



**Crowe Lake
Waterway
Association**

Executive Board
2024-2025

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Last Shadows of Summer

by Maxine Prentice

Crowe Lake Waterway Association, P.O. Box 192, Marmora, Ontario K0K 2M0

www.clwa.ca

CLWA AGM

The AGM was July 22. The Officers and Directors for the 2025 year were elected. They are listed on the left side of this page. The Mayors from M&L and HBM were our guests and made remarks and answered questions from the members. The Committee reports presented are on pages 4 through 8. A discussion of the CLWA annual fireworks was an important part of the meeting. A summary of the discussion is also presented. Thank You to The Unconventional Moose, Hwy 7, Tweed for donating Crowe Lake T-shirts; to HBM and The Land Between for hand-out materials.

Speakers Program June 22

On June 22, Michelle Lewin, Manager of Communications & Development for the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (FOCA), met with CLWA members to discuss the activities of FOCA and the benefits available to members of the CLWA through our membership in FOCA. A discussion about the CLWA Fireworks on the Lake also was part of the program. It was a small turnout but good ideas and information for those attending.

Canada Day Parade

CLWA was well represented in the Marmora Lion's Club Canada Day Parade. The float featured Mountie Moose and a lively crew of CLWA members. Pictures of the parade and the float are inside.



Fall

Crowe Lake Matters

2024



President's Message - Terry Murphy

President's Message from Terry Murphy

This spring I attended The Federation of Ontario Cottager's Association's Annual Meeting. We are one of over 500 members of FOCA. I learned that many associations are facing the same issues that we are experiencing.

- The future of their fireworks display
- The increasing costs of all providing services
- The need to get younger people involved in the association

Your Board of Directors met three times this Spring to address the issues we are facing and developed a budget that focuses on water safety, environmental issues and public awareness

Everything that CLWA does involves numerous volunteers and hundreds of man hours. I want to thank the Board of Directors and all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

Please review the CLWA newsletter reports for details on issues and programs for 2024.

TJM

Speed Limit Signs

Terry Murphy and Jim Nichol posted this sign at 5 locations to remind boaters that the speed limit on all Ontario waterways is 10 KPH within 30 meters of the shoreline. Signs were posted at boat launches at Meg's Landing, Booster Park, Blairton Road, Glen Allan Park and the bridge across Beaver Creek on Cordova Road. Speed limit signs were also posted along Crowe River and Beaver Creek.



Fall

Have You Renewed Yet?

2024

Aug 3 Boat Parade and Fireworks



Another great show. It cooled off, rain went someplace else, and the sky was perfect.

The World Famous Lighted Boat Parade started about 8:15 PM at the Blairton Lighthouse. The Parade Leader was Jim Nichol and he had them lined up and moving. The parade of about 30 boats was greeted by a huge crowd at Bayview Park. About 600 people cheered as the parade went past and headed up the south shore. The parade continued along to Booster Park to be greeted by about 200, then past Glen Allan Park and another 250. The parade went down the north shore and finally to Stoney Island. That's more than 1,000 people in the Parks, Add to that an unknown number watching from docks and cottages.

The Fireworks show went off about 9:30 and went on for 15 minutes. An audience in about 100 boats and all the people on shore and at cottages saw a great show. Reds, greens, whites, circles, stars, rings – it just kept getting better. The planning and choreography for the program was outstanding. Kudos to Bill Neill and Jaime Talbot for their orchestration and expertise. The applause and shouts of approval from

all around the lake at the end of the show were well deserved. There is a 1 minute video of the fireworks on the CLWA Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CroweLakeWaterwayAssociation>

Then the part that the audience never sees got underway as the barges were towed back to shore. The after-show work began the next day. It took a crew of volunteers most of 2 days to clean the barges, get the lake anchors out of the lake, remove the firing tubes, repair the damage and put it all away until 2025.

Volunteers for 2024 in addition to those already mentioned were Dave Bedore, Ritch Smith, Paul Cocchio, Rick Molton, Terry Murphy and Joe Lakatos plus our pyro team Randy Vilnef, Brynn Vilnef and Andrew White. The Boat Parade and Fireworks are paid for entirely by the Crowe Lake Waterway Association through the generosity of our membership. Thanks to Ed and Joan and the spectators at Booster Park for their support and generous donations.

Canada Day Parade

A float design committee of Terry and Pam Murphy, Dave and Joanne Bedore, George and Carol Hollingdrake, Jim Nichol and Sharon Barrons worked through four committee meetings, and a few bottles of wine, to come up with another great CLWA presentation. Walking in the parade with them were Oliver Hellback, Maryann McGrath, Heather Smith, Paul and Tracy Cocchio, Amanda and Noah Grant, Corbin and Makayla Nichol, Jane Lakatos, and Jennifer Timm. Thank you to Broadbent Home Hardware for the loan of Mountie Moose, to Shelby Kramp-Neuman MP for the flags and to Bruce Cook for once again successfully navigating the parade route.



Fall

Is Your Neighbor A Member?

2024



Financial Report

The financial condition of CLWA is sound but there are some significant challenges ahead. Issues around the Fireworks program could require large expenditures, but we are working to manage them. CLWA has a healthy bank account including several GICs. Our Accounts Receivable, mostly from the Newsletter costs, are low. Our increasing membership and membership renewal rate is encouraging and important to our future financial stability.

The Board recommended a \$5 increase in membership dues for 2024, from \$35 to \$40. This was the first increase since 2020. [It was ratified by the membership at the AGM] The Board devoted time at several meetings to developing an annual budget and that will be an on-going process. The Board also has Accounting Statements for each Board Meeting. We worked with the bank to resolve problems members were having with the E-transfer process for making

payments.

An annual statement for 2023 was sent to members prior to the AGM. Copies of financial statements are available to members who send an email request for them to info@clwa.ca.

Fishing - Paul Morton

The Crowe Lake Waterway Association is again sponsoring a fishing derby for its members and their families and friends. It will be Labour Day weekend. (Rules are on page 12).

Photo Contest - Ritch Smith

We had 32 photos submitted for the contest in 2023, an increase from 15 contestants. That's about the same as the prior year. We have 4 categories again this year – Beauty, Wildlife, Recreation and Fishing. The rules will be in this newsletter, on the CLWA Facebook and on the Website. The deadline for entry is 1 November 2024 but it may be extended to the end of the month with a last minute reminder to encourage people.

Dave Savournin and I ran the contest last year and Debra Healy will be helping us this year. She is a contest winner in the past and decided to help. She's also a new member of CLWA. We have a panel of 6 to 8 judges who have been promised anonymity.
(Rules for 2024 are on page 11)

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Fall

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2024

Membership 2024 - Ritch Smith

Members: 255 vs 247 in 2023 and 190 in 2022

New members: 39 vs 52 in 2023 and 12 in 2022

Thanks to our Sign Captains Jerry and Rosemary Pascoe, Bill Neill, Tom O'Neill, Tim Black, Dave Green, and Curt Farrell. The value of the Membership sign proves itself regularly when people call or email us asking Where's My Sign? We ran out of the basic member sign because we had more New Members than anticipated. About 90% of our members are Gold Star members.

Thanks to Ruth Berger at Bayview Park and Joanne Bedore and Jim Nichol on High Shore Road for "encouraging" memberships in their neighborhood. 31 of our new members are Bayview Park residents. We need a Membership Czar for the other parks.

Newsletter - Ritch Smith



We made some changes to the CLWA Newsletter this year. It's now 3 issues with 16 pages published in Winter, Spring, and Fall issue. The increased number of pages gives us more room for pictures and articles. And the change in schedule allows a little more time to put it all together. That makes it a little easier on the newsletter volunteers. We have the same Editor (me), same outstanding talented Designer (Kendra Savard) and the same incredible Mailing Room Volunteers (Dave Savournin and Judy O'Grady). Most of our advertisers are still with us but we lose one or two and gain one or two, so please note who they are and go say hello to them.

Unchanged, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

No Water Soldier in Crowe Lake

Water samples taken in 2023 revealed no Water Soldier DNA in Crowe Lake. Details on page 9.

Guardian

MARMORA PHARMACY

Hours

9 am - 5:30 pm	Monday-Friday
9 am - 3 pm	Saturday
10 am - 2 pm	Sunday

Medical Clinic

On site Nurse Monday-Friday
Life Labs Blood Work Daily
Diabetic Foot Clinic Monthly
Weight Management Program
Smoking Cessation

Free Delivery and Medication Reviews



Fall

Contact us at info@clwa.ca

2024



Social Media - Dave Savournin and Ritch Smith

WEBSITE Period July 1, 2023, thru' June 30, 2024:

Total visitors - 1,467 (vs. 1,617 in the previous year), of which 1,399 were new visitors vs. 1,587 in the previous year)

Average # of pages viewed per visit - 2.4 (vs. 1.9 in the previous year)

The website needs a complete overhaul, which might happen over the winter months.

FACEBOOK PAGE Period July 1, 2023, thru' June 30, 2024):

985 Followers

468 individual viewers and, via Shares, etc., reached an additional 7,802 viewers

Audience - 68% Female vs. 32% Male

The recent Boat Parade and Fireworks post received 125 individual viewers and, via Shares, etc., reached 2,090 additional viewers

Facebook remains the most effective communication channel.

Did You Know?

Water might not be wet. This is because most scientists define wetness as a liquid's ability to maintain contact with a solid surface, meaning that water itself is not wet, but can make other objects wet.

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Rocks and Shoals - Paul Morton

On May 10th, our volunteer, Jeff Alderson deployed 42 of our buoys in the lake and river. These will be retrieved on or around Thanksgiving weekend in October. All boaters are advised to take care when navigating closer to shore. Hazards may be present outside of the normal waterways. Disclaimer: The Crowe Lake Waterway Association (CLWA) assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of these or other hazard markers. Their installation and maintenance are solely an aid to safe boating. Boaters are still required to exercise caution in respect to water depth and unforeseen hazards.

Fall

Photo Contest Deadline November 1

2024

Boat Parade and Fireworks - Bill Neill



The Crowe Lake Fireworks was on Saturday August 3rd at dusk after the completion of the Worlds Greatest Lighted Boat Parade. There have been questions raised concerning the date change from the Canada Day weekend to the Aug. long weekend. Last year due to the fire ban we were forced to move to August. We received a significant number of positive comments from our members including the fact that by Aug. nightfall comes earlier which allows everything to start earlier and that means kids get to bed earlier. Another big comment was the mosquito population by Aug. is generally in decline making for a much more enjoyable experience for all our shoreline spectators. Another comment offered by a number of our members was that the Canada Weekend is extremely busy and the rescheduling to August made it less hectic. That is not to say that the date is set in stone as decisions like this are made through membership input and we encourage feedback from all our members. The long-term future of CLWA Fireworks on the Lake:

Of a serious note the future of the CLWA Firework program is in question and requires major discussion going forward. We have for a significant period of time been receiving both positive and negative feedback from our membership as well as changes, both internal to CLWA and from Gov't policy changes, to make it necessary to have this review.

On the positive side, it's easy. It's a great community spirited show put on through the generosity of our lake membership by a bunch of trained volunteers. It receives no outside funding, "0" from every level of Gov't. and we are proud to say it is likely the best and safest show in the area.

On the negative side it's more complicated.

Environmental, concerns relating to the environment has been a membership issue for

some time and while we are honestly of the opinion that it is very slight, we take it very seriously. Noise, we have received complaints that the noise drives the dogs crazy and we get it, some dogs are very sensitive to noise. There are also people, young. and old who are extremely sensitive to sudden noise and we also get it. Relating to the noise, we would plead that it is only once a year.

Cost, the cost of securing the fireworks and supplies have increased approx. 40% and a fifteen-minute display was approaching \$ 15,000.00 before some adjustments were made and the question has certainly been raised as to whether we are making the best use of membership dues.

Logistics, the current location and facility that the equipment and actual fireworks are short term stored and assembled is in a state of flux due to a volunteer member retiring and the location cannot be guaranteed going forward. Also, with the retirement of this member, the long-term use of the tow boat can't be guaranteed. Adding to the challenges, the heavy-duty trailer that is used to transport the barges from the staging area to the lake is owned by two members (one being me) that have for some period of time loaned this trailer to the Assoc. One of the partners, having sold his boat wishes to cash out his share.

Gov't Regulations, changing policies are making it harder to secure, store and detonate. These policy changes are making it harder to certify firing technicians, tightened regulations on delivery windows and the need to have a licensed storage facility.

There is not a challenge in this report that can't be overcome if there is the will however it's

going to require fresh thinking and a few changes going forward.



Fall

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2024



2024 AGM Fireworks Discussion

At the Speakers Program and the AGM time was devoted to a discussion of the fireworks program. This is a summary of the points raised. The actions taken or under consideration are shown in brackets []. See also the Fireworks AGM Report for a more detailed report.

1. The fireworks program is very popular with CLWA members and the community. It is not our plan to stop doing them, but certain issues need to be considered and problems resolved.
2. Logistics. The barges and equipment for the fireworks are currently stored with a CLWA member. A new location must be identified and prepared. [Sites are being considered and storage facilities such as storage containers are being discussed.]
3. Volunteers. Some of our fireworks team members have been doing this for quite some time. They are understandably suggesting it is time to pass the torch and find new people to do this. More volunteers are needed. [Several people have started to learn the fireworks program and are gradually assuming more responsibilities. Recruitment of volunteer is an on-going effort]
4. Cost. The price of the fireworks and the total cost of the display continue to increase. Fireworks come from shrinking number of foreign vendors and their prices, with the cost of shipping, are steadily increasing. We have seen a 40% increase in two years. [We are looking for new sources. We are considering adjusting the length of the fireworks show.]
5. Insurance and Regulation. There always seem to be new regulations and insurance requirements.
6. Environmental Concerns. The noise and pollution that are part of a fireworks display are important considerations. The impact on the environment, even if minor in a 15-minute fireworks display, needs to be addressed and mitigated where possible. Noise has an impact on humans and animals. The smoke and debris

might also have an impact. The issue is not clear. [Research is continuing. Education about ways to reduce the noise impact could be done. Adjusting the kinds of fireworks used may reduce the noise impact. Environmentally friendly fireworks may be available. We will pursue all of these options.]

The Board will develop a plan of action to address these concerns no later than EARLY spring and be prepared to act on it. This will be reported to the membership in the Newsletter and at the 2025 AGM.

Zoo Launches Plan to Curb Parrot Swearing

All That's Interesting by Kaleena Fraga | Edited by Maggie Donahue, Updated January 31, 2024

African grey parrots are known for their intelligence, social nature, and capacity to learn words. But this last ability has proven to be a problem for Lincolnshire Wildlife Park in Friskney, England, where eight parrots spew such foul swear words that the zoo has had to post a warning sign. "For your information," the zoo's sign about the "infamous swearing parrots" reads, "every common swear word can be heard in this aviary so please be aware if you have people with you of a sensitive nature."

Now, the zoo is hoping that they can "dilute" the parrots' swearing by adding them to a larger flock. The zoo is hoping that by adding the eight cursing African grey parrots to a larger flock, their swearing will become "diluted." However, Lincolnshire Wildlife Park CEO Steve Nichols acknowledged to the BBC that the plan could backfire. "We could end up with 100 swearing parrots on our hands," Nichols said. "Only time will tell."

newsletter@allthatsinteresting.com

Fall

Visit us at clwa.ca

2024

Water Soldier in Crowe Lake



Water samples taken in 2023 tested negative for Water Soldier DNA. The water testing was part of the 2023 IsampleON program of sampling coordinated by the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (FOCA) and CLWA was 1 of 76 lakes that participated in the testing. Test samples were collected by CLWA member and Director Paul Morton.

[Editor Note: This article is edited from the full report presented by the IsampleON program. If you would like the full report, send a request to info@clwa.ca]

BACKGROUND

IsampleON is a project that engages volunteers in monitoring efforts to help prevent the spread of invasive species. Environmental DNA (eDNA) monitoring was piloted during this monitoring program. Efforts from 2023 helped monitor for the invasive plant “water soldier.” Early detection of this plant is critical to ensure we stop its destructive spread. From the combined effort of volunteers, samples were collected from 76 locations.

WHAT IS eDNA MONITORING?

eDNA monitoring is a method of sampling to detect genetic material shed by organisms into the environment. Genetic material can be detected from any cells that are shed from organisms. Using eDNA grants us the opportunity to get the jump on invasive species because it can support detection early in the invasion process from even small amounts of genetic material. eDNA slots in well for early detection in part because it is quick, easy and it detects specific species, like invasive species.

However, it does not tell us the number of organisms or whether that organism has persisted in the body of water. For example, the organism may have since passed through or died. Also, due to the advanced nature of detecting trace amounts of DNA, eDNA analysis is an incredibly sensitive process that can easily be contaminated by external sources, such as someone’s gloves or equipment that has been used in another lake.

2023 SAMPLING PROGRAM GOALS

In the case of IsampleON 2023, we looked for all types of eDNA shed by water soldier into the water of your lake. If we found eDNA of one of these species, it means that the invasive species might

have been in your lake. Seventy-six samples were received from FOCA and tested for the presence of Water Soldier DNA using an eDNA assay developed in-house (Green 2024, undergraduate thesis)*.

THE RESULTS

Crowe Lake Negative

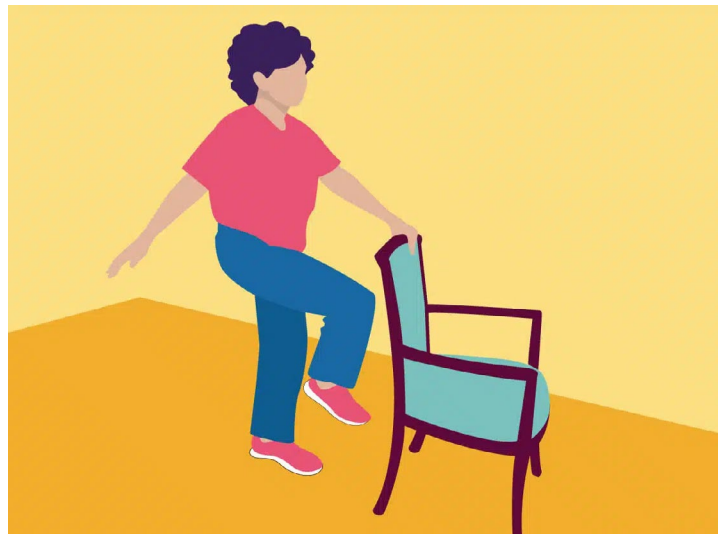
“Negative” means the sample analysis did not detect water soldier. Negative samples do not mean water soldier is absent either. This result only means that it was not captured in the samples. Invasive species could be elsewhere in your lake or too low in abundance to detect.

* Green, W (2024). eDNA Detection Assays for the Invasive Aquatic Plant, Water Soldier (Stratiotes aloides): Enabling early detection and intervention with molecular tools. Undergraduate Thesis, BSc FSc. Trent University

Improve your Balance -

Lifeline Canada

It’s best to start off with a simple balance exercise for seniors. Here’s how you do this one: stand behind a steady, solid chair (not one with wheels), and hold on to the back of it. Lift up your right foot and balance on your left foot. Hold that position for as long as you can, then switch feet. The goal should be to stand on one foot without holding onto the chair and hold that pose for up to a minute.



Fall

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Fall

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2024

2024 New Members

2024 Photo Contest



Member	Address
John Assenza	Bayview Park
Bernie & Francis Vermette	Bayview Park
Andrew Crofts	Sunset Shore Rd
Debra Healy	N Hastings St
Fil & Marianna Filbo	High Shore Rd
Sharnel Walsh & Kinsley Tuckett	Drummond Rd
Peter Emmenegger	Marble Point Rd
Chris & Anna Martin	Bayview Park
Doug & Sherri McClintock	Bayview Park
Ezekiel Lucrida	Big Island Rd
Magda Amonowicz	Bayview Park
Glen Davis	Bayview Park
Trish Edwards	Bayview Park
Murray Graham	Bayview Park
Danielle Greenorne	Bayview Park
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Anna & Chris Martin	Bayview Park
Bernie LeBlanc	Bayview Park
Sue & Dave McEneny	Bayview Park
Kelly McIntosh	Bayview Park
Tamara Mills	Bayview Park
Jim Moffatt	Bayview Park
Sherry Oosterlaken	Bayview Park
Dave Stoliker	Bayview Park
Ron Taylor / Pidwebecki	Bayview Park
Paul & Delores Truelove	Bayview Park
Dale & Dan Woelfer	Bayview Park
Jamie & Hilary Murphy	Gus's Island
Lyndsey Wannamaker	Bayview Park
Dawn White	Bayview Park
Rick Spence	Bayview Park
Allan Saunders	Bayview Park
Keith Rhodes	Bayview Park
Heather McEneny	Bayview Park
Mark Pearson	Bayview Park
David Yakobi	Bayview Park
Paul & Linda Vella	Fire Route 6A
Stephen Fillmore & Sean Ward	Fidlar Glen Road

Photos must be in one of these 4 Categories:

- Crowe Lake and its Beauty
- Wildlife Around the Crowe
- Recreation on the Crowe Lake Waterways
- Fishing

Photographs must be taken around Crowe Lake, Crowe River or Beaver Creek to be eligible. Photos must have been taken within two (2) years of contest. Each photo requires your name, address, telephone number, photo title, date and information on where the photograph was taken. There is a limit of one entry per category for a total maximum of four (4) pictures per person. There is a limit of one cash prize per person. There is no limit to the number of Honorable Mentions awards per person or per category.

Prizes in each category:

- 1st prize \$50
- 2nd prize \$30
- 3rd prize \$20
- Honorable Mention

Photos must be in a JPEG digital or printed 4"x 6" format. Online entries should be emailed to: info@clwa.ca Printed photos are to be mailed to: CLWA, Box 192, Marmora, ON, K0K 2M0

By entering, you are acknowledging your permission for CLWA to use your photo(s).

Entries must be received no later than Wednesday, November 1, 2024

Fall

[Visit us on Facebook @CroweLakeWaterwayAssociation](#)

2024



CLWA 2024 Labour Day Fishing Derby

Friday August 30, 12 noon to Monday September 2, 6 p.m.

A unique approach to fishing derbies, open to CLWA members and their family and friends only. There's no weigh in or need to keep the fish. Instead, you take a picture and send it electronically to CLWA. It sounds easy and it is! This is the 4th year for the Derby.

CLWA FISHING DERBY RULES

Bass (Rock, Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass) will be the only fish eligible. Live release is encouraged, MNRF keep rules apply.

Open to CLWA members and their family and friends only. Participates must use their own name and a current CLWA members name and address to enter. Anyone may enter if they have permission from a current member. Winners will be named along with their CLWA sponsor.

A picture of the fish, which shows the length against a ruler and also includes a printout of a CLWA posted page OR a newspaper or other medium that proves the date. The posted printout or the newspaper will verify that the fish was caught during derby times. The posted page will be available to print on the CLWA website or from the CLWA Facebook page on Friday August 30 at 12 Noon. The newspaper (or medium page) must show the publication date. One picture can be used as long as it shows the length and date. A picture of the entered fish and the angler is also required for our use in our publications. [Note: The picture above is an example only. It was from the 2023 contest]

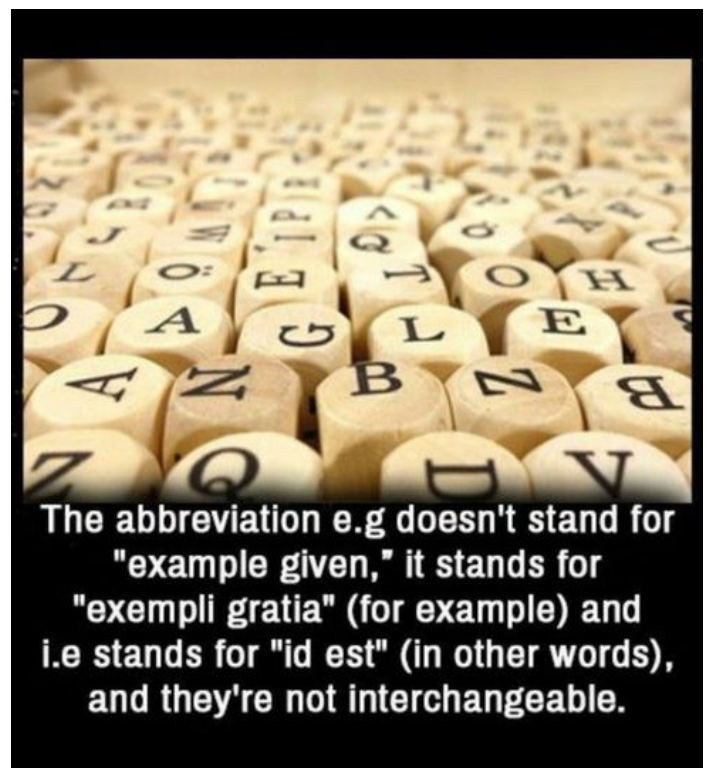
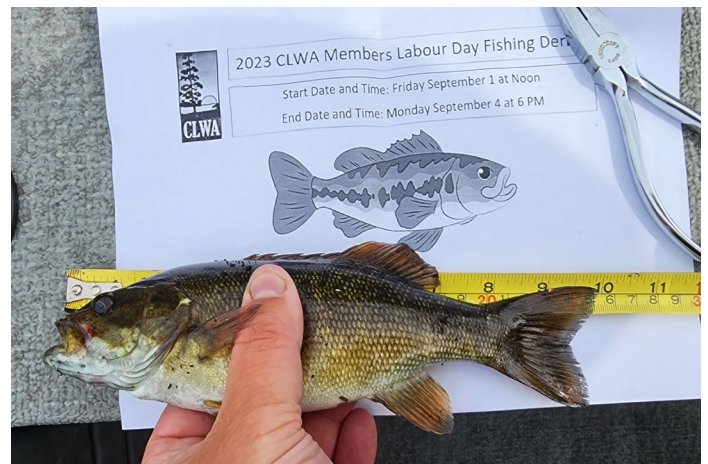
The picture is then forwarded to info@clwa.ca with the name of the angler and their CLWA sponsor and address.

Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 lengths, \$100/first, \$75/second, \$50/third and 3 mystery lengths prizes of \$25 each. Prizes will be in the form of a cheque in the CLWA

member's name and will be mailed or given to the CLWA member.

There is no entry fee. The CLWA member must be in good standing. Anglers may have multiple entrees.

Winners will be posted on our Facebook page (Crowe Lake Waterway Association) and on the CLWA website (clwa.ca). By entering, you acknowledge your permission for CLWA to use your photos.



Fall

Go Take a Photo For the Contest!

2024

The Land Between



What is Southern Ontario's 'The Land Between'?

This bioregion is a rare and unique place not just in Southern Ontario, but in Canada as a whole. What makes it so special?

If you've been following along with us for a while or if you already have a depth of knowledge about the bioregion, you've probably heard of the term "ecotone" before. An ecotone, simply put, is an area of transition. It is where two ecosystems meet to create a completely unique place that contains elements of both ecosystems as well as elements completely unique to it.

Habitat types in The Land Between



ALVARS The majority of Ontario's alvars are here in The Land Between! Alvars are open and flat areas with exposed limestone bedrock and very shallow soils. Though appearing devoid, scores of unique grassland and rare birds are present in the summer months.



WETLANDS One of the most important ecosystems we have is wetlands, they filter water and help prevent erosion and flooding while hosting an incredible amount of plant and animal biodiversity.



LAKES Quintessential to the bioregion, The Land Between is home to over 2,000 lakes that provide household water, recreational enjoyment, and economic productivity through tourism and fisheries.



FORESTS Another habitat you are probably familiar with are forests, The Land Between is home to a number of forested areas with relatively less clearing compared to areas further south.



ROCKY BARRENS A result of the rugged, rocky Canadian Shield to the North, rock barrens are areas of exposed

Canadian Shield rock, which can be billions of years old.

GRASSLANDS One of the most threatened habitats globally, grasslands are home to predominantly grasslike vegetation, with limited woody vegetation. They are teeming with life from unique plants to birds, to insects!



DARK NIGHT SKIES A habitat in their own right, dark night skies are important for plants and wildlife to sleep, to forage, and even to navigate. Compared to the south, there is relatively less light pollution here in The Land Between, and it is the furthest south place in Ontario where you can still see the milky way! Rugged, wild, and unique, but fragile.

The Land Between is not immune to threats faced elsewhere in the province. Human development that does not consider nature, the laying of roads and the impact it has on wildlife road mortality, extractive economic practices, as well other drawbacks to high human density like the spread of invasives, the pollution of water, and more all threaten The Land Between and the plants and animals who call it home too.

The Land Between charity is working hard to research, conserve, protect, and celebrate nature and culture here in the bioregion, and with the busiest season upon us, we need your help. [DONATE TODAY](#)



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Scottish Painters

Fall

Enjoy The Fall Colours

2024



Repair and Toughen your Canoe Paddle

Cottage Life. BY JACKIE DAVIS, OCTOBER 7, 2022

Wooden canoe paddles take a beating. You're not supposed to bang them against the gunwales or use the blades to fend off rocks... but hey, it happens. Sometimes it happens a lot. In that case, here's how to rehab a chewed-up paddle, and how to toughen it up for the next smackdown.

1. Fix the tip of the blade: For small dings and dents, use a block plane or an orbital sander. For big gouges or notches, use a jig saw to first trim off the jagged bits.
2. Sanding, part one: Sand the entire paddle—butt, blade, and shaft—using 80-grit sandpaper. This will help remove any old varnish or weathered, grey wood.
3. Sanding, part two: Use successively finer-grit sandpapers—start with 120-grit—to smooth the entire paddle, then use a rag dampened with mineral spirits to remove the dust.
4. Reinforce the blade tip: Use fiberglass

cloth and polyester resin (from a kit for patching fiberglass boats) to form a protective jacket for your paddle's blade. Wrap the bottom of the blade with a smooth piece of cloth coated with resin. Or skip the cloth and just apply four or five coats of epoxy resin to the bottom three inches of the paddle's blade.

5. Sanding, part three: Sand the patched area, wipe it with mineral spirits, then top the whole business with marine spar varnish. Do at least three coats, allowing the varnish to dry before sanding in between coats.

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Fall

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2024



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