
Lake Views
Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association Magazine



Spring/Summer 2014 Magazine

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Flowers

Photo by: Marleen Keenan

*Water is our most precious resource, but we waste it,
just as we waste other resources, including oil and gas.*

David Suzuki

*Unless we keep this planet healthy, everything else is
for naught.*

Victoria Principal



Editor's Notes

By Taro Alps

It is with mixed feelings, mostly sadness, that this will be my last editorial for the Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Magazine. I am moving off Bobs Lake; a wonderful nine years. My time on the lakes has been one of great enjoyment; boating, fishing and exploring these fantastic lakes and environs. I have learned a lot about lakes, the environment and ways and means to help protect and maintain them. I have met and become friends with many wonderful people, which I expect and hope to remain friends with forever.

I will be staying in the South Frontenac area and as such will remain involved in protecting, enhancing and maintaining this precious area of lakes and their environs.

One project that I am committed to staying with is titled "People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes: Finding the Balance in Eastern Ontario's Lake Country". The aim of this endeavor is to understand and mitigate the impacts of excess algae and aquatic plant growth to maintain healthy and clean waterways. This project was made possible by obtaining a Trillium grant that will span the next two years. It is a collaborative effort between Friends of the Tay Watershed, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA), Carlton University, and many others who have an interest in our lakes. A cross section of lakes will be selected for direct study, as there are too many lakes in the area to directly study them all! Workshops and educational materials will be forthcoming and input will be solicited from lake associations, community groups, townships and commercial operations who rely on healthy lakes for their livelihood. The end goal is to be able to apply the findings to all of the lakes in Eastern Ontario and hopefully beyond.

Winter 2014 was a long and cold one. No January thaw occurred which kept the snow pack deep and while our cooler spring did help to keep the melt slow we still experienced very high water levels that are continuing. RVCA has been keeping a close eye on the water levels and have been issuing alerts to keep us all informed. You can read much more about the state of our lakes in following articles.

I wish everyone on Bobs & Crow Lakes a safe, enjoyable and GREAT summer.



Baby foxes playing

Photo by: Mary Alps



President's Message

By Larry Arpaia

Such a long winter! Most of us were pleased to see the snow stop, the ice move out, the water levels go down and those cold evenings finally begin to moderate.

The first boats, kayaks, and canoes have been spotted on our waters, while if we listen and look upwards we will see and hear our ospreys, loons and eagles floating in our sky. The frogs are wailing, the cicadas are thought about and the buds are appearing. What are your signs of Spring?

Cottage season is just around the corner and we all have at least begun the thought process about the opening of our cottage. Putting out our docks, cleaning up the barbeque, dusting off the deck/dock furniture and removing the mouse residue are all part of the ritual of preparing our private get-away for the months ahead.

The past six months have been challenging for our watershed. Many of you have been kept informed through our regular GBCLA E-Lerts. The dam at Bolingbroke failed us in November 2013 and again in late April (See "Dam(n) Gauge" article). Parks Canada has had to scramble to moderate water levels on our lakes, Christie Lake and down river to the Rideau Canal System all winter and spring and have had the revelation that work on the Bolingbroke Dam was a priority (see Parks Canada announcement). Parks Canada has agreed to meet with us in a public Meeting and we look forward to building something positive in the future from the ashes of this past fall/winter.

Fish Creek and other streams overflowed this spring during our record high water and roads were under water for short periods of time in early May. Eagle Creek is still threatened by a Beaver Dam that is being monitored by the Township of South Frontenac and MNR and will be removed in a staged process.

Our long winter was a blessing and a curse. With record setting high water on Bobs and Crow Lakes, we were spared severe ice damage when we experienced moderating temperatures, light winds and only light rain. Our trees are budding late, our spring flora is several weeks behind norm, the frost is leaving our wooded area and the streams and creeks are flowing extremely fast. And to add insult experts have advised us that we will have a long and extended allergy season.

Now we turn our attention to spring and our glorious summer.

Your Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA) will host a number of events, information sessions, workshops and general activities around the lakes this summer. Just to highlight a few:

Under-the-Tent Event: How to do it Right: Sunday July 27 2014 (10:00 hrs to 13:00 hrs) @ Bedford Hall. An opportunity to meet local designers and tradespersons along with Township Planners and Building Inspectors to scout out what assistance is available to you for your DIY project at the cottage.

GBCLA Annual General Meeting: Sunday July 27 2014 (13:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs) @ Bedford Hall. Following the Under-the-Tent Event join us for a light lunch and a snapshot of what your GBCLA can do for you.

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President's Message (cont'd)

Cottage Succession Planning Workshop: Saturday August 16 2014 (10:00 hrs to 12:00 hrs) @ Bedford Hall. This FOCA generated Workshop has been well attended across the Province over the past couple of years. Join us to discover how your family cottage can be passed along to your loved ones without the agony of lawyers and courts.

Protecting the Environment Day on Bobs & Crow: Date TBD, Location will be at a number of cottage sites around lakes. In consort with the Toronto Zoo, RVCA and Centre for Sustainable Watersheds join us to see examples of successful shoreline rehabilitations and how you can still be part of this wonderful initiative.

Campsell Creek Rehabilitation: Date TBD, Location Campsell Creek. Help us complete this Walleye and Spawning Bed Project that will complete the rehabilitation of 5 creeks over the past 6 years.

Finally I would like to thank a few key persons who have contributed so significantly to the GBCLA. These persons will be leaving the Executive of your Lake Association during the coming year after serving in various capacities around the lakes.

Taro Alps- Taro and his wife Mary have sold their home and will be moving closer to Kingston in late May. Taro has been our Past President, our Marine Safety Coordinator and a GBCLA link to many lake initiatives and advocacy groups around Eastern Ontario. As a recipient of the Queens Medallion his legacy on Bobs & Crow will be his contribution our Lake Stewardship Plan, development and distribution of the Shoreline Report and the evolution of our marker Buoys around Bobs & Crow. As Editor of our Association magazine *Lake Views* over the past two years this will be Taros last magazine to edit. Mary will be known as a contributor to *Lake Views* through her photography and as a volunteer at our AGM. Taro, we will miss your voice at Executive Meetings, the behind the scene thoughtfulness, your love of the lakes and their sustainability and your ongoing energy to causes that needed attention.

Bernie Gelineau- Bernie has been such a wonderful fixture on the GBCLA's Executive for many years (on and off) as a Crow Lake Representative amongst other duties. Bernie will be stepping down at our next GBCLA AGM. His advocacy for those residing on Crow Lake can be seen by his understanding of the past and his monitoring of changes that have occurred on Crow Lake over the years. We appreciate his awareness of the issues that are so important to the residents on Crow.

Martin Yates-As Treasurer of our Lake Association, Martin has always been the first and last person we approach whenever we talk about new initiatives for our lakes. He has been the individual who has overseen our balanced books and allowed us to serve our membership so fiscally responsibly. The Emergency Water pump initiative that has seen 7 pumps purchased by road associations around the lakes was lead by Martin. Last year Martin announced that he would be stepping down at our 2014 AGM. He is courageously battling a health scare these days yet he has continued with his love of contributing to the community. As president of the ABC Club an active and vibrant community centre has emerged in the Bolingbroke community.

Gord Thompson-As the GBCLA Director of Wildlife and Fisheries Gord put forward six years ago an ambitious plan to rehabilitate 5 creeks around Bobs and Crow Lakes as Walleye Spawning Beds. This initiative will be completed by the end of this summer as we finish up Campsell Creek. As a member of the GBCLA Executive, Gord has been a key person to many of our successes and has been a regular contributor to our Facebook page. Gord will be stepping down from our Executive at our AGM in July.

We collectively "Thank You" all for a job well done!

From the list above of very special people who will be leaving our Executive we must note that we are looking for persons who would like to contribute to your Lake Association. We want our lakes to be clean and healthy. We want our marine adventures to be safe. We desire our cottages to be crime free. We expect good and varied fishing. We want to protect our flora and fauna. We like connecting with our neighbours, engaging with family and discovering new friends. We want to have lake news shared amongst us all. The GBCLA is your opportunity to contribute.



President's Message (cont'd)

If you are interested in chatting about the role of the Executive of GBCLA and how you can be part of something special please contact me at 613 279 3210.

Your lake today! Your lake tomorrow!

See you on the lakes!

Changes to the Executive GBCLA

We are pleased to let our members know that Dianne Toniolo will be helping us out on our Membership Drive and substituting for Edie MacNinch as our membership Director while she enjoys time off from our part of the world.

Please forward your \$40. GBCLA Membership fees to Dianne at:

Dianne Toniolo
31 Acorn Lane
Tichborne, ON
K0H 2V0

The Stewardship of Bobs and Crow Lakes

By Gord Thompson

The events of this past winter with terrible ice conditions, high water and fears of flooding demonstrated to a high degree why the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association has an important part to play in keeping our community safe and informed.

Larry Arpaia issued many Alerts to our members and between him and Rick Prudil they ensured our website kept everyone informed. Individual posts by our members helped round out the picture so everyone using the website knew what was going on and if someone needed help...that was a good way to get it.

Larry and some on the Board have been working with the Townships and others to try and mitigate some real threats to our lake during the winter. As an example, Eagle Lake was faced with high water as a result, in part, of beaver dams on Eagle Creek which flows into Bobs Lake. We tried to develop a strategy for dealing with the beavers, the dams and the threat of flooding posed by the dams and as a result everyone stayed patient and calm and we made it to this

point in the year at least. There is lots of work to be done on this file yet.

The Association is important to our lakes in other ways as well. Water testing in conjunction with the RVCA is carried out to monitor and report on the quality of our water. You all have seen and rely on the marker buoys around the lakes that are provided by and managed by the Association. Our Fisheries program has brought back higher spawning levels for Walleye which we hope will sustain this important resource in our lakes. The recently completed Shoreline Survey was commissioned and managed by members of the Association and funds were provided to carry out the work. In addition, the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association is planning more initiatives such as a Kids Fishing Derby and an Under-the-Tent event in conjunction with our AGM in July to further improve our community.

The next crisis is the Association itself. Half the Board of Directors will be leaving this year. Most of them are long serving individuals who are either moving away or need a rest after many years of service to your Association. We need several of you to step up and help keep the level of service up. We need folks with fresh ideas and willingness to manage or participate in some of our programs. It's not like we need you to give up your summer; we just need a few minutes from a whole bunch of people to spread the work around and attend a few critical meetings to co-ordinate stuff. I personally found my experience on the Board of the GBCLA very rewarding, as I was able to try and give something back for the wonderful life this lake gives me.

PLEASE....Don't let our Association suffer and you and the Lakes suffer.....get involved. Call Larry now and offer to help in any way. It is very important and totally in your hands.



Under-the-Tent-Event (How to do it right)

By Larry Arpaia

Over the past year the GBCLA Inquiry line has been approached by many new cottage owners on Bobs and Crow Lakes as well as a few established cottagers who have made Bobs Lake or Crow Lake their summer home for many years concerning accessing local trades.

Who is a reliable builder? Where can I find a licensed plumber or electrician? How can I get my septic system inspected and pumped out? Where can I get my boat repaired? Do we have local architects or designers around the lakes? Where can I get a dock build? Who does road repairs and grading?

Do I need a permit for my deck project? Why should I get a building permit! What role does the Health Department and Environment Department play in my building project? How can the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) help me with my lake erosion problem?

"How to do it right?" appears to be a common theme.

On Sunday July 27th the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association will host an Under-the-Tent Event prior to our AGM at Bedford Hall on Westport Road. The Event will occur from 10:00 am to 1:00 PM. This one stop shop event is an opportunity to start the planning for your next big cottage project. Meet local talented tradespersons and perhaps get that next great idea.

We have invited Township planners and building inspectors, local designers and architects, builders and tradespersons (carpenters, electricians, plumbers, roofers) as well as Septic specialists (installers and pump out) and Boat and small engine mechanics.

Currently we have 36 persons who will be joining us and we hope to have others as time goes on. Please join us and chat with our experts on your next DIY Project. Perhaps you need assistance. Perhaps you would like to understand the building process. Perhaps you just want to have the names of local tradespersons to contact in the future.

This is an opportunity to meet and connect with local building specialists who can help you insure

that you "build it right".

Join us for a light lunch afterwards and then attend the GBCLA Annual General Meeting.

Winter 2013-2014 A Winter to Remember

By Bernie Gelineau



A WINTER to REMEMBER-This is Calvin Sparks. Calvin and his wife Janet have spent their first winter of joint retirement at their newly built home on Crow Lake. Retiring before his wife Calvin spent much of his time building their lakeside house.

When Janet retired this past year they sold their house in Napanee and moved up to the lake. They also made the decision to spend full time at their new residence; little realizing what lay ahead.

Rather than curse the darkness they embraced the winter.

As a true son of The Rock, Calvin went ice fishing. This was no easy task as the lake cover was much thicker than usual. He told me that on one occasion he had to bore through 28" of ice. When not fishing or doing other home projects he and Janet went visiting family and friends.

The spring eventually came as we see in this photograph. Calvin learned to tap the trees on his property and pan-boil the sap. At the time of this picture he had boiled 80 gallons of sap.



Cottage Succession Planning Workshop

By Larry Arpaia

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association will be hosting a Cottage Succession Workshop on Saturday August 16 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The Workshop will be held at Bedford Hall on Westport Rd.

FOCA's popular **Cottage Succession Seminar Series** encourages everyone to consider how they plan to "Keep the 'Family' in the Family Cottage."

You will get valuable information about:

- why to start the conversation NOW
- paying the Capital Gains Tax
- managing responsibilities and expenses to keep the cottage going once the next generation is in place

This Workshop is free for GBCLA members (who are FOCA members) and will cost \$10 for non-FOCA members. Seated is limited; we urge you to phone 613 279 3210 or e-mail larpaia@frontenac.net to reserve your place at this event.

Check out the website for further information:
<http://www.foca.on.ca/xinha/plugins/ExtendedFile>

Laura Lee Davidson; A Year on Bobs Lake

By Angus Laidlaw

"Readers of the excellent history of our area, "The Dammed Lakes", by Lloyd Jones, will know of the saga of Laura Lee Davidson, who visited Bobs Lake a number of times and, notably, stayed for a year in a cabin on an island in the East Basin. Miss Davidson wrote several books; "Winter of Content", her first work, is a memoir of that stay. The book, published in 1922 is nowadays a rare find in antiquarian bookstores, but those wishing to access it on-line may do so at:

<http://archive.org/details/winterofcontent00davi>

FOLEY MOUNTAIN, WESTPORT

Grandparents and parents please note this information. You have a wonderful opportunity to give your children a great summer experience. Foley Mountain in Westport has organized Foley's Nature Explorers Day Camp for young explorers aged 6 to 12. There is a full day (9a.m. to 4p.m.) week long camp offered July 21 to July 25 and August 11 to August 15.

Pre registration is required and it is important to sign up now as it is a very popular program. For more information and registration forms go to:

www.rvca.ca/careas/foley or contact
Rebecca at 613 273-3255 or
rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca



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Fisheries and Wildlife

By Gordon Thompson

Normally during the winter we would have 20 or more ice huts on the southern half of Bobs Lake. This year I think there were 3 that I know of and not for the whole winter. Our hut never left the yard and we only got our fishing once and that was for our Annual Fishing Derby. That event required snow plowing of the lake and building roads to get there. Three days work for 5 hours standing in a gale on the ice for one fish! It was a large pike and caught by the most experienced fisher there....but what else can I say... prize money was good and I enjoyed it too!

Now with spring promising to come and the ice out we can look forward to more rewarding days. The lakes froze on December 8th and the ice went out on April 28 or thereabouts which gives us the longest period of ice in memory. The high water we are experiencing now isn't going to abate any time soon so please remember to be safe and considerate as you begin your boating season. Here are a few things to watch for:

- High water means floating debris and a hazard to boats. Go slow until things stabilize and the debris is picked up to avoid serious damage to your boats and personal injury.
- Equipment close to the shore or partially submerged docks and other infrastructure can be seriously damaged by waves caused by boats making wakes close to shore. Be considerate and watch your speed and your wake when you are boating close to the shore.
- Wildlife like loons and ducks are nesting close to shore and they too are susceptible to waves from boats.
- If you find pieces of equipment and personal items that may have broken free from people's property retrieve them or get help and get them to shore out of the way of other boats and place a note on the GBCLA website and let people know what you have found. You may make a new friend and certainly you could make a neighbour very happy.

In terms of the fisheries portfolio there isn't anything new to add. Still working on Campsel Creek on Green Bay but it's a slow file. This week we will be out observing the spawning in the creeks we rehabilitated and we will report our findings in the Fall Edition of the Magazine.

Have fun out there and be safe.



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Ticks and Lyme Disease

By Larry Arpaia

Our local health units have notified us that Lyme Disease and the ticks responsible have now come to Bobs and Crow Lakes.

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 (purchase a tick remover).

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 or www.publichealth.qc.ca

Water Quality Testing Results - 2013

By Jeff Carabott

The Lake Partners Program has compiled the Lakes' testing data for 2013. Again, we thank the dedicated group of volunteers who conduct regular water quality testing at various key locations of our lakes; from May through September. Testing includes Secchi disk readings (for clarity) and total phosphorous (TP), the principle nutrient that makes lakes more fertile. The Lake Partner Annual Report may be downloaded by visiting their website at <http://desc.ca/programs/LPP> or on the FOCA website <http://www.foca.on.ca/lake-partner>

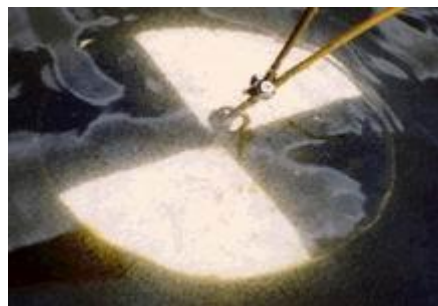
*****We are in need of a water quality tester for Crow Bay.*****

Only a few minutes of your time are required, twice a month, between May and September. If anyone is interested, please email Bonnie Carabott at jcarabott@sympatico.ca.

Many thanks to Taro Alps, for faithfully performing water quality testing in Crow Bay since 2007.

Secchi disk 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)



Secchi Dish

Location	Avg. Secchi disk 2013 (m)	Avg. Secchi disk (m) 1996-2012
Buck Bay	-	4.3
East Basin	5.5	5.5
Crow Bay	4.7	4.4
Central Narrows	3.8	4.6
Green Bay	6.5	5.9
Long Bay	4.6	5.2
Mill Bay*	-	2.9
Mud Bay	6.0	5.2
Norris Bay	4.8	4.9
West Basin	4.4	4.6
Crow Lake	5.2	5.1

*Mill Bay average does not include 2006-2009, and 2011-2012. No data was collected during these periods.



Water Quality Testing Results – 2013 (cont'd)

Total Phosphorus (TP) readings are measured in micrograms per litre (ug/L), and are interpreted as follows (generally, the lower the reading, the clearer the water):

- 10 micrograms per litre or less – oligotrophic, few nutrients
- 10 – 20 micrograms per litre – mesotrophic, moderately enriched
- 20 micrograms per litre or more – eutrophic, enriched, higher levels of nutrients

Location	Avg. TP (ug/L) 2013	Avg. TP (ug/L) 2002-2012	Avg. TP (ug/L) Pre-2002
Buck Bay	10.0	10.1	9.0
East Basin	9.2	8.8	11.0
Crow Bay	8.7	9.8	7.0
Central Narrows	8.1	10.1	11.0
Green Bay	9.3	9.3	11.0
Long Bay	8.2	9.9	16.0
Mill Bay*	17.3	16.0	17.0
Mud Bay	6.8	8.2	8.0
Norris Bay	10.5	10.4	14.0
West Basin	8.2	13.1	10.0
Crow Lake	13.0	8.4	9.0

*Mill Bay average does not include 2008-2010, and 2012. No data was collected during these periods.

RVCA Water Quality & E.Coli Testing

By Jeff Carabott

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) once again conducted water clarity and E.Coli bacteria testing in 2013, as part of their Watershed Watch program.

Overall, the results show that in 2013, nutrients are below the Provincial Water Quality Objective (PWQO) standards of 20 micrograms/litre (µg/l) for total phosphorus (TP) and 500 µg/l for total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN). However, in the West Basin. Site “K” is prone to frequent elevated results and is likely influenced by inflow from Fish Creek. It may be possible to reduce nutrient locations at this location through the improved

best management practices (which may include shoreline buffers, shoreline stabilization, etc).

Phosphorus and nitrogen are the contributing nutrients for plant (weeds) and algal growth, and when available in high concentrations, favorable 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 recurring E.coli bacteria issues were detected.

For more information, check the RVCA Watershed Watch website:

http://www.rvca.ca/programs/wwatch/watershed_watch.htm

For this summer, the RVCA is short-staffed, and looking for volunteers to provide on the water transportation to their staff. They sample the lake 4 times each year, and it requires two days to complete each round, taking approximately 5-6 hours each day. If anyone is interested in volunteering for all or some of these days it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Sarah Macleod at sarah.macleod@rvca.ca



Sunset

Photo by: Mary Alps



Cutbacks, Our “Dam(n)” Gauge and Frustration

By Larry Arpaia

April 2012 had the Government of Canada announce massive cutbacks to Parks Canada that would be implemented over a two year period.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/04/30/parks-canada-hit-hard-in-latest-round-of-public-sector-job-cuts/> . In January 2013 the Federal Government of Canada announced \$29.2 million of further cutbacks to Parks Canada. Some of these cutbacks were implemented in August 2013 without notification/consultation to stakeholders (Townships, Lake Associations and Communities) who would feel the effects of such cutbacks. <http://thechronicleherald.ca/canada/519066-cuts-already-hitting-national-parks-across-canada> . In November 2013 the impact of these cuts were experienced on Bobs and Crow Lakes. Six months latter we are most frustrated!

This past August, Parks Canada stopped regular physical monitoring of the Bolingbroke dam. This monitoring of the lake level and the flow of water over the dam was then taken on by an electronic gauge at the dam that was ‘regularly’ read by a Parks Canada employee with the Trent –Severn Seaway located in Peterborough.

In November 2013 the water levels around Bobs and Crow Lakes (already in the “high low normal range”) rose over 80 cm (32 inches) in a two week period. Parks Canada was not aware of this situation until a Parks Canada Engineer from Elgin was summoned to check out concerns at the dam. The gauge at Bolingbroke dam had been damaged and was not operational.

Parks Canada immediately responded to this abnormal situation and put forward a coordinated effort that resulted in a physical presence at the dam and a plan to lower the lake levels as quickly as possible. It was determined very early in this process that lake levels would have to be lowered at very slow level due to potential severe flooding on Christie Lake (with its unregulated dam) and downriver on the Tay and flooding in Perth. The Parks Canada plan called for the water to be back at a *high normal low range* on Bobs and Crow lakes over a 6-8 week period.

Unfortunately Bobs and Crow experienced an

early freeze and by early December ice was forming in the lake impeding the flow at the Bolingbroke Dam. “Honeycomb ice” was formed as the lake continued to slowly go down (monitored by Parks Canada) causing unsafe ice conditions for snowmobilers and ice fisherman moving out on the lakes in early January.

In December 2013 Parks Canada reported that over \$23 million was immediately required for infrastructure work in Parks Canada National parks, heritage sites and dams across Canada. This was immediately rejected by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada & Heritage Canada.

<http://www.rmoutlook.com/article/20131107/RMO0801/311079988/parks-canada-struggling-to-protect-national-parks>

Mother Nature was on the side of the recreational users of the lakes in late January with much precipitation (both snow and rain) and severe cold, which stabilized the ice surface but made the challenge of lowering the lakes water level increasingly more difficult.

Parks Canada reported to me that they had lowered the lakes to a *high low normal range* by February and had repaired the gauge and put into place a gauge guard to protect it from further damage.

By early April many observers around the lakes had noted that the water levels were going to exceed our *high normal high range* and that we had a potential serious problem with the threat of severe ice damage.

Fortunately the weather again cooperated with extended moderate cold temperatures that slowed the melting, and moderate winds that stabilized the ice break-up. Our extended long winter actually was a factor in our not having more serious damage of docks, decks and buildings on low lying areas around the lakes. By mid-April Parks Canada was forthcoming to me that their ‘new’ electronic gauge had been fried by the high water and that they would be monitoring the dam flow through a physical presence until water levels were safe. Parks Canada is in the process of hiring a technician who will have responsibility for the Bolingbroke dam.

The dam at Bolingbroke is one of the oldest and most needing of emergency repair (see Parks



Cutbacks, Our "Dam(n)" Gauge and Frustration (cont'd)

Canada response to our inquiry). Over the past few months I have had many conversations with Parks Canada officials who want to "make this situation right". Parks Canada has agreed to meet with our Association to discuss working together to protect our lakes and to make our properties safe. The Government of Canada has recognized that failing infrastructures should be funded.

That dam(n) gauge will be repaired and operational by the end of May and still monitored by a Parks Canada employee at a desk in Peterborough. Yet I believe that we are at the beginning of a different type of relationship with Parks Canada. A relationship which will have staff listening to stakeholders and being responsible to those stakeholders they serve. If this comes to be then perhaps the frustration of the past six months will lead to a solid working relationship.

A Statement from Parks Canada

By Larry Arpaia

I asked Parks Canada to confirm a statement made to me that emergency work on the Bolingbroke Dam would be made in September 2014. I was told that this could happen but that any communication would have to come from the Parks Canada Communications office. I present the statement offered by Parks Canada:

A Statement from Parks Canada Paul Galipeau Parks Canada Communications

The Bolingbroke Dam on Bobs Lake is owned and operated by Parks Canada. The dam was initially constructed in 1821 to power mills at what became the Hamlet of Bolingbroke. In 1870, the federal government bought the site and raised the height of the dam. Behind the dam, Bobs and Crow Lakes became a major source of water for the Rideau and Tay Canals. Bobs Lake Dam is a concrete gravity structure and founded on rock. The dam consists of a stop log sluice and two overflow sections with timber flashboards and wing walls. The dam is 25 metres long and 3.4 metres high.

This April, Parks Canada installed an elevated catwalk to provide employees with safer access to the sluice deck. Measures were also

implemented to reduce erosion at the south embankment. Additionally, several engineering inspections have been conducted at Bobs Lake Dam over the last few years by consultants and Parks Canada engineering staff. These investigations will be used as a basis for planning and implementing future infrastructure requirements for this dam.

Last year and this year, flooding in Ontario has gone well beyond the waters managed by Parks Canada. Our priority in times like this is to be out on the ground, and we enhance our year-round efforts during the spring freshet which can see increased flows in the canals due to snow melt and spring rains.

Economic Action Plan 2014 proposes to provide \$391.5 million over five years to Parks Canada to make improvements to highways, bridges and dams located in our national parks and along our historic canals, facilitating better access to these national treasures.

The EAP 2014 investment will significantly benefit communities along the Rideau Canal corridor and its watershed and the Trent Severn Waterway by improving critical infrastructure. In turn, this will result in safer and more prosperous communities.

Parks Canada will continue to allocate its resources to address its corporate priorities and most significant risks. The EAP 2014 investment provides Parks Canada significant new resources to improve the condition of bridges, highways and dams. Additional details will be provided in due time.



White Flowers

Photo by: Marleen Keenan



Septic Awareness

By Larry Arpaia

Did you know that septic systems are your responsibility; the Cottage owner.

It is up to you to keep your system working properly to protect our lakes, wells, the environment, your health and your investment. When properly designed, constructed and maintained a septic system should provide a long term, effective treatment of your household wastewater. If you take good care of your system you will save yourselves time, money and worries in replacing a failed system.

Over the past few years Townships across Ontario have taken the initiative to research existing septic systems functions and designs, explore septic system inspections protocols and understand the implications of failure of a septic system on our aqua systems and to our health. It has been guesstimated that nearly 50% of all active Septic Systems require attention. Yet many of us do not take the necessary steps to be Septic Smart. On the average a tank should be pumped out every 3-5 years. Have you had your system checked recently?

From these working groups a number of Septic Inspection programs have been launched across the Province of Ontario that has either a voluntary or mandatory component. On Bobs and Crow Lakes we are governed by three Townships:

The Tay Valley Township introduced a voluntary/mandatory inspection system several years ago that has been moderately successful.

Tay Valley Township charged landowners \$113 for:

- An initial **visual inspection** of the tile field and tank.
- The inspector determines, based upon visual evidence, as to whether a more detailed inspection including a tank pump-out is required.

A second phase requires that the septic system or holding tank be pumped out by a licensed sewage hauler and the hauler is to provide a written description of the condition of the tank. This report and receipt for the pump out is to be submitted to the designated Township of Tay Valley Chief Building Official no later than the fall.

A Septic Re-Inspection Committee was established by the Council of the Township of Central Frontenac in 2013 to authorize the implementation of a mandatory septic re-inspection program for CF beginning May 2015.

The features of such a program include:

- a priority system initially based upon age of the system;
- an inspection approach initially based upon geographic clusters of systems targeted for re-inspection;
- ongoing data gathering, during the re-inspections themselves, that will make the priority system and approach more robust over time; and
- a funding forecast, and funding regime which incorporates both the collective good and user-pay principles that guide public funding in CF.

The Township of South Frontenac has not begun to address this issue in a formal manner yet Lake Associations have approached the Township as being interested in being part of any future discussion and planning.

Septic awareness is now becoming a major component of what is needed when owning a cottage.



Crow Bay Boat Launch, High Water Photo by: Bernie Gelineau



Oak Shores High Water

Photo by: Edie MacNinch



Question and Answer

THE QUESTION:

We want to compile a cottage first aid kit. What items should we include?

THE ANSWER:

An off-the-shelf kit will have most of the necessities, but to create a cottage ready kit, think about the hazards you're more likely to find in cottage country (bugs, wildlife, pollen and other asthma triggers, the sun, poorly fitting hiking boots), and the potential difficulties of being in a remote location without easily accessible clean water and electricity. So, key items include antibiotic creams, antihistamines, moleskin for blisters, a tick remover, saline solution or sterile water, and ice packs that don't need freezing. (If you leave these things in the cottage over winter, check with the manufacturers to be sure they're okay to use after they've frozen and thawed.)

The Canadian Red Cross suggests adding a splint, since "it's handy for injuries when help is farther away." Similarly, a butterfly bandage meant to keep the edges of a wound together so it doesn't gape is useful for a cut that can't be stitched until you get to the ER. Other must-haves include gauze, triangular bandages, and nitrile gloves, made out of hypoallergenic synthetic rubber.

Also, it is recommended you keep emergency contact numbers and information beside the phone or on the fridge. Along with written directions to the cottage, keep a prepared list of questions to ask the injured, who may be guests or neighbours you don't know well. Do they have allergies? Do they take medications? Do they have a history of medical problems? Getting as much information right away will really help the advanced care people when they step in.

THE QUESTION:

I put out two hummingbird feeders (with a sugar-water solution) every spring. I notice that after around five days, the water becomes murky. If we are there, I empty them and put fresh food in. Sometimes, I fill them before we leave and they are empty when we arrive back but I'm not sure what the birds are drinking is still good, and I am wondering if I should just empty them before we leave.

THE ANSWER:

If the mixture turns cloudy, it's a sign it may have spoiled (and the hummingbirds will probably wisely avoid your feeders until you give them fresh food). Five days without replacing the solution is leaving it a little long: According to The Ontario Hummingbird Project, you should clean your feeders (and replace the food) every three to four days, and more often during the hot months. Discard the solution, wash the feeder with warm soapy water, and rinse well. (If you're concerned you won't get rid of all the soap residue, clean with hot water only.) It's also a good idea to inspect the feeders for mould spores or damage.

Consider filling the feeders only partially so the birds have time to eat everything before it goes bad. Even if you empty the feeders, there are still ways to attract and benefit your hummingbirds: You can grow plants such as columbine or Joe-pye weed (see The Ontario Hummingbird Project's list of native plants for hummingbirds for more suggestions), and offer up a source of water, such as a drip fountain, for drinking and bathing.

Set out your feeders in early May, and make sure you provide a 4:1 water-to-sugar ratio. A higher concentration of sugar, while perhaps tasty, is tough on their wee kidneys. Plus, no sense in giving these birds a Red Bull level energy hit. They seem pretty wired already.



There's Lots to do at the ABC Hall

By Martin Yates

There's no need to feel bored at the Cottage this summer! The ABC Hall in Bolingbroke has a full slate of regular and special events that will interest and entertain most people!

Since last year we at the ABC Association have been planning this year's program, and we're excited that we have put together a series of entertaining and informative events that will entice you to come out and participate – and meet your neighbours!

We also launched our own web site in January. It's at www.abchall.ca and contains up-to-date information on all our events and much more. Make a point to visit it! And you can join the conversation on our Face-book page at <https://www.facebook.com/ABCHall> which you can also reach through the web site.

As an innovation this year we've organized a series of "Slice of Life" presentations on different topics. The first is by Wendy Briggs-Jude on 'Nature in our Area' on May 23rd at 7:00 pm. with refreshments. This is sure to be interesting. On July 25th, an evening called "On the Road Again" is booked. Local author Barry Turner documents his experience working as an environmentalist in Africa during the 1970's and his later experiences as a member of parliament under Brian Mulroney. Local cottagers Barb Vandernoot and Bob Bond will join him to describe their recent trip to Africa. Other evenings will be advertised on our website as they are booked.

In June we run our "Wilton Cheese Fundraiser" which is always a great success....watch the website for details on how to place your order!

Ladies! Make a point of coming to our "Victorian Tea" on Sunday June 8th from 1 to 3:30 pm.. Enjoy dainty sandwiches, desserts and refreshments, Celtic harp music and prizes. Bring your Mum or a good friend to tea! In an attempt to make it as authentic as possible, many volunteers will be in period costume! We hope many guests will wear their favourite hat or period costume too. Come and enjoy!

We're holding a dinner – dance on June 28th featuring Red Rose Express – a very popular band and with a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings. The dance is sure to sell out, so get

your tickets early!

Following the blockbuster success of our "Fish Fry Dinner" last year, we're holding another one on July 19th, with two sittings. Everyone loves the fish cooked on the premises by Mike Mundell's Surf and Turf, Kingston, so get your tickets early!

August sees the return of our ever popular "Contra Dance" with local cottager, Catherine Burns, calling the moves. Lessons precede the dance and everyone can do it, so come along and join in the fun!

We're working on several more special events for the summer - visit our website often for the latest information.

Of our regular events, the Tuesday evening euchre game continues to be popular.

We're also planning to resume our games evenings on Monday evenings, at 7:00 pm. starting May 5th! So far we've played 500, Scrabble, Crokinole, Backgammon, Dominoes, and Tri-ominoes, but we'll try anything! We're also looking for Bridge players.

Thursday evenings are for musicians only – a chance to practice, play and network together without an audience. If you are a musician, come along! All genres of music are welcome, country, folk, jazz, whatever you wish to play and others will join in.

Also returning this year – it never went away – is the very popular Bolingbroke cafe held the first Friday evening of each month. Talented musicians entertain the audience in a relaxed club atmosphere and with desserts, teas and coffees available from the kitchen. The Celtic combination will be our entertainers for June 6th. There are no cafés in July and August.

Yoga is coming back to the Hall this summer, too. Tanya Deacove will lead classes for 10 weeks on Tuesday mornings at from 9.00 to 10.30, starting on June 24th. Drop-ins are welcome, so why not give Yoga a try?

The ABC Hall is available for rent. – It makes a great location for family gatherings, meetings and parties. Joyce Fleming at rayjoyce@rideau.net or 613-273-4832 handles the bookings.

Our other great news this year is that we have received a Trillium Grant which will enable us to make some much needed improvements to the Hall.



ABC Hall (cont'd)

On the inside you'll see and enjoy new furniture and a new A/V system. Unseen will be the new furnace and air conditioning units which will replace our current 'old technology' systems and deliver comfort to the Hall's users much more efficiently. We'll be adding insulation and new cladding to the outside walls as well.

So, don't forget! Come out and enjoy some of the events at the ABC Hall this year – you'll be made most welcome!

Martin Yates
President, ABC Association
613-273-7505
myates@kingston.net



ABC Hall

2014 Location details for Emergency Water Pumps

Emergency Water Pumps Project
By Martin Yates

As most of you will already know, last year the GBCLA completed our program to place emergency water pumps around the lakes.

These pumps are mainly for use by the groups or lane associations that own them, but will be made available to anyone who needs one in an emergency situation.

I've listed below this year's locations and the contact details for the owners and keepers of each pump. (Some of these have changed since last year.) Please make a note of the contacts for the pump nearest you and get to know them; you may need their help in a hurry one day!

The pumps are located at:

Green Bay - South - Green Bay Road.

Summer Pump Keeper: Susan O'Brien
Mactaggart 613-273-5236
Alternate contact: Rudy Ladds 613-273-4090
cell: 613-483-0927
Group Leader: Susan O'Brien Mactaggart 613-273-5236

Green Bay North - Sunset Shores North End

Summer Pump Keeper: Norm Mole 613-375-8321
Alternative contact - Paul Davidson 613-375-6362
Group Leader: Norm Mole

Central Narrows - Burns Lane

Summer Pump Keeper: TBD
Group Leader: Sandy Cameron. 613-374-1539

Central Narrows - De Witt Lane.

Summer Pump Keeper: Lynn McIntyre 613-264-0326
Group Leader: Bill Brink 613-273-2695

East Basin - Lewis Bay Group

Summer Pump Keeper: Ervin Lewis, Lewis Farm.
613-279-2127
Group Leader: Mark Cooke 613-279-2764 Cell
613-795-3220

Mud Bay - Mica Point Road.

Summer Pump Keeper: Jean and Derek Cooke.
613-279-1217
Group leader: Wayne (Turk) Kirkham, 613-279-2256

Norris Bay - Bobs Lake Lane 21.

Summer Pump Keeper: Bob Cottingham, 613-273-8896
Alternate Contact - Russ and Pat Hough 613-273-3781
Group Leader: Bob Cottingham.



Cardinal

Photo by: Diane Stevens



The First Signs of Spring

By Gord Thompson

Ok, so this was not a perfect winter for those of us who enjoy the outdoors at the lake. There was lots of snow, very cold, lousy ice conditions, terrible roads, shortages of firewood and heating fuel and a real lack of people around the lakes because of all the aforementioned. However on March 29th, the world changed and maple syrup began to run. Joy and hope!

I have 17 trees at our cottage that we tap and have a total of 33 pails out. Just a hobby sized endeavor; however for a lad from the prairies I find it intriguing enough to go at it every year....even this year! Over the last few years we have averaged about 9 litres of finished maple syrup over our very short season. This year saw just 12 days including 5 days where the weather prevented the sap from running. Some years we get more and have had a couple of seasons where we produced 17 litres of syrup. We are on the very south end of the sap area which accounts for our short season.

We collect the sap using traditional methods which means taping the trees, installing spiles, hanging buckets, collecting by hand and burning the sap down in small batches. We use propane to heat our rendering pots and find that it costs us about \$10 a litre to produce. The cost isn't important but the joy of bottling the finished product is.

Take a look at the picture of some of our finished product and consider trying this yourselves next spring. There is very little start-up and you have another great excuse to come to the lake during the early spring. Now where is that pancake mix!



Congratulations to Pike Lake!!

By Susan O'Brien MacTaggart

The GBCLA sends our congratulations to one of our close neighbouring lake associations.

Pike Lake Community Association has won the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association 2013/14 Achievement Award. This is indeed an honour.

Pike Lake Association established a committee to work closely with Tay Valley Township on the Official Plan update and their stewardship activities are many such as: creation of walleye spawning beds, support for septic re-inspection, and participation in programs such as Love Your Lake Program and the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey. It is this excellent stewardship of neighbouring lakes that will enhance the whole Rideau area.

Sunset Country Campground
41Riders Lane, Tichborne, ON., K0H
2V0
West Basin Bobs Lake
613-375-6649
www.sunset-country.ca
Sunsetrv@gmail.com

New - inside boat or equipment storage facility - winterizing and boat cleaning
Premium Gas - Propane Swap
Grocery Store - Chip Truck
Hand scooped ice cream
Craftbuilt Grand Vista Sunrooms - Deck and aluminum Railing Systems
Cottage opening and closing. Roofing and repairs. Custom dock building.

What doesn't kill you
makes you stronger.
Except for bears,
bears will kill you.



The Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation hosts The Fourth Frontenac Frolic



THE FRONTENAC FROLIC
Saturday August 2nd, 2014
9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Bedford Hall, 1381 Westport Road
Just 20 minutes west of Westport
10 minutes east of Godfrey



Plan a great day for all the family this summer. Mark August 2nd on your calendar for the now famous The Frontenac Frolic.

Come and find amazing treasures at the large flea market. Place a bid on many outstanding silent auction items.

Books and CDs and DVDs at ridiculous prices. Purchase homemade pies, tarts and more from the baking tables.

Let the children line up for the pony rides and the petting zoo from West Winds Ranch near Westport. Lots of food and drinks will be available. Also, don't miss the famous COW FLOP BINGO. Starting at 11:30 am a Holstein cow from the Barr Farm near Burridge will be led onto the field. The winning ticket numbers will be determined by where the cow "flops" on the bingo grid.

First prize - \$1800. Second prize - \$900. Third Prize - \$500. Tickets will be available soon.

For more information go to

www.bobs-and-crow-lakes.org or call 613 273-5236.

Your Foundation is a registered charity that raises monies to fund the many projects to preserve and enhance the quality of the environment around the greater Bobs and Crow Lakes area. Come and be part of the fun, meet your neighbours, make new friends, play the "Cow Flop Bingo" and have a fun filled summer day with your family and your weekend house guests.

Door prizes too and more!!!

HOW YOU CAN HELP TO MAKE THIS DAY A SUCCESS

To make this day a success we need your help! As part of your spring cleaning can you collect items from your city homes and cottages to donate to the rummage sale/flea market? All items must be in good condition and in working order. No appliances, TVs, children's car seats or cribs or clothes will be accepted. Any items left after the sale will go to charity.

Books, CD's and DVDs and games also welcomed. Rummage sale/flea market items can be delivered to the Bedford Hall on Friday, August 1st.

However, if that is not convenient earlier arrangements can be made to deliver your items to a specific location or have them picked up by calling (613) 273-5236 or (613) 374-1539.

Look for more information about this event soon.

Mark August 2nd 2014 on your calendar NOW!!!!



The Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation

OUR LAKES OUR VOICE

Yes, I would like to make a donation to the Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation to support the work for our lakes.

Enclosed please find my cheque, made out to the Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation, for the amount of \$.....

Mail your donation to:

***Alexander Cameron
Treasurer, B&CL Foundation
P.O. Box 482
Verona, Ont. KOH 2W0***

A tax receipt will be issued for amounts of \$25.00 or more, applicable in both Canada and the United States.

The Foundation appreciates your support and thanks you for your gift, a gift that will help to make a difference in the support of our beautiful area.



The Badour Island cut

Photo by: Martin Yates

***The Greater Bobs & Crow Lake Association 2014 Membership Drive*****Your Lake Today****Your Lake Tomorrow**

As a member of the GBCLA you are a waterfront property owner on one of the finest shorelines in Ontario, Bobs Lake and Crow Lake. As a member you:

- Care about the quality of our water
- Recognize that wildlife means all wild mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, invertebrates, plants, fungi, algae, bacteria and other wild organisms.
- Contribute to rehabilitating our creeks to improve our fishery
- Enjoy the stars, moon and milky way in our dark night sky
- Get excited about and protective of our eagle and osprey nests
- Better understand the characteristics of your shoreline property
- Appreciate the beauty and ecological significance of the monarch butterfly, hummingbirds & frogs
- Contribute to the yearly Toronto Zoo Turtle Tally
- Enjoy our white fish in both summer and winter
- Look out for your neighbour
- Wants our children and grandchildren to appreciate what is so special about this place
- Enjoy the occasional skinny dip
- Savour those lazy, hazy days of summertime
- Have been seen kayaking, canoeing or sailing on a regular basis
- Monitor navigational markers for rocks and shoals on the lakes
- Work with OPP and Fire Department for cottage watch and emergency access points
- Read your copy of 'Lake Views' to get lake information
- Distribute fishing regulations and emergency information to residents and camp owners

A Membership cost \$40.

Renew your Membership with the GBCLA by sending a check for \$40. Payable to the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association to:

Dianne Toniolo
31 Acorn Lane
Tichborne, ON K0H 2V0

Thank You!



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

Date: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Magazine by Email: 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):

☐ Bobs Lake West Basin (Big Bobs)

☐ Crow Bay

☐ Central Narrows

☐ Long Bay

☐ Green Bay

☐ Buck Bay

☐ Mud Bay

☐ Norris Bay

☐ Mud Bay Basin

☐ Mill Bay

☐ Bobs Lake East Basin

☐ Crow Lake

Annual membership dues are **\$40.00**

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 Dianne Toniolo
31 Acorn Lane
Tichborne, ON K0H 2V0

For further information or to volunteer please visit our website at www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca