
Lake Views
Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association Magazine



Fall/Winter 2006 Magazine

<http://www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca/>

Email: gbcla@ca.inter.net



Picture by Dick Kind

*Early Morning Bobs Lake View Between the Tip of
Sunset Shores Peninsula and adjacent island*

***Nature is painting for us,
day after day,
pictures of infinite beauty
if only we have eyes
to see them.....***

John Ruskin (1819 - 1900)



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Editor's Notes

i) Thanks to Tammy O'Neil for her excellent desk top publishing.

ii) Thanks to Dick Kind for the cover photo ! I encourage all our photographers to send me pictures for Lake Views; it is your magazine.

iii) Thanks to Andrew Robb for his "Looking for a New Home" article on page 9. Stories/ articles are always welcome.

iv) Please send photos, stories, articles and comments to mcandre@educ.queensu.ca

All the best in 2007,
Brian McAndrews





President's Message

Today is December 1st, a miserable day weather wise as the temperature is slowly dropping and we have significant freezing rain. Until now, our immediate area has been blest with warmer weather and a few magnificent days in November, however, lake levels are particularly high because of the amount of rain this past month (even the wet lands are full) and the conservation authorities are warning of flooding in certain areas. The two weeks of hunting are over and now winter will not be too far away.

We have completed a very demanding yet successful year and a great deal has been accomplished. The Lake Stewardship Plan process continues on schedule. The workshops are now completed, the last held in October for the municipalities, government agencies and conservation authorities. We greatly appreciate the very positive, constructive feedback we have had to the draft of the Plan from these agencies. The draft was also available for public viewing and comments during October and once again, we appreciated the excellent comments and have incorporated many into the text of the document. Throughout the whole planning process, every effort has been made to inform all the stakeholders of the planning process, the dates/times of the workshops and the opportunities for comment. What is of concern is that apparently there are some who still are not aware of the Lake Stewardship Plan and the benefits that will result for our lakes. You can help by speaking to your neighbours, making sure they are aware of the Plan and encouraging them to contact the Association for any further information.

What is ahead? Over the winter months the final editing will take place, the maps will be completed and approved and the printing of the Plan and an executive summary will be completed. In early 2007, the Lake stewardship Plan will be formally presented to the three respective Councils for the Municipalities that cover our lakes and work will begin on the "Ribbon of Life" areas. Simultaneously, the working groups for the 7 theme objectives will be organized and the leaders and participants confirmed. The ongoing involvement of the community is also essential for this process. These working groups will begin meeting early in the spring. If you are interested in a particular area, wish to participate and contribute, please contact me at any time: obmact@rideau.net The Lake Stewardship Plan is a living document. It will be reviewed, added to, or amended as situations and decisions dictate. The working groups are just one example of how the planning process continues as we work to solve some of the more difficult concerns raised through this stewardship plan exercise. The Plan will be formally launched on the Memorial Day weekend in

May '07. The spring issue of **Lake Views** will have details of the event.

The Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation is established and starting to grow. Association members and friends received my letter and the Foundation brochure. Please, give the lakes a generous Christmas present to help with the stewardship work for the community of the lakes. In giving, you receive something too – a tax receipt for your benefit. Look for exciting fund raising events for the Foundation next year.

Next summer we are also mounting a major membership drive for the Association during a two-week period in July. There will be door-to-door visits from volunteers to everyone in the community of the lakes. If you would like to volunteer to help with this project by visiting some of your neighbours or covering an area on your road, please let us know either through the Association email address or my own. Your help would be appreciated and you can meet some more of the wonderful people who are your neighbours on the lakes.

To the Board of Directors and all the volunteers who worked above and beyond the call of duty this year to help keep the Lake Plan process on schedule in addition to their usual responsibilities.....my profound thanks and appreciation. Your teamwork, positive spirit and dedication are outstanding as you work for the benefit of everyone on and around the lakes.

To all of you, Association members, community residents, associates and sister organizations, I wish you MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY, PEACEFUL AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Susan O'Brien Mactaggart
President





Cottage and Boating Safety

by Bernie Gelineau

Cottage & Boating Safety is made much easier when there are many volunteers assisting. Many laneways have formally or informally set up cottage watch programs. Although some resent the intrusive nature of such an undertaking they appreciate it when a criminal is foiled in their attempt at break and entering. Statistics will show that crime is down in neighbourhoods where everyone keeps an eye out for others. **Cottage Watch** teaches you ways to protect yours and your neighbours property.

On the boating safety side of things I am in the process of preparing a boating safety card that we plan to make available for those boaters who use Bobs and Crow Lakes. In addition this winter **DEAD SLOW, NO WAKE** signs are being manufactured for posting on the lakes this summer. Hopefully these incentives will make boating safer and help improve the environment of the lakes.

Finally I would like to once more extend an appreciation to the volunteers who help out. In particular I thank Robbie Hughes for the instruction he gives to the many who take the Boating Course and the advice he gives me on boating issues. In addition I would like to thank Bill Brink and Larry MacNinch who look after making sure the navigational markers are put out and taken in and Don Jennings who has taken on the task of refurbishing some of the 10k signs this winter. Their work as volunteers and to all the others who help on the lakes **you make a difference**.

The following article was prepared by George Hiles, Senior Liaison Officers, OPP Community Programming In South Frontenac. He is available if you have a group interested in setting up a Cottage Watch Program. He can be reached at 613-372-1932. Constable Paige Whiting is responsible for similar programs in Central Frontenac and Tay Valley Townships. She can be reached in Perth at 613-267-2626. For more direction on setting up such a program, contact me at bgel@istar.ca or in Kingston at 613-531-0959.

CRIME PROOFING - IN PREPARATION FOR THE WINTER MONTHS, GIVE THE APPEARANCE THAT YOUR HOME OR COTTAGE IS OCCUPIED

When away from your cottage or home for the day, make your home or cottage appear as though there is someone home.

Turn on the radio - to a talk show (CBC Radio One) is a good choice, and crank up the volume leave a light on inside - in an area of the house or cottage where it is visible from the road or driveway

Don't leave a light on outside the house or cottage - you are signaling to the bad guys that you wont be home till dark!

CLOSING UP YOUR COTTAGE IN THE FALL - PREPARING FOR THE WINTER SEASON

Gather up and take home as many of your valuable portable items as possible. Be sure to load them into the truck or car before heading home. These items are easy targets for thieves with a ready market for your stolen property.

The "hot or in demand" items include:

- VCR & DVD players, along with their CDs & DVDs
- stereo system, TV, microwave oven
- fish-finder, electric trolling motor
- and don't forget your liquor and beer

Don't give the bad guys the opportunity to peer into the cottage to size up your contents. Cover the windows with wooden shutters if you have them, and if not, pull the curtains across the windows and doors.

If possible have a neighbour keep an eye on your cottage until you return in the spring, or consider hiring someone in the area to check on your property every week or so.

ALARM SYSTEMS

Look into installing an alarm system in your home or cottage.

- a system with an audible alarm on site that is activated during a break & enter
- another option is to have your alarm system connected to an alarm company via your telephone line that can monitor for:
 - a break & enter
 - fire
 - and medical emergencies

Alarm systems provide the home or cottage owner with peace of mind knowing that "someone" in their absence is looking out for their interests.

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS: AT HOME OR THE COTTAGE

Never indicate to anyone that you are home alone. Do not open your door for just anyone. Install a viewer. Confirm credentials.



Cottage and Home Safety (cont'd)

If there is an emergency and someone wants to use the phone, ask him or her to wait outside while you make the phone call.

Do not rely on night chains. They can usually be broken with little effort.

Upon arriving home, if you think there is someone inside go to a neighbour's and call the police.

When talking to unknown persons on the phone, do not give out personal information.

When using answering machines say "I'm not available at this time", not "There's no-one in at the moment".

Draw your curtains after dark.

In the event of prowlers or 'Peeping Toms' call the police immediately.

HOME AND COTTAGE SECURITY

The simple reality is that no house is totally burglar proof. But everyone can take steps to make their homes more secure. Follow these tips and eliminate the opportunities for burglars to burglarize your home.

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME OR COTTAGE

Look around you. Most burglars are quick to find the weak spots of any home. Weak spots tend to reflect the overall quality of your home security.

ELIMINATE HIDING PLACES

Trim any shrubbery near windows or entries. Basement windows are a common point of entry and are often hidden by shrubbery.

KEEP ALL AREAS WELL LIT

Front and back porch lights should be kept on from dusk to dawn as well lit areas deter burglars.

KEEP ALL TOOLS AND LADDERS SECURELY LOCKED AND OUT OF SIGHT

Burglars may use these tools to break into your home, or a neighbour's home.

KEEP YOUR HOUSE OR CIVIC NUMBER CLEARLY VISIBLE

Emergency vehicles will be able to identify your home easily and quickly in the event of an emergency. This is especially important if you have a long driveway. Be sure it can be seen at night and that no vegetation grows over it.

The following excerpt was taken from the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association web site & is worth the read.

Chimney Fire Safety

The following tips are designed to help keep you aware of the potential danger of chimney fires, and how to detect and avoid them.

As you snuggle in front of a cozy fire or bask in the warmth of your wood stove, you are taking part in a ritual of comfort and enjoyment handed down through the centuries. The last thing you are likely to be thinking about is the condition of your chimney. However, if you don't give some thought to it before you light those winter fires, your enjoyment may be very short-lived. Why? Dirty chimneys can cause chimney fires, which damage structures, destroy homes and injure or kill people.

Chimney fires can burn explosively - noisy and dramatic enough to be detected by neighbours or passers-by. Flames or dense smoke may shoot from the top of the chimney. Homeowners report being startled by a low rumbling sound that reminds them of a freight train or a low flying airplane. However, those are only the chimney fires you know about. Some are less obvious. Slow-burning chimney fires don't get enough air or have enough fuel to be as dramatic or visible. But, the temperatures they reach are very high and can cause as much damage to the chimney structure - and nearby combustible parts of the house - as their more spectacular cousins. With proper chimney system care, chimney fires are entirely preventable.

Creosote / Chimney Fires: What You Must Know

Fireplaces and wood stoves are designed to safely contain wood-fuelled fires, while providing heat for a home. The chimneys that serve them have the job of expelling the by-products of combustion - the substances given off when wood burns.

As these substances exit the fireplace or wood stove, and flow up into the relatively cooler chimney, condensation occurs. The resulting residue that sticks to the inner walls of the chimney is called creosote. Creosote is black or brown in appearance. It can be crusty and flaky ... tar-like, drippy and sticky ... or shiny and hardened. Often, all forms will occur in one chimney system.

Whatever form it takes, creosote is highly combustible. If it builds up in sufficient quantities - and catches fire inside the chimney flue - the result will be a chimney fire. Although any amount of creosote can burn, there is cause for concern when



Creosote/Chimney Fires (cont'd)

creosote builds up in sufficient quantities to sustain a long, hot, destructive chimney fire.

Certain conditions encourage the build-up of creosote: restricted air supply, unseasoned wood, and cooler-than-normal chimney temperatures are all factors that can accelerate the build-up of creosote on chimney flue walls.

Air supply: The air supply on fireplaces may be restricted by closed glass doors or by failure to open the damper wide enough to move heated smoke up the chimney rapidly (the longer the smoke's "residence time" in the flue, the more likely is it that creosote will form). A wood stove's air supply can be limited by closing down the stove damper or air inlets too soon and too much, and by improperly using the stovepipe damper to restrict air movement.

Burning unseasoned firewood: Because so much energy is used initially just to drive off the water trapped in the cells of the logs - burning green wood keeps the resulting smoke cooler, as it moves through the system than if dried, seasoned wood is used.

Cool flue temperatures: In the case of wood stoves, fully-packed loads of wood (that give large cool fires and eight or 10 hour burn times) contribute to creosote build-up. Condensation of the unburned by-products of combustion also occurs more rapidly in an exterior chimney, for example, than in a chimney that runs through the centre of a house and exposes only the upper reaches of the flue to the elements.

How Chimney Fires Damage Chimneys

Masonry chimneys - When chimney fires occur in masonry chimneys - whether the flues are an older, unlined type or are tile lined to meet current safety codes - the high temperatures at which they burn (around 2000 F) can "melt" mortar, crack tiles, cause liners to collapse and damage the outer masonry material. Most often, tiles crack and mortar is displaced, which provides a pathway for flames to reach the combustible wood frame of the house. One chimney fire may not harm a home. A second can burn it down. Enough heat can also conduct through a perfectly sound chimney to ignite nearby combustibles.

Pre-fabricated, factory-built, metal chimneys - To be installed in most jurisdictions in Canada, factory-built, metal chimneys that are designed to vent wood burning stoves or pre-fabricated metal fireplaces must pass special tests determined by Underwriter's Laboratories of Canada (ULC). Under chimney fire conditions, damage to these systems still may occur, usually in the form of buckled or warped seams and joints on the inner liner. When pre-fabricated, factory-

built metal chimneys are damaged by a chimney fire, they should no longer be used and must be replaced.

Proper Maintenance

Clean chimneys don't catch fire. Make sure a Certified Chimney Sweep inspects your solid fuel venting system annually, and cleans and repairs it whenever needed.

Your sweep may have other maintenance recommendations depending on how you use your fireplace or stove.

Wood Energy Technology Transfer Inc.(WETT Inc.), a non-profit training and education association, recommends that you call on certified chimney sweeps, since they are regularly tested on their understanding of the complexities of chimney and venting systems .

Ways To Keep The Fire You Do Want...From Starting One You Don't!

Chimney fires don't have to happen. Here are some ways to avoid them :

- Use seasoned woods only (dryness is more important than hard wood versus soft wood considerations)
- Build smaller, hotter fires that burn more completely and produce less smoke
- Never burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper, trash or Christmas trees; these can spark a chimney fire
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures where wood stoves are in use, so you can adjust burning practices as needed
- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned on a regular basis





Signs That You've Had a Chimney Fire

Since chimney fires can occur without anyone being aware of them ... and since damage from such fires can endanger a home and its occupants, how do you tell if you've experienced a chimney fire?

Here are the signs a professional chimney sweep looks for:

- "Puffy" creosote, with rainbow coloured streaks, that has expanded beyond creosote's normal form
- Warped metal of the damper, metal smoke chamber, connector pipe or factory-built metal chimney
- Cracked or collapsed flue tiles, or tiles with large chunks missing
- Discoloured and distorted rain cap
- Creosote flakes and pieces found on the roof or ground
- Roofing material damaged from hot creosote
- Cracks in exterior masonry
- Evidence of smoke escaping through mortar joints of masonry or tile liners

If you think a chimney fire has occurred, call a WETT Certified Chimney Sweep for a professional evaluation. If your suspicions are confirmed, a certified sweep will be able to make recommendations about how to bring the system back into compliance with safety standards. Depending on the situation, you might need a few flue tiles replaced, a relining system installed or an entire chimney rebuilt. Each situation is unique and will dictate its own solution.

What To Do If You Have a Chimney Fire

If you realize a chimney fire is occurring, follow these steps:

- 1) Get everyone out of the house, including yourself
- 2) Call the fire department

If you can do so without risk to yourself, these additional steps may help save your home.

Remember, however, that homes are replaceable, but lives are not:

1. Put a flare type chimney fire extinguisher into the fireplace or wood stove
2. Close the glass doors on the fireplace
3. Close the air inlets on the wood stove
4. Use a garden hose to spray down the roof (not the chimney) so the fire won't spread to the rest of the structure
5. Monitor the exterior chimney temperature throughout the house for at least 2 or 3 hours after the fire is out.

Tips for a Safe Winter

by Ray Smith, Bedford District Deputy Fire Chief

Driving and Winter

Stay alert, slow down and stay in control the three key elements to safe winter driving. Drive according to current road and weather conditions. Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you. Avoid situations where you may have to brake suddenly on a slippery surface.

Lane Clearances

It is important for residents to maintain their private roads and lanes and driveways to ensure emergency apparatus can access your property in the event of an emergency. Minimum lane clearance for private roads and lanes is 15 feet wide by 15 feet high with the road/lane bottom capable of handling the weight of 35,000-pound apparatus. If your lane or road is not maintained you could receive delayed or limited response. Also, you should ensure your civic address signs are clearly visible from both directions.

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Stop The Invasion!!

by Mel Fleming

Zebra mussels, spiny water flea, & other invading species, are spread by boats. Before entering a body of water, follow these steps to ensure you do not spread invading species.

Inspect your boat, trailer & equipment. **Remove** visible plants or animals.

Drain water from motor, live well, bilge or transom wells on land.

Empty bait buckets on land. **Never** release live bait.

Wash/Dry your boat, trailer & equipment. Some species survive out of water, so it is important to:

* **Rinse** with hot tap water (>40 C), or

Spray with high pressure water (250 psi)

* **Dry** your boat/equipment for five days before moving to another body of water

To report sightings or for more information call the: Invading Species Hotline: 1-800-563-7711

Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters

Clean Boats mean clean water!

Walleye Stocking

by Mel Fleming

Despite public pressure, increased walleye stocking has not been a Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) priority. In 1992, the year walleye stocking was cancelled in Bobs and Crow Lakes, MNR developed recommendations for future walleye management in a report called "An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Walleye Stocking, Genetic, and Stocking Assessment References". It produced 48 recommendations about walleye stocking. In 1996 additional recommendations were produced in a report called "Walleye Stocking as a Management Tool" which guides much of MNR's stocking policies to date. The MNR working group supported walleye stocking as a management tool, however the group

felt walleye stocking rehabilitating lakes with existing natural walleye populations was a low priority. Stocking on top of native walleye populations was determined an inappropriate walleye management option.

In fact, the Bobs & Crow Lakes Association (BCLA) sponsored stocking prior to 1993 through MNR's Community Fishery Involvement Programme (CFIP) which provided funding for stocking projects. Independent Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) projects in 1997 and 2002, both determined that although there were low quantities of walleye in both Bobs and Crow Lakes, the walleye fisheries were reproducing naturally and were self sustaining. Data from these assessment projects and the document outlined above, led to recommendations that no additional walleye stocking should take place and that spawning area rehabilitation should be the tools to increase natural populations in Bobs and Crow lakes.

These recommendations and management strategies are well founded as many fisheries scientists believe that stocking creates the possibility of many adverse biological problems. Fisheries scientists have determined that the supplemental planting of domesticated fish on top of native fish might create competition between stocks, spread diseases, dilute the genetic make-up of the native stocks, and eventually displace native fish. In addition, stocking is commonly used as a solution to fix a bigger problem, that is, acting on the lake like over-fishing or fish habitat destruction. In these cases, fisheries scientists view fish stocking as a band-aid solution because stocking simply masks the real problem and does not provide an actual solution to this problem.

Dr. John Casselman, senior research scientist for MNR's Glenora Research station says "We should be careful to maintain the walleye populations we have" and he points out that fish stocking is artificial. The more fish are handled in artificial hatcheries, the less suited they are for the natural environment, and those fish that are stocked may not be the best for a walleye lake that is to be rehabilitated.

Based on this information, we, as members of GBCLA, follow the recommendations of MNR and their biologists and we do not stock walleye as the means to increasing our walleye populations.

Additional reading: "Walleye Stocking as a Management Tool" 1996; Percid Community Synthesis, Walleye Working Group, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.



Fisheries Plans - 2007

by Mel Fleming

Among our plans for fisheries for 2007 are the following. These must be reviewed with MNR biologists.

1. Drop a net outside Scott's Creek when the water temperature reaches 5-6 degrees C. This will enable us to determine what the fishery is doing at this critical time.
2. Carry out a complete Walleye Spawning Assessment. This will enable us to assess our past rehabilitation work and determine its success or failure.
3. Participate in our 2007 Fall Walleye Index Netting project. This will enable us to determine a new base for the fishery and identify the latest number of walleye in our lakes. This will also enable us to compare with our 1997 and 2002 results.
4. Produce and deliver our annual Bass Flyers to all our resorts and to all residents of Bobs and Crow Lakes. These will identify the impact of illegal bass fishing on both the bass fishery and on illegal anglers.
5. Identify the contact person responsible for Fish Creek to enable us to visit and rehabilitate Fish Creek. This is arguably the best walleye spawning area in our two lakes and could enable us to improve the walleye fishery significantly.
6. Rehabilitate the Village Creek Walleye spawning area following the damage caused by the break up of a large beaver dam.
7. Arrange for the deposit of rocks at the Portage Cut to optimize the walleye spawning area.
8. Rehabilitate the Bobs Lake area approximately 1/2 km from the entrance from Eagle Creek and by also adding rocks.
9. Arrange for the Frontenac Rangers to clean up the weeds and brush from McEwen's, Scott's, and Thompson's to optimize the walleye spawning areas at those locations.
10. Examine the known Lake Trout spawning areas on both Green Bay and Crow Lake at lake trout spawning time to see and count the spawning fish at those areas particularly to see the impact of having added lake trout spawning areas.
11. Verify the bathometric figures for both Green Bay and Crow Lakes and verify that Zebra Muscle velligers were found in our lakes.
12. Obtain training from MNR in the handling and gathering of walleye eggs. The purpose of this is to

gather walleye eggs, milk sperm and fertilize the eggs for later storing until they are ready for hatching following which they can be used for better success and seeding some of our optimum spawning areas where they are more likely to produce effective fry and fingerlings. This would be locations such as Scott's, Thompson's and McEwen's Creeks. This whole process would be in keeping with MNR's policy of not stocking walleye from other sources into our lakes with existing populations. This would be the best alternative to any other approach to improve our walleye populations.

Wildlife Habitat

by Mel Fleming

Composting snakes

Elizabeth and Bob Bassett are full time residents of Crow Lake. They maintain two composters near their home. One has a hole near the bottom. The composters generate heat and attract snakes. We continue to find garter, black rat, and adder snakes there.

Bald Eagles

We have seen bald eagles and their nests with two fledglings on Bird Island of Bobs Lake. A wind storm last summer blew down a number of trees on the island including the tree with the eagle nest. However, my understanding is that the eagles have relocated to another nearby island and thus survived.

Turkey Vultures

Over the last three years we noticed two turkey vulture fledglings in a rock pile on Crow Lake. We also saw them last summer and took a number of pictures. Initially the fledglings are mostly white eventually turning black as they matured. Their heads were grey until well after they flew and turned red later.



Turkey Vulture

Photo by Mel Fleming



Loons

We planted a number of signs identifying nesting loons on Snake Island on Crow Lake to encourage visitors to leave the island until after the loons gave birth. Well the signs worked for the most part but the loons didn't hatch any eggs. In 2005, we noticed a number of people handle the loon eggs following which the loons left, never to return. So, we'll try the signs again this coming year and hope for better results. In most other areas we examined, we didn't see any baby loons.

Miscellaneous

Again, this last summer we were pleased to see a number of animals around our lakes. We saw many deer, (bucks and does with fawns), some bear cubs, weasels, (I think, or maybe mink), coyotes and also some otters, some large turtles, as well as some very large beavers and lots of wild turkeys. Of course there are always lots of ducks, geese, great blue herons, pileated woodpeckers, golden eagles, and many other birds around.

Looking for a New Home

by Andrew Robb, Poplar Island

News reports that we watch each day on TV often include stories of how severe weather affects people in various parts of the world and disrupts their lives. On Monday, 3 July there was another disruption close to home. The bald eagle family that has been nesting on Bird Island in the west basin of Bobs Lake since 2000 lost its home. The parents and two children were home at the time but none was hurt.

A brief storm struck from the north about 5:00 PM. It lasted only about 10 minutes and included heavy rain and hail the size of mothballs. A portion of it was severe enough to topple two towering pines, the one supporting the huge nest and the one next to it where the eagles often sat. It is suspected that there was an intense, very localized 'twister' that touched down on the north side of the island.

The nest and its family have been a popular site on this part of the lake. Once the young eagles appeared on the edge of nest in early June, many boaters slowly passed among the islands for a look until the parents took the new eagles from the nest in early August to develop their fishing skills. The most impressive sights have been the parents with their white heads and tails sitting majestically on branches of the pines and the 'babies' stretching their wings as they prepared to fly.

By some stroke of good fortune, the 'babies' developed quickly this year. One took its first flight

the day before the storm and the loss of the nest. The other 'baby' was not seen flying but both obviously were at the stage of development that they could manage in the air.

The family stayed around the cluster of five islands for seven days as the young ones gained confidence in their flying skills. Then, on 10 July, they 'disappeared' from the near neighbourhood and were seen on branches of trees on the large Crown Island and soaring in the sky. The next, but premature, stage of their development had begun – learning fishing skills.

The nesting pair of eagles constructed the nest in 2000 and raised two young. Unfortunately one of these 'babies' got out of the nest prematurely, hopped around on the ground and struggled among Bird, Poplar and Partridge Islands for a few weeks. The parents did not seem to know how to deal with the situation. The MNR was called and suggested that nature be allowed to take its course and that the bird not be fed. Unfortunately the eagle died in late August. The other one survived.

More young were born in the following years: two in 2001, three in 2002 and three in 2003.

In 2005, the single young eagle born that year got caught in the branch of a tree on a small island in the west basin in August. The distressed bird was noticed by a fisherman who called the MNR. The MNR took the tree down to free the large bird and took it to a raptor rehab center but it did not survive.

In 2005 the parents did not nest and there were no new eagles that year.

Lets hope that the nesting pair remains a part of our neighbourhood for many more years. Boaters are reminder to treat the family with respect by keeping noise and speed down when traveling near the nest, wherever it might be.



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Shoreline Stewardship - Can You Answer These Questions Correctly?

by Susan O'Brien Mactaggart

The following information is taken from the publication *On The Waterfront* published by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

Manicured lawns, paved boat ramps, and concrete retaining walls don't affect the water quality of the lake. True or False?

False. Manicured lawns need too much chemical help to survive in the woods. Paved boat ramps and retaining walls harden the shoreline and eliminate the filtering action of natural vegetation and soil.

Leaving the shoreline in a natural state helps protect water quality, wildlife habitat and precious "rest and relaxation time". True or False?

True. Think about it. Natural is best. It means that you don't have to spend the cash or the time to do what Mother Nature is already doing better. Rest and relax.

Once in the ground, you can forget about your septic system and enjoy the beautiful lakeshore setting. True or False?

False. Septic systems require periodic maintenance (pump outs) to keep them in top working order. Neglect turns them into one of the prime polluters of the lakes.

The septic tank can take care of any chemicals or cleaning products that you dump in there. True or False?

False. The septic tank is designed to break down human organic waste and some soap and gray water wastes using bacteria. Most chemicals are unaffected by short term bacterial action and pass through the system and out into the environment untreated.

Planting a tree along the shore for every member of your family will help improve water quality in your lake. True or False?

True. Every small rootlet takes a few more nutrients out of the soil before they end up in the water. Every root hair binds the soil together and helps prevent erosion. As a result, every tree and shrub acts as a little environmental cleaning station with HUGE benefits for the water quality of your lake.

That broad zone where the water meets the shore is the most critical for the health of the lake and should be disturbed as little as possible. True or False?

True. THE RIBBON OF LIFE is a broad area with parts both in the water and on the land. **It is the most active, functional and sensitive part of the entire lake ecosystem.**

The golden rule in the ribbon of life is "Easy does It".

Water Quality Testing / Trend Data

by Jeff Carabott

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) once again conducted the Invasive Species Watch sampling program (for zebra mussels and spiny water fleas) in Bobs and Crow Lakes this past summer, along with water clarity and E.Coli bacteria testing.

Invasive Species Testing:

Zebra Mussels can foul motors, fish lines and water intake pipes, and destroy swimming areas. Additionally, they can significantly change the overall nature of our lakes. Boaters coming from infested waters in the area can introduce Zebra Mussels and other invasive species. Therefore, we have purchased educational signs that highlight preventive measures and are distributing them to commercial camp owners so they may post them at their landings.

In 2005, there were zebra mussel veligers (larvae) discovered in samples taken from Mud Bay and Green Bay. However, this summer (2006), all sites tested veliger-free, except for one sample from the Central Narrows. Testing in further years is needed to determine if an actual zebra mussel colony will become established (the veligers must survive in order for this to occur). Based on previous test results, it appears as if the veligers are having a difficult time establishing.

Sampling was completed on June 5th and July 26th, and locations included:
Norris Bay – no veligers
Long Bay – no veligers
East Basin – no veligers
Central Narrows – veligers were observed in sample
West Basin – no veligers
Buck Bay – no veligers
Green Bay – no veligers
Mud Bay – no veligers



Water Quality Testing / Trend Data (cont'd)

I am happy to say that no spiny water fleas were found in any of the samples! This is good news.

For Crow Lake, the analysis of the water collected for the identification of veligers and spiny water flea, indicates that neither of these invasive species were present in 2006. Thank you to Don Jennings for assisting with the testing in Crow Lake.

Additional resources include the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)'s website or the invasive species hotline (www.invadingspecies.com or 1-800-563-7711).

RVCA Water Clarity and E.Coli Bacteria Testing:

Total Phosphorus (TP) and total kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN) is measured in micrograms per liter. While Ontario does not have an official total kjeldahl nitrogen guideline, we use a standard of over 500 units to be considered enriched. This was regularly used in past Environment Canada reports.

As for Total Phosphorus:

- 0-10 is considered oligotrophic (a young lake, unenriched, with few nutrients)
- 10-20 is considered mesotrophic (middle aged, moderately enriched with some nutrients). This classification includes most lakes in this region.
- Over 20 is considered eutrophic (enriched, with higher levels of nutrients)

I have attached the nutrient results we have from the June and July testing. The highlighted areas in yellow indicate where counts have been higher the provincial standards for nutrient enriched areas (phosphorus>20 or nitrogen>500). The "Station" letters represent shoreline test sites, and "DP1" (Deep Point) represents the testing site our volunteers use for secchi disc readings throughout the spring and summer for the provincial Lake Partner Program.

The "EC" column represents E.Coli bacteria results, and they are only tested at shoreline sites, as it is easily diluted. A count above 100 counts per 100 mL can make you sick. A 1x count is not very reliable but if there is a testing point source potential (farming, old septic system, etc.), further in depth sampling might warranted. Otherwise, it may have been a fluke (perhaps we just missed a few birds shortly before performing the test).

DATE	CLIENT ID	STATION	EC	TKN	TP
05-Jun-06	Bobs Buck Bay	A	7	480	24
05-Jun-06	Bobs Buck Bay	DP1		440	18
05-Jun-06	Bobs Central Narrows	DP1		420	13
05-Jun-06	Bobs East Basin, Long Bay	B	2	430	17
05-Jun-06	Bobs East Basin, Long Bay	D	6	430	14
05-Jun-06	Bobs East Basin, Long Bay	DP1		440	14
05-Jun-06	Bobs Mill Bay	B	4	480	20
05-Jun-06	Bobs Mill Bay	DP1		880	54
05-Jun-06	Bobs Mud Bay	B	0	460	19
05-Jun-06	Bobs Mud Bay	DP1		400	13
05-Jun-06	Bobs Norris Bay	DP1		460	16
05-Jun-06	Bobs West Basin	A	0	450	16
05-Jun-06	Bobs West Basin	B	22	480	24
05-Jun-06	Bobs West Basin	K	19	780	48
06-Jun-06	Bobs Green Bay	D	1	300	13
06-Jun-06	Bobs Green Bay	DP1		290	12
06-Jun-06	Bobs Green Bay	F	1	350	16
06-Jun-06	Bobs Green Bay	G	1	280	13
06-Jun-06	Bobs West Basin	DP1		330	12
26-Jul-06	Bobs Buck Bay	A	6	440	21
26-Jul-06	Bobs Buck Bay	DP1		450	17
26-Jul-06	Bobs Central Narrows	DP1		390	16
26-Jul-06	Bobs East Basin, Long Bay	B	4	370	10
26-Jul-06	Bobs East Basin, Long Bay	D	14	370	10
26-Jul-06	Bobs East Basin, Long Bay	DP1		360	14
26-Jul-06	Bobs Green Bay	D	18	390	12
26-Jul-06	Bobs Green Bay	DP1		330	16
26-Jul-06	Bobs Green Bay	F	2	330	15
26-Jul-06	Bobs Green Bay	H	4	370	29
26-Jul-06	Bobs Mill Bay	DP1		530	16
26-Jul-06	Bobs Mud Bay	B	4	380	11
26-Jul-06	Bobs Mud Bay	DP1		390	13
26-Jul-06	Bobs Norris Bay	DP1		390	18
26-Jul-06	Bobs West Basin	A	200	390	60
26-Jul-06	Bobs West Basin	K	8	520	13
26-Jul-06	Bobs West Basin	B	18	390	22
26-Jul-06	Bobs West Basin	DP1		390	21



Water Quality Testing / Trend Data (cont'd)

In addition to the Invasive Species Watch program, each year, beginning in May and running through September, a dedicated group of 11 volunteers conduct water quality testing at various key locations of our lakes. Testing includes Secchi disc readings (for clarity) and total phosphorous (TP), the principle nutrient that makes lakes more fertile.

Secchi disc readings are interpreted as follows (the higher the reading, the clearer the water):

Over 5.0m – oligotrophic lake condition (unenriched, with few nutrients)

3.0 to 4.9m – mesotrophic lake condition (moderately enriched, with some nutrients)

Less than 2.9m – eutrophic lake condition (enriched, with higher levels of nutrients)

Please refer to the table below, which provides average historical test data of Secchi disc readings (in metres) dating back to 1999. Keep in mind that weather conditions play a large part in yearly averages. For example, a wet, rainy summer will

produce more nutrient run-off, which will contribute to increased algae growth, and a corresponding decrease in water clarity.

We are presently awaiting test results from the summer of 2006, and I will report on these results in the spring newsletter.

Thank you to all of the volunteer water quality testers.

Location	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Avg.
Buck Bay	4.0	N/A	3.4	3.3	4.7	3.7	4.0	3.9
East Basin	6.0	5.0	5.6	4.9	4.6	5.4	6.0	5.4
Crow Bay	5.0	3.8	4.4	3.6	4.2	3.9	4.4	4.2
Central Narrows	5.7	4.6	5.3	4.5	5.8	4.8	5.0	5.1
Green Bay	5.6	6.0	6.2	5.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.7
Long Bay	5.6	4.3	5.1	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.4	4.7
Mill Bay	3.1	3.3	2.8	2.9	2.9	N/A	2.4	2.9
Mud Bay	N/A	5.0	4.6	5.7	5.1	5.0	4.8	5.0
Norris Bay	7.3	5.0	5.2	4.7	5.3	4.5	4.9	5.3
West Basin	4.8	3.7	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.6	4.9	4.4
Crow Lake	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.2	5.5	5.2

Bobs and Crow Lakes Water Levels – Summer and Fall 2006

by Joe Slater

Sun, rain, floods, and high water

Most members of the Association are aware the Bobs Lake water level is regulated by the control structure at Bolingbroke to follow the operations rule curve for the management of the Rideau Canal. This past summer had the best weather and water conditions for both residents and cottagers for many a year. There was concern in March about having sufficient water to fill the reservoir but by mid-April the lake was at its spring high water target level. Concerns for drought conditions subsided. The lake level remained on the rule curve until the beginning of July. After this point where the summer drawdown begins the lake remained high and stayed some 20 cm. above the rule curve throughout the summer and into the fall. At mid-October when the winter level of 162.38 m. is normally reached the lake was at 162.65 m.

Since the week following Labour Day the lakes have experienced rain on 60 days. In early October the watershed had overcome all concerns of its earlier water deficit. In fact all of the wetlands and ponds were brimming full. On the evening of October 17,

the watercourse northeast of Crow Lake village had a major flood caused by the rupture of a beaver dam which drained a very large pond and Jack's Lake by over a meter. This flood destroyed one family's home, flooded another's basement and washed out two village streets and damaged Crow Lake Road and the community's skating rink. The nearby railroad line was in danger as the culvert through its embankment was not able to pass the water. It rose over 20 m. nearly up to the rails on top of the bank and has meant restricted speeds in this area for several weeks. The flood resulted in Crow Lake rising 18 cm. overnight and caused Bobs lake to rise 10 cm. over the following few days. Bobs Lake continued to rise due to the release of water from Eagle Lake. At the end of November the lake is some 50 cm. above the normal winter level and the outflows are very high for this time of the year, some 10 cms. This is the maximum flow possible without causing flooding concerns on Christie Lake and in the Town of Perth.

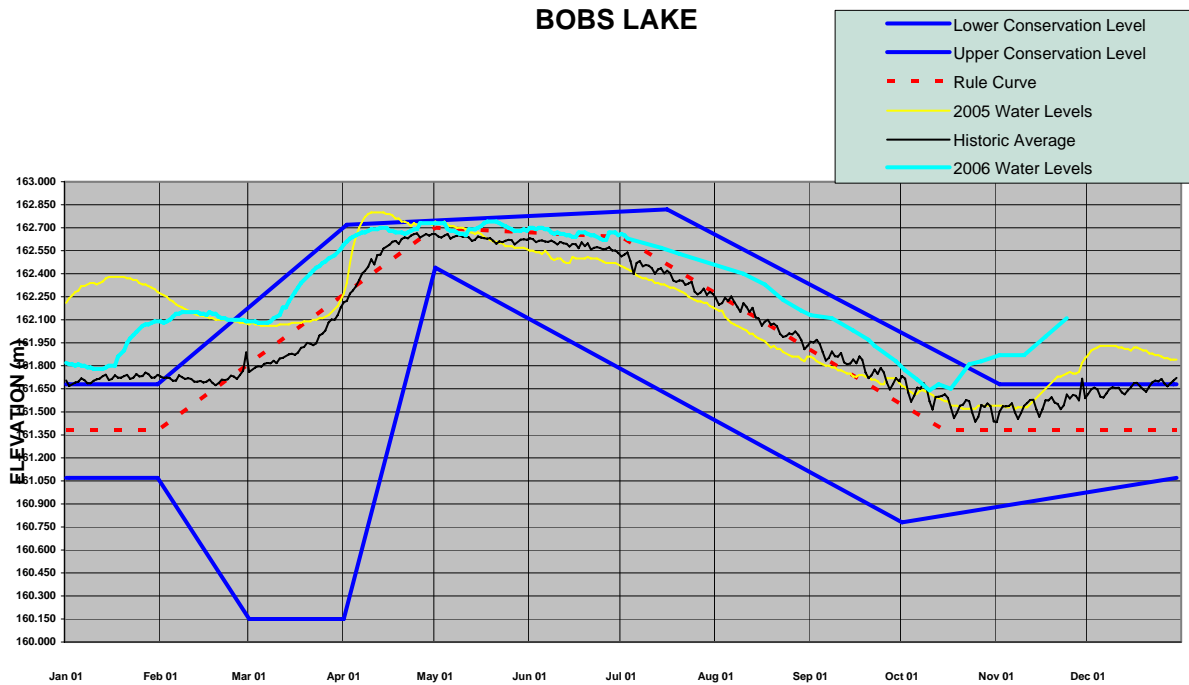
The Rideau Canal Office water management staff is faced with the challenge of drawing down the lakes over the winter to ensure sufficient space in the



Bobs and Crow Lakes Water Levels (cont'd)

reservoir to accommodate next spring's runoff. The hydrograph for Bobs Lake shows the rule curve and the average lake level over the past five years and the levels for this and last year.

Anyone having views on or questions about water levels which they wish to pass onto the Association are invited to contact Joe Slater either by phone 613-279-1167 or by e-mail slater@kingston.net.



Mel Fleming's Lake View

Photo by Mel Fleming



Waste Water Re-inspection

by Richard Phillips

Waste Water Re-inspection Program

As promised, septic re-inspection finally started on Bobs Lake (Green Bay) this past summer. In South Frontenac, two sets of data might be of some interest:

Compliance and Participation

14 of 119 Questionnaires that were mailed generated responses (12%)
18 of 127 "Sorry we missed you" notices generated appointments (14%)
1 out of 172 properties visited resulted in a refusal to cooperate (0.6%)

Inspection Summary

119 properties were on the original mailing list supplied by South Frontenac
185 properties were visited (Green Bay and Sunset Shores)
109 inspections were completed

Risk Summary

Of the 109 inspections:

No risk 23
Low risk 34
Moderate risk 50*
High risk 5

In addition, 3 properties were suspected of being high risk, based on a visual appraisal during door-to-door canvassing, but since an occupant was not present, an inspection was not completed.

*It should be noted that the Moderate Risk designation was used, quite possibly incorrectly, to identify systems that were more than 10 years old for which the Health Unit did not have a record even if the tank were exposed and no problem were found. The designation was also used for systems that had "an issue that could impair its intended function". The majority of Moderate risk designations resulted from incomplete Health Department records, a problem that should have been solved before the program started.

Nevertheless, The program did identify 5 high risk as well as 3 suspected high risk systems. It is now the job of the Health Inspector to do a follow up inspection on the identified properties. As Green Bay is a highly sensitive portion of the watershed, it is critical that corrective measures, if required, be taken as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions regarding your assessment or about sewage disposal systems, please contact either David Cooke, Coordinator Sewage System Program (Kingston Office) at (613) 549-1232 ex 259, or Joanne McGurn, Public Health Inspector (Sharbot Lake Branch Office) at (613) 279-2151.



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Our Family History on Bobs Lake

by William Brink

Our family history on Bobs Lake began when my maternal grandfather, William J. DeWitt, came up with a gang of business associates for a fishing trip in 1925. They arrived at Frank Dowdell's farm near the outlet and camped out just up the lake on Pine Point. The following year he brought the whole family including 6 children, my mother, Lucille being the eldest, along with a cook. They camped out in large wall tents on Pine Point again and had two St Lawrence skiffs with outboard motors. They continued tenting at the lake for several years with the Dowdells storing the boats, tents and miscellaneous camping equipment in one of their barns over the winters.

Somewhere in those early years my grandfather decided they needed a more permanent arrangement and bought Sugar Bush Point, now owned by the Salters, from the Pattersons. Construction began on the main cottage in 1928. The following year he purchased the Patterson farm of about 800 acres with shoreline extending from the entrance of Long Bay to the entrance of Michael's Creek. Loon Island, now the residence of Debbie and Charlie Stewart, was also part of the property.

Construction on the main camp site continued for several years and became quite a complex of buildings. The main cottage had three bedrooms with a semi- attached sleeping cottage with four more bedrooms. They also built a drive shed with a wood and metal working shop, icehouse, a gas house for storing fuels, a pump house with a Kohler electric generator, and a large three bay boat house. All of these are still in use in one form or another.

There were very few cottages on the lake at the time. These included the Germans, Maynards, Lehmans, O'Briens, Waldrons (Nordlaw) who were among the earlier group of settlers. In those days, most of the water front was farmland. The Badour's supplied cottagers with milk and cream after a boat ride and a hike if you brought your own pail.

Immediately following the completion of the main camp, construction began on another cottage nearby which they called the CWC camp because it was rented to a group from Auburn, NY who called themselves the Canadian Water Club. A few years later another rental property, a log cabin, was built on Loon Island. This cottage was eventually sold to Dr. Robert Holland, a co-founder of the Bobs Lake Association.

My grandfather was an avid boater and fisherman and prided himself on having the fastest boat on the lake. His fishing boat was an inboard St Lawrence skiff with a Grey Marine engine called the Princess Mary. He, with Erwin Lewis as a guide, spent countless hours working over all the best spots for walleyes using minnows for bait supplied by Erwin's brother, Huey. He also had a Gar Wood speed boat which ruled the lake until Doc Holland came up with a 50hp Mercury outboard. This prompted the sale of the Gar Wood and purchase of a faster Higgens inboard.

My parents, Lucille and Millard Brink, honeymooned at Bobs Lake and Calabogie and in 1935 I was brought to the lake for the first time. Thereafter, we spent a portion of every summer on Sugarbush Point. These were great times as the lake was very sparsely populated with cottages. You knew every boat by the sound of it's motor and the fishing was good everywhere. There weren't many opportunities to play with other kids, but as soon as we could swim 100 yards we were turned loose with a kicker (outboard). As a youngster I used to like to hang around the farm, which was being run by Harry and Evelina Barr, probably making a big pest of myself. Their sons, Reggie, Gerald and Jack were a bit younger but soon had chores and not a lot of time for play.

After my grandfather died the main cottage was sold and the Brink family, needing a place to stay, purchased a cottage from Doc Holland in Patterson's Bay near the site of the old sawmill. This cottage remains in the family today and is enjoyed by my two sisters and their families as well as our offspring. Following retirement we wanted to spend summers at the lake so decided to look for a place of our own. We eventually bought Birch Point from my uncle Frank DeWitt at the upper end of the old farm. Bob Reeves agreed to build us a Panabode log cottage and, along with Gerald Stinson and Wayne Kehoe, we finished the place in the fall of 1993 and have been spending our summers there ever since. Our grandchildren are now the fifth generation to come to Bobs Lake and they love it as much as we do.

I have seen tremendous changes in the lake over the years, not all of them for the better. Needless to say the modern conveniences are wonderful and the roots are very deep, so on a still day in early spring or fall you can roll the clock back and still see the lake as it was before civilization.



Treasurer's Report

by Diane Stevens

For the year 2005/2006 our regular Income was \$19,042, and we also received the balance of \$40,000 from the Trillium Foundation to complete our Lake Planning efforts. Our regular expenses were \$17,084 plus \$36,441 for the Lake Plan funded by the Trillium Grant. At year end our current bank balance was \$2,821, and the Trillium account was \$28,054 which will cover the final workshops, printing and other expenses we will incur to produce the report. We also have \$20,774 in term deposits.

The cookbook was a very successful venture, and is almost sold out. For the year 05/06 it brought in a net revenue of \$3,046, and we have used these proceeds as set up money for the Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation.

INCOME STATEMENT for year ended 30 June 2005

	12 mos. 30/6/05	12 mos. 30/6/06
REVENUE		
Memberships	\$ 7,950	\$ 8,100
Donations	1,655	3,387
Misc. & Interest Income	386	745
Trillium Grant	31,500	40,000
Boating Courses	500	1,110
Cookbook	<u>3,800</u>	<u>5,710</u>
	\$45,791	\$59,052
	=====	=====
EXPENSES		
Office and Printing Expense	\$ 1,545	\$ 625
Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation	-	3,382
Miscellaneous – Road signs, etc	100	139
Newsletter	2,390	2,195
Annual Meeting	905	1,005
Insurance	1,243	1,653
Memberships/Subscriptions	761	700
Professional Fees	1,285	535
Fishing/Fish Rehabilitation	347	2,699
Boating Safety/Security	199	118
Boating Courses	871	926

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