



By Luke Mellors - President

President's Message Spring 2023

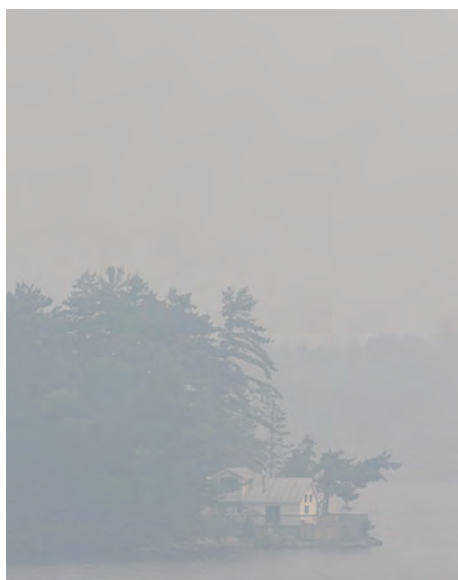
As I sit down and think about how to tell you about all the

things we have going on this summer I smell smoke in the air from the terrible wildfires in Quebec and in Northern Ontario. It reminds me how fragile our area is and how easily it can be devastated.

There are so many things that threaten the environment we all enjoy - please be diligent. Observe fire bans and be mindful of ensuring fires are properly monitored and put out correctly. Equally observe the regulations of clean, drain, dry for you boats to ensure we prevent the spread of invasive species.

Last year was a remarkable year for the Milfoil Action Committee and our Lake Stewardship. We audaciously brought in a harvester to remove a significant portion of Milfoil and continued our awareness activities around the community.

Over the course of that year Fred McConnell our Lake Steward has created our State of Lake Report, a scientific, peer reviewed assessment of the health and risks to our lake. As we speak public consultations are going on over the report to ensure it is accepted and understood as to the impacts its assessment identifies. Why is this important? This sort of analysis is required to



qualify for funding larger grants such as Trillium which will allow Wollaston Lake to have access to funding in the tens and hundreds



of thousands of dollars which is necessary to support our continued battle against lake threats. I encourage everyone to view the report online and to be aware of its assessment and recommendations.

We are looking forward to welcoming you at our BBQ on July 15th at the legion. We are trying again this year to have a silent auction supporting our local food bank,



local families and this year adding support for local kids to attend some summer camp sessions provided by Camp Kawartha. Please come out and show you support.

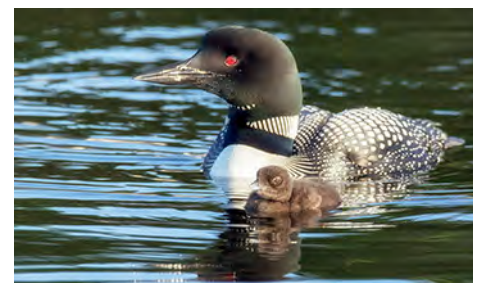
We are pleased to announce we have received some support from council and once again will be harvesting milfoil in mid July. In addition, this year we will be working with local dive clubs to put in some benthic mats in key areas of milfoil infestation in the lake.

We are also implementing a donor program - see more on that in this newsletter but I hope you will become a donor today.

The Milfoil Action Committee continues to impress and I want to thank everyone involved for working for the lake and doing amazing things. This year they have secured some important grants and organized a host of activities to support invasive species containment and education. Make sure you look out for them at the Fair this year as there will be a booth.

We have our AGM on August 13 this year so please mark your calendars - we will be doing a hybrid of local and virtual again this year to support both those who can make it in person and those who can't.

As a lake association we want to



do as much as we can to ensure the lake is a fun and safe place for

everyone to enjoy the summer. It does however take help. We require volunteers on our executive and to help support and run some of our events and activities. Please reach out if you would like to be involved in any way - we could use the support.



By Fred McConnell - Lake Steward

Lake Steward's Report

Spring 2023

Wollaston State of the Lake Overview

Wollaston Lake, like lakes within the region, is in the process of transition based on the effects of several 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 public review of the report is scheduled for Wednesday June 28, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 at the Coe Hill legion and via zoom (the meeting will be recorded). The mid- week timing is necessary to accommodate the guest, environmental, experts from Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP), Watersheds Canada and Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA). The objectives of the public review are:

- (1) To provide the Wollaston Lake stakeholder community with information pertaining to the state of Wollaston Lake health, Threats affecting lake health and actions that can be taken to promote improved lake health
- (2) To receive stakeholder views regarding lake health priorities via completed Watersheds Canada Love Your Lake surveys - this will also inform the Wollaston Lake Management



plan that we will utilize to apply for larger funding pots of money (e.g. Trillium grant)

The Wollaston, State of the Lake Report (first draft water quality analysis was 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 Management 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. It is also a prerequisite for application for larger grants to combat invasive species and address other lake ecosystem threats.

The State of the Lake Report

documents and summarizes relevant information and identifies possible trends on Wollaston Lake up to December 2021 which includes a broad range of sources of information (see partner list). It compares Wollaston Lake with similar neighboring 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) has partnered with a number of environmental expert organizations such as the Trent Aquatic Research Program (TARP), Watersheds Canada, The Land Between and Ontario Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) to name a few for advice, programs 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 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 a number of influences.

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

Total phosphorus (µg/L) is an important water quality parameter as phosphorus is a growth-limiting nutrient that supports algal biomass. Values below 10 µg/L are generally

Total Phosphorus (filtered - all in micrograms per litre - ug./L)					
Date (2022)	Lake Partner Program (MECP)	WLHCA Program (Caduceon)			
	Main Lake: Deep Spot	Main Lake: Deep Spot	Second Lake	Third Lake	Inlet
May 10	N/A	2	2	3	-
June 22	N/A	4	18	12	8
July 7	N/A	12	7	11	32
Aug 20	N/A	5	16	30	11
Sept 27	N/A	2	4	4	2
2022 Average		5.0	9.4	12	13.3
Historical Average: 1997 to 2016**	6.7				
Readings in the eutrophic (very high) nutrient 					

* 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 2017 of Lake Partner sampling data.



associated with good water quality and typically support low algal biomass.

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.



By Mary Byrne - Director
of Memberships

Membership Matters

The beginning of summer always feels more like the new year to me, compared to January, so wishing everyone a happy new summer! Thanks to the 40% of Wollaston Lake property owners (102) who have already renewed their membership for 2023. There are 256 potential members on the lake. We ended strong last year at 53.9%. For those yet to pay, we welcome your support:
Send an eTransfer for \$35 to:

wlhca.membership@gmail.com

Or
Mail a Cheque for \$35 to:

**WLHCA, PO Box 249, Coe Hill
ON, K0L 1P0**

The real estate market appears to have slowed down a bit compared to prior years, but if you have a new neighbour, please let them know about the Association. A community BBQ is being planned for July 15 and is a wonderful way to get to meet new friends and neighbours.

Annual General Meeting – August 13

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is planned for morning of Sunday August 13, at the Coe Hill Legion. Membership fees can be paid at the door, by cash, cheque or eTransfer.



Breakfast at 9am is included as part of your membership, with the formal meeting to begin at 10am.

The agenda will include reports from our executive, functions, and committees. The slate of officers for 2024 will be voted in. 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 volunteer opportunities such as:
Executive roles including Membership, Communications, Events 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 seeing you on or around the lake.

Mary Byrne
Vice President, and Acting Director
of Membership
WLHCA
wlhca.vicepresident@gmail.com



Submitted by Joanne Pozniak,
MAC Chair

Milfoil Action Committee Update

The Milfoil Action Committee continues in 2023 to set the agenda and drive forward

innovative and creative ways to support making our lake the best place to live and visit.

This year we are very proud of the support and partnership from the Bancroft OPP promoting water safety and also Red Eagle for sponsoring 100 safety whistles to local children. One of the core objectives of the committee is to promote awareness and to engage our youth.

This year there will be a booth at Coe Hill Fair so that we can continue to share our activities and educate lake users on Milfoil and its impacts - please drop by on August 25-26th.

It is always difficult to fund and manage the costs containing an invasive species like Milfoil. As a small lake our resources are limited and even with the great local support we have received it still requires work and creativity to do even a portion of the things we set out to.

This year MAC has been able to organize volunteer divers from a Belleville diving club to support installing benthic mats in some of our permitted milfoil areas. In addition, the MAC committee has been doing extensive work in researching and applying for grants



to support our work. These grants and volunteer support are a cornerstone of our success and help fuel the work we do.

There is lots of work to do and as

a community committee please do think about participating and volunteering if you want to become involved. See below for some opportunities to donate rope or blocks and for request for volunteers for boats and people to support our activities.



Following is a detailed summary of the 2023 MAC Short Term Action Items...

Continue to educate the public on how to mitigate the spread of E. Milfoil and other aquatic invasive species.

- **Water Safety:** Youth Community Contest in partnership with Bancroft OPP. Special THANKS to Red Eagle Family Campground for sponsoring the cost of 100 whistles... June 19-August
- **Education Flyers:** available at library, post office, Coe Hill Grocery Store, Camp Grounds and online
- **Education Blitz** at Coe Hill Fair in partnership with Invasive Species Centre on the topic of *NEW Clean and Drain Boater Regulations and Aquatic Invasive Species of Wollaston and Nearby Water Bodies* ... Saturday, August 26
- **Harvesting Snorkel Community Event...** DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Addition of benthic mats and yellow buoys to help mitigate the growth and fragmentation of large E. Milfoil beds in high traffic areas.

- Installation of benthic mats in 3 locations with volunteer divers from Canadian Sport Divers Club from Belleville...

Saturday, July 22

***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

- 2 boats (with platform) and 4 people to assist with lifting and moving mats
- We are adding additional buoys this year to mark additional milfoil areas and beds
- 30 blocks and 100 feet of rope donated by WLHCA members! STILL IN NEED of 30 more blocks and 200 feet of rope

Annual request of funds or in kind services from Wollaston Township to help with lake health initiatives and to maintain open communication and a working relationship between the organizations.

- Delegation to Township on June 13 by MAC on Lake Health and Long Term Lake Management Plan. RESULTS: Township offered \$10,000 towards this year's proposed action items.
- Approval of plant debris collection bin by Township in support of NEW WATERCRAFT Regulations
- Continue to develop the "Lake Health" tab on the Township Website

Mechanical Harvesting Project and share findings with the community.

- Project schedule for July 17 and 18
- *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: at

public boat launch to help inspect for aquatic life and any fragments dropped during unloading of the harvester

Continue to apply for local and government grants to help funding of current and future aquatic invasive lake health initiatives.

- \$4000 Awarded by the Invasive Species Centre to the MAC to be used THIS SEASON towards this year's action items

We have had another active year and want to thank everyone for their continued support for the committee.



Donor Program

For years some members have donated additional funds beyond their \$35 membership to support some of our lake health activities. The things we can do will always out pace and ability to finance them. This is the reality of a small lake battling major invasive species.

We are extremely proud of what we have achieved but we want to do more. As such this year we are introducing a donor program to support those who may wish and are able to offer more than their membership to assist in lake health activities.

Every cent beyond the \$35 will be applied to support lake health activities such as milfoil containment and water testing. Please become a donor today. To recognize our donors - if they would like (privacy will be respected) - we are creating our Wall of Fame showing the support of key members to support our activities - it looks like this - please become a donor today.



Friends of Wollaston Lake Wall of Fame

While every lakefront property owner can be a member for \$35 we will be asking and recognizing those who decide to give more on our Friends of Wollaston Lake Wall of Fame

Silver Donors - \$50-\$100

Gold Donors - \$100-250

Platinum Donors - \$250-500

Diamond Donors \$500 and above

In addition, for any non member who would like to donate \$50 or more to lake health we have a special Community Friends of Wollaston Lake recognition board. We will provide updates on our donor list via our social and online channels as well as recognize these donors at our events.

Please think about becoming a donor today.



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Baker Swim School

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Baker's Swim School is a summer program that runs on Wollaston Lake offering personalized swim lessons based on swim level, what the parent wants their child to learn and what the student wants to learn.

Lesson Times

Fast track Program: 10 days of lessons in a row

The weekly program: 2 lessons a week for 10 lessons for a total of 5 weeks of lessons.

Lessons will run from the middle of July to the third week of August.

Pricing & Info

- Lessons involve a 3:1, 2:1 or 1:1 instruction
- Lessons are \$300 (for each student)
- 45 minute classes with a 5 minute warm up and 5 minute free-time at the end



Locations:

Red Eagle Campground / Bear Ridge or Private on your dock

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WANTED

Neighbourhood Champions



If you are a homeowner that has concerns with the wildfire hazard on or nearby your property – you can become a Neighbourhood Champion – taking the initiative to contact the FireSmart Neighbourhoods Program can start the ball rolling.

FireSmart Neighbourhoods Program

...NEEDS YOU!

The FireSmart™ Neighbourhoods Program is designed to encourage self-organized groups of residents to take the lead in implementing solutions for wildfire safety on their own properties.

Working together with your neighbours is fun and effective!

Often an annual day or half-day dedicated to cleaning up wildfire hazardous vegetation that has accumulated around the neighbourhood becomes a traditional community event.

Over the years getting together and sharing food, laughter and some outdoor work can make a big difference to the wildfire hazard in and around your neighbourhood.

The Program provides people living in wildfire prone areas with the knowledge and organizational means to significantly reduce their neighbourhood's vulnerability to wildfire. They achieve this by planning and working together – with the support of a local wildfire professional.

Remember, if you're concerned about the wildfire hazard in your area - there's a good chance your neighbours feel the same way. The FireSmart Neighbourhoods Program is designed to assist you and your neighbours to develop an action plan to reduce your wildfire hazard simply and effectively.

If this sounds like something your neighbourhood might be interested in, contact FireSmart Canada or your Local Fire Representative today. They will arrange to meet with you (the Neighbourhood Champion) and your neighbours to discuss your concerns and explain what the FireSmart Neighbourhoods Program can do for your neighbourhood. There's no obligation - the program is funded by a variety of fire prevention agencies.

Visit our website at: www.firesmartcanada.ca

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