



The Colours of Fall, Crow Lake Road near Bobs Lake

Photo by: Cindy Taylor

*“The tints of autumn...
a mighty flower garden
blossoming under the spell
of the enchanter, frost.”*

– John Greenleaf Whittier



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Message from the GBCLA Board

The Board of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association experienced a “growth spurt” in 2019. We welcomed several new Directors (see page 2 for details), who are bringing their enthusiasm, energy and knowledge to a core group of volunteers, who are committed to the long-term wellbeing of the lakes. However, the most critical volunteer opportunity remains open: **President**.

The appeal of the President to potential candidates we think is a compelling one:

1. The chance to lead a large lake Association towards preserving two of the “crown jewels” in northeast Ontario.
2. The time commitment is not onerous. The Board of Directors is deep and large, and Board operations have been streamlined. The President can focus his/her time entirely on leading the organization, setting the strategic direction and then relishing their achievements.
3. The financial strength of the GBCLA and the Foundation (BACLF) combined with the large membership base offers enough resources to allow the President to do more than the average lake Association.

What does the President do? The job conceptually is to set the strategic direction and priorities of the Association, chair Board meetings and the Annual General Meeting, and build liaisons with key stakeholder and government groups. The day to day operations of the Association are delegated to other Board members, volunteers or paid staff. The President is a part-time job, primarily from April to October, so the time commitment should not scare off anyone, even individuals working full time.

The challenges facing the stewards of Bobs and Crow lakes are common to cottage country, from climate change, invasive species, accelerating decline of government/ agency support, and intensifying demands on the lakes. The leadership opportunity as President will appeal to anyone with a passion for the “best” water area in Eastern Ontario. The key requirements for the job are a passion for the lakes, enthusiasm to lead a strong team of volunteers, and a desire to have fun getting things done. You do not have to be an expert in anything nor a long-time resident of the lake. Consider volunteering in some capacity in the GBCLA, which will provide a risk-free opportunity to see if this role is a good fit for you.

The most significant event of the year is the imminent completion of the new dam. Kudos to Parks Canada is merited for having led this generational enhancement to



Bobs Lake and the Tay Valley watershed. The GBCLA Fisheries program (under new Director Paul Patterson) is ramping up with the launch of a multiyear walleye fish survey at four rebuilt spawning beds in 2019. Additional spawning bed investments are planned along with initiated discussions with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on how to address the lake trout population in Green Bay. For 2020, the GBCLA will be hosting its first BioBlitz since 2013. This 24-hour nature event is scheduled for August 14-15, 2020 (see page 13 for more details). Finally, the Board is happy to announce that we have re-designed our Association logo (see page 2). After 40 odd years, we felt it was time to modernize our image to usher in a new stewardship era on Bobs and Crow Lakes.

Board of GBCLA





I nformation from your Association

Introducing the New GBCLA Board Members

Marilyn Caldwell joins as the Green Bay Rep. This is the first Rep for this part of Bobs Lake in over 6 years. Marilyn brings a depth of knowledge about this part of Bobs Lake.

Cindy and Jean Faucher join as co-Reps of Crow Lake. This husband and wife team brings both experience and enthusiasm to “one of the finest” lake trout lakes in the region.

Joselyn Morley joins as the Director of Wildlife. Joselyn has a multitude of creative ideas for wildlife events and programs for the next several years.

Paul Patterson joins as the Director of Fisheries. Paul has already started work on several significant projects including the 2020 walleye fish survey and the creation of a new fish spawning bed in Green Bay.

Bill St. Arnaud joins as a Director at Large. Bill is the Project Leader for the 2020 BioBlitz tentatively set for August 15-16, 2020. This major nature event last held in 2013, offers a fascinating learning opportunity about the flora and fauna surrounding Bobs and Crow Lakes.

Ben Stevens joins as a Senior Volunteer. Ben will be a major and regular contributor of personal wildlife stories based on his over 30 years of observing fauna around the lakes.

40 Years Old!

By: Trish Chartrand

Can you believe it! The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA) is 40 years old!

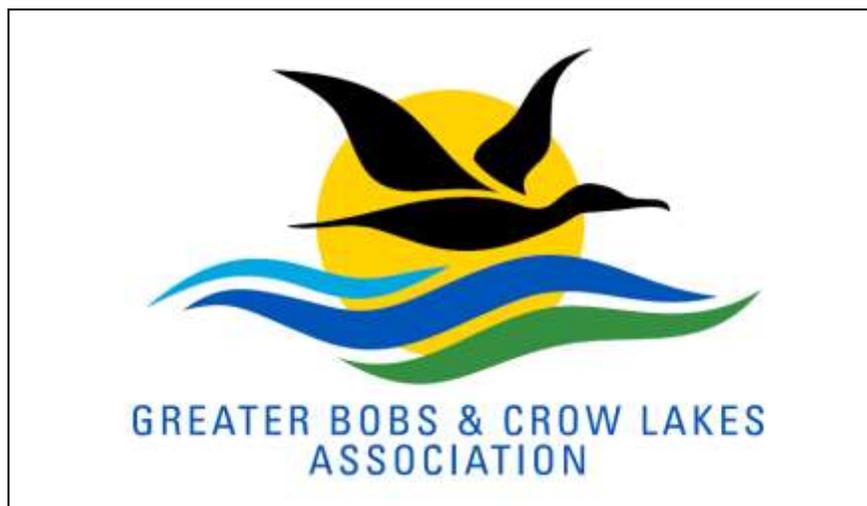


Founded in 1979 as The Greater Bob's Lake Landowners Association the name was changed to The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association in the mid 1980's to include Crow Lake.

What else has changed over the years? There is the GBCLA website www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca and Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/groups/179439185516190/>

Check out the website where you can find some interesting background on the geography and history of the lakes.

We are now working on a bit of a facelift – a little tuck here, a little tuck there. I am pleased to report that there is a new logo which we are introducing to you in this edition of Lake Views. The website continues to undergo some changes and we hope to have the layout available in the near future.





F For Members

Proposed Change to Membership Year

By: Carson Jen

For as long as our oldest members can recall, the membership year for the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA) has been from July 1 to June 30. This was largely based on the cottage season starting on July 1, when most residents arrived at the lake to open their cottage.

Membership fees were all paid by cash or cheque and often at the Annual General Meeting held during the summer. But times have changed. The GBCLA Board proposes to modernize our membership year and move from a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), to a calendar year (January 1 to December 31).

This change will have ZERO impact on how much you pay in membership fees and ZERO impact on how much time you have left before renewing your membership.

This change is being done to simplify the financial accounting records the Association must maintain and, to simplify the computer program we use to track who is a member. After the conversion to a calendar year, there will be a lower risk of a fee processing error. Even more beneficial is that there will be much less confusion when communicating when a membership has been paid for and when it expires. Currently, a July 1 to June 30 time period must always be used which overlaps two calendar years. This change simplifies the discussion to one calendar year. Virtually all membership programs operate on a calendar year basis.

This change will be broadly communicated to all members well in advance of the tentative conversion date of July 1, 2020. Members will be given the opportunity to voice their views on the proposed change.

Paper Copy vs E-copy

By: Rick Prudil, Membership Director

In the 2019 spring edition the GBCLA Board encouraged members to switch from paper copies of the Lake Views magazine to electronic copies (E-copies) only. The magazine is the largest single item of our core budget of approximately \$10,000/year.

Paper copies cost more:

\$6/issue or \$12/year for two issues (mainly from printing, stuffing envelopes and postage).

Many of you have heard our message in the Spring 2019 magazine. We now have 62% of members getting E Copies only up from 51% in the Spring!

	# of members receiving E-Copies only	% of members receiving E-Copies only
Spring 2019	135 out of 263	51%
Fall 2019	171 out of 275	62%

There is still room for improvement. Why? Because many members are still receiving paper copies by mail AND E-Copies by email.

If you are currently receiving a paper copy of the Lake Views magazine and wish to voluntarily switch to an E-copy only, please send a 1 line email ("Switch to E-copy only") to membership@bobsandcrowlakes.ca.

Please use or confirm the email address where you wish to have the E-copy sent.

Your ongoing support is much appreciated.





We Don't Want to Lose You!

By: Rick Prudil, Membership Director

The Association regularly sends emails and E-lets to its members on important issues around the lake. Email is also how you receive a copy of the Lake Views magazine. But sometimes we **do not know where you are** because we have an outdated email address!

Email is our primary means of communicating directly to our members. Recently we have had a significant number of emails that failed to deliver. If you are a member and have not been receiving our emails, it may be that we do not have your correct address on file.

If you aren't sure we have your correct address, please send a **"Please check my address"** email to membership@bobsandcrowlakes.ca.

If you are changing your email address, please remember to let us know too!



Cooling Off

Photo by: Meghan Dundon

Hydro Rate Class Change

By: Tammy O'Neil

A change being proposed by Ontario's electricity rate regulator could result in cottage owners who have property hooked up to the provincial energy grid paying a lot more for power.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has told Hydro One it is proposing to eliminate the seasonal rate class for property owners.

Delivery charges are typically determined based on customer density; meaning, the number of customers per kilometre of power line. There are three residential rate classes: urban residential, medium density, and low density and, there's also a seasonal rate class.

The Ontario Energy Board's proposal is to eliminate the seasonal rate class and move customers into the other existing residential rate classes.

Hydro One has maintained an important responsibility to stand up for our customers. On July 19, 2019 they submitted an updated report to the OEB which demonstrates that eliminating this rate class would have a negative effect on more than half of their seasonal customers, resulting in a significant increase to their bills.

To read Hydro One's July, 2019 report submitted to OEB and learn about how the elimination of the seasonal rate class will affect seasonal customers, go to the Hydro One website <https://www.hydroone.com/about/regulatory/oeb-applications/seasonal-rates>



Turtle Enjoying the Sunshine

Photo by: Ian MacLatchy



Interest Pieces

Excerpt from ‘Two Faces of the Moon’

By: Carolyn McGrath; ©Carolyn McGrath 2019

I sit in the rocking chair on the screened porch and watch as the loons approach, crossing the channel, calling warbled warnings to their two young ones just like human parents insisting on holding children’s hands crossing the road. They stop to feed just off shore in front of me. These are the loons that the Lewises and I think of as *our* loons because they raise young each year in our bay. They mate for life and live to be twenty-five or thirty years old.

Newly hatched loons are in danger from predators from the air and underwater and spend their first few weeks riding on their parents’ backs, but these healthy chicks I’m watching this evening are no longer babies. They must be 18 inches long already. They look like a different species, all brown and fluffy, floating feather dusters with heads instead of handles, everything on them brown – beaks, eyes, feathers – unformed as of yet into loons. They float on the surface under the island’s overhanging trees while their handsome parents fish the shallow water among a school of minnows. The parents dive and the big ungainly young ones dip their heads and watch, looking silly and spoiled.

Each parent seems to have a designated young one to attend to, feeding it minnow after minnow, placing them in the young one’s bill. The young don’t

swallow the fish right away but drop and play with them in the water, perhaps to position them headfirst. Later I watch with binoculars as they head back across toward the pass, the chicks diving, but not for long, the parents disappearing under water for longer periods.

When the family stops by Bear Island, a chick cuddles up around one parent, which is grooming and pays no attention, so the chick swims to the other parent and circles close to its body. Both parents are grooming, so the chick grooms too, lifting its wing and poking its sharp bill among the feathers along its body. Then the second parent rises in the water and beats its wings and the chick does the same. Then the parent rises again and practices take-off.

Unlike other birds the bones of the loon are nearly solid and their strong legs placed well back on their bodies, which allows them to dive to 200 feet if they need to. And their relatively short wings make it hard to launch into the air. Migration for them is a thousand-mile sprint. It takes this one a full minute of slapping the water noisily with its wings, then appearing to run on the water, still beating the water with the tips of its wings, before it can lift itself enough to fly free and circle back, laughing in the air, showing the little loon what loons can do.

Ervin Lewis tells me that when the babies can feed themselves, the parents will separate from them for days at a time, then finally fly south ahead of their offspring, leaving them to make the trip alone, apparently never to see them again.





A House of Lies

By: David Zimmer (Cottage Life magazine, Aug/Sept 2019)

“MY FAMILY WANTS TO BUILD a new three-bay boathouse, but I’m panicking just thinking about how angry it’ll make our neighbours and how expensive it’ll be to repair every time there’s a flood or ice damage. Are boathouses even worth building?”

You must be a very brave person to even suggest that building a boathouse might be a dumb idea. Boathouses are one of the pre-eminent symbols of cottagedom. To question their validity would be considered vile heresy by some, right up there with throwing rocks at a loon or plastering Hello Kitty stickers on a cedar-canvas canoe. The boathouse has always been an icon of Canadian cottage country, immortalized in art prints, coffee table books, and magazines. What’s more cottagey than kids and dogs jumping off a boathouse dock? And, what could be cooler than having an actual water garage you drive right into? To be fair, parking a 1957 Ford T-Bird convertible in your living room, like Dan Tanna did on Vega\$, is way cooler. But that was TV.

Lots of cottages do not have a boathouse, which makes them an aspirational item for many, something to dream about but never attain. When I was a teenager, I worked on an island on Lake Muskoka, Ontario, that featured 2 boathouses, one of them a six slip beauty with a workshop, a washroom, and two storage rooms. It blew my mind because at our family cottage on NE Georgian Bay, anything built near the shoreline would be summarily ripped away during ice-out and sent across the water to someplace near Collingwood. As you might have guessed, we did not have a boathouse. But I have always been covetous of them – until later in life when circumstances conspired and I got one of my own. It came with our new island cottage and was well built and sided with metal and had a separate workshop area. Looked great in the photos. I later discovered that the slip, the actual boat hole, was too narrow to fit any sort of modern vessel, including the one that came with the cottage. With my boathouse dreams crushed, I built a floor over the slip to create a sweet on-water workshop with big double doors. In the winter, I park my snowmobile inside, just like Dan Tanna would if he didn’t live in Las Vegas.

The moral of that story is that when it comes to boathouses, my rose-coloured glasses are gone, and I can say without bias that you are very wise to panic at the thought of dropping a few hundred thousand clams on a brand new water garage. For starters, yes, your neighbours will hate you, maybe because you have blocked their views or shaded their shoreline. Or maybe because you now have a boathouse, and they do not. It doesn’t matter. You just need to know that opposition will be strong. Suddenly your fellow cottagers will become fervent environmentalists, petitioning local government to halt your project to rescue wildlife habitat and stop littoral zone encroachment. They will cite observations of Blanding’s turtles and Hungerford’s crawling water beetle and point out that the peak of your boathouse roof could be a danger to migrating waterfowl. Strangers will come by boat and photograph your shoreline, and your lawyer will ask for a retainer. Sadly, the most poisonous and vocal opposition will come from the neighbours who used to invite you over for fondue and Riesling.

Once your new boathouse is past the initial honeymoon stage (usually 3 to 5 years), its calendar photo perfection will begin to fade. After all, who cleans a boathouse? The paint will fade and peel. A scum line of gloopy pollen will form at the waterline. The floor will heave and dip. Eventually, your pride and joy will become just another shed, filled with old water toys, faded lifejackets, and pool noodles that crumble at the slightest touch. There will be an accumulation of beer empties. Where do you put a broken lounge? “Chuck it in the boathouse.”





House of Lies (cont'd)

Boathouse construction is complex and expensive. But let's say money is no object. Aside from the obvious answer, you've got to wonder what sort of idiot would build anything right at the most destructive place on the property, where land and water meet. Where waves crash, and ice piles up. It is a sad fact, but nature hates boathouses the way tornadoes hate trailer parks. Which is quite a lot. As I write this, epic floods are ripping through cottage country. Homes, cottages, and businesses are getting badly damaged, but boathouses and docks – thanks to their location in the danger zone – are taking a particularly severe beating. Still panicking? Try this on for size: other than neighbours and nature itself, guess who else hates boathouses? Insurance companies. That's why flood insurance for waterfront structures like docks and boathouses – if available – can be prohibitively expensive, especially in geographic areas that are historically prone to period flooding. So, when your super-expensive new boat garage gets damaged by hateful nature, which climate change seems to guarantee will happen more frequently, you are basically screwed.

That said, no one has ever accused cottagers of being rational people. Cottaging is an affair of the heart, not the brain. You don't head to the lake because of some logical equation, you go because you love the place and it makes you happy.

Emotion is the X-factor that makes the cottage a special place. And boathouses are wickedly cool. That's why, if local zoning changed one day, and I was permitted to build a second boathouse on my island, one large enough to actually hold a boat, I would do so in a New York minute. What on earth could possibly go wrong?

Wings Over Canada – Bobs Lake Feature

Bobs Lake is featured in Season 4, Episode 4 of Wings Over Canada (2001) on DVD.

www.wingsovercanada.ca

Lloyd Jones plays a leading role. The dam, subsequent raised water levels and the old mica mine is explained.

Thank you Peter Thorp-Levitt for bringing this to our attention via the GBCLA Facebook page.



EyeStream Photo – Autumn at Bobs Lake near Bolingbroke



Crow Lake Road near Bobs

Photo by Cindy Taylor



Reflections of Fall

Photo by: Carla Worden Dieg



Fishing and Fisheries

Bobs Lake – It's Paradise!

Excerpts taken from Boucher Magazine – boucher.ca
By: David Brown and Paul Patterson

Geographically, Bobs Lake is a body of water primarily situated in Frontenac County about 50 kilometres north of the city of Kingston, in Eastern Ontario. A small part of the north-eastern end of the lake is actually located in Lanark County.

Bobs Lake has an area of 7,962 acres and is part of the Saint Lawrence River basin which is one of the largest waterways in Eastern Ontario. The lake is the head water of the Tay River system before its waters run northeast through the Bolingbroke dam. And, since the Tay is a tributary of the Rideau River its waters eventually empty into the Ottawa River and then downstream to the St. Lawrence River.

Bobs Lake could be considered to be two independent lakes; Bobs Lake East and Bobs Lake West. The lake is 15 miles long, has over 460 miles of shoreline and contains 126 islands. In fact, both Bobs and the attached Crow Lake still have 31 islands that are owned by the Crown and are available for use by the broader public.

In 1870, Colonel By's engineers began construction of a dam at Bolingbroke which raised water levels by 15 to 18 feet. The new water level made one lake out of four, in addition to several adjoining bodies of water. All the lowlands and back bays were flooded, including Long Bay, Green Bay, Buck Bay, Mill Bay and Mud Bay. This created the much larger and more significant body of water now known as Bobs Lake as a reservoir lake for the Rideau Canal system.

For nearly 70 years after its flooding, many parts of the lake remained choked with decaying trees, high stumps and driftwood. Remnants of many of these trees can still be seen along shorelines in various parts of the lake. And, if you know where to look, you can actually see remnants of an old quarry that now resides under water.

Lake depths typically range from 20 to 150 feet. The landscape of Bobs Lake, with its towering ancient white pines, granite outcrops, rocky shorelines, abundant swamps and wetland areas, is unmistakable cottage country.

Toponymy files managed by the Geographical Names Board of Canada, indicate the origin for the names "Bobs Lake" and "Crow Lake" remain unknown. Both names seem to have first appeared around 1830-40 and were probably legitimized by their usage on land survey drawings and local maps for that period.

Bobs Lake has had a reputation for great fishing amongst anglers from both sides of the border. So much so that NFL great Johnny Unitas once owned a fishing camp on the lake. Lake Trout, Large and Smallmouth Bass, Pickerel (Walleye) and Northern Pike, among others, populate the lake. There is also an abundance of Blue Gills, Rock Bass, Sun Fish, Cisco and more recently, Crappies.

The Fishery has changed substantially in the last 10 years. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Broad-scale Fisheries Monitoring survey results show that Black Crappie has gone from 0% of the total catch in 2008 to 19% of the total catch in 2018. Pickerel, one of the most prized freshwater fish, has gone from 6% of total catch to less than 1% through the same period. Lake Trout represented about 1% of the total catch in 2008 but was absent from the nets of the 2018 survey despite having adequate habitat.

In November of 2016, the MNR released the Fisheries Management Plan for Fisheries in Management Zone 18 (FMZ 18). Bobs Lake is the second largest waterbody in Zone 18. The plan guides the management of fisheries resources for the zone and proposes future directional activities as information from subsequent cycles of the Broad-Scale Monitoring (BSM) surveys become available. The plan is organized by species.

The goal for Walleye is to increase populations and improve angling opportunities through effective monitoring and the protection of breeding stock by reducing slot sizes, improving spawning habitat and, where natural production is limited, implementing "Put, Grow and Take" stocking programs.

The objectives for Lake Trout are to maintain naturally reproducing Lake Trout Lakes, increase their number and maintain Lake Trout angling opportunities through Put, Grow and Take programs where there is appropriate habitat, but limited



Bobs Lake – It's Paradise! (cont'd)

natural production. The MNRF has historically stocked Green Bay on Bobs Lake but stopped the program in 2010 in order to assess whether natural production was taking place.

The Association would like to see the MNRF resume the Put, Grow and Take stocking program for Lake Trout in Green Bay. The MNRF BSM results indicate no evidence of natural Lake Trout reproduction. A recent study concluded that the ideal Lake Trout habitat occurs in 6 to 15 metres of water, with temperatures ranging between 8-12 degrees Celsius and where there is a minimum Dissolved Oxygen (DO) content level of 6-7 mgs per litre.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) has been monitoring Water Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen levels in Green Bay since 2006. Looking at the RVCA reports and data, Green Bay has the desired depth, temperature and oxygen levels to support Lake Trout habitat. This would lead to the conclusion that Green Bay is a perfect candidate for a Put, Take and Grow program, especially since it already supports a large Cisco population upon which Lake Trout currently feed.

Bobs Lake has great fishing, but whatever your passion for the outdoors, Bobs has abundant wildlife where you can observe distinct species such as the local bald eagle population. It has miles of kayak and canoe routes that provide access to the area's diverse and varied off and onshore terrain.

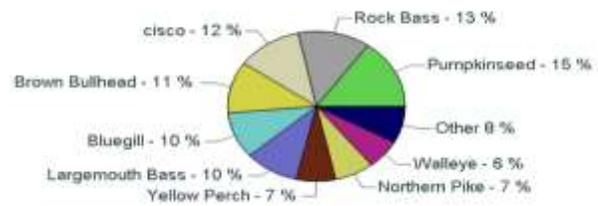
Or maybe you might just want to relax and float around the lake, or off the end of your dock on a pool noodle. So, come on and give it a try! Jump in - the water is perfect!

Fisheries

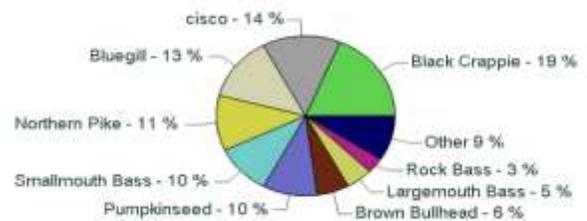
By: Paul Patterson

Bobs Lake has had one of the best fisheries in Southern Ontario. But all of that is changing. The Walleye fishery on Bobs and Crow lakes is in trouble. In 2008 MNRF netting surveys showed Walleye accounting for 6% of the catch. In 2018 it was less than 1%.

MNRF Broad-Scale Fisheries Monitoring Bobs Lake Netting period(s): **August 7 to August 15 2008** Number of net sets: 38; Number of fish species caught: 21



Netting period(s): **August 13 to August 23 2018** Number of net sets: 34; Number of fish species caught: 19



Walleye is perhaps the most valued fish species in Ontario. They are prized as a food fish and support both recreational and commercial fisheries. Recreational angling for Walleye also forms the basis of an important tourist industry. Many of Ontario's Walleye fisheries are subjected to stresses which can include over-exploitation, habitat degradation, and introductions of new species. The Bobs and Crow Lakes fisheries are no exception.

Most Walleye populations spawn in rivers, creeks, and intermittent streams that are upstream tributaries of a lake. They will spend most of the year in the lake and then move upstream in spring to spawn in fast-flowing waters that keep the eggs well oxygenated.

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Fisheries (cont'd)

Walleye are not very strong swimmers. They don't negotiate fish ladders, and don't pass through culverts or narrows where stream velocities exceed three feet per second. In fast water, they swim in bursts, and hide and rest behind larger stones or boulders.

According to the Association's former Fisheries Director Gord Thompson, the decline in Walleye population on Bobs Lake can be traced to the 'Great Ice Storm' that hit Eastern Ontario in 1998. The storm left many of the natural fast water spawning grounds choked with deadfall forcing the Walleye to spawn on the lake where predation is double the rate of the running water beds.

In 2012 the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association began a program to restore fast water Walleye spawning beds, clearing debris and adding rock to four sites in targeted areas of the lake. In 2019 the GBCLA, led by Carson Jen, organized more than 30 volunteers to monitor spawning activity in two of the restored sites. The plan is to continue monitoring over three years and to add additional sites to the survey in 2020. This past summer MNRF decided to augment the depleted Walleye stock releasing 35,000 fry in July.



Eagle Creek Re-Habilitated Walleye Spawning Bed

The GBCLA appointed a new Fisheries Director this summer and solicited volunteers to form a Fisheries Committee. The committee has established 5 priorities for the fishery in the 2019/2020:

- continue to monitor the spring Walleye spawn to validate the work that was done on the spawning beds,
- maintain the beds and identify new spawning sites for restoration on both Bobs and Crow Lakes,

- work with the Municipality to restore fish access to historical spawning grounds in the Doran Lake wetlands via Camsel Creek at Green Bay,
- work with MNRF to determine the viability of restoring Lake Trout stocking in Green Bay and,
- begin an Education/Communication plan for the Fishery in line with the 2018 MNRF Strategic Plan for the fishery in Fisheries Management Zone 18.

There has been good progress in all of these initiatives in 2019 and we will continue to update the Bobs and Crow Lakes community as we work through these priorities in 2019-2020.



No Better Time to Fish

Photo by: Joan Usher

	Heather Irving Sales Representative
	"A Bobs Lake Resident"
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Marine Safety

Marine Safety - 2019

By: Dick Johnston

Buoys –We Need Volunteers!

After years of managing the buoys/markers for shoals in and around the western basin of Bobs Lake, Rick Smith has decided to resign as one of our volunteers. On behalf of the Association and all the boaters who safely travel that area, I would like to extend a big 'Thank you Rick' for your efforts and commitment.

Rick was responsible for approximately 20 locations. Since this is a large area to cover, if anyone is interested in volunteering to look after a specific portion, location or a number of buoys please contact us. For those who may be interested, the management of buoys entails the placement of them in the Spring, repositioning them throughout the boating season, as the water level drops and, the removal in the fall. The ordering of the buoys and associated supplies are the responsibility of the Association.

This is a very active boating area so having volunteers to assist with this undertaking is important for the safety of boaters as well as eliminating the potential damage to boats and expense to boat owners. Thank you for your consideration.

Invasive Species

Everyone is aware of and concerned about zebra mussels in our lakes. I know they are here but what I do not know is what the long-range impact will be. That is a discussion best left for scientists and other experts who know about water conditions, survivability and growth patterns.

Over the last few years there have been stories and photos of zebra mussels being found on anchors, chains, barrels under floating rafts, and on the bottom of boats. This year when I removed a ladder from my floating dock, I found more shells on the steps than I have ever found before. I estimated that were about 50 different sizes and shapes of shells on the steps.



Zebra Mussels

Throughout this season I also noticed a couple of otters hanging around the shoreline. Since clams and mussels are a food source this would account for the increase in the number of the larger empty shells. I subsequently found out that otters eat zebra mussels. So, it now appears that the otters were using the steps as their dining room table. Great – now I will have to monitor this closely as the shells are very sharp and pose a health hazard.

When doing research on this issue I came across some interesting web sites that talk about invasive species and what you can do to prevent the spread of existing ones and help prevent new ones from entering our lakes. What I realized is that there are other invasive species e.g. the round goby and Asian carp, which potentially could become a problem, if we are not vigilant and take steps to help eliminate their transfer to other bodies of water. The round goby has already been found in parts of southern Ontario, the St. Lawrence River and upper New York State.



Round Goby



Marine Safety – 2019 (cont'd)

The Ontario Government has a very helpful web site. If you search 'Invasive Species in Ontario' you will find action plans for – Anglers, Boaters, Cottagers, Gardeners and Hikers.

Rather than going into great detail about the different plans, here are some of the highlights for Anglers and Boaters:

- Clean and wash your gear,
- Do not dump your bait bucket in the water or on the ice,
- Use local bait,
- Rinse out you live well,
- Avoid areas that have invasive aquatic plants,
- Remove plants from you boat, motor and trailer before travelling,
- Dispose of plants so they do not end up back in the water,
- Power wash and dry your boat, motor and trailer,
- Drain any standing water in your boat

The site also contains information on the Invasive Species Act and maps which tracks the spread of invasive species.

If you come across an invasive species, you can report it to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Invasive Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711.

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Events & Information

BioBlitz – August 15-16, 2020

By: Bill St. Arnaud

The GBCLA is hosting a BioBlitz in 2020, its first since 2013. A Bioblitz brings together experts/specialists from a diverse set of natural science disciplines and volunteers, to inventory all species of plants and animals in an area over a continuous 24-hour period. The designated site is on crown land situated in between Bobs and Crow lakes, which is the same as the 2013 BioBlitz. The records of all identified species is compared to the 2013 results, to provide a snapshot of the wellbeing of our lake species and biodiversity at that location on that date and how it has changed since 2013.



We have over 12 experts from a diverse set of natural science disciplines including amphibians and reptiles, birds, plants and fungi, mammals, trees, geology, insects and even First Nations natural medicines. The fun starts at 12:00 noon on Friday August 15 until 12:00 noon on Saturday August 16. The teams of experts, citizen scientists and the general public all contribute to this scientific effort. Children in particular receive a hands-on lesson on the local flora and fauna that cannot be duplicated in any school environment.

Our teams of experts will lead walking tours on the 3 well-defined trails pointing our unique species and interesting environmental aspects of Bobs and Crow lakes. The tours take place throughout the day and well into the night. To complement the information from the tour, there will be lots of educational material for you and the kids to take home for future reference. There will also be a sponsored barbeque

at the end on Saturday August 16 for all participants. There is ample parking and even space to dock your boat if you come by water.

Members of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association can attend for free. All adult non-members will be asked for a \$10 donation to help support the organization of the next BioBlitz. So, mark down in your calendars to attend this major event hosted by your lake Association. If you miss this one, your next chance will not be there for at least 5 years.

If you would like to volunteer to help us organize the 2020 BioBlitz, please contact Bill St. Arnaud at bill.st.arnaud@gmail.com.

For more information on the design and concept of a BioBlitz program, go to: <https://www.ontariobioblitz.ca/>



Blue Heron

Photo by: Jim Flett



Wildlife Around the Lakes

It's Not Entirely Hogwash!

By: Ben Stevens

You've likely been hearing the reports of herds of wild boar rampaging around the Ontario countryside – well it's mainly hogwash, but not entirely. MNRF keeps records of sightings, and in our general area of Eastern Ontario, we have had 2 recorded sightings, and yes one of them was close to Mill Bay on Bobs Lake.



So, what are they and where are they coming from? Genuine wild boars are typically escapees from the few farms who raise them for meat, or (in parts of the US) for hunting. Plus of course there are the domestic farm pigs and pet pigs that get the wanderlust. Ellie the Pig went AWOL for over 2 months near Woodstock NB recently – and then turned up back home looking for a meal – having lost 20kg on her trip. And yes, there are many cases of domestic pigs mating with the wild ones. Physically, they look quite different, but these feral hybrids may confuse us as they quickly take on a quite different appearance from the farmyard porky. Wild pigs are usually dark in colour, 5-6 ft (1.5-1.8) from nose to tail and 2.5-3 ft (0.75-0.9m high). They are usually very shy of humans – they very quickly learn that we are a threat and can disappear at a high speed running up to 30 mph (50km/hr). And, even though both males and females grow tusks, they are rarely a threat to humans unless you have one cornered.

Does it matter if they spread to our area?

Reports from the US, UK and Germany claim they are doing widespread damage -- they breed very rapidly (about 6 per litter) and are smart enough to not get caught. Weighing in the range of 125 to 250lbs (55 to 110kgs), a family group (called a

sounder) of 8 can eat their way through a crop of soya beans in a hurry. Their habit of rooting in the ground can do widespread damage to woodlands, and there is a concern about spreading diseases to which the native wildlife has little resistance. The USDA estimates their wild pig population as 5 to 6 million, over 35 States and costing US farmers about \$1-2bn a year. The main centres for the wild pigs in Canada are Saskatchewan and Yukon, but there have been 35 reported sightings in Ontario in the last year, mainly in the south west. *"The growing wild pig population is not an ecological disaster waiting to happen—it is already happening,"* said University of Saskatchewan's Ryan Brook, lead researcher for the Canadian Wild Pig Project, a Canada-wide research program.

What to do if we see one? Email a report to: MNRFSpeciesConservationPolicyBranch@ontario.ca

And go to:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/ontario-wild-pig-reporting>

Can we hunt them? Yes but....

1. You need a small game hunting licence and,
2. only if MNRF cannot identify who owns the animals or,
3. if the owner has not killed or captured them as soon as possible.

What if they are damaging my property, what can I do? As a home owner, you are entitled to scare away, capture or kill most wild animals, if the animal is causing damage to your property.

You don't need a permit, but you do need to follow certain rules (mainly related to humane killing or trapping). For more info go to:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/reporting-wild-pigs-ontario>

Bottom line, there is little reason to believe the scare stories about wild boar romping around Bobs and Crow Lakes – you'll probably never see one. But if you do, take action right away – we don't need them on the loose. Let me know if you see any.



The Story of The Mink

By: Ben Stevens

It was a warm day in early June and there I was groveling under the waterside cottage stapling chicken wire everywhere to deter the porcupines from eating the woodwork (good luck with that!).

Out of the corner of my eye, I kept seeing a quick flash of black on the crib dock. Intrigued (and looking for any excuse...), I sat quietly and waited. Sure enough, within a couple of minutes, a sleek black mink appeared, running back and forth on the dock and peering down into the rocks. Then she vanished, only to shortly reappear at the other end of the cottage tugging a muskrat backwards up the steps.



Now the muskrat looked to be about twice her size, so although it was dead, it was a real struggle. Up the four concrete steps, then up five wooden steps and along the foreshore, alternately straddling and tugging, round the brush pile, down the path, along the full length of the cottage and finally up the steep slope towards her den. The show went on for about 15 minutes and the only time she showed any concern for my presence was when I popped my head around the corner to continue watching; she dropped her lunch, scampered off a few feet, peered intensely at me and then boldly returned for her prey.

So, what's this all about? The mink is a member of the weasel family (a baby sister of the fishers and otters) and, are typically about 2 feet (60 cms) long of which about ¼ is the tail. In real life, they look a bit shorter because of the way their back arches when galloping. Their weight is in the range of 1½ to 4 lbs (0.67 to 1.8kg) with the males & females about the same length, but males outweighing females by about 50%. They vary in colour and appearance – looking furry and brown when dry, but sleek and black when wet.

Muskrat by comparison are shorter and fatter, weighing up to 4lbs (1.8kg), but they are a regular

prey of the mink. The mink is equally at home on land and in the water, so swimming away gives no chance of escape for the muskrat.



Judging by the size, the date and the behaviour, it was a female with young to feed. They breed early in the year with the young appearing in May or June. Both males and females mate several times so, the 4-6 babes may have several different fathers. The dens may be a hollow log (cedars are ideal for this), they can dig their own or maybe take over from a family of muskrats, but they are always close to water. The young stay around the den for a couple of months and then disperse at the end of the summer. Their hunting areas are up to about 2 miles (3.5kms) along the lakeshore and often overlap with their next door neighbour mink.

Their sense of smell is comparatively weak so it relies heavily on sight when foraging. They are bold little creatures and they'll often come very close by if you sit still on the lakeshore. But don't attempt to touch them – they are ferocious hunters and will make a mess of your fingers in no time. Besides which, they are quite capable of loosing off a defensive smell very similar to a skunk! They prefer night-time hunting, but we've seen them many times in broad daylight. They don't hibernate, so look for their footprints in the snow – five toes, 1¼ by 1¼ ins (3 x 3 cms) in a diamond pattern. For comparison, weasel tracks are about half the size and fishers twice the size.

On balance, they are a beneficial neighbour for us with a wide variety of food in their diet – mice, squirrels, rabbits and fish – as well as their favourite – muskrat. We probably have a couple of hundred or so around the lake, so please let me know if you spot one.

Fun fact: Not only are Minks great swimmers, they can move on land up to speeds of 8 mph and can also climb trees!!



Amazing Loons! (and how we can help them with their survival)

By: Jenn Lantz

As we already know, loons are amazing creatures, diving deep for fish up to 75 feet, sharing parental duties, and providing us with so many beautiful calls throughout the summer. The image of a loon on the lake is such an iconic Canadian image as well as a powerful indicator of lake health. Canada hosts up to 95% of the world's Common Loon population!

Loons return to the same breeding territory year after year and live up to 30 years, so we also have a long time to enjoy them. Because of their longer life span, they don't breed until they are between the ages of 5-11 years. Typically, incubation lasts around 27 days, and two eggs are often laid at a time. If you've ever been fortunate enough to have seen the nest of a loon, you will likely have noticed they nest on the water's edge, near a shallow and well vegetated part of the lake. The placement of loon's legs at the far back of their body does not allow the loon to walk very easily on land. They also need to be able to protect the chicks from predators, as well as have close access to smaller fish to feed them. It is not until the chicks are 6 weeks old, are they out of the danger zone.

The average loon pair has just one successful chick every other year. There are various threats to chick survival, among them water level fluctuations, boating activities, nesting habitat loss, and lead poisoning.

Threats

This summer, Bird Studies Canada released a citizen based, 32-year survey of loons. Sadly, it indicated declining reproductive success putting the loon in a category for concern. The biggest concern in Canada is the presence of mercury and acid precipitation in our lakes. This is largely caused by pollution and climate change, something we are all familiar with now.

However, there are other threats to the survival of the loon which we can easily control. As mentioned, loons will nest very close to the shore where there is soft vegetation, often on an island. I've seen nests on Snake island (Crow Lake) and a couple of islands in Bob's lake. Loon nesting is in danger when water levels fluctuate and when boats come

too close and create a wake. Nests or vulnerable chicks can be easily washed away.

When loons dive for food they also ingest small rocks which they keep in their gizzard while feeding. These rocks aid in the digestion of fish by helping grind the bones and fins. Because of this, they also ingest sinkers and jigs used by anglers. This can happen while the line is moving through the water or, the loon might tackle the fish as its been reeled in. The loon might also ingest jigs and sinkers that have sunk to the bottom of the lake. Fortunately, loons have evolved to swallow spiny fish so, they are often okay with hooks. However, if they ingest a jig or sinker that contains lead, they will die within two weeks. A recent study done in New Hampshire found that 49% of 253 deceased loons had died from lead poisoning. Considering the average Canadian angler can lose 11-15 jigs and sinkers per year, this can pose a real threat if they contain lead.



An X-ray of a loon shows a lead jig head lodged in the gizzard. Source: Mark Pokras, Tufts University.

How to Help

June is generally the month for nesting, with July into early August the vulnerable time for chick development. To help with successful nesting, you can allow deadfall trees to remain where they've fallen by the water. This will eventually attract insects and small fish as well as provide the needed protection for the chicks.

When boating, avoid coming too close to soft shorelines or small islands. Driving slow around loons and other water birds is always encouraged.

Of course, preventing fishing gear such as line, from falling into the lake will prevent it from entangling all wildlife.



Amazing Loons (cont'd)

There are many safe alternatives to lead tackle as well. Steel, tungsten, tin, bismuth, antimony, brass, terpene, resin, putty and polypropylene are all good options and the cost is minimal. If you do not find any of these options from your local supplier, ask that they carry them. Dispose of any old fishing tackle stock that contains lead.

To learn more about fishing lead-free www.wildnh.com/fishing/get-the-lead-out.html.

Bird Studies Canada is beginning a 40-year loon survey report and is looking for citizen scientists! This would involve conducting three surveys a season: June (looking for nesting signs); July (looking for chicks); and August (to see if the chicks survived).

For more information on volunteering, or to read the recent loon survey, visit: birdscanada.org/volunteer/cls/resources/CLLSummary.pdf

Sources

- Canadian Geographic
- Bird Studies Canada
- Cottage Life
- Living Bird Magazine 2018
- loon.org
- eagletimes.com
- Government of Canada-Environment-Climate change services



Loons Crossing Green Bay at Dawn

Photo by: Jim Flett

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Black Bears at Bobs and Crow Lakes

By: Joselyn Morley

There have been quite a few bear sightings around Bobs & Crow Lakes this summer, a fact which is both awesome and alarming. It's awesome that we have healthy terrestrial and watershed ecosystems at our lakes capable of supporting these animals. It is alarming that they are getting close enough for pictures, and that they are not very afraid of us.

The black bear is Ontario's only bear, and substantially smaller than other species of bear found in North-America. Males typically weigh between 120 and 300 kg (250-650 lbs) and measure 130 to 190 cm (4-6 feet) from nose to tail. The female is smaller and slighter, weighing between 45 and 180 kg (100-400 lbs) with a nose-to-tail length of 110 to 170 cm (3 ½ -5 ½ feet). Their weight fluctuates and it is possible for a bear to double its weight between the spring when it emerges from hibernation, and the fall as it prepares to hibernate again. Their weight can also fluctuate from one year to the next, depending on the availability of food.

Bears' habits and biology vary hugely depending on the food supply. Although they usually mate in June and July, the fertilized egg does not implant in the

**Black Bears at Bobs and Crow Lakes (cont'd)**

uterus until it is time to go into the den for hibernation in the fall. If the food supply hasn't been adequate, and the bear hasn't gained enough weight to support her and cubs through the winter, the already-fertilized egg will not implant, and the bear will not have cubs that winter. This phenomenon, combined with the fact that a female is only fertile for about five days in a year, and only two or three years after successful mating and birth, makes for a potentially precarious reproductive life. Bears have the lowest rate of reproduction of all land mammals in North America, with exception of the muskox.

Cubs are born during hibernation, usually in January, but later if the female went into hibernation late due to an abundance of food. By six weeks old the cubs weight only 2 to 3 kg (4-7 lbs). There are usually two or three cubs and they leave the den in April or May at about 5 kg (10 lbs). Mama bears wake up very hungry, having lost up to half of their body weight during the winter birthing and nursing their cubs. She needs to find enough food to start putting weight back on while she's nursing her cubs, and she needs to find all this food with those two or three cubs in tow.

Black bears live in mixed boreal forests, relying on trees for cover and food. They are generally out and about from an hour before sunrise, to an hour after sunset and often cool off in the middle of a hot day near water. Bears are very good swimmers and tree climbers. They can run fast, are remarkably dexterous, and extremely intelligent with very impressive memories. They can remember where they found food last year and, will travel up to 100 km or so back to the familiar source.

Bears are omnivores and will travel widely for food and will migrate to follow berries, nuts, and new spring growth. They eat mostly plants, including berries, new growth leaves and branches, fruit, and some grains, but they also eat insects, fish, and smaller animals and, will occasionally eat young deer or moose. They are opportunistic and will take advantage of all available food sources, which brings them into contact with humans. They have a keen sense of smell and will travel long distances to take advantage of specific seasonal foods at different times of the summer and fall.

Bears are consumed by looking for food. There is higher chance of problem bear activity when food is scarce, as well as in the spring following a year of poor food availability. Most bears avoid humans

nevertheless, their relentless search for food, combined with our continual expansion into rural areas and mixed forests provides opportunity for conflict. Bears can damage crops, livestock, beehives, and property in their quest for food. Bear-human conflict tends to increase in years where the bears' food is poor due to weather. This past spring in Ontario, it was colder and wetter than normal pushing the growing season back a few weeks. Then the weather turned hot, and dry, negatively impacting other food sources.

We don't have control over the weather, but we do have control over other factors that, when their habitual food is scarce, lead bears to search for food where they shouldn't. Bears will eat garbage because it is a relatively regular source of food. It smells good, it is predictable and, it is often high in calories making it worth finding. Bears can smell garbage for miles and once they find a garbage source, they will remember and return. Garbage should always be kept in bear-resistant containers or inside until garbage day. Don't put garbage out the night before and keep food scraps frozen until garbage day. Keep garbage cans clean and if you have no garbage pickup, take the garbage to the dump often. This is a problem for the entire community, and it takes everyone's participation to deter scavenging bears. If you take care of your garbage but your neighbour does not, a scavenging bear will nevertheless be in your area. At Bobs & Crow Lakes, there have been groups of people get together to purchase good quality, bear-resistant cans. Areas that had previously experienced scavenging bears, cut off the supply of garbage, and no longer had problems with bears.

Bird feeders make great bear feeders. Birds do not need to be fed in the summer so save the bird seed and feeders for the winter time. If you feed the hummingbirds, consider planting some flowers that the humming birds like, rather than hanging jugs of sugar water in front of your windows. Some flowers hardy in our zone that attract hummingbirds are: scarlet bee balm, sage, cardinal flower, coral honeysuckle, wild colombine, weigela, cosmos, hummingbird petunia, some geraniums, yarrow, hollyhocks, fuchsia and trumpet flower.

Clean up any food scraps, barbecue residue and food-smelling litter. Remember that cooking smells will attract bears. Sadly, composting is not a good idea where there are bears. Don't leave over-ripe fruit on trees or vines, or let it collect on the ground. When camping, learn how to hang your food to keep



Black Bears at Bobs and Crow Lakes (cont'd)

it out of reach of bears. It is worth learning how to do it properly because it is not fool-proof. My first real encounter with black bears was while back-country camping in the Adirondacks at 14 with some experienced campers. Spending a fall night high in the hills around a fire, banging pots & singing while the bears eat through your food packs leaves an impression.

Be mindful when hiking, camping, or picnicking, that bears are out looking for food. They will be as eager to pick those wild raspberries as you are. Humans are horribly loud in nature so when there's the chance of bears out looking for lunch, feel free to keep making some noise. Bears don't want to be surprised by you any more than you want to be surprised by them. Chances are if Mama Bear is out in the berry bushes with her cubs, and she hears you coming, she will keep herself and her cubs out of sight.

Bear bells are a good idea if you're biking or hiking. A can of bear spray is probably a good idea to have if you're doing a lot of hiking through the woods. Remember though, more people have accidentally doused themselves or friends in bear spray, than have actually used it on a bear. Not knowing how to use bear spray is so widespread that when you purchase a can of bear spray now, you most likely will get a "practice can" with your purchase. You can even buy little cans of bear spray to attach to your key ring.

If you do encounter a bear, do not run away, play dead, or climb a tree! Don't make direct eye contact or get low to the ground. Make noise, sing, yell, curse, whatever..... but make some noise! A bear standing up looking at you is most likely just trying to get an idea of what you are. It's not squaring off for a fight, so don't panic.

Stay calm and back away from the bear. Go inside when possible and make sure you bring pets and children in with you. Encourage the bear to leave. Make noise, bang things, honk a horn, blow a whistle, yell, and make noise with whatever you have available. If it is cornered, or in a tree, leave the bear alone. Keep the area cleared of people and pets, and it will leave when it can. If the bear found food or a bird feeder, make sure you get rid of whatever attracted the bear. Since bears will return to a place it found food, make sure that when it does it finds no more food. Once an attractant such as garbage or bird feeder is removed, bears

will generally return a couple of times looking for food, but when it finds none will stop coming by.

Ontario has a Bear Wise reporting line which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week between April 1 and November 30. You are encouraged to call and report any non-emergency bear encounters such as if a bear roams around or checks out garbage cans, breaks into a shed where garbage or food is stored, is in a tree, pulls down a bird feeder, knocks down a barbecue, or moves through a backyard or field but does not linger.

Bear Wise Reporting Line: 1-866-514-2327



A Visitor On Our Deck, Bob's Lake Photo by: Azimouse Ball



A Lake Resident Photo by: Jim Flett



Osprey Pole on Bobs Lake

By: Carson Jen

The osprey nesting pole at the entrance to Mud Bay across from Cedar Haven Cottages is an iconic landmark of Bobs Lake. Most residents and visitors to the lake who have boated past the pole, have heard the baby osprey every year chirping anxiously for their mother. By the time a boat was near the pole mother osprey was usually circling overhead warning everyone to not get any closer.

During a nasty storm in August, the osprey nesting pole across from Cedar Haven fell into the water. Ice flows were the likely reason for the pole foundation to crack and shift, which led to about 10 years of the pole leaning over like the “Leaning Tower of Bobs Lake”. This nesting pole plus the 2nd pole across on the shore, have been used consistently by osprey for many years. The poles were erected over 25 years ago by the Donny Green family (owners of Cedar Haven Cottages) as a “gift” to these beautiful birds who call Bobs Lake their home. When news of the pole falling down spread, there was a swift social media response that the pole be re-erected.

A team led by Bill St. Arnaud of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (with funding from the Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation) designed and built a brand new and much stronger foundation. The other members of the construction team included Neil and Dick Johnston, Jean Faucher, Carson Jen, brothers Mark and Mike Cooke (of M-Roc Ltd) and their nephew Theodore (of Cooper Equipment Rentals who provided the heavy-duty equipment).



Osprey Nesting Pole at Entrance to Mud Bay

Two attempts in September to raise the pole failed. Raising a 12-meter, 180-kilogram pole on a tiny rock island in the middle of the water is no any ordinary cottage job. The pole is very top-heavy plus there is nothing to tie down one end of the pole in order to pull it up. Finally on October 8, the pole was successfully lifted onto the foundation by Bran Milberry of Buck Bay who used a large backhoe transported over on his working barge.

The family of osprey using this nest will be very happy that the pole is back up and well advance in time for breeding season in 2020.



Osprey Pole Nest



Majestic Osprey



Wildlife at the Dump

By: Carson Jen



Green Bay Dump

Do you ever wonder what sorts of wildlife visit your local garbage dump? We recently went to the Green Bay Dump on Burns Road to find out which services Bobs Lake residents. This location is operated by the Township of South Frontenac.



Trevor Jones of South Frontenac

We talked to Trevor Jones of South Frontenac Township about what he might see on a typical day on the job. The main types of wildlife he sees are black bears, turkey vultures, deer, raccoons, ground hogs and rabbits. There is likely a lot more wildlife that comes to the dump, but it is during off hours or at night. Bears are the most frequent visitors and make the biggest mess. They often come at dusk, but Trevor sometimes sees them in the early afternoon (probably looking for lunch after sleeping in!). A bear will occasionally grab the best smelling

bag and carry it off into the nearby woods so they do not have to share with anyone else.

More typically though, bears just start ripping open all bags as they lay on the ground in the dump area hoping one of them has something good to eat. Once the wind catches the open garbage, it becomes litter strewn all over Burns Road. Trevor said that the bears love it when fishermen bring the heads and leftover remains to the dump. Some fishermen bring frozen fish parts which were kept in the freezer until garbage day, in order to control fish odour in the cottage.



Turkey Vulture Tree

Turkey Vultures are the next most frequent visitor to the dump. Many residents have seen the tree at the dump with dozens of vultures perched there like a scene from a Alfred Hitchcock movie. Vultures are very efficient processors of carrion. Trevor's most recent "wildlife horror story" is of a rabbit that tried to enter a groundhog den underneath the wood shed at the dump. The groundhog attacked and killed the screaming rabbit to protect its litter. Trevor said this brutal act of nature was over in minutes. But within an hour, the entire rabbit carcass was stripped bare of meat by hungry vultures. Just another typical day at the dump!



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