

# The Kahshe Krier



Official newsletter of the KLRA  
Published 3 times a year  
Editor: Keith Price keithonkahshe@bell.net  
90 Meadowvale Drive, Etobicoke, ON, M8Z 3J6  
416 233 7688 (h) 416 272 1486 (c) 705 687 7108 (cottage)

## Summer/Fall 2017



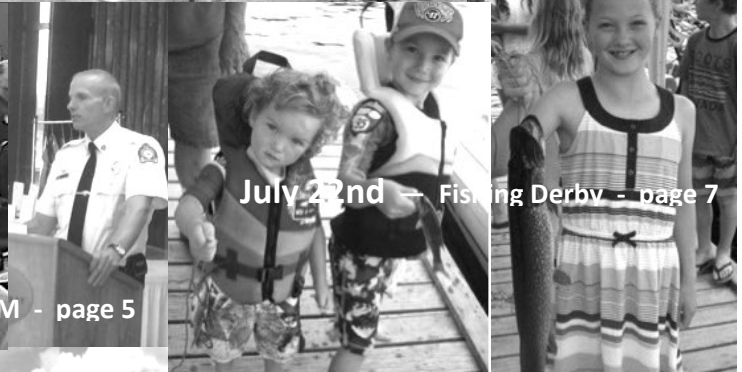
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## ***Opening Salvo***, by Steve Wild

I am honored to represent the KLRA as the president for the next two years. I have been cottaging at Kahshe since the 60's and have an old cottage to match my tenure here. I, like many others, have seen tremendous changes to the lake over this time and hope to ensure that the KLRA focuses on continuing to adding positive value to our members and the Lake going forward.

Please feel free to contact me directly, any time. [steve.wild@dxc.com](mailto:steve.wild@dxc.com) 732 216 3349

*Steve Wild*

## ***Parting Shots***, by Bob Reyburn and Marg Taylor

I've enjoyed serving the Association as co-president with Marg Taylor over the past two years. I welcome Steve Wild as the incoming President, and am looking forward to his leadership over the next two years.

*Bob Reyburn*

It has been a great pleasure to serve as co-president of the KLRA for the past two years. I will continue to volunteer with the KLRA and look forward to seeing you around the lake.

*Marg Taylor*

## **A moment of quiet reflection about Canada's 150th birthday**

by Jay Fallis



For some reason, I can't sleep. I can only lie awake, staring up at the boathouse ceiling. No doubt staying here, in the lead-up to Canada Day, I feel a little restless. It is always exciting being back for the summer at my family's century old cottage on North Kahshe Lake Road. It is a place that means a lot to me. Having grown up here, I feel very much at home.

To clear my head, I decide to get up. Not five steps from the bed is a sliding glass door. I open it and step outside onto the creaky old porch that overlooks the lake.

It is a calm night. The water is dark, but the light of the moon illuminates the shoreline. In the distance, I hear the enduring call of a loon carrying over the water. It seeps into every bay and every corner. At that moment, it feels as if the world stands still.

As I lean on the railing looking out, I can't help but think about the lake itself. I imagine what it has borne witness to over its many years.

Long ago, centuries before Canadian Confederation, Kahshe Lake was home to Indigenous people. It was here that members of the Chippewa hunted, fished, and even prepared for their long journeys north. Only about two hundred metres from the porch of the boat house, I can see the bay where they would have beached their canoes before starting their portage along the trail to Lake Muskoka. The name Kahshe is even believed by some to have originated from the Ojibwe word 'Ka-shesheb-agam-ag' which loosely translates into *place of many ducks and loons*. There is no doubt that Indigenous people have left their mark on this lake. Hopefully one day, their culture's presence can again be felt to the extent that it once was.

Since that time, our lake has changed a great deal. First it was French settlers who came by canoe, and later English settlers and others who came mostly by road and rail. By the time of Confederation, Kahshe was home to a bustling logging industry supported by pioneers originating from all over. They came here intent on starting a new life for themselves and sought to develop a land they did not yet know. While most of the structures they built have been lost over time, there are a few cottages on the lake from that era which remain. They stand as a testament to the incredible hard work of these first-generation Canadians. It is amazing to think how these settlers would have floated the cabin logs right in front of the spot where our boathouse sits today, on the way to the construction site.

(cont on page 9)

## Giving back to Kahshe

Lauren A. Koenig is a young entrepreneur running her own high-energy business, TWIP (Travel With Interesting People), in New York City.

But ask her where she'd rather be, where her heart is, and she'll tell you, "Kahshe Lake — the waters used to baptize me and the place I've been coming to since I was two months old."

"Kahshe nourishes me," she said, sitting on the dock of the 1945 log cottage on the northern tip of Boyd Island that her late grandfather, Russell Wayne Koenig Sr, bought in the late 50's

Being at Kahshe recharges her, grounds her. Even though she only gets to spend two weeks a year now, it's where her life long friends and her best memories are.

In 2015 she decided she needed to show her appreciation for the lake by doing something that would affect the lake at its core.

Being social media savvy, she started the Kahshe Lake Community Facebook page that just topped the 700 member mark. Yes, 700 cottagers and people from all over the world who love Kahshe, who post glorious photos, who post warnings about potential hazards on the lake, and who help each other to find that missing dock or ask "what kind of snake is this?"

But Koenig began using the page to find out what other people wanted for Kahshe. And that's how she came up with the idea of giving Kahshe more rock markers to supplement the 18 floating lighted markers, and the 15 floating ball buoys that the KLRA puts in and takes out each year. You can never have too many rock markers on Kahshe.

"SO many people got back to me saying that this is what we needed to do," she said. "The lake had spoken."

One of them -- designer Elise Goodhoofd whose family cottage is in Deep Bay -- offered to work up a design for a line of Kahshe clothing, which Koenig sold to raise over Cdn\$2,500. This money was used to finance the construction by Michael Bradley, another Boyd Islander, of four permanent lighted rock towers - sleek, white cylinders fitted with special solar lights made only in Texas.

The towers were installed this July by yet another Boyd Islander, Craig Hunter, in locations suggested by the KLRA Rock Marker committee, headed by Barry Elder and Tim Ottaway. The marker pictured is located just off the south shore near the Hens and Chickens. Another has been placed offshore from Grey Owl, the third is located south of Burnt Island and the fourth is at the top of Grants Bay on the west channel. Lauren is hoping to continue to raise money in order to build more permanent markers, one of which may be used to mark a nasty rock not far from the entrance to the river linking Kahshe to Bass Lake.



"Kahshe Lake gives enjoyment to hundreds of people," Koenig said. "It's time we started loving her back, tenfold. I hope that the lighthouses prompt people to ask themselves what **they** can do for the lake? Let the towers become our symbol for change and a constant reminder that even the smallest acts can make a big difference and have a long-lasting impact."

*Kudos to Lauren Koenig and her millennial pals on the lake for their successful rock marker initiative that supports the 30+ rock markers that the KLRA install and take out every year.*

*The future of our lake is definitely in good hands.*

*The KLRA is here to help make happen other exciting, smart ideas that improve or enhance our shared experience of the lake. So, if any of you have any of those ideas, or feel that you could devote some time and energy to the Association, as a Board Member or as a member of one of the Standing Committees, we would dearly love to hear from you.*

*Your Lake needs your insight, your energy and, most importantly, your commitment!*

Contact

[keithonkashshe@bell.net](mailto:keithonkashshe@bell.net)

or

[steve.wild@dxc.com](mailto:steve.wild@dxc.com)



We always knew there were a lot of “flea’s” on the lake, but never did we imagine that there were so many! Our **Kahshe Lake Fleafest 2017** on **Canada Day** this year was a resounding success! Even the short torrents of rain in the afternoon served as dramatic backdrop to the 60+ mph demonstration runs by Tyler Ricketts in his three point racing hydro. What was more inspiring though was the line-up of boats along the Rockhaven waterfront, very much reminiscent of the “good-old days” back in the 60’s and 70’s. Gord Robinson, one of the original “Pace Makers” team, created a fantastic visual presentation on the history of Kahshe Lake boat racing, resplendent with archival images collected from many local cottage photo albums.

With over 40 boats in attendance on land and water it was a gathering of young and old who were able to share a common bond of their love for all things seaflea. These small craft (some making the trip from as far away as Pennsylvania) came in all shapes and sizes; from those sporting Canadian flags flying majestically from hockey sticks to the fantastically overcharged “Power Cat” with it’s twin classic 80 hp Merc’s on the back.

For the novice, there was an abundance of resource materials, boats, motors and parts for sale as well as educational displays to get the uninitiated up to speed on building their own Kahshe Lake Seaflea. Our “Build-Your-Own” model boat tent was a huge hit with the younger crowd, as was our “ride-a-long” seaflea experience. With the BBQ team cooking up a sizzling storm of delicious delights, photo opportunities and selfies with a real Canadian mounted police and the KLRA Boutique in attendance, the entire day was an event not to be missed. The highlight of the day was the “People’s Choice Award” presented to ten year old Logan Amendola and his eight foot Mini Most “Mcphee Flea.”

We would like to thank the huge number of people who were instrumental in making Fleafest happen this year. The entire KLRA Executive, Dennis and Judy Ring, George Lindsay, Greig Holder, Gord Robinson, Rob Abbott, Ron Stevenson, Greg Keeling, Jennifer Mullin, Cathan DeForest, Wendy & Dennis Houlberg, Willie Godfrey, Dave Edwards and the many other Kahshe Lake residents who came out to lend a hand.

We look forward to bringing Fleafest back for the summer of 2019!

Chris Taylor  
Andrew Taylor  
Robert Renton

The Muskoka Seaflea Team!



## ***The Kahshe Boutique***

**Thank-you to all of the wonderful customers of the KLRA Boutique. We have had another very successful summer. All of the proceeds from our boutique go directly to the work of KLRA.**

**We are fully staffed by volunteers and we love having the chance to talk with you. And remember, only the boutique carries official KLRA merchandise.**

**See you next summer!**



### Do you know an outstanding volunteer?

Do you know an outstanding volunteer who deserves a bit of recognition? We are pleased to announce that we are accepting nominations for the **6th Annual KLRA Outstanding Volunteer Award.**

This **Award** is designed to recognize extraordinary people in the Kahshe Lake and Bass Lake areas whose volunteer efforts have contributed to life on Kahshe and/or Bass Lakes, including but not limited to

- \* protection of the lake and its surroundings,
- \* promoting community good will,
- \* promoting and/or supporting safe practises on and around the lake, and
- \* fostering communication.
- \* made a significant investment of his/her time and talent for the Kahshe Lake community.

This award will be presented at the KLRA AGM on Sunday July 8, 2018.

A complete description and explanation of the nomination process can be found at our website:

<http://www.kahshelake.ca/OutstandingVolunteerAward>

So.....volunteer a volunteer this year!

download the nomination form (in either PDF or Word format), complete it and mail it to our secretary at the address shown at the bottom of the form.

**or** copy and paste the form into your word processor. Complete it and then e-mail it to us at the e-mail address shown at the bottom of the form.

**Nominations close on May 31, 2018. So ....**

**Think about whom you could nominate and let us know**

<http://www.kahshelake.ca/OutstandingVolunteerAward>

### Past winners

2013	George Lindsay
2014	Clare Henderson
2015	Eleanor MacLean
2016	Alex Milburn
2017	Randy Craig



### AGM - July 16, 2017 Muskoka Bay Club



Randy Craig receives the Volunteer-of-the-Year Award from John Kuropatwa

Parry Sound-Muskoka MP  
Tony Clement

Gravenhurst Fire  
Prevention Officer  
Bob King



Lake Steward, Ron Pearson



### Prize Draw Winners

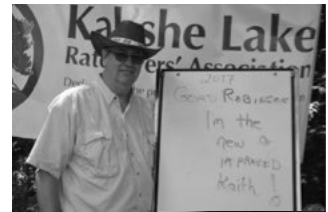
left to right

- Sue Lindsay
- Round of Golf for 2
- Mark Bell
- Boathouses of Muskoka
- Carol Cordery
- Round of Golf for 2
- Chris Andrews
- Kahshe Lake t-shirt

# The 56th Annual Housey's Rapids Picnic



July 15th dawned clear and sunny and stayed that way for the enjoyment of over 80 cottagers and guests at my final hoorah as organizer. After running the kids' games and then the whole Picnic for the past 20 years, I have finally found a replacement — KLRA Board member, Gord Robinson, who has vowed to be the new, improved Keith Price — his words, not mine.



←Cathan DeForest, the new organizer for the kids' games, did a fantastic job with old games and new, keeping the kids running (and throwing, hopping, splashing, falling, wrapping, even eating Oreo cookies) all afternoon.



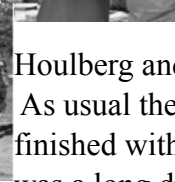
And when the kids weren't busy with the games, Gwen Hems had fun things for them to do at the Craft Table, Gord and Tien White fed them



sausages and hotdogs, and they ate Canada150 Birthday Cake.



The Horseshoe Tournament, organized by Scott & Joanne Watson, was won by Dennis Houlberg and Bob Reyburn.



As usual the volleyball area was well used, the Bucket Brigade finished with a drenching for me — again! And the Tug-o-War was a long dragged out affair! Go figure.



My sincere thanks to all those volunteers and donors who have helped to make the Picnic such an enduring success over the past 20 years. I wish Gord the very best for the next 20! *Keith Price*

**Donors** - Dave Purdon at Muskoka Meats, Muskoka Springs, Cottage Life Magazine, Muskoka Steamships, Grace and Speed Museum, Gravenhurst Opera House.

**Picnic Committee** - Shawn & Nancy Corbett, Dennis & Wendy Houlberg, Scott & Joanne Watson, Wes & Janis Ryan, Cathy Dunphy, Alison Price, Matt Barker.

**Volunteers** - Gwen Hems (Craft Table), Gord & Tien White (Barbecue), Bob Reyburn, Donna Sutherland and Ruth Miller (Kahshe Boutique), Art McReavy (loan of volleyball and tug-o-war equipment).



Some of the happy winners  
← Kids' Games  
Raffle Prizes →



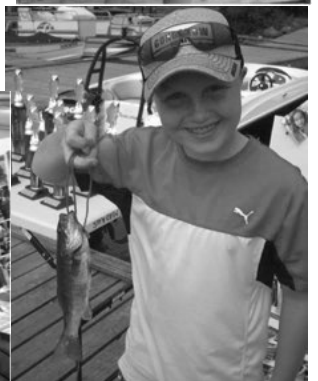
### *The 9th Annual Kermit Long Kids Fishing Derby*

48 kids had a great time bringing in over 120 fish, large and small. This means we had more fish and more kids than ever before. Hurray!

Compared to last year, the category for 13-15 year olds had triple the number of entrants. **K.C. Long**, Kermit Long's great grandson placed first with a 32 inch pike. The second place winner was **Cole Honchar** who brought in a 21 inch pike. An 11 3/4 inch smallmouth bass earned **Ryan Richardson** third place. Besides the trophy for first place, hats and rods and reels were donated by **Nick Arnott** for these 3 winners.

For those 12 years and under, the trophies for the 3 largest fish were presented to **Ashley Wayland** for a 26 inch pike, to **Alivia Detoro** for a 20 inch pike and **Jackson Long** (another of Kermit's great grandsons) for a 19 inch walleye. All entrants received a loot bag of fishing supplies donated by **Streamside, Set the Hook baits, Kamakazi, Gagnon Sports, River Master Floats, Black Jack Bucktails** and **Glen Boyd and Chris Marline Muskoka Bassmasters**. Special recognition to 3 student helpers:

**Nick Arnott, Sophia Selva and Keaton Appleton.**  
**Karen and Ken Long,**  
**Sandra Moad,**  
**Toivo Madrus**



Full results can be seen at [www.kahshelake.ca](http://www.kahshelake.ca) scroll down to Kermit Long Fishing Derby.

### **The Kahshe Lake Craft Show**

The numbers for the show were down but the vendors say they had a great time. The vendor portion of the show will be handed over to Sharon McKenzie for the future. We trust Sharon to do a great job recruiting vendors.

There were a few people asking about the bake sale but were not surprised when I said that the numbers had been dropping off in the past few years. We hope someone volunteers to pick this back up and run with it. Judy Henderson is a gem organizing and running the book sale, but she needs help. A few volunteers would be much appreciated.

Francisca Schlechter was a superstar taking over the announcements.

This year was the third and final year to raise money for the Muskoka Victim Services and we will be donating \$2500.00 to them. Altogether The Kahshe Country Crafts Show & Sale has raised and donated \$8,500.00 for the Muskoka Victim Services. The Gravenhust Fire Department will be receiving \$150.00 for their Smoke Detector Program.

We will be looking for a different recipient for next year. We would like to put this out into the Kahshe community. The recipient should be local and in need. The recipient has also taken on the food booth in the recent past by cooking and serving the food items. This is NOT a separate event for someone else to make money. The goal of the craft show is to raise money for the recipient of the show. *Judy & Dennis Ring*



### The 13th Annual Kahshe Lake Regatta

Nagaya Beach was the place to be on Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> – with our MC, Alison Smithers, directing the day and local DJ Scott Dunlop providing music, a great time was had by everyone who attended.

In addition to a number of traditional events – including swimming and running races, hula hoop, an art contest, cardboard boat races and the Best Boat and Titanic Boat competition, this year saw the introduction of Beach Volleyball. A number of attendees had a great time playing pick-up volleyball throughout the day. A brief (but heavy) rain put a damper on the round robin tournament, though we're excited to add volleyball to next year's regatta. (Thanks to long time Kahshe Lake cottager Art McCreavy for the use of his volleyball equipment).

Of course the marquee event - the Girls vs. Boys Tug-of-War was a huge hit. Girls took the win, for the second year in a row!

The KLRA Boutique was jumping with sales of t-shirts, mugs, and membership renewals. Thanks to John and Joan Kuropatwa, Eleanor Mclean, Sandra Moad, April Gadsby-Drane, Ruth Miller, Gord Robinson, Clare Henderson and Greig Holder for manning the booth.

The BBQ was jumping as well as everyone enjoyed a sausage or hot dog, donated by Dave Purdon at Muskoka Meats. Thanks to grill masters Peter Jarvis and Tyler Ryan. Please make a point of dropping into Muskoka Meats, to pick up some of the fine products Dave offers and to say thanks for supporting the KLRA regatta.

We had an exceptional crew of volunteers this year who looked after set-up, tear down and all the events in between.

Our team included:

Alison Smithers, Tyler Ryan, Hayley Cheung, Scott Weese, Cheryl Scott, Fred Hughes, Greig Holder, Clare Henderson (official photographer), Judy Henderson, Jocelyne Courage, Heidi Courage, April Gadsby-Drane, Daniel Gadsby-Drane, Sam Ryan, Peter Jarvis, Shelly Dunlop.

Extra thanks to our high school students who earned hours for their community volunteer requirement – Abbi Weese, Jessie Scott, McKenzie Gordon and Dustin.

Thanks to Libby and Ella who took videos (check out our Facebook page), and pitched in wherever needed and finally, thanks to Steve Wild, who oversaw the day and pulled everything together.

Planning is underway for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Regatta, which will be organized by Maureen and Alison Smithers. If you have any feedback, ideas or would like to volunteer, please send them an email at: [smithers.maureen@gmail.com](mailto:smithers.maureen@gmail.com)





## White Pine Stand on Kahshe as old as Canada by George Lindsay

Last summer, I attended a Town of Gravenhurst Open House to review a draft of the Official Plan. It included all of the associated maps and I noticed an area on Kahshe appearing to show a stand of 150+ year old White Pine. It is the only such stand of white pine in Gravenhurst. To confirm it, I was directed to contact the MNR Forestry Division in Parry Sound.

The Management Forester sent the following confirmation:

There is a 168 year old, 31 Hectare forest stand located on the mainland east of Boyd Island, accessed from McAuley Road (in the Mt. Mary area). This stand is composed of 40% White pine, 30% Red maple, 20% Poplar and 10% Hard (sugar) maple – with an approximate average height of 19 meters. There does not appear to be a record of logging in the area.



**Happy Birthday, Canada! Happy Birthday, Pine Stand!**

### **Reflections** (cont from page 2)

Looking along the shore, it is clear that there have been many more changes since the pioneers arrived. Kahshe Lake's waterfront is now covered with modern day cottages, docks and boats. Its residents are a different group of Canadians than those who lived here before. They come from all parts of our country with varying cultural and historic backgrounds.

As the loon calls across the lake once more, I realize that the history of Kahshe Lake is intertwined with Canada's in so many ways. For both the lake and the country, their culture and people, have continually changed. However, in each one's colourful past there exists a single constant, an indescribable force that cannot be removed. For every Canadian, this force connects us to this land. It is something that will endure throughout time, yet for each one of us, we find it in different places and in different ways.

If Canada's history has been any guide, there is really no telling what our future holds. We are a people and country that are always changing. However, no matter who we are, the language we speak, the cultural practices we embrace, we will always share a connection with our country. As I take one last breath of fresh air, I begin to understand that there will be one constant that will always keep me connected to Kahshe Lake and to Canada: the enduring call of the loon.

*Jay Fallis grew up just outside Orillia and is passionate about Canadian politics. He recently graduated with a master's in political science from the University of Toronto. He can be reached at [jjmfallis@gmail.com](mailto:jjmfallis@gmail.com).*

This article first appeared in the **Orillia Packet & Times** on Wednesday, June 28, 2017



## Water Access Report

The 2017 cottage season was full of ups and downs. It started off with a shock to some cottage owners on the lake with damaged docks, decks, etc., due to the large amount of snow over the winter and warm spells which increased the weight of the ice and snow on our structures.



It is always with much anticipation that we take that first boat ride over to the cottage to see if animals have taken over, trees have fallen down, or any docks are missing. There seemed to be fewer animals around the cottage this year, but a lot of other surprises. People did lose docks and some roofs and decks were damaged.

The KLRA has been working with the Town of Gravenhurst to improve government dock conditions on the lake. Discussions have taken place over the years and some positive results have materialized. A brand new dock appeared at the Rockhaven site, bigger and better than the old one. There was concern at the beginning that the dock was too high, had no skirt, and no loading dock/ramp like the old one. As the summer progressed, these issues became more obvious and a number of positive developments occurred. The Town also



constructed a skirt around the new dock to improved boat docking. According to the gentlemen doing the work, any damage to the dock over the winter will be repaired with added reinforcement installed if necessary. There is a request in the budget for a ramp to the existing and/or new floating dock at the side for next year but financial decisions at the Town will dictate whether it is installed or not.

Incoming KLRA President, Steve Wild, initiated discussions with the MNR and the Town regarding acceptable water levels for the lake. There seems to be little or no logic regarding the level at which is kept. These discussions are continuing.

We are not sure what the official plan is for the government docks at Dennes or the South End, but the Town really stepped up this year and we hope this continues. We are still lobbying for new/improved lighting at all the government docks.

This season has not been the best in terms of weather with a lot of rain, cloudy days, and cool temperatures, especially on the weekends, but it was a good summer to get maintenance jobs done around the cottage. It seems as if we just opened up the cottage and now we are starting the closing process for the winter.

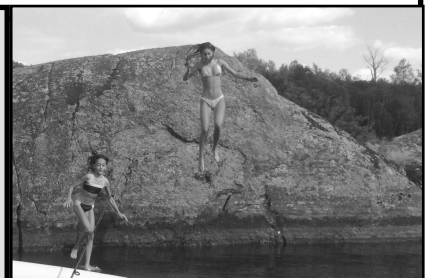
We hope that we and our cottages all survive the winter of 2017/2018 and we look forward to that first boat ride to the cottage next spring.

Henry Kowalewski



Big sister jumping off "Little Sister" with little sister!

Send me your names! I lost the paper I wrote them on!  
[keithonkahshe@bell.net](mailto:keithonkahshe@bell.net)



Five members of the Aurora Tigers Hockey Team take to the air. From left to right: River, Ryan, Tyler, Owen and Will

*Editor's note:*  
**Little Sister is also known as Pickerel Rock**



### KLRA Board of Directors

President	Steve Wild	<a href="mailto:steve.wild@dxc.com">steve.wild@dxc.com</a>	732 216 3349	
Vice President	Marg Taylor	<a href="mailto:martay@rogers.com">martay@rogers.com</a>	647 998 4858	c
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Newsletter	Keith Price	<a href="mailto:keithonkashshe@bell.net">keithonkashshe@bell.net</a>	705 687 7108	416 233 7688 h
Water Access Cttee	Henry Kowalewski	<a href="mailto:hkowalewski@erico.com">hkowalewski@erico.com</a>	705 687 5048	905 336 1039
Outreach Committee	John Kuropatwa	<a href="mailto:jkuropatwa@rogers.com">jkuropatwa@rogers.com</a>	705 689 2118	905 773 4259
Safety Committee	Steve Wild	<a href="mailto:steve.wild@dxc.com">steve.wild@dxc.com</a>	732 216 3349	
<b><u>Directors at large</u></b>				
	Sandra Moad	<a href="mailto:sandramoad1@gmail.com">sandramoad1@gmail.com</a>	705 689 8778	416 221 7253
	April Drane	<a href="mailto:aprilgadsbydrane@sympatico.ca">aprilgadsbydrane@sympatico.ca</a>	705 684 9087	
	Gord Robinson	<a href="mailto:jillrobi2@gmail.com">jillrobi2@gmail.com</a>	705 687 4584	416 546 5485
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	Nancy Howchin	<a href="mailto:iluvwildbirds@gmail.com">iluvwildbirds@gmail.com</a>	705 687 5698	416 626 5609
	Ruth Miller	<a href="mailto:ruthiekmiller@gmail.com">ruthiekmiller@gmail.com</a>	705 687 5377	416 924 0055
	Michele Phillippe	<a href="mailto:michelephillippe20@gmail.com">michelephillippe20@gmail.com</a>	705 689 9760	647 208 1039
<b><u>Non-Board Member</u></b>				
Website	Clare Henderson	<a href="mailto:crhenderson@sympatico.ca">crhenderson@sympatico.ca</a>	705 689 9917	905 469 0551
Lake Steward	Ron Pearson	<a href="mailto:rpearson1203@rogers.com">rpearson1203@rogers.com</a>	705 689 1025	905 201 7943
Rock Markers	Barry Elder	<a href="mailto:bjelder@rogers.com">bjelder@rogers.com</a>	416 931 8157	
Database/Membership	Eleanor McLean	<a href="mailto:3delta@sympatico.ca">3delta@sympatico.ca</a>	705 689 6420	
Social Media Contact	Maureen Smithers	<a href="mailto:smithers.maureen@gmail.com">smithers.maureen@gmail.com</a>		905 616 3102

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## I N M E M O R I A M

### Harvey Borden 1913 - 2017

After living a full and successful life, Harvey Borden, passed away peacefully on August 3rd at 104 years of age. He was married to Ruth for 65 years, before her death in 2000, and had three children, Gloria, Alan and Barry, who, with their spouses, added to the family 6 grand children and 11 great grand children. Despite failing health, he still managed to go fishing in the boat more than once last summer.



Ready to go fishing in 2010 at age 97

The entire family had rich relationships with Harvey, spending the summer months around him at Grey Owl, fishing with him and listening to his stories of the early days at Kahshe Lake, starting in 1946. All have gone on to develop their own stories and continue to enjoy the beauty and excitement of Kahshe Lake.

Harvey Borden will be missed by many, but a strong memory of him will always remain.

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