

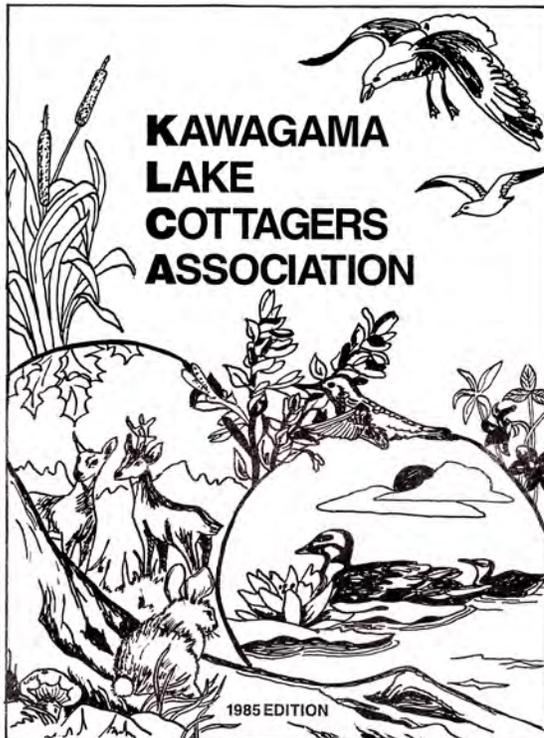
# Reflecting on *Reflections*

by Bob O'Connell



**L**AST SUMMER I was looking through our cottage collection of *Reflections*, reading the stories from the past and wondering how many cottagers either are too new on the lake to have read them or haven't kept the yearbooks to look back on. I thought it might be a good idea to reprint some articles from past *Reflections* for their benefit. My reference was from 2001 to the annual from 2012. The *Reflections* books during those years are filled with excellent stories, very colourful pictures and a listing of phone numbers and email addresses for the members. It is a very professional publication and it was Jan McDonald who set the bar for all of the annuals in the new millennium. Since Jan we have had four editors: Pat Boyd and Leslie Henderson (co-editors), Patricia Davidson, and, currently, Sara Goodchild Condie.

One day I asked Jan if the *Reflections* yearbook started with her in 2001 and she said, "In fact, *Reflections* was going for many years before I took it over, but there are very few copies left." This started my search for copies of the annual before 2001. I went to the Dorset Museum and they didn't have



any copies, then I asked some of the people who have a long history on Kawagama Lake and was able, with Jan and Bob Campbell's assistance, to locate thirteen of the annuals, dating back to the 1979 Annual Report, which I believe is the start of *Reflections*. Here's the history as I am able to piece it together.

In the early 1960s about 60 cottagers met to establish the Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association in an effort to band together to protect the lake from the damage caused by logging. The Association's plan was to provide the collective funds for legal fees necessary to resist the clear-cutting



of the shorelines on the lake. The years passed and in 1979 the KCLA grew to 90 members with Fergus Gamble as President. Each member paid \$10 per year for membership. They held a Regatta, provided navigation buoys, and made donations to Moorelands Camp. In 1979 the KLCA published the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the contact information of the membership, along with a letter from the President, and called it a newsletter.

In the early 1980s Gina Baum took over the membership drive and by 1984 the KLCA had a membership of 217 paid members. The 1984 KLCA newsletter was the first time advertising from local merchants was included, as well as stories and a few black and white pictures.

Then in 1986 the first copy of the KLCA *Reflections* yearbook was published under the guidance of Fern Little. The cover was a line drawing of the lakeshore. Historical stories about the first settlers in the area and the merchants of Dorset filled the pages along with the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the directory of members.

In the early 1990s Irene Hume took over as editor of *Reflections* and for the next decade the yearbook was filled with stories about the history of the lake, snowmobile accidents, wildlife encounters and many other topics, sent in by wonderful writers such as Ron Dodge, Miss Mary Fitz-Gibbon, and Louise Lukianchuk. (You can find some of these stories reprinted in the “Reflecting on *Reflections*” feature in recent editions of the yearbook.)

*Reflections* continues to evolve, and now includes a mix of cottagers’ stories, poems, recipes, and full-colour photos, along with reports from the KLCA executive and board of directors, updates on local news and events, ads from local businesses, and a directory of members. If you haven’t already, join the KLCA to get your copy today!

