

# **2025-2026**

## **Handy Guide book to Bobs & Crow Lakes**



**GREATER BOBS & CROW LAKES  
ASSOCIATION**

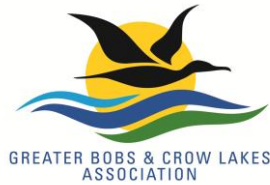


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Disclaimer: The Board of Directors of the GBCLA expressly makes no representations or warranties about the accuracy, reliability, completeness or timeliness of these contents, nor how this information is used.

## Welcome to Bobs and Crow Lake



On behalf of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA), we would like to welcome you to our favourite spot in paradise. With over 800 km of natural shoreline, clean water, diverse fishing and abundant wildlife, we believe that these lakes are the crown jewels of the Rideau Canal system.

During the last few years, sales prices for recreational lakefront properties have skyrocketed. Given the size of the financial and time commitment, it can be quite stressful for new owners to get a handle of what needs to be done. That is why the GBCLA has prepared a Handy Guide to Bobs and Crow Lakes. It contains lots of helpful information that may be difficult to find for someone new to the area and to cottage life. Knowing the right person or place to call can often reduce the stress of new ownership during your settling-in period.

The 2025-2026 Guide includes everything from where to get things, key phone numbers (GBCLA, Townships, Emergency services), water quality and lake levels, maintaining your septic and well, invasive species, a boating map, garbage dump info, health and safety tips and a copy of the Lake Views magazine. We will even give you a complimentary GBCLA floating key chain to help you retrieve any keys falling into the lake.

We would also urge you to join as a member of the GBCLA in supporting our programs and special events. We are a volunteer organization whose primary objective is aligned 100% with all owners: maintain the high quality of our lake water. Enjoying the lake, sustaining property values and protecting the natural environment, all depend on good lake water. For more information on our activities, please visit our web site at **[bobsandcrowlakes.ca](http://bobsandcrowlakes.ca)**.

Board of Directors  
Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association  
Email: [communications@bobsandcrowlakes.ca](mailto:communications@bobsandcrowlakes.ca)

July 1, 2025

Welcome

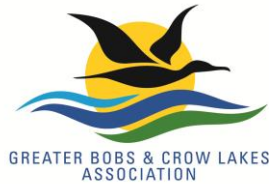
## Board of Directors

Director Name Responsibility	Job Description	Phone number and Email
Vacant President	Chairs the Board of Directors. Represents the GBCLA in collaborating with Parks Canada, Provincial Govt Departments, Townships, Conservation Authorities, FOCA, and Lake Environmental groups and Associations.	president@bobsandcrowlakes.ca
Larry Arpaia Past President	Support for the new President.	613 279 3210
Rick Prudil Membership Admin	Responsible for processing of membership applications, donations and payment options such as Paypal.	613 985 0479 membership@bobsandcrowlakes.ca
Vacant Communications	Responsible for communications to all members, such as the GBCLA web site, Facebook and Elerts.	communications@bobsandcrowlakes.ca
Dan Kano Fisheries	Responsible for all programs relating to the fisheries on Bobs and Crow lakes, such as spawning bed rehabilitations.	gbcla.fisheries@gmail.com
Dick Johnston Marine Safety	Responsible for boating and water safety, including safety buoys around the lake.	613 273 3976 marine.safety@bobsandcrowlakes.ca
Peter Thorpe- Levitt Stewardship	Responsible for all programs relating to conservation on Bobs and Crow lakes.	freetownpete@rogers.com
Bonnie Carabott Water Quality	Responsible for coordination of volunteers who collect water samples in Bobs and Crow lakes as part of the Lake Partner Program.	613 279 2939 water.quality@bobsandcrowlakes.ca
Carson Jen Treasurer	Responsible for the accounting, financial statements and banking of the GBCLA.	
Jean/Cindy Faucher Crow Lake Rep	Responsible for representing the general interests of Crow Lake cottage owners at Board meetings.	613 883 9600 crowlakerep@bobsandcrowlakes.ca
Heather Veltman	Recording Secretary	
Lynn Watson Secretary	Corporate signing office, responsible for correspondence/Acting President	president@bobsandcrowlakes.ca
Kathy Yach Cottage Safety	Responsible for programs and events on cottage safety and security	



# Board of Directors

## Benefits of a Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association Membership



### Why Join?

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association is a volunteer organization whose highest priority is the same as all cottage and homeowners: maintaining the high quality of our lake water, enjoying the lake, sustaining property values and protecting the natural environment are all dependent on good quality water.

### What we do?

1. We work to protect and promote water quality. The GBCLA supports a broad water monitoring program in conjunction with province of Ontario-funded agencies and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.
2. Our Fisheries Committee is very active each spring during the Walleye spawning period conducting habitat assessments and Walleye spawn counts. On occasion we also assist the Ministry of Natural Resources with fall Walleye stocking programs.
3. The Marine Safety program places and maintains over 70 highly visible buoys to protect boaters from rocks and shoals, as well as oversees all boat speed signage.
4. Our team of Water Quality volunteers take regular water clarity readings in support of the Ontario Lake Partner Program. We also support the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority surface water sampling/monitoring program.
5. Annually host nature events to educate and develop an appreciation for the natural wildlife who call Bobs and Crow lakes their natural habitat.
6. Provide timely news updates and educational information through our Lake Views magazine, E-Lert emails, and our **bobsandcrowlakes.ca** web site.

### What you get?

- For \$40 (regular membership) you get the satisfaction of supporting a volunteer organization that is working hard to support many of the same causes as you do.
- Our semi-annual Lake Views magazine.
- Complimentary copy of our handy Guidebook to Bobs and Crow Lakes.
- Attendance at our Annual General Meeting with a range of informative speakers
- Invites to all nature events on the lake.
- Invites to special events such as the Cottage Safety Fair and Nature Bioblitz, that are held from time to time.

# Benefits of a Membership



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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Magazine by Email only**

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):

☐ Big Bobs (Main/West Basin)

☐ Crow Bay

☐ Central Narrows

☐ Long Bay

☐ Green Bay

☐ Buck Bay

☐ Mud Bay Basin

☐ Norris Bay

☐ Bobs Lake East Basin

☐ Crow Lake

☐ Mill Bay

☐ Island Property

Annual membership dues are **\$40.00**. Business membership is **\$75**.

If you wish to donate additional funds please indicate amount \$\_\_\_\_\_. If this donation is to be used for a specific purpose let us know. \_\_\_\_\_

Visit our website [bobsandcrowlakes.ca](http://bobsandcrowlakes.ca) and use our secure online payment methods of **Paypal or E-transfer**. The Membership form can be completed online. Cheques (and membership form) should be payable to Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association, and mailed to:

Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association  
c/o Rick Prudil  
2018 Centreville Road  
Centreville ON K0K 1N0  
Membership enquiries: [rickprudil@hotmail.com](mailto:rickprudil@hotmail.com)



## Township/Government Contacts

Government Service or Department	Contact Information
Township of South Frontenac: (all Bobs Lake except north end, most of Crow Lake)	Main number: 613-376-3027 Toll free (613 area only): 1-800-559-5862 <a href="http://www.southfrontenace.net">www.southfrontenace.net</a>
Mayor Ron Vandewal	613- 376-3027, X2236 Go to website for email access
Township of Central Frontenac: (NW end of Crow lake)	Main number: 613-279-2422 Road Emergencies: 613 279 2935 <a href="http://www.centralfrontenac.com">www.centralfrontenac.com</a>
Mayor: Frances Smith	613 279 3144 <a href="mailto:mayor_smith@centralfrontenac.com">mayor_smith@centralfrontenac.com</a>
Tay Valley Township: (NE corner of Bobs lake)	Main number: 613-267-5353 Toll free (613 area only): 1-800-810-0161 <a href="http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca">www.tayvalleytwp.ca</a>
Reeve: Rob Rainer	613 200-0249 Go to website for email access
Property Assessments: Municipal Property Assessment Corp. (MPAC)	Toll free: 1-866-296-6722 <a href="http://www.mpac.ca">www.mpac.ca</a>
Well water testing: Kingston Laboratory Province of Ontario Public Health:	181 Barrie Street, Kingston, 613-548-6630 221 Portsmouth Ave., Kingston, 613-549-1232 <a href="http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/Water-testing.aspx#.VzH3-vkrKUk">www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/Water-testing.aspx#.VzH3-vkrKUk</a> Drop off water samples at Public Health offices in Sharbot Lake, Tay Valley, Sydenham, Kingston
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority	1-800-267-3504 3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick <a href="http://www.rvca.ca">www.rvca.ca</a>
Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Public Health, (Septic Systems)	Kingston: 1-800-267-7875 Sharbot Lake: 613-279-3997 <a href="http://www.kflaph.ca">www.kflaph.ca</a>
Ministry of Natural Resources (Peterborough)	1-800-667-1940 <a href="http://www.ontario.ca/ministry-natural-resources-and-forestry">www.ontario.ca/ministry-natural-resources-and-forestry</a>
Parks Canada	Darryl Whitehead, External Relations Mgr, Ontario Waterways: <a href="mailto:darryl.whitehead@pc.gc.ca">darryl.whitehead@pc.gc.ca</a>

## Grocery Stores

**Westport:** Kudrinkos (Westport): Independent, 22 Main St., 613-273-2130

**Verona:** Foodland Associated with Sobey's, 6145 #38 highway, 613-374-2112

**Sharbot Lake:** Mike Deans, Independent, 1039 Elizabeth St., 613-417-0321

## Convenience Stores, Specialty Shops, Local markets

Gray's Groceries and Bakery: 14832 Hwy #38 near Hwy #7, 613-279-2725

Seed to Sausage: 12821 Hwy 38, artisanal meats, cheese, 613-279-2455

Food Less Travelled (6674 Hwy #38 Verona): Local, organic, home bakery, pastured fed meat, 613-374-3663

New Toppers Market, 6834 Hwy #38, Verona, 613-374-2394

Godfrey General Store, (Hwy #38 and Westport Rd) 613-374-2345

Parham Convenience (10951 Hwy #38 at Wagerville Road), 613-375-6335

Petro-Can Gas bar and Convenience, 24544 Hwy #7 at Hwy #38, 613-279-2382

## Restaurants

### Westport:

Tangled Garden: 7 Church St,  
613 273 7733

Lost Penny Pub: 9 Church St., 613-273-7733

The Cove Inn: 2 Bedford St.,  
613 273 3636

The Country Kitchen: 72 Bedford St.  
613 273 8777

Milano's Pizza: 39 Bedford St., 613 273  
8883

Scheuermann Vineyard and Winery: 82  
Bedford St., 613-449-6548

Wood fire Café: 15 Church St, 613-273-8900

Forno Sourdough Pizza and Bread: 52b  
Concession St. 613-200-8859

Westport Brewing Company: 41b Main st.  
613-273-2739

### Sharbot Lake:

Cardinal Café: 14153 #38 613 279 3734

Sharbot Lake Country Inn: 14152 #38  
613 279 2198

Belong: 1004 Medical Centre Rd,  
613 279 8646

### Verona:

M.O.M. Restaurant: 6775 #38,  
613 374 2817

Muddy Waters: 6557 #38, 613 374 5444

Rivendell Golf Club: 7359 Hwy 38 613-374-  
3404

### Maberly:

The River House Winery: 221  
Davern Lane, 613 273 9463

## Beer, Wine and Spirits (LCBO)

Verona: inside Foodland

Westport: 15 Church St.

Sharbot Lake: #7 near Petro-can  
station

### **Beer**

Sharbot Lake: #7 near Petro-Can

Circle K, 73 Concession Street

Westport Brewing, 41 Main St.

### **Wine**

Westport: Scheuermann Vineyard  
and Winery - Westport Rd.



## Pharmacy

**Westport:** I.D.A., 3 Church St  
613 273 2922

**Verona:** Verona Drug Mart, 6676  
#38, 613 374 5500

**Sharbot Lake:** PharmaSave, 1036  
Elizabeth St, 613 279 2901

## Veterinarian

**Westport Veterinary Services:**  
39 Concession St. Westport  
613 273 4250

## Tourism Office

**Westport:** next to Post Office at  
corner of Main & Rideau, 613-273-  
2929

## Banks

**Sharbot Lake:** Royal Bank  
1048 Elizabeth St.:  
613 279 3191

**Westport:** Bank of Montreal  
41 Main St:  
613 273 2161

**Verona:** Bank of Montreal  
6714 #38:  
613 374 2213

## Post Office

**Sharbot Lake:** Elizabeth St. next to  
Royal Bank

**Westport:** corner of Main & Rideau

**Verona:** #38 downtown

**Parham:** #38 just before corner heading  
south

## Hardware and Building Supplies

Sharbot Lake Building Centre (#38 in Sharbot Lake): 613 279 2947

Herlehy Building Centre (10062 Perth Rd, Westport): 613 273 2052

Westport Home Hardware (4 Church St, Westport): 613 273 3142

Rona (6723 Main St., Verona): 613 374 2851

Asseltine Hardware (6826 Main St., Verona): 613 374 3400

Atkinson Building Centre (5276 Hinchinbrooke Rd, Hartington): 613 372 2838

## DECKERMAN SERVICES

### GENERAL CARPENTRY & RENOVATIONS

Recently re-located from Ottawa, Fred Steward is a General Contractor now making Bob's Lake a permanent home. Looking to provide quality craftsmanship he has been providing services over the past 17-years to local residents as well as 20-years to Ottawa and area residents.

Structural levelling, insulating, winterizing and renovating of cottage interior and exteriors, roof replacements, construction of out buildings, decks, docks and all other aspects of cottage country needs.

Also able to provide a majority of the above services in surrounding areas between Sharbot Lake and Kingston.

Committed to excellence while completing project on time, within budget.

Will provide a list of references for confirmation of work carried out.

Contact via phone or email.

Fred Steward  
613-291-3149  
ewtsdad@outlook.com

## Waterfront Accommodations

### Bobs Lake:

Bobs Lake Cottages: 613 273 9193  
 Green Bay Heritage Cabins: 613 273 2370  
 Sunset Country Campgrd: 866 375 6649  
 Twin Oaks Camp: 613 273 5358  
 Cedar Haven Cottages: 613 279 2187  
 Kings Vacation Camp: 613 279 2995  
 Irwin's Cabins: 613 539 3022  
 Whitehouse Campgrd: 613 273 5526

### Crow Lake:

Brown's Lakeview Camp: 613-375-6627  
 The Oaks Cottages: 613 634 6093  
 Campbells Crow Lake: 613 279 2188

## Gas stations, Propane and Auto Repair

Sharbot Lake Petrocan: 24544 Hwy #7, 613 279 2382  
 Esso: 24515 Hwy #7, 613 279 2827  
 Ultramar: 24601 Hwy #7, 613 279 3361  
 Esso Verona: Hwy #38  
 613 374 2394  
 Esso Westport: 73 Concession St  
 613 273 9765  
 Rosebush Hartington: Hwy #38  
 Vaughn Auto Repairs:  
 613 374 5439  
 Sunset Country Campground:  
 866-375-6649  
 Stinson's Gas: Godfrey, 613 374 2345

## Marine Gas (gas for boats)

Twin Oaks (Bobs Lake):  
 613 273 5358  
 Sunset Country (Bobs Lake):  
 866 375 6649



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 www.solacepest.ca



## Garbage Dumps

Township and Locations	Hours
<b>South Frontenac:</b>	
Salem site: 1779 Devil Lake Road, Westport	Tue: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Portland site: 6085 Hwy #38, Verona	Wed and Sat: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Bradshaw site: 85 Pine Shores Lane, Tichborne	Thurs: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Green Bay site: 174 Burns Road, Godfrey	Regular Hours: Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Summer Hours*: Fri 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, Sun 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm *Summer hours May long weekend to Thanksgiving long weekend. Regular hours apply for balance of the year.
For more information go to: <a href="http://www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/landfill-locations-and-times.asp">www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/landfill-locations-and-times.asp</a>	
<b>Central Frontenac:</b>	
Oso: 1130 Wemp Rd. (off Crow Lake Rd)	Mon, Fri, Sat: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Tue, Sun: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
For more information go to: <a href="http://www.centralfrontenac.com/Waste.html">www.centralfrontenac.com/Waste.html</a>	
<b>Tay Valley:</b>	
Maberly site: 582 Zealand Rd, Maberly (west of County Rd 36)	Check Tay Valley Township's website for dump hours which change seasonally.
Glen Tay Dump: 156 Muttons Rd. Perth	
For more information go to: <a href="http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/en/resident-services/garbage-and-recycling.asp">www.tayvalleytwp.ca/en/resident-services/garbage-and-recycling.asp</a>	
<b>Notes for all Township sites:</b> All sites closed on statutory holidays and have bulk recycling bins. Each bag must be tagged with a Township tag.	

# Garbage Dumps



## Water Quality

According to the majority of cottage owners, water quality is by far the most important of their needs. The GBCLA plays a leadership role in monitoring, educating and advocating for measures that protect Bobs and Crow lakes from contaminants or invasive species, which may adversely affect water quality.

Bobs and Crow lakes both participate in the Surface Water Quality Monitoring program run by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). GBCLA volunteers assist the RVCA each year in conducting water testing at 9 locations for key water quality indicators including calcium, nitrogen, phosphorus, E coli and Secchi disk readings for water clarity. The GBCLA also participates in the Lake Partner Program (LPP) which is a provincial water-quality monitoring program for recreational lakes. Volunteers collect water samples and perform monthly water clarity observations at 11 locations between May and September. The LPP is coordinated by the Dorset Environmental Science Centre and receives funding from the Province of Ontario.

Overall water quality statement:

All nutrient and E. coli levels for 2021 in Bobs and Crow Lakes were within\* the Province of Ontario water quality guidelines. Water clarity readings were all above 2 meters which is deemed necessary to support an abundant and diverse aquatic life.

\*Some readings in areas with shallow water (Mill Bay, Mud Bay) are excluded in late summer and fall because the significant drop in water level renders the result invalid for use against the provincial guidelines.

### **Blue Green Algae**

Blue-green algae are microscopic, plant-like organisms that occur naturally in ponds, rivers, lakes and streams. Exposure to this alga can cause rashes, skin and eye irritation, allergic reactions and gastrointestinal upset.

Blue-green algae are not normally visible in the water, but populations can rapidly increase to form a large mass, or scum called a bloom when conditions are favourable. Blooms most commonly occur in late summer and early fall and thrive in areas where the water is shallow, slow moving and warm. Algae blooms also pose a risk to fish and other aquatic species, because as algae dies off it sinks to the bottom and decomposes. This decomposition process requires oxygen and can result in depleted dissolved oxygen levels in the water, limiting the available habitat for aquatic life. Dense blue-green algae blooms often make the water look like green pea soup.

Simple steps to prevent the growth of blue-green algae are:

- use phosphate-free detergents, personal care and household cleaning products
- avoid using fertilizers on lawns, especially fertilizers that contain phosphorus
- reduce runoff by maintaining vegetation along the natural shoreline on lake front properties
- check septic systems to ensure they do not leak

If you spot blue-green algal blooms, call: 416-325-3000 or 1-800-268-6060





## **E. Coli:**

E. Coli refers to a group of bacteria commonly found in the intestines of humans and animals. While most strains are harmless, some strains can cause severe stomach cramps, diarrhea and vomiting. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) once again conducted water clarity and E.Coli bacteria testing in 2021, as part of their Watershed Watch program. E. coli, which is used to assess the suitability for recreational use, was below the maximum Provincial Water Quality Objective (PWQO) of 100 colony forming units per 100ml (CFU/100ml) at all sites in both lakes.

## **Zebra Mussels:**

Zebra mussels are an invasive species that has spread throughout the great lakes and most inland lakes in Ontario. These mussels cause damage to the lake ecosystem, clog water pump intake lines, and their sharp shells can easily cut bare feet. Calcium, at a concentration of 20mg/l, allows zebra mussels to more likely establish colonies and complete their life cycle. The 2020 testing data indicates that Calcium was below the threshold of 20 mg/l in all bays, except for Green Bay and Long Bay. However, calcium concentrations are very close to exceeding this threshold in Mill Bay, Mud Bay, East Basin and Crow Lake.

Zebra mussels have well established colonies in Mud Bay, and have been at least observed in all other areas. Therefore, it is important property owners and users of the lake remain vigilant in protecting against the spread of this invasive species, particularly at public access points in these areas:

*Boats, fishing gear, and other recreational equipment should always be cleaned and inspected before entering a different waterbody, to minimize the spread of invasive species. Drain water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land. For more information, please visit [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)*

## **Aquatic Plants:**

Most shorelines have aquatic plants present to some degree. Some cottagers prefer to have a waterfront that is clear of plants which are often mislabeled as “weeds”. But aquatic plants help maintain water quality and provide important areas for fish to spawn, feed and hide from predators.





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## Lake Water Levels

### Bolingbroke Dam on Bobs Lake:

This dam is owned and operated by Parks Canada. The dam was initially constructed in 1821 to power mills at what became the Hamlet of Bolingbroke. In 1870, the federal government bought the site and raised the height of the dam. The water levels of the Tay Watershed (including Bobs and Crow Lakes) is managed by Parks Canada through the Bolingbroke dam. Bobs and Crow Lakes are the sole reservoir lakes for the Tay Watershed, which ultimately feeds the Rideau Canal system. As a "World Heritage" site it is the intention of Parks Canada to have the Rideau Canal at a maximum water level from approximately May 15 to Oct 15 each year. Parks Canada has complete control over the water level of Bobs Lake via the Bolingbroke Dam.

In 2018 Parks Canada began construction of a new dam at Bolingbroke as part of a larger \$3 billion program to upgrade highway, bridge and dam assets located in our national parks and along our historic canals. The dam was largely completed by 2020 at a cost of approximately \$6.5 million. The dam features a 2<sup>nd</sup> backup spillway to facilitate continued dam operations in the event of a problem with the operating spillway. The log placement engineering design is also the most advanced and safest of all the dams in the Parks Canada portfolio.

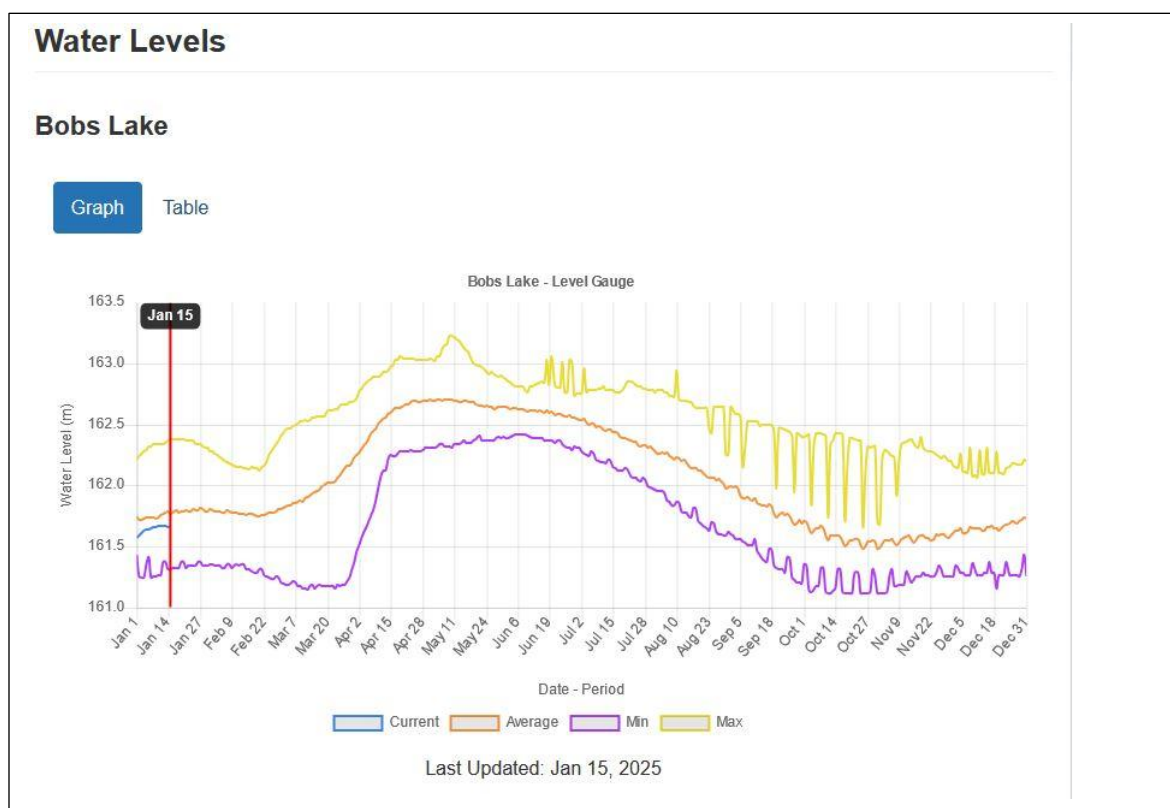




Parks Canada employs what is referred to as the Rule Curve to manage water levels on Bobs Lake. This model says that the difference in water levels (i.e. The difference between the high water and low water levels) on Bobs and Crow should reach an approximate average of 1.7 m (4 ft 9 in) each year. This is calculated as 1.7 cm per day drawdown over a 100-day period from late June to mid-October (i.e. 100 times 1.7 cm/day = 1.7 m/yr). Over this 100-day time period the Rideau Canal, is continuously fed by the Tay Watershed until approximately the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving in October. This average of 1.7 m is based on a range. This means that in some years it can be higher (e.g., 2.0 m in 2014) and lower in other years.

The Rule Curve does NOT specify the actual water level at any given location on the lake. It only refers to a difference in water levels. This means that in drought years, water levels will be lower. The water level for shallow areas of Bobs Lake may recede completely or recede much earlier in the season. Having inadequate direct water access and excessive flooding for a cottage owner are serious issues. However, Parks Canada is entrusted with managing the very delicate balance between cottage owner enjoyment, commercial and tourist requirements of the Rideau Canal and wildlife/fishery habitat needs. You may access current water levels online at the following URL:

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/waterlevels/>



## **Keeping our Lakes Healthy**

### **Maintain a Shoreline Buffer**

- Often referred to as the “Ribbon of Life”, this strip of natural vegetation along the shoreline is recommended to be 30 meters or 100 feet. A strip of 10 meters or 30 feet is a bare minimum. The shoreline buffer intercepts harmful contaminants such as fertilizers and pathogens from reaching the water and prevents the erosion of the banks which provide habitat for fish and other wildlife.
- Lawns do not make very good buffers since over 55% of precipitation runs off a short lawn into the lake and turf grass has short root systems which does not bind the soil very well.
- For a handy reference of what you can do to preserve your shoreline, visit <http://www.loveyourlake.ca/>

### **Shoreline Erosion**

- Erosion caused by human activity causes a loss of valuable waterfront property.
- The main causes to avoid are removal of shoreline vegetation, boat wake, construction along the shoreline such as hard surface break walls and seating areas and heavy foot traffic.

### **Maintain your Septic System**

- A malfunctioning septic can cause major problems from contaminating your well and your neighbours to polluting the lake.

### **Don't use Fertilizers or Pesticides within 30 meters (100 feet) of the lake**

- Fertilizer contains nitrogen and phosphorous, both of which raise nutrient levels in the water.
- High nutrient levels are a sign of deteriorating water quality and are monitored annually by the Rideau valley Conservation Authority and The Lake Partner program which is funded by the Ontario Government and supported by GBCLA volunteers.

### **Dispose of Chemicals properly:**

- Fuel motor craft responsibly to avoid spills directly or indirectly into the lake.
- Always bring extra chemicals, toxic substances and their empty storage containers to a hazardous waste depot. (See Garbage Dumps).

### **Build Low Impact Docks:**

- Increase habitat and reduce sediment disruption with a low impact dock.
- Examples are floating docks, cantilever docks that lift out of the water, and post style docks.

### **Don't put Grass and Leaves into the Lake**

- Grass and leaves are organic material and add more nutrients into the water which can feed algal blooms which in turn decreases oxygen available to aquatic life.
- Put clippings and leaves into a composter or leave on a site well back from the shoreline.


## Maintaining your Septic System

- A malfunctioning septic system can negatively affect two of the highest priorities of a cottage owner on Bobs and Crow lakes: contaminate your well drinking water and your neighbours plus pollute the lake.
- Replacing a neglected septic system can be very expensive and time consuming. Failures almost always occur at the most inconvenient time.
- Maintaining a functioning septic system does not require a lot of time or technical knowledge if you follow some simple Do's and Don'ts.
- Do's: regular pump outs/inspections every 3-5 yrs, protect the tile bed from heavy traffic and no trees, reduce water usage and use environmentally friendly products. Most systems 25 yrs old or less, have an effluent filter at the discharge end of the tank. These need to be removed and washed with hot water once or twice a year. The filter stops solids from plugging your tile field.
- Don'ts: nothing in your toilet/drain that belongs in a garbage can (e.g. cooking grease, biodegradable materials), no beneficial bacteria killers such as bleach, no hazardous wastes or pharmaceutical products, no septic starter products, no poisons such as gas, solvents, getting into the dispersal system.
- Warning signs of a failing septic system: Sewage surfacing or soggy areas over the field, slow drains/toilets/sinks, sewage odours around the property.
- If you have any doubts about your septic system, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority performs inspections for a reasonable cost. In some Townships their fee is even subsidized.



## Maintaining your Water Well

- There is no need to emphasize the importance of clean drinking water in the cottage.
- Maintaining a healthy level of water quality with an existing functioning well, is not a time-consuming, expensive or highly technical effort.
- Protect your well water: protect your well water at the ground surface by avoiding or eliminating contaminants. Fix septic system leaks, No gasoline, pesticides, solvents near the well.
- Inspect your well regularly: Make sure there are no gaps in the seal around your well casing, make sure the well cap is secure and sealed,
- Test water for bacteria: Ontario offers free water testing using kits available at several provincial agency locations (Township and Government Contacts). Testing a minimum of twice per year is recommended.
- Be water-wise: Given the increasing risk of periods of drought due to changes in the climate, water conservation plays a key role in preserving a precious supply of clean drinking water.
- Well experts now recommend that a particulate filter and/or UV treatment be installed on your drinking water line. These items do not replace water testing. However they provide significant additional protection to water quality.

**Heather Irving**  
Sales Representative  
“A Bobs Lake Resident”

**Sutton group-masters realty inc.**  
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[\*\*hirving@sutton.com\*\*](mailto:hirving@sutton.com)

**not intended to solicit sellers or buyers signed under contract**

## Invasive Plant Species

- There is a growing list of invasive plant species affecting Bobs and Crow lakes and their environs. They pose a threat by forcing out native vegetation and taking over large tracts of land.
- Many cottage owners are frustrated with aquatic invasive species which lead to “weedy” water fronts. Care should be taken when trying to remove these plants as they can easily spread from cuttings that re-root elsewhere on your property.
- One of the more high-profile outbreaks in the Bobs and Crow lake region is Wild Parsnip(See Cottage Health Tips).
- Reporting of outbreaks by cottagers around Bobs and Crow Lake help trigger responses to control and minimize their impact.
- Please refer to the invasive species web site for more information on identification and reporting: [www.invadingspecies.com/](http://www.invadingspecies.com/)



Invasive Aquatic Plant

### ***Sunset Country Campground***

*41Riders Lane, Tichborne, ON., K0H 2V0*

*West Basin Bobs Lak13-375-6649*

[www.sunset-country.ca](http://www.sunset-country.ca)

[Sunsetrv@gmail.com](mailto:Sunsetrv@gmail.com)

New - inside boat or equipment storage facility - winterizing  
and boat cleaning

Premium Gas - Propane Swap

Grocery Store - Chip Truck

Hand scooped ice cream



## Hunting and Fishing Information:

### Fishing:

- Bobs and Crow lakes enjoy a healthy fishing environment.
- Bobs Lake is predominately a warm water fishery, although lake trout have been caught in Green Bay in the past.
- Crow lake has lake trout as well as various warm water species such as pike, walleye and bass.
- The province has been stocking walleye and lake trout in our lakes periodically for almost 100 years to enhance the fishing experience and support local tourism.
- Recent Creel (Fish) surveys indicate the walleye and lake trout numbers are declining. However, both lakes have an abundance of other game fish, which are also fun to catch and make excellent table fair for those so inclined.
- Ontario has licensing requirements that are enforced diligently, so you should ensure you follow the regulations.
- There are programs each year, which are intended to allow people new to the sport, to try it out. Please go to the Ontario fishing website for more information: <https://www.huntandfishontario.com/>

### Hunting:

- hunting is a long standing and historical tradition around the lakes.
- Hunting regulations are complex so refer to the website for the most accurate information: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/hunting>
- But there are some general tips that can be shared.
- Migratory Bird hunting starts in late September until late December. Early in the season it is not uncommon to hear gun shots early in the morning.
- All hunters must take training on hunting and gun handling safety. If they pass the tests and meet the requirements, they can apply for a license to purchase a gun. To hunt, each species requires a separate license and, in many cases, a different gun. Handguns cannot be used to hunt.
- Deer hunting starts with bow hunting in early October until mid-December. Rifle season lasts 2 weeks and is around the first 2 weeks of November. Muzzle loaders have a separate season usually the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December.
- Hunters must have permission to hunt on private property.
- During gun season, hunters must wear orange for high visibility.
- If you are walking in the woods during rifle season, it is advisable to also wear bright colours.
- Many people who move to the lake have a domestic pet, who may chase or prey on wildlife. This is stressful on wildlife and is unlawful.

## Cottage Safety Tips



### Theft:

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. (e.g., 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.
4. Don't leave anything on a trailer unless it is locked or disabled so someone can't simply 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 has happened sooner is always better than an extended delay.
7. If you have an alarm system at your cottage, make sure the alarm company has your current phone number.
8. Make sure your windows and doors are securely closed. The consensus leans towards closing curtains so intruders cannot see inside the building.
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.
10. Make a list of everything you are leaving. Take a picture of everything.
11. Keep the GBCLA phone card in a handy location with the OPP Non-Emergency Response number.

### Carbon monoxide poisoning:

Carbon monoxide is a by-product of incomplete burning fuels such as wood, propane, oil, natural gas, kerosene, gasoline, diesel fuel, coal or charcoal. It is a "silent killer" that shows itself when using appliances that are poorly maintained, damaged, blocked, poorly venting or have inadequate air flow. You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but it can be deadly if it accumulates inside your cottage, home or workshop. What can you do?

- ☐ Maintain your furnace, fireplace, and other fuel burning appliance, especially at the start of the season.
- ☐ Install a Carbon monoxide (CO) Alarm: These alarms will warn you of rising levels of CO and allow you and your family time to escape. For persons with CO Alarms please note that you should replace your alarm every 7 years.
- ☐ Know the Symptoms of CO Poisoning. The symptoms are similar to the flu – nausea, headache, burning eyes, confusion and drowsiness – except there is no fever.

For more information on Carbon monoxide exposure prevention, visit [www.COSafety.ca](http://www.COSafety.ca)



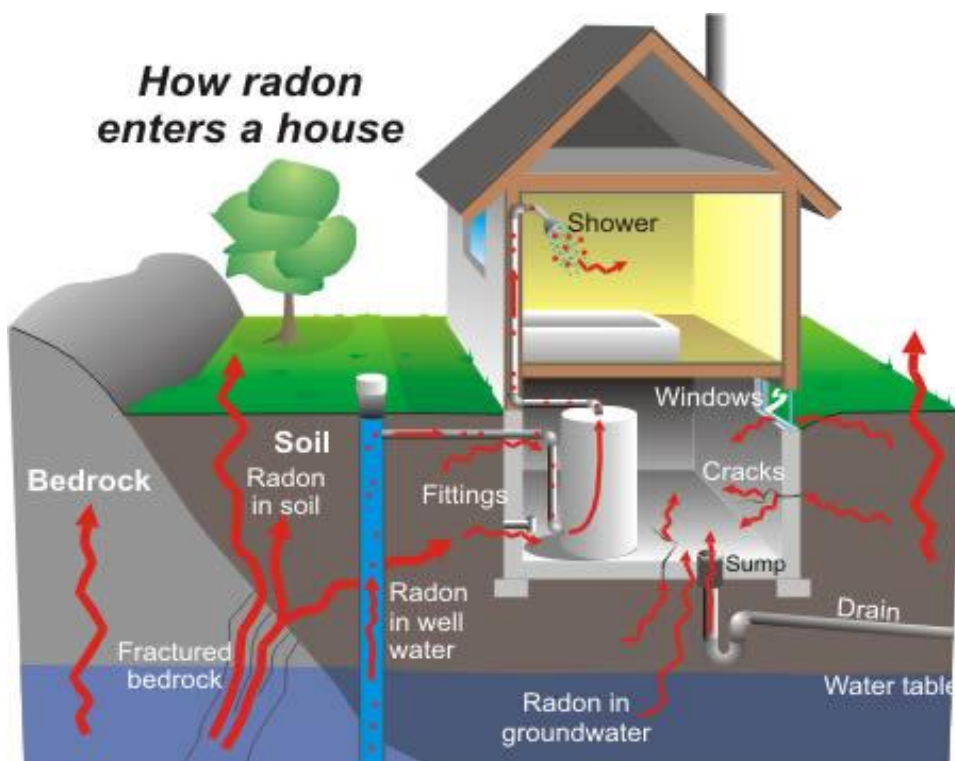


## Radon Gas

Radon is a colourless, odourless, radioactive gas that occurs naturally in the environment. Long-term exposure to this gas can cause lung cancer in both smokers and non-smokers. Radon comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soils and rocks. When radon is released from the ground into the outdoor air, it is not a safety concern. However, radon can enter inside a building through cracks in the foundations, gaps around pipes, and other openings underneath a cottage.

Testing your cottage for radon can be done either with an inexpensive “do it yourself” detector or using a trained technician. A minimum 3-month test period is generally recommended. The closest radon contractor in the Bobs/Crow lake area is Mr. Radon in Kingston.

Treating a cottage above the current Health Canada guideline of 200 Bq/cubic meter typically involves some form of mechanical ventilation in the basement and venting to the outside. There have been reported instances of some cottages on Bobs lake that exceed the minimum guideline.



## Fire Safety Tips for your Cottage

Fire Safety is the most important topic for personal and property risk at the cottage. There are no reasonable arguments for not doing the most basic prevention measures that can save lives and mitigate tens of thousands of dollars in potential damage.

### Smoke Alarms:

Ontario Law states that **you must have at least one working smoke alarm on each floor of a cottage and located near sleeping areas**. With the slower response time for fire-fighting services in cottage country, the advance warning provided by smoke alarms is literally a matter of life and death.

### Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors:

Ontario law requires a CO detector in all homes that have appliances that generate CO. A CO detector is essential given the number of sources of carbon monoxide inside the cottage from furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, heaters and barbeques.

### Fire Extinguishers:

Although not required by law, portable fire extinguishers are a crucial first defense to controlling a fire. There are 3 primary categories of fires that the powder in the fire extinguishers are designed to extinguish. Class A are for combustibles such as paper and wood. Class B are for flammable liquids and Class C are for electrical fires. Choose a fire extinguisher which is rated for all 3 classes. Typical sizes for the home range from a 1A, 5B, C for a 2 lb. model up to 2A, 10B, C for about a 7 lb. model. The best place to locate one is near the kitchen or at the entrance to the cottage.

### Chimney Fires:

With more and more cottages being used in colder months, the risk of a chimney fire increases. A chimney fire starts when super-heated gases from your wood stove or fireplace ignite the creosote which builds up on the inside walls of the chimney. Creosote is a byproduct deposit from burning wood. Burning only hardwoods, hot fires, and regular chimney and stove inspection/cleaning by a WETT (Wood Energy Technology Training) certified technician, are the key actions.

### Storing Flammable Materials:

Flammable materials such as gas, kerosene, propane tanks, oils, lighter fluid, paint thinner, etc., should always be stored away from the cottage or any attached garages or storage rooms. This rule also applies to storing lumber underneath a cottage.



## Cottage Health Tips

### Lyme Disease:

Lyme disease is an illness caused by bacteria spread through the bite certain types of ticks. In Ontario, it is the black-legged tick. These ticks are now established in the area north of the St. Lawrence River (which includes Bobs and Crow lakes) according to the Public Health Agency of Canada. Not all ticks carry the bacteria. But you should treat each bite as if the tick does carry the bacteria. Ticks cannot fly or jump, and prefer to live in humid, wooded areas. You can pick up ticks while walking through areas with leaf litter or long grass. Ticks are most likely to transmit the infection after being attached to the skin for more than 24 hours. Consequently, quick detection and removal of attached ticks is important.

A common feature of Lyme disease is a red bulls-eye rash that usually appears 3-10 days after the initial tick bite. However, this rash does not necessarily develop in all cases. Other symptoms of the disease may include fever, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint pain. These may disappear within 10 days but if left untreated, Lyme Disease can progress and affect the nervous system, joints and the heart. The typical treatment for Lyme disease is with antibiotics.



### Anaplasmosis

The symptoms of Anaplasmosis commence within a week or two of a tick bite. They include, fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, nausea and vomiting. The complications of Anaplasmosis are severe, including respiratory failure, internal bleeding and renal failure. If you suspect you have this tick-born disease, seek medical assistance immediately.

### Wild Parsnip?

Wild Parsnip has become a major health problem over the past 3 years as it causes serious rashes, burns and glisters to the skin. The spread of wild parsnip has been prolific along roadways, fields and railway embankments leading to spraying programs in some Townships in 2017. The spread of this invasive species has been most prominent in Eastern Ontario most recently. The sap of the leaves may cause temporary blindness if it gets into one's eyes. The chemical of the sap (called furocainins) will cause severe skin inflammation within 24 hours after exposure to sunlight.

If you think you have wild parsnip on your property, please call the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711. You will be asked to send in photos for identification. DO NOT touch, cut or collect parts of the plant for identification purposes. For more information on wild parsnip check out: [www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/plants-terrestrial/wild-parsnip/](http://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/plants-terrestrial/wild-parsnip/)



## Poison Ivy

- The sap in the leaves and roots of poison ivy contains the resin urushiol. Contact with skin often leads to an allergic reaction causing intense itchiness and sometimes blisters.
- The plant has a 3-pointed leaflet configuration.
- When your skin comes in contact with the sap, soap and cold water is often used to minimize the reaction. Seeing your doctor if symptoms worsen is recommended.
- Be careful with exposing clothing, gloves, tools and other items to the poison ivy sap. The sap can retain its harmful effect for as long as 1 year, especially under dry conditions.



## **Marine and Boating Safety Tips**

### **Wear a PFD**

- 80% of people who die in boating accidents are not wearing a Personal Floatation Device(PFD).
- Many boaters feel they can swim safely to shore in the event of an accident. This confidence is usually misplaced with fatal consequences.
- Make sure your PFD fits properly. Visit the Transport Canada web site for more detailed information at: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-equipment-lifejackets-information-1324.htm>.

### **Don't Drink and Boat**

- Drinking alcohol while boating is just as dangerous as drinking and driving. The very same laws apply.
- If you are caught operating a boat while impaired, you will also lose your ability to operate your motor vehicle.

### **Know Your Boat**

- Familiarize yourself with the boat you are operating and be prepared.
- When operating a motorized or non-motorized boat, have safety equipment on board such as a sound signalling device, flashlight, floating rope and bailing bucket.

### **Be wary of the Weather**

- Boaters should check the weather before heading out on the water.
- Know how to interpret weather changes while on the water as sudden changes can occur without warning or be different at the south vs north ends, especially Bobs Lake.

### **Bring a Map and Phone**

- Unless you are very familiar with Bobs and Crow lake, bring the GBCLA Boating card or other map. There are numerous bays and inlets which can quickly confuse a rookie boater.
- Bring a cell phone or other communication device in a water proof bag for emergencies.

### **Watch out for Marker Buoys**

- Pay special attention to the yellow buoys placed throughout Bobs and Crow lake by the Greater Bobs and Crow Lake Association.
- The buoys mark the location of dangerous rocks or shoals that increase in the risk to boats as water levels in Bobs Lake drop approximately 1 meter over the 3 month summer period.

## **License Requirements**

- All boats on Bobs and Crow Lake powered by a motor of 10 HP or more must be licensed or registered. Most boat owners elect the licensing route, which is valid for 10 years at no charge. See the link below.
- [www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-paperwork-paperwork\\_boat\\_licence-3212.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-paperwork-paperwork_boat_licence-3212.htm)
- To operate a boat with a 10 HP motor or higher requires a Pleasure Craft Operator Card, which is issued after passing a boating safety test. Typically the arrangement for the test is included in the cost of a Boating Safety Course. There are many vendors in Ontario.

## **Safe Boating Guide**

- For the official rule book on boating, visit the Transport Canada web site for their Safe Boating Guide: [www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm)

\*These tips are for general information only. Please refer to Transport Canada for a full disclosure of all legal requirements.



## **Tips for Renting your Cottage**

The GBCLA supports the rental of cottage properties. However to prevent the occurrence of poorly-managed rental properties, several tips are recommended for cottage owners.

### **Cottage Information Package:**

This package is intended to educate and inform your guests about cottage country living and etiquette. It should cover key topics such as safety, operating appliances, courtesies with neighbours, lake information, household rules and important systems such as the septic, garbage and well water. Include the GBCLA Handy Guide to Bobs and Crow Lake.

### **Neighbours**

Full and timely communications with your neighbours promotes a harmonious relationship and reduces the risk of conflicts. Often it is a question of some simple courtesies that cause most problems, such as noise, excessive numbers of guests and improper garbage disposal.

### **Is renting worthwhile:**

Trying to find suitable renters and coordinating a rental can be time consuming. Underestimating the effort required to rent and overestimating the rental income are common mistakes. Make sure you go through a full analysis before you take the plunge. This is most important if you are contemplating the purchase of a cottage that requires the support of rental income.

### **Use of a Property Management service:**

Unless you have experience with rental properties and recreational properties in particular, consider using one of the many property management services. Although there is a fee involved, it may be well worth it by avoiding the cost of repairs or problems caused by problem renters.

### **Insurance Coverage:**

Advising your insurance company, verifying what coverage extends to renters and the cost of any necessary increases to coverage are critical to protecting your investment in your cottage.

### **Screening of Renters:**

Ideally the best way to screen is to personally meet the renter. Online rentals such as Airbnb while convenient can ultimately create problems that might be avoided through a personal meeting. Reputable cottage rental services are often the best long term option for ongoing rental properties.

### **Rental Agreement:**

A well-written rental agreement is essential for both you and the renter.

The GBCLA is committed to vetting all views concerning the responsible rental of recreational properties. Of particular concern is the growing trend towards short term rentals. The Association would like to work in consort with our local Townships and the Provincial Government to develop a regulatory framework that protects the property owner and our lakes and addresses the issues that are unique for cottage living.



## Promotions for FOCA Members

### (Automatic FOCA Membership with a GBCLA membership)

FOCA is a non-profit organization in Ontario that represents 50,000 families in more than 500 associations across Ontario. FOCA is regarded as the voice of Ontario's waterways and lake associations. FOCA works with Government and other stakeholders on important policy and best practices, to make our waterfront communities environmentally and financially sustainable.

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association is a long-standing member of FOCA. **Through a membership in the GBCLA, you are automatically a member of FOCA and eligible for all of the promotions listed below for FOCA members.**

CottageFirst—An insurance program dedicated to cottagers! Get great coverage on your cottage, home, car & more. Exclusive to FOCA member families via Cade Associates Insurance Brokers. Get a quote: 1-844-CADE-1ST or visit [www.cottagefirst.com](http://www.cottagefirst.com)

Cottage Life Magazine—special discount on new subscriptions OR renewals: Pay only \$24.95 for 1 year + 1 free issue, including free digital access when you use the FOCA access code.

Canadian Canoe Museum—All FOCA supporters get 30% off membership to the Museum. You will need to use the FOCA access code for this offer.



	<p><i>Located on pristine Green Bay of Bobs Lake, we've got your perfect location to gather with friends and family to relax, recharge, fish, boat or float.</i></p> <p><i>Under new ownership, we are refreshed, revamped and excited to welcome guests from May to mid-October.</i></p> <p><i>Get in touch today to book your stay!</i></p> <p>T: 613-296-2987 E: <a href="mailto:info@irwincabins.com">info@irwincabins.com</a> W: <a href="http://www.irwincabins.ca">www.irwincabins.ca</a></p> <div data-bbox="1052 1734 1292 1810"> FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK</div>
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# Promotions for FOCA

## **The Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation**

The Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation is a registered charity in Canada and the United States, incorporated in 2005. The Foundation works in harmony with the Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association to preserve and enhance the quality of the environment around the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes area for present and future generations.

The primary goal of the Foundation is to acquire capital and to authorize expenditures to fund projects that meet its purpose. The Foundation is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Directors are members of the Foundation and the Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association.

The purpose of the Foundation is to fund projects that:

- aid in the protection, restoration, and maintenance of water quality,
- protect fish and wildlife populations,
- encourage the prevention of forest fires and water pollution,
- encourage water safety practices and the lawful operation of watercraft,
- educate and increase the public's understanding of the issues affecting the quality of the lakes' environments,
- do all other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above goals.

Projects are submitted to the Board by the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association, other organizations, and individuals.

Projects are selected based on available resources by the Board of Directors.

Many of the key initiatives of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association received valuable funding from the Foundation.

Contributions can be made by cheque made out to The Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation and addressed to:

The Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation

C/O Alexander Cameron

PO Box 482, Verona,

Ontario K0H 2W0