

History of Bob's Lake

Greater Bob's Lake Landowners Association

Volume 2, Number 6

Spring 1991

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members:

We welcome spring and hope all of you will be able to have an early return to the Bob's Lake area. This winter has been busy and several projects are now ready for the summer.

Our membership increases steadily and the count is now 288 in number. This summer we shall again focus on a membership drive. If anyone can be of help delivering material, etc., please contact our Membership Chairman, Barbara Merrill. It is our hope as well that certain board members and myself will visit as many cottages as possible this summer. It is important to us to locate you on the lake and know your concerns first-hand.

We are very excited about the MAPLE survey of our lake scheduled for this summer and the success of the application for the Youth Core Grant which made it possible. You will read about this in detail in the Newsletter. We thank Ed Villeneuve for his work to launch this project. Please, in turn, help Ed. Get involved! This project is one of the most critical for the future preservation of our lakes.

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Editor's Notes

Time was that the people who put together the GBLLA Newsletter -- Spring Edition, worried about how slender it would be, in contrast to the Fall issue that reports on an inevitably busy summer.

But there was no lack of good material for the current issue. In addition to reports from our Executive and Committee chairpersons, the lineup includes news on a number of environmental issues, a comprehensive report on FOCA, and even some unusual recipe ideas.

While the membership numbers a very respectable 288, there are many more people in the area who may not have heard of the (individual and collective) benefit of joining and participating in the GBLLA. As a member yourself, your best contribution, after annual dues, could be a quiet but persuasive word in your neighbour's ear on the merits of belonging to the Association.

Equally important is volunteer participation in our on-

going projects e.g. water quality monitoring, shoreline rehabilitation etc. All are worthwhile, none requires a great sacrifice of time. We'll hear about the progress of these projects at the Annual meeting, and we hope that many of you will indicate a willingness to get involved at that time (or before, by contacting the chairperson(s) of the committee(s) that interest you).

Speaking of the ANNUAL MEETING, it is planned for the usual day and time, SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th, at the BEDFORD TOWNSHIP HALL, starting at 1:00 pm. The social hour, which followed last year's meeting and proved a great success, will be repeated this year.

Once again I would like to give special thanks and credit to Bill St. Arnaud and Janice Walker for the many hours work they put in the layout and distribution of this newsletter.

Angus Laidlaw



Common loon.



Regarding the Noel Development on Green Bay, we are presently awaiting the results of a Public Meeting (scheduled for May 7th, 1991) to hear the proposed zoning by-law amendments for this area. There are now three remaining parcels of land which must be RE-ZONED.

The developments by Sherbrook Bluffs near Nordlaw Lodge and Meredith Corporation on Mud Bay are being monitored. They are presently going through environmental assessments and studies.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority asked us to provide figures for the Greater Bob's Lake area to assist them with a study of the Rideau System and Upper Rideau (Tay River) Watershed. The study is to determine lake enrichment based on existing shoreline development, both residential and commercial. The study will make recommendations regarding "future shoreline development, capacity, water quality standards, planning policies and remedial programs." This study is very important and has full support from our Association. Our Report was submitted and one of our board members has been invited by the Conservation Authority to audit these early meetings.

It is with great sadness that I must report the passing of a very valued member of our Board of Directors, Stuart Maynard. Stuart spent all the summers of his life on Bob's Lake. It was very important to him. Stuart's support and involvement in the Association was constant, from its very beginning. We have lost an important counsel and personal friend. To Kay, his children and all the Maynard family, we extend our sincere sympathy.

I look forward to seeing you soon and wish everyone an excellent summer of '91.

Susan Mactaggart
President

Report on the Federation of Ontario Cottager's Association:

On Saturday, April 13th, I represented our association at the Annual Spring Seminar. There was an amazing attendance of Ontario Cottager's Associations.

Presentations were given on:

- FOCA has been granted an Environmental Youth Corp Project to provide cottage associations with information to better develop lake stewardship.

- Bill 12, an Environmental Bill of Rights, will be presented to the Ontario Legislature by the Environment Minister, Ruth Grier. The bill is in preparation and more public input is encouraged. Letters will be received to May 31st.
- The Ontario Gypsy Moth Spray Program was discussed. The present M&R program expires December 31, 1991. Meetings are now starting with the counties to plan future programs which will include Forest Health and Education, not just spray programs. More information will be given to you at our Annual Meeting.
- A comprehensive outline was presented on Municipal Elections, proxy votes and how to run a candidate in the election. You will hear more on the elections and voting procedures at our Annual Meeting.

Susan Mactaggart

Fire Permits

Remember, fire permits are required for all rubbish, grass or brush burning from April 1 to October 31. These permits are free and can be obtained from the Township Office and Permit Issuers.

- Only burn in early morning or evening hours when there is less wind and it is cooler.
- Never burn on a dry or windy day.
- Keep firefighting equipment at hand -- water, shovel, rake, etc.
- Make sure fire is "Dead Out" -- it can surprise you!

Bedord Township Fire Permit Issuers for 1991:

Doug O'Connor, Fire Chief 374-3305
Doreen Onfrichuk 279-2560
Barry Jenkins 273-5354
Janet Barr 273-5356
Evelyn Bertrim 375-6213
Joe Bresee 273-5374

Maple Report

Maple Committee

Ed Villeneuve and Betty Neyman

During 1990, plantings were done on several lakes where shoreline surveys had been completed. Unfortunately, there were no new surveys due to lack of funding. Over the winter the MAPLE directors tried to find new sources of funding for the coming year.

MAPLE, in partnership with the Greater Bob's Lake Landowners Association, applied for funding through the Environmental Youth Corp Program for the specific project to complete a shoreline survey of the Greater Bob's Lake area. There were five applications from different lakes for funds from this program. Only ours received approval.

These funds will enable us to hire one person, a supervisor, preferably a college or university student enrolled in the environmental, biology, forestry, or other related programs, for 18 weeks at \$7.00 per hour. The work week will be 40 hours.

The work will consist of a training period in the area of shoreline evaluation, boating safety, nursery and planting operations. Following the training period, two crews of three people will work from boats on the lake. On rainy days we will need to find inside space for these people to work in an office at the Rideau Valley Conservation offices.

The students will have to either be on the lake or provide their own transportation to the lake. When they have to be in other locations we will either pay mileage or provide transportation from the lake on a daily basis.

The Bob's Lake Landowner's Association membership must contribute to assist this program in the following ways:

- Adult supervision once daily at the lake. We would like volunteers from Association members to supervise the students working on the lake and be in daily contact with them.
- Can any member volunteer an inside work space for rainy days (just warm and dry on the lake someplace)?
- We need dock and parking space for two locations at east and west sides of the lake.
- Can any members loan boats (preferably aluminum 14' to 16') for a period from June 1st to July 30th?

- Are any motors, 7 to 10 h.p. available? We have some funds to rent these and this probably preferable in case of trouble or damage. Rental is \$250/week. However, if you can loan a motor, please let us know.
- Will members please help in finding suitable students who will take an interest in the program. Hopefully, they will be from the area or from the lake. We will post notices in student offices in Kingston and at Manpower Offices in Perth and other local offices.

MAPLE will provide:

- Arranging training courses.
- Cameras, film, gas and stationary supplies.
- Transportation or mileage for locations other than Bob's Lake.
- Accounting and payroll.
- Supervision and assistance during the summer.

This is a significant undertaking for MAPLE and the Greater Bob's Lake Landowners Association. Let us work together to make the program a complete success. This is one of the most important programs to ensure the quality of our lakes.

If you know of any students who might be interested in this type of work, or can be of assistance in providing boats, parking, etc please contact Ed Villeneuve for further details.

Ed Villeneuve
Greater Bob's Lake Landowners Association
R.R. #4
Perth, Ontario
K7H 3C6
Phone: (613) 264-0614

Gypsy Moth Program

The Gypsy Moth Spray Program, under the Ministry of Natural Resources, will continue this spring. The aerial spray operation includes counties of Hastings, Lennox, Addington and Frontenac. "Spray days" will be from mid-May to mid-June, 4:30 am to 10:00 pm, 7 days per week depending on weather.

Helicopter Ambulance

Reg Lenoard

There is coming into service an helicopter ambulance and they require an open area 150 feet by 150 feet clear of wires and debris. This area should be flat and close to the water.

If any member knows of such an area, have them submit the location to me and it will be checked out by the air ambulance service.

With this newsletter you will find enclosed Emergency number cards and stickers. Please post them in prominent place in your cottage or home. We have another 1000 of these cards and stickers which we hope to distribute over the summer.

Membership

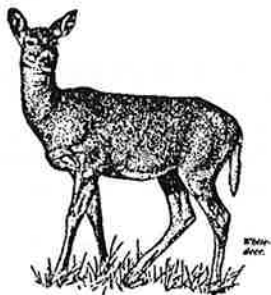
Barbara Merrill

Just when we thought spring would never come, here it is all it's glory. Once again it's time to think of opening cottages, cleaning up yards, planting and other projects. This is also the time when we can return a gift to the environment by simply following the guidelines set forth by the MNR, MAPLE and others as we proceed with our various jobs.

Isn't it reassuring to know that we are part of an association whose interests we all share, that of preservation and protection of our beautiful lakes.

We do have 288 members but the association must grow each year. Please be thinking of new recruits.

We will be at Green Bay on or about May 20th. Please call 273-5584 if you have any good ideas or need information material.



Road Signs

Peter Marshall

Please advise Pete Marshall (613) 273-6434 if any of the road signs are missing or have been damaged. Hopefully the township will have installed STOP signs at the most dangerous intersections.

BUOYS

Now is the time to get the yellow shoal markers out for safe boating. More buoys are available from Pete Marshall (613) 273-6434. We will be following up on our request for water speed signs.

Municipal Elections

Please be aware that Municipal Elections will take place this year.

- Regular Polling Day - Tuesday, November 12, 1991
- Saturday, Advance Polling Day - Saturday, November 2, 1991
- Wednesday, Advance Polling Day - Wednesday, November 6, 1991
-

(Optional Advance Polling Days may be established by Council.)

Voting times for polls are 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Proxy forms may be certified at the Municipal Office during normal office hours or from 12 noon to 5 pm on the Saturday Advance Poll.

Enumeration forms will be mailed to all adult Canadian owners, tenants and spouses to their permanent addresses during May.

Trustees and executors may no longer vote on behalf of estates owning properties.

Please return your enumeration form.

Wildlife Advisory

Bill St. Arnaud

Springtime is the prime mating and nesting period for our winged friends. As can be expected at this time of the year, most bird species are sensitive to any type of intrusion into their habitat. This is particularly true for our local heron population.

Hérons are particularly skittish birds during the nesting season. Any human intrusion, either on a foot or in vehicle can alarm adult herons and they will abandon their nests.

As Karen Bellamy of the Napanee office of the Ministry of Natural Resources reports, "I have seen whole colonies of heron nests abandoned, due to one single human intrusion. They will even abandon their young fledgelings who in a desperate panic for their parents will fall out of their nests. As the fledgelings are too young to fly, they are either killed on impact with the ground or become easy prey to a local predator."

Karen Bellamy advises that during the heron nesting season, between the middle of March and the end of July that all persons along with their pets should stay at least 300 meters (1000 feet) away from any heron nesting site. If you are planning any construction or other activity that involves the movement of vehicles or other heavy and noisy machinery like a chainsaw, then you should maintain at least a 1 km distance between yourself and the heron colony.

Heron colonies are usually located in dead trees on small isolated marshes or ponds, usually well away from any human habitat. They are recognizable as large stick nests and there will be a number of them located together around one pond.

There are a number of large heron colonies in the greater Bob's Lake area. So please, if you plan a hike through the bush, take special care to avoid intruding on a heron colony. And, if you live near a colony, please be vigilant and warn any passers-byers of the irreparable harm that they can cause by an innocent hike through the bush.

WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

Karen Bellamy of the Napanee office of the Ministry of Natural Resources reports that there have been a number of sightings of bald eagles in the Greater Bob's Lake area. As yet, MNR has been unable to confirm whether these sightings are of the famous Wolfe Lake bald eagle pair or new member(s) to our local bald eagle population.

If you see a bald eagle, or better still, come across a bald eagle nest please advise myself, Bill St. Arnaud or Karen Ballemey at MNR. I would also advise that bald eagles are about as skittish as herons during the nesting season, so please take special care and maintain your distance when observing a nesting pair of bald eagles.

Zebra Mussel

The threat of the zebra mussel to our inland waters is a very real one. The most obvious way our lakes would be immediately affected is through the introduction of contaminated boats, motors and trailers into our waters. This is your personal responsibility and the responsibility of all commercial camp owners to see that this does not happen. The Association will see that warning signage is made available.

- Always clean your boat thoroughly before moving it from one lake to another.
- Wash your boat hull with a household bleach solution -- 15 ml. (1 tablespoon) bleach per 4.5 litres (1 gallon) of hot, soapy water. "DO NOT USE THE HOUSEHOLD BLEACH SOLUTION NEAR ANY WATERBODY AS THE AQUATIC LIFE IN THAT WATERBODY COULD BE HARMED."
- If you see zebra mussels on your boat, scrap them off with a paint scraper leaving the infested lake.
- If it is hot and dry, leave your boat out of the water for two or three days and the mussels will die. Some may drop off, but others need scraping. Dispose of mussels in garbage containers and dump far from any waterbody.
- Never use Great Lake water to transport live bait, and never transfer Great Lake water to another body of water.
- Rinse live wells, bilges and pumping systems with the bleach solution.
- If you have a boat or any other equipment coming on to these lakes, clean the equipment and dump the water on dry land well away from the lake or any water source.

We have a chance to protect these lakes. Together we can do so! Everyone be alert to this problem.

History of Bob's Lake

Bill St. Arnaud

Excerpts from Rideau Canal: History, Geography, Transportation by Judith Tulloch

The problem of ensuring an adequate supply of water to maintain navigation on the Rideau plagued canal officials throughout the last decades of the 19th century. During the early years of the waterway's existence, the water flowing naturally from the surrounding lakes was sufficient to preserve navigable levels since the heavy forest cover caused the snow to melt slowly and percolate gradually into the water courses. As the amount of cleared land in the watershed increased, the spring runoff became more violent and shorter in length. Consequently, not only were the canal works subjected to much greater stress in the spring but the water supply often reached its peak before the beginning of navigation and steadily declined during the season. By the later decades of the 19th century, the summit levels frequently fell below navigation height late in the summer and canal officials increasingly sought new reserves of water for the Rideau.

Most of the lakes forming reservoirs for the waterway rise in Frontenac County. The Bobs-Crow-Eagle lakes system enters Big Rideau Lake through the Tay River and forms the major reserve for the northern end of the canal. Wolfe Lake, site of a dam built during construction of the waterway, feeds Upper Rideau Lake and thus its water can be sent either north or south.

In the mid-1860s, the shortage of water in the Rideau system caused so much concern that a select committee of the legislative assembly conducted an investigation of the problem and suggested more efficient management of the lakes flowing into the waterway. Canal officials began work on the improvement of the water supply in the autumn of 1865.

In October, the superintending engineer, James Slater, made a survey of the group of lakes which rise in Frontenac County and enter the Rideau by the Tay River - Eagle Lake, Long Lake, Elbow Lake, Crow Lake and Bobs Lake.

By July 1866, a dam had been constructed at the foot of Eagle Lake and the dam on Crow Lake had been repaired to raise the water level by 20 feet.

In his annual report at the end of June 1866, Slater reviewed the steps already taken to improve the navigation and suggested another dam at the outlet of Bobs Lake. These structures were of only limited value, however, since a private dam maintained by John Korry at the foot of Bobs Lake (into which both Eagle and Crow lakes flow) prevented the reserves from reaching the Tay. To make effective use of the water, Slater recommended in 1868 that government obtain control of Korry's dam. The dam was apparently purchased late in 1869 or early the following year since in May 1870 the department received petitions protesting against an increase in its height.

The problem of compensation for lands damaged by government reservoir dams was experienced on all the lakes in the last decades of the 19th century. On the Bobs Lake system, the dam at the foot of Eagle Lake caused the most widespread flooding. By August 1875, the problem of drowned land claims on Eagle Lake had become acute and the residents were reported to be threatening to take the law into their own hands.

Wise reported that the dam keeper had informed him that "ineffectual attempts have been made to blow it [the dam up] this summer and more recently to burn it down, with more success." The superintending engineer urged that a final settlement be reached on all claims. Less than a week later, however, he informed Braun that the dam at Eagle Lake had been burned to within four feet of its foundations. The structure was subsequently rebuilt and after the payment of lands claims, remained unmolested. By 1895, however, it had fallen into disrepair. Since the water drained into Bobs Lake where the main government dam was situated, the Department of railways and Canals decided that the upper dam could be abandoned without detriment to the Rideau.

The Eagle Lake Dam was not only one of the Bobs Lake group to be damaged as a result of unsatisfied land claims. The dam at the foot of Crow Lake, rebuilt by government in 1866, was also destroyed sometime in the last quarter of the century. Because the site of the structure was so remote, it was not rebuilt since it could not be guarded effectively. By 1914, a number of summer cottages had been constructed on the lake and to keep the level high enough for pleasure boating, the residents erected a small dam in the creek leading into Bobs Lake.

Consequently, reserve water in the upper lake could not be passed down to the Rideau. Late in 1914, in fact, the water level on the Tay fell so low that electrical lighting, generated by the small power plant in Perth, could only be provided from 5 P.M. until midnight. Although Phillips did not recommend the reconstruction of the government dam, he argued that control of the water in Crow Lake should not be in private hands and early in 1915 the owners of the small dam were informed that they would be required to sign a deed of license recognizing the government's title.

The development of a series of reservoirs for the Rideau represented an attempt on the part of canal officials to ensure that the waterway remained physically able to carry the trade of the area. With the increase in settlement and the growth of alternative means of transport, some residents, in particular those not living directly on the route, increasingly viewed the Rideau as an ineffective system whose needs were in conflict with local interests.

The hostile reaction to the inland waterways in parts of the United States which (Waggoner documents in The Long Haul West) was matched on the Rideau by the destruction of dams in the Bob's Lake watershed by disgruntled settlers who saw the canal not as a means of transporting their produce to market but rather as a hindrance to the development of their lands.

GREATER BOB'S LAKE LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION HONOURED

On Friday, May 31st, at a dinner in Kingston hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, one of our Directors, Mr. Michael Green, will accept on behalf of the Association, a certificate of appreciation award for our continuous involvement for ten years or more in the "Self Help Water Testing Program".

Particular congratulations are extended to another Board Member, Betty Neyman, who pioneered this project for our lakes and encouraged the program for many years.

Congratulations to Betty, Michael, as present Board Chairman of this program and all the faithful volunteers who assist him in this work.

We sincerely thank the Honourable Ruth Grier, Minister of the Environment and Mr. Brian R. Ward, Regional Director of the Southeast, for this honour.

Susan Mactaggart
President

Summer Excitement

A special event is planned for Westport this summer. The 16th Annual Manotick Antique Boat Show is scheduled for August 9th to 11th. More than one hundred antique boats are expected to be entered for judging competition. Westport expects over 5,000 people to attend.

Westport has launched a campaign to raise money to rehabilitate and save the Westport harbour. Their goal is \$30,000. For any of you who shop regularly in Westport and would like to make a donation to this worthy cause, please write: Westport Harbour committee, P.O. Box 147, Westport K0G 1X0.

RECIPE CORNER

LOON a la KING

You may have wondered why loons have never become a popular game bird. Perhaps it is because loons are reputed to have a very foul tasting and oily meat. However, we did come across this recipe that may change your mind about serving loon at your next dinner party. This recipe originated with the first settlers in the region, from the book LOVE of LOONS .

Ingredients:

- 1 cleaned and dressed loon
- 3 tablespoons salt
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon sage
- 1/2 teaspoon rosemary
- 5 qts water
- 1 5 lb granite rock

Place loon in a large pot, add water, butter and spices. Boil for 2 days. Add granite rock and additional spices. Boil for two more days. Remove pot from heat and let cool. Throw out loon. Eat rock.

Serves 4.

ENVIRONMENTAL HERO

In the April issue of Harrowsmith magazine there is an article about our own Bob Leonard, chairperson of our fishing committee.

If you have not read this article, we highly recommend that you do so, and you will appreciate the hard earned efforts that your contributions have made to the Fish Restocking Fund.

Congratulations Bob!

GREATER BOB'S LAKE LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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