



# SUMMER 2026

## Message from the CCA President

Welcome back, everyone! After a long winter, summer has finally arrived, and the CCA has been hard at work preparing for another wonderful season on the lake.

Our buoy crew has completed the annual deployment of the navigation and hazard buoys, and this year you'll notice an important addition. A new lighted buoy has been installed on Sunken Island at the north end. We hope this new marker will help nighttime boaters travel safely to and from their cottages.

In June, the CCA offered a CPR and First Aid course, giving members the opportunity to learn valuable lifesaving skills. Congratulations to everyone who participated and earned their certification.

Our dedicated Lake Steward volunteers continue to monitor water quality and lake levels throughout the season. They recently submitted a proposal for Catchacoma Lake to participate in a pilot project led by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) to study and monitor invasive species.

Only eight lakes will be selected, so we're keeping our fingers crossed that Catchacoma will be among them.

Summer also means it's time to gather and celebrate as a community. CCA's DockFest returns to Catchacoma Marina on August 1, and we're looking forward to another fantastic afternoon of fun for all ages. This year's event will feature several new exhibits and activities.

The fun continues the morning after with the Catchacoma Challenge, our family-friendly canoe and kayak race. Rumour has it that one family plans to enter six canoes all handcrafted right here on Catchacoma Lake. How cool is that? Sign up today at our website.

If you haven't yet renewed your CCA membership, visit [catchacomalake.com](http://catchacomalake.com) and sign up on-line or stop by our booth at DockFest.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you and your families a safe, relaxing and memorable summer on the lake. We look forward to seeing you at our events and around the shoreline.

Ric Mackey  
President, CCA



CCA Board Members: Dave Curtis, Mitty van der Velden, Steve Scott, Marnie Welch, Jack Millar, Ric Mackey, Scott Hayzelden and Nicola LeJan.

### BECOME A CCA MEMBER!

Your membership fees help support our many activities on the lake, including:

- Buoy program
- Lake stewardship
- DockFest
- Website, newsletters and emails
- Membership in organizations such as FOCA, CCRAI and CEWF



You get all of these benefits for only \$30 per year!

Visit our website to find out more and to purchase your membership.

[catchacomalake.com](http://catchacomalake.com)



### 2026 CCA Board Members

- Ric Mackey, President
- Richard Watson, Vice-President
- Steve Scott, Treasurer
- Scott Hayzelden, Secretary
- Marnie Welch, Membership
- Ted Spence, Lake Stewardship, CCRAI & CEWF Liaison
- Jason Card, Buoy Master
- Dave Curtis, Marina Liaison
- Jack Millar, Lake Stewardship
- Mitty van der Velden, Government Liaison
- Nicola LeJan, FOCA Liaison
- Cristina Natale, Director at Large
- Mark Groff, Director at Large
- Kevin Hoare, Director at Large

## Upcoming Municipal Elections

Ontario Municipal Elections will be held October 26, 2026. Seasonal cottage owners are permitted to vote in both their cottage municipality and the municipality where they reside. To ensure you are on both voters lists, visit [registertovoteon.ca](http://registertovoteon.ca).

## New Boating License Regulations

Transport Canada has implemented a new five-year licence period for pleasure craft licences. Note that this refers to the vessel licence, not your boat operator licence. Details can be found at: [tc.canada.ca](http://tc.canada.ca) >> [Buying a Boat](#) >> [Apply for or manage a Pleasure Craft Licence](#)

## Cottage Electrical Safety

Be proactive with your cottage's electrical system: [esasafe.com/safety/home-electrical-safety/cottage-safety](http://esasafe.com/safety/home-electrical-safety/cottage-safety)

## Cottage Life Magazine

CCA members can subscribe to *Cottage Life* at a special low rate. Visit [secure.cottagelife.com/W632FOCC](http://secure.cottagelife.com/W632FOCC)

## Loons and Lead Fishing Tackle

Lead poisoning is a leading cause of death in adult loons. For more information visit [fishleadfree.ca](http://fishleadfree.ca).

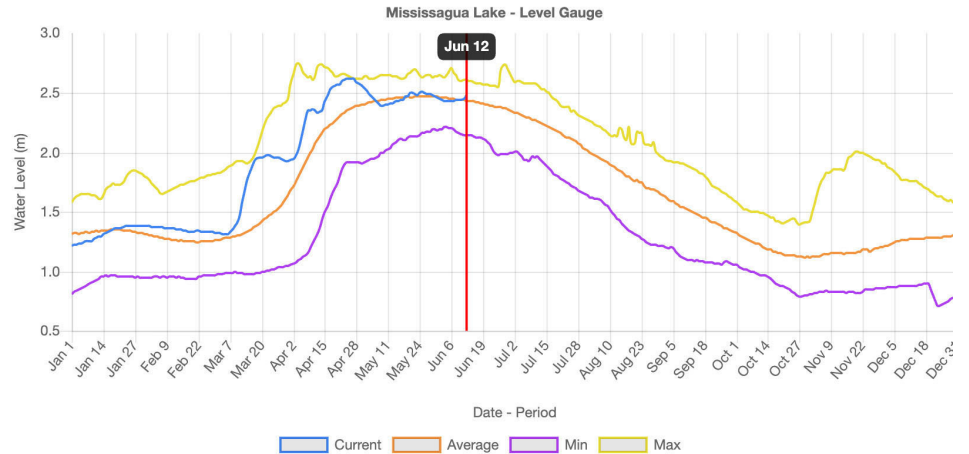


Did you know that by becoming a member of the Catchacoma Cottagers' Association, you automatically become a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA)?

Create your own FOCA account at [foca.on.ca](http://foca.on.ca) in order to take advantage of membership perks. FOCA has been having a few issues with this process though which they are working to resolve. If you have a problem, email us at [catchacomalake@gmail.com](mailto:catchacomalake@gmail.com), attn: [FOCA liaison](#), and we will help you get signed in.

The FOCA website has a wealth of relevant topics to check out. Use the search bar to find information about Lyme disease and ticks, how septic systems work, the rules about fireworks and much more.

## Spring 2026 Water Levels



Visit our website at [catchacomalake.com](http://catchacomalake.com) to see the full report and find the link for the most current data.

In Spring 2026 we had extreme conditions resulting in high water levels and serious flooding in some areas particularly in the northern reservoirs.

Our water level was close to average through to early March when it began to rise with major rainfall events and warmer temperatures resulting in significant early snow melt. In March, the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) actively managed our dam to ensure that the runoff was not lost. By mid-month they began releasing water and stabilizing levels.

April was a very wet month causing a steep rise in water levels. TSW had

to add logs to the dam to limit the downstream flows. Further north where there was still more snowpack melting, the flows were extreme and there was flooding.

In May, TSW actively managed levels to get things back to normal in time to open navigation on May 15. All reservoirs were above normal at the end of April but were managed back to normal spring levels by later in May. This resulted in delays in getting docks into position and launching boats. This was a particular issue at Catchacoma Marina where a new dock system was being installed.

## Water Quality Update

According to the most recent water quality report produced by the Trent Aquatic Research Program (TARP), Catchacoma Lake continues to be stable and healthy.

Dissolved oxygen concentrations remain high at the bottom of the lake and nutrient levels along with algal biomass are low.

In the last year, Catchacoma has had more intensive sampling by researchers. A project led by Jack Millar, a CCA board member and Master's student working for Dr. Paul Frost, aims to track seasonal zooplankton dynamics on the lake chain. Jack hopes to see community-level differences over time, where the dominance of zooplankton species changes in the community and why.

The TARP team, led by Dr. Marguerite Xenopoulos and Dr. Paul Frost, is dedicated to monitoring water quality across lakes of the Kawartha Highlands region. Part of their long-term water quality research includes the measurement of key parameters such as water clarity, dissolved oxygen, algal biomass and nutrient levels. These parameters serve as a useful way to gauge the health of a lake. Dissolved oxygen is important for many aquatic organisms such as lake trout. Nitrogen and phosphorus are growth-impacting nutrients that can affect algal biomass. To see the full report, go to the [CCA website](#), click CCA Info at the top of the page, then select Newsletters and Reports in the dropdown menu.



## Defending Our Wilderness

By Peter Currier

In 2019, Dr. Peter Quinby, Chair and Chief Scientist of Ancient Forest Exploration and Research (AFER) took a fortuitous flight over our old-growth hemlock forest. Recognizing its significance, not just for the Peterborough area but for Canada, Dr. Quinby contacted Katie Krelove, the Wilderness Committee's Ontario campaigner, and the movement to save the Catchacoma Forest began.

The Bancroft Minden Forestry Company (BMFC) has a harvest-block option to log the Forest in its entirety. And during the winter of 2021 the BMFC logged roughly 30 hectares of it. For various reasons they have not been back.

Recognizing a travesty in the making, the newly formed Catchacoma Forest Stewardship Committee (CFSC) grew from a group that included local cottagers, scientists, indigenous knowledge keepers and conservationists. The CFSC has worked tirelessly to save the more than 630 remaining hectares of old growth hemlock that comprise our forest.

Hemlock is worth far more on the stump than off. Wind shake makes it valueless for lumber, but it's both a nexus of cooling and 'lungs' for the earth. While hemlock predominates here, our Forest is far from monoculture: it hosts a wealth of birds, plants, trees and reptiles, several of which are threatened.

Further, the rich ecology of life underfoot in all old forests takes generations to evolve and is complex,

unseen turf that no amount of replanting can ever replace.

CCA folks come lakeside for good reason: forests not only give us restorative recreation, they actively heal. Increasingly, folks engage in what the Japanese call shinrin yoku: therapeutic forest bathing.

Forest supporters range from the local Rotary Club, Curve Lake First Nation - Oshkiigmong - the Peterborough Foundation and Catchacoma cottagers, to local journalists, For Our Grandchildren, private donors and naturalists. We have held many well-attended hikes, Anishinaabe ceremonies and events, with trail marking and forest runs by local clubs in the works. And all of this has been underpinned by AFER researchers' intensive study.

So far, repeated overtures to the province to get protection for Catchacoma Forest have been unsuccessful. But stay tuned, there are signs that at the political level, common sense will prevail.

A documentary, Conserving Catchacoma, is available here:

[youtu.be/awJNylj0dzQ](https://youtu.be/awJNylj0dzQ)



For more information, visit the CFSC website at: [catchacomalake.org](https://catchacomalake.org)



## Are you up for the challenge?

Join us for CCA's long-distance canoe and kayak race

**Sunday, August 2 • 10 am start**

Visit our website to see the different divisions and to register



## Sailboat Races

Sunday of every long weekend

Ask Catchacoma Marina Manager Tom for details

CCA presents...

## DOCKFEST 2026

**Saturday, August 1 • Noon to 4**  
**Catchacoma Marina**

- ★ Live Band
- ★ Barbecue
- ★ Local Artisans
- ★ Information Booths
- ★ Face Painting
- ★ Fire Truck

## CCA VIRTUAL AGM

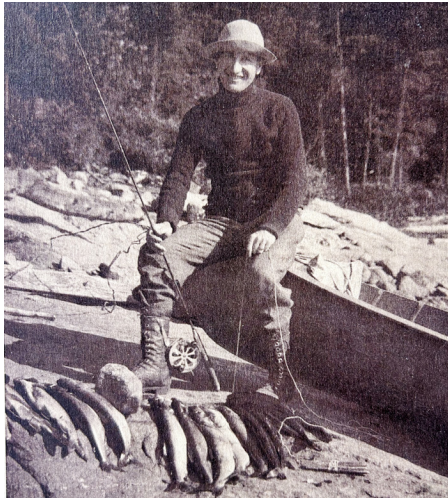
**Wednesday, August 26 • 7 pm**

All members are welcome to join us online for our Annual General Meeting

Please email us to get the link: [catchacomalake@gmail.com](mailto:catchacomalake@gmail.com)

# Turner Family Celebrates 100 Years on the Lake

One hundred years ago, life on Catchacoma Lake looked very different. The shoreline was sparsely settled, dotted with a few hunting and fishing camps, lumber shanties, and only a handful of cottages. A trip from Peterborough to the lake could take an entire day, and the Government Road – now County Road 507 – was little more than a rough trail.



Webber Turner

At that time, the area was beginning its transition from a bustling lumber region to a cherished recreational destination. Visitors were drawn by the lake's natural beauty, abundant wildlife and outstanding fishing. On the west shore stood Cochrane's Landing, a lodge that welcomed lumbermen, hunters and fishermen. Across the lake on the

northeast shore was the well-known Ketchecum Hunt Club, where members gathered to fish, hunt and enjoy the wilderness.

It was during the early 1900s that Webber Turner first discovered Catchacoma Lake through his father-in-law, who regularly fished at the Ketchecum Club. Their annual fishing trips quickly became a treasured tradition, with several memorable catches even immortalized in drawings on the camp walls.

Before long, Webber decided he wanted to own a piece of the paradise he had grown to love. In 1926, he purchased a water access only 16-acre property on the east shore of Catchacoma, that included a simple one-room fishing camp.

Over time, making the long trip from Peterborough to Cochrane's landing and then crossing the lake by canoe, this modest camp evolved into a beloved summer retreat for Webber, his wife Eva, and their three sons – Warren, Jim and Phil. They affectionately named it Hoboes Haven.

It was there that the Turner boys discovered the magic of summers on Catchacoma Lake – a magic that would continue through generations. As the family grew, children and grandchildren gathered at the lake to share in the same traditions, adventures and lifelong memories. After the passing of Webber and Eva, the property was divided

among the three Turner families. Today Hoboes Haven is the site of seven family cottages spread out on the property now known as Turner's Point.

For five generations, the Turner family has made Catchacoma Lake a place to reconnect, celebrate family and build lasting friendships. Along the way, they have also played an important role in the lake community – organizing regattas, offering weekly church services and serving on both the cottagers' association and marina boards.

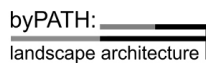
As the Turner family celebrates 100 years on Catchacoma Lake, the entire community joins in congratulating them on this remarkable milestone. Their story is part of the history of the lake itself, and their dedication, spirit and love for Catchacoma have helped shape the special community we all enjoy today.

Happy 100th anniversary to the Turner family – and here's to many more summers at the lake!



Hoboes Haven

## Thank You to our Sponsors!



Catchacoma Cottagers' Association is committed to making environmentally responsible choices including use of 100% post-consumer recycled paper for this newsletter and biodegradable/compostable bags for distribution.