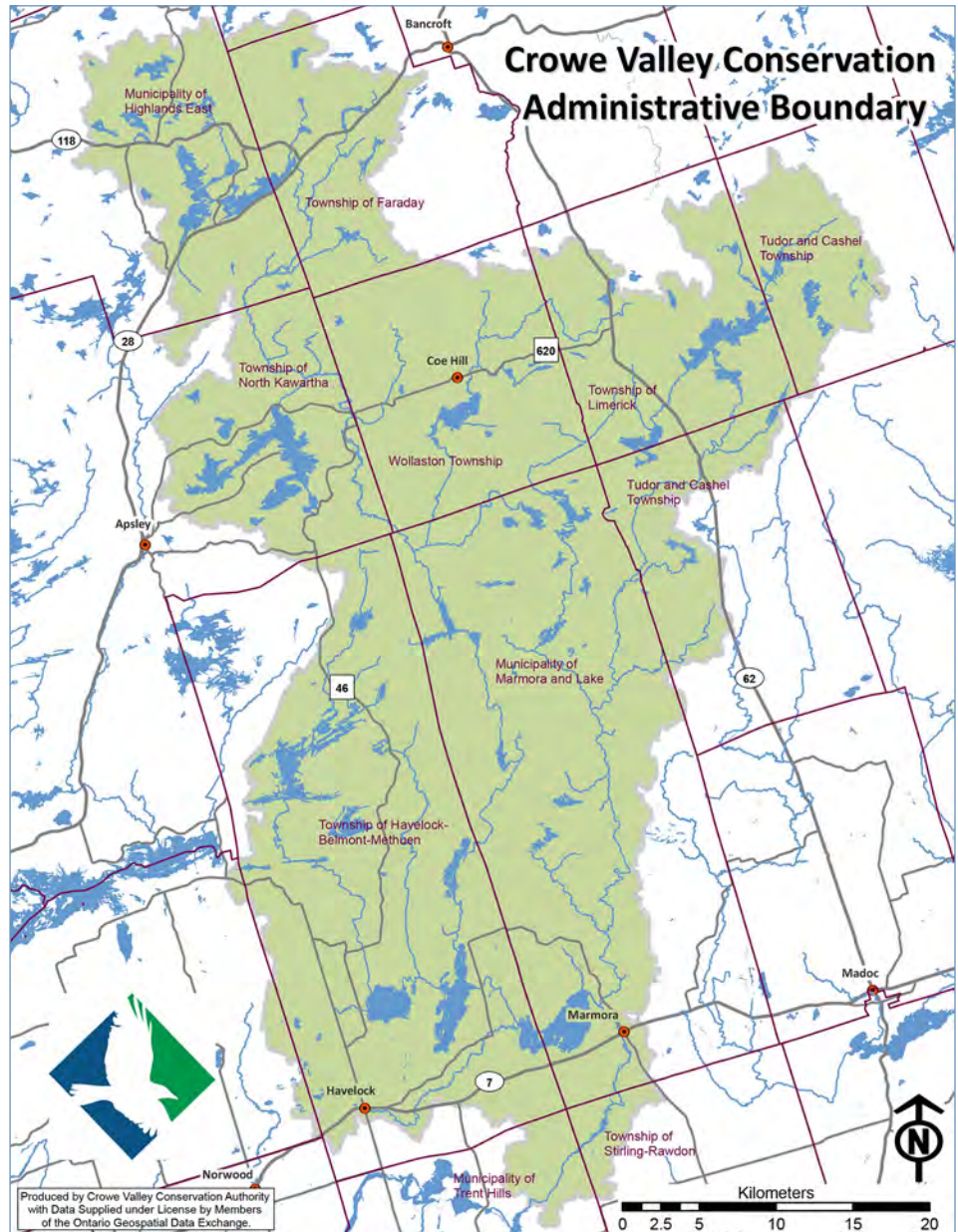
(WLHCA) for inviting me to write this newsletter article.

Briefly, I'd like to talk a bit about the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) and Wollaston Lake, which I've always considered to be the "heart" of the Crowe Valley watershed. For those of you who may not know, a watershed is defined as an area of land where all the surface water drains into the same place, whether it's a creek, a stream or river, regardless of the size of the watercourse. Wollaston Lake is approximately 360 hectares in size and drains into the Crowe River. The existing dam was built in 1966 to regulate water levels not long after the inception of the CVCA in 1958.

From our humble beginnings in '58, the CVCA has evolved to deliver core programs and services throughout the 2006 sq. km. watershed which include, water management, source water protection, the acquisition of lands for conservation areas and water monitoring programs (e.g. Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network, Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network).

For this article, I'm going to focus on watershed management.

Watershed management is comprised primarily of three



components: 1) Flood Forecasting and Warning (to warn of potential or imminent flooding); 2) Protection (water control structures are operated in a coordinated manner to help minimize loss of life and damaging effects on buildings, structures, etc.); and 3) Prevention (to guide/

direct development to stay out of harm's way due to natural hazards).

Each of the components are vital and are intrinsically linked. However, for the "average day" in the life of a resident around Wollaston Lake, the prevention component has the potential to be





the most meaningful interaction between the CVCA, the landowner and the environment.

The primary tool of the prevention component at the CVCA's disposal is Ontario Regulation 159/06. This is the regulation the CVCA uses to help ensure development is not exposed to flooding and/or hazardous lands as a result of slope stability, erosion or karst topography. It really is a preventative approach and like the old adage says, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". For the most part, one only has to ask yourself, why would I want to build in a natural hazardous area that would cause damage to a home or cottage (or other smaller structures) that's going to cost me money to fix or result in irreparable damage? Worse still, a member of your family could be exposed to a hazardous situation that becomes a tragic event. Essentially, letting the hazardous area do its "thing" naturally without any interference from human development is the easiest way to avoid disasters.

In addition to protecting human habitation, the regulation also has been developed to protect wetlands and their hydrological functions. This is important for two significant reasons. The wetland habitat will be kept intact and as a result the hydrological function is not reduced or compromised which in turn helps to mitigate the damaging effects of flooding. Secondly, the

habitat is maintained for the flora and fauna that depends on the wetland. Of course, if these wetlands are nearby or are part of the lake ecosystem, the wildlife it supports remains as one of the important reasons why you go to your lake residence in the first place.

The regulated area surrounding the lake not only encapsulates the floodplain, but often captures all of or most of the shoreline zone where so much of the biodiversity exists. This is vital as so many species interact at this zone between the lake and the upland species. This is the perhaps the most "actively alive" zone and ensuring this remains intact or disturbance is minimized will assist in maintaining a healthy Wollaston Lake for them and you.

At the time the conservation movement sprung into action approximately 80 years ago in Ontario, it was determined that the local initiative, those people living close to the problems, issues and topics of interest would recognize them and solve them but only undertake them based on resources of the area (economics, cultural and demographics). This could be considered even more relevant now. We have more people living and recreating at Wollaston Lake than in the past. We also have a greater awareness and understanding of what should be done and needs to be done. We have the tools. Now, not later, is the time for decisive action to do what we can

to preserve precious lake environments.

As an organization, the CVCA has its roles and responsibilities to uphold, especially since we have a regulation that has so many positive benefits for the good of not only the individual, but for the greater good of lakes like Wollaston.

The CVCA is trying to balance human activity with the environment as we listen and work with applicants and their development proposals as they go through the application process to gain permission for their projects. However, everyone also needs to be cognizant of the pressure on the environment and be willing to include the environment at the table to ensure its needs are addressed as well, otherwise, its health will slowly slip through our collective grasp. All of us are responsible to make sure this doesn't become the future. Please respect the CVCA's goals and the regulation process if you need to submit an application for development to our office, understand the implications of development pressures and reduce them at every opportunity to help Wollaston Lake to survive and thrive. Together, let's make Wollaston Lake a shining, living example in the Crowe Valley watershed.

Like the song says, "you don't know what you've got until it's gone"





By Mary Byrne - Director  
of Memberships

## Membership Report

**T**he 2022 summer cottage season got off to an inauspicious start with ‘Storm Victoria’. At our place on the south side, we were lucky to escape damage to our building, as trees came down on all sides. A stunning number of trees were uprooted or snapped off, doing much damage on our road and the adjacent roads. Thanks to the collective efforts of our neighbours and quick action from a local arborist and two local businessmen with heavy equipment, the road was cleared in a day. The electricity was out for the better part of two weeks, which was surprisingly quick considering all of the poles had to be replaced, new primary conductor strung, and individual overhead services reconnected.

Thanks to the Hydro One crews from the Woodstock area who worked long hours to rebuild our lines.

Thanks to the 30% of Wollaston Lake property owners (76) who have already renewed their membership for 2022. There are 258 potential members on the lake. For those yet to pay, we welcome your support:

Send an eTransfer for \$35 to:  
wlhca.membership@gmail.com  
Mail a Cheque for \$35 to:  
WLHCA, PO Box 249, Coe Hill  
ON, K0L 1P0

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the morning of Sunday August 7. The meeting will be held at the Coe Hill Legion, and is open to all members in good standing. Membership fees can also be paid at the door. Members in good standing are invited to join us for breakfast, with the formal meeting to begin at 10am.

The agenda will include reports from our executive, functions and committees. The slate of officers for 2022-23 will be voted on. Participation of members is welcome as we always have time for discussion and questions.

The agenda will be posted mid-July.

## Get Involved

We have several Executive roles and other volunteer opportunities available such as:

- Executive roles including: Membership, Treasurer, Communications, Events
- Road Captains
- Committee and volunteer participation for events and lake health initiatives

If you think you might be interested, please reach out to any member of the WLHCA Executive.

Looking forward to see you on the lake, in town, or at the AGM in August.



## CREDITS FOR WLHCA Spring NEWSLETTER

President’s Message  
Luke Mellors

Lake Steward  
Fred McConnell

Editor  
Sheila Currie  
WLHCA Member Contributor

Milfoil Action Committee  
Joanne Pozniak

Membership Report  
Mary Byrne

Graphic Design & Photography  
Spencer Bush





# May 21, 2022: The Derecho hits Wollaston

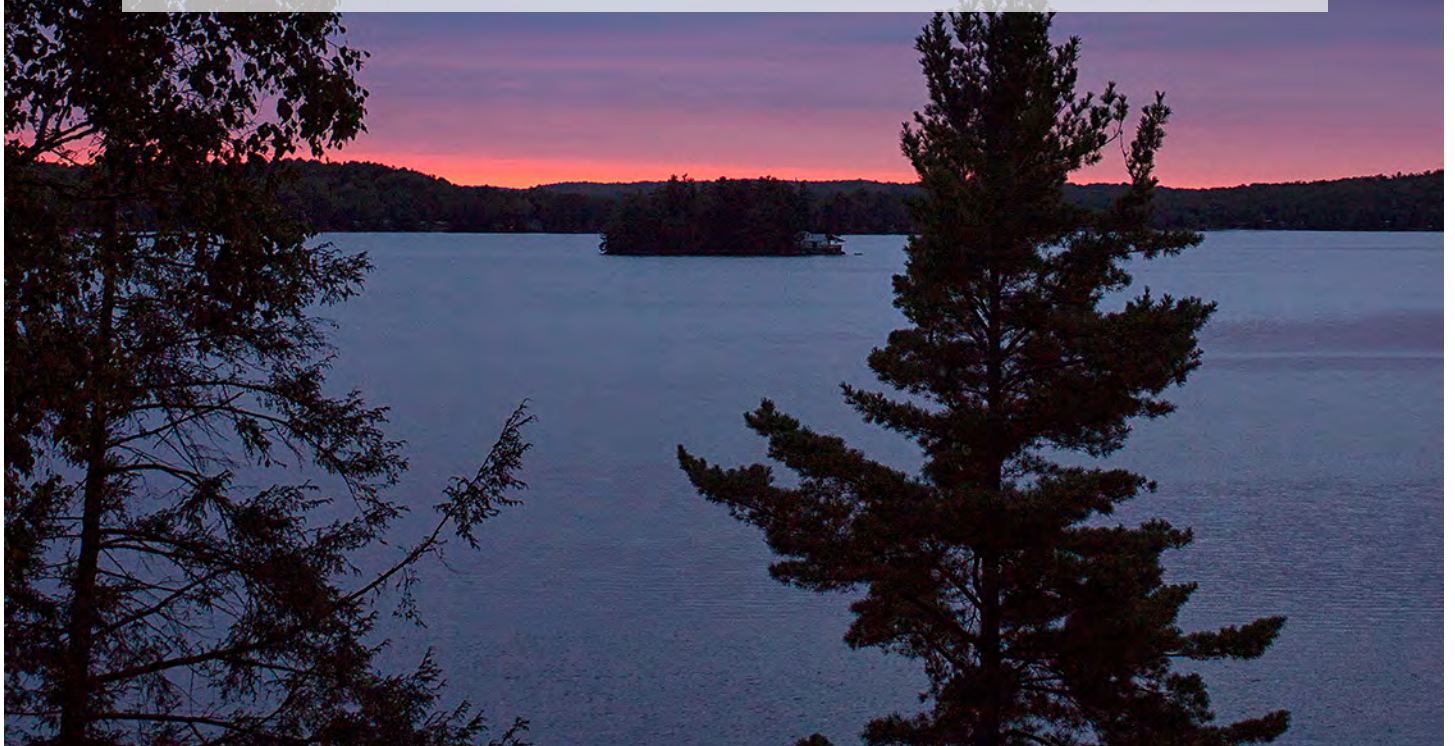
Luke Mellors, President

We were on a raft putting in the mooring anchor for our water trampoline when we noticed the weather starting to roll in fast...it was time to head for shore, and quickly! We just got out of the water when we heard the crack, crack, crack sound of 100 year old trees being snapped like match sticks – with one majestic birch tree falling just a few metres from us as we ran up the stairs to our cottage.

It was an immense storm and like nothing I have ever seen. In the aftermath the damage in Wollaston and elsewhere was nothing short of catastrophic. On our road alone over 20 trees were down and if it weren't for the coming together of our community, and the many hands that pitched in, those trees might still be down. People with chainsaws and excavators got to work removing trees from the road; those with generators offered to charge phones and store food, while others brought food and drinking water.

I want to thank everyone who stepped up in our Wollaston community as this shows what is possible when people work together.

The storm caused hardship and unnecessary burden on a community and township eager to come out of two years of isolation and restrictions. The WLHCA is working on ways to support our community and especially those hit hardest by the storm. We plan to announce specific initiatives in coming weeks, but meanwhile, those looking to donate can reach out to one of our community groups such as the food bank, the Legion, or one of the churches.





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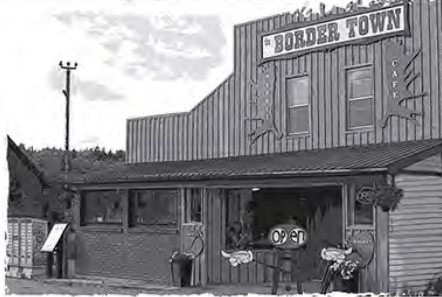
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# Baker Swim School

SWIM WITH CONFIDENCE

Baker's Swim School is a summer program that runs on Wollaston Lake offering all levels of Lifesaving Society Courses. Students will receive official report cards, certificates & badges.

## **Fast Track or Weekly Programs**

The fast track: 10 days in a row of lessons running from the first week of July to the fourth week of August. Monday to Sunday.

The weekly program: 2 lessons a week for 10 weeks so a total of 20 lessons.

## **Dates**

- July 4th to July 14th
- July 15 to July 25th
- July 26th to Aug 6th
- Aug 6 to 16th
- Aug 17th to 27th

## **Pricing**

Lessons involve a 3:1 instruction

Includes preschool, swimmer, rookie, ranger, star, swim levels 1 to 10

Cost: \$350 (for each student, per level), 45 minute classes

Private lessons by request

## **Locations**

Bear Ridge or Red Eagle Campgrounds, Wollaston Lake



## **Reserve Your Spot**

Sign up & pass your next level of swimming

Email: [bakerswimschool@gmail.com](mailto:bakerswimschool@gmail.com)

Myles Text: 289-927-5588

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