



THE NORTHERN REFLECTION

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President's Message by Fred McConnell

I am honored to have been elected President of the WLHCA at the AGM held August 10th. I wish to thank Mary Byrne, our past Vice President and Director of Membership for covering the President role for the last year with the assistance of Past President Luke Mellors. Their passion and dedication to the Wollaston Lake Home and Cottage Association has helped to position us to realise the opportunities and address the challenges that face our little community. A heartfelt Thank You to all our members for volunteering their time and energy in support of our Lake and the overall Wollaston Community. It was heartwarming to realize a full slate of executive volunteers as well as a large list of members at large.

In reflecting on the past year, I am struck by how strong our community continues to be, as demonstrated by the achievements of our volunteers and the success of a number of events.

The WLHCA community BBQ was held in July at the public beach for the first time. Special thanks to Nancy Sherwin, her husband Rick Ward and daughter Nicole for planning and preparing all the food for the BBQ, which was well attended on a sunny afternoon at the beach, accompanied by live music from local musicians (The Coe Hill Jammers and friends). This year, Executive Director of Watersheds Canada, Robert

Pye, attended to share the benefits of the shoreline naturalization and fish habitat restoration programs they have delivered on Wollaston Lake. Additionally, in partnership with the North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery (NHC FH) (a registered Charity) we were able to run a 50/50 draw with proceeds going to support Watersheds Canada and the NHC FH.

For the third summer in a row, the Belleville Dive Club team, along with volunteers from the WLHCA Milfoil Action Committee installed, under a permit from the DFO/MNRF, benthic mats at several locations on Wollaston Lake. New for 2025, the efforts of the dive team were greatly aided by an ingenious invention of the Corvers' household – a useful and efficient barge – resulting in the greatest number of mats ever installed in a single day!

In August, the Poker run was once again a popular event raising more than \$1000 to help manage Eurasian Milfoil around the lake. Of course, we held our annual AGM in August at the Coe Hill Legion, which was well attended. The meeting began with the Executive Director of Watersheds Canada, Robert Pye, participating as our guest speaker to review their program/ education offerings and discuss the fish habitat restoration implemented in 2024 and continued this September. At the spawning bed restoration, WLHCA volunteers assisted in cleaning and applying 4 tonnes of washed river rock on the bed. This should result in improved Walleye and Lake Trout spawning yields,

supporting sustainable populations of both species. Your participation in the Love Your Lake survey in 2021 told us that sport fishing is an important recreational activity on Wollaston Lake, in addition to attracting day use anglers to our community. The work was part of a weeklong program on lakes across our region. The WLHCA has partnered with the NHC FH and Lake Associations from Baptiste, Paudash and Lake St. Peter to purchase an underwater drone which will support the monitoring of the success of these programs across all the lakes.

In September, several of our members participated in Watersheds Canada's Natural Edge program to naturalize the shoreline of their properties, to prevent erosion, limit nutrient carrying runoff into the lake and discourage Canada Geese (each adult deposits more than 1 lb of excrement daily) from nesting on the lake. You may also have noticed new plantings at the public beach, done in partnership with the Township and funded entirely by Watersheds Canada.

Once again, this year, the WLHCA supported the local foodbank with a donation and many of our members made contributions to the foodbank and were instrumental in community events such as the Spaghetti dinner fundraisers. Members also volunteer at and attend the twice monthly breakfasts supporting the Coe Hill Legion. Honouring the wishes of the World War II Veteran, who donated the 100-acre property, Nellie Lunn Park was restored and re-opened, providing non-motorized, walking trails for all (residents





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and visitors to our community) to enjoy. This would not have been possible without the many volunteers (many members of the WLHCA) who came together to clear trails, haul lumber, build boardwalks and mark trails.

It is evident that our community and partnerships are strong, making a difference in Wollaston Lake and the surrounding area. I encourage all to regularly visit our Facebook and Instagram pages for notifications of upcoming Association and community events. We'd love to keep in touch and hear directly from you as to the things that are important.

In closing, I'm amazed and proud of the WLHCA's accomplishments in 2025 and look forward with optimism to 2026 and beyond. Every single member, whether with your membership fees and if time permits, spending your hours volunteering, makes a meaningful difference. These programs would not be possible without you. Thank you.



Picture courtesy of Lisa Sibbald

Lake Steward's Report by Fred McConnell

Wollaston Lake Water Quality/Level 2025 Preliminary Results

Wollaston Lake is fortunate to be situated at the top of a branch of the Crowe River system. The outflow from Wollaston Lake, which is a major factor governing the water level of the lake, is managed by the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) through a dam on the deer river approximately two kilometers south of the third lake basin. The inflow consists of several year-round creeks, the deer river as well as a few seasonal drainage ditches. There is no facility to manage inflow to the lake. The water level of Wollaston Lake is continuously monitored by CVCA via an automated sampling station located on the water's edge near the Ridge Road. Following the near normal snowpack and wetter than average May 2025, based on meteorological projections of a drier than normal summer, the CVCA made the decision to clamp the dam down with all logs in place in the later part of June (earlier than usual) so little to no water was leaving the lake via the dam. I received several calls around that time enquiring about the reason the lake appeared to be higher than normal.

Late in August, water levels had dropped to at least six inches below the seasonal normal level for that time of the summer due to the drought conditions. Wollaston Lake is not unique, as we have received information from partner lake associations

that they are experiencing similar conditions and water levels.

At time of writing, Wollaston Township is under a level 3 water advisory which requests residents to lower their water consumption by 30% below "normal" usage.

The land surrounding the Wollaston Lake inputs has a low level of development and few farm properties. This implies that the nutrients that occur in Wollaston Lake are most likely to originate in the lands within proximity surrounding Wollaston Lake. In recent years, Wollaston Lake has experienced (as observed through water quality testing) an increase in nutrient levels above historical levels. The most likely explanation for this increase is thought to be runoff due to more frequent, large volume, rainfall events such as the deluge last summer that flooded portions of Toronto. However, in August 2025, the tested nutrient levels were approximately two and a quarter times the normal August levels. Given the drought conditions, it is unlikely that runoff plays a role in these high nutrient levels. The next candidate is nutrients from septic systems. The WLHCA encourages all lake front property owners to follow best practices as documented by the Federation of Cottage Associations (FOCA) and Watersheds Canada to maintain septic systems in optimum operating condition. Owners of very old systems should consider upgrading their septic systems.

In the last week of September, reports of the possible occurrence of Blue-Green Algae were received. Upon receipt, a





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report was made to the local Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) office in Belleville, accompanied by the photographs. They acknowledged the photos as possibly being Blue-green algae and scheduled a site visit for the following day. The WLHCA immediately communicated the possible occurrence on our social media platforms. Fortunately, the potential Blue-green algae blooms were not visible the following day nor have we received additional reports since. We have confirmed the reporting and sampling process with the MECP in the event of future reports.

Partners

The Wollaston Lake Home and Cottage Association (WLHCA) has partnered with several environmental expert organizations such as the Trent Aquatic Research Program (TARP), Watersheds Canada, The Land Between, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) and Ontario Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP), Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (FOCA) and Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) to name a few for advice, programs and peer review of our initiatives.

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 that is adapted

to a narrow range of environmental conditions, it is an excellent indicator of the health of fragile aquatic ecosystems (indicator species). It can be thought of as the "canary in the coal mine" species as it will be the first (but not the only) species to be impacted by changes to its environment brought on by several influences. Based on the spawning bed restoration and brush bundle initiatives undertaken in partnership with Watersheds Canada, it is the Intention of the WLHCA to request a Local Targeted Fisheries Assessment (LTFA) by the MNR to determine the current state of the Lake Trout population. Watch for future initiatives and developments in this area. We are always seeking volunteers and would be pleased to have you on-board, in whatever capacity suits you.



Picture courtesy of Lisa Sibbald

2025 Season in Review by The Milfoil Action Committee

The summer has flown by and now we can look back at the accomplishments of the Milfoil Action Committee.

We received our first permit approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to allow work in the water beginning in 2021 and 2022 of their recommended best practices to manage the spread of the invasive species Eurasian Water Milfoil. This year, nature assisted in our efforts to manage this invasive plant. The main challenge is that, as an invasive species, Eurasian Milfoil has no natural predators, so it grows, and spreads, unchecked by nature. However, due to the very cool and overcast May weather and later than usual warming of the water, the native plants appeared to get a head start in growth, shading the milfoil from the sunlight it requires. The result was a lack of visible milfoil at the surface at many of the locations around the lake until late into August. This does not mean that the Milfoil has been eradicated, but that its growth was rather stunted. As a result, the MAC made the decision to refrain from installing the yellow markers as it was thought counter-productive to mark areas of the lake where the milfoil was not readily visible.

For the 2026 season, we are seeking volunteers to take ownership of the installation and removal of the yellow markers in the various areas of the lake.





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We currently have volunteers for the 2nd & 3rd lakes as well as Anson Bay. If you are interested in assisting with the area to the east of the big island or the main lake to the west of the big island, please send an email to wlhca.membership@gmail.com. We appreciate any assistance you can provide.

A reminder that the recreational activities that we all know and love, such as fishing, boating and jet skiing, to name a few, accelerate the spread of Eurasian Milfoil through fragmentation of the plant. We frequently receive requests from concerned property owners about milfoil harvesting and benthic mat installation in their area of the lake. In the summer of 2025, the Milfoil Action Committee began the process of renewing our permit to allow for the installation of benthic mats in a greater number of locations in the lake and to review the approach to managing the largest bed(s) with exposure to the highest recreational traffic. We have four years' worth of experience and are reviewing our permit with the DFO to evaluate the results to date, the best practices (in light of the DFO's approval of Procclacor application in Canada) they are currently seeing across Canada and was partially complete for the management initiatives starting with 2025. That process should be complete in time for the 2026 project fundraising.

The MAC ponders these and other questions along with researching the best practices that other organizations recommend and apply to the infestations in their lakes. Based on these discussions,

we have created and are working on providing surveys to collect the views of the Trailer Park residents, Wollaston Township permanent residents not residing in Wollaston Lake and Wollaston Lakefront property owners.

Our objectives throughout this process continue to be as follows:

- » Attempt to limit the spread of Milfoil without causing additional damage (as non-intrusive as feasible).
- » Integrate the WLHCA Milfoil initiative within a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (State of the Lake Review was Phase I) - maximize funding opportunities.
- » Engage property owners and non-property stakeholders to raise community awareness of invasive species and lake health threats (prevent other invasives).
- » Engage the local Municipal Council in lake health initiatives.
- » Utilize best practices by partnering with watersheds experts and other Ontario Lake Associations.

To monitor the spread of Milfoil year over year, drone photography of the beds has been used each year and is being reviewed with the government biologists as input to the discussion. Thank you to all who expressed their interest in benthic mats at their waterfront. These have been presented to the DFO as part of the review of our request for work in the water projects starting in 2026. If you are interested in benthic mat(s) installation and have not already contacted

us, please send an email to wlhca.membership@gmail.com.

In parallel with this review process, funding applications were once again sent to the invasive species centre of Ontario. We were successful in securing two microgrants totaling \$7,000 for 2025 projects. In partnership with the Belleville Dive team, we were able to install nine benthic mats this year. This is the largest number of mats we have been able to install in one year, as we continue to learn from our experience and improve the installation process.

Thank you to all who volunteered,



Picture courtesy of Lisa Sibbald



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provided their boats, and donated used paving stones which helped to reduce the costs. Due to the length of time required to review our permits we will be requesting the carry forward of some of those funds to the 2026 season.

THANK YOU to this year's M.A.C members: George Berry, Tracy McNaught, Kathy Corvers, David Sawicki and Fred McConnell.

If you are interested in getting involved with this committee or other related topics such as lake health, educational resources, community events and contests, please contact us @:

WLHCA.news@gmail.com

<https://www.wollastonlakehome.com/>



CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY your watercraft or we will have bigger problems than E. Milfoil in Wollaston Lake!!!

Be on the lookout for these...



Starry Stonewort (SSW) in Stoney Lake and Trent-Severn Waterway

Macroalgae, thin stems/branchlets similar to thick fishing line, white, star-shaped bulbils

at the nodes, 3-6 mm wide and can reach heights up to 10 meters in the water column. Reproduce by transfer of small fragments. "Pillows" of SSW can restrict recreational activities.



Water Soldier in the Trent River

Long, thin, serrated leaves in a rosette formation, flowers rise above the plant, have three white/green sepals

and three white petals. Water Soldier can be submerged up to 5 m but floats to the surface in summer. This poses a threat to summer recreational activities such as fishing, boating, and swimming. Boat motors can break up plants allowing them to spread and invade new areas.



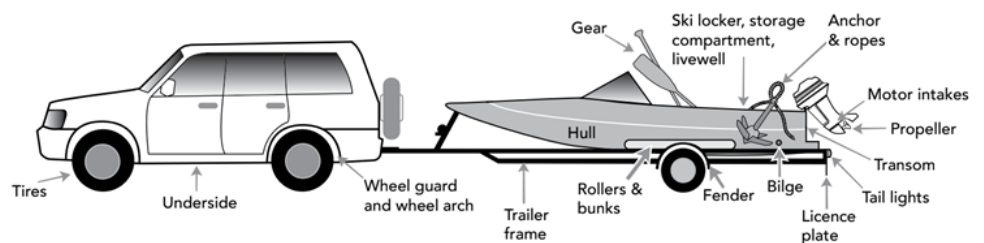
Spiny Water Flea found in all of the Great Lakes and smaller lakes in Ontario

Spiny Waterfleas is an invasive zooplankton that form large, jelly-like masses that

can spread to other water bodies on commercial and recreational fishing equipment. The Spiny Water Flea outcompetes native species for food, which can have cascading impacts to the entire food web.

Before launching & before leaving... CLEAN and DRAIN... IT IS NOW THE LAW!

Where to look for Aquatic Invasive Species



Sources: <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>





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Municipal Update by Stacey-Ann Sukharrie Director of Communications

This fall marks the three-quarter point in the four-year term of office for our Wollaston Township Municipal Council. Municipal government oversees and provides many services that are integral to our lives, including, but not limited to waste management, emergency response, roads, land development, parks and recreation and many more.

You may recall in the Spring of 2024, we published responses from our Municipal Council on a few select questions pertaining to their proudest accomplishment, obstacles and future priorities. In keeping with our mandate to inform the Lake Association members, we felt it would, once again, be worthwhile to solicit their feedback via email, on three different questions. Email responses were received by October 6th, 2025 and all of the responses have been published verbatim, with minor typos addressed.

The three questions posed to the current Council, consisting of Mayor Michael Fuerth, Deputy Mayor Sheila Currie, Councilor JD Fentie, Councilor Larry Legault and Councilor Wendy Mortimer are as follows:

1. How will you ensure Wollaston Lake is in a positive financial position for the next year?

2. Which municipal service is an example of things going well in the Township?

3. What is the issue most commonly raised by citizens of our Township?

Response: Mayor Michael Fuerth

1. How will the council ensure Wollaston Township is in a positive financial position for the next year?

Council will ensure a strong financial position for 2026 by taking a proactive and transparent approach to economic management. This includes:

- Responsible Budgeting: Developing realistic and sustainable budgets that support Wollaston Township's daily operations while building financial reserves to meet the requirements of the current and future Township of Wollaston Asset Management Plan.
- Grant and Funding Opportunities: Actively pursuing provincial and federal funding and partnerships to reduce reliance on local tax dollars.
- Financial Oversight: Regularly monitoring revenues and expenses, adjusting as needed to stay on track,

and reporting to the community to maintain trust and accountability.

The Council aims to ensure that Wollaston Township remains financially healthy and well-prepared for the future through careful planning, accountability, and strategic decision-making.

2. Which municipal service is an example of things going well in the Township of Wollaston?

I will speak to all services, not singling one out.

Matt Kehoe exemplifies the value of effective succession planning within the municipality. Building on the legacy of retired Public Areas and Road Superintendent Kirk McCaw, Matt ensures municipal roads remain safe, accessible, and well-maintained year-round through regular grading, timely repairs, and efficient winter maintenance. He also oversees the Transfer Station's secure and compliant operation, maintaining accessibility for residents and adapting to evolving environmental and operational best practices and public space.

Fire Department

The firehall is new and well constructed, providing our firefighters with an inviting place to train. In the



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next nine months, much catching up will occur to bring the Wollaston Firefighters up to speed with Provincial Certification under Ontario Regulation 343/22, effective July 1st, 2026. This is the chief's responsibility.

Administration

Administration staff have prioritized financial stability by aligning services with available resources. They have enhanced transparency in financial reporting and strengthened communication with both seasonal and year-round residents through social media and open council sessions.

Chief Building Official (CBO Frank Mills) is collaborating with County Planning and Council to update the Comprehensive Zoning By-law, aiming to encourage development and increase new assessments within Wollaston Township.

Our new part-time By-Law Officer, Allan Musclow, is eager to contribute to and work alongside Wollaston Township.

3. What is the issue most commonly raised by our Township of Wollaston citizens?

The primary concern expressed by residents of Wollaston Township

relates to the frequency of closed and special council meetings.

Response: Deputy Mayor Sheila Currie

1. How will you ensure Wollaston Lake is in a positive financial position for the next year?

That's a good question. Depending on what is meant by 'positive financial position' I'm not sure anyone could ensure. I'm pleased with efforts of Council and staff over the past 3 years that have improved Wollaston's financial position; however, the reality is that we are faced with a shortfall in revenue to cover our long-term debt. As stated by Wollaston's engineering contractor in the 2024 Asset Management Plan, "the existing tax base and revenue it generates is insufficient to provide the necessary revenue to support the existing assets" (p. 36). Wollaston is by no means alone in this situation, with many small municipalities facing similar financial challenges, particularly as responsibilities continue to be downloaded from provincial to municipal responsibility. It is imperative that we continue to explore new sources of revenue while at the same time reaching out to our neighbouring municipalities to broaden of our shared service

arrangements, and to have frank discussion about potential benefits and downsides of amalgamation.

On a more positive note, the draft 2025 budget proposed in March would have required a tax increase of 12%, which Council members felt was too high. Accordingly we identified our priorities and requested that staff revise departmental budgets aiming for a tax increase no higher than 5%. They worked together and did a tremendous job, proposing a revised budget in May that was within our stated goals.

2. Which municipal service is an example of things going well in the Township?

Wollaston's staff are doing a great job across the board, and I'll cite the Roads department as an example that residents can appreciate on a daily basis. Following the retirement of a number of our long-standing roads crew in 2024, our new Superintendent was faced with building a new team while maintaining the high standard of service to which Wollaston is accustomed. He succeeded not only in finding people with the right combination of skills/experience, and commitment to the job, but was able to find cost savings. The feedback I receive from residents is positive, and



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the team shows pride in their work, perhaps especially after their success in “Roadeo” competitions this year that test the skills and knowledge of roads crews all around the province.

3. What is the issue most commonly raised by citizens of our Township?

People tell me they would like to see more economic opportunity in Wollaston to support more businesses thriving, more local employment options and improved incomes for families. With economic opportunity comes more of the social/sports/music activities our residents value, and a desirable community for people to call “home”. People tell me how they appreciate the building blocks we have here, including a thriving population of kids and their awesome teachers at the Coe Hill School, a Legion that is a community hub, a number of entrepreneurs working hard for their passions and for the betterment of their community. And when it comes to volunteers, whether full-time or seasonal, Wollaston residents show how deeply they care about this community by fundraising, donating, and generously volunteering their time. Residents and visitors alike recognize Wollaston’s natural environment as one of our main features, and we’re fortunate to have partnerships with

granting organizations, programs, and volunteers who help preserve this asset.

To answer your question: The main issue that is raised to me is how to create opportunity and ‘grow the good’ in Wollaston at a time when misinformation and vitriol on social media is commonplace, and when it pushes people apart. This isn’t unique to Wollaston — people see it happening all over, affecting all levels of government. I don’t have a solution but I do see people getting tired of it. For our collective wellbeing it’s important to look at the sources of information, and to know when to turn it off.

Response: Councilor JD Fentie

1. How will you ensure Wollaston Township is in a positive financial position for the next year?

As we enter the budget development period, I intend to advocate for the same approach I championed last year, namely setting a target property tax increase in line with inflation and then asking the Operating Managers to meet that target. Last year this led to a significant reduction in the proposed tax increase, while allowing the managers to prioritize the areas that were important to them.

From an operational perspective, I would like to explore the idea of community involvement in Township projects as with the Nellie Lunn Park project. This community-based approach saved time and money while reducing demands on Township staff. If we are to deliver more services to the community or reduce the cost of delivering existing services, we must look at creative new ways of working.

2. Which municipal service is an example of things going well in the Township?

I hesitate to name one specific service because I think we have a solid team across the board working hard to keep the Township running. The office team has dealt with uncertainty and change, along with higher-than-normal workloads and met the challenge. The public works team just gets on with business, whether it’s clearing the roads in winter or making sure the public beach or downtown playground are tidy. There’s a lot going on behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly and without drama.

3. What is the issue most commonly raised by citizens of our Township?

A concern for many people is how to bring the community together.



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For too many years there has been a divisive and confrontational aspect to the community that people are tired of. Social media has not helped this, but it's also not the cause. We need to find a way to celebrate and expand the number of people who quietly and steadily work for the good of the community while making it clear to the divisive elements that their behaviour is not welcome.

Response: Councilor Larry Legault

I am new to council and have been appointed to fill in over the next year.

1. How will you ensure Wollaston Township is in a positive financial position for the next year?

As council we have very limited control on the total cost to run the Township. Most of the costs have been already set for us, Roads maintenance \$1,700,000, Policing \$300,000, Waste \$300,000, repayment of the \$3,200,000 loan for the new fire department. We then set the tax rate to cover our yearly costs. We do have new homes being built each year, and new families moving into the area. which helps increase our tax base. Even with the much higher expenses, council has been able to keep the annual increase around 5%.

2. Which municipal service is an example of things going well in the Township?

I feel the roads department has done a good job over the past year, especially with our heavy snowfall last year and keeping up with the ongoing maintenance. The fire department continues to provide good service. especially during our summer drought. In September a large grass fire was started by a downed tree on a Hydro line, which spread rapidly and threatened the Town. Our fire service, along with help from Limerick, Faraday, Bancroft and the Ministry of Natural Resources were able to get it under control. Also, local heavy equipment contractors helped out when called. It was nice to see so many people coming together in time of emergency.

3. What is the issue most commonly raised by citizens of our Township?

As with all communities, citizens have a concern about the taxes that they pay. No one likes to pay taxes, but this council has been very open about showing where the money is being spent and the ways they are trying to control the costs, which makes it a little easier when we see our bill. I feel that Wollaston Lake and our rural natural beauty brings people to

our area.

Many have concerns about the state of our Lake, with the climate change, very low lake levels this summer, milfoil, and the increased demands. It is the council's responsibility to monitor and maintain our natural assets. I was able to help reopen Nellie Lunn Park, which is another natural resource for all to enjoy.

Response: Councilor Wendy Mortimer

Thank you for the opportunity to talk about council matters with your membership.

1. How will you ensure Wollaston Township is in a positive financial position for the next year?

Ensuring that Wollaston is in good financial shape next year (and every year) is the main priority for me as a councillor. We are about to start to prepare the 2026 budget, which is a best estimate of next year's costs, to ensure we collect enough in taxes, transfers and fees to pay for all of the township's responsibilities. Delivering on all the obligations mandated by the province is increasingly challenging. Many costs (such as OPP) are not under our control. Roads maintenance takes a large fraction of our municipal budget. Some costs are unpredictable,



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like the weather, with windstorms, ice storms and drought all occurring recently. Others are well-known, such as the financing costs for the new firehall at about \$170,000 per year for 30 years.

My guiding principles going in to the budget preparation process are:

- Keep taxes as low as possible, with a 0% increase as our target.
- Ensure that Wollaston residents and taxpayers get good value for money spent on goods and services.
- Look for non-tax dollars such as the sale of surplus properties, appropriate fees for services, government grants, etc.
- Seek to expand our tax base (spread the cost of operations over more taxpayers) through appropriate developments of infrastructure and amenities.
- Partner with other townships/ counties to share costs of services, if service levels can be improved or maintained at lower costs.
- Support political amalgamation to reduce the number of elected officials where advantageous to Wollaston taxpayers.

2. Which municipal service is an example of things going well in the Township?

The outstanding example of things going well in our township this year is the re-opening of Nellie Lunn Park. It is a beautiful trail, spectacular in Fall colours right now.

3. What is the issue most commonly raised by citizens of our Township?

The issue raised most commonly is that of lack of civility on social media when township issues are "discussed." It's fine to disagree with decisions made at the council table, but personal attacks are not helpful and only result in division and disrespect. I would love to see more positive interactions that would encourage others to get involved in volunteer activities, support and participate in local sports and recreation, and consider running for council in the next election. The vitriolic and poisonous ranting that is the norm here has made many good people decide against taking a more public role.

Wollaston Lake Library Update by Carol Dahlquist

Did you know? Having a Wollaston Lake Library card gives you free access to the Libby app, your gateway

to thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, and digital magazines anytime, anywhere. With Libby, you can borrow and read on your phone, tablet, or e-reader: there are no late fees, no waiting for the library to open. It's an easy, convenient way to stay connected to learning, stories, and entertainment, all through your local library! You can have up to 10 books on your loan request list, and you will be notified as soon as they are available. There are also many books that you can borrow immediately. There is no waitlist for digital magazines, and they will let you know when a new issue of your favourite magazine is available. Say goodbye to those piles of magazines that are collecting dust and enjoy having all of them at your fingertips! Check out the library website <https://wollastonpubliclibrary.ca/elibrary/e-books-audio-books/> to get your access now! If you need assistance, pop into the Library (5629-A HWY 620) and Kelly will be sure to help you.





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Wollaston Lake Friends - Old and New by David Purdy Director of Membership

2025 marks my 40th year on Wollaston Lake. For those who are keeping count, that represents a lifetime of memories to me. Throughout the years, Wollaston Lake has been the backdrop to some of my life's fondest memories. I can recall countless campfires, card games, BBQs, as well as endless hours in and around the lake, enjoying a variety of water sports, fishing and after-dinner cruises to visit friends or stop for ice cream.

Many times, the day eventually led to taking in a gorgeous Wollaston Lake sunset where the skies above would be filled with shades of reds, yellows and oranges. The memories don't end once the cold weather hits. After many cottagers and campers have closed up for the season, I've always found it worthwhile to brave the cold, slushy highways and (sometimes) unplowed roads to enjoy snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, skating, ice fishing or just curling up next to a fire to escape the day-to-day. As is usually the case, the "fun" activities are sometimes accompanied by "work" to be done, either at my cottage or a neighbour's. Every year brings new projects, including tending

to the wood pile (from cutting to piling), boiling sap, shoveling roofs, moving docks and generally, a number of additional items on an endless to-do list.

Other than the familiar and comforting setting of the lake, another common denominator in these special memories are the people who I've shared them with. I have been fortunate to know multiple generations (sometimes up to three of four) of neighbours who have become, and remained lifelong friends, with countless years of shared memories and milestones both at and away from the lake. Among them are families and their guests who return year after year and even couples who've met and even fallen in love at the lake. Wollaston Lake and the surrounding community have provided opportunities for friendship and relationships that are as unique and meaningful, as they are longstanding. As a third-generation cottager, I've heard many stories about past traditions and activities that have faded over time. I am thankful for the ones that remain and do my best to partake when the opportunity arises, whether that be poker runs, BBQs, holiday parties, and generally, people looking out and caring for one another. I've realized it's these activities and way of life that have had

a lasting impact on me and contribute to building a community worth living in. This love of the community surrounding Wollaston Lake has also been a huge factor in why I've recently decided to move my career, selling real estate closer to the lake. It's a worthwhile endeavor, helping families find and fall in love with their dream properties. Although I won't be giving up waterskiing or snowmobiling anytime soon, it's these traditions and community activities, along with the values they instill, that are most important to me.

It's for these reasons and many others, that I am grateful for the friends, old and new, as well as those I've yet to meet on Wollaston Lake.



COME JOIN US



LUNCH • DINNER

a drink on the patio!

Reservations recommended
705-656-4694

Visit our Gift Shop featuring
beautiful work by local artists



APSLEY • CHANDOS LAKE
86 Renwick Road

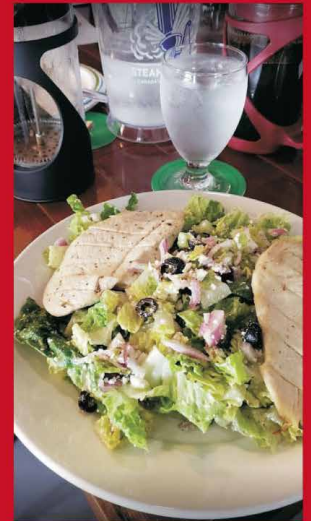
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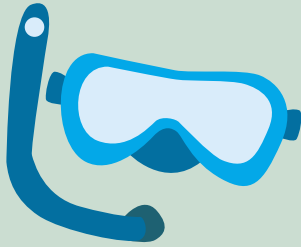
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