



# *Lake Views*

*Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association Magazine*

*Spring/Summer 2024*



*Photo by: Wendy H. Kemmerer*

*“Summertime is always the best of what might be.”*

*Charles Bowden*



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

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That joyous time of year, the Victoria Day long weekend, for many is the kick-off to a long summer of fun on the lake. In an instant, however, the peace of the 2024 May holiday weekend was shattered by a tragic boating accident on Buck Bay that took the lives of three young people, Juliette Côté, Riley Orr and Kaila Bearman, while several more were hospitalized. The scale of the tragedy and loss is staggering for our small community and those communities nearby that have been so deeply affected.

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association Board of Directors extends heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families. We also dearly wish for the rest of the summer to be a safe and happy one on the water and along the shores of our beautiful cottage country. This issue of Lake Views includes important boating safety information and resources from Dick Johnston. Please take extra care when you're out enjoying the water.

Our contributors have provided a great deal of other information and inspiration for a lovely cottaging season ahead. Of course, much is happening below the surface at Bobs and Crow Lakes. This issue includes the latest water testing results and walleye spawning survey from Jeff Carabott and Carson Jen respectively. They report encouraging results, although we must never take the health of our waters for granted.

In the skies above, we hear a note of caution about light pollution diminishing our appreciation of the constellations, learn about the aerobatic marvel of a marlin on the hunt with Ben Stevens, and gain insights from David L. Thomas into what's behind the evening call of the Whip-poor-will. Also in the air, a 5G signal, with the Rogers Tower on Burns Road now complete.

Back on land, we must concern ourselves with more pedestrian issues, including the impending rise in the capital gains tax inclusion rate, and Lynn Watson is keeping an eye on plans for a significant development on Long Bay. But there is a great deal of fun to be had as well, with the Frontenac Frolic back for another year, and a full schedule of events at the ABC Hall.

And finally, row touring has come to Bobs Lake, with Ontario Adventure Rowing (OAR) skimming across the surface of the water during a session this past May. With row touring, boats row with rather than against each other with an emphasis on non-competitive fun, fitness and friendship. Shelagh Baker reports



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*Board Message (cont'd)*

that this group of rowers quickly discovered the wonders of our magnificent cottage country and vowed to be back soon.

Note: 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](http://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: Kent Dunlop*



# *Information and Updates*

## **The Frontenac Frolic Is Back**

**By: Byron Turner**

The Frontenac Frolic's 10th anniversary event will be held this year at the Glendower Hall better known as the Bedford Hall from **9 am to 2 pm on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The Frolic has had a three-year pause due to the Covid pandemic and is back with all the flare of the past with a few more attractions, plus face painting and live music. Bake sale, Ray's reptiles, Boot'N Bonnet British Car Club, Book Table, Silent Auction, Petting Zoo and food, are as ever the regular attractions.

The flea market will have local vendors selling their articles. We encourage you to consider requesting a place in the market. There is no charge to do so. If you wish to reserve a spot, contact Byron Turner by email: [turnersb@shaw.ca](mailto:turnersb@shaw.ca).

The main attraction will feature the cow flop bingo on the sports field grid. Prizes are \$1800, \$900 and \$500 first through to third. Tickets are 1 for \$10 or the bargain of 3 for \$20. Grid locations are randomly allocated. Additional ticket sellers are being requested; road association participation is most welcome. Contact Susan Mactaggart at [obmact@gmail.com](mailto:obmact@gmail.com) if you are willing to sell a few books of tickets. The cow flop is the major fund raiser for projects in and around Bobs and Crow Lake. In the past the Foundation has funded:



*Frontenac Frolic Cow Flop Bingo*

- Shoal marker Buoys
- Emergency water pumps in case of fire
- Boating Safety Cards
- Cottage Safety Cards
- Tables and chairs for Crow Lake School to enable meetings for lake improvements
- Guide book (welcome kit for new residents)
- Walleye spawning bed enhancement
- Underwater camera and support equipment to monitor spawning beds
- Summer student – project leadership
- Shoreline study
- Walley spawning survey
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority/ Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation Partnership
- Septic inspection
- Septic repair
- Shoreline naturalization
- Shoreline erosion control
- Osprey pole at Cedar Haven



### Frontenac Frolic (cont'd)

If you have a project that you would like to discuss funding for, please contact Byron Turner at [turnersb@shaw.ca](mailto:turnersb@shaw.ca)

## Rogers Tower Update

By: Carson Jen

The new Rogers tower on Burns Road was completed in early June. The connection of the power supply to the tower began with the erection of the hydro poles to the tower site. It is my understanding that there is no further work required onsite, other than testing the tower functionality, now that the power is turned on. It's great news that the switch-on date occurred before the summer cottage season got fully underway. Fast 5G internet response times will be a real treat compared to prior (Covid) summers of slow to nonexistent service, especially on weekends.



*Nokia Router*

Rogers has switched all existing 4G Rocket Hub clients (including the author in February 2024) over to a 5G service, which is supported from another Rogers tower near Bobs Lake. The previous service was 4G, which was marketed as The Rocket Hub. The new data 5G router uses the Nokia FastMile Gateway 3.2. Note that this router does not support cell phones nor text messages.



*Photo by: Diane Bursey*

To attract new subscribers, Rogers is offering promotional packages to new rural customers who now have improved internet access through the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) Cell Gap Project. This is the project that funded the new Rogers towers on Green Bay and Bolingbroke. Information on these packages are available on the Rogers website.

## The capital gains tax inclusion rate – today and tomorrow

Today, only 50% of the capital gain is taxable (this is known as the capital gains tax inclusion rate). This means that \$50,000 of the \$100,000 earned from the sale of the cottage in our example is added as income for that tax year. Here's an example:

- Your regular income, earned from your full-time job, is \$75,000
- You make a \$100,000 profit from the sale of your cottage (after you pay real estate fees, closing costs, etc.)
- 50% of the profit is taxable, which means you add \$50,000 to your income during the tax year in which you realized this capital gain
- \$75,000 + \$50,000 = a total income for that tax year of \$125,000



### Capital Gains Tax (cont'd)

The amount of tax you ultimately pay in that year will depend on your tax bracket and its marginal tax rate. The capital gains tax inclusion rate is set to change. The federal government's 2024 budget proposes a few modifications to how capital gains are taxed. Here's a rundown of the changes:

- For all corporations and trusts, the capital gains tax inclusion rate will increase to 66.67% – up from 50%.
- For individuals with gains over \$250,000, the capital gains tax inclusion rate will increase to 66.67% – up from 50%.
- For individuals with gains under \$250,000, the capital gains tax inclusion rate will stay the same, 50%.

### Who will the changes affect?

The adjustments will affect all corporations and trusts regardless of value, as well as individuals with capital gains of \$250,000 or more.

Capital gains tax does not apply to your primary residence, so these changes could affect you if:

- You sell a secondary property – such as a cottage, rental or investment property – and earn more than \$250,000 in profit from that sale.
- You sell investments for a value of \$250,000 more than the original purchase price.

### When will the changes take effect?

If adopted, the changes will take effect on June 25, 2024. The federal government estimates that 28.5 million Canadians will not have any capital gains income next year, while three million others will fall below the \$250,000 annual threshold, suggesting that these changes will not have an impact on the majority of Canadians. If you believe they will affect you and your finances, it may be worth speaking with a qualified tax advisor and financial planner to learn strategies to reduce the impact of capital gains taxes and the proposed increased inclusion rate.

Source: Royal Bank, [rbcroyalbank.com](https://www.rbcroyalbank.com)

#### Sunset Country Campground

41 Riders Lane, Tichborne, ON. K0H 2V0  
West Basin Bobs Lake

[www.sunset-country.ca](http://www.sunset-country.ca)  
[sunsetcountryrv@gmail.com](mailto:sunsetcountryrv@gmail.com)

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613-291-3149  
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April 24, 2024

TO: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau ([justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca))  
Minister Chrystia Freeland ([chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca))

cc: Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Opposition ([pierre.poilievre@parl.gc.ca](mailto:pierre.poilievre@parl.gc.ca))  
Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the NDP ([Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca))

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau & Minister Freeland,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) to express our strong opposition to the recent announcement regarding changes to the Canadian capital gains tax. This change, as outlined in your announcement on April 16th, poses a significant threat to the ability of families to maintain their cherished cottages for future generations, which could have profound cultural implications for our Canadian heritage and way of life.

**Firstly, FOCA is deeply concerned about the impact this tax change will have on the approximately 150,000 seasonal cottage owners in Ontario alone, particularly when it comes time for them to pass the cottage on to their children.** Contrary to the government's characterization, these individuals are not among the wealthiest 0.13% of Canadians, but rather hard-working middle-class families who have cherished these properties as part of their heritage and family legacy for generations. For example, a couple who inherited their waterfront property from their parents in the early 1980s, when the average cost of a home was around \$75,000, could now have a property with a fair market value exceeding \$1,000,000 (according to Royal LePage's 2024 Spring Recreational Property Report). This represents a potential capital gain of \$925,000 upon disposition through sale or gifting to their children, of which \$425,000 would be subject to the new higher tax rate.

**Secondly, FOCA is opposed to the implementation date of June 24, 2024, for the new tax rate.** We believe that 60 days' notice is insufficient for such a significant change, which could have a dramatic impact on the financial position of middle-class Canadian families.

It is imperative that any tax measures consider the unique circumstances of cottage owners and preserve their ability to maintain these treasured properties within their families. Failure to do so could result in the premature sale of tens of thousands of Ontario cottage properties, leading to the proliferation of speculators, absentee landlords, and short-term rentals in rural waterfront communities. This outcome would run counter to the government's stated goal of preserving Canadian heritage and way of life.

FOCA respectfully urges the government to reconsider the application of this new tax and to take steps to mitigate its impact on middle-class families. We believe that by doing so, the government can ensure that the traditional stewards of these cottage properties can continue to enjoy the waterfront for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Lesley Lavender  
CEO, Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations  
[ceo@foca.on.ca](mailto:ceo@foca.on.ca) 705-749-3622

*FOCA is a non-profit membership organization representing over 525 lake, cottage, camp, and rural waterfront residents' associations, and the 250,000 families and voters that own waterfront property across Ontario. Waterfront property owners matter to rural Ontario, stewarding 15,000 km of shorelines and 50 hectares of privately-owned waterfront lands from Kenora to Kingston to Lake Erie to north of Temagami. FOCA's 2022 Economic Impact Study confirmed that for every 100 waterfront properties located in a community, 63 jobs are created in Ontario, with 54 of those jobs in the community itself.*



## Update on Algonquin Land Claim

**By: Bill St. Arnaud**

As many readers of this newsletter may know, the Crown land between Bobs and Crow Lakes is to be transferred to the Algonquins of Ontario as part of the treaty negotiations with the government of Ontario and the federal government.

Recently there was a hiccup in these negotiations. An Algonquin tribunal disqualified almost one-third of the Algonquin community as being true Algonquins.

The Golden Lake Algonquin tribe (the Pikwàkanagàn First Nation) initiated a land claim back in 1990s. They entered into talks as the only federally recognized Algonquin First Nation in Ontario. Both the Ontario and Canadian governments insisted that non-status Algonquins also be included. This led to the formation of the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) organization. It set the criteria that allowed people to self-identify as Algonquin if they could trace their lineage to one root ancestor.

This opened the door to thousands of people who could benefit from the land claim but who were in fact non-Algonquin. The large number of people who were recently disqualified as being Algonquin by the tribunal called into question the democratic integrity of an agreement-in-principle AOO ratified in 2016, which members in Pikwàkanagàn widely rejected. Some members want to go back to the drawing board and start the negotiations from scratch because many of the recently disqualified Algonquins were sitting in the driver's seat for the negotiations. There was even talk of disbanding the AOO.

Provincial negotiators believe however that discussion will continue leading to a ratified treaty in the next few years. But there is now a delay in these discussions as the AOO reorganizes and changes its governance structure.

It's important to note that, if and when, a treaty is finally signed and ratified by the Algonquins of Ontario, enabling legislation must then be passed by both the provincial and federal governments. After the enabling legislation is passed, then an approximate 17-year transition phase will begin where the agreed to parcels of land negotiated under the treaty will be transferred to the Algonquins.

## Caivan Development in Long Bay

**By: Lynn Watson**

Sometime in January 2024, signs went up on Burridge Road near 162 Campground Lane. There was an application by Caivan Properties to re-zone the property that was once, Long Bay Campground. The Board of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA) did not receive a copy of this notice. However, a former director saw the notice and alerted the Board. Subsequently, the notice was also posted on the GBCLA Facebook page. There was barely 2 weeks for residents and the GBCLA to prepare for a public meeting held on February 6<sup>th</sup> in the Council Chambers of South Frontenac Township. The community reaction to an announcement in the dead of winter with very few residents at the lake was not favourable, particularly from the residents of Long Bay. For a development of this scale, a community outreach effort and a longer prenotification period would have gone a long way to building a more receptive first impression to this proposal.

A total of 6 E-lets were sent by the GBCLA to our members looking at various aspects of this development proposal by Caivan Properties, including one which included a copy of our presentation to council on February 6<sup>th</sup>.



### Long Bay Development (cont'd)

Our members responded with great concern and submitted many letters to South Frontenac Township in opposition to the application. Well-researched and forceful presentations were made to Council at the meeting, especially by the Cottage Associations representing the residents of Long Bay.

As of the Lake Views publication date, all public information sources indicate that the original rezoning application is not complete. The original transportation study was withdrawn, and the new one has not been received by the Township.

The next step in the progression of the rezoning application currently rests with Caivan. The GBCLA will promptly issue additional E-lets when the status of the development submission changes.

The Caivan re-zoning application and the Skycroft application for re-zoning of the campground on Opinicon Lake, have raised the awareness of cottage property owners of the prospect of large-scale redevelopment of commercially zoned campgrounds on Bobs and Crow Lakes. This trend applies to other lakes in Frontenac County. The Land of Lakes is a pristine wilderness area south of Highway 7 and, given its easy accessibility from large urban centres, comprises some of the best recreational land in Eastern Ontario. Consultants, realtors, and elected officials have noted for several years to be prepared for increased redevelopment pressure of waterfront commercial properties, especially campgrounds.



With this in mind, the Association is focussing on the sections of the 2023 Draft Official Plan (DOP) for South Frontenac Township, which relates to recreational and commercial use of waterfront properties. The GBCLA recently submitted a letter to South Frontenac Township, outlining areas of concern identified by the Caivan redevelopment proposal. At the same time, we piggybacked other significant lake resident issues relating to septic tank inspections and the regulation of short-term rentals.

Here are excerpts from the letter to South Frontenac Council:

*The DOP says that township aspires to provide “environmental leadership in the protection of our outstanding natural aspects.” This is an admirable goal and one that the GBCLA shares. However, the recent application for rezoning of the property at 162 Campground Road, by Caivan Development has brought to our attention some inconsistencies with that lofty goal...*



*We have noted the DOP officially discourages the change of commercial land to non-commercial uses on large land holdings, particularly those on water front and we understand and support the continuation of commercial activities on land already zoned recreational commercial. (Sec. 4.2.5.3.3). Having said that, we believe that the new official plan must uphold the goals ... stated under Waterfront Development and strengthen its position on protecting the environment given the increasing pressure on the land.*

*Our specific concerns regarding the DOP include the following:*

**1. Setback requirements for commercial properties on waterfront.** *The current Official Plan requires a 50 m setback from the high-water mark for commercial structures. While we recognize that the zoning for the property at 162 Campground Lane (RRC-25) does allow for a 30 m set back for trailers and campsites on that property, we feel that the 50 m setback as in the 2013 OP for Motels, Hotels and Rental Cabins is more suitable and should be upheld. Given that a commercial venture will involve larger structures, and a high density of human activities, it does not make sense that the DOP recommends a lesser setback of 30 metres. OP, 2013 Sec. 5.1.5 (4)*

**2. Commercial use of water access properties.** *We do not believe that commercial development has any place on island properties. In particular, water access only properties provide a challenge to service in case of emergency. As well, in some cases, the extra launching facilities and access requirements may adversely affect the water quality and the wildlife that abounds in Bobs and Crow Lakes and many other lakes in South Frontenac. DOP Sec. 3.8 (e).*

**3. Back Lot Development.** *We acknowledge that there is some confusion in the DOP about the possibility of the development of back lots on Tourist Commercial property which might allow commercial developers to create lots on their property which would have the effect of being a subdivision. We believe that this should be clarified. We support Section 4.2.1, (h) which states that, "New back lot development will not be supported."*

**4. Septic tank inspection.** *We strongly support the recent letter (attached) sent by Professors Laird and Cummings to the South Frontenac Lake Association which implores the Township to implement a new policy to ensure that all out of date (old) septic systems are upgraded to current standards with the selling of any property. It is well known that many cottages on lakes built since the 1950s (and earlier) have never upgraded their septic systems. The township must ensure septic systems are working up to the current standards, and thus not serve as a source of nutrients into our lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Ideally all septic systems should be inspected on a decadal time frame.*

**5. Short term cottage rental.** *As the lakes of South Frontenac become more attractive, there has been a significant increase in short term rentals of cottage property. The Township of Georgian Bay has prepared a by law to "register, regulate, and govern short term rentals in their township. We strongly encourage South Frontenac to consider a similar action.*

We will continue to monitor the progress of the Caivan rezoning application and any other applications for the re-zoning of commercial waterfront lands on Bobs and Crow lakes. The interest in redevelopment may also spread to the adjoining townships of Tay Valley and Central Frontenac.



# Fisheries

## Fisheries Update - 2024 Walleye Survey

By: GBCLA Fisheries Committee

The Bobs Lake Fisheries committee chaired by Dan Kano, organized the monitoring of the 2024 Walleye Spawning Run. There were several creeks flowing into Bobs Lake that were monitored including the creek (see right) in south Bobs lake. Contributing their valuable time to nightly shifts at 9 pm for the 30 to 45 minute fish count, included the following dedicated volunteers:

Dan Kano, Duane Meeks, Jim McIntosh, Al McNichols, Paul Gagnon, Don Anderson, Don Goodfellow, Steve Finlay and Carson Jen.

The 2024 spawn was one of the most unusual runs ever witnessed by long term residents of the lake. The initial migration of walleye into spawning creeks was at least two weeks

earlier with the first fish observed on March 17. Typically, the fish survey begins seeing fish during the first week of April. The early arrival this year was expected due to the record and early Ice-Out date between March 13 to March 15, depending on the location on the lake.



*Creek in South Bobs Lake*

Dates	Event
March 13-15	Estimated Ice-Out
March 17	First fish observed
March 21-24	Cold spell
April 4	Last day of count

Walleye begin their migration up stream when water temperatures are approximately 6 C to 7 C. This year, there was a cold spell from March 21 to March 24 with overnight temperatures dropping to -5 C to -8 C. Temperatures returned to more seasonal levels afterwards, and the walleye continued to enter some creeks. As a result, the entire spawn run extended from March 17 to April 4, or 19 days vs 12 to 14 days in a typical year. The Committee was concerned that the cold spell might interrupt the natural instincts of the females to enter the creeks, and instead spawn in the rocky shoals in the lake. Creek spawning is much preferred due to its higher fry survival rates from predation.

To the surprise of the volunteers, overall fish counts this year remained strong, with the total 2024 count over 100 fish higher than the 2023 count. Counting the fish is an inexact science so the numbers can fluctuate widely and is mainly impacted by variations in counting methodology. However, the primary goal of the count numbers is to only provide an indication of overall fish activity from year to year. Given



the strange weather, lower water levels and slower creek flow, the overall count in 2024 was better than expected. However, the distribution of spawning walleye between all the monitored creeks was not even.

Some creeks were observed to have zero fish. Despite the relatively good results this year, the overall trend observed in Bobs Lake is a greater concentration of spawning activity in a small number of creeks supported by anecdotal evidence of a dropping walleye population. Unless productive spawning sites can be increased and spread around the lake, the long-term decline of the walleye population will continue.

The Fisheries Committee again coordinated with MNRF Conservation Officers on monitoring for poaching activity. There has been no evidence of any poaching activity at any of the monitored sites since 2021, when charges were laid against a local individual. The removal of poached female walleye has a vast impact on the long-term fish population, due to the removal of literally millions of eggs. Stocking programs cannot come close to replicating the numbers produced from natural reproduction cycles. For this reason, it has been suggested to the Committee that the reporting of specific and detailed walleye spawning information should be curtailed, in order to not facilitate the potential for local poaching activity.

## *Water Quality*

### **Water Quality Testing Results**

**By: Jeff Carabott**

The Ontario Lake Partner Program (LPP) has released the Lakes' testing data for 2023. 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.



*Photo by: Glen Gillies*

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.).



#### Water Quality (cont'd)

Note, in the absence of any recorded LPP data for a particular testing site in the following charts, we have utilized Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) Watershed Watch test data from 2023. **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)



Secchi Disk

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 2023(m)	Avg. Secchi disk 2022 (m)	Avg. Secchi disk 2021 (m)	Avg. Secchi disk (m) 1996-2020
Buck Bay	5.3	3.6	-	4.4
East Basin	4.5	4.7	5.8	5.5
Crow Bay	4.2	4.5	4.8	4.4
Ctrl Narrows	3.9	4.1	4.8	4.4
Green Bay	5.7	5.6	-	6.0
Long Bay	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.6
Mill Bay	3.5	3.2	-	3.1
Mud Bay	6.4	5.3	5.4	5.3
Norris Bay	5.1	4.7	5.0	4.8
West Basin	3.7	4.1	5.0	4.5
Crow Lake	6.3	5.3	6.0	5.2

**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) 2023	Avg. TP (ug/L) 2022	Avg. TP (ug/L) 2002-2021*	Avg. TP (ug/L) Pre-2002
Buck Bay	16.0	8.8	9.8	9.0
East Basin	9.2	8.3	8.7	11.0
Crow Bay	9.3	10.1	9.1	7.0
Central Narrows	8.2	9.7	9.6	11.0
Green Bay	6.6	7.0	8.7	11.0
Long Bay	9.9	7.0	9.1	16.0
Mill Bay	16.0	14.1	15.7	17.0
Mud Bay	7.3	7.1	8.2	8.0
Norris Bay	11.1	6.7	9.2	14.0
West Basin	11.0	9.2	11.8	10.0
Crow Lake	8.4	8.9	9.0	9.0

\* Possible outliers not included



## Water Quality (cont'd)

The LPP Annual Report may be downloaded by visiting the [FOCA website](#).

### Calcium and Zebra Mussels

Calcium, at a concentration of 20mg/l, allows zebra mussels to more likely establish colonies and complete their life cycle. Green Bay data indicates calcium levels exceeding 20mg/l. While calcium was below the threshold of 20 mg/l in all other bays, concentrations are close to meeting this point (>17mg/l) in Mill Bay, Mud Bay, East Basin, Long Bay, Norris Bay 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.**

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

### RVCA Water Quality & E.Coli Testing

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) once again conducted water clarity and E.Coli bacteria testing in 2023, as part of their Watershed Watch program. Overall results for both lakes are good.

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 on an annual basis are generally observed in Mill Bay, due in major part to the shallowness of the water level. For more information, visit [RVCA Watershed Watch](#).

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# *Marine Safety*

## **Critical Marine Safety Information**

**By: Dick Johnston, Director Marine Safety**

### **Transport Canada:**

When revising our Bobs and Crow Lake Boating Card, from the 2016 version, I noted that the web site for Transport Canada had changed. I took the opportunity to log on to see if there were important changes in content that would cover the many aspects of boating safety. The answer is, yes!

In addition to information on items such as buying, selling, registering your pleasure craft or personal watercraft, the site offers critical information relating to safety regulations. If you follow the link under *Marine Safety*, then *Office of Boating Safety* you will find current information on lifejackets, regulations, Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC), boating with kids and other interesting tips.

Under *Boating Safety Resources*, you will find the *Safe Boating Guide*. This is a very comprehensive guide which provides details on all Transport Canada's safety regulations.

There is a section on how to *Avoid Dangerous Behavior*. This portion covers: Operate at a Safe Speed, Impaired Driving on the Water – Your Responsibilities and Consequences and reduce Engine Noise.

Other regulations that are pertinent to our lake environment are: *Minimum Safety Requirements by Boat Type and Length*. This portion covers: canoes, kayaks, standup paddleboards, sail boats, power boats as well as other types of watercrafts.

The link to the Transport Canada site is: [Marine transportation \(canada.ca\)](http://marine.transportation.canada.ca)

### **Ontario Provincial Police:**

When the GB&CL Association produced the current Cottage Safety Numbers, we included the Non-Emergency Police Response number for the Ontario Provincial Police – 1-888-310-1122. This is the number individuals should use when reporting non-emergency boating related items. Another way to contact the OPP is to text them at – \*OPP.

An organization called Safe Quiet Lakes has provided a useful web site that shows what information needs to be recorded as well as the recommended process that should be followed when contacting the OPP.

Here is the site: [Reporting to OPP - Safe Quiet Lakes](http://Reporting to OPP - Safe Quiet Lakes)



## Tow Sports on Tay Valley Lakes:

**Background:** The Township had received by-law enforcement complaints and e-mails about the impact of wake surf boats on Pike Lake.

At the Township's Committee of the Whole, September 12, 2023 meeting a comprehensive report was presented to Council.

The report describes the main factors which produce waves or surf on the flat surface of a lake. Some of these factors relate to the water displacement of the boat, the design of the boat, and the depth of the water. It describes, in lay terms, the science behind waves, distance and shoreline impact. It is very educational in its approach.

Staff consulted with different organizations, such as but not limited to, Waterski & Wakeboard Canada, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), the Muskoka Lakes Association, Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Association, Canada Boat Safety and Safe Quiet Lakes.

Township staff contacted Transport Canada inquiring about possible changes to regulations governing recreational boating. Transport Canada has established the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations (VORR) under the Canada Shipping Act. These Regulations allow a local authority to ask the federal government to restrict any pleasure craft or commercial vessel on all bodies of water. VORR are used to enhance safety, protect the environment, and protect public interest. As an example, the Safe Quiet Lakes is working to change the legislation so that wake boats operate at least 100 – 200 metres from shore. The Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Association has recommended that wake boats operate at least 300 metres from shore.

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lake Association will be monitoring progress on this issue and will report back with updates. Our challenge, depending on the recommendations, will be how to implement them when our lakes span three townships.

[The report can be found on pages 52 to 58.](#)

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# *L*ake Resident Interest Pieces

## Those Magnificent Flying Machines

By: Ben Stevens

We first saw this greyish shadow deep in the cedars right outside our kitchen window, but of course by the time we had scrambled for the binocs and the bird book, it was away and gone. A couple of years later, it was back again – another fleeting view, another non-identification. Finally on the third sighting after a few more years, it was clearly a Pigeon-hawk, later to be relabelled Merlin. Apparently it's not related to Merlin the Magician, but the way they flash into view and magically disappear, it makes you wonder.

With a top speed of 80 kph, they are truly built for speed and are fantastic flyers. Their streamlined, delta-winged shape and greyish-blue colour with mottled brown underparts makes the male unmistakable in flight. The female is mainly brown and slightly larger – as is the case with all North American falcons – with a wingspan of about 70 cms.



*Pigeon Hawk*



One time, visiting some friends on a Bobs Lake island, they mentioned that the merlins had been nesting there for years, and our local ones had likely been on the hunt from that long established nesting area. As we sat around the barbecue later that day, a turkey vulture flapped lazily into the territory, and suddenly out of the clear blue sky came the merlin in a mad dive-bomb right at the vulture only to flash aside at the very last second. And then a fast, steep climb to repeat the attack – for all the world like a WW2 Spitfire diving out of the sun. Needless to say, the vulture - despite being three times the merlin's size - beat a hasty retreat.

Now we know what to look for, we have spotted them often. So we were enthralled to find a pair had nested way up in a neighbour's pine tree and had raised four youngsters. The thrill of the year was to watch mamma merlin take the four kids on training flights. Mamma in the lead with lunch in her claws, and all four kids strung out behind, all screaming their heads off in frustration. Eventually she relented and they all settled on a hydro pole in clear sight and lunch was served.





Several times during their nesting season, a noisy ruckus of blue jays has alerted us to their presence, swooping down and trying to persuade them to nest elsewhere. The merlins sit quietly in the trees until they can take no more, fly up and circle around while the jays scatter to the winds. Then settle back and repeat. For they are relentless hunters of small birds, which the drop in the variety and quantity proved in that year when our neighbours acted as hosts. But as we see them flashing across the sky in full streamlined flight, we can only marvel at those magnificent flying machines.

## Some Thoughts on the Eastern Whip-poor-will

By: David L. Thomas

Night sounds. They are an important part of our Bobs Lake experience as we lay in bed at night with windows open enjoying the breeze off the lake. Of course, no sound at night more represents our northern lakes than the call of the Common loon, soulful at times and wild at others. But another night sound that I have enjoyed over the years is that of the Whip-poor-will – a bird that says its name. Actually, its song is more common at dawn and dusk as it becomes more active at these times and goes about its feeding.

So what do we know about this nocturnal bird? Cornell University, in their massive work *Birds of the World*, started their description of the Whip-poor-will with the following statement: “This is a beautifully cryptic bird, but its well camouflaged eggs and young, its crepuscular or nocturnal foraging and breeding behavior and its large woodland territories have made it one of the least-studied breeding species in North America”. This species is most often heard but rarely seen. The habitat it occupies has been described as dry deciduous or mixed forests with little or no underbrush. Others have described the species’ preference for semi-open forests or patch forests with clearings. Because they feed on insects, particularly moths, they need these more open areas to capture their prey. In studies done by University of Illinois and Illinois Natural History Survey researchers, they found that the number of large moths at a site had a positive effect on the abundance of whip-poor-will.

Whip-poor-wills lay their eggs on the ground, often directly on leaf litter. They lay two eggs and many will bring off two broods in a season. There is evidence that they will return to the same site or area the next year after successful reproduction the previous year. They overwinter from the southern US to as far south as Costa Rica. A Master’s thesis by Stephanie



*Eastern Whip-poor-will*



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#### *Eastern Whip-poor-will (cont'd)*

Thompson, 2023, concerning Whip-poor-wills at sites in Manitoba and northwestern Ontario showed tagged individuals migrating in the fall to eastern Texas and then down to Costa Rica. Her studies also showed that during migration they tended to avoid more intense artificial light levels.

So why is this species one of concern both in Canada and the US? In large part this is because of loss of habitat which directly affects their breeding territory but also has an impact on the insect species they prey upon. A study by the Government of Canada in 2009 discussed long-term breeding bird surveys (BBS) which showed a decline in population between 1968 and 2007 of 3.5% per year. Cornell University reported that, based on BBS data, the Whip-poor-will population has declined by 69% between 1970 and 2014.

A significant question relates to the effects of various human activities on the success of Whip-poor-wills. For a few years we had a Whip-poor-will calling in the evenings near our cottage in upper Green Bay. But their calling was absent the year that work began on another cottage in the area they had occupied. A study in Iowa reported that Whip-poor-wills failed to return when nesting cover was destroyed. In the above referenced study by University of Illinois and Illinois Natural History Survey scientists, developed land-cover in landscapes surrounding sites used by this bird led to their decreased abundance. And some studies have shown that they will avoid artificial light.

The proposed Long Bay Camp development project raises the question of whether it can be completed without a significant effect on the five identified Whip-poor-will territories on site. While plans are to avoid the areas used as nesting sites, it remains uncertain if the birds will remain with construction activities and then later with increased human use of the site. Based on the literature concerning this species it seems unlikely. The scale of this project goes well beyond the development of a few cottages and will likely have a significant impact on many of the species that utilize the area. How we can live more sustainably with increasing human populations and development presents a significant challenge to all of us. We might start by restricting development in ecologically sensitive areas and developing more sustainably wherever possible.

## **Ontario Adventure Rowing on Bobs Lake**

**By: Shelagh Baker**

Row touring, which originated in Europe, is unlike rowing in a standard racing shell. You do not row on a marked course in well known waters. Row touring is the adventure side of the sport and introduces rowers to unfamiliar waterways and scenery throughout the world while generally travelling anywhere between 15-40km per day in touring or coastal boats.

Row touring emphasizes rowing *with* rather than *against* other boats with the focus on endurance rather than speed. Non-competitive fun, fitness and friendship abound. Row touring was introduced to the Ontario rowing community in 1996 and its longevity has proven that row touring has carved out a place in the Ontario rowing landscape.



Ontario Adventure Rowing (OAR) has made a point to explore different waterways around the province and give participants the chance to experience new parts of the province from the water. The row touring season typically kicks off in the Spring in



### Rowing Adventure (cont'd)



Welland at the Banana Belt Tour and ends in October at the aptly titled Icicle Chase in the Belleville area. In between, some of the perennial favourites take place on the Ottawa and Nottawasaga Rivers, The Rideau and Trent Canals (and yes, we row through the locks!) and the Kawartha Lakes. Two urban tours are the Toronto Islands Tour (Hanlan Boat Club) where the rough water of Toronto harbour is juxtaposed against the calm water in the channels between the Islands, and the Canadian Sculling Marathon (Ottawa New Edinburgh Club) where the 42 and 21 km rows go under Parliament Hill.

OAR ( <https://www.adventurerow.ca/> ) organizes around 10-12 rowing tours per year which come in a variety of distances, number of days and routes. They also have a mobile touring centre that can travel across the province and launch tours from almost any waterway.

On Sunday May 26, rowers from clubs in Cambridge, Durham, Guelph, Kingston, Toronto, Trenton and Wolfe Island gathered at Bobs Lake Cottages and Escapes to unload and rig three 'touring quads'. These boats are wider than the ones you see in the Olympics and are designed for rougher conditions. They typically have four people rowing, each with two oars, and one coxswain to help steer the boat and dole out the snacks!

We set off and headed up the eastern side of Timmermans Is, rowed the length of Long Bay and then set our course for our picnic lunch destination at Irwin's Cabins. The afternoon row into Green Bay was shorter than the morning and by mid-afternoon, we were back at our launch site to complete the tour by de-rigging the boats and loading them back onto the trailer.

We had heard nothing but good things about Bobs Lake and our experience that Sunday reflected that. Beautiful islands, sheltered bays, ospreys at home on their nest, turtles basking in the sun, friendly waves from other boaters, all things that some of you on Bobs Lake may take for granted, added to the enjoyment of our day.

We would like to thank you for turning on such perfect weather and for sharing your beautiful lake. We extend special thanks to Bobs Cottages and Escapes and Irwin's Cabins for their hospitality and to the Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association for your support.

We hope to be back!





## The Heart of a Community: ABC Hall

By: Byron Turner

The [Althorpe Bolingbroke Community Association](#) is an active group of volunteers working together to build a vibrant and caring neighbourhood. Our [Board Members](#) are a very engaged and dedicated group who uphold our mission - to sustain the ABC Hall, located at 3166 Bolingbroke Rd. in Maberly, as the cultural and social heart of our community by sponsoring activities which foster a spirit of friendship and a sense of belonging for all.

The ABCA has been bringing rural neighbours together for food, fun, exercise, and entertainment for just over 75 years and we believe it's a tradition worth upholding.

The ABC Hall is a focal point for [healthy activities](#) and [community events](#). Much of the effort is focused on seniors who have an opportunity to socialize and enjoy companionship that would otherwise be difficult for them. Every day there is something being offered at the Hall such as an exercise class, yoga, Pilates, games such as bridge and mah-jongg, and line dancing.



We are proud to host gatherings with live music and even the popular country dances. We bring in local talents for our events and listen to what our participants are looking for. Throughout the summer months we offer Lobsterfest, a fish fry, a BBQ with corn, whatever the season has to offer!

Several times a year we host the Festival of Small Halls (FOSH) music events and have enjoyed great music including Suzie Vinnick and Miss Emily, Charlie Cunningham, East Coast Experience, Tom Wilson and the Devin Cuddy Band. We recently had a full house enjoy the music of JW Jones – a popular/famous local talent. Twice a year we fundraise by selling Wilton Cheese which not only helps us but supports local business. We use our hall to offer community training such as Red Cross First Aid Certification and Safe Food Handling. We are excited to have hosted our first ever Friends of ABC Hall Golf Tournament.

The ABC Hall is very proud to operate entirely from revenue generated by all of these volunteer-hosted events and participation.



### ABC Hall (cont'd)



We do [rent our hall](#) and boast that it is an accessible, fully equipped, air conditioned, licensed facility with ample parking located near Westport, Maberly and Perth! The Hall seats 125 people and has a fully equipped kitchen and a bar. It is perfect for any event so please check it out when planning your next event! We are sure you will find the rates very reasonable and bar staff are available upon request!

We have many [community sponsors](#) to whom we are very grateful. We feature their logos on our wall and name them in our newsletters. It's a win-win for everyone.

To paraphrase a well-known proverb, it takes many volunteers – and a variety of fundraising activities – to run a community hall. So come out and [join us](#). We offer single and family memberships at a nominal fee.

We're easy to find and fun to be with so find us on Facebook or on the internet and check us out! Our website is a wealth of information and has everything you need to know about us, our history, our events and weekly offerings, rental information and just so much more! You can even stay up to date by joining our email list.





## Protecting Our Night Skies

By: Jeff Carabott

When we think of pollution in the context of life at the lake, our thoughts usually steer towards the water. An often-overlooked aspect of pollution is the artificial brightening of the night sky. The most obvious effect will be the yearly decrease in the number of naked-eye stars that we can see, and a general lightening of the sky. Many of us who have been enjoying the night sky at the lake over a period of years, or even decades, likely have noticed the continuing trend of a less prominent Milky Way overhead in the summer months. A recent citizen science study (Globe at Night) estimated that sky brightness is increasing 7 to 10% annually over the past 12 years.



Light pollution impacts not only our enjoyment of dark night skies, but also affects ecosystems and wildlife on many levels, including:

- Animals' and birds' ability to navigate and migrate. Artificial lighting can confuse nocturnal animals, such as porcupines. Many migratory birds die crashing into lit buildings at night.
- Light sources attract moths, making them easy prey for predators and less likely to feed or reproduce. This can decrease the quantity and diversification of nocturnal insects, which of course affects animals feeding on them, such as bats.
- Frogs may reduce their nighttime mating calls, reducing their ability to successfully reproduce.

Ironically, the move towards more “green” lighting technology, such as LED white-light fixtures, has served to worsen the situation. Older style incandescent lights, while certainly consuming more electrical power for a given level of brightness, cast much less glare than full-spectrum bright white LEDs. The lower cost of running LED bulbs also tends to encourage an increase in the number of lights deployed.

### What can you do to help?

Light pollution can easily be reduced with a few simple solutions:

- Change from bright white exterior lights to amber. Amber LED bulbs are readily available and can reduce glare by about a factor of 5 compared to white lights of a similar wattage. Amber light will attract less moths and insects (including less mosquitoes!). A less effective alternative is to choose “warm/soft” white LED bulbs, rather than “daylight” bulbs.
- Choose or modify/shield light fixtures to direct the light where needed --- downward rather than towards the sky or a neighbour's property.



### Protecting Our Night Skies (cont'd)

- Lower bulb wattage/luminance to what you really need to serve their purpose.
- Avoid lights shining over the water, as their intensity and glare will be increased and the light will encroach on neighbours over a greater distance.
- Turn off outdoor lights when they are not needed, when you go to bed or are away.

## Perseids Meteor Shower

The Perseids meteor shower peaks on the night of August 11-12 this year. This shower can potentially produce up to 120 meteors per hour on a peak night. The darker the skies the better!!! Use a red light flashlight to help preserve your night vision.

The Perseid meteor shower peaks this weekend, and it's even better this year

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

- North Frontenac Astronomy Park, 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!



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