



Lake Views

Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association Magazine

Spring/Summer 2022



Photo by: Darrell LaRue

The Lake is calling I must go

Anonymous



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

The summer of 2022 is shaping up to finally resemble a “normal” summer on the lakes. After a long and cold winter (possibly a normal one when we were kids) and with Covid waves that appear to finally be fading, and economic/world events that fill up the media space, we all need something comforting to look forward to. That comfort is the timeless beauty of our lakes.

For the first time since 2019, the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association will hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in person at Glendower Hall on July 24, 2022, starting at 1:00 pm. We have an interesting slate of speakers, a home style buffet lunch prepared by the Catholic Women's League of Bedford, and full reports by the Board. The confirmation of the AGM is still subject to the prevailing Covid situation at the time, which could force the event into the virtual space. If the AGM is in person, Public Health Guidelines in effect at the time will apply to all attendees. The GBCLA will also be hosting a Cottage Security and Safety Fair (subject to the Covid situation). The Fair will also be held at Glendower Hall from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, which we hope will become an annual event. The tentative list of participants includes Pest Control; Fire Safety; OPP; Public Health; Home Security; Cottage Rental Management; and more. Come out to have your security and safety questions answered.

The other big event to return to the lakes is the Bobs and Crow Lakes BioBlitz (for more information, read the article by Bill St. Arnaud). This highly popular event is returning to the lakes for the first time since 2013. It will be held starting Friday August 12th at noon until Saturday, August 13th at noon. There will be 24 continuous hours of activity with 12 scientist experts, who will be presenting exploratory walks and talks. The 2022 BioBlitz will provide the first comparative data to the baseline inventory of plant and animal species gathered in 2013 for the Bobs and Crow Lakes region. We hope BioBlitz 2022 will be a fun, educational and interactive way for our community to come together (parents, grandparents, youth and children) to learn about biodiversity, stewardship and natural heritage values.

The GBCLA will be participating in the Fish Lead Free program created by the Wolfe Lake Association. The article in this issue has the full details on this worthwhile program, including how to obtain a \$10 voucher towards the purchase of lead-free tackle at participating retailers. The vouchers plus other useful information on the threats of lead fishing tackle will be available at the AGM on July 24. The Association also participated in the consultations with Rogers representatives for several new cell towers. The towers will



Message from the GBCLA Board of Directors (cont'd)

dramatically improve internet and cell phone service around the lakes for Rogers customers and eventually for all carriers once tower sharing agreements are in place. Construction of the 5G capable towers will begin this year and will likely be completed in early 2023. Regrettably the imposition of 90-meter towers is not welcomed by those whose views of the lakes must now be shared. The GBCLA (especially Larry Arpaia) has been working hard to improve the access of water only properties to a reliable and reasonably priced septic pump out contractor. Starting in 2022 Island Marine Construction has announced a new septic service that includes Bobs and Crow Lakes. For more information refer to the article in this issue.

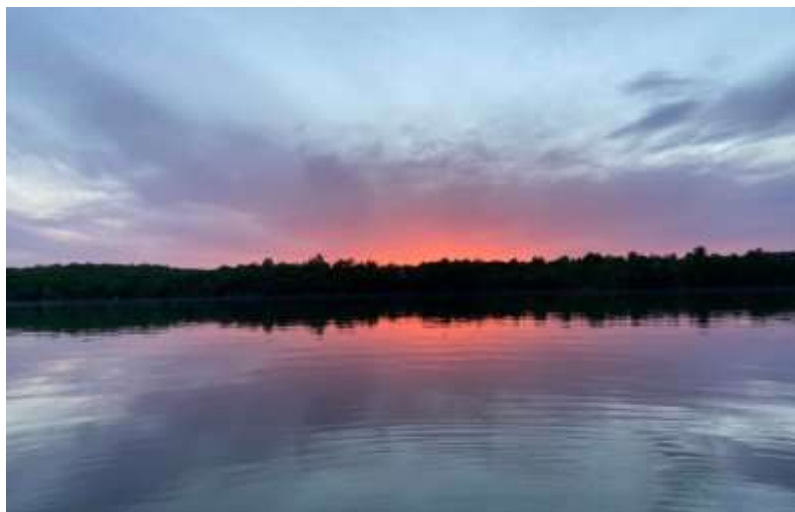
Short term rentals continue to be a worsening issue. The scarcity of rental properties, rising property values and the trend to remote work, all contribute to rising demand. The resultant impacts from more renters are noise, lake and road traffic and garbage. Larry Arpaia shares his thoughts from a CBC interview he gave recently on this subject. The *Lymantria dispar* (formerly Gypsy moths) could be back for a repeat performance of last summer's infestation. However, some locals feel that the virus that naturally controls their population, took hold in late summer of 2021 and should moderate their numbers in 2022. Joselyn Morley (Wildlife Director) provides an update. Jean Faucher also gives an update on two key Crow Lake construction projects: Crow Village Road and the Crow Lake dock. Personal health safety is always a high priority at the cottage. Sharron Dean and Dr. Andrew Samis give a practical approach to installing a community AED (Automated External Defibrillator) on their lane. On the fun side of the ledger, Jeff Carabott describes the fascination one can feel looking skyward at the trillions of stars on a clear and dark night at the lake. Finally we have lost two of our beloved matriarch/patriarch(s) of Bobs Lake. Both Sandra Fuller of Twin Oaks and Rudy Ladds of Green Bay have passed away recently. We will be starting the cottage season this year without them for the first time in many decades.

As mentioned in the Fall 2021 issue, there will be a strict rule that the Lake Views magazine will be sent only to those members whose membership status shows as having paid their current year dues. Please go to our website at bobsandcrowlakes.ca and use our secure online payment methods of Paypal or E-transfer (cheques are ok too).

Many of us feel that Covid has finally released its bite and we are on our way to a summer of relative freedom. But let's not forget that Healthcare staff are not "free" yet. Anyone who has visited a hospital recently can confirm that these folks are still working hard and long hours. We owe them all a million thank you's.

Board of Directors

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association



Beautiful Lake Sunset

Photo by: Lisa Ray Koenig



Information and Updates

Crow Lake Dock Update

By: Jean Faucher

In July 2020 during the Annual General Meeting of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA), the subject of the safety of the Crow Lake dock was raised. It was suggested that the GBCLA approach the Township of Central Frontenac regarding making the necessary repairs to make the dock safe. Central Frontenac contacted the Federal Fishery & Oceans Department (FFOD) who own the dock, to request their help in its repair. At that time FFOD were already in the process of off-loading the ownership of this dock to Central Frontenac however, a condition of the transfer was that the dock had to first meet all safety standards.

A work project was established and in March 2022, a contractor brought heavy equipment to the shoreline of Crow Lake and started digging the bottom of the lake in front of the ramp to fix the structure of dock. The project, under the watchful eyes of Central Frontenac Publics Works staff, was accomplished within a week and included the following:

- Removal and replacement of the 200mm x 200mm Hemlock Timber Crib Members that had deteriorated and were a safety hazard on the dock.
- Excavation of the silty clay material area past the concrete boat ramp and its replacement with a stone mud mat.
- Testing the dredged material to provincial standards to ensure material was safe to remove from the site.
- Installation of a Rip Rap Revetment wall to protect the ram and mud mat from erosion and material buildup.
- Supply and laying of rocks to protect the ramp from ice erosion.

The GBCLA and all boaters who use the dock to launch and retrieve their boats thank the staff of Central Frontenac Public Works as well as the Federal Fisheries & Ocean Department for their prompt action in restoring the Crow Lake dock and bringing it to a safe standard. The Crow Lake village residents especially appreciate the work done in their community by the Township.



Crow Lake Dock, Early Spring 2022



Post Construction View



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Crow Lake Road Re-surfacing

By: Jean Faucher

The Council for Central Frontenac Township has approved a construction project for completion in 2022 by Public Works to re-surface the east end Crow Lake Road. Residents who drive along this road will agree that it has been in a very poor state of repair for some time.

The details of the project were provided by Tyson Myers, Public Works Manager, to the GBCLA for publication in our Newsletter and are the following:

- *During the 2022 budget discussions, Central Frontenac Township Council authorized Public Works to resurface the east end of Crow Lake Road.*
- *The project starts near Wilson Road and heads East to the Tay Valley boundary.*
- *Public Works has budgeted just over \$464,000 to the project to improve ride quality, drainage and driver safety.*
- *This portion of the road will be pulverized, re-shaped and compacted and a Double Surface Treatment will be applied, more commonly known as "Tar and Chip".*
- *There are areas where culverts will be replaced, and ditches will be improved.*
- *This road will remain open to the public, but I expect it to be reduced to one lane of traffic for days at a time for a period of approximately 1 month.*

The Central Frontenac Public Works department thanks all permanent and seasonal residents in advance for their patience as they work to improve this section of access to our beautiful cottage country. Feel free to contact them through their website portal or by telephone regarding questions on the information provided above. Enjoy this first summer back to cottaging without Covid19 restrictions and stay safe!

Information provided by Tyson Myers, Public Works Manager, Township of Central Frontenac (Email: tmyers@centralfrontenac.com; Website: www.centralfrontenac.com; Phone: 613-279-2935)

How to set up local Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

For brevity, a Question and Answer format was used by the authors:

Sharron Dean: Retired ICU nurse

Dr. Andrew Samis: Critical Care Physician, Surgeon and Coroner

In the Spring of 2022, there was a big change on a tranquil cottage lane on Crow Lake. Mounted in a cabinet screwed to a tree is an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), a lifesaving emergency medical device that can save lives in the event of a cardiac arrest. Sharron Dean, a retired ICU nurse, had tried for many years to get a program started on rural lanes after working with the Mickey Network to set up AEDs in the Oakville area. She was the driving force behind the project to place an AED on this tree-lined road along the shore of Crow Lake. She was assisted by a newly arrived neighbour, Dr. Andrew Samis.



What process did you follow for getting an AED for your lane on Crow Lake?

Sharron: First and foremost, your cottage lane needs a champion to lead the project. Without someone to lead the project it won't likely succeed. It is virtually impossible for EMS to arrive in time to save a life



How to set up local Automated External Defibrillator (cont'd)

from a cardiac arrest. Individual cottagers must step up. Secondly, the length of the cottage lane will determine how many defibrillators might be needed with the understanding that shocking a collapsed person within two minutes is ideal. If your lane is long, you might need more than one.

Choosing a defibrillator involves looking over the different products that are available. There are four or five excellent AEDs offered by a variety of companies. On our lane we chose the Zoll AED3, as the warranty and life of the pads is five years, it emits voice commands to help bystanders through the process, and you do not have to change the pads for children and infants. However, there are several great AED models from a number of companies and lots of recommendations from a variety of credible organizations to help you choose. Individuals can choose an AED which works best for their lane or road.

Getting funding for an AED is a significant part of the project, as AEDs typically cost between \$1500 and \$2500. The AED on our lane at Crow Lake ended up costing approximately \$2200 including a cabinet. Raising the funds is a matter of applying to agencies which have resources including cottage associations. Raising funds from neighbours along your lane allows them to benefit and be directly invested in the project.

Although AEDs are so easy and safe to use that training is not mandatory, education for those who might use it can greatly enhance the effectiveness of the technology. Many lanes have cottagers with medical expertise who might take on this role. People are more likely to use an AED if they have seen, touched, and understand how it works. On our lane Dr. Samis will be taking on this role.

What are the liabilities associated with offering access to an AED?

Sharron: Often individuals are worried about using an AED and being held legally liable if something goes wrong. The Good Samaritan Act of Ontario 2001 protects persons from liability with respect to providing voluntary emergency medical or first aid services. The Act provides legal protection to individuals, including Healthcare professionals, who give reasonable assistance to those whom they believe are injured, in peril, or otherwise incapacitated.

In addition, the Chase McEachern Act (Heart Defibrillator Civil Liability) Act of Ontario 2007 also provides protection from lawsuits relating to *"negligence in acting or failing to act while using a defibrillator"*. Chase McEachern was a young boy from Barrie, Ontario who had a very serious heart condition, and campaigned to make AEDs mandatory in schools and arenas. He collapsed and died at his school at age eleven in 2006.

What maintenance is required for an AED, especially during the winter?

Andrew: There is minimal maintenance required for an AED since they do not need to be plugged in. The battery expiration date is typically 2-5 years depending on the climate and battery type. Since an AED operates between 0 and 50 degrees Celsius, a heated cabinet or interior storage location is required for usage during the winter.

Sharron: Each lane is responsible for ensuring the unit is maintained and in good working order. On our lane quick daily checks are made to ensure our machine has undergone its own internal self-check program and is displaying a green check mark visible at the top of the machine. We also do monthly checks that involve a complete check of equipment to ensure it has not been damaged, tampered with, or items removed. We have a book inside our cabinet with the AED to record the checks.



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How to set up local Automated External Defibrillator (cont'd)

Do you have to register the AED?

Sharron: Any AED should be registered. Our AED is registered with 911, and the nearest ambulance and fire departments. Registering with Pulsepoint is also a good idea. Pulsepoint is an app that displays nearby AED devices in the community.

Communication during an Emergency

Sharron: Sharing an AED along a cottage lane presents obvious communication challenges in summoning help during an emergency. We recommend a push-button siren/light system to place at the front of your cottage to alert everyone of a medical emergency and to bring the defibrillator. I currently have one installed. On our lane we are also researching an app that expedites communications through cell phones during an emergency.

Water Access Only Septic Pump-outs

By: Larry Arpaia

Getting regular septic pump outs on water only access properties, has always been a challenge. The anxiety related to the cost, availability, and “hassle” to find a reliable contractor was and still is enough to spoil



your enjoyment on the island! The inability to arrange for regular pump outs can lead to costly septic repairs and water quality deterioration from leaks. The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association has worked hard to identify and network with potential contractors to service the Bobs and Crow Lakes area.

Going forward from the summer of 2022, Island Marine Construction (IMC) has announced that they will now offer water only (Non-road) access septic pump outs for cottage properties in Eastern Ontario.

The IMC website is now up and running. Any cottage owner who wishes to inquire or arrange for septic (or

other construction services) can do so by going to the website and completing the inquiry form.

<https://www.islandmarineconstruction.ca/>

In order to ensure a confirmed 2022 pump out date, owners are encouraged to post their request for service early. Based on numbers received from each lake ICM will prioritize their work schedule based on demand from each lake. If you wish to contact ICM directly by phone, you can reach the principals of the company at:

Greg Fleming: 613-349-9655 or Peter Copestake: 416-271-3000 or send an email to

islandmarineconstruction2021@gmail.com





Fish Lead Free

By: Joselyn Morley

The Lake Association at nearby Wolfe Lake has spearheaded a Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Programme. It is a voluntary initiative that aims to reduce the amount of toxic lead fishing tackle that is accumulating in the environment. Lead is responsible for the deaths of millions of birds and other wildlife annually. Loons, eagles, swans, and other waterfowl are particularly vulnerable. Lead is a neurotoxin that damages the nervous system and causes blindness, infertility, seizures, and death. It also endangers mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and songbirds.



While aiming to reduce the amount of lead tackle in the lakes, the programme also aims to raise awareness of the dangers of lead fishing tackle. Loons, eagles, and other aquatic birds ingest lead when they eat fish with ingested or attached tackle, or when they grab bait or fish from your line. They also scoop up lead sinkers off the lake bottom as they gather pebbles that they need for digestion. Lead sinkers blend into the lakebed incredibly well, making ingestion inevitable. Lead is absorbed into the bloodstream from any ingested tackle, resulting in death. It takes one piece of lead tackle to kill a loon, who normally have a life expectancy between 15 and 30 years. They do not mate until 6 or 7 years of age, and only average one chick every two years.

Lead-free tackle is available wherever fishing tackle is sold. We have taken lead out of water pipes, paint, and gas due to its deadly effects on humans and the environment. It is now time to get it out of our



Fishing with lead-free tackle prevents lead poisoning in loons, eagles and other wildlife while helping protect water quality in our lakes.



lakes. The Wolfe Lake Association's Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back & Exchange Programme is supported by South Frontenac Township and retail partners. Anglers can exchange their toxic lead tackle for a \$10 voucher towards the purchase of lead-free tackle. Lead tackle can be dropped off at participating retailers and the Westport Lions Reuse & Recycle Centre. Participating retailers include: Norris Bait & Tackle in Westport; Big Rideau Tackle in Smiths Falls; Manotick Bait Fishing and Hunting; Baitcasters in Carleton Place; Westport Hardware; Home Hardware in Hartington; and Verona Hardware.

Check out Fishleadfree.ca for more information and resources.



Bobs and Crow Lake Bioblitz 2022 - August 12-13, 2022

The Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association is preparing to hold its second BioBlitz from **Friday, August 12th noon to Saturday, August 13th noon**. This BioBlitz is a follow up to one previously held in 2013. The location is the crown land that rests between Crow Lake and Bobs Lake. This parcel of Canadian Shield contains over 2,000 acres of pristine and uninhabited forest and wetlands.



The purpose of the 2013 BioBlitz was to develop a baseline inventory of plant and animal species in Bobs & Crow Lakes from which we could assess our habitat value for conservation. This follow-up BioBlitz will provide the first comparative data to do that. In the 2013 BioBlitz, many rare and endangered species were identified. The data gathered has been very useful to MNRF in doing their environmental assessment of these crown lands before they are transferred to the Algonquins.

The following is a list of some of the invited experts and their specialty and their tentative scheduled walks and talks.

Friday August 12		
Troy McMullin	Lichens	12:00 pm
Megan Snetsinger	Snakes	1:30 pm
Mary Alice Snetsinger	Fresh-water Fish	2:00 pm
Brenda Gallagher	Medicinal Plants	2:30 pm
Ken Allison	Butterflies	3:00 pm
Jennifer Doubt	Mosses	4:00 pm
Mark Read	Moths	8:00 pm
Saturday August 13		
Linda Ley	Mosses	9:00 am
Lynn McIntyre	Trees	9:30 am
Sharon Carr	Geology	10:00 am
Tobi Kissewaller	Birds	10:30 am
Pat Grace	Turtles	11:00 am

More details will follow at the GBCLA Annual General Meeting on July 25, 2022.

The BioBlitz is free to members of GBCLA. The BioBlitz registration desk will be located at 590 Oak Bluffs Rd.

We hope BioBlitz 2022 will be a fun, educational and interactive way for our community to come together (parents, grandparents, youth and children) to learn about biodiversity, stewardship and natural heritage values.



Cottage Security and Safety Fair

Glendower Hall: July 24, 2022, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA) is introducing a new event in 2022 called the Cottage Security and Safety Fair. It will run prior to the GBCLA Annual General Meeting (AGM) held every year at Glendower Hall.

The purpose of the Fair is to provide useful information to cottage residents and property owners. We have invited local governments, government agencies and local businesses to staff tables that allow attendees to ask questions and obtain handout information. Fair participants will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 pm, prior to the start of the AGM.

Participants who have tentatively confirmed their presence include the Harrowsmith OPP Community Liaison Officer; Eric Kohlsmith (Rideau Valley Conservation Authority); MNRF Conservation Officer; Greenshield Pest Control; Frontenac Technology Solutions; South Frontenac Fire Department; and the Frontenac County Health Unit. There will also be a GBCLA Safety Card available to everyone.

There will also be a complimentary buffet lunch served by the Catholic Women's League of Bedford starting at 11:30 am.

If you are a local service provider and would like to participate or you have any questions, please contact me at cityviewky@rogers.com or call 613-224-6835.

I hope to see you there.

Kathy Yach

Cottage Fair Coordinator - GBCLA

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Marine Safety

Marine Safety - 2022

By: Dick Johnston

In November 2021, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) released statistics on boating fatalities over the past 11 years. The statistics indicated that 86% of the fatalities, during that period, were people not wearing a life jacket. Recommendations are that individuals should wear life jackets at all times when boating.

New Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Regulations

Over the years when purchasing a PFD (life jacket), the focus was to ensure that the intended wearer was within the weight range and that it was a proper fit. That has now changed.

A North American Standards group has revised regulations to harmonize Canadian and American standards and regulations. The changes focus, primarily, on the intended use of the jacket, the lifesaving buoyancy of the jacket and applicable restrictions. The new standards move away from a 'Type' of use description to a 'Performance Level' designation. These changes will allow for a range of buoyancy capacities, chest sizes, as well as the self-turning capability, to right the wearer face up in the water.

Examples of the new Performance Levels and their intended use are:

Level 50 – Smooth and mostly smooth waters. Designed for fishing and kayaking.

Level 70 – This designation is equivalent to the Type 111 category. They are the most common PFD worn by recreational boaters.

Level 100 – This designation compares to the Type 1 category. The intended use is in open but sheltered waters.

Level 150 – Is an open water, off-shore deep-water Jacket. They feature high flotation and excellent self-turning ability.

Level 275 - Designed for specialized commercial extreme off-shore water conditions.

It should be noted that the changes do not prescribe a standard for babies under 9kg (20lbs).

Inflatable PFDs.

Both manual and auto fill PFDs have become very popular however, there are three issues of which boaters may not be aware. This style of PFD is not approved for people under 16 years of age or weighing less than 36.3kg (80lb) and, these PFDs cannot be counted as an on-board vest unless it is being worn. They cannot be used by operators of personal watercraft.

For more information on choosing a lifejacket or Personal Flotation Device visit the Transport Canada Marine Transportation web site. <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/getting-started-safe-boating/choosing-lifejackets-personal-flotation-devices-pfds>





Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) Changes

The change relates to the rental of a Personal Water Craft (PWC) by people under the age of 21. Previously, people under the age of 21 could rent a PWC by completing the Rental Boat Safety Checklist. The new change states that renters (<21) can no longer just use the Rental Boat Safety Checklist when renting a PWC. If the intended renter does not have a PCOC, they must be accompanied by someone over 25.

Carbon Monoxide Poses Unseen Danger While Boating or on the Water

Courtesy of Today.com and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Coast Guard says carbon monoxide poisoning is among the top five causes of boating-related deaths each year. The following link is an interview with the family of a college athlete whose death gained national attention. <https://www.today.com/>.

Carbon monoxide (CO) can harm and even kill you inside or outside your boat! Did you also know: CO symptoms are similar to seasickness or alcohol intoxication. CO can affect you whether you're underway, moored, or anchored. The following information was provided from the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/co/boating.htm>

How CO Can Build Up in a Boat

Larger boats, such as houseboats, sometimes have generators that vent toward the rear of the boat. This venting poses a danger of CO poisoning to people on the rear swim deck or water platform. On larger boats CO builds up above the water near the water platform. CO that builds up in the air space beneath the stern deck or on and near the swim deck can kill someone in seconds.

Traveling at slow speeds or idling in the water can cause CO to build up in a boat's cabin, cockpit, bridge, and aft deck, or in an open area. Wind from the aft section of the boat can increase this buildup of CO.

Back drafting can cause CO to build up inside the cabin, cockpit, and bridge when a boat is operated at a high bow angle, is improperly or heavily loaded, or has an opening that draws in exhaust.

Symptoms of CO Poisoning

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. High levels of CO inhalation can cause death. CO poisoning can also cause you to pass out and fall into the water and drown. A person who is sleeping or intoxicated can die from CO poisoning before ever having symptoms.

How to Prevent CO Poisoning on Boats

- Install and maintain a working CO detector listed by Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) as appropriate for marine use inside the boat.
- Properly install and maintain all fuel-burning engines and appliances.
- Educate all passengers about the signs and symptoms of CO poisoning.
- Swim and play away from areas where engines vent their exhaust.
- Watch children closely when they play on rear swim decks or water platforms.
- Never block exhaust outlets. Blocking outlets can cause CO to build up in the cabin and cockpit areas—even when hatches, windows, portholes, and doors are closed.
- Dock, beach, or anchor at least 20 feet away from the nearest boat that is running a generator or engine. Exhaust from a nearby vessel can send CO into the cabin and cockpit of a boat.

If you think a person on your boat has CO poisoning move him or her to fresh air right away and contact the nearest emergency services.



*F*isheries

Fisheries Update

By: Jim McIntosh

The fisheries committee of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lake Association have been actively working on improving the wonderful fisheries we enjoy on these lakes. Over the years the group has noticed a change in the make up of the species being caught. Walleye are one of the best eating game fish and are a prize for those who enjoy eating what they catch. Their numbers have been reducing yearly based on the creel surveys completed by MNRF.

With help from many partners, including the Lake Foundation, MNRF, RVCA and a dedicated, hardworking group of volunteers a number of Walleye spawning beds were found and restored. These sites were blocked by debris from the 1998 Ice Storm. It wasn't until 2009 that restoration work began. Biologists from MNR advised at the time that it would take the Walleye 3 or more years to rediscover the restored beds.

For the past number of years Carson Jen has organized a group of volunteers to go out for several evenings in the spring and check on the spawning activities of Walleye in these areas.



There was good news and bad news in the 2022 survey. The good news is that Fish Creek continues to produce with over 540 Walleye observed in the spawning beds between April 6 and April 17. The bad news is that none of the four improved sites were used by Walleye this spring during the survey.

That does not mean the work was a failure. Other species can, and in some cases are, using these sites which would have not been available to them before the improvements. Each fall the sites are checked and any obstructions are removed, this is hard work with limited return, but still valuable to the fisheries. The renewed sites will at a minimum provide

excellent spawning opportunities for other species, which in turn will provide food for the game fish.

In the upcoming year the committee will focus on attempting to find out why we have not been able to entice Walleye to spawn at these sites as well as continue to evaluate any possible new opportunity for enhancements to the great fisheries we have.

Some of the problems that have faced us the last few years are related to water level fluctuations during the spawning period. This is aggravated by climate change which has altered stream flow rates and water temperatures. Covid has impacted the stocking program that MNRF was in the process of implementing in an attempt to create a larger number of fish available to spawn. Poaching of spawning fish, by people who do not appreciate the impact of their actions, has also been an issue.

The GBCLA and the Fisheries Committee will continue to work with the RVCA and MNRF to address these issues. If you have any suggestions for projects, we would be happy to consider them.





Water Quality

Water Quality Testing Results – 2021

By: Jeff Carabott

The Ontario Lake Partner Program (LPP) has not yet compiled and released all of the Lakes' testing data for 2021. Test data from 2020 is also limited, due to the Covid-19 program suspension. Again, we thank the dedicated group of volunteers who conduct regular water quality testing at various key locations of our lakes, from May through September.

The LPP is a province-wide, volunteer-based, water-quality monitoring program. Volunteers collect total phosphorus samples in May and make monthly water clarity observations on their lakes. This information allows for the early detection of changes in the nutrient status and/or the water clarity of the lake due to the impacts of shoreline development, climate change and other stresses.

Why Sample?

High levels of phosphorus can lead to algal blooms and in some cases affect the habitat of cold-water fish such as lake trout. By sampling the total phosphorus in May of each year it is possible to detect a change in the nutrient status of your lake. It is important to note that several years of data must be collected to observe the normal, between-year-differences before a trend can be identified.

While total phosphorus concentrations are the best way to describe the nutrient status of your lake, regular Secchi disk visibility depths can also help to identify changes in water clarity that are not linked to nutrient status (zebra mussels, climate change, etc.).

The LPP Annual Report may be downloaded by visiting the FOCA website:

<https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-sampling-assistance/>

Secchi disk visibility readings are interpreted as follows (the higher the reading, the clearer the water):

High transparency (Secchi depth >4 m)

Moderately transparent (Secchi depth 2-4 m)

Low transparency (Secchi depth 0-2 m)

The Minimum Provincial Water Quality Objective (PWQO) is 2 metres, indicating that waters are usually clear and sufficient sunlight is able to penetrate the water column to support aquatic life.

Location	Avg. Secchi disk 2021(m)	Avg. Secchi disk 2020 (m)	Avg. Secchi disk 2019 (m)	Avg. Secchi disk (m) 1996-2018
Buck Bay	-	-	-	4.4
East Basin	5.8	-	5.3	5.5
Crow Bay	4.8	-	-	4.4
Ctrl Narrows	4.8	4.7	-	4.4
Green Bay	-	6.1	6.4	6.0
Long Bay	4.5	-	-	4.6
Mill Bay	-	-	2.7	3.1
Mud Bay	5.4	5.8	5.8	5.3
Norris Bay	5.0	5.1	4.4	4.8
West Basin	5.0	4.8	3.4	4.5
Crow Lake	6.0	-	5.4	5.2



Secchi disk



Water Testing Results 2021 (cont'd)

Total Phosphorus (TP) readings are measured in micrograms per litre (ug/L), and are interpreted as follows (generally, the lower the reading, the clearer the water):

- 10 micrograms per litre or less – oligotrophic, few nutrients
- 10 – 20 micrograms per litre – mesotrophic, moderately enriched
- 20 micrograms per litre or more – eutrophic, enriched, higher levels of nutrients

Location	Avg. TP (ug/L) 2021	Avg. TP (ug/L) 2019	Avg. TP (ug/L) 2002-2018*	Avg. TP (ug/L) Pre-2002
Buck Bay	Not yet available	-	9.8	9.0
East Basin	Not yet available	10.7	8.7	11.0
Crow Bay	Not yet available	-	9.2	7.0
Central Narrows	Not yet available	10.9	9.6	11.0
Green Bay	Not yet available	8.5	8.7	11.0
Long Bay	Not yet available	10.2	9.1	16.0
Mill Bay	Not yet available	11.2	16.0	17.0
Mud Bay	Not yet available	9.5	8.1	8.0
Norris Bay	Not yet available	8.6	9.5	14.0
West Basin	Not yet available	14.0	11.9	10.0
Crow Lake	Not yet available	8.7	9.1	9.0

* Possible outliers not included

Calcium and Zebra Mussels

Calcium, at a concentration of 20mg/l, allows zebra mussels to more likely establish colonies and complete their life cycle. While we await 2021 results, in 2020, Calcium was below the threshold of 20 mg/l in all bays, with the exception of 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

RVCA Water Quality & E.Coli Testing

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.

Thank you to Haley Matschke from RVCA for summarizing the data collected and to Byron Turner for the assistance provided to the RVCA team in obtaining the samples.

Overall results for both lakes are good.

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Water Testing Results 2021 (cont'd)

Great news, *E. coli*, which is used to assess the suitability for recreational use, was below the Provincial Water Quality Objective (PWQO) of 100 colony forming units per 100ml (CFU/100ml) maximum at all sites in both lakes.

Average nutrient parameters, total phosphorus (TP) and total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN) were below their respective PWQO maximum objectives of 20 ug/l (0.020 mg/l) and 500 ug/l (0.500 mg/l) at all sites. The highest average concentrations in Bobs Lake were observed in Mill Bay.

For more information, see the RVCA Watershed Watch website:

<https://www.rvca.ca/volunteer/watershed-watch>

Failing Styrofoam Floats / Billets

You may have noticed small white or blue Styrofoam “crumbs” either floating in the water or appearing along shorelines. This is often the result of aging or damaged Styrofoam dock floats or billets breaking apart. There are many modern alternatives to exposed Styrofoam, including plastic floats and sealed barrels. Please consider these more environmentally friendly options when it comes time to replace or repair a dock. While some floats can be quite expensive, plastic barrels are often found online as low as \$20 each.

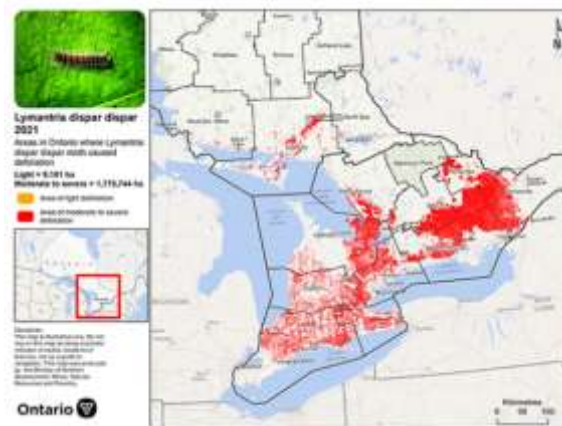


Invasive Species

Spongy Moth, *Lymantria Dispar Dispar* (formerly Gypsy Moth)

By: Joselyn Morley

Spongy Moths, or LDD, defoliated nearly 1.8 million hectares in 2021. That's increased from 586K hectares in 2020. The GBCLA has discussed LDD extensively in past publications and at the 2020 AGM. The MNRF predicts LDD defoliation based on aerial and ground survey data from the previous year. The forecast for 2022 was not good at all. In the past few years, we have not had extended periods of extreme cold that kills some eggs, but there was hope that the periods of cold we did have this past winter would have been enough. Other natural controls include: a fungus (*Entomophaga maimaiga*) which requires cool, damp conditions; a virus (Nuclear polyhedrosis, NPV) which can kill off LDD larvae given a high enough population; a parasitic wasp (*Ooencyrtus kuvanae*); and some mammals and birds.



Egg Masses

There are some things we can do. Remove egg masses once they start to appear in August. Keep removing them throughout the fall, winter, and spring.

Early-stage caterpillars can be treated with Bt-K (*Bacillus thuringiensis-Kurstaki*). Bt-K is a bacteria found in the soil. It will kill all lepidoptera feeding at the time of application, not just LDD caterpillars. There are over 1700 species of butterflies and moths (lepidoptera) in Ontario. Interestingly, a pair of chickadees must catch 7500 caterpillars to rear one clutch of young. Many young birds survive on caterpillars exclusively.



In May and June, late-stage caterpillars can be trapped under burlap bands and destroyed. Apply burlap around the trunk of the tree where Caterpillars will hide underneath. Remove the burlap and discard the caterpillars. Do not use duct tape or double-sided tape. In June and July, pupae can be removed and discarded by hand. The adult moths live for a short period of time and don't eat. Many stores sell LDD traps which are redundant or ineffective. Burlap bands is the most effective method.

Lyme Disease and Ticks

By: Joselyn Morley

It's hard to go for a walk without encountering ticks. Climate change has expanded the ranges of all types of ticks and they are here to stay in Eastern Ontario. Misinformation about ticks and Lyme disease abounds. The best thing you can do is educate yourself in order to take of yourself, your family, and your pets.

You cannot escape ticks and will eventually run into them. Information is your best defense so learn what they look like and how to remove them.

Lyme disease is carried only by the blacklegged tick (deer tick). Other ticks in Ontario include American dog ticks, brown dog ticks, and lone star ticks. Just as the types of mosquitoes here in Ontario do not currently transmit malaria or dengue fever, the types of ticks found in Ontario do not all carry possible tick-borne diseases. Ticks live in tall grasses, bush, and woodlands but are also found in short grass and parks.

Ticks need blood to survive so they bite and attach themselves in order to feed. The absolute best defense against Lyme is vigilance. Routine and thorough "Tick Checks" can catch them before they embed. Get kids used to doing routine "Tick Checks," at least every 24 hours. Nymph ticks can be as small as a poppy seed and they can transmit Lyme at that size! Long, light-coloured pants & closed shoes can help keep them off your skin, but always follow any outside time with a thorough "Tick Check." Similarly, DEET repels them but does not take the place of a thorough "Tick Check." Be sensible. When you come in from a hike, remove your outer clothes and shake them outside. Ticks can catch a ride into your house on a pet or your pants. Use reliable flea & tick prevention on your pets. Ensure you are getting your information from a reputable source.

A tick does not need to be attached for 24 hours in order to transmit Lyme. The bulls-eye rash does not form at the site of every Lyme-infected tick bite. Dog ticks do not carry Lyme. The only way to get Lyme disease is to be bitten by an infected blacklegged tick (deer tick). Do not try to burn ticks off, or "encourage" them off with Vaseline, dish soap, or essential oils. Learn to remove ticks with a pair of tweezers. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and with a slow, gentle, yet firm motion, pull the tick out without twisting. Do not squeeze or twist. Watch some videos shared by reputable sources such as Local Health Units. There are no health units that currently test ticks. There are private companies that charge hefty fees to test your tick, but they also spread misinformation and encourage fear. There is no Lyme vaccine for humans however, there is one for dogs.

Symptoms of a Lyme infection include: fever, aches, headache, muscle or joint pain, swollen glands, a rash or bullseye at the site of the bite (but not always), stiff neck, numbness or tingling, spasms, fatigue and facial paralysis. Lyme is confirmed through a blood test and treatment for the bacteria is 2-6 weeks of doxycycline. Other antibiotics don't work against the bacteria. Most ticks you find on yourself or your family will not require medical intervention. Babesiosis. Although there are at least 12 different tick-borne diseases in North America, most of them are not found in Ontario. Babesiosis is caused by a parasite that infects the red blood cells and is transmitted through a tick bite in the same way malaria is transmitted through a mosquito bite. Babesiosis, although so far rare here, has been found in Ontario and





Lyme Disease and Ticks (cont'd)

can be carried by blacklegged ticks (deer ticks). Symptoms include sweats, chills, and immobilizing fatigue. Ontario's health system can and will test for Babesiosis if symptoms warrant.

Public Health Ontario has provided the [Ontario Lyme Disease Map for 2022](#) that includes the estimated risk areas.

Invasive Plant Species

By: Larry Arpaia

Invasive Aquatic Plant species cause harm to our lakes. In 2018 Ontario identified 180,000 new invasive species. The cost of



'controlling' these invasive plants was estimated to be \$13.5 billion per year in 2018 and may now be approaching \$35 billion per year.

How do these invasive species get here? In the past 10 years

the following list of sources have been identified: Agriculture, Horticulture, Aquarium Trade, Live fish food, Transportation, Tourism, Recreation and Packaging Materials.

How do these invasive species spread on our lakes?

- 1.) Recreation Activities - This includes boating, fishing, use of live bait, ATV's and Mountain Bikes, Gardening and Aquarium releases.
- 2.) Improper identification and removal of Invasive plant species on lakes. This activity requires adequate training for how to properly remove invasive aquatic plants. Often when clearing an area of "weeds" for swimming or boating we are spreading the invasive species many times the area cleared.
- 3.) Climate Change: with changing weather patterns from climate change, the especially high winds bring with it the seeds that propagate invasive species.

What can we do to help control the spread of these invasive species?

- 1.) Adopt a "clean", "drain" and "dry approach" when removing your boat from the lake. This involves washing your boat with hot water and a brush, letting the boat dry and emptying the live well of your boat on land before entering another lake.
- 2.) When using an ATV or mountain bike off road, thoroughly brush down your vehicle before transporting to a new location.
- 3.) When purchasing plants from your garden center for your cottage garden, check to make sure that plants purchased are native to your area.
- 4.) When removing aquatic plants from the lake to clear a space for swimming or boating please identify the plants to be removed and proceed with recommended process to remove and discard each plant identified.

Check out AES (Aquatic Invasive Species) - Ontario Association of Anglers or Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (FOCA.on) for detailed information on invasive Species.

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Lives Lived

Reflections on a Wonderful Friendship with Sandra Fuller

By: Donna Jenkins



We met in 1984 and immediately had a bond that never wavered in thirty-eight years.

Family and friends came first for Sandra followed by her love of Bobs Lake. Supportive, adventurous, with a love for learning new things, Sandra had a special love for Canada.

Together we went on many adventures. Too many road trips to recount, often with Sandra reminding me of her favourite expression; “the road goes both ways, and we can turn around if you see something you want to revisit”. We were also never lost because in her mind, all roads lead to somewhere. I have no sense of direction, so I just went along with it, seems we always ended up where we wanted to be.

Our adventures included trips to New York City, the east coast of Canada and the United States, Quebec City and New Orleans. Live theatre was the most likely excuse, but a sewing show could also tempt us.

Sandra was outspoken as those who knew her could attest. A favourite target were those who drove their boat too fast through the “cut” on Bobs Lake. She wouldn’t hesitate to tell you to slowdown or give you what for when you stopped for gas the next time.

The Camp as we affectionately called it was really a large extended family. Sandra treated everyone like they were valued parts of her clan. At Thanksgiving everyone in the camp, her family and close friends would gather for an epic outdoor potluck that often exceeded 80 people.

To most she was Sandy although I called her Sandra. It was months before I found out she didn’t like being called Sandra but by then it was too late. She was and always will be Sandra to me and she was fine with that. To many on the Lake regardless of age, she was Granny and she did love that. Especially come spring when all the children would arrive full of hugs and excitement at seeing her.

Sandra was always in my corner. She was always excited to see what I was working on; a new painting, quilt or other project. She teased me that I had all the creativity and she had none. Cooking was her forte and family dinners were her time to shine.

In my world she was the sister I never had and will live on in my heart forever.

George (Rudy) James Ladds Jr.

Rudy Ladds first came to Green Bay on Bobs Lake in the 1970's from New Hampshire, to help his close friend Bob Sanderson build his cottage. Rudy was a gifted carpenter and stonemason. As we all have experienced on our first visit to the lakes, Rudy instantly fell in love with our “special little place in paradise”. So Bob Sanderson then sold part of his land at the south end of Green Bay, where Rudy built his own cottage known as Pine Point. The cottage was designed by his architect son, Chris Ladds and Rudy did much of the construction himself.



For the next 40 years there were a lot of “Rudy stories” told by long-time residents who go to know him pretty well. Rudy was keenly interested in American and Canadian politics. As an American he was



Rudy Ladds (cont'd)

complimentary in his admiration of the knowledge of US politics held by his Canadian friends. So much so, that while attending family dinners with a longtime friend, political discussions were soon banned in order to avoid heated debates, most recently initiated by Rudy's comments like "Trump was a difficult dog to keep on the porch".

Rudy was a great companion to dogs and always seemed to have one in his life. He also drove an older truck that affectionately became known as the "Beater truck". This Canadian term of endearment was novel to Rudy. It only made Rudy even more proud and in love with his Beater.

Rudy could watch PGA golf events all day and often talked about his own golfing experiences during his younger years. He was a good golfer and appreciated the principles and values that golf taught him. He would sometimes point to his head and emphasize that most of the game was played between the ears. Undoubtedly some of this thinking came from the how-to golf books he read that talked about how to improve your discipline and focus. Coming from the northeast US, Rudy was also a big fan of the successful New England Patriots led by Tom Brady. He seemed to have a knack for picking out the "winners" and jumping on the bandwagon.

Rudy sure loved his Saturday morning breakfasts. He and a friend would regularly drive to Stirling Lodge in Newboro and settle into the sunroom for some sizzling sausages, eggs, home fries and toast, all washed down with some steaming hot coffee. The conversations were always interesting, energized by fond memories of family and friends. Rudy tended to focus on the good times that lay ahead and staying positive.

But Rudy will be forever remembered for all the hard work he did on behalf of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association, and later on in his life, the Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation. He helped with the fishing program in the days of Mel Fleming. He provided strong support to Robbie and Diana Hughes, and many other key volunteers who implemented the critically important 911 signs around the lakes. He also played a huge role in the Pumper Truck Ball in Westport in 1999, that raised funds for the new truck at the BurrIDGE Fire Station.

Then, Rudy became a founding board member for the Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation. He served as Secretary for many years and was still a Foundation Board member at the time of his death. His favourite event was the Frontenac Frolic. He volunteered his time every year and held the high-profile responsibility for the field marking for the Cow Flop Bingo, the most important fund-raising activity. But Rudy did not just offer sweat and tears to support the decades of lake projects, he also contributed financially.

Rudy will be best revered as a pilot. He was a military pilot for the United States Air Force, and a commercial pilot for US Airways over thirty years. Rudy could talk about planes all day, including his four flame outs during his days as a fighter pilot. Rudy always imagined himself as a P51 Mustang fighter pilot during WWII in the book "Goodbye Mickey Mouse" by Len Deighton. He would fondly whisper about a dream when he would "return" as a Mustang pilot. So on those chilly Green Bay days when the ceiling is low and you hear a Packard 1650 Merlin engine in the sky, with its distinctive roar, a glimpse of the pilot in the cockpit will probably look like Rudy with the biggest grin on his face.

Susan MacTaggart, the well-respected matriarch of Green Bay, says that Rudy Ladds was a very beloved patriarch for the south end of Green Bay. He has helped two or more generations of friends and neighbours grow up and love these lakes. Rudy, God bless his soul, would have been 90 this August. George "Rudy" Ladds, 89, died December 1, 2021 in Concord, NH. He is survived by his wife, Lois; children, Laura, Tony, Chris and Steve (Lisa); sister, Jeanine Richards of Ballston Spa, NY and seven grandchildren.



Lake Resident Interest Pieces

Stargazing at the Lake

By: Jeff Carabott

Away from the city lights, the night sky around the lake is a great place to experience the wonders of our galaxy. We are very fortunate to have some of the darkest skies in Eastern Ontario, which offer a magical view of the Milky Way, constellations, planets and much, much more.

Before retirement, my first stop upon arriving at the cottage on a summer Friday night was down to the shore to check on an old friend, the Big Dipper. Perched straight off the north-facing dock, it was always a calming site after a hectic week and drive. Today, those same dark skies provide a perfect setting for the life-long learning opportunity and hobby of amateur observing.



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, and don't forget the bug spray! 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.

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

A few highlights for this summer include:

- June 24, all the naked-eye visible planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn) will be lined up, in order, just before sunrise in the early morning.
- July 13, the largest full moon of 2022 ("supermoon")
- August 12-13, the Perseids meteor shower peaks, with up to potentially 120 meteors per hour on a peak night. Unfortunately this year, the full Moon falls during this time, so only the brightest meteors will be visible.





Stargazing (cont'd)

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



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

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.

Clear skies and happy stargazing!

Cottage Short-term Rental – A Growing Problem

By: Larry Arpaia

Picture this scene on Bobs Lake, which has been observed by my partner and myself too many times in the past year.

A two-bedroom waterfront cottage with one bathroom is rented to a group of persons (in one case we find out later that they were university grads). The number of persons exceeds 18 during the day (this included 7 vehicles on site) and the next morning we observe 11 vehicles (no count on bodies although two small tents are in the yard). Garbage is littered all over the property the next morning and two individuals are going around picking up the garbage and burning it in a 7 ft radius fire pit producing clouds of smoke. It so happens that a fire ban for the Township is in place. I approach one young man and inform him that a fire ban is on. He tells me he did not know this but that he is “being careful” I learn that they are renting and “love” being on the water. That evening we heard fireworks (I cannot confirm that the fireworks are from this residence).



The cottage on the lake as many of us have known it, has been evolving for many years. The small cabin on a lake and/or in the woods with an outhouse no running water, kerosene lamps, the clothesline and the fire pit has changed (many would say for the better). Today we see four season homes, with multiple bedrooms and bathrooms, washers and dryers and every convenience at your fingertips.

Now the act of “cottaging” is in transition as prices for our “escape abodes” have risen dramatically, working off site has become a new norm and VRBO/Air B&B and other rental organizations have made it so easy for you the cottage owner to help pay for your wonderful “lakefront money Pit”.

A new breed of “camper” has descended upon us. Young, urban, upwardly mobile persons who have no clue about lake sustainability, nature and the challenges and beauty of lake life are now frequenting our lakes. Some of these ‘urban tourists’ offer noise pollution, light pollution, air pollution, extra garbage, an increase in traffic and road maintenance for our private laneways, overworked septic systems and health and safety concerns across our lakes in exchange for \$\$\$\$. In the case mentioned above, the property is owned by a “cottage investor” or someone who purchase a cottage in order to rent on an “Air B&B” site without being present.

The Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (FOCA) and Lake Associations understand the reason for this phenomenon. There is broad support for the many persons who “love the lake experience” and



Cottage Short-term Rental – A Growing Problem (cont'd)

prefer the renting alternative. It is understandable when a cottage owner wishes to rent their cottage to help pay for increased expenses. Yet the rapid rise in rentals is leading us down a slippery slope with no guidelines, no assistance on short term rentals from the Province and no commitment from our Townships to review some form of regulation that benefits the cottage owner and protects our lakes. There is growing opposition to the irresponsible “cottage investor” who has no interest in protecting the connection to nature and only sees \$\$\$\$.

What is needed?

The Province must identify guidelines for short term cottage rentals as a first step. These “Guidelines” should include a “Rental Permit” which identifies maximum numbers of persons (based on bedrooms, toilets etc), a “Fire Permit” (identifying what and when to burn), information on noise pollution (being respectful to your neighbours and nature), light pollution (the effect of fireworks on nature), and garbage (what you bring to the cottage you must bring out and dispose at your home site).

Our Townships must pressure the Province to recognize that short term cottage rentals are potentially a major problem for cottage life going forward. The Townships should then draft, implement and enforce bylaws that work. Lake Associations and you as good neighbours must call out short term renters that do not adhere to the rules of nature. Residents and property owners are encouraged to lobby Ontario and local Township staff, to keep short term rental concerns as a high priority.

Recently on the CBC, it was reported that Townships across Ontario are all facing the same challenges in dealing with short term rentals. Yet the majority of Townships refuse to do anything because they see this as “Tourism”. Are we getting our priorities right? Lakefront cottage owners endure many pests during our time on the lake. The blackflies, deer flies, sponge moths, mosquitoes, wasps have all been tolerated and we learn to live with them. Do we need to include the ‘inconsiderate urban tourist’ pest to be tolerated and learned to live with?

The views expressed are by the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the GBCLA.

Wildlife on the Lakes

Snakes at the Lakes

By Carolyn McGrath

[Some references in this piece are drawn from her book set on Bobs Lake, *Two Faces of the Moon*, scheduled for release in spring 2023.]

After eighty summers here, I’m still finding aspects of this ecosystem that surprise me. The complexity is amazing, the way species are mutually interdependent, almost as if the lake is one large organism. Each year, I’m sure, we all look for some of the creatures with delight. Others not so much.

When I was a child I had my fear of spiders, but the beautiful black and gold mud daubers that build clay nests on the ceiling of our cabin prey on them, not us. I learned to avoid leeches by not walking in the swamp. Our dogs have all had to learn about porcupines the hard way. Bats decided to come in around 4 a.m. to hang upside down from the ceiling of our bedroom. I’d rather have them than the mosquitos they feed on, but my husband didn’t agree.



Just Visiting

Photo by: Cindy Taylor



Snakes at the Lakes (cont'd)

Probably the most despised creature on our lake is the snake. Many people seem to have an inherent fear of them, my husband and daughter included. When my daughter was young, she learned that snakes hate salt and considered putting salt all around the cabin. To deter her I pointed out that it would attract porcupines for they seek salt and will even gnaw on wood if it bears salt from sweaty hands. "Personally, I'd rather have the porcupines!!!" she said.

I feel sorry for our local snakes. I've seen people here kill them for no reason other than that they exist, no matter that none of the snakes in our region are venomous. We have only the Northern Water Snake, the Common Garter Snake, and the Black Rat Snake. They're part of the ecosystem, preying on some species and being preyed upon by others. They aren't after us.

The Northern Water Snakes eat mainly aquatic prey: minnows, frogs, salamanders, even leeches. They can be eaten by birds, raccoons, opossums, foxes, snapping turtles, and other snakes. They have patterns on them that are more visible when they're in the water, sometimes causing people to think they're water moccasins or cotton-mouths, which do not exist here. These patterns fade as the snake grows. I see them swimming from island to island, a horizontal wave pattern forming in the water behind them.

One day while I was sunbathing on our floating dock, a water snake, about a meter long, stretched itself out alongside my chair. I've never been afraid of snakes, although they always bring me up short when I lift the side of a turned-over boat and find myself standing next to a big one. It scares the snake too, and it hurries away, but this one and I both lay perfectly still, enjoying our moments together in the sun. Then a fast boat with a water skier turned into our channel, sending waves heaving us up and down. When I looked for the snake, it was gone. The largest snakes we have are the Black Rat Snakes, constrictors that kill rodents like rats, mice, chipmunks, and those shrieky little shrews. They are swimmers and climbers, looking for birds' eggs in trees. They aren't afraid to enter old buildings and barns looking for rodents, making these snakes valuable to farmers. Black Rat Snakes don't come to our island unless there are mice, and then they're welcome to come and eat as many mice with ticks as they can.

A few years ago, when we had mice in the cabin, guests asked me to look in their bedroom one afternoon. There was a large black rat snake half hidden by some clothes on the dresser. The snake was very aware of me and moved onto a corner shelf where it remained motionless, coiled tightly with its head aimed right at me. I put on my work gloves. They bite only when threatened, and even though they are not poisonous, their saliva may be anticoagulant. I couldn't leave it there, so I pushed something toward it from one side, and, as it turned to move away, I grabbed it just behind the head. *Boom*. Yelling at others to open the back door, I carried this heavy writhing snake, one and a half meters long, down the path to the shore where I threw it into the lake. I went up a few notches in my guests' and my family's estimation.

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Including repairs and/or renovations to homes or cottages Deckerman Services also provides spring and fall dock removal, dock construction or repair and the sales and installation of Craftbilt Manufacturing Grand Vista sunrooms and CBM Aluminum Railing Systems.

Recently certified by Veterans Affairs Canada as a Provider; Deckerman Services now has the ability to complete any project needed by our Veterans.

Deckerman Services has also teamed up with a Certified electrician and plumber to provide all services necessary.

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

Contact via phone or email.

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