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Lake Views  
**Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association Magazine**



[www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca](http://www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca)

Fall/Winter 2012 Magazine

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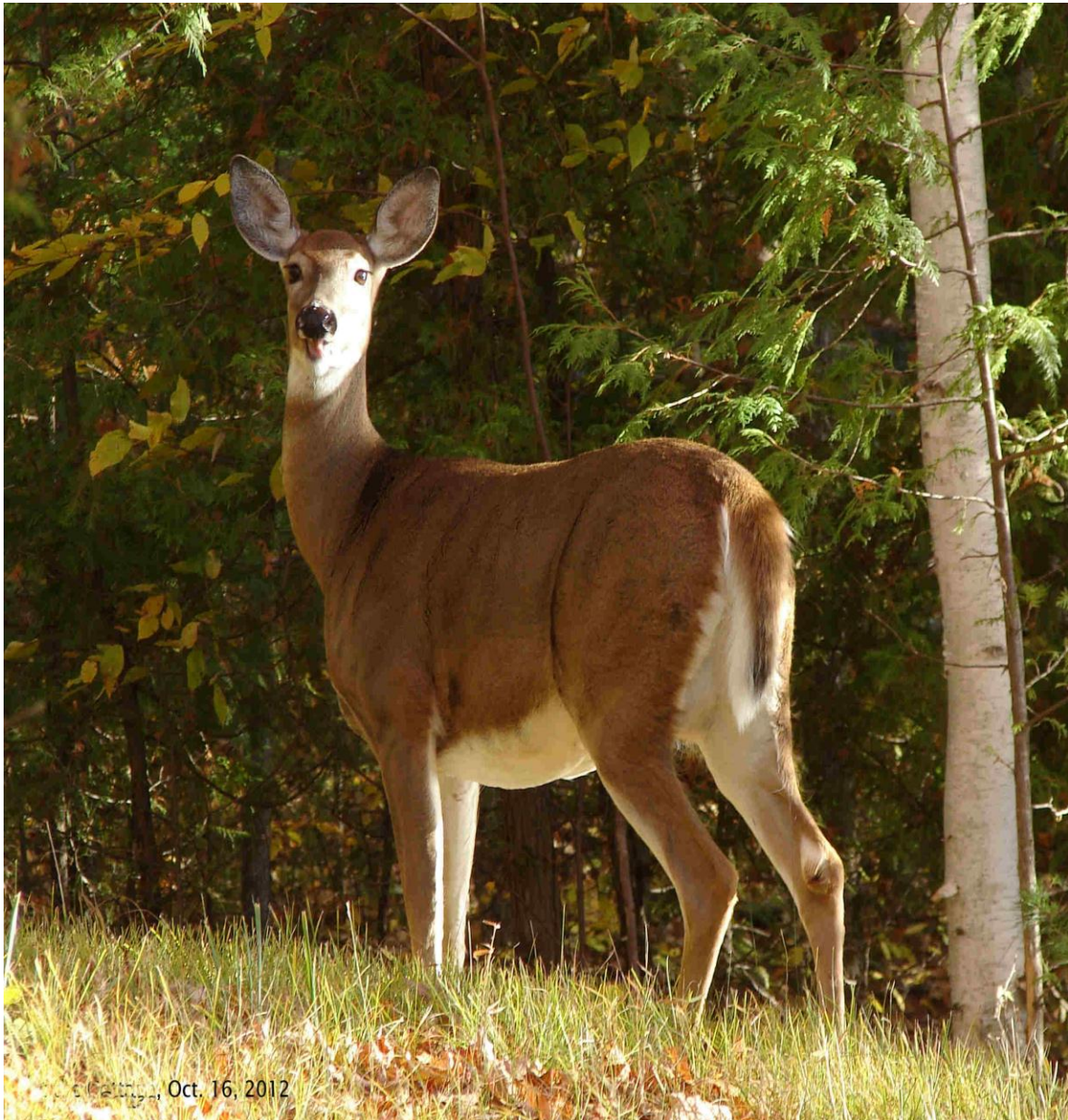


Photo by: Richard Kind

*Because we don't think about future generations, they  
will never forget us.*

*By: Henrik Tikkanen*

*We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.*

*By: Thomas Fuller, 1732*



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## Editor's Notes

I had to include the two quotes on our cover page as both seemed to me to be very appropriate for our current times.

We, as lakeside residents and cottagers are responsible for looking after our lakes; the water, the shoreline, and our flora and fauna not only for our enjoyment, but also for our children and grandchildren. If we do not take care today our future generations will not have the pleasure of clean water and the natural environment we so much enjoy now.

2012 was a year of dry weather with levels I and II drought conditions being implemented by the local conservation authorities. This caused many to become very concerned about lake water levels and also for ground water and our wells. One very real scare I had in late July was when the water supply suddenly stopped. No water into the house! My first thought was that our well had gone dry but luckily (although costly) it was the well pump that had quit. The pump was replaced and we had water again. I was extremely relieved that the well had not gone dry. While it is not something many think about imagine what our lives would be like if you suddenly did not have the convenience of turning on your tap and have running water!

We are also living in a time of high unemployment, thus a contributor to greater thefts, and hard economic times that has caused the reduction and even elimination of environmental agencies and staffing. Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association relies on experts from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), our local Stewardship Councils, conservation authorities and other groups such as the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds. Due to cutbacks the Stewardship councils are now without any funding and they are currently deciding how and if they can continue to operate in some manner. It seems to me that the government; both Provincial and Federal, put the environment at the bottom of their list for funding and support.

What does this mean? It is being left up to us at the grassroots level to take care of the environment as best we can. If we all do at least one thing to protect what we have it will make a difference!

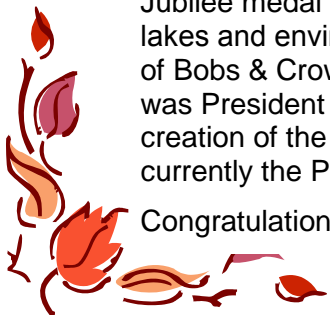
I encourage all of you, our members and partners to enjoy this magazine and to pass it on to your neighbors and friends. I for one want to leave a legacy of a healthy environment for my grandchildren.

Taro Alps

## A Special Award

Susan O'Brien Mactaggart has been awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal for her many years of outstanding commitment to our lakes and environment. Susan's long dedication to the preservative of Bobs & Crow Lakes has made a difference over the years. She was President of our association (several times), instrumental in the creation of the Lake Stewardship Plan, our magazine editor and is currently the President of the Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation.

Congratulations Susan!





## President's Message

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The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association have been blessed with exceptional leadership over the past couple of decades. Charlie Stewart, Susan O'Brien Mactaggart and Taro Alps have, through their passion and love for our lakes, provided leadership to our Association, forged key connections within our many communities and created links with varied organizations to help us all to maintain an excellent quality of life on Bobs and Crow Lakes. I look forward to continuing in their footsteps as President.

Seasons are such an integral part our Canadian existence. We often believe our enjoyment of Bobs and Crow Lakes is more than the quality of our water, the stability of our shorelines, the access to our roads, the collection of our garbage and the fairness of our property tax assessments.

This past spring began with a lack of snow cover which led to low water levels, reports about water quality in the Tay Valley Watershed, and an increase of thefts. The fishing was good the spring fauna exceptional, the wildlife most active, the walkers/hikers were most visible, and most important the deer flies were not as active.

The summer buzz around the lakes was the severe drought and fire bans, low water levels, algae and weeds. Yet recreationally we had an exceptional summer for swimming, boating/kayaking/canoeing, tubing/boarding/water skiing, fishing, entertaining and reflecting.

Now we find ourselves immersed in the beauty of fall. Again our lake water levels are exceptionally low, our ground water levels are precarious and garbage continues to be a problem. Yet fall is for the outdoors person with adventures of hunting, photography and nature exploring. We enjoy the fall colours, the migrating flocks of geese and ducks as the temperatures drop and the trees become bare.

Soon that first snow will fall, the ice will form and new set of activities will commence on our lakes.

The Provincial Government has announced the shutting down of the Stewardship Councils across Ontario. This community based initiative brought together landowners, associations, resource agencies and individuals who share an interest in responsible land and water care and sustainable resource use. The programs launched in 1995, had success due to its strong foundation of community partnership and volunteerism.

MPAC has just mailed out their property assessments that have seen an increase of up to 150% for some shoreline property owners. The principle of taxation is that we all pay our fair share. Yet MPAC, a Provincial Crown Corporation, has devised a system of property assessment that values our cottages/homes by looking at sales and market value in an area and introducing a complex tool to calculate adjustments without ever looking at services used and the ability to pay by homeowners. Is the Ontario Property Tax Assessment system broken?

We all want our lakes to be clean and healthy. We want our marine adventures to be safe. We desire our cottage to be crime free. We expect good fishing. We want to protect our flora and fauna. We like connecting with each other, engaging our family and discovering new friends.

**Editor: Taro Alps**

**Technical support: Tammy O'Neil**





With changes, like seasons, we must re-evaluate the things that we do. We have enjoyed expectations over the past 30 years concerning lake sustainability, wildlife and fisheries, climate change, marine and cottage safety and government fairness. There is an expectation that someone else will do the right thing for us.

It has become evident that people at grass roots levels must address a new set of issues for today. The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association requires your assistance to continue to be good stewards of our lakes. We will work with our neighbouring Lake Associations and with our Townships to address responsible land and water care. We will continue to collaborate with FOCA to explore a better system of property assessment. We will work with our partners at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, the Toronto Zoo and others to protect our fisheries and wildlife.

Finally, we will bridge the seasons with information to you through varied platforms which include: **Lake Views**; the GBCLA **Website**, our **Facebook** page, **E-lets** and our roadside **signs**. By keeping you informed we hope to build a strong base so that we all can be heard.

I look forward to seeing you on the lakes.

Season's Greetings!

Larry Arpaia  
President



Autumn Leaves

Photo by: Richard Kind



## Fisheries: Four Down and One to Go

By Gordon Thompson

On August 20<sup>th</sup> 10 Rangers from the MNR Stewardship Program and 16 of the finest volunteers on our lakes showed up at the mouth of Eagle Creek to build spawning beds at the mouth of the Creek. We had previously had a crew of volunteers and rangers in to clean the Creek to prepare it for rock. We also have our trustee and resourceful rock contractor Pete McNicol who built roads and made this job possible with his large and very helpful high ho, rock breaker and trucks full of rock. The mouth of Eagle Creek is now home to 120 tons of rock and the spawning beds are ready for next spring's run. Have a look at the picture of the finished product. Pictures of the work in process are available on our Facebook page. Pretty impressive!

This is year 4 of our 5 year plan for Walleye enhancement. We have pretty well accomplished what we set out to do and we have four good spawning areas now home to Walleye and producing fish naturally. Thompson and McEwan Creeks are on the Northern part of Bobs, and End Creek and Eagle Creek are on Buck Bay and Big Bobs on the Southern part of Bobs Lake. We have hoped to get Campsel Creek on Green Bay done but with the cancellation of the Stewardship Program and the funding hiatus it didn't get done this summer. SURPRISE! In early October I got a call from the MNR in Kingston telling us that our funding for Campsel Creek has been approved. We got \$4,000 pledged for Campsel Creek, plus another \$2,500 for Eagle Creek. Good news, but we have to use the money by December 31, 2012. We are on it and trying to get it done. More in the Spring Issue.

The big news is the cutbacks at MNR, detailed in the last Provincial Budget. The Stewardship Program has been cancelled, and our valued contacts have disappeared into the wind. While there is still a core group at MNR in Kingston, we are unsure of their status and the status of future grant programs we have been using to fund the majority of our initiatives over the past 4 years. We will be working on this over the winter to try and see if our year 5 projects, which include a lot of evaluation and surveying, will get approved.

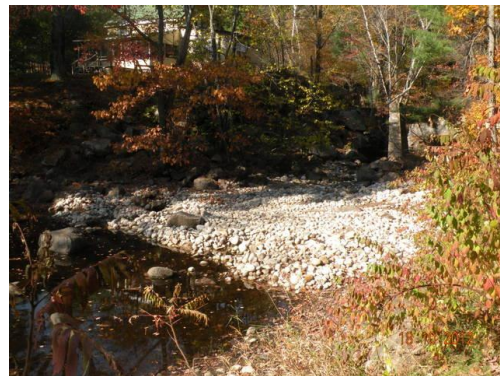
Stay tuned.

A reminder to all about safely using our lakes in the winter

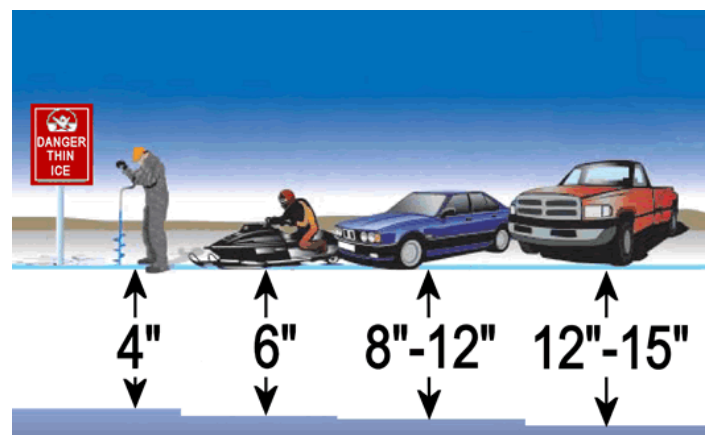
Ice levels have been unpredictable over the past few years, so remember to make sure of the ice, and wear the proper clothing and safety equipment like ice picks and whistles. See the chart to give you some guidance for thickness for various uses. Have a good ice fishing season as it's one of the joys of our lakes.

Your ideas are always welcome so if you have projects you would like to suggest or if you just want to get your name of our volunteer list you can drop me a note at [gandkthompson@rogers.com](mailto:gandkthompson@rogers.com).

Have a safe and happy winter!



Eagle Creek



Ice Chart





## Water Quality Testing

By Jeff Carabott

As part of the Ontario Lake Partners Program (LPP), running from May through September every year, a dedicated group of volunteers conduct water quality testing at various key locations of our lakes. Testing includes Secchi disk readings (for clarity) and total phosphorous (TP), the principle nutrient that makes lakes more fertile.

The Lake Partner Program Annual Report may be downloaded by visiting their website at: [www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/local/lake\\_partner\\_program/index.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/local/lake_partner_program/index.htm)

Thank you to all of the volunteer water quality testers.

\*\*\*\*\* **We are in need of a water quality tester for Mill Bay** \*\*\*\*\*

**Only a few minutes of your time are required, twice a month, between May and September. For details and if anyone is interested, please email Bonnie Carabott at [jcarabott@sympatico.ca](mailto:jcarabott@sympatico.ca).**

Testing results from the summer of 2012 are not yet available, and we will report on these in the

## RVCA Water Quality & E. Coli Testing

By Jeff Carabott

Each summer, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) field technicians have collected water samples from watershed lakes under the **Watershed Watch** program.

Concentrations of total phosphorus (TP), total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), and calcium (Ca) are analyzed from samples drawn at the deepest points of each area of the lakes.

The primary focus is on tracking the trophic state of the lakes, which is done by looking at the quantity (concentration) of nutrients (phosphorus, nitrogen and, to a lesser extent calcium) available to support the growth of algae and aquatic plants.

Summer 2012 data is not yet available, but based

on 2011 and previous data from the past four years, there are several locations which have tested with higher levels of total phosphorus. These include:

Buck Bay, West Basin, Mud Bay, Central Narrows, and Mill Bay, which all had at least one sample that exceeded nutrient guidelines. Phosphorus and nitrogen are the contributing nutrients for plant (weeds) and algal growth, and when available in high concentrations, favourable conditions exist for their growth. Thus, areas with elevated nutrient concentrations may be prone to abundant aquatic plant growth and algae blooms. Algae blooms create a potential problem for fish and other aquatic species, because as algae dies off it sinks to the bottom and decomposes. This decomposition process requires oxygen, and can result in depleted dissolved oxygen levels in the water, limiting the available habitat for aquatic life.

Care should be taken to reduce nutrient concentrations to prevent the growth of excessive aquatic vegetation and algae blooms and prevent further oxygen depletion. ***Retaining natural shorelines, developing good buffers, keeping septic systems well maintained and minimizing phosphate inputs (soaps, detergents, fertilizers) are all great ways to improve water quality and keep the lakes healthy for years to come.***

No E. coli bacteria issues were detected.

For more information, check the RVCA Watershed Watch website: [www.rvca.ca/programs/wwatch/watershed\\_watch.htm](http://www.rvca.ca/programs/wwatch/watershed_watch.htm)

The RVCA has also produced the Tay Subwatershed Report.

Five water quality characteristics have been used to develop a rating of water quality for lakes.

These include:

- **Nutrients** (total phosphorus and total Kjeldahl nitrogen) as indicators of excessive nutrient loadings, which may result in excessive vegetation growth and depleted dissolved oxygen
- **Dissolved oxygen**, as an indicator of suitable fish habitat, as fish are unable to survive in oxygen depleted environments



#### RVCA Water Quality & E. Coli Testing (cont'd)

- **pH** as an indicator of change from a water body's natural state
- **Secchi depth** as an indicator of water clarity

Listed below are the ratings for Bobs Lake, the different bays and Crow Lake.

Crow Lake = Fair  
Bobs Lake West basin (Big Bobs) = Fair  
Bobs Lake Buck Bay = Fair  
Bobs Lake Central Narrows = Fair  
Bobs Lake Long Bay = Fair  
Bobs Lake Norris Bay = Fair  
Green Bay = Good  
Mud Bay = Poor  
Mill Bay = Very Poor

For more detailed information, the Tay Subwatershed Report is available at:

[www.rvca.ca/watershed/watershed\\_planning/tay/Tay\\_River\\_Subwatershed\\_Report.pdf](http://www.rvca.ca/watershed/watershed_planning/tay/Tay_River_Subwatershed_Report.pdf)

## Invasive Species Testing

By Jeff Carabott

The RVCA also conducts an invasive species sampling program (for zebra mussels and spiny water fleas) in Bobs and Crow Lakes each summer. Great news, based on 2011 results, there are no signs of infestation in either lake!

Our lakes are one of fewer and fewer water bodies that do not have established zebra mussel populations. Since monitoring for zebra mussels and spiny water fleas began in 2003, veligers (larval mussel stage) have not been detected. Care should be taken by property owners and recreational users to preserve this status, and steps should be taken to enhance the lakes:

**Boats, fishing gear, and other recreational equipment should always be cleaned and inspected before entering a different water body to minimize the spread of invasive species. For more information please visit [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com).**

## Shoreline Erosion and Rehabilitation

By Larry Arpaia

As you receive your Shoreline Report from the Shoreline Survey conducted around our lakes over the past few years, we have been encouraged by the number of residents who have begun to take action in addressing 'shoreline erosion' through a planned shoreline rehabilitation plan.

What is shoreline erosion?

Soil along the shorelines of Bobs and Crow Lakes are gradually weathered, displaced and deposited by various forces including wind, water, ice and gravity. The sources that may contribute these forces include boat wakes, ice movement/scour, mowing to water's edge/removal of a vegetated buffer, lack of upland vegetation, and our unique displacement of water as a watershed for the Rideau Canal System.

Although erosion is a natural process, it can be dramatically accelerated by changes in land use, such as removal of shoreline vegetation. Without the presence of a healthy vegetated buffer, shorelines have reduced resistance against erosion, potentially resulting in a loss of habitat, soil stability and land.

A solution for shoreline erosion is bioengineering: the combination of engineering techniques using natural materials and structures to stabilize soils. The end goal is a self-repairing shoreline that stabilizes soil, minimizes erosion and contributes to healthy habitat.

Bioengineering:

- Is low maintenance and self-repairing
- Is cost effective
- Addresses a variety of contributing causes of erosion
- Promotes good habitat value for fish and wildlife
- Can be less invasive compared to conventional erosion control

If you would like to know more about developing a shoreline plan, have an erosion problem or want to address that shoreline buffer the Rideau



### Shoreline Erosion and Rehabilitation (cont'd)

Valley Conservation Authority's Shoreline Naturalization Program is offering a free consultation and 'rehabilitation plan' for your shoreline. The RVCA's *Tay Valley Sub-Watershed Shoreline Naturalization Program* is available to the lakeshore residents of Bobs and Crow Lakes through 2013. You may also be eligible to have your rehabilitation work done at no or low cost. Contact Meaghan McDonald at 1-800-267-3504 for further information.

## Shoreline Survey Update

By Taro Alps

I am pleased to inform you that the shoreline surveying of the lakes is completed. This summer Buck Bay, Crow Bay and Mill Bay were completed and that means that all of Bobs and Crow Lakes have now been surveyed.

Over the winter the reports for the three areas will be written, printed and in the spring the binders will be put together and prepared for distribution.

Each owner will receive a binder for their property, and to be truthful delivering the binders is the most time consuming task of this whole project. There are still binders to be delivered from the survey done in 2010 and 2011, but we are working on it and as always if you can assist it will be much appreciated. Call me at 613-273-8495 or send an email to [mandtalps@yahoo.ca](mailto:mandtalps@yahoo.ca).

More details about binder distribution will be written in our spring/summer magazine so look for it then.



Loon

Photo by: Mary Alps

## Marker Buoy Update

By Taro Alps

A critical component of our lakes is the marker buoys. They show where dangerous shoals, rocks and other hazards to boating are located during the months when many of these hazards are just below the water line and cannot be seen.

While many long term cottagers and residents are aware of the spots, people new to the lakes or visitors do not know where the hazards are located.

I am pleased to announce that all areas of the lakes are now being looked after by volunteers who have an interest in keeping our lakes safe for all boaters. We also have a new director of marine safety who will be coordinating with our volunteers for the placement of the marker buoys.

We will be replacing all of the older marker buoys, barrels, tubes, etc. with the newer and lighter yellow buoys that were tested in 2011.

Here are the people who have volunteered and are doing so to ensure that all of you, your friends and visitors have an enjoyable and safe time on our lakes.

Director Marine Safety – Mark Cooke

### Marker Buoy Volunteers

Central Narrows, East Basin, Long Bay & Norris Bay: Bill Brink

Crow Bay: Bob Sykes

Crow Lake: Bernie Gelineau

Green Bay: Peter Smallman-Tew

West Basin: Rick Smith

The channel between Crow and Bobs Lake: Mike Byrnes

To the best of our knowledge the hazardous spots are marked but we know that EVERY location is not done so we ask for your input. If you are aware of spots that are not marked please let Mark Cooke or any of the directors know and we will be sure to get a buoy placed in that area.





## Ticks and Lyme Disease

By Larry Arpaia

Lyme disease and the ticks responsible for its spread are now established in the area north of the St. Lawrence River according to the Public Health Agency of Canada. This fact means that the residents of Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes are at risk. Now is the time to “get tick smart”. Become aware of what a tick looks like, make your environment less favourable for ticks, understand what you can do to prevent tick bites and learn how to remove a tick.

Ticks prefer to live in humid, wooded areas. They are active spring, summer and fall. Symptoms of the disease may include fever, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint pain. These may disappear within 10 days but if left untreated Lyme disease can progress and affect the nervous system, joints and the heart.

Know the bug

Know the bite

Know what to do

For more information on Lyme disease check out [www.kflapublichealth.ca](http://www.kflapublichealth.ca) or [www.publichealth.gc.ca](http://www.publichealth.gc.ca)

## Garbage – What can we do?

By Larry Arpaia

Bobs and Crow Lakes have the distinction of covering three Townships in Eastern Ontario. We have over 70 private laneways around our lakes. Until last year private laneways did not have garbage collection from our Townships. Garbage, along with septic systems, has become an ‘un-discussable’ topic in cottage country.

Yes we pay significant taxes. We have seen our property assessments climb dramatically in 2008 and again this year. We have been “contributing” on our tax bill for garbage collection for the past two years and we’ve heard of a number of “solutions” (clear garbage bags, alternate week recycling, drop off bins, amongst others) without what we believe is a consistent clear process that works for us.

We hear that the Townships will be closing some

of the smaller dumps but the larger ones are expected to remain open, at least for the near future in South Frontenac Township. A hazardous waste site has been opened in South Frontenac, and larger items such old mattresses can still be dropped off at the Salem dump site.

Yes you may continue to bag your cottage garbage and bring it home or drop it off at a public garbage site on our way home. You may want to drop your garbage off at the end of your private laneway on Sunday eve for a Tuesday pick-up and take a chance that our 4 legged creatures will not spread it all over the road. Some of you may not be aware of the fact that one of your neighbours may spend 15 minutes picking up your garbage every week.

The fact of the matter is that recycling in cottage country is abysmal. Most of us recycle back home without thinking twice. We separate our plastics, glass and tin cans. We put our blue boxes and green boxes out on the days that are designated. We are aware of days and places that hazardous materials will be collected. Let’s all do the same at the cottage and get into the habit of recycling.





## Snakes in the Rideau

By Susan O'Brien Mactaggart

This year we have seen several articles in the paper on the Rideau Black snake (now called the grey snake), its' endangered status and how we are fortunate to have this reptile wonder in our specific area of Ontario. I do imagine many on the lakes have their family "snake encounter stories" over the years. I would like to share one story with you and also encourage you to send similar tales of your family lake experiences to Taro Alps, our magazine editor.

Many years ago, about the late seventies, my family and my parents arrived at the lake on the May 24<sup>th</sup> long weekend in great anticipation of opening the cottage. Naturally that is regarded as a work weekend with all the opening chores on the list and one of those chores was to retrieve the outboard motor from storage in Westport.

In those days my mother drove a Cutlass convertible and this was the car we were using to get the motor. We took an old tarp out of the boathouse and threw it in the car trunk to cushion the motor for the ride home, and off we went to the village.

On opening the trunk at the storage place, there staring back at us was a very large black snake curled up in the tarp, much to the upset of the storage owner, may I add. Rather than cause further trouble or let the snake go in the village, the motor was lowered into the trunk and we drove home with the snake to set it free in its usual surroundings. We opened the trunk,

carefully removed the motor.....no snake. Took out the tarp. Shook the tarp. No snake! Into the trunk, every corner of the trunk searched. No snake!

If you remember the cars of that vintage, they had deep wells to house the convertible tops when they were down. All those areas were carefully examined. No snake! For two days this search went on, no snake and finally we came to the conclusion it had gotten out of the car somehow and was now probably back at the boat house, amused that we were still continuously searching the car.

The holiday Monday afternoon my family had to return to the city, and my parents had decided to make the trip the following day. To be absolutely certain, my father made one last search through the car and felt satisfied the snake was long gone. Tuesday morning, on highway 401, my mother is driving with her window down slightly, in the passing lane, at 110 k. when she felt a tap, tap on her left shoulder. She turned her head slightly and in her peripheral vision saw, guess what, the head of the snake. It was headed for the air of the open window.

"I've found the snake!" she calmly said to my father. He of course was terrified she might lose control of the car so kept repeating, "Keep calm, keep calm" as he put his hand to the back of her head to bat the snake away if it attempted to go further. My mother changed lanes, slowed down and gradually got on to the shoulder of the road and came to a stop. My father jumped out and my calm mother did not, however, waste any time in vaulting over the console of the car and exiting out the passenger door. The snake finally did get out of the car with some coaxing. My mother, bless her, despite her driving surprise, made sure the snake was headed for the ditch and not the traffic lanes before they continued the ride home.

If anyone spies a Rideau Black snake closer to Toronto, this may be the answer.



**Heather Irving**

Sales Representative

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## Climate Change

By Taro Alps

The theme at this year's Lake Links Workshop held in Perth on October 20<sup>th</sup> was "Climate Change – How Do We Build Resiliency in our Lakes".

Climate change or whatever you may want to call it is occurring. There are people who do not believe in climate change as such, preferring to believe the change is due to a natural occurrence or cycle of the earth.

However you view it, change to our climate is happening and the predictions from people much more knowledgeable than me are saying that it will continue.

The average annual temperature in Ontario is rising. Between 1948 and 2008 the average annual temperature has increased by up to 1.4<sup>0</sup> C. It is predicted that by 2050 the average annual temperature in Ontario will increase by 2.5<sup>0</sup> C to 3.7<sup>0</sup> C. It has been recorded that 2010 was the hottest year on record since 1948.

The above temperature figures may not seem like much but even slight increases in annual temperatures can have great impacts on fish, flora and fauna.

The word is **Adapt!**

Warm water fish will probably thrive while cold water fish will most likely suffer due to warmer water temperatures. This is the same for plants and trees and for our wildlife. Any species that are able to adapt will survive, but if they cannot adapt we could see them disappear, which will change our future landscape.

I have supplied a very high level overview but it is something that we all need to be concerned about.

For greater details and information check out the Ministry of Natural Resources website at: [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/ClimateChange/2ColumnSubPage/STDPDPROD\\_090113.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/ClimateChange/2ColumnSubPage/STDPDPROD_090113.html)

Also, by the time you are reading this the presentations from Lake Links will be on the RVCA website at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca)

## Septic Savvy Workshop

By Larry Arpaia

A SEPTIC SAVVY workshop sponsored by the Lake Networking Group was held on August 18<sup>th</sup> in Perth. This information session attracted 77 participants from around the Tay Valley sub watershed and had experts address:

- what has changed in requirements for their septic systems
- what new technologies are available, and what to look for when ensuring that septic systems continue to work well to protect ground water (your well) and surface water (your lake).
- financial assistance to landowners who are required to upgrade or replace their septic systems

Speaker Terry Davidson, Director of the Ottawa Septic System Office, pointed out that septic systems are now referred to as "on-site waste water treatment systems". He described the range of treatment systems. The Class 4 system includes the common septic tank and leaching bed. In your Class 4 traditional system, the tank does only 15-20% of the treatment, whereas the leaching bed does 80-85%. The action in the leaching bed occurs below the distribution pipes, at the boundary between the stone surrounding the pipes and the sand below. Since 2006, effluent filters, which can be retrofitted, are required in Class 4 systems to protect the leaching bed.

When sludge at the bottom of the tank and scum at the top reach 30% of total tank capacity, the pumper needs to be called. However, it's not good practice to have the tank pumped too often because the tank needs about two years to start operating efficiently.

The septic system affects both the surface water and the ground water. Although most people know that phosphorus is harmful to surface water, they may not be aware that nitrogen threatens ground water. Tertiary systems decrease nitrogen levels in effluent.

It was recommended that the owner be present when their septic tank is being pumped; the pumpers are knowledgeable and you can learn a lot from them.





### Septic Savvy Workshop (cont'd)

Terry also recommends against using anti-microbial soaps. Although phosphates are not present in most soap, the anti-microbial soaps may contain ammonia, which threatens ground water.

Barb King, Executive Director of the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, spoke briefly about tertiary treatment equipment that is allowed under the building code (other systems may be approved on a case-by-case basis).

These systems give effluent quality ten times better than traditional leaching beds. They may be useful for:

- Cottage conversion to permanent homes
- Locations near water
- Sites with shallow soil or high water table levels
- Sites with clay soil
- Sloping sites
- Small lots.

It was noted that financial assistance to landowners who are required to upgrade or replace their septic systems may be available from the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program.

To view the complete presentations visit our website at [www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca](http://www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca)



Photos by: Marleen Keenan

## BioBlitz 2013

By Jenepher Lennox Terrior

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association's (GB&CLA) Wildlife Subcommittee is hosting its First Annual BioBlitz within the Frontenac Forest (South West Section of Mud Bay) on Friday August 16 and Saturday August 17, 2013.

A BioBlitz is a volunteer based biological baseline inventory of plant and animal species found at Bobs & Crow Lakes. Over time we can assess our habitat for conservation purposes. Our 24 hour BioBlitz 2013 will include experts in varied fauna and flora as well as the night sky. These experts will lead small groups on guided walks through the forest to look for/conduct a mini-inventory.

The GBCLA BioBlitz 2013 will offer a fun, educational, interactive way for our community to come together (older adults, parents, grandparents, youth and children) to learn about biodiversity, stewardship and natural heritage values.

The information collected will be the beginning of a commitment by our Lakes to annually assess our ability to support wildlife species by generating a habitat map. In collaboration with the Toronto Zoo, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources, Parks Canada and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, we will produce a habitat model to help predict the potential for species occurrence. The relationship between habitat variables is then mapped in a Geographic Information System.

Plan to be at BioBlitz 2013, a wonderful opportunity to learn about our lakes, our eco system, and to contribute to our natural history.

Check for further information in our spring magazine and for updates on our web site at [www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca](http://www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca) or our Facebook page.



Porcupine Photo by: Mary Alps



## THE BOBS AND CROW LAKES FOUNDATION

The Foundation for Bobs and Crow Lakes is pleased to report a very successful 2012 year. Through your support for the Frontenac Frolic last August 4<sup>th</sup>, the Foundation was able to raise significant monies for project work for the lakes. In addition, the Foundation was successful in its application to the RBC Blue Water Project and was awarded \$4,000, on behalf of the Association, for continued work on the shoreline survey project. The Foundation also continued funding for the fisheries program, the shoreline survey, the completion of the fire pump project, and will fund the complete replacement of all lake marker buoys. Attendance at the second Frontenac Frolic more than doubled from the previous year, and the addition of the petting zoo/pony rides, face painting, an expanded Cow Flop Bingo grid, and excellent food helped to make the day not only a financial success but also an enjoyable family social day.

***Mark your calendars for a third Frolic, August 3, 2013. Help support this next fund raising event by collecting items to donate for the flea market and silent auction, buying Cow Flop Bingo tickets and attending this fun filled event for our community.***

Many of you who attended the AGM for the Association will remember how more than one speaker reminded the members of the unique, *fortunate* position our lakes are in to have a Foundation. In light of the major government financial cut backs to the ministries, once the source of grants for all lake association work on provincial lakes, your Foundation, with your continued support, will now enable Bobs & Crow to have the financial resources necessary to carry on the work to maintain this beautiful area.

***Please remember the Foundation for your charitable giving, recognition of birthdays, memorials or contributions for special projects on the lakes. All donations of \$10.00 or more receive a tax receipt applicable to returns in both Canada and the United States.***

The Foundation Directors wish everyone a safe and healthy winter.

By Susan O'Brien Mactaggart – President



Sunsets

Photos by: Marleen Keenan



**Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association  
Membership Application / Renewal Form**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

Magazine by e-mail: Yes / No

Mailing Address:

Summer Address (911 number):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Winter telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Township (Please circle appropriate) Central Frontenac, South Frontenac or Tay Valley

Cottage Location (select appropriate location):

☐ West Basin (Big Bobs)

☐ Crow Bay

☐ Central Narrows

☐ Long Bay

☐ Green Bay

☐ Buck Bay

☐ Mud Bay Basin

☐ Norris Bay

☐ East Basin

☐ Crow Lake

☐ Mill Bay

Annual membership dues are **\$30.00**.

If you wish to donate additional funds please indicate amount \$\_\_\_\_\_. If this donation is to be used for a specific purpose let us know. \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association. Membership form and cheques may be given to any Lake Association Board member, or mailed to:

Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association  
c/o Edie MacNinch  
26 Rutherford Cres.  
Kanata, ON K2K 1N2

Membership enquiries: [emacninch@sympatico.ca](mailto:emacninch@sympatico.ca)

For further information or to volunteer please visit our website at [www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca](http://www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca)





## Treasurer's Report – 2011-2012

By Martin Yates

For the year 2011/2012 the GBCLA sustained a deficit of \$10,634.64 with revenues of \$11,021.08, and expenses of \$21,655.64. Member's equity at June 30<sup>th</sup> stood at \$19,225.09.

The single cause for our deficit was an expenditure of \$12,500 on the Shoreline Survey project. As external funding for this project became unavailable, last Autumn the Board decided to extend the remainder of the project over two years rather than one and to fund the 2012 portion from our own resources. This is a worthwhile project and a good way to spend our money!

Our two other major projects, the Emergency Water Pumps and the Stream Rehabilitation project, were completed at no cost to the Association. The pump purchasers and the Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation paid for the pump systems, and the Ontario MNR paid for nearly all the Fisheries project.

We have mainly kept our expenses in line with those of previous years, with the exception that we decided to print extra copies of the spring Lake Views Magazine to insert a copy with each shoreline survey report. This has proved to be a good investment in publicity and goodwill for us. Expenditures on the web site were down substantially as the renovation was completed last year.

### Income Statement for Year Ended 30 June 2012 (Preliminary)

		<u>2011/2012</u>	<u>2010/2011</u>
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>	Membership	6,307.50	7,955.00
	Members Donations	1,002.47	1,463.44
	From Foundation	2,771.81	804.29
	From Governments	0.00	2,900.00
	Maps	620.00	200.00
	Cookbook Sales	135.00	960.00
	Interest	<u>184.30</u>	<u>280.91</u>
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	11,021.08	14,563.64
<b><u>Expense</u></b>	Annual General Meeting	644.57	990.28
	Boating Safety/Security	177.18	0.00
	Cookbook Expense	97.56	693.76
	Fisheries	-310.12	2,504.28
	PROJECT: Shoreline Survey	14,154.42	1,630.00
	PROJECT: Marker Buoys	277.99	101.70
	PROJECT: Em Water Pumps	-22.90	-37.87
	Insurance	1,447.20	1,398.60
	Memberships/Subscriptions	677.25	713.00
	Miscellaneous	371.60	183.27
	Lake Views Magazine	2,123.11	1,608.83
	Office Expense & Supplies	418.01	164.71
	Website	212.94	1,343.01
	Professional Fees	565.00	565.00
	Road Signs	<u>871.91</u>	<u>1,013.89</u>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	21,655.72	12,875.46
<b><u>Net Income</u></b>	<b><u>Net Income for the Year</u></b>	<b><u>-10,634.64</u></b>	<b><u>1,688.18</u></b>



## COOK'S CORNER

### Spicy Hoisin Chicken

By Mary Alps

1 cup hoisin sauce  
2 teaspoons finely grated peeled fresh ginger or 2 teaspoons ground ginger  
6 garlic cloves, minced  
1 teaspoon dried hot red pepper flakes (optional)  
2 tablespoons soy sauce  
2 tablespoons rice vinegar  
1 teaspoon Asian Sesame oil

8 chicken thighs (2  $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs.)

Preheat oven to 500°

Whisk together all ingredients except chicken, then coat chicken all over with sauce. Arrange thighs in 1 layer without crowding in a 9" X 13" baking dish. Line with foil to make clean-up easier. Roast in upper third of oven until chicken is cooked through and glaze is brown, approximately 20 to 30 minutes. Serve with rice.

Makes 4 servings.