



Lake Views

Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association Magazine

Fall/Winter 2023



Photo by: Jane Fisher

*Dancing of the autumn leaves on a surface
of a lake is a dream we see when we are
awake.*

Mehmet Murat Idles



Message from the Board of Directors The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA)



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Since the Spring issue of Lake Views, the planet has continued to shatter global records for the hottest year on record. It was also not just a small incremental jump to the record, but a sharp rise not seen in any other historical year. In recent years,

the rate of forested acres lost to wildfires, water and air quality degradation and property damage, create a rising trajectory that brings out visions of scary scenarios from the long-term climate trends. It is difficult to balance this disturbing outlook with the relatively pleasant summer we enjoyed on Bobs and Crow lakes. Since no area is immune from climate change, the Frontenac region will eventually experience 2023-like weather conditions that will be highly disruptive to the nature setting we all call home or the cottage. We should all be well-advised to be well-prepared.

Meanwhile on Bobs and Crow, the main events for the summer at Glendower Hall were both resounding successes. The return of the Frontenac Frolic delivered a large turnout for a family-friendly event that people sorely missed for the last three years of the Pandemic. Cow Flop Bingo tickets were completely sold out, with kudos going out to Susan MacTaggart and her organizing committee.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association welcomed almost 100 attendees within formative presentations on Cottage Safety by Michelle Lewin of FOCA, and by Michael Anciado of the Sharbot Lake Family Health Team on the growing risks from Lyme Disease in Frontenac County.

In this fall issue of Lake Views, we start with the local news on the new Rogers cell tower, hop picking for a good cause, and the latest silver dragonfly sighting in Buck Bay. Jeff Carabott walks us through some stargazing tips at the lake, and Bob Kuklantz reminisces on life at Bobs Lake since 1966. Newcomer Nadine Pickard recounts the "joys" of taking over Irwin's cabins, and Lynn Watson contributes her review of a charming memoir by long-time resident Carolyn McGrath, entitled *Two Faces of the Moon*. We finish off with our usual informative reports on our fisheries, water safety, wildlife and lake water quality.

The Editorship of Lake Views starting with this issue, is passing over to our Wildlife Director, Joselyn Morley (from Carson Jen). Joselyn brings a vast knowledge of



Board Message (cont'd)

all “things Nature”, and a passion for how to connect with the natural wealth surrounding our little spot in Paradise. If you share this love of nature and would like to contribute to the Lake Views content, please contact Joselyn at lakeviews@bobsandcrowlakes.ca

Finally, please don't forget to renew your GBCLA membership. Lake Views is one of the benefits of a paid-up membership. You can go to our website at bobsandcrowlakes.ca and use our secure online payment methods of Paypal or E-transfer (cheques are ok too).

Board of Directors

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association

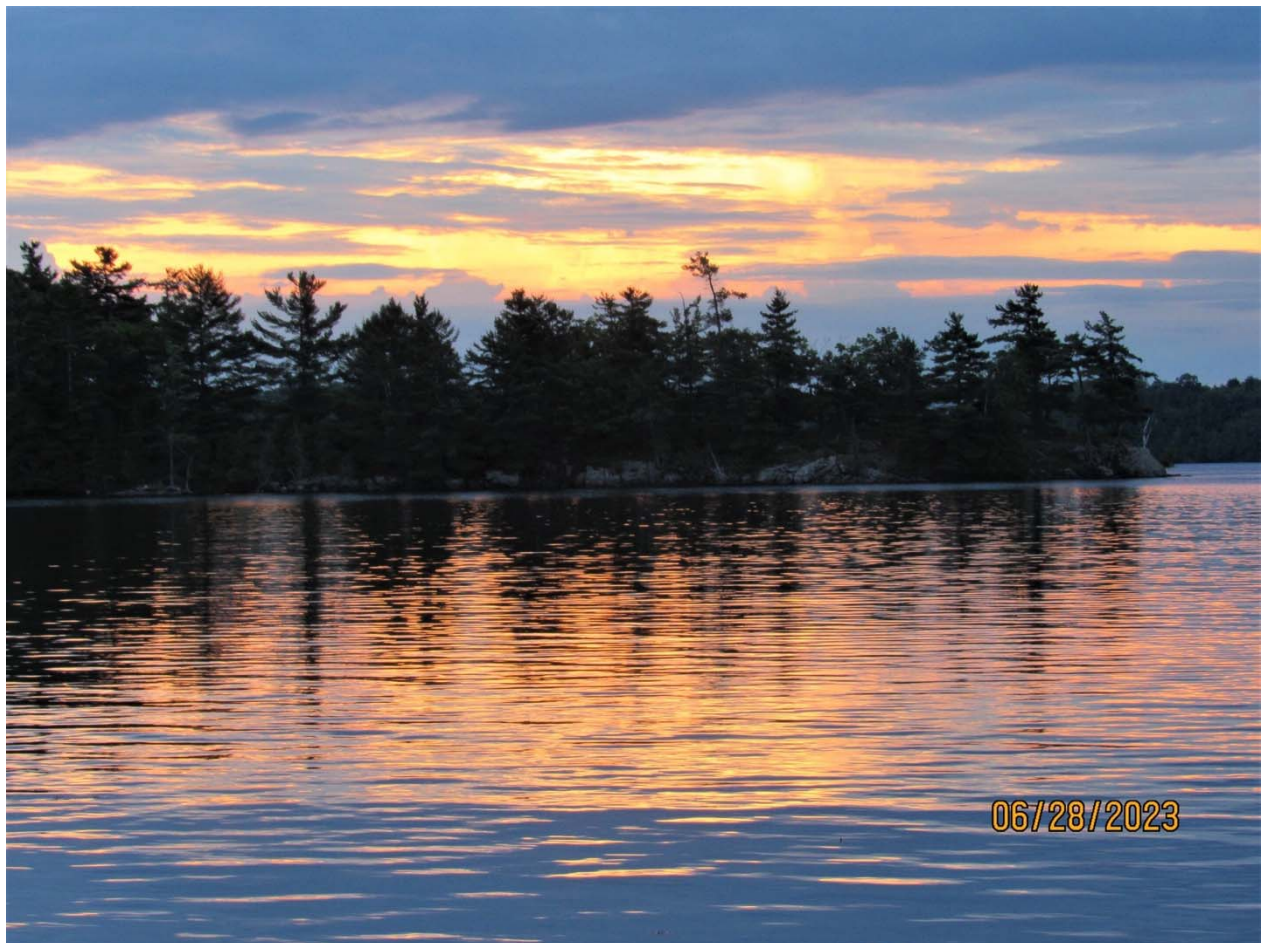


Photo by: Gerry Holt



Information and Updates

South Frontenac News & Updates

In 2023, we will update two important documents in the Township, our Strategic Plan and Official Plan. We invite all residents to share their vision for the Township and how we will develop and grow on our public engagement site, engagefrontenac.ca. It's also budget cycle time. Share your input by [taking our budget survey](#).

The Township has been taking a strategic and proactive, long-term approach to investing in our roads. Council committed to increasing road infrastructure investments by 5% each year to meet the growing needs and we allocated \$8.37 million for roads projects in 2023. If you haven't read it yet, be sure to review the [Comprehensive Roads Needs Study](#) and [Five Year Plan for Hard Surfaced Roads](#) on engagefrontenac.ca.

We also saw several exciting projects completed in 2023, including the new roof on the Grand Pavilion in Centennial Park in Harrowsmith, the expansion of the Storrington Centre, many court upgrades including Glendower Courts, and the opening of Fire Station #8 in Battersea.



The "Grand Pavilion" is home to the Frontenac Farmers Market on Fridays from 3-7 in Centennial Park in Harrowsmith.

Finally, be sure to check out the new [Our Lakes](#) section on our website with resources for lake associations, and our new Guide to Preparing a Shoreline Naturalization Planting Plan which we developed in conjunction with Watersheds Canada.

What's Going on at FOCA

By: Joselyn Morely

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) is the self-professed voice of the Ontario waterfront. If you are a member of Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA), you are a member of FOCA. They represent 250 000 waterfront property owners, both seasonal and year-round occupants, from 525 lake and road associations from around the province. FOCA aims to see thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario, now, and for future generations.

FOCA engages with a number of issues affecting cottage and waterfront owners. Check out their website at foca.on.ca for a complete overview, and informative videos and discussions. Here are just a few of the issues on FOCA's radar.



FOCA (cont'd)

Be #WakeAware Campaign

FOCA encourages boaters to be aware of the wake their watercraft creates, and the effect it could have on the environment, and the enjoyment of others on the lake. Slow down near shore. Wakes damage shoreline ecosystems. One wake can wipe out a loons' nest and can destroy the habitat of a variety of other wildlife.

Wakes erode shoreline and can make canoeing, kayaking, paddle-boarding, and swimming dangerous. FOCA's #WakeAware campaign encourages boaters and watercraft users to be aware of their surroundings, slowing down, treating all nearby shorelines with respect, and taking the speed to the middle of the lake, where the wake will have less impact on the shoreline.

FOCA encourages waterfront users to maintain natural shorelines, adding native plants and allowing the shoreline to fill in. This supports native species, including loons, other waterfowl, butterflies, beneficial insects that feed many birds, as well as fish spawning areas. Barriers of

natural habitat between the water and your cottage also prevent shoreline erosion. Encouraging and planting native species also helps deter the establishment of many invasive species. Clean, drain, and dry your boat between waterbodies. Boats can spread invasive water plants, as well as fish and other water inhabitants such as zebra mussels. Use only local firewood, and do not transport firewood from other areas.



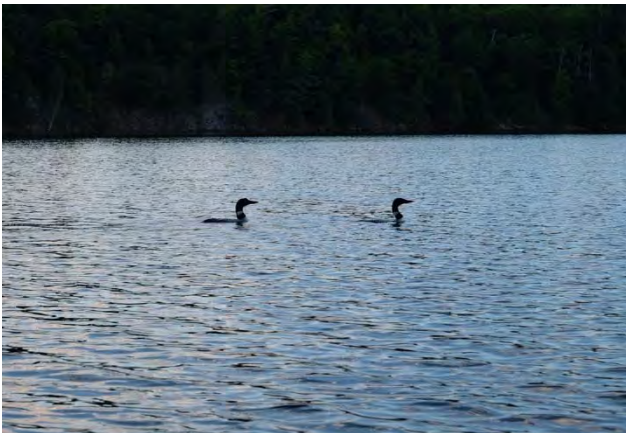
Wakes can damage shoreline ecosystems

Short-Term Rentals

Land use and planning is on the minds of many lately. This includes issues on lakes such as short-term rentals, boathouses, and building permits. FOCA members include both owners and operators of short-term rentals, as well as residents who are opposed to the operation of short-term rentals such as Air B&Bs. FOCA issued a 16-page report in November 2022. Many waterfront owners are worried about increased boat and road traffic, more people on their lake, more noise, more light pollution, more stress on existing septic systems and subsequent threat to the health of lakes. Some townships such as Collingwood, who had initially entirely prohibited short-term rentals, and Kawartha Lakes, have moved to implement licencing requirements for the

operation of short-term rentals. FOCA encourages Lake Capacity Assessments to support the protection of water quality and healthy lake ecosystems.

Some lakes are facing increased floating accommodations, which has highlighted the need for clear and proactive bylaws. The waterways cannot be legislated by townships in the same way land can. Ontario has banned overnight stays on floating accommodations as of July 1, 2023. According to FOCA, "floating container dwellings have emerged as a blight on the waters of Central Ontario." This ban obviously doesn't cover most boats, but the line between "container" and "houseboat" could get blurry.



Loons on the lake



FOCA (cont'd)

Light Pollution

A variety of pollution issues threaten the enjoyment of waterfront owners. Light pollution threatens birds, insects, and our enjoyment of the night sky. Current trends in building design favour extensively lit exteriors. This trend is increasingly seen in new cottage builds. Green lighting technology such as white-light LED is marketed as low-energy and affordable, leading builders and owners to increase outdoor lighting, and to leave it on all night, and even when absent. Alongside turning off unnecessary lights, or not installing them in the first place, the use of amber lighting when lighting is required is a good choice. Filters can block blue light and shield exterior lights that are necessary.

You can sign up for E-Alerts at foca.on.ca. As a member of GBCLA you are a member of FOCA.

Rogers Tower Update

By: Carson Jen

There has been no activity during the spring and summer of 2023 towards the construction of the new Rogers tower on Burns Road, Bobs Lake. Surveying of the site and the positioning of location stakes was completed in the early spring of 2023. The 90-meter tower is located off Burns Road near the north end of Green Bay. This tower is part of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) Cell Gap Project, which is a Tri-party agreement between Rogers, the Federal and Ontario governments, to improve internet and cell phone coverage in more remote areas of Eastern Ontario.

However, in September, site clearing preparations and construction of the service road were completed. Erection of the actual tower structure began in the third week of October. The tower structure is made up of prefabricated sections, which allowed the tower to be assembled in 3 days. The remaining equipment such as the microwave antennas will be installed next. Final testing and operationalizing the tower, could last a few months. It is expected that by the spring of 2024, there will be a much-improved cell and internet service at Bobs and Crow lakes.



Rogers tower Bobs Lake (still under construction)

Get The Lead Out: Fish Lead Free Update

By: Joselyn Morley

To date, the Let's Get The Lead Out programme started by the Wolfe Lake Association has collected 292 pounds, or 132 kilograms, of lead fishing tackle. The Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back programme aims to encourage people to switch to lead-free fishing tackle. Turn in your Lead fishing tackle for a \$10 voucher towards lead-free tackle at participating retailers, listed at fishleadfree.ca. You can also take your lead tackle to the Westport Lions Reuse & Recycle Centre.



Get The Lead Out (cont'd)

It takes one lead sinker to kill a loon. Lead is a neurotoxin, which attacks the nervous system, and can lead to blindness, decreased reproductivity, seizures, and death. It is fatal and toxic to birds, animals, and the environment. Lead tackle gets into loons when they scoop up grit from the lakebed. Birds must eat grit to help digest their food. Lead sinkers blend in with lake bottom grit. They also ingest lead tackle when it's attached to a fish they eat. Lead is toxic to all birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. Loons are especially susceptible. They average one chick ever two years, and although their life expectancy is 15 to 30 years, they do not mate until they are 6 or 7 years of age.



We have taken lead out of gas, paint, water pipes and shotgun shells intended for waterfowl. Lead shot is still allowed for hunting small game, non-migratory birds, and big game. Canada's National parks and wildlife areas have banned lead fishing tackle. The Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters do not support a ban on lead fishing tackle. Organisations such as the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, do advocate for a ban on lead fishing tackle.

Trumpeter Swans

By: Joselyn Morely

According to the Canadian Wildlife Federation, by 1933 there were only 77 breeding Trumpeter swans in Canada, and 50 in the United States. Leaving the logistics of counting swans in the almost 20 million square kilometers that make up Canada and the US aside, the desired point of that stat is to emphasise that Trumpeter swans were nearly hunted to extinction by the early part of the 20th Century. They were hunted for food, for feathers, and for sport. They also suffered from habitat loss. They nest in marshy areas often on top of beaver dams and other marsh habitat. As beaver populations were decimated, so too were the preferred nesting areas of the swans. Many birds, such as the wood duck, faced the similar fates of increased hunting combined with decreased habitat. Conservation efforts have helped stabilise their populations. It is now illegal to hunt them in most of Canada.

Trumpeter swans are the largest waterfowl species in the world. The male is called a Cob, the female a Pen, and young ones are cygnets. Trumpeter cobs weigh about 9 to 14 kg and pens 9 to 12 kg. They reach 1.4 to 1.6 meters in length, with a wingspan of 3 meters. They can live up to 25 years, but leading





Trumpeter Swans (cont'd)

cause of death is lead poisoning from ingested fishing tackle and shot, power line collisions, and human encounters.

We mostly see, and hear, them at Bobs & Crow Lakes as they head through on their migration north and south. Trumpeter swans and tundra swans look very alike. They have white feathers and black feet and bills. Tundra swans have yellow markings below their eyes, and their bills have a slightly concave shape. The mute swan is



distinctive from the trumpeter and tundra swans with its orange bill and black bump above the bill. The most distinctive identifying feature of the trumpeter swan is their size, almost twice as large as the tundra swan, and their distinctive call. They are unmistakable in their call and do sound like French horns as they fly low overhead. You can hear their powerful wing beats whoosh as they fly over.

They often mate for life and begin nesting at 3 or 4 years old. They construct their nests on muskrat houses or beaver lodges and dams from available marsh vegetation. Generally, cobs collect the vegetation and pens build the nest. Nest mounds can be six to twelve feet across and eighteen inches high. Clutches of 5 to 7 eggs hatch after 33 to 37 days of incubation. Cygnets have grey feathers. Cygnets first fly at 14 to 17 weeks old. For their first few weeks they eat aquatic insects and crustaceans. During their flightless early life, the adults lose their primary flight feathers, and stay hidden in the marsh with the cygnets. Both parents stay with the cygnets. Parents will thrash the water with their wings and feet when the cygnets are small, possibly to scare predators such as snapping turtles away. This behaviour is unique to trumpeter swans.

Although they are omnivores, adult trumpeter swans can eat up to twenty pounds of leafy aquatic vegetation in a day. European carp, an introduced species, competes for vegetation. Their habitat is under threat from destruction and pollution, and they have many predators throughout the stages of their lives.

You can report trumpeter swan sightings at trumpeterswansociety.org.

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Fisheries

Fisheries Update - 2023 Walleye Survey

By: Paul Patterson on behalf of the GBCLA Fisheries Committee

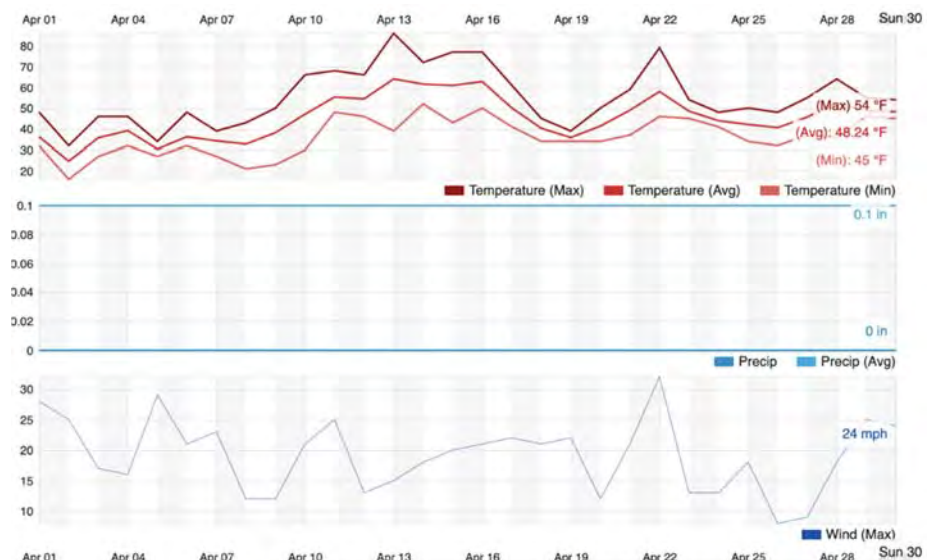
The Bobs Lake Fisheries committee once again organized the monitoring of the 2023 Walleye Spawn. Carson Jen organized and equipped the team with Duane Meeks heading up the survey of Fish Creek. 11 Volunteers worked across 11 nights beginning on the 7th of April.



As the water temperature approaches 40F, usually at Ice Out, the Walleye will gather in big schools and start their migration toward their spawning grounds. Ice Out occurred on the 12th of April this year with the spawn in the creeks beginning on April the 9th. Spawning activity will commence at a water temperature of about 44-46F and peak at around 50F. As you can see from the chart below temperatures were quite cold at the beginning of April but rose significantly after the beginning of the spawn bringing water temperatures up with it.

Water levels were quite high this year relative to last with levels above seasonal average for most of the spawning period.

Walleye are nocturnal predators and are most active in low light conditions. They also spawn in these light conditions with spawning activity stretching from





Fisheries (cont'd)

dusk to dawn. The Survey looks at Spawning activity during a 30–60-minute period just after dusk.

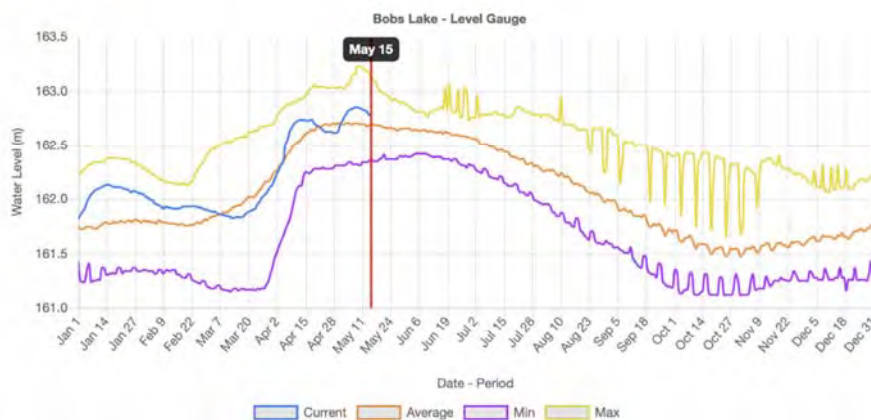
Once male and female Walleye are gathered and ready for the act of spawning, smaller groups of fish, consisting of a few males and one female, will come together and release their eggs and milt simultaneously in a series of wild, synchronized movements. Those movements usually go [upward in the water column](#), with the females leading the way and the males following her in an attempt to fertilize the eggs with their milt.

The smaller males arrive at the spawning ground much earlier than the bigger females, who prefer to remain in the deeper water adjacent to the shallows.

Once the spawning act is completed and the female has laid all her eggs, neither male nor female Walleye will remain to guard the eggs. Instead, the eggs are left to their fate. They will have to hatch and survive without any help or protection from their parents. That's why the choice of spawning location is so crucial to the Walleye.

Bobs Lake

Graph Table



Fish Creek 2023	Fahrenheit Water Temp	Celsius Air Temp	Time	Fish Count	Observations
07-Apr	42	Cold	9:00 PM	0	Water running higher than last yr.
08-Apr	44	Cold	9:00 PM	0	Water Running Very Fast
09-Apr		Warmer	8:30 PM	6	Water Running Very Fast
10-Apr			8:30 PM	30	
11-Apr			8:30 PM	12	
12-Apr	50	16 C	8:30 PM	33	
13-Apr			8:30 PM	45	
14-Apr	61		8:30 PM	65	Light Winds, Water Running Fast
15-Apr			8:30 PM	58	Creek in good shape with good flow
16-Apr	65		8:30 PM	19	
17-Apr			8:30 PM	10	
					278

Fish Creek 2022	Fahrenheit Water Temp	Celsius Air Temp	Time	Fish Count	Observations
03-Apr			8:35pm-9:15	0	Mouth of Creek up 200 Yds
06-Apr			8:35pm-9:15	4	Water 6-8 inches deeper than 2021
07-Apr			8:35pm-9:15	9	Heavy rain prior 24 hrs. CO's attended
08-Apr	46F		8:45PM-9:15	2	Heavy rain, murky water
09-Apr	46F		8:35pm-9:15	42	You could start to smell the fish
10-Apr	44F	5C	8:35pm-9:15	56	Varied depth. Excellent current.
11-Apr	48F		8:35pm-9:15	43	
12-Apr			8:35pm-9:15	60	Too many to count accurately
13-Apr			8:25pm-8:50	75	
14-Apr	46F	8C	8:25pm-8:50	101	Most fish upstream in upper 100 yds
15-Apr			8:35pm-9:15	46	
16-Apr	48F	5C	8:35pm-9:15	75	Water Clear. Fish in upper 100yds
17-Apr			8:35pm-9:15	27	
					CO's attended on 2 occasions
					Zero Poacher activity
Total					540

Walleye are broadcast spawners, which means that they will scatter their eggs across the bottom instead of building protective nests for them. That is why they choose bottom features such as gravel or rocks so that the eggs can attach themselves to the structure or fall into crevices, where they will remain protected until they hatch.

Female Walleye can produce and store enormous amounts of eggs. On average, a female produces a staggering 27,000 eggs per pound. That means that a trophy-sized Walleye of over 10lb has the capacity to produce and store over half a million eggs in her body. Poaching during the spawn can have a catastrophic impact to overall production. The Fisheries Committee worked with MNRF Conservation Officers to report poaching activity in 2021 resulting in several charges being laid. There was no evidence of poaching activity this year.



Fisheries (cont'd)

The group monitored Fish Creek from the 7th of April through the 17th. We again saw strong activity at this site with 278 Walleye observed on the spawning bed during the 30–45-minute period the site was monitored. This is down from 2022 but better than the 192 observed in 2021. McEwen Creek was monitored on a couple of nights during the height of the spawn but again no Walleye were observed in that bed. Given heightened water levels this year the current going through the mouth of McEwen into the lake may have been too strong for Walleye to navigate.

Water Quality

Water Quality Testing Results

By: Jeff Carabott

Our dedicated team of volunteers has again gathered data for the Ontario Lake Partners Program (LPP) this summer. Look for the results of this testing, in addition to that of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) Watershed Watch program, in the Spring 2024 newsletter.

We are in need of a water quality tester volunteer for Mill Bay.

Only a few minutes of your time are required, twice a month, between May and September. If anyone is interested, please email Bonnie Carabott at jcarabott@sympatico.ca.

Many thanks to Dave Hartman, for faithfully performing water quality testing in the Mill Bay since 2014.

Blue-Green Algae

What is it?

Blue-green algae are microscopic, plant-like organisms that occur naturally in ponds, rivers, lakes and streams. Although often blue-green, they can also be olive-green or red.

How to recognize it

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. They thrive in areas where the water is shallow, slow moving, and warm, but they may be present in deeper, cooler water.



Blue Green Algae bloom



Blue Green Algae (cont'd)

Dense blue-green algae blooms may make the water look bluish-green, or like green pea soup or turquoise paint. Very dense blooms may form solid-looking clumps. Fresh blooms often smell like newly mown grass, while older blooms may smell like rotting garbage.

Causes

One key factor contributing to the growth of blue-green algae is the amount of available nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. Agricultural, urban and stormwater runoff, effluent from sewage treatment plants and industry, and leaching from septic systems can increase the levels of nutrients in water bodies that can promote algae growth.

In Ontario, phosphorus tends to be the nutrient that influences the growth of algae.

If you spot it

Take a cautious approach, as some varieties of this algae can produce toxins that are harmful to both humans and animals.



If you suspect a blue-green algal bloom:

- assume toxins are present
- avoid using, drinking, bathing or swimming in the water (call your local health unit for swimming advisories)
- restrict pet and livestock access to the water

Contact your local health unit for information on health risks associated with blue-green algal blooms.

If it's near your water supply

Home treatment systems may not remove toxins and can get easily overwhelmed or clogged, so they should not be relied on. Do not boil the water, or manually treat the water with chlorine or other disinfectants, as this could increase the toxin levels.

If you:

- are connected to a municipal water supply system or other central water treatment and distribution system, you can continue to use the water normally unless notified otherwise by the system operator or the local health unit
- have your own well supply with a groundwater source (not including shore wells or infiltration galleries), or you receive trucked water in cisterns, you can also continue to use the water normally
- get your water supply from your own surface water intake in the area of a bloom, you should consider an alternate source of drinking water for the duration of the bloom



Blue Green Algae (cont'd)

Prevention

Take these simple steps to prevent the growth of blue-green algae:

- use phosphate-free detergents, personal care and household cleaning products
- avoid using fertilizers on lawns, especially fertilizers that contain phosphorus
- maintain a natural shoreline on lake and riverfront properties
- reduce agricultural runoff by planting or maintaining vegetation along waterways and minimizing fertilizer use
- check septic systems to ensure they do not leak into the water source

Report blue-green algal blooms

If you spot blue-green algal blooms, call the:

Spills Action Centre

1-866-663-8477

Contact your [local health unit](#) for more information.

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*L*ake Resident Interest Pieces

Coming To Bobs Lake Since '66

By: Bob Kuklantz

I began coming to Bobs Lake in the summer of 1966. Funny thing is that I wasn't born until November 1966. So, I can honestly say that I have been coming to the lake since before I was born. Until Covid, I had never missed a summer. Those two covid years were pure torture, and we were at the border in September 2021, within a day or two of it reopening.

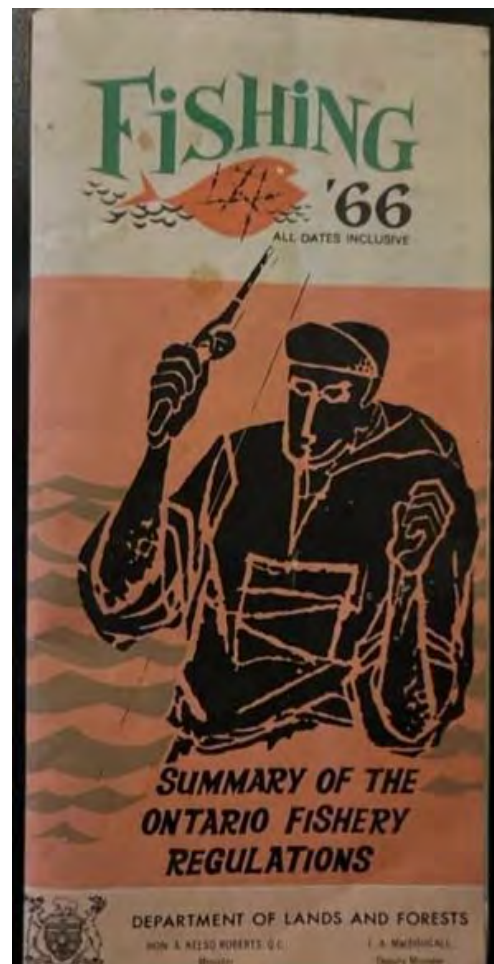
Our family journey at the lake began with staying at a cottage owned by the family of friends of my parents, the Klines. We then moved to renting a cottage at Shillington's (now Lazy Bear) on Green Bay. My childhood memories are of buying candy and ice cream at Joyce Babcock's store. Joyce was such a wonderful lady. Later (I think in the late 1970's) we would bring our travel trailer and stay at Whitehouse Trailer Park where Bill and Ev had opened a clean and beautiful campground on the hill. Each year, before leaving, we would book the same campsite for the following year. Later, my family would rent a cabin at the south end of Green Bay owned by Carl and Janet Barr. They were wonderful people, and Carl was a very humble war hero.

After a few years, the Barrs sold that cottage so we would no longer be able to stay there. My mom (Marybeth Supplee) was nearing retirement and often spoke about buying a place on the lake. I honestly thought it would never happen. One fateful day, I was in Barr's store in Burr ridge and noticed a sign on the wall..."Cabin for Sale". I jotted down the number and a few months later my mom was the very proud owner of a cottage on the south end of Green Bay, purchased from Roy and Ginny Leonard. Mare's Place at Loon Lagoon was born. It's a quiet spot on the south end of Green Bay at the back of a cove. Paradise.

The cottage needed some work. Over the next 20 years my mom made many improvements – a deck, new dock, new carpet, cable TV and internet, etc. She would spend her retirement summers on the lake making many lifelong friends. This past summer it was so awesome to spend a week with my mom, sister, and brother-in-law at the cottage as my mom approached her 80th birthday.

People who have never been to Bobs Lake don't understand the lure. The lake just has a way of cleansing one's soul.

Lake visitors and residents are among the warmest and most welcoming people on earth. People like our neighbors Betty Blair, Lance Williams, the Lewers, Pat Barr and Lee Dillabaugh, Alice and Randy from the former Buck Bay Canteen, Pru Love and family, and many more make our time at the lake all the more special.





Bobs Lake Since '66 (cont'd)

I feel very blessed to be able to continue the tradition. My children and grandchildren now enjoy the cottage and the lake. That makes four generations. God willing, we will continue to enjoy our special place for many years to come. As I approach my retirement, I look forward to being able to spend more time on the lake.

Yearning for the warm winds of summer 2024...

Jumping In With Both Feet

By: Nadine Pickard

Tucked in amongst the seasoned cottage owners who have been coming seasonally for decades, and the locals on Burn's Lane who are in the know with every neighbour, tree & pothole along the roadway, came a couple of newbies with excitement, wonder & still a bit of shock too.

Geoff & Nadine were searching for a potential cottage in Spring of 2022 when a text message from a family member was received with an MLS link to the Irwin's Cabins property. After working through many doubts and a rollercoaster of emotions, encouraging reactions from family members led to a showing of the property. There was so much to look at we didn't think to take a single picture! After returning twice more, things lined up, one after the other, to a point where hesitancy melted and concerns shifted tone to "what if we DON'T take the chance that is in front of us right now?". We signed on the dotted line with a 2-yr plan to transition from our home in Kemptville to here in South Frontenac.

On May 5th, we welcomed our first guests as the new Irwin's owners, and we haven't stopped until just now, mid October. What a time! We've met so many people, from so many different places, including quite a few neighbors, which includes a very high ratio of Diances...

Fisherman, families, ladies' weekends, guys' getaways, self-care workshops, a fishing tournament... what a fun variety of guests that we played host to this season.



We learned about how the water drops and beaches your dock, and how best to intercept a boat launch gone wrong. We saw families come together from far and wide with guests from Florida to Vancouver to Holland, and plenty from along the 401 of course. Without a doubt, Pennsylvania took the cake, being home to a large chunk of guests, even after all of our wildfire smoke crept stateside, it seemed they forgave us.

We were greeted by trumpeter swans, a rare sight we're told. We were welcomed by the resident heron who keeps watch over all happenings, accepted by the family of deer that graze at the garage & watched in disbelief as an albino squirrel tried to take up residence in Cabin 3. We saw beavers, mink, a porcupine... fought flying ants and a skunk. So many turtles entertained us trying day after day to make nests in the fresh gravel- and that was all just in May! Nature rules Bobs.



Jumping In With Both Feet (cont'd)

We've had fishing boat, pontoon boat & houseboat adventures- and still haven't seen half the lake. We now know how huge of an area Green Bay is- and that a more specific location needs to be shared when posting items on Marketplace for sale. We've also discovered that no one knows who Bob is! A mystery in history...



All in all, we had an amazing first season of discovering life on Bob's. As we continue on with our transition plan we are realizing- as many had told us- this might have to happen sooner than originally planned. Why would anyone ever want to leave the lake?

Cheers to the 2023 season. To all who have helped, encouraged, and supported this new adventure of ours... thank you! Catch you at the Lake!

Dragonfly Cove: The Unveiling

By: Carson Jen

This past spring, we introduced Neil Liota and previewed his tribute sculpture to the newly named Dragonfly Cove. Just off the entrance to Buck Bay from Green Bay Road, this shimmering piece of art welcomes everyone to the intimate cove just south of the Green Bay bridge. This work of art was designed by Neil and fabricated by the Metal Sculpture/Artist, Chris Banfalvi of Frankville. The sculpture soars towards the sky as a maturing dragonfly would from the healthy breeding grounds in the cove each year.

The unveiling of this sparkling addition to Dragonfly Cove was celebrated on July 7, 2023 by neighbors, Ron Vanderwal (Mayor of South Frontenac) and several council members, friends and family as well as local residents.

The sculpture is made of recycled stainless-steel scrap. The rebirth of discarded garbage in the form of a dragonfly is symbolic of Neil's efforts to "restore the terrain back to the natural beauty that Mother Nature had provided".

The fabrication process was a 14-month effort to find and add the right pieces to the structure, a bit like putting a complex puzzle together. Chris would add a piece and then he would return to the scrap yard to find the next required piece of the puzzle. The final product is a perfect blend of structural integrity and a fluid design.



Unveiling Ceremony with Neil Liota



Dragonfly Sculpture

The Dragonfly is just one aspect of Neil's efforts to clean up the shoreline. This project began with the removal of all the old metal structures and metal debris from the water. Then the numerous docks that were used at the old "Buck Bay Marina & Canteen", plus the plastic barrels and other non-organic material were taken away in 12 tandem axel trailers to the dump and recycling depot. Taking advantage of the "Shoreline naturalization program" (funded by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation), over 54 Red dogwood shrubs were planted along the shoreline in 2023, and 40+ plants and shrubs will be planted in 2024. An arborist is also providing advice on maintaining the trees and their root structure along the edge of the water.

This glistening dragonfly has become a "must see" stop for hundreds of boaters and kayakers who enter Buck Bay.

Neil invites all residents and guests of Bobs and Crow Lakes to enjoy the Dragonfly from the water (private property access is not permitted). But please be mindful of the traffic under the bridge and note that this is a No Wake Zone.



Dragonfly rotates 360 degrees

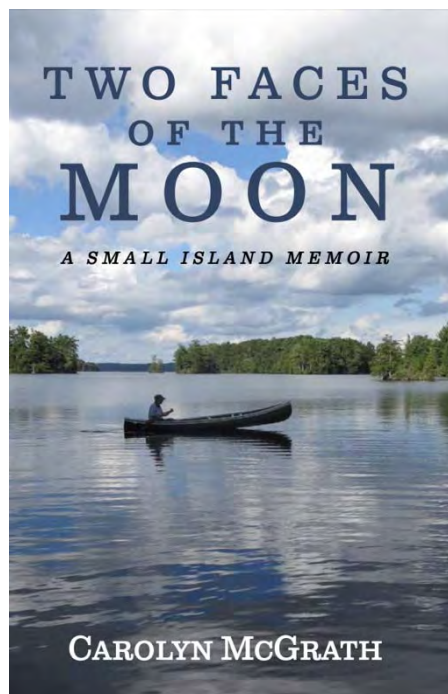
Two Faces of the Moon: A Review

By: Lynn Watson

Those of us who call Bobs and Crow Lake home know the pull of the lake each spring as we return to our happy place, our lake of many islands. For most of us, the lake represents peace, relaxation, and a return to nature. But, for a talented few, the lake has inspired written memoirs and histories.

We are all familiar with the work of Lloyd Jones who wrote *The Dammed Lakes* and *Living by the Chase*, telling the history of this place. As well, in 1922, Laura Lee Davidson was inspired to write, *A Winter of Content*, a memoir about a winter she spent at her small cottage on an island on Bobs Lake. She also published, *Isles of Eden*, about vacationing on Bobs Lake in the summer. Both these books are now freely available on the internet, the first in print on archive.org and the second in voice only at libravox.org.

This summer, Carolyn McGrath has added her memoir, *Two Faces of the Moon*, in which she reflects on a summer on the lake, about twenty years ago. In language that is poetic and lyrical, McGrath recalls one special summer, out of the many she has spent on the lake, alone on her island with two dogs, Blue and Ring. In a story filled with details of the nature, the people around her, and the everyday challenges of maintaining a summer home, she comes to terms with her past and her relationship with her mother who lies dying in a nursing home in Sharbot Lake. While she has always adored her father who bequeathed the island to Q2ASWher when she was only seventeen, she is finally able to understand the source of the spirit who gave her the strength to return year after year alone to her island.



Looking north at Plum Island

Every page of this book is infused with a love of the lake and its people. The details of the locals, and the wildlife on Bobs Lake were fascinating to me as a lover of the lake. Unlike Davidson, who used pseudonyms, possibly to protect her from their wrath, McGrath names these people and places and we fall in love with them, too. With her deft narrative, McGrath crafts an intriguing story that pulls us along as she and we discover the two faces of the moon.

Carolyn McGrath now lives in Charlottesville, Virginia but she has spent every summer of her life on her island home on Bobs Lake, save one, when COVID shut the border in 2020. She earned an M.A. in Creative Writing and has spent years teaching English and writing. She has published several articles in the past few years for this magazine. This summer, she attended the Frontenac Frolic and greeted her fellow lake residents. She graciously shared a portion of the sales of her book at the Frolic with the Greater Bobs and Crow Lake Foundation.

Two Faces of the Moon is available on order from Indigo and Amazon.

Love, Light, & Shadow Retreat at Irwin's Cabins, Bobs Lake

By: Samantha Kutowy

It was my 50th birthday and I wanted to do something extra special, so I booked a retreat at Irwin's Cabins. Where is that you ask? In Godfrey, Ontario - a little bit West of Westport, nestled in between Wolfe Lake and Crow Lake, on Bobs Lake, which is just a little bit North of the Blueberry Islands. How adorable and whimsical does that sound? Well, it kind of is.

It is not really an island because there is a narrow spot where you can just fit a road, but it looks like an island in Bobs Lake. I have never been there before, and it was marked with these cute little cabin signs showing us the route. I did not know where we were, and it was on typically windy cottage roads. But it was clearly marked and easy to find. I would describe it as your Canadian classic cabin experience. It was built in the 1950s, I believe, and the cabins definitely have a 50's vibe.

I went up with 12 other women on the Fall Equinox weekend, which was September 22nd to 24th for a two-day retreat called Love, Light and Shadow. The retreat was organized by Carrie-Leigh Stockwell and Candice Harsh and was described as "Emerge into nature and connect through self-reflection. Participate in daily meditations by the lake, energy sessions, self-reflection exercises, and Equinox ceremonies. Take time to yourself to rest, journal and enjoy all that mother nature has to offer."





Carrie is the owner and operator of Pure Lotus Wellness Retreat in Kemptville Ontario who guided us through energetic healing exercises. Carrie-Leigh is a Certified Lifestyle and Wellness Health Coach, Holy Fire Karuna Reiki Master, and Integrated Energy Therapy Master-Instructor. Carrie-Leigh dedicates her profession to helping those find deep cellular healing -- through stress and trauma. Candice is an energy practitioner who is certified in Reiki and IET. Candice believes that living an authentic life is the true path to inner healing through energy work.

Nadine and Jeff are new owners, they bought Irwin's Cabins just this spring, so they have not had it that long. Despite the challenges that face

new owners our experience was wonderful, and they were very attentive hosts. When we got there, we were greeted by Nadine, who is also from the North Grenville area. And so, you know, a familiar face, always nice to have.

Each lake side cabin has 2 bedrooms, full kitchen and 2-piece bathroom and sitting area with community showers available in another building. I was in cabin six which was just off to the side of the site. It had its own private dock which was such a little treat. My bedroom looked out onto the water. It was so pretty. Our retreat was organized around the Fall Equinox which coincides with the first weekend of duck hunting season. We did not know that at the time! And so, we woke up to gunshots on Saturday and Sunday morning! Once we realized it was duck hunting season, that was fine and kind of funny.

We had coffee and tea at 7:00 so we were getting up then anyway. Meditation began at 7:30 followed by a delicious breakfast. There was a communal fire pit that we had access to on Friday and Saturday night, and we did a burning ceremony and then had a s'more celebration afterwards, it was lovely. Irwin's had canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and a boat that you could rent to take out and go exploring on the water. The water seemed calm. I did not go out, but the people who I was with went out and they did say it was a little bit windy the farther you got out. It is such a unique little place, and there is lots of curves and bends, so there was not really an opportunity for



the boaters to be speeding because it was in this nice little bay area with this tiny little island that you could see off in the distance. So, it did require the boats to go slower, so everybody was out there with their, you know, manpowered crafts and were able to motor around or paddle around safely. We listened to the loons,



Love, Light & Shadow Retreat (cont'd)

geese, and ducks. We lay on the dock and looked up at the full moon and the stars, which were bright and shiny. The ground is speckled with pyrite, so the ground sparkled when walking with your flashlights at night.



The group had 6 cabins and the main Lakehouse. The organizers Carrie and Candace had the Lakehouse, so they were able to prepare all our meals - our breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We ate up there in the dining area or on the nice big deck, we were able to see out across the water while we ate. Irwin's had another area where we had our meditation and did our workshops, which also had lots of windows facing the water. Beautiful views from every location! Nadine is registered massage therapist. There is huge potential for her. A beautiful blend of traditional camps, people who go up and rent cabins, but also like more of the glamping thing that is trendier nowadays. She has the skill set to offer that as well plus they have the potential to create some facilities that will have the opportunity for weekends like retreats, like our weekend that we had, which was amazing. We were their first big group that went up and it went really, smooth.

The organizers thought it went well because Carrie and Candace have booked another Fall Equinox workshop for 2024 so if you are interested in that, keep your eyes peeled. I am sure it will be advertised with Irwin's Cabins and in the North Grenville area. It sold out in less than three hours.

Obviously, it was in high demand. So yes, I would recommend Irwin's Cabins and the retreat that I went to – both were fabulous.

A great time, good food, wonderful people, and lots of hard inner work, it's always good to delve deep into the soul and the spirit and we were able to do it in a wonderful setting and environment. It was the perfect retreat to celebrate my 50th birthday...even with all the unexpected gun shots at 6:00am!



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Fishing Walleye on Bobs in 2023

By: Gordon Brettell

As another humbling season of walleye fishing here on Bobs Lake comes to an end for me I'm left with a growing concern about the future for Walleye here on Bobs lake. This isn't the same walleye fishery it was in the 1990's, a time when it wasn't uncommon to catch multiple walleye over 25" in an evening.

But what's changed?

The introduction of Black Crappie has made life for our younger walleye a lot more competitive in shallow water. Netting studies done by the ministry indicate that Black Crappie accounted for 19% of all fish netted in the study. Walleye only accounted for 1% of all fish netted. That indicates that Black Crappie are thriving in the system and should be targeted for the table.

The only species more abundant is Cisco. Cisco are a cold-water fish found in deep lakes. They school near the surface at dusk and dawn. The average size Cisco is 10-15 inches long and can weigh up to as much as 2 pounds. This makes them the perfect high-fat food source for Lake Trout, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass and Walleye. In 1999, 40 000 Lake trout were stocked in Crow Lake and Green Bay, making the competition for Walleye to eat Cisco all that more difficult.



With the advancements in electronics and forward-facing sonar, combined with the pressure we put on these fish I think practicing catch and release for Walleye has never been more important. Since we as anglers can't decide what fish are being put into the lake, we must be responsible when we decide what fish we take out of the lake. If you are planning on having a fish fry and you are skilled enough to catch a walleye, then there's no reason you can't apply that same knowledge on a different species and switch gears and go get on some crappie for the day.

But if you're a catch and release fishermen like me and you want to target the biggest walleye in the system here's a few things to keep in mind to ensure a healthy release. After netting a big walleye keep the fish in the net and keep the net in the water while you unhook the fish. If you have to take a photo, do it quickly. Hold the fish horizontally with 2 hands, supporting the belly of the fish. When releasing the fish make sure to hold the fish either by the tail or under the belly until the fish kicks and swims away. This could take 2 seconds or 2 minutes.

Every fish you release today is a bigger fish tomorrow.

I caught my personal best (29.5") this September trolling a purplodescent Rapala Scatter Rap Minnow on lead core going 2.0 mph. I had my lure down 26 ft over 70 ft. Maybe next year I'll get that 30".



Hop Picking For A Good Cause

By: Carson Jen

About ten years ago, a unique partnership in Canada was formed between local hop growers, the Perth Brewery and the Perth and District Community Foundation. This joint partnership was formed to provide funding support to local charities. This initiative was started by Lynn McIntyre and Lynne Underhill of Bobs Lake, who grow cascade hops at their farm just outside Perth.

For the past three years, Bill St. Arnaud and Janice Walker have contributed their cascade hops to the annual harvest from their cottage plot on Bobs Lake.



Cascade Hops

The harvested hops are donated to the Perth Brewery, which brews a sessional wet hop beer, called Many Hands. This beer is unique because it is a wet hop beer. To make this unique brew, the hops are picked in the morning and brewed the same afternoon. This produces a refreshing and aromatic beer, with some of the proceeds going to the Perth and District Community Foundation to fund charitable grants.

Many cottagers from Bobs and Crow Lakes volunteer as hop pickers. Most of the volunteers have been picking for years, and some since the beginning of the event. It is never difficult recruiting volunteers for this fun event.

The hop picking usually takes place at the end of August when the hop cones are mature. Since hops are grown on a trellis which is 5.5 meters high (18 feet), a large footprint is not required. The Underhill hop yard is just under an acre.

The 2023 harvest yielded 42 kg (93 pounds) of Cascade hops, that were picked by 40 volunteers. The hop picking took about 3 hours and the volunteers had the opportunity to socialize with other community minded individuals, enjoy lunch and receive a complimentary six pack of Many Hands beer.

For a limited time, you can try this beer the next time you are in the Perth Brewery. Hope to see you next year.



Many Hands Beer by Perth Brewery



Volunteer Hop Pickers



Stargazing At The Lake

By: Jeff Carabott

Autumn is my favourite time of year for stargazing at the lake! The sky gets darker earlier and nights last longer. No need to wait until very late to start; no mosquitoes to fight off; temperatures are not yet too cold for comfort; the Milky Way is still very visible; Jupiter / Saturn are well situated high in the sky at a reasonable hour; and of course, less people / less artificial lighting at the lake this time of year allows for even darker skies.



This summer, observing was challenging to say the least. It seemed like most nights were adversely affected by either forest fire smoke or clouds and rain. Of course, the relentless buzzing of mosquitoes doesn't help at all! One bright spot was that the annual Perseids meteor shower (peaking around August 13th) took place near a new Moon (no visible Moon), so the skies were especially dark.

The Sun is also approaching a period of peak solar activity (an 11 year cycle), so the opportunity to observe Northern Lights was good this summer. This should continue to improve over the next 2 years, peaking in July, 2025.

We are very fortunate to have some of the darkest skies in Eastern Ontario. To enjoy them, nothing is required other than your own eyes, but of course any pair of binoculars will provide more detail and additional targets. If you can, attach your binoculars to a tripod to steady the view and be more comfortable. As an alternative, use a zero gravity chair or even lay on a child's inflatable raft pulled up on shore.



Dress appropriately for the temperature. Allow 20-30 minutes for your eyes to adjust to the dark, and preserve your night vision by using only red flashlights (or cover a white flashlight lens with red cellophane or even red nail polish). Don't forget to shut off your outdoor lights and, whenever possible, install / aim light fixtures downward to reduce light pollution for yourself and your neighbours.



Stargazing At The Lake (cont'd)

While the Moon itself is an object of fascination worthy of detailed exploration, the best dark nights for general observation is when you cannot see the Moon at all (called a new Moon). When observing the Moon with binoculars, concentrate on the terminator (the line between darkness and sunlight) for the extra dramatic effect of crater and mountain shadows.

We are also very fortunate to be within about a one hour drive from two public (and free) dark sky viewing areas:

- North Frontenac Astronomy Park, north of Sharbot Lake, near Plevna
- Lennox & Addington Dark Sky Viewing Area, 37km north of Napanee

Check their websites for any observing opportunities or scheduled demonstration events. These events are usually held between April and October.

I would encourage you to download any free astronomy / stargazing app, such as Stellarium Mobile, Skyview Lite, or Star Walk 2, to learn more about the night sky and easily identify what you can see simply by looking up.

Total Solar Eclipse – April 8, 2024

We are extremely fortunate to be very near the path of one of astronomy's premier events: a total solar eclipse. Without chasing such occurrences world-wide, this may be a once in a lifetime opportunity for many. To appreciate its full splendor, you need to be in the direct path of totality, which includes nearby Kingston.



To avoid any serious eye damage, all observation of the Sun requires the proper use of approved solar protection glasses or other protective devices. Visit the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) website for details (<https://www.rasc.ca/eclipses>).

Also, as we get closer to April 8th, check the RASC Kingston Centre (<https://kingston.rasc.ca/>) and the Queen's Observatory (<https://www.queensu.ca/observatory/>) websites for any public eclipse observing opportunity details.

Clear skies and happy stargazing!