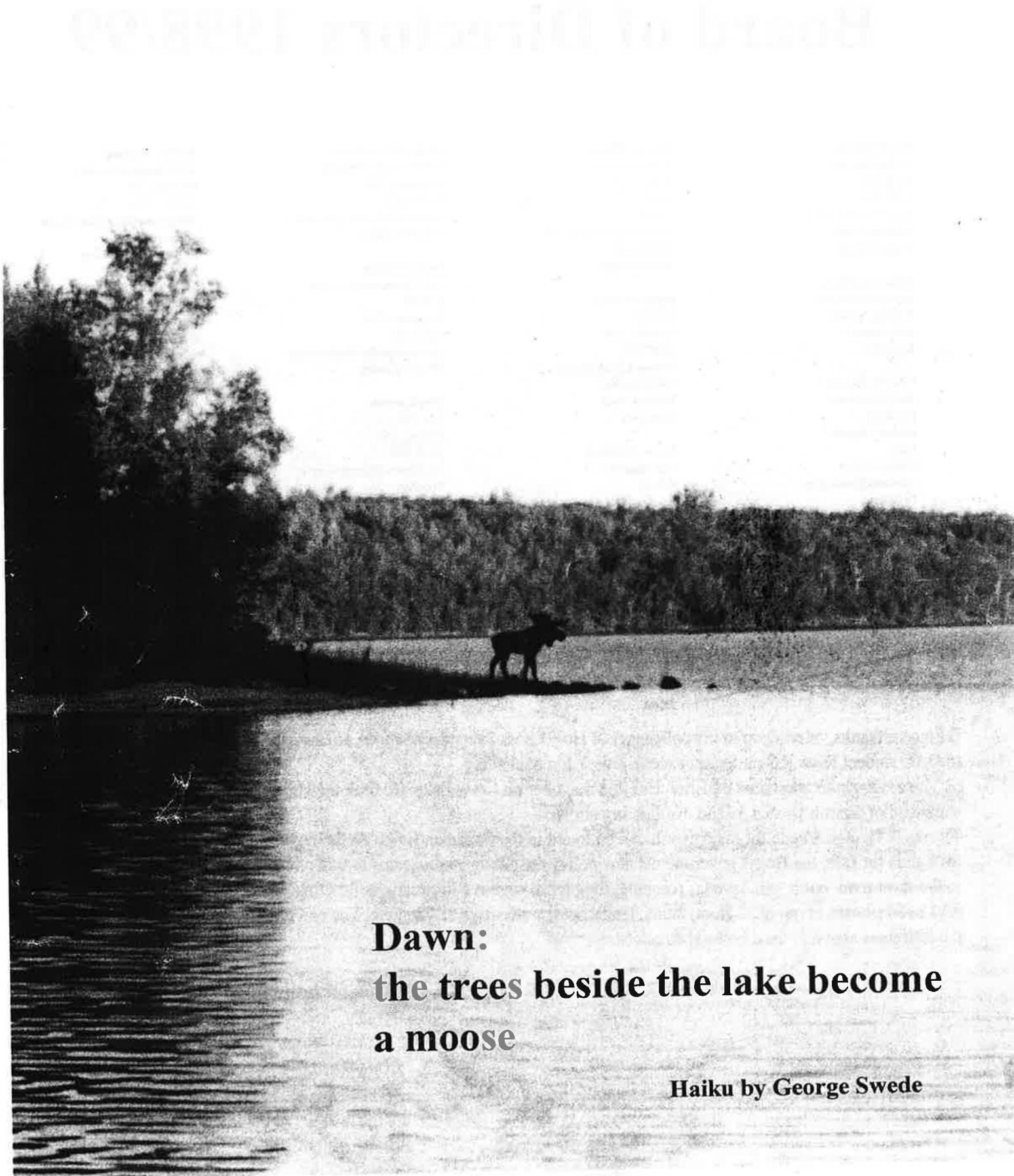
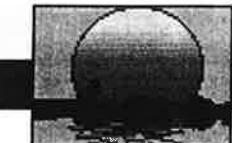


**GREATER BOBS & CROW LAKES ASSOCIATION**



**Dawn:  
the trees beside the lake become  
a moose**

**Haiku by George Swede**



# Board of Directors 1998/99

**Mel Fleming**  
15 Garden Ave.  
Perth, ON  
K7H 3L8  
Tel (613) 267-2516  
**Fisheries and Water Levels**

**Bernie Gelineau**  
bgel@aracnet.net  
**Boating Safety and Cottage Security**

**Charlie Stewart**  
10085 Marshall Pond Rd.  
Burke, Virginia  
USA  
22015-3732  
cstewart@erols.com  
**President**

**Sharon Tomeo**  
22 Palma Blvd.  
Albany, NY  
USA  
12203  
mumsy@cowland.com  
**AGM and Nominations**

**Diane Stevens**  
R.R.#2  
Godfrey, ON  
K0H 1TO  
bstevens@rideau.net  
**Membership Records and Treasurer**

**Susan O'Brien-Mactaggart**  
R.R.#2  
Godfrey, ON  
K0H 1TO  
**Development**

**Brian McAndrews**  
639 Alymer Crescent  
Kingston, ON  
K7M 6K3  
mcandreb@educ.queensu.ca  
**V.P., Newsletter**

**Irene Phillips**  
1607 Grousewood Lane  
R.R.#2  
Kingston, ON  
K7L 5H6  
phillips@adan.kingston.net  
**Water Quality**

**Lloyd Jones**  
Box 194  
Stirling, ON  
KOK 3E0  
lloyd.jones@sympatico.ca  
**Wildlife, Historian Central Frontenac Council Liaison**

**Robbie Hughes**  
801S. Inspiration Rd.  
Mission, TX  
78572-7753  
robbichughes@compuserve.com  
**Secretary Association Liaison**

**John McCalla**  
18 Firwood Cres,  
Nepean, ON  
K2B 6K4  
johnandjoan@igs.com  
**Big Bobs Buck Bay Rep.**

**Mark Skidmore**  
34 Sparrow Way  
Ottawa, ON  
K1B 9H5  
skidmore@magma.ca  
**Long Bay**

## Editor's Notes

By Brian McAndrews

- i) Sincere thanks, once again to my colleagues at Holy Cross Secondary School, Kingston, for their support. Special thanks to OAC student Ryan Kuhne for his excellent desk top publishing.
- ii) The cover photo was taken by Brian Usher, a neighbor on Crow Lake. He took the photo from his beach; it shows the south end of Sharon Dean's island. No hunting allowed!
- Thanks to George Swede for his poem. It can be found in the Canadian Haiku Anthology.
- iii) Lands for Life, the Harris governments new policy for public lands, seems to be a 'done deal'. It won't affect us directly in the short term but it will have far reaching, long term, negative implications for Ontario's ecosystem.
- iv) I need photos of our area: flora, fauna, landscapes, waterways, fishing, etc. You can email or snail mail them to me. See the addresses above in the directors' directory.

Have a peaceful holiday season. Bingle Jells!

# GB&CLA President's Remarks

By: Charlie Stewart

The strongest ever. Highly respected among Ontario lake associations. A valuable resource to the community. Successfully serving its members and preserving our lakes. These all describe your association.

We had an extremely productive summer; you can read about the achievements on other pages of this newsletter. But let me present some highlights. First, a name change. We wanted to formally recognize the representation, interests and contributions of our members on Crow Lake. Thus the board voted to change our name to the Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association.

**Your Board.** We gained three outstanding new members. John McCalla represents people in Big Bobs. Robbie Hughes, upper end of Green Bay, signed on as Secretary. And Mark Skidmore is representing members on Long Bay and areas of the East Basin. In addition, my thanks for the many years of service from the members who departed this summer: Frank DeWitt, Tom Williams, and Keith Yach.

**Fishing.** Mel Fleming continued his unprecedented leadership to our fishing initiatives. Forty thousand lake trout were stocked in Crow Lake and Green Bay. Scotts Creek was rehabilitated. Trout and walleye spawning beds were created in Crow Lake. We kicked off an initiative to draft a long-range plan to improve fishing on our lakes. Work-

ing under the leadership of the MNR the planning group includes local anglers and individuals from the CAN/AM Fishing Club, Kingston Rod and Gun Club, commercial camp owners and the Leonard's fish hatchery. Finally, during the past year Mel secured more than \$30,000 in grants and donations for our fishing programs.

**Boating and Cottage Safety.** We continued to mark water hazards on the lakes. Bernie Gelineau placed new speed limit signs at critical locations. He also hosted speakers and distributed safety information at the annual meeting.

**Water Testing.** Irene Phillips and her team continued measuring the water clarity and taking samples for chemical testing. We will increase the number of chemical testing sites to five in 1999 if we can get members to take the samples at those locations.

**Community Affairs.** Several members continued on key township committees and programs: Susan O'Brien Mactaggart, Robbie Hughes, Diane Stevens and Larry Henderson. We met with South Frontenac Township Mayor Leonard to discuss our goals and how we might work with municipal officials. At his invitation we made a presentation to the entire Township Council. Our message: Together we have many common issues. Chief among those is to permit sustainable development while preserving the irreplaceable lake resources. Our members represent

a valuable resource, and we would be pleased to assist in meeting those challenges.

**Regional Activities.** Members of the Perth community are starting a study of the Tay River watershed. This will baseline the present characteristics and identify future challenges. It will provide a valuable resource to our municipalities for development and land-use planning decisions. We plan to be a major player in this effort.

Those are some highlights. What about the future? To achieve our goals we need your help. First, your feedback. Give us your ideas. What are we doing right; what could we improve? Write, telephone, or send me an Email at [cstewart@erols.com](mailto:cstewart@erols.com). We also want to represent everyone who shares our goals. Do you know someone who would be a valuable member? Give them a gift membership for Christmas. We need people to assist in our programs. A few hours to do water testing, attend a meeting, help in the Tay River Watershed study, build nesting boxes or platforms, maintain signs, or monitor a marker barrel. We'll also be working to develop procedures for absentee voting in the next municipal elections. Finally, we need board members to represent the end of the East Basin, Mill Bay, Mud Bay, Crow Bay and part of Big Bobs. There are many opportunities.

It is truly an honor to serve you. May you have a wonderful winter season and a great new year.

# Mayor's Remarks

By: Phil Leonard

**T**hank you for the opportunity to say a few words for your Association's Fall Newsletter.

I would like to say that I have enjoyed the first year of our term although we have faced some really tough issues in our endeavours in laying the cornerstones for the New Township of South Frontenac. Joyce Barr and Donna Brown have been instrumental in guiding Council with regard to Bedford District's concerns. In my opinion, your new president Charlie Stewart and the members of the Board of Directors have a genuine concern for not only the Bedford District but South Frontenac as a whole. Having met several times with this group, I trust we have addressed many of the concerns raised.

South Frontenac started off with a terrible Ice Storm last January, one we will never forget. The Brush Crews continue to work in the Bedford District and will until we get snowed out. If we are successful in our negotiations with the Province for further funding we will continue with the work in the Spring.

Joyce Barr and Robbie Hughes have a done a super job on the 9-1-1 numbering system. Hopefully when our seasonal residents return next spring the numbering and Road Names will be almost complete.

South Frontenac chose the OPP to police the municipality at a cost of 1.2 million per year, that is a tax increase of \$90.25 per household that was never

paid out by the Townships before.

The Actual Value Assessment has hit Bedford District like a ton of bricks, the transition from a 1954 to 1996 Assessment had a dramatic effect on waterfront and vacant land properties. The really puzzling thing is that there wasn't any gain in the money realized by Bedford District. The Harris Government promised us that the 35% school tax that was removed from the property tax base would offset the costs of the new downloaded responsibilities resulting in "revenue neutrality" - NOT TRUE! When we finalized the 1998 Budget we were over 1/2 million dollars less than the total budgets for 1997, plus we ended up with 200 kilos of County Roads and Highway 38 that alone represents 1 million dollars in expenditures.

As I draft this letter we are fighting the Harris Government over downloading more school taxes from the Commercial base to the Residential. We just simply can not afford any more downloading! After the final tax bill was sent in September it became quite apparent that many ratepayers were confused on who to blame for such a tax increase. Believe you me we did everything within our power to minimize the tax burden on our residents. Now that all of South Frontenac is on the same Current Value Assessment base, each and every landowner will be used equally. Each District has area rated charges such as Roads, Rec-

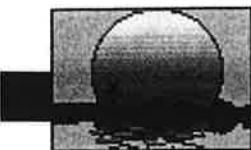
reation, Garbage and Fire Department costs. This means the money in each District is raised to fund these particular services for their own area. In 1999, the taxes will be payable in three installments - March, June and September. This will help offset the financial burden of a large tax bill as experienced in September 1998.

Council has made a decision with respect to the Bedford Fire Department to undertake a formal Selection Process in early 1999 for the position of Fire Chief, this process will be completed with the guidance of the Fire Marshall's Office as deemed necessary. The present Chief will complete his probationary period. I also believe that more positions will be advertised to bring the volunteers up to the standard expected by us from the Fire Marshall's Office.

You may have noticed some Road work being done in some areas, hopefully this will provide the commuting traffic better roads off of our main arteries. Road 10, north of Perth Road should be paved and completed in 1999. There are new dump hours in your District for which we will do another formal letter in the March tax bill to provide the final details.

These are just a few points that come to mind but probably one of the most exciting items is that we are having ongoing meetings with MNR over the Bob's Lake and Crow Lake fisheries, trying to come up with a good plan to enhance the fishing in your area.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year's Season on behalf of the Township of South Frontenac. Feel free to call me at my office anytime at 376-6133.



# Water Quality

By: Irene Phillips

**A**s we closed up our cottages this beautiful fall many people were probably concerned about the water levels. They seemed extremely low. A less obvious concern is water quality. How do we know our lake is still healthy? And what can we do about it? Here is where the Ministry of the Environments "LAKE PARTNER'S PROGRAMME" plays a vital roll. Enthusiastic, concerned lake dwellers on Bobs Lake lower their Secchi discs 10 times or more during the summer and send their results in to the Ministry for long term monitoring. We welcome several new 'partners' this year to the programme. However we do need new testers for two areas, BUCK BAY and MORRIS BAY. Some dedicated people have been doing the job for years and now find they cannot get to the lake as often. So the 'torch must be passed'! If your family can do this job, perhaps sharing it with another family, then call me at 1(613)542-7460. You will receive a package and instructions for constructing a simple Secchi disc. Or you may get a disc from a previous 'partner'.

If you would like to get your family involved in "THE GREAT CANADA-DAY-DIP-IN" call 1(800)470-8322. Hundreds of lakes in Ontario are involved in this Canada Day (week) Secchi Disc test. Everyone is encouraged to send in their Secchi disc read-

ings to the Ministry. We get a print-out of how Bobs Lake readings compare with all the other lakes involved! This is a great way to start a Canada Day tradition in your family, as well as to teach our children the value of a clean lake.

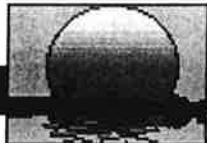
**S**ome people have expressed concern about the availability of biodegradable cleaning agents for the cottage. Some stores carry these products under a variety of names (Ecover is one brand). An Association Member gave me a bottle of LifeTree All Purpose Home Soap from the United States. You need to ask your grocer to stock these products. When in doubt, baking soda is always a good cleanser and is fine for your septic tank. Remember that even biodegradable products should not be used right in the lake. Wash your hair in the sink or on land! Just because products are biodegradable doesn't make them safe for all plant and animal life.

If you have used a product and are pleased with the results, please send the name of the product (as well as where it can be purchased) into the newsletter. We will publish this information as well as any comments and suggestions. If you are concerned about the quality of the water at your shoreline, there are products available with which you may measure the coliform count. One such product is "Water Check". You put a

sample in the bag provided and within three days you will see a colour change if coliforms are present. These kits should be available at your hardware store, if not, you can call 1(800)563-5947 for further information. The kits allow you to test the water for drinking or swimming, and they may alert you to a septic system fault.

**F**rom a preventative point of view, planting and maintaining lawns with non-native species contributes to soil erosion and hence reduction in water quality. The natural vegetation that exists at the shoreline should be nurtured and maintained. Natural shoreline vegetation improves water quality. So keep the first 15 metres of your shoreline planted with native species: virginia creeper, red osier dogwood, and native willow are a few. This margin of natural thick growth provides a safe haven for species of animals travelling from land to water and it is a 'hedge' against soil erosion, which contributes to the nutrients in the water. So keep it natural!

A final note: Encourage your neighbours to become Association Members; spread the word about the "LAKE PARTNERS PROGRAMME"; become a Canada Day "Dipper". We'll have this summer's results for you in the Spring Newsletter. In the meantime, have a cozy winter and Dream Cottage Dreams!



# Magical Lake Moments

By: Brian Usher

Out kayaking one afternoon, in late June, I saw a friend in his kayak by a small island in Crow Lake. Paddling over, we chatted in the warm sun on a calm lake. We talked about loons and the fact that the pair of loons in Patterson Bay were proud parents of a single young loon.

There was a second pair of adult loons on the lake but the summer was passing quickly with no sign of any young.

Almost by chance we were drifting close to what we call Snake island, and at the north end we noticed what looked like a nest a few feet from the waters edge.

Watching confirmed an active loon's nest, so for the next several weeks we observed from a distance. She was on most of the time but because the island is a favorite camping and picnic spot, she was frequently disturbed and we were concerned, so resorted to asking beach goers to keep to the south end, away from her nest. Most people stayed well away, and considering there were about six or eight different groups of camp tenters over six weeks, and dozens of beach goers, it was a miracle. Only a few people actually disturbed her.

And then on a sunny Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, we were viewing with binoculars and saw different behavior from both adult loons, who were proudly attend-

ing a new chick at the water's edge. Soon however, one loon went back to the nest and the second egg, and the chick alternated between the other loon in the water, and the nest on shore. We continued to observe for the rest of that day.

The following morning, July 25, about 10 a.m. both loons with the chick on board paddled two or three hundred metres to another island. Knowing that this meant that they had abandoned the nest, I boated over to it to discover the nest with one egg shell broken in it, and almost in the water another broken egg sack and some egg shell. It was sad that obviously the second hatch had failed, but at least we had one baby chick. So I went back by boat to the small bay where the loons had headed.

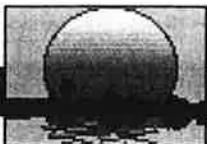
I had a camera in the boat, and a 400mm telephoto. Luckily there was no wind and the water was calm, but looking through the viewfinder from some way off, I was amazed and excited to see two loon chicks with their parents. So the second hatch had indeed succeeded. This was great news.

All the neighboring cottagers spread the news, and so all our efforts at protecting the nest had paid off. From then on, we all watched the chicks progress, seeing them grow into healthy young adults. Their parents have now left the lake for the winter and its late October, but they are still here and we're glad.

The photos turned out well too.



Photo by Brian Usher



# FOCA Insurance

By: Keith Ellison

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), is offering cottage insurance for its members through the PROLINK Group Inc. As this is a group plan, the insurance premiums may be less than you are presently paying. FOCA indicates that, "Cottage insurance is available to FOCA members at preferential prices, with discounts of up to 50 % off rack rates. A free security system is included with your policy." As the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association belongs to FOCA, our members are eligible for this insurance.

We are not making any statement on the suitability of this insurance. Important considerations in selecting an insurance carrier include the company's financial strength, claims responsiveness and other service. However, you may wish to compare your present policy coverage and rate with PROLINK for your home/cottage property. The PROLINK Group Inc. has offices in Toronto and Ottawa. Their phone number in Toronto is (416) 595-



Photographer Unknown

7484 and in Ottawa is (613) 224-8224. Their fax, in Toronto is (416) 595-1649 and in Ottawa (613) 727-0705. If you have access to the web, they are at [www.lms.ca](http://www.lms.ca). Their e-mail is [info@lms.ca](mailto:info@lms.ca).

Royal and SunAlliance insurance is the underwriter of the insurance. This company is the merger of Royal Insurance and SunAlliance back in 1997.

Sun Alliance roots date back to 1710, while Royal Insurance was founded about 147 years ago. I would urge you to look at their website at [www.royalsunalliance.ca](http://www.royalsunalliance.ca). You will be able to satisfy any questions that you might have regarding the financial status of this firm, as well as any other areas of interest.

The area of interest to me personally, was the vandalism coverage. Many insurance companies will give you this type of coverage; however at a very high premium. I have found that, not only will PROLINK give me vandalism coverage on both my principle residence and seasonal residence, but also at a rate less than my current insurance coverage, which does not include vandalism coverage.



V. Vowles. B.F.A.  
ARTIST  
OILS - WATERCOLOURS  
301-20 Gore Street  
Kingston, Ontario K7L 2L1  
(613) 546-6915  
Summer Residence (613) 273-6328

## Apologies

To Ken Flieger  
and Susan Adams  
and especially  
Ruby St. Clair  
Flieger of Buck  
Bay !



# Current Fisheries

By: Mel Fleming

**A**nother busy season for fisheries work is now under our belt. This year we managed, with MNR's significant contributions, to improve the lakes' fisheries potential.

The Ministry of Natural Resources under the direction of Gerry Mulder, Kingston Area Supervisor, and his staff, provided us with expertise, sound advice, Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP) funding, and capital funding for a number of our projects.

These included :

- > re-habilitation of Scott's Creek,
- > the addition of a lake trout spawning area,
- >the addition of a second lake trout spawning area,
- >the extension of another lake trout spawning area.

The shoreline stabilization project at Thompson's Creek in Long Bay was accomplished by placing clover and grass seed around the bridge area. The grass and clover should protect the area adequately.

Steven Reynolds of the Crow Lake Outdoor's Association presented me with a cheque for over \$770 at our annual meeting. This was to be their contribution towards the Scott's Creek re-habilitation project. Thanks to Steve and the members of that association.

Following up with last year's inspection of Scott's Creek by Mark Ferguson (Area Fishery Biologist) and



( Your editor in a photo op )

Photo by Mel Fleming

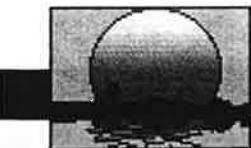
to next spring for more walleye with no beaver dams to swim by or over.

The walleye assessment also observed 67 walleye in the channel between Crow and Bobs Lakes over 3 days. Because of this and because the channel has relatively poor spawning rocks, we had a load of rock dropped on my beach. Then, a few of us transported the rock to the channel. The rock was spread outside the navigable channel and off to one side. Thanks to Randy and Marg Fleming, Brian McAndrews, but especially to Bernie Gelineau who along with me did most of the work of loading and unloading the rock and spreading it over the area to optimize the spawning ground.

Incidentally, the MNR sponsored a walleye spawning area assessment this past spring. Their findings included seeing three walleye at the base of the falls in Scott's Creek. These walleye had to pass over 4 beaver dams to reach that area, so we are looking forward

Finally, the lake trout work. These projects involved using specialized equipment provided by Ron Smith's Polar Power Line company who do mostly major electrical work. The equipment includes a crane to lift a large barge off a flatbed truck, placing

(Continued on next page)



it in the water and then unfolding it and setting up two 60 hp outboards. Then the crane lifts the dump truck body from another flatbed truck and places it on the barge. Later, large trucks drop off their loads of rock (limestone - football to basketball size), where an excavator is used to load the rock onto the dump truck body on the barge. The barge is then floated to the previously marked areas (Rick Topping and I marked the specified areas with buoys), and the dump body is lifted hydraulically, and dumps the rock in the appropriate areas. It took many trips to unload the rock near Green and Snake Islands. We

established two new lake trout spawning grounds with this method and also enhanced an existing lake trout spawning area by dumping a few loads of rock there.

We also sponsored a meeting on the MNR Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) study at the Bedford Community Centre on August 6. The results of the study were presented to some 60 interested fisher people. But first, Bob Taylor of the Kingston Rod and Gun Club presented me with a cheque for over \$3,400 for our fishery activities, which I immediately turned over to our Treasurer, Diane Stevens.

The money was raised by a Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters sponsored Conservation Dinner via silent and live auctions, draws, raffles and other activities. The FWIN meeting was chaired by Charles Stewart, our president. The FWIN study results were presented by George Morgan, an extension biologist with Laurentian University. His findings included that our lakes are very low in abundance of walleye, that the 1989-1994 stockings of walleye contributed little to the walleye fishery, and that our lakes should be managed for natural reproduction.

## Fisheries Activities

### By: Mel Fleming

**A**t the invitation of Gerry Mulder, a Kingston Area Supervisor for the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), we are participating with about 20-25 other interested fishery people in an effort to come up with a Management of the Lakes plan for both Bobs and Crow Lakes. By this time, we will have held our second meeting. Gerry, Mark Ferguson and Rick Topping are representing the Ministry. Our target is to meet our objectives by May-June of 1999.

Looking to the future, we have a few projects in mind to continue our quest for improving the fisheries of our lakes. Some of these projects have already been examined by Mark (Biologist, MNR), and Rick (Senior Technician, MNR), and have their preliminary approval.

First, Camsell's Creek into Green Bay is a likely project for enhancement for walleye spawning. The creek reaches the Bay via a 4-foot culvert, however there are possibilities here. Then there is Atwood's Creek which leads into Buck Bay, is another potential sight for improvement for walleye spawning. There is the possibility of building a bridge over the road to provide access to and from the Bay for walleye.

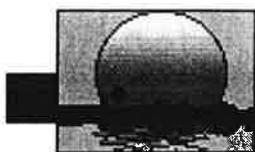
Another possibility is the enhancement of Fish Creek, arguably the best walleye spawning area in our lakes. However, this creek requires another look in the springtime before any decision can be made.

We will also look for the removal of at least one beaver that was missed

last winter at Scott's Creek. In addition, we have to add significantly more rock in the channel between Crow and Bobs Lakes. Help for this project has already been offered by Steven Reynolds and Bernie Gelineau. Other volunteers on this and other projects are also required. If you want to volunteer, contact me by calling 613-267-2516 at my home in Perth, or by calling 613-279-2871 at my cottage. You may also write to me care of the GB&CLA at RR # 2, Godfrey, Ontario K0H 1T0.

And finally, we also plan to "seed" Thompson's Creek in an attempt to encourage walleye to spawn in the Creek. This will be done by depositing some 50,000 eyed eggs into the stream.

For all of these projects, we require MNR approval and Community Fishery Involvement Program (CFIP) approval for funding.



# Boat Safety

By: Bernie Gelineau

## Congratulations to boaters on Bobs & Crow Lakes

OPP Marine Officer Chris Shaw mentioned at this year's AGM that boaters on our lakes were at the top of the class on knowledge and boating safety requirements. From all reports 1998 was a safe and accident free year

**Canadian Coast Guard  
Boating Requirements Update**  
►Personal Flotation Devices-new colours and designs approved.  
►in 96 Canadian lifejacket committee adopt American standards for inflatable PFD's.  
►PFD's are required to be an appropriate size to fit each person on board.

**Upcoming for 99 Boating Season**  
After a Justice Ministry review the following changes may be in effect:  
►floating cushions may not count as PFD  
►USA visitors may use USCG approved PFD's  
►Youth 15 & under may be required to pass a test to operate a pleasure craft \*look for update in spring newsletter or contact Office of Boating Safety at 1-800-267-6687 or CCG website at [www.ccgrser.org](http://www.ccgrser.org)



Photographer Unknown

## GB&CLA AND CANADIAN POWER & SAIL SQUADRON WORK TOGETHER

Interested in taking a Power Boat Qualification Course?

- arrangements are being made with the Canadian Power & Sail Squadron to offer their power boating course "THE BOATING PRO" on a Saturday in June/99.
- the location would be in a facility in and around Bobs and Crow Lakes
- the course would be condensed to one day(9:00A.M.-4:00P.M.)
- candidates at the end of the course would be able to write the exam(optional)
- successful passing of the exam leads to certification and opens up the opportunity to further advanced certification
- note: indications at the moment are that successful passing of this basic course would meet government requirement for operating a pleasure craft

### Cost of Course-\$35

- If you have a family membership to GB&CLA the association will pay

a subsidy of \$15 per family membership for anyone taking the course (only one per membership)

- the cost of writing the exam is \$20 (participation in the course is not a prerequisite to writing the course)
- any other lake residents (members or non-members), are also welcome to take the course.

**THE BOAT PRO** program is a comprehensive course dealing with all aspects of operating a power boat. (normally it is spread over several evening sessions.) Participants will receive written material from the course and a certificate if successful in passing the course.

**N.B.** It is important to have some indication if there is a real interest out there for such an undertaking. In all likelihood the course will be held on a Saturday in June and would require at least 15 participants. Let me know if you are interested. My mailing address is in the directors' list or you can electronically contact me at [bgel@arachnet.net](mailto:bgel@arachnet.net)

# Cottage Safety

By: Bernie Gelineau

**I**nterest in cottage safety is growing these days. More and more people are spending longer periods of time at the lake.

To respond to this fact GB&CLA has and is trying to address this need. Your association has focused on establishing contact with the agencies that respond to cottage safety on Bobs and Crow Lakes. We maintain close contact with the fire departments of Bedford, Oso, and Sherbrooke, the OPP, and the Ambulance service at Parham. In the immediate future all indications are that residents of Bedford and Oso will have 911 in place. Right now the planning for rural addressing is nearing completion and in the spring signage should be going up. To make 911 possible **your local telephone company** has been co-operating with the committees and volunteers working on this project. Bobs and Crow lakes have an unique relationship with telephone communication in that it is served by two small independent companies, the **North Frontenac and Westport Telephone Companies**. For many of us these telephone companies are the first line of getting assistance in emergencies.

Following is a profile of these two Davids thanks to **Ralph Bagelow** of North Frontenac Telephone Company and **Tom Lynn** of Westport Telephone Company.

## NORTH FRONTENAC TELEPHONE COMPANY

**Owners:** Schmidth family of Baden, Ontario

**General Manger:** Ralph Bigelow

**Subscribers:** approximately 2,300

Composition-50% private lines with the remainder 2 or 4 person party lines

Internet service:@frontenac.net

### **Background:**

- held by Schmidth family for over 20 years

- hard to service area with low density
- mileage fee charged to private line holders of \$1.15 for every 1/4 mile beyond 1 sq. mile radius from exchange

### **Future Directions:**

- application to CRTC to eliminate mileage rate (this will affect rates to other telephone subscribers)

- application for opening up of natural calling corridor to Kingston (toll free calls to areas south of Sharbot Lake but does not include calls to Westport)

- upgrading of telephone lines going on with hopefully establishing service to unserviced areas by summer 1999

### **911:**

- projecting operational by 1999

- party line holders will have to give directions verbally

## WESTPORT TELEPHONE COMPANY

**Owners:** Lynn family of Westport

**General Manger:** Steve Lynn

**Subscribers:** approximately 2,500

**Composition:** 75% private, rest 2 person party lines

**Internet Service:**@rideau.net

### **Background:**

- originally shares in company held by many individuals

- over the years Hal Lynn purchased shares to get controlling interest

- eliminated mileage fee over 10 years ago

### **Future Directions:**

- application to CRTC to open natural Calling Corridor to Kingston (call to Sharbot Lake exchange will still be long distance)

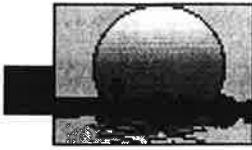
### **911:**

- Westport already providing full 911 to most areas with rural addressing

- When Bedford addressing is completed, 911 will be fully operational

- party line holders give verbal direction to dispatcher





# Random Nature Notes

By: Alfred Pick

**A**s the cottage season draws to a close, I have recorded some observations on the nature scene in our area of Sunset Shores.

## Animals

We did not repeat the experience of last year when on an early week-end we saw a young moose browsing and my wife saw a baby black bear loping along the road --thus more sensational viewing than we expect in a year.

We have regular visits by two cats from Toronto, which have more sport hunting here than they get in a Toronto ravine. In the past their trophies have included the masked shrew, one of our tiniest mammals, and the star-nosed mole. Recently they presented us with a woodland jumping mouse, which has a lovely golden coat, a very long hairless tail with a white tuft at the end, and back legs and toes (paws?) built like those of a kangaroo. (The similar meadow jumping mouse has no tuft on the tail). This is primarily nocturnal and, the books say, sometimes becomes very abundant.

In the winter we have the usual number of muskrats, which like to leave mussel shells at the bottom of the steps entering the lake. With the lowering of the water level these have become a nuisance for swimmers. A granddaughter of eight (also a Torontonian) said I should call the "city" to have them removed.

The beavers must be ever more numerous as they have been destructive of both large and small trees on our property. They have done much damage to trees such as red oak and even, incredibly, iron wood on the Crown island, no. 14, nearby on the main basin of Bob's lake.

We had a couple of sightings of the Ontario black rat snake, the province's largest, found mainly in our country. We also had a typical encounter with one on the New Road, looking dead lying in the sun. A gentle prod brought it to life. One has to be careful not to run over this snake as it looks like an old stick.

For the first time ever we had an eastern milk snake, well camouflaged with its chequered brown blotches in the dead leaves near the cellar door. I should have invited it in as it is said to be very efficient in clearing out the nests of the deer mice.



Photographer Unknown

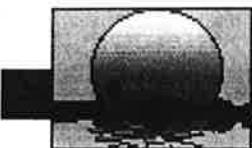
## Birds

We seem to experience a continuing decline in the number and variety of wood warblers. This year we did have a few fleeting sightings of the red-start, the yellow-rumped and the black-and-white. We had the usual frequent song of the pine warbler high up in our noble white pine trees. Likewise, we had the familiar voices from late May to early July of the scarlet tanager and the cerulean warbler in the high canopy of the hardwoods; perhaps they enjoyed the more open area caused by the January ice storm. Also heard more often than seen were the warbling vireo and, late in the season, the Eastern wood-peewee.

The Eastern phoebe was always around in the breeding season, but no longer nests below the cottage eaves. The American goldfinches drank from the bird bath in the late summer. The hummingbirds came to the feeder until after Labour Day.

The big pileated woodpecker is more common here than elsewhere. He makes much noise with his loud cackle and jack-hammer digging of large vertical rectangular holes in old trees, seeking carpenter ants. This year he (and she) came in late in August to feast on the exceptional crop of wild grapes, which were early and abundant.

On the shore and water were the familiar four--the great blue heron, the common loon, the spotted sandpiper



and the belted kingfisher. There were a few mallards and common mergansers. We had a glimpse of the red-throated loon in migration at the Labour Day week-end.

There seemed to be fewer song sparrows and no chipping sparrows. Likewise we did not see any rose-breasted grosbeaks or indigo buntings. Let us hope these are temporary absentees.

#### Flowers

The spring woodland flowers were more glorious than ever, perhaps because of the open canopy. The white trillium were large and abundant though not displaying as well because of the extra tangle of brush. The two varie-

ties of Juneberry or service berry bushes gave a good show of fragile white flowers.

In the mid-summer there was a good showing of the pink pointed-leaved tick-trefoil, the seeds of which become such a nuisance for long-haired dogs. Later we had a lovely display along the shore of the intensely blue closed gentian. These do well along the rocky shore even though the water level has receded considerably by late August. In our little wetland we had a healthy growth of the turtle head, a taller white flower, closed like the gentian, which bees and wasps have to pry open.



Photographer Unknown

## SFNEAC

By: Diane Stevens

The South Frontenac Natural Environment Action Committee (SFNEAC) is a committee of Council, and includes two representatives from each District. The Bedford representatives are myself and Larry Henderson of Green Bay Heritage Cabins. Our Vision Statement is: "To foster the preservation of the lakes, streams and forests of South Frontenac Township, in an environment that encourages a natural balance of fish, animals and birds. To ensure that future generations of South Frontenac citizens have clean water and clean air as a normal right of citizenship."

The committee is new to us in Bedford, but is based on a very successful program that was running in the Storrington Township prior to amalga-

mation. We have had several meetings since the Spring and we have some ongoing initiatives:

> Tree planting. See the order form enclosed with the Newsletter. If you are interested, please bear in mind that these should be ordered as soon as possible (before Christmas), and that they will have to be picked up from the Bedford District Municipal Works Depot at the end of April. So please make sure you can arrange to pick them up before you decide to order.

> Fishing. We have had presentations from the Ministry of Natural Resources

#### Trees

The trees, particularly the deciduous varieties, suffered greatly from the January ice storm. The process of recuperation seems to be well underway, but it appears that the bent birches and poplars will never straighten up. The ground cover of heavy brush invites long hours of work. Eventually it will all rot, but meantime there is plenty of small firewood.

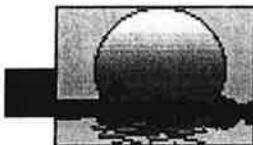
We had a good crop of acorns from the white oaks and nuts from the bitternut hickories. These have kept the chipmunks and the red squirrels very busy as they prepare for the long winter that awaits us all.

(MNR) on fish spawning and habitat. (As you know, this is something our Association has been very active in.)

> Turkey Sightings. MNR are planning to identify suitable wild turkey stocking sites in South Frontenac. To help in this endeavour, SFNEAC is printing up sighting cards which I should have available soon - these will identify where, how many, etc. and will be sent via SFNEAC to MNR. Give me a call or drop me a note if you need a sighting card.

> Bluebird boxes and Wood Duck boxes. We have lumber and plans available (no charge), so if you have suitable habitat, and want a Spring project, get in touch with Larry or myself. Larry is leading on this project, and his phone number is 273-2370.

Do let us know if you have any ideas, concerns or problems which fall within the scope of SFNEAC, and we will bring it to the committee.



# We Are Not Against Walleye Stocking

By: Mel Fleming

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) issued a report in 1996, signed by seven biologists, and with input from many more national and international fishery biologists and fishery experts. The report suggested that no lake should be stocked with walleye until a comprehensive study is undertaken.

In 1997, MNR had a Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) study carried out. The results indicated that there is a very low abundance of walleye in our lakes and that very few walleye survived the extensive stocking done during the years 1989 - 1994.

It is for these reasons and also because many fisher people comment that the walleye fishery is poor, and getting poorer, that GB&CLA has chosen to rehabilitate walleye spawning grounds. The costs of stocking vs rehabilitating spawning grounds are significantly higher. We decided to place our limited resources into rehabilitating spawning grounds.

A single large mature female walleye can produce 300,000 eggs. With a 98% mortality rate over three years, this single walleye can produce 6,000 catchable fish. The stocking of 24,000 walleye fingerlings, using a conservative mortality rate of 75%, would be required to produce the same number of catchable fish. And this is at an approximate cost of \$24,000,

assuming two-inch fingerlings at 50 cents per inch. (According to one MNR report, 3,000 stocked walleye will result in less than 30 fish).

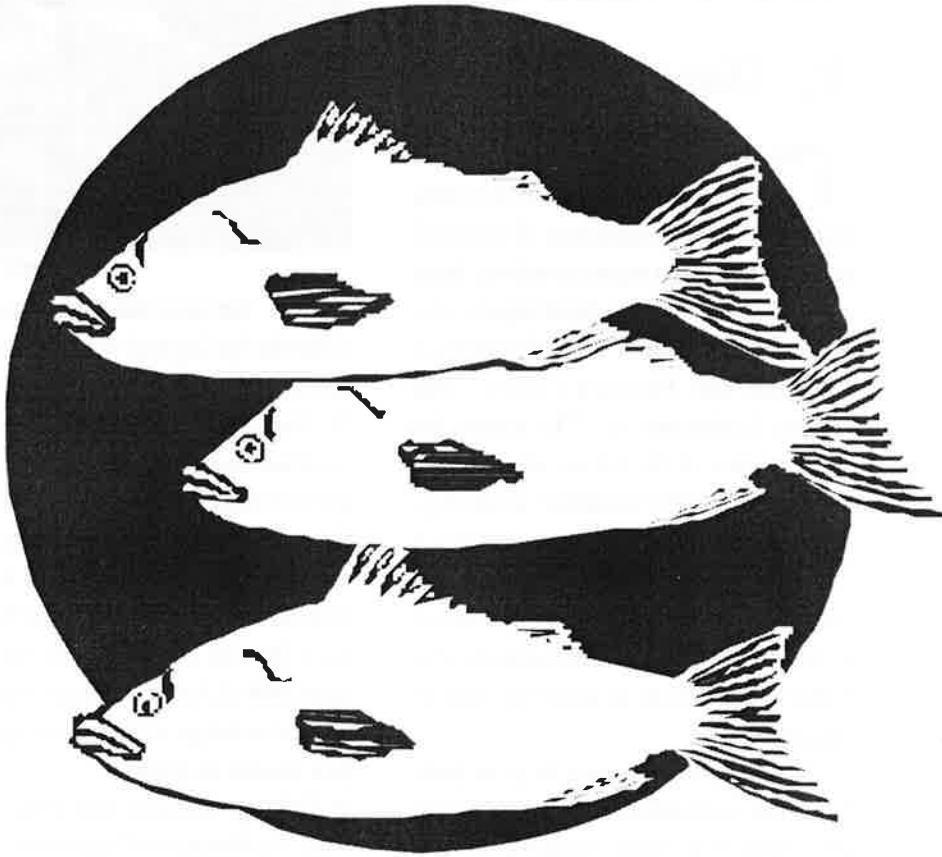
Re-habilitating a walleye spawning ground costs from \$5,000 to \$7,500 each.

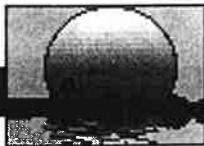
While the MNR still suggests that natural reproduction is superior to stocking walleye, it will support stocking provided costs come from private rather than public funding.

We have raised about \$30,000 over

the past two years, with the bulk coming from MNR's CFIP program. These MNR funds would not have been available for walleye stocking. Other funding came from the Kingston Rod & Gun Club which insisted that the funding go to conservation or rehabilitation efforts rather than stocking.

So, these are some of the reasons we spend our resources on re-habilitation and not on stocking. If anyone is prepared to fund walleye restocking, they should get permission and do it.





# The Dammed Lakes

By: Lloyd Jones

Much to my surprise, the book sold out early in August thanks to the efforts of a few volunteer salespersons - and without much advertising. Con-

sequently, a 2nd Edition will be published in February 1999. There will be some relatively minor changes and it is not worth purchasing a 2nd Edition if you already have the 1st.

For anyone who wants to reserve

a copy, write me at Box 194, Stirling, K0K 3E0; phone (613) 395-2198; or e-mail <lloyd.jones@sympatico.ca>

If anyone has historical questions to ask about the lakes, please contact me. I have a number of historical resources which might have some answers. Similarly, if any reader would like to know the research basis for any claim made in the book, please ask.

# Ghosts And The Supernatural

By: Lloyd Jones

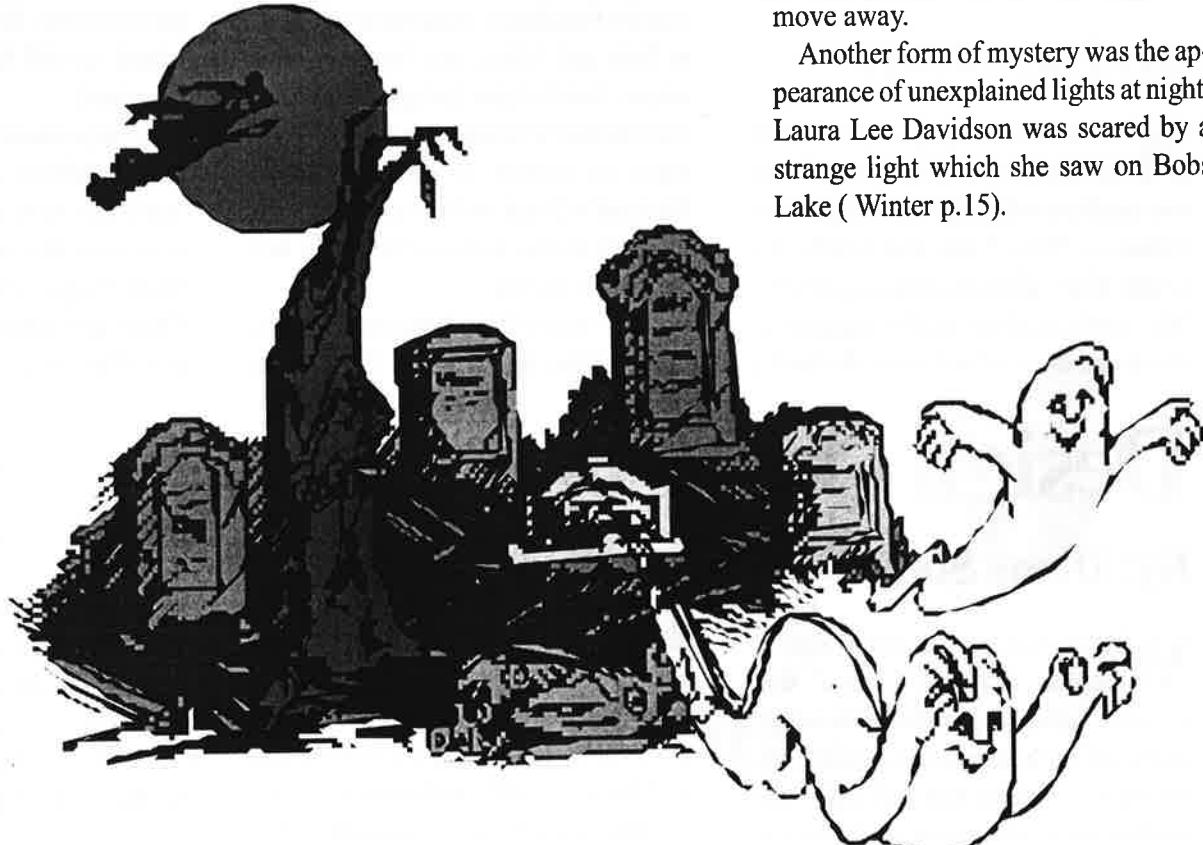
Stories about ghosts and the supernatural emerged from the research on The Dammed Lakes. Story tellers would scare their listeners with their tales about haunted places where ghosts appeared, made sounds or moved things about. Sometimes messages arrived in various ways to predict some terrible event which later came to pass. Either the wise had saved themselves by taking some evasive action, or the foolish had suffered from ignoring the warning. Sometimes the appearance of a scary things could not be

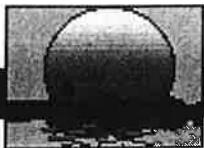
explained but were apparently believed to be a threat to the beholder.

One story, told as true, was about a young girl on her way down the basement steps who suddenly saw a lady dressed in white, a stranger, sitting on

a chair in the middle of the floor. The girl fainted and fell down the steps. The lady in white disappeared, but none of the family immediately upstairs saw her leave. This sighting and other unexplained events caused the family to move away.

Another form of mystery was the appearance of unexplained lights at night. Laura Lee Davidson was scared by a strange light which she saw on Bobs Lake ( Winter p.15).





The lake, too, has its mystery, a strange light that shines from a point of one of the islands. No one lives there on the land; there is no farmhouse on the shore, nor is it in line with any dwelling whose light could be seen to glimmer from the point. The flare is too high and too steady for fox fire, the glow that comes from rotting wood, and though men say they have explored the place repeatedly, there has never been any sign of a camp fire there. But every now and again that light shines by night, like a beacon, and no one has ever

explained it.

Laura was inspired to wonder whether it was "a phantom of the council" of some ancient people on the lake. Gosh, I am glad I don't have a cottage on the East Basin of Bobs Lake!

Another informant told about seeing a glowing green ball about the size of a head which rose out of a swamp and followed him and a friend one night. He had agreed to walk home at night with another boy who had seen the glowing ball before and was scared. Suddenly, there it was - a glowing

greenish ball, about 50 feet from the road and a few feet off the ground. When they moved it moved. When they stopped, it stopped. Then they ran home without looking back. Others reported seeing unexplained glowing lights of different colours.

Seldom does one hear this kind of story today, except on weird T.V. A relative claims to have a resident ghost which moves things about - not a bad idea for explaining missing car keys and glasses which suddenly seem to vanish.

## More On The Origin Of The Name "Bobs Lake"

By: Lloyd Jones

**A**nn German, a long time summer resident, recalls hearing about two brothers who may have lent their names to Bobs Lake and Michael's Creek. Once when questioning elderly lake residents about an old foundation she found on an island near Michael's

Creek, Ann was told by two of them that the foundation must have belonged to Bob and Mike, two brothers after whom Bob's Lake (original spelling) and Michael's Creek were named. They were supposed to have come to Michael's Creek to hunt and had been workers on the Rideau Canal. No last name was known.

They would have been on the lakes in the 1830s, before major flooding in

1870. Michael's Creek would have extended to the Elbow and probably, the island would have been part of the mainland.

If any reader can add to this information, please contact me. Have you heard this story and from whom? What was their last name? Were there any other people who built on the island? These and other questions are worthy of further research.

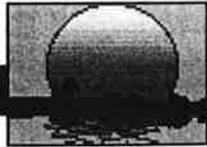
## Design Our Logo

By: Diane Stevens

**W**e are looking for a new logo to replace the "Setting Sun" that we have been using in the Newsletter, and to go on letterhead and cards, etc. We need something that will reproduce well in black and white, and that can

be reduced to approximately 1" x 3/4". So, exercise your imagination and send us your design on a 3" x 5" card. Please print your name and address on the back of the card. Entries should be received by March 31, 1999, so that we can print the best in the Spring Newsletter. We

will have a section on the membership renewal form for voting. The winner will be announced at the Annual General Meeting. Entries should be sent to GBCLA, c/o Diane Stevens, R.R. #2, Godfrey, ON K0H 1T0



# Water Levels

By: Mel Fleming

I've not had any meetings with Kerry McGonagle, the manager of the Rideau Canal since last spring. He is the main person responsible for the major drop in our lakes' water level. The last time I talked with him, he suggested that he would consider reducing the drop in water levels. Judging from the measurements that I've taken, he's done nothing.

In fact, the October 5th water level in Perth, which is where the Tay River goes, is at the flooding level at Stewart

Park. So the water level is very high there. The flow of water at the Bolingbroke dam is extensive. What is this major flow for? The drop in level is detrimental to our cold water lake trout spawning, and has a negative impact upon our wildlife, such as frogs, especially bullfrogs, as well as turtles and other creatures.

Another problem with the drop in level is the attention given to Christie Lake. There seems to be too much concern with the level in that lake. There is no control of the flow from Christie Lake so we seem to lose out to that lake.

The drop in the Rideau System is 80 cm (2 ft 8 in); in our lake it's 132 cm (4 ft 4 in). Why that differential? A drop of one cm in the larger area of the Rideau System could possibly result in a reduction in the drop to our system of probably 4 cm.

It may be time for us to let our opinions be known at the seat of power by voice or by mail. Surely, the voices of some 1600 residents of Bobs and Crow Lakes should carry some weight.

In any case, I'll be meeting with Kerry before winter to discuss the possibilities. Until then, let's just wait and see.

# Wildflower Enthusiasts

By: Teresa Tyszewicz

Botany is not my forte, but my enthusiasm for wildflowers is. I am amazed by their variety on the shores of our beautiful lakes.

We are all familiar with the abundant trout lily, trillium, wild columbine, black-eyed susan, butter and eggs, thimble berry, chicory, etc. But only last year, I spotted a delightful spring beauty: an ethereal harebell. Although quite common, blue-eyed grass is not easily noticed, and shinleaf manages to hid its charm amidst ferns and other vegetation. I do not see as much hoary vervain and bottle gentian as twenty years ago, and strawberry goosefoot I saw only once, in 1979. I still keep

looking for it. Has anyone ever seen it in this area? I think we have a ginseng plant on our property, but is it really ginseng?

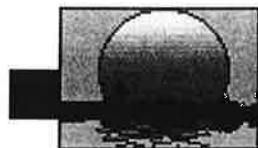
These and similar questions could be answered and discussed at informal meetings if a group of interested people is formed. Notes on new findings, pictures and sources of information could be exchanged. Together, we could compile a list of the wildflowers from this area.

If anyone is interested, please write, phone or e-mail.

Address: 50 Hickory, Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec H9G 3B8  
Phone: 514-624-2549  
E-mail: 102745.203  
@compuserve.com



Photographer Unknown



# Treasurer's Report

By: Diane Stevens

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, our year end is now 30 June instead of 31 December to bring it in

line with our membership year. This means that in future the statements available at the Annual Meet-

ing will be more up to date, and the membership dues will not have to be split over two fiscal years.

## INCOME STATEMENT

	6 Months ended June 30, 1998	12 Months ended Dec. 31, 1997
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Memberships	\$ 2,890	\$ 5,560
Donations	700	1,860
Grants	-	7,500
Misc. Revenue	<u>69</u>	<u>604</u>
	<u>\$ 3,659</u>	<u>\$15,524</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Office and Printing	\$ 1,026	\$ 3,425
Bank Charges & Interest	-	41
Annual Meeting	-	337
Insurance	-	498
Membership Fees(FOCA, etc.)	508	212
Miscellaneous	50	1,128
Professional Fees	850	350
Road Signs	211	873
Fish Rehabilitation Projects	376	8,035
Boating Safety & Security	325	588
Water Quality/Testing	<u>153</u>	-
	<u>\$ 3,499</u>	<u>\$15,487</u>
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 160</b>	<b>\$ 37</b>

In 1997, 48% of our income came from Government Grants, 36% from Membership dues, 12% from Donations, and the balance from miscellaneous fund raising. Our major expenditures were 52% on fishing projects, and 16.5% on the newsletter. You can see that the Income Statements show we are operating at just above break even. Our accountants are Quigley & Co. of Perth, and at the AGM this year

I recommended that they continue in this capacity as they were very helpful in dealing with the year end change, and also in ensuring that we received a refund of the GST paid on the 1997 fish rehabilitation project.

## A Room With A View

I've often wondered  
With a smile  
Who contributed to the  
pile.  
Of all the bottoms  
Who sat there  
Wide and round and  
Totally bare.

Out the door  
Across the lake  
A loon takes flight.  
These distractions make  
New reflections and  
Nature's call;  
The outhouse being  
Best of all.

Tony Foster (summer of 97)



# Attention Birders!

By: Amy McAndrews

For those who are interested, I would like your help in completing a list of bird species for the areas of Crow and Bobs lakes. I have been a regular summer resident to the area for 18 years now and have explored much of its diverse habitats in pursuit of South Eastern Ontario's beautiful songbirds. Only recently has my birding keenness truly developed

and consequently my present list for the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes region is terribly lacking in the areas of waterfowl and raptor species. What I would appreciate from those contributing to this endeavour is a copy of your own species lists for the area; this should include summer and winter residents, migrants and vagrants. To date my list totals 113 species but

this is certainly an incomplete list. In addition to species lists I would also encourage those interested to include any unique bird-related stories/sightings that could be added to future newsletters. Please send all information to: Amy McAndrews 639 Aylmer Crescent Kingston, Ontario K7M 6K3 or email my father (see directors'list). Thanks in advance and happy birding!

# Bedford Councilors' Remarks

By: Joyce Barr and Donna Brown

Greetings Bobs & Crow Lakes Association members. It's mid November--beautiful weather and a variety of wildlife to enjoy. The first year in new, South Frontenac Township has been a real challenge, frustrating at times, for all concerned. Slowly it appears to be coming together. Council and Staff have been excellent to work with. Many thanks to your association's members for the volunteer work provided on several municipality projects. Your efforts have been a tremendous asset to us. Bedford District continues to regulate pur-

suant to the former township official plan and bylaws as do the other three districts. Our Planning Advisory Committee is working hard to combine the four official plans into one. In this effort Bedford District is represented by three very knowledgeable and hard-working community members. We would like to highlight a very important item related to water quality that your members may not be aware of. It pertains to failing septic systems located within the 30 meters of the high water mark. At the present time (as was Bedford Township

policy) Council has not required a minor variance to upgrade the system providing approval of the Department of Health has been obtained and all other bylaws are adhered to. It is our hope that many waterfront owners will take advantage of this process to preserve our precious lakes.

May you have a happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in the spring.

P.S. There has been an extension to the tax assessment appeal to December 31, 1998.