
Lake Views
Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association Magazine



Fall/Winter 2014 Magazine

www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca

eMail: gbcla@ca.inter.net

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Sunset

Photo by: Marlene Keenan

“Everyone can identify with a fragrant garden, with beauty of sunset, with the quiet of nature, with a warm and cozy cottage.”

Thomas Kincade



President's Message

Did you notice at the cottage this summer: the return of the monarch butterflies; the number of exceptional sunsets; the smiles of those catching fish on Bobs & Crow; our children/ grandchildren's laughter on those priceless summer days; the majesty of our night skies; the increase in the mice population; the decrease in algae blooms in August? If so you had a great summer! Is this not what being at the cottage is all about?

We come to Bobs and Crow Lakes for a variety of reasons. Expectations for each of us are always revised when we finally arrive at our cabin/camp/cottage for the "season". Sometimes we have projects (a structure, the deck, the dock or the garden). Other times we focus on reunions with our family and friends sharing with those who are dear to us. Then there are those times we embrace nature and try to capture with our eye, our camera or by sketching/painting that which surrounds us. Yet most of us come to our corner of "something special" to relax, to meditate or rejuvenate ourselves perhaps by sunning, fishing, hiking or reading.

We would like to keep the sanctity, the uniqueness, the fun on Bobs & Crow Lakes to ourselves (perhaps occasionally sharing with those closest to us).

The GBCLA 2014 AGM was well attended and informative. Members joined us for a light lunch before hearing from a number of persons who spoke about the state of the lake. We had a very successful Cottage Succession Planning Workshop (in collaboration with FOCA) with 104 persons learning a better process if they intend to keep their cottage in the family. Another successful venture by our Wildlife Sub-Committee, A Nature Flotilla with almost 100 participants who traveled by boat, kayak, canoe and around Mud Bay Basin to learn about algae and aquatic plants, rat snakes, turtles, osprys & eagles and shoreline rehabilitation.

There is much to learn through reading our Lloyd Jones' *Our Damned Lakes*. This historical perspective is part of our lake culture in the same way that the Canadian Shield defines our landscape and our farming heritage identifies our lineage. Another document, that has now emerged, provides us a better understanding of our water levels. Parks Canada's *Rideau Canal: Water Management Study* (aka Acres Report) is an independent study (initiated in 1977, implemented in 1984 and finalized in 1994) that involved Environment Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources, local Conservation Authorities, Rideau Canal Operations; local Townships; Parks Canada and our Association. This study defines Bobs & Crow Lakes "solely as a reservoir lake" that is managed by Parks Canada "through targeted water levels for every day of the year" at the Bolingbroke Dam.

The lake issues that the GBCLA have had at their forefront in 2014 involve 'severe high water levels', 'exceptional low water levels', the "integrity" of Bolingbroke Dam, our 'spawning beds', 'algae blooms and aquatic plants', and communication with Parks Canada. In other words, Parks Canada's inability to manage our water levels in a targeted manner during the 2013-2014 year. To address these concerns your GBCLA met with Parks Canada in late summer to begin a dialogue towards working together.

In your Fall 2014 copy of *Lake Views* we talk about all of the above concerns and ask that you also think about a number of issues that are emerging for tomorrow. Mandatory Septic inspections; help for persons

Board of Directors 2014-2015

Larry Arpaia
President
larpaia@frontenac.net

Bonny Bracken
Crow Lake Representative
bonny@frontenac.net

Mike Byrnes
Crow Lake Gatekeeper
mcbyrnes@hotmail.com

Bonnie Carabott
Water Quality
jcarabott@sympatico.ca

DiAnne Henderson
Commercial Camp Liaison
grbaycbrn@rideau.net

Carson Jen
Treasurer
carsonjen@gmail.com

Dick Johnston
Marine Safety
johnstondi@hotmail.com

Rick Prudil
Communications & Social Media
rickprudil@hotmail.com

Dianne Toniolo
Membership Secretary
di.toniolo@gmail.com

Janice Walker
Secretary
janicewalker7@gmail.com

Editor: Kate Lamonica
Technical Support: Tammy O'Neil



(President's Message cont'd)

with water access only septic systems; blue-green algae blooms; zebra mussels; development around our lakes; our fish stocks, modifying the 'Rule Curve'; and emergency access on the lakes; will be issues that we as an Association must address in 2015.

Your support to bring these concerns to the appropriate "table" is very important. We ask that you renew your Association Membership for 2015 (we now have PayPal!). Please encourage others in your family to become paying members. Pass along an e-copy of Lake Views to a cottage neighbour and ask them to become members.

While you are at it please respond to our survey about future activities sponsored by your GBCLA. What types of activities would you, your family and your friends like the GBCLA to organize in 2015 and beyond.

We will continue to keep you informed about the happenings around the lakes with our twice yearly Magazine *Lake Views*, through our *GBCLA E-Lerts* and our *GBCLA Facebook* page. We encourage your comments, your pictures and your thoughts so that we may evolve into the type of Association that addresses what we are all about.

Have you noticed that the GBCLA is making a difference! Please give us your support.

Larry Arpaia



In the Mist

Photo by: Adrian Sunderland



Meeting with Parks Canada

By Dick Johnston

A meeting took place with Parks Canada on September 24th to discuss issues relating to the high water levels we experienced last fall, over the winter and this spring. Parks Canada was represented by individuals responsible for the overall management of the Rideau Canal System, the Ontario Waterways Management Unit (which has responsibility for the Rideau River Basin), and the engineers responsible for the Bolingbroke Dam. There were also representatives from Christie Lake, Eagle Lake, Friends of the Tay and the Greater Bobs and Crow Lake Association.

Bobs and Crow Lakes are part of the Rideau River Basin and are considered reservoir lakes for the Tay River Watershed. Water flows from Bobs and Crow via the Tay River, Christie Lake, the Tay Marsh and the Tay Canal into the Rideau River System. Parks Canada is responsible for the management of the watershed and therefore controls the water level for our lakes. This control is regulated using the Bolingbroke Dam.

The meeting focused on: the unusual water level situation this past year; the state of the Bolingbroke Dam; and, ways to increase communications and information sharing between Parks Canada and the GB&CLA.

In regards to the water level issue, in 1977 a review of water management practices and policies for The Rideau Canal was initiated. These were revised in 1994 with the publication of the Rideau Canal Water Management Study, (through a consultation process including representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources (fish spawning), the Ministry of Environment (water quality, erosion), the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, commercial interests, lake associations and other interested groups. The Greater Bobs Lake Association participated in this consultation. As a result of this study amongst others, a plan was developed by Parks Canada that addressed the management of the Rideau Canal in 2005. See: **Rideau Canal Management Plan 2005.pdf**

The Plan took into account up to 40 years' worth of data relating to rainfall amounts, snowfall levels, and historic water levels. Other information relating to evaporation rates, water

flow rates and lake capacities were factored in to produce a model or 'rule curve'. The rule curve is used on reservoir lakes to determine the best water level throughout the year to support the management of the Rideau Canal. Parks Canada adheres to, given normal events and consistent operations, this rule curve. According to Parks Canada's rule curve the difference in water levels on Bobs & Crow should be approximately 1.7m (4'9) each year. This is calculated as 1.7 cm per day over a 100 day period from late June to mid October. According to Parks Canada, unforeseen events last fall resulted in abnormally high water levels. For this past season there was a difference (between high and low water) of approximately 2m (6'6").

Two main problem areas were identified. Water level gauges at the Bolingbroke Dam were found to be faulty. New gauges have now been installed and are functioning properly. Also, Parks Canada has applied to the Tay Valley Township to install a monitoring station at Jordan's Bridge on Christie Lake. The management of the Rideau Canal watershed has been consolidated under the Ontario Waterways Management Unit and the position to monitor the Bolingbroke dam was vacant at the time the gauges malfunctioned. An engineer has been hired, part of his duties include the maintenance and monitoring of the Bolingbroke Dam.

The issue of water usage for commercial or agricultural purposes was raised. Parks Canada's position is that, currently, the amount of water that is drawn from the system to support these activities is very minimal and does not impact the water levels of our lakes. There were also some discussions regarding the possible environmental impacts of fluctuating water levels. Parks Canada was not aware of any studies that discussed this matter. Through discussions it was felt that the high water level, experienced this year, may have contributed to some erosion problems. Parks Canada's observations are that the majority of erosion is a direct result of wave action, either by storms or boat traffic. In other parts of the Rideau and Trent Canal Systems they have seen an increase in larger boats that produce larger wakes, which has resulted in increased erosion. They recommend that lower speed limits be identified for environmentally sensitive area. Another topic that was discussed related to emergency access locations (boat ramps), as a direct result of lower water levels.



Meeting with Parks Canada (cont'd)

When the water level drops many of these access locations, currently identified for emergency personnel and equipment, become unusable. Although Parks Canada agreed this was a safety concern any solutions were outside of their mandate. They recommended that this situation be followed up with the responsible local and/or provincial authority.

Concerning the Bolingbroke Dam, the overall structural integrity of the Bolingbroke Dam is considered adequate. There has been some erosion along the sides of the dam which has been repaired using sandbags. A catwalk has been installed to allow Parks Canada employees to traverse the dam safely. Finally, a telecommunications link has been installed through automated monitoring equipment to provide daily water level and water flow information their regional office.

In an effort to enhance communication, Parks Canada will be exploring the suggestion that they provide documentation relating to the review of the Bolingbroke Dam since the most current information we have is from 1984. Subsequent to the meeting Parks Canada recently confirmed that the last review of the dam was in 1984. Additionally, Parks Canada will explore the possibility of providing us a link to access information daily from the automated gauges at the Bolingbroke Dam. It was agreed to that Parks Canada will attend our AGM and we will hold periodic reviews with them throughout the year.

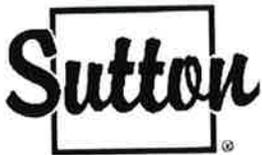
Frequently Asked Questions

THE QUESTION

What role will the GBCLA play in contesting questionable development around our lakes?

THE ANSWER

The GBCLA has assumed the role of stewards of our lakes. We want to do what is best for our water quality, wildlife, fish, forests, flora and fauna. Development on our lakes must go through a process that involves planning departments, environmental services, health departments and the neighbours/community that will be affected by the development. The GBCLA relies on our partners as the subject matter experts and we will support their involvement in any questionable development. Our partners include our Stewardship Council, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), Watersheds Canada (formerly CSW), and Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (FOCA) amongst others such as our network of Lake Associations and the Ministry of Natural Resources. We will monitor that these organizations work with political representatives and staff in our Townships to ensure that all information that is required is collected, that a defined process is followed and that the information is effectively communicated before a development is approved.



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Lake View

Photo by: Peter Muzik



Cottage Safety: Thwarting Unwanted Two-legged Intruders

By Michael Lea

Reprinted from the Kingston Whig-Standard
(Oct 14 2014)

It's a crisp fall weekend and you are standing in the middle of your lakeside cottage, mentally ticking off all of the things you have to do to close up the place for the winter. The boat is out of the water, the lines are drained, the beds are stripped and the food has all been removed to prevent it attracting any unwanted four-legged visitors over the winter.

But what about unwanted two-legged intruders?

Const. Roop Sandhu, the community services officer with the Frontenac detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, has a simple message when it comes to deciding what to take and what to leave behind when you close up your cottage. "Anything that you are not willing to lose, don't leave behind," he said.

The detachment covers a wide area south of Sharbot Lake and includes Bob's Lake and Crow Lake across to Burnt Hills Road. "There is quite a number of cottages," he said. "Usually in the springtime is when we do get the calls coming in from cottagers that have been away for the off-season. They haven't been there in months and they show up and they realize the cottage has been ransacked and items stolen."

His statistics show how much of a problem it can be. In 2012, there were 32 cottage break-ins reported to South Frontenac OPP. In 2013, the number dropped to 18. So far this year, 16 break-ins have been reported.

He has a few safety and security tips for cottage owners who are closing up for the winter:

1. Don't leave any firearms or weapons of any kind behind;
2. If you are leaving a vehicle, make sure it has been winterized, secured and disabled. For example, for a snowmobile, remove the track and hide the keys;
3. If you can't store your boat off the property, cover it and lock up the engine. Disassemble part of it to make it harder

- for someone to steal it;
4. Don't leave anything on a trailer unless it is locked or disabled so someone can't simply back up, hook on and drive it away;
5. Make sure there is nothing left behind in your shed that someone might want to steal, such as cans of gasoline;
6. If there is someone close by who is staying year-round, have them check your place whenever they can. Knowing that something happened a few days before can be more helpful than having to try to investigate something that may have occurred months ago;
7. If you have an alarm system at your cottage, make sure the alarm company has an up-to-date phone number so they can reach you. Sandhu said having an alarm is often dependent on what you are leaving behind and want to protect. Many people don't find it cost effective;
8. Make sure your windows and doors are securely closed. One theory suggests leaving your curtains open so a potential thief can look in and see there is nothing worth stealing, while another recommends closing the curtains or even putting plywood over the windows or closing the shutters. "I can see the pluses in both sides," Sandhu said. "But I think having them closed would be more of a deterrent. They might not make the effort to try to go onto the property."
9. If you are leaving anything that might be of value, such as sporting equipment, fishing rods, etc., record the serial numbers. Use an engraving pen to mark them with a number that can be easily traced back to you, such as your licence plate number.
10. Make a list of everything you are leaving so you won't have to try and remember come springtime. Take a picture of everything.
11. Know who your local police are, where their office is and what the phone number is.
12. Consider installing a camera system or trail camera so police can have a photo



Cottage Safety (cont'd)

or video of the suspects should someone break in.

Sandhu said officers do patrol cottage roads when time permits. They may be coming back from a call and will swing down a few cottage lanes to check things out.

"What we really rely on is the public out there. If they notice a suspicious vehicle that is parked on the side of the road that you haven't seen before

and it doesn't seem like it belongs there, call it in to police."

He wants people to be aware of any activity that seems to be out of the norm, especially in particularly isolated areas.

"The public can assist in just reporting those. Just to have us go out and check it out would be beneficial for us."

michael.lea@sunmedia.ca



Carbon Monoxide Safety

Each year carbon monoxide poisoning in Ontario homes/cottages results in thousands of people requiring a medical treatment. Carbon monoxide poisoning has been referred to as the "silent killer".

Many households have an average of 4-6 fuel burning appliances that produce carbon monoxide. These appliances include:

- Furnace
- Water Heater
- Fireplace
- Stove
- Dryer
- Barbeque
- Portable Generator
- Space Heater

Is your home/cottage Carbon monoxide Safe?

Visit: www.COSafety.ca

Algae and Aquatic Growth Monitoring

As a lake observer the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is asking you to report algae blooms or excessive aquatic plant growth on your part of the lake as part of 3 year Trillium Grant Study: **People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes: Finding the Balance in Eastern Ontario's Lake Country.**

By connecting to the website www.citizenwaterwatch.ca and registering, users can report their observations to a central data base, providing location and other details, as well posting a photo of the algae and aquatic plants if you choose. Your information will be documented and sited by Kaitlin Brady, RVCA Algae Watch Coordinator who will then come out and take core samples of the lake from that area for further study.

As one of the Project Collaborators, the Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association is encouraging all lake users to be part of this valuable study to better understand the growth of algae and aquatic plants on our lakes and to better address future interventions. For further information on this algae and aquatic plants study check out: http://rvca.ca/programs/algae_watch/index.html



Central Frontenac Septic Initiative

By Larry Arpaia

Central Frontenac is currently investigating the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive septic system re-inspection program for the Township. Such an action would follow Tay Valley's lead in introducing a mandatory septic re-inspection program in 2010. For residents on Bobs & Crow Lakes this will mean that only the Township of South Frontenac has failed to introduce such a consideration.

A committee established by Council in December 2013 has put forward an interim report that calls for Central Frontenac to enact through a by-law a mandatory septic re-inspection program over an 8-10 year period that would have the following characteristics/features:

- All septic systems will be inspected in the Township;
- Program priority driven based on the age of system and adequacy of information that the health department has on individual systems;
- Inspectors for site will be trained for inspections itself, documentation of inspection and efficiency and effectiveness of system;
- Alternative payment approaches will be made available through additions to individual property taxes collected by the Township;
- Pump outs will be mandatory every 3-5 years and coordinated by the Township after initial inspection.

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Being Septic Savvy

When properly designed, constructed and maintained, a septic system should provide long term, effective treatment of your household wastewater. If you take good care of your system, you will save yourself the time, money and worries involved in replacing a failed system. Failed systems can be hazardous to your health, the environment and your pocketbook.

Maintaining your property's septic system on Bobs & Crow Lakes is every owner's individual responsibility. For many at the cottage it can be a simple inspection of your system every 3-5 years and a pump out of the solids and scum when required (that would be when a third of the depth of your tank is full of sludge and scum). This may begin by familiarizing yourself with the location of your system and then installing access riser (if needed) in order to facilitate entrance to your system.

If you are close to wells and surface water (including lakes, rivers and streams) then you have a shared responsibility to know the state of your septic system as it then becomes a question of you and your neighbours health and your communities environmental protection.

Resources on-line concerning septic systems include: www.ecoethic.ca , www.orwc.uguelph.ca , www.cpaontario.com , www.omafra.gov.on.ca , www.oowa.org

GBCLA Web Site

To find out more about your GBCLA; to view past issues of your GBCLA Magazine *Lake Views*; to connect with your GBCLA *Facebook* Page; to pay your GBCLA Membership fees using **PayPal**: Please visit the GBCLA web Site:

www.GreaterBobsandCrowLakesAssociation.ca

or write to us at:

GBCLA
306 Island Drive Lane RR #3
Maberly ON K0H 2B0



A First on Crow Lake

By **Bernie Gelineau**

Getting our septic systems pumped out becomes a normal routine for most cottagers. However if your property is on an island the logistics of a pump out makes this more difficult.

Crow Lake has two islands that have cottages. One of these is not serviced by hydro and I was told has alternative sanitary methods of dealing with human waste. The second property on the other hand had a septic system installed years ago. This summer I had the opportunity to witness a pump out on that island.

As you might expect things were done a little differently than most of us experience.

Crow Lake has an excellent boat launching area at the north end that is owned and managed by Central Frontenac Township. It was from there that a barge carrying a large tank was launched and set off down the lake to the island. After a trip of 2 kilometers it reached the island.

The barge next had to find a location as close to the septic system and accessible for the barge. The barge located such a landing and because it had such a shallow draft was able to beach on the rocky shoreline. Once the lines were secured to the shore the next step involved running pipes from it to the septic system opening. Once the pipes were in place the next hour or so was spent pumping out the septic tank.

For further information on this service contact Safeline Marine Construction in Perth. Kevin Dowd at 1 877 709 9894 can help you out if you have a water access only property on Bobs or Crow Lakes.

After the pump out was completed pushing off the island was problematic. As you might suspect considerable weight was added to the barge. However with the help of the crew and island residents the outboard motor was able to use the reverse thrust to dislodge itself.

The barge then headed back to the launching area where it was met by one of our local "Honey" wagons. The contents were then pumped from the barge by the truck. Once this was done the operation was completed.

The Barge Company operates out of Perth Ontario .One of its main jobs is laying underwater

cables but is increasingly involved in pumping out septic tanks. The operator told me a second tank can also be placed on the barge so it can do two pump outs before it has to return to the boat launch. Key to a successful operation is a proper boat launch. I did not see the final bill but gather that the cost might be three and half times the cost of a pump out for accessible properties. However I suspect that the cost per pump out would be less if a group availed themselves of the service.




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Blue-Green Algae Bloom

By Larry Arpaia

In Mud Bay Basin off Bobs Lake a blue-green algae bloom was sighted, reported to the Ministry of the Environment and documented by the Health Department at the end of September.

Blue-green algae thrive in areas where water is shallow, slow moving and warm. A key factor in affecting growth of the bloom is nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen. During a sunny, warm early fall weekend with our lakes waters at their low ebb, this toxic algae bloom (scientifically known as cyanobacteria) commonly referred to as pond scum was first noted.

What are blue - green algae?

Blue-green algae are primitive microscopic plants that live in fresh water. Blooms most commonly occur during late summer/early fall. Blue-green algae are natural phenomena. The dense blooms may make the water look like a bluish-green pea soup. Fresh blooms often smell like newly mown grass while older blooms smell like rotting garbage.

If you suspect a blue green algae bloom on your part of the lake, assume toxins present, avoid drinking, cooking or bathing in the water and call the Ministry of the Environment's Spills Action line: 1 800 268 6060.

For further info on blue-green algae and to understand health risks check out the following web site:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/cyanobacter-eng.php>

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Marine Safety

By Dick Johnston

My name is Dick Johnston and I am one of your new executive members of the GBCLA . I have a long history with Bobs Lake. My in-laws bought on the eastern end of Long Bay in 1966. My wife, Jane, built on an adjacent property in 1972. Over these last 40+ years we spent many wonderful times on the lake, mostly in and around Long Bay. So much so that our kids and now our grandchildren go to great lengths to get together every summer – not in the city but at the cottage. I am not sure if it is the company or the free food and beverages, provided by mom and dad.

At this year's Annual General Meeting I raised my hand. I did not 'throw my hat in the ring' to run for office – I just raised my hand. When I left the AGM, I was the new Marine Safety Director. Based on the number of individuals who approached me after the meeting, I felt I was somewhere between a deer caught in the headlights and the guy who goes to an auction, scratches his nose, and ends up buying the ugly lamp. As it turns out my concerns were unfounded. I would like to thank everyone who contacted me, provided me with background information, given sage advice, answered all my many questions, and been available to discuss the issues and activities within the area of Marine Safety. I would like to extend a special thank you to all those individuals, past and present, who manage the buoy markers. We have all seen them, and hopefully acknowledge and respect the reasons they are where they are. These individuals ensure that the markers are properly deployed in the spring, moved around as the water levels change, and collected in the fall. As I discovered this year, these activities happen regardless of weather conditions and at often at risk of damage to their own boats and themselves.

Buoy Markers

There are currently 60+ markers which are distributed around the lakes. We have an inventory which we use to replace lost or missing markers. We will also access this inventory to put out new markers, where needed. Given that many of our volunteers have responsibility for a number of markers we are seeking more



Marine Safety (cont'd)

individuals to assist with any new installations. Some of the markers have either completely lost the reflective tape or the tape is starting to peel off. I have contacted the company that provided the markers and was told they no longer use that type of tape. They recommended another product. In the spring I will be purchasing some new reflective tape to replace the missing strips.



Signage

Transport Canada, the agency responsible for Canada's waterways, has approved four locations where there are posted speed limits. The granting of approved speed restrictions is a long and involved process requiring consultation with different levels of government e.g. Federal, Provincial, Municipal. We currently have four areas where speed restrictions apply. We have discovered that some signs are either missing or damaged. Usually the responsibility for sign maintenance or replacement is the responsibility of the local authority. In most cases you would have to work with the townships to get new signs. Transport Canada has on record a series of requests and approvals (1989) between the township and the Greater Bobs Lake Land Owners Association indicating that association will assume responsibility for maintenance or replacement signs. Based on this information and discussions with Transport Canada we have received approval to acquire new signs to replace the lost ones and to ensure we are compliant with approved regulations. We will procure and install new signs in the spring.

Parks Canada - Water Level Issues

Following discussions with your Executive Committee, we have decided that ongoing

liaison with Parks Canada (monitoring water levels, Bolingbroke Dam) will be added, in part, to Marine Safety. Recognizing that that water level issue is more than just Marine Safety (erosion, fish spanning) I will be working closely with Larry to ensure we address all of our concerns. A lot of time as already been spent meeting with Parks Canada to become better informed on the historical analysis that went into making decisions relating to their water level requirement in support of the Rideau Canal system as well as their ongoing yearly operational activities.

Emergency Access

Of great concern is the condition of the identified boat ramps which would be used in the event of an emergency. Having usable access locations is critical, especially for water access only properties. We have had discussions with the Fire Chiefs from the three townships, responsible for providing emergency services. All three townships agreed that this is important and are interested in working with us to ensure their respective plans reflect our needs. Given the way the lakes are divided amongst the townships the majority of the access points are within South Frontenac. Our plan is to build upon all the work that was put into place by the previous volunteers. Having already started discussions with the townships we will also be working closely with land/cottage owners to identify all water access only locations and provide us with their coordinates.

I look forward to working with you, meeting other cottagers and exploring new areas around our great lakes.





Evening the Score

By Carolyn McGrath

Years ago my daughter and I, sunbathing on our dock on Bobs Lake, heard something beating the surface of the lake near Bear Island. Curious, we motored over and found two adult loons struggling in the water, one apparently trying to drown the other. We aimed the boat right at them, causing them to separate, and they both moved toward the island, one heading desperately for shore, the other chasing it into the shallows. We rowed after them until we forced the pursuer to rise up on his feet and beat his wings like Tarzan thumping his chest. After a loud yodel, he dived and swam under our boat. He was about a meter from tip of bill to the end of his feet as he glided below us.

The other loon had made it up onto shore near a birch tree where it lay flat out, breathing heavily like a dog panting. We went a bit closer but could see no obvious injuries, just the beauty of the bird, the elegance of the checkered bright white against deepest black feathers of its back, a collar of crisp white with vertical black stripes in it with another band of dark green below it, its long pointed bill rich and glossy, its eye bright red in a sleek black head. None of the reproductions in gift shops do it justice. After a while, he uttered a mournful quaver while the other loon hooted and continued to patrol.

We stayed there protecting it and it began to drizzle. Still we stayed on. My daughter remembered seeing the 1940's photo of me, five years old in a white dress and a ribbon in my hair, holding up the wing of a dead loon my dad had shot. "Disgusting," she said and asked why he shot it. I couldn't really say, although it probably had something to do with loons catching fish. Certainly no one ever ate loons.

"You always admired your father," she said accusingly.

"Yes," I said. "I did." Times change, but even then it wasn't right. The other loon seemed to have lost his murderous intentions and we left. When we returned a few hours later to check on it, the loon under the tree was gone.

My dad may have taught me about the thrill of the kill, but the thrill of the save is greater.

Volunteers on the Lake

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority have requested volunteers in the Green Bay and Buck Bay corners of Bobs Lake to conduct lake testing in June & early July and mid August.

If you are interested in helping out please contact Sarah MacLeod, RVCA at: sarah.macleod@rvca.ca or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1109

Rick Prudil is looking for volunteers to help out with our sign posts around Bobs & Crow. These Information sheets provide heads up to our members and non-members around the lakes on activities that your GBCLA has organized. If you can help out contact Rick at rickprudil@hotmail.com



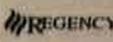
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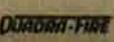
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The Importance of Honeybees on Bobs and Crow Lakes

Honeybees have thrived for 50 million years, each colony 40 to 50,000 individuals coordinated in amazing harmony. So why, nine years ago, did colonies start dying en masse? Marla Spivak, a bees scholar, reveals four reasons which are interacting with tragic consequences. This is not simply a problem because bees pollinate a third of the world's crops. Could this incredible species be holding up a mirror for us? Check out the buzz:

http://www.ted.com/talks/marla_spivak_why_bees_are_disappearing?language=en



Loons

Photo by: Peter Muzik



Critters

Photo by: Peter Muzik

Martin Yates (1944-2014)

A friend to our lakes and our community has passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Martin Yates was President of the Althorpe Bolingbroke Community Centre (ABC Hall) and a leader and Financial Director with the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association. His death came just a few days after presenting at the GBCLA's AGM where he announced his retirement from the Executive after 14 years of contributions.

Martin was born in the United Kingdom (Oswestry Salop) and moved to Canada where he spent 35 years with Nortel. He discovered Bobs & Crow in the late 90's and purchased a cottage in 1999. Every winter he journeyed back



to his home to spend time with his 5 brothers in England and to escape our harsh winter.

An avid golfer, runner, naturalist and boater, Martin was always busy. He was responsible for introducing Fire Pumps around the lakes, active in the development and distribution of the GBCLA Shoreline Reports as well as revitalizing the ABC Hall on County Road 36. As a tribute to Martin the ABC Centre announced that the new extended entrance to the ABC Hall will be a memorial to Martin.

Martin is survived by his partner Susan Davies, Ann (mother of his children), his daughter Patricia and a son Paul as well as 4 of his 5 brothers who reside in England.



FOCA Benefits

The Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association's contribution to FOCA would make a difference. As a non-profit, voluntary organization, FOCA relies on the support of its members to achieve their mission:

"To protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario."

What are the Benefits that you are eligible as a member of FOCA?

Advocacy & Government Relations:

FOCA is the only province-wide voice for Ontario cottagers and waterfront property owners. We keep you up to date on changes in legislation and other timely news. FOCA advocates at the federal, provincial and regional levels on priorities that affect waterfront property owners. Make sure that you and all of your members receive the FOCA E-let to learn about updates on topics that matter. Signup for E-lets online at: www.foca.on.ca

FOCA Programs & Resources:

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Monitoring Program – information and tools to help you identify and monitor invasive species on your lake or river.

Cottage Succession Seminar Series (Keeping the "Family" in the Family Cottage) – this series presents legal and financial planning considerations to help you prepare to leave the cottage to the next generation. Get the conversation started now, while you have the most options.

Lake Partner program – become a FOCA Lake Steward and monitor phosphorus levels and water clarity in your lake – for free.

Visit the FOCA website at www.foca.on.ca to access cottager-specific answers to your questions. Use the search feature to find information about particular topics.

Use FOCA's news and information from our FOCA E-lets, Newsletters and other print publications on your website and in your newsletters. We only ask that you reference FOCA. Road and lake associations can access administrative resources including the FOCA Roads Specialist and help with online payment processing for your association dues and the FOCA toolkit!

FOCA Insurance Programs - Access a FOCA discount!

CottageFirst: Cottage, home, and auto insurance specially designed for FOCA members. Qualifying cottage owners (all members of FOCA member associations) are eligible for posted discounts on their insurance, and qualify for even higher discounts with combined or multiple policies. Contact 1-844-CADE-1ST or visit www.cottagefirst.com for a no-obligation quote.

Road or Directors' Liability Insurance: FOCA's popular liability insurance program provides coverage options applicable to Lake Associations, Road Associations, Land Ownership Associations or Trusts, as well as coverage options for Directors and Officers. Contact 416-234-9980 or visit www.cadeinsurance.com/foca

Special Pricing & Discount Product Offers: (access codes issued to members)

- Superior Propane– FOCA members pay no installation fee and can access a preferred fixed price offer (for existing propane customers; some restrictions may apply).
- Xplornet – save up to \$99! FOCA members pay no activation fees. Limited time offer; conditions apply.
- Cottage Life Magazine - big discounts on renewals or new subscriptions: 1 year, plus 2 free issues for only \$24.00. Plus, FOCA gives you discounts on Cottage Life show entry.
- Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons – FOCA supporters get \$10 off Pleasure Craft Operator Cards.
- Boats & Places Magazine – FOCA discounts on magazine subscriptions or DVD purchases online at www.store.lifestyleintegrated.com
- Canadian Canoe Museum - All FOCA supporters can redeem a free 1-year Individual Membership to the Canoe Museum.

FOCA will be initiating a new feature beginning this fall. Two Webinars on issues that our members have found most interesting will be offered -Cottage Succession Planning and An Environmental Bill of Rights Discussion.

Webinar #1: Wednesday, December 3, 2014 - FOCA's Cottage Succession Seminar:

Learn how to "Keep the 'family' in the family cottage," with estate lawyer Peter Lillico.



FOCA Benefits (cont'd)

Join us for this web-based edition of the road-trip seminars that have been attended by more than 1,500 people around Ontario over the past 5 years. Further info and registration for this Webinar will be forwarded through a GBCLA E-Lert in the near future.

Webinar #2: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 - Ontario's Environment Commissioner - the Environmental Bill of Rights and You

This webinar will help FOCA members interested in participating in environmental law-making that impacts your waterfront experience and communities - through Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR).

Steward Plan Action

Our lakes, our lands, and our people...

Our Stewardship Plan for Bobs and Crow Lakes
(Revisited October 2014)

Bobs Lake and Crow Lake are two intricately linked bodies of water. Those links are historical and geographical as well as hydraulic, and they extend within and around the lakes to the many living things that depend on them, including the people who live, visit and work nearby.

This environment is much more than pristine waters, beautiful landscapes of rugged rock and verdant forests, or abundant fish and wildlife, though it is certainly all those things. The lakes, the land and the people are interconnected in ways that extend beyond the physical. Those who live here, whether on a permanent, seasonal or temporary basis, share a social environment, one based on respect for peaceful, private enjoyment, while acknowledging and often celebrating in gatherings. It includes an economic environment that supports and is supported by those same residents and visitors, one that is again based on respect both for each other and for the natural gifts that bring us all here. The environment of these lakes is an inclusive one, comprised of each of these elements and reliant on the interconnections between them.

The Bobs and Crow Lakes Stewardship Plan was developed in 2007 as a framework for reference for the future of environmental and community sustainability. Through the combination of

extensive review, workshop sessions and regional surveys we are confident that we have produced a good representation of present concerns and challenges in the community. The Bobs & Crow Lakes Stewardship Plan is a document that must be a continuous and evolving reference point for all members of the community, one to which they can refer in considering their own contributions to the stewardship of the lakes.

Vision for Bobs and Crow Lakes

Bobs and Crow Lakes are a unique place where people share a healthy coexistence with the natural environment. A place where every community member is a steward and promotes:

- Good water quality
- Rich biological diversity
- Good fishing
- Natural landscapes and shorelines
- Safe and responsible recreational activities
- Personal privacy and peaceful enjoyment
- Neighbourly social interaction
- Historical and cultural preservation
- Sustainable economic development

Our Community Objectives

1. **Water Quality and Water Levels:** to maintain and improve our current standard of good water quality and water level management.
2. **Fisheries and Fishing:** to protect and enhance the natural elements that fish depend on to ensure a healthy population and to provide a sustainable fishery for anglers.
3. **Natural Environment:** to protect and enhance the ecosystems of our lakes to ensure a high quality environment for fish, wildlife, vegetation and people now and for the future.
4. **Boating and Recreation:** to ensure the enjoyment of boating and other recreational activities on and around the lakes while respecting the desire for peace and tranquility, with special emphasis on the challenges posed by boating.
5. **Emergency and Municipal Services:** to work with municipalities to improve the consistency of the administration of the lakes area, to maintain and improve our police and emergency services and to ensure the lake community receives an



Steward Plan Action (cont'd)

adequate level of attention to its needs for services and value for its tax contributions.

6. Development: to ensure that our development activities, landscaping practices and resource extractions are in keeping with the character of our social, physical and natural environment.

7. Sense of Community: to bring together the people of the lakes and build a common sense of ownership and responsibility for protecting the lakes, beginning with implementing the Lake Stewardship Plan.

Today and Tomorrow

In order to address these objectives and to provide our members with a dais to be briefed on the issues of the lakes, the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association have introduced communication options using social media. Our **Web Site** has slowly evolved to include an historical aspect (e.g. old copies of **Lake Views** for your enjoyment) as well as an 'update' component for all our lake residents and visitors. Through the **GBCLA E-Lerts** members have been kept informed and have been provided a heads-up on lake matters. A "closed" **Facebook** page has provided a forum for pictures and comments about what is occurring on the lakes by those living and recreating on the lakes. Your **Lake Views Magazine** has become a colourful, informative format with links for you to explore further the details of what is happening on our lakes. In Spring 2014 we sent out 75% of our Magazines electronically and we have continued to honour those who have requested a hard copy of **Lake Views** via Canada Post.

We have continued to recommend actions that will help to ensure the sustainability of the lakes, the lands, the natural ecosystem and the way of life that we value. The Actions that we have taken include: advocating for Mandatory Septic Re-Inspections; encouraging a collaborative relationship with Parks Canada concerning the operation of the Bolingbroke Dam; developing working relationships with our elected Councillors and Township Department Heads; working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations on a Provincial level: and sharing challenges and solutions with Eastern Ontario Lake Networking groups. Finally we have partnered with the both the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the

Centre for Sustainable Watersheds to develop buffer zones along our shoreline to protect our water quality and reduce erosion. Over 30 cottagers around the lakes have taken advantage of this free planning and planting by staff with wonderful results.

We have become a reference and guide to support continued activity for the stewardship of the lakes. Through our Fisheries initiatives we have developed walleye spawning beds and continued to explore fish studies and stocking opportunities. Our Wildlife Work Group has developed a strong partnership with the Toronto Zoo which has brought a number of activities to the lakes. This Wildlife Sub-Committee of the GBCLA has had several interactive sessions over the past few years. In 2012 a Turtle Nesting Beach was established, in 2013 a 24 hour Bioblitz was conducted and this past August a most successful Wildlife Flotilla highlighted our summer. These activities have attracted over 300 participants in the 3 years.

Finally we have partnered with FOCA, RVCA, MNR and other organizations to bring to you information that you have asked for. This past summer in partnership with FOCA we had a Cottage Succession Planning Workshop that was well attended. In past years we have Workshops on white fish, algae and aquatic plants, shoreline rehabilitation, garbage at the cottage, as well as evasive species.

We believe our Actions clearly outline a solid understanding of the issues that the people of Bobs and Crow Lakes are concerned with and, in response, we hope that we have taken an active role in promoting the values and actions that are consistent with our Stewardship Plan.



What a Catch

Photo by: Bob Riordon



Survey

To help us plan for the future I ask that you review a list of activities/sessions that have been suggested by lake residents as future planning endeavours by the GBCLA . Please comment on the list or individual ideas listed below by sending an email to larpaia@frontenac.net with your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions and let us know if these activities would be of interest to you and your family and would you participate in the activity. Perhaps you would be interested in helping to organize-let us know. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fishing Derby July 2015 - A fun and educational fishing derby will be established at various locations around Bobs & Crow Lake in early July. This is an opportunity to involve youth/ children in identifying fish species and habitats and to just enjoy a day on the lake fishing. As well we would like to promote roles of the GBCLA Fishing Portfolio and the Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation in working with MNR to keep our lakes stocked. Handouts will be available for fishing enthusiasts and prizes awarded for those who register.

Wildlife Flotilla 2015 - What are the special wildlife features of the Oak Shores area of Bobs Lake and what do you want to know about them? The Flotilla will be featuring wildlife/nature experts from eastern Ontario. Kayak, canoe or motor at your own pace to specially marked areas to learn about such wonders as algae and aquatic plants, our gray rat snake and other features.

BioBlitz 2016 - What is a BioBlitz and The GBCLA is committed to have a BioBlitz at different parts of our lakes every 3 years. The GBCLA Wildlife Workgroup has learned that it takes a year of planning to have a significant BioBlitz with knowledgeable experts and good organization. A suggestion is that we have a BioBlitz at a Provincially Significant Wetlands in 2016. The Bioblitz 2013 Committee would be pleased to work with persons in either the Doran Lake Wetlands area or Michaels Creek Wetlands area to begin to plan a 24 hour BioBlitz in 2016.

Marine Safety Workshop - What would you like to know about boating safety on the lake? This workshop will feature the OPP Marine Division, Boat Safe Ontario and the Rideau Valley conservation Authority.

Cottage 101 - What are the 'new basics' of cottage safety in 2015? Water quality, septic maintenance, Emergency Kits, CO2 devices and other gizmos, Ticks and Poison Ivy, Neighbourhood Watch and knowing what your cottage needs over winter. We will be including the Public Health Department, OPP, FOCA and Fire Department.

Boating Course - Do you have your boating license? This course offered by Boat Safe Ontario is an opportunity to take/update the Boat safe course and get your boating license. This is for new cottage owners, new boaters and young persons who do not have a boating license. The course will be conducted in consort with Boat Safe Ontario.

Intro to Small Engine Maintenance - What are the basics I should know about my boat motor, cottage water pump.



Shoreline

Photo by: Gerry Holt



The Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT NORMAN MOLE

The fourth annual Frontenac Frolic, the major fund raising event for the Foundation, was held on August 2nd, 2014. We are happy to report that this has been the most successful event to date. The Frolic is becoming an annual community event with a good complement of local and seasonal residents coming out in support. The success of the Frolic is due in a large part, to the family and friends who volunteer their time and energy and we extend to them a hearty thank you for all their hard work and dedication.

Based on this year's success, the Directors voted unanimously to hold another Frontenac Frolic on Saturday, **August 1st, 2015**. Please mark your calendars for this important summer event. New signage will direct people to flea market display tables both inside and outside the Bedford Hall. We would also like to remind everyone to start saving flea market items, books, CDs and DVD's during the winter months for donation to the Frontenac Frolic. The spring issue of "Lakeviews" magazine will outline information on pickup or drop off donation days.

The funds we raised this year in the Silent Auction increased significantly over previous years. The items were practical and in keeping with country living and we shall continue this theme and publicize the various items as early as possible to heighten awareness of the Frontenac Frolic.

All the 1600 Cow Flop Bingo tickets were sold and there was a demand for more.

The winners this year were: First prize: Roger Bradley, Long Bay; Second Prize: Donna Stairs, Sunset Shores; Third prize: John Parks, Oak Shores.

The Foundation has funded many important programs and projects over the past few years and will continue this work in concert with and in support of the GBCLA and the community groups around the lakes. Your support is essential and your participation in any of the events and projects is so welcomed.

For many years the outstanding volunteer work for our lakes has been recognized as a beacon and example for others to follow. Together we can do so much as we continue this essential work to maintain, enjoy and enhance our precious lakes.



Weathered Cabin

Photo by: Marlene Keenan



The Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation

OUR LAKES OUR VOICE FOUNDATION GIFT FORM

The Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation needs your continued support. Through your donations you can be personally involved in the work for the area of the lakes and see the benefits of your contributions. Tax receipts, applicable for both Canada and the United States, can be issued for your donations.

A gift to the Foundation is also an excellent way to recognize birthdays and special occasions or acknowledge the memory of someone special to your family.

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.

The Foundation thanks you for your gift, a gift that will help to make a difference in the support of our beautiful area. Together we can do so much.

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**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)
- Central Narrows
- Green Bay
- Mud Bay
- Mud Bay Basin
- Bobs Lake East Basin

- Crow Bay
- Long Bay
- Buck Bay
- Norris Bay
- Mill Bay
- Crow Lake

Annual membership dues are **\$40.00**. Corporate member is **\$75.00**.

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

Membership enquiries: di.toniolo@gmail.com

To pay by **PayPal** visit our website at www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca