

## 1954

A. H. Martin, a member since 1936, passed away February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1954. Mrs. E. C. Kenning advised the Camp she wanted to sell her late husbands shares in the Company and Dr. Flock's shares were also made available.

Supplies required for the season were purchased from Clifford Bennett this year.

August 1<sup>st</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> Camp reserved for members and their wives.

Rubber tired wheel barrow purchased and the responsibility of carrying the luggage to the cabins was added to the cook & help duties.

By 1954, the floor and windows in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the boathouse were in need of replacement. The pine boards had separated to the point that the members were losing things in the cracks. Guy Hayward had replaced 6 window frames & screens, tore off old paper from boathouse and replaced the sheeting after bracing & nailing the walls and replaced the flooring . The new flooring was purchased from C. F. Jackilin Ltd. for \$68.60 and Guy Hayward billed \$39.70 for his freight and labour. The total expenses for the boathouse work was \$346.29 . A new underground drain was installed from the kitchen to the Lake using weeping tiles by the members and repairs were started on the kitchen roof and flashing by Guy Hayward. The old lean to sleeping porch was removed from south side of lodge and rough repairs to siding where it had been connected were done. Inside toilets and septic system were still on hold. The root cellar was no longer being used and the Board took no action as to what to do with it.

When Guy started the work on the kitchen he found problems with the sills which were both rotting, the back porch and noted the foundation had collapsed and informed the Board via a telegram on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1954 that he could not continue with the other kitchen repairs, roof and floor, without fixing these other problems. The Board gave him the go ahead to these additional repairs on November 2, 1954.

The Department of Lands and Forests was sub dividing lots on the Lake and members investigated the possible purchase of more of the adjoining land for the Camp and also looked into the Island title transfer to the Club again from the Sanderson's. It was all talk and no action on both these land discussions.

A request from John Haddow Sr. to create a permanent "Spring Camp" in May was denied by the Board as they felt the Camp was primarily established as a Summer Camp. Members had to apply yearly for any off season Camps they wished to have.

Use of Club's equipment, borrowed and not returned by other Camps on the lake, created a problem for F. B. Isaacs' first Camp of the season with time wasted trying to replace and find things. Some items from Camp had been taken down to the Deep Bay Club but no one had been advised. Guy Hayward had used the Hyah-Hyah down by the dam and there was damage to the

Hyah-Hyah sometime over the winter. This left considerable doubt as to who was responsible for the repair so the Camp decided to be a little less friendly when it came to open sharing of Club property. A policy was set to be friendly and whenever possible, and be helpful to others on the Lake but not to become involved with anyone in the use of Camp's equipment.

Shelter for the boats on the Camp property was looked into at the end of the season with more investigation in the summer of 1955.

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1954, the Lake-Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Authority was established. To find out about their history check out the web site at;

<http://www.lake-wah-wash-kesh.org/>

## The Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association.

The Lake Wah-Wash -Kesh Conservation Association is a non-profit association of cottagers, residents, and other interested parties on Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh, Ontario, Canada.

**The Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association came into being officially on August 12, 1954.** Its purpose, to quote from the constitution adopted that day being:

"to promote the property interests of the members and to cooperate with the Provincial Government of Ontario in the conservation of natural resources of the area so that the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh region will be a source of continuing interest to property owners and visitors for vacation purposes."

This inception was the result of several years of informal discussions involving a few dedicated cottagers who had concern for the lake and therefore the interest of all at heart. Those people, many of whom have passed on, who put the whole thing together and composed the full membership in that Charter Year were:

Clifford Bennett, J. P. Cannon, Aileen Clausen, Donald Comne, Mrs. Hugh Gall, Loren Graves, Frank Griffin, Harry Haggerty, Charles McKenzie, Addie MacRae, Nettie MacRae, Glenn Mundy, John Patterson, Charlie Robertson, J. L. Ross, Mrs. F. (Achsah) Schauer, G. Scroggie, Bill Sherwood Sr., Donald Smith, Mrs. M. (Harriet) Soletz, Frank Squires Sr., Herman Straub, and Tommy Tweed.

Of this group, the late Dr. Frank Griffin is well remembered as the catalyst who sparked the organizing effort and became the Association's first President. In many cases the spouses of those identified above provided active support in those first years as exemplified by the late Jean (Mrs. Tommy) Tweed who served industriously for several years as the original Secretary-Treasurer.

Over the years, many others have contributed their time and means to the affairs of the Association in both official and informal capacity. To name all of them would prove difficult.

Not unlike other organizations of its kind, the Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association has experienced much variation in membership numbers and interest as well as in accomplishments over the years. As C. H. 'Hap' Schauer found during his prolonged spell as President (1960-65) it proved exceedingly difficult, despite his loyal efforts, to achieve objectives with Executive Council members residing great distances apart and meeting but briefly when summer vacation periods overlapped. Subsequently it was concluded that to be effective the Executive Council of the Association should have the bulk of its members resident within reasonable travel distance from each other. In recent years this has more or less resolved itself by having Toronto as the Council focal point except during summer when the lake becomes the location for the General Membership and Executive Meetings.

In the last few years official paid-up membership increased significantly. All areas of the lake are represented in the membership. Interest and activity also expanded due, in part, to a revival of concern over new and increasing influences bearing on the well-being of the lake and its community. Through 1972-81 a reasonable degree of consistency in Executive Council membership was attained. Notably A. A. 'Bill' Macdonald served faithfully as President throughout this period.

A review of some of the accomplishments of the Association through its life thus far (November 30, 2002) indicates that it is pursuing well the purpose set forth for it. In this regard it is worth note that the Association has:

Maintained good relations with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Contributed in early years to the cost of watchmen for Walleye Spawning periods at Lovesick Rapids as directed by the Ministry.

Conducted lake water quality tests and reported on same to members.

Carried out an extensive lake depth survey coupled with lake place names official identification, which together resulted in Federal Government production of a top quality informative map of Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh.

Participated actively and cost wise with the Ministry of Natural Resources in an intensive Creel (fish) Census for the lake.

Together with the immediate property owners promoted establishment of a public wharf in Bennetts Bay by the Federal Government.

Arranged for General Meeting speakers and distribution of literature on subjects of relevant importance to property owners.

Published Bulletins and Newsletters to members and to non-member cottage owners as well.

Organized social activities for cottagers - wiener and corn roasts, dances, angling contests, etc.

Prepared and published the Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh Cottage Directory as well as the historical story, Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh, The Early Years

Played a role in blocking a proposal by the Town of Parry Sound to annex an area which included part of McKenzie Township.

Organized a Federation of Magnetawan Valley Conservation Associations to oppose a move by the Province of Ontario to form a Regional Government within the District of Parry Sound.

Rev. E. Louis, camp help, took ill twice through the season and had to be taken to hospital by the members. His wife was very thankful for the assistance provided by the members and sent a letter of thanks to the Board on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1954.

Resignations (2) A. H. Martin died February 27, 1954, Dr. Flock.

New Members (1) L. A. Deziel.

Last Modified May 28, 2012.