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Lake Views  
**Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association Magazine**

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Spring/Summer 2020



Rainbow at Sunset – Promise of a New Tomorrow

Photo by: Cindy Taylor

*Stay strong.  
There is a rainbow  
after every storm.*

*Anonymous*



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## Message from the Board

Greater Bobs and Crow Lake Association (GBCLA)

The Covid 19 Pandemic has changed the world.

That world also includes our "little spot in paradise" on Bobs and Crow lakes. With hundreds of thousands of people dying from this novel virus, many millions being infected and tens of millions losing their jobs, talking about the upcoming cottage season is totally irrelevant. Of greater importance, is that all residents practice and put in place the required steps to minimize the spread and impact of this illness. By visiting the lake, we all have a moral duty to our neighbours, Township residents and local businesses to follow government guidelines on Covid 19. Doing our part until an effective treatment or vaccine can be introduced, will help restore as much as possible the "blessed life" we are all very fortunate to have that will allow us to continue enjoying the natural beauty of these wonderful two lakes.

For the first time in the history of the Association, there will be no in-person AGM (Annual General Meeting) and a virtual AGM is under consideration. The AGM at Glendower Hall will hopefully be back in the summer of 2021. As well, our plans for the first BioBlitz since 2013, have been deferred to 2021. Our friends at the Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation have also cancelled their annual Frontenac Frolic for the first time since its inception.

The other impact of a "changed world" is video Board meetings. This required us to add the word "zoom" to our collective vocabulary. Examples: Is this your first time zooming? Zoom me in! I was zoomed last night!



GBCLA Board of Directors Meeting



**Message from the Board (cont'd)**

In April, we welcomed our new Secretary, Lynn Watson to the Board. Lynn will be responsible for organizing and recording the minutes of all Board meetings. The GBCLA Board is now at a full complement except for one position: **President**. We are taking our time to find the right candidate. That person will likely join the Board in a lesser role and over time will “rise” up to the challenge of President. This “job” is not time-consuming. With a large and deep Board of Directors performing all of the day to day operations of the Association, the President can focus on leading the organization, setting the strategic direction and chairing Board meetings. If you have any interest in volunteering, even for 1 hour, please contact

[communications@bobsandcrowlakes.ca](mailto:communications@bobsandcrowlakes.ca).

The most significant investment to Bobs Lake and the Tay Valley watershed is nearing completion. The new Bobs Lake dam is essentially complete with only the restoration work on the shoreline and the adjacent private property left to do. Kudos go out to Parks Canada for a well-managed and well-communicated project. Residents should be reminded that trespassing on the dam or the adjacent private property is not allowed. The dam is not a tourist spot and the inherent risks of going too close should be kept in mind.

Despite a cancelled formal Walleye Survey in April, an informal survey was conducted at a new site by

one dedicated volunteer (Thank you Duane Meeks). Despite low water levels and an early spawn start on April 1, 117 adult walleye were counted during 45 minutes each night over 11 nights. Considering how many additional fish come to spawn outside of the 45 minutes each night and that females can produce up to 50,000 eggs in a night, the importance of this site to walleye stocks cannot be understated. Read the full report in this issue by Fisheries Director Paul Patterson.

We would encourage all members to remember to renew their memberships. The Board has a full slate of events and programs planned for 2021. Please go to our website at [bobsandcrowlakes.ca](http://bobsandcrowlakes.ca) and use our secure payment site to submit your membership payment or donation. We are a modestly-sized volunteer organization and we stretch and spend every dollar as if it was the last dollar out of our own pockets.

Finally, to all our members and residents of Bobs and Crow Lakes: please stay healthy and do your part in limiting the spread of this Covid 19 pandemic.



There may be a new normal for humans on the lakes, but Nature’s beauty will not have changed at all.



# ***I**nformation from your Association*

## Communicating with Members and Residents

By: Trish Chartrand

COVID-19 is changing the way the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA) has historically interacted with our members, lake residents and the public. Social distancing means that many of our activities and events have been cancelled, rescheduled, reworked, restructured, with many going virtual. The GBCLA puts a high priority to make good use of all available web-based tools to maintain effective lines of communication throughout the duration of this pandemic.

Traditionally, the GBCLA website has been our go-to resource for the history and relevant information on the area. The GBCLA Facebook site was then set up to provide a social media outlet to share images and pictures as well as to provide a forum to distribute timely updates. The notices from Parks Canada and the Rideau Valley Conservation Area are good examples.

We also send out email E-lets to the membership base when there is a very directed call-to-action, such as when distributing important notices on Covid 19 or warnings on lake buoys. Equally critical are E-Lert searches for project volunteers. Finding someone with an interest in **adding new content to our website is a volunteer opportunity for someone right now!**

Our “almost” new website with the refreshed new logo is still a work in progress. The website is slowly being updated and we would appreciate any suggestions and feedback on the types of information you would like to see. We may not be able to implement all suggestions, but it would be great to hear what you might have to say.

Wishing you, your family, and friends remain safe and healthy.

Your GBCLA Board





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## **V**olunteer Corner

The following are current volunteer opportunities with the GBCLA.

**President** – contact Carson Jen  
[treasurer@bobsandcrowlakes.ca](mailto:treasurer@bobsandcrowlakes.ca)

**Buoy Placement Volunteer** – contact Dick Johnston See Marine Safety article  
[marine.safety@bobsandcrowlakes.ca](mailto:marine.safety@bobsandcrowlakes.ca)

**Water Quality Tester** – contact Bonnie Carrabott  
[water.quality@bobsandcrowlakes.ca](mailto:water.quality@bobsandcrowlakes.ca)

We are in need of water quality testing volunteers to participate in the Ministry of Environment’s Lake Partner Program (LPP). This program is essential in monitoring our lakes’ health and in early detection of declining nutrient and clarity trends. Using the supplied testing kit, one water sample is taken in May and, typically 2 visual water clarity readings monthly in May through September. Note, for this year, the May water sample is postponed due to the temporary Ministry of Environment lab closure. Vacant testing areas are Crow Bay, East Basin, Green Bay and the Central Narrows.





## Hydro Rate Class – Final Ruling

By: Larry Arpaia

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has made a decision on the future of pricing of hydro for seasonal customers in Ontario – kind of!



After almost five years of waffling on a move by Hydro One to eliminate a 'seasonal rate class' the OEB has issued a statement on May 2020 - "for a decision and order to this motion" with a caveat "further direction with respect to any next steps will be given in due course".

In 2015 Hydro One began a lengthy process to eliminate the "seasonal rate Class" for the purchasing of electricity in Ontario. Discussions with Lake Associations, Rural Organizations, and the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (FOCA) saw all participants wary of such an action. Hydro One then announced in December 2019 that it was suggesting to the OEB that the "seasonal rate class" be eliminated and existing seasonal class customers will be moved to one of three Hydro One Residential Rate classes according to their density.

The three new residential Rate classes are:

- Urban high-density zone-60 customers for every 1 km of power line
- Medium Density Zone-15 customers for every 1 km of power line
- Low Density Zone- 1 customer for every 1 km of power line

Hydro One was told by the OEB in 2015 that they needed to develop a billing model that will get rid of the class which most seasonal customers have their Hydro fees assessed (approximately 200,000 customers). FOCA has opposed the elimination of the seasonal rate class due to hardships it would impose on low density seasonal customers.

With these changes seasonal customers will be moved into one of the existing residential classes.

This could see some rates for electricity substantially increase in the future. Which class they fall under depends on a range of factors including population density of the area and the cost of the infrastructure and equipment needed to service these customers.

Stay tuned.

## South Frontenac Burn Ban



Effective Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 8:00 am, the total burning ban has been lifted in the Township of South Frontenac.

This means that residents can return to having open air fires including open air cooking fires, camping fires, and approved incinerator or brush pile fires that are in compliance with the regulations set in the Township's burning Bylaw 2012-68.

Mayor Ron Vandewal spoke to the lifting of the ban, "Spending more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic has made many of us eager to clean up our yards, but it is important that we do so safely. I want to thank residents for their patience during this difficult time – I know that the past few months have been challenging for all of us, but our community has stood together in order to ensure the safety of all residents."

Residents are reminded of the importance of complying with all the safety directives of the Township's burning Bylaw 2012-68 which is available on our website

– <https://www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/fire-ban-status.aspx>.

Effective Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 12:01 am, the MNR has lifted the Province-wide burning ban within restricted fire zones.

This means **that Township residents in Bedford District can return to having open air fires**, including open air cooking fires, camping fires, and approved incinerator or brush pile fires that are in compliance with the regulations set in the Township's burning Bylaw 2012-68.



# **M**embers and Membership

## Membership Year Change

By: Carson Jen

Last fall the GBCLA announced its intention to modernize its membership policy. For as long as our oldest members can recall, the membership year has been from July 1 to June 30. Historically this was based on a cottage season starting on July 1, when many residents arrived at the lake to spend the summer with friends and family. The GBCLA is one of the very few lake associations left that does not use a calendar year as their membership year. Effective July 1, 2020, the GBCLA will switch to a calendar year membership (January 1-December 31.)

**This switch will not change the \$40/year membership fee and will not reduce how much time you have left on your current membership.**

What are the benefits of making this change?

This change will simplify the membership records and the financial accounting that the Association must maintain. Most important for our members, it will reduce the confusion around when a membership is current and when it has expired. The outdated July 1 to June 30 time period accommodated a lot of membership fee payments made by cheque or cash. Many 'older' members still prefer to pay this way and very often at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or by mail. These options do not change.

However since its introduction several years ago, there have been more and more members who have taken advantage of our Paypal payment service. Just go to the [bobsandcrowlakes.ca](http://bobsandcrowlakes.ca) website and click on 'Join'. You do not need a Paypal account and can also pay using your Visa or Mastercard. The Paypal service is on a secure site and there is no charge to make your membership fee payments or donations.

New for 2020, the GBCLA is also introducing an online payment option that is growing in popularity among Canadians. It is the Interac (Bank) transfer, which offers a secure and convenient online payment method (read the article in this issue).



## Rising Paper Costs for Lake Views Magazine

By: Rick Prudil

In the 2019 spring edition the GBCLA Board began encouraging members to switch from paper copies of the Lake Views magazine to electronic copies (E-copies) only. The magazine is the largest single item of our core budget of approximately \$10,000/year. Keeping the magazine in publication is a very high priority as we know how much our members enjoy reading the wonderful stories and helpful articles, contributed by residents and experts around the lakes.

**BUT Paper copies cost more:** \$6 per issue or \$12 per year for two issues (mainly from printing, stuffing envelopes and postage). Many of you have heard our message and we continue to move in the right direction, so thank you. Currently we have 66% of members getting E Copies only. This is up from 51% in the Spring of 2019! This is a significant achievement, but a further reduction is necessary.

	<b>% of members receiving E-Copies only</b>
Spring 2019	51%
Fall 2019	62%
Spring 2020	66%

We feel there are still many more volunteers who would be able to switch to an E-copy with minimal disruption. How do we know? We know because many members are still receiving both paper copies by mail AND E-Copies by email. Switching to an E-copy only saves us roughly \$12 per year/per member.

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

At the same time, please use or confirm the email address where you wish to have the E-copy sent.

Your ongoing support is much appreciated.



## Impact of COVID 19 on Membership Renewals

By: Rick Prudil

The Board of Directors of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA) has cancelled the in-person Annual General Meeting (AGM) and a virtual meeting is under consideration. All GBCLA events planned for 2020 have also been deferred to 2021. This means there will be no face to face meeting opportunities with our members in 2020 where many members and new residents renew or buy their memberships. As the Membership Director, I have also noted a concerning trend of declining membership renewals in 2020 compared to 2019 and 2018.

We need and appreciate the ongoing support of all our members to carry out the important work of protecting and enhancing our lakes. Due to the cancellation of the AGM, I would like to encourage members to renew their membership at our secure website: [bobsandcrowlakes.ca](http://bobsandcrowlakes.ca).

Members can remit their payments using Paypal or a major credit card. Sending in a cheque the old-fashioned way is fine too. Please mail them to:

Membership Director  
2018 Centreville Road  
Centreville, Ontario  
K0K 1N0

The Board is also pleased to announce the introduction of a new payment option using Interac bank transfers. Read the following article for more details on this very convenient and fast-growing method of making payments.



## Interac Payments

By: Carson Jen

In response to requests from some members for more flexibility for paying membership fees, the GBCLA is now accepting membership payments using the Interac (Interbank network of banks and financial institutions in Canada) e-transfer service with whomever you bank with. Simply log into your online banking or financial institution program and email your payment to:

[membership@bobsandcrowlakes.ca](mailto:membership@bobsandcrowlakes.ca)



The GBCLA email address has been registered with the Bank of Montreal to automatically receive and deposit all incoming Interac transfers into our account. You do **NOT** have to provide a security question. **We do require that you provide the following basic information in the Message section of the E-transfer. This is critical to ensure we direct your payment to the right member record:**

1. Are you a new member or an existing member renewing your membership?
2. What is the email address listed under your existing membership OR give us the email you want us to use as a new member?
3. What is your full name or the full name of the member you are paying for?
4. What is your phone number in case we have questions on this payment?

Most Financial Institutions charge approximately \$1.50 per transfer. However, many of our members are eligible for free Interac transfers in a similar fashion as free cheques. Check with your bank or financial institution. Of course, the cost-free option to paying your fees is to go to our website at [bobsandcrowlakes.ca](http://bobsandcrowlakes.ca) and use the link to the PayPal service. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can still use this secure website to pay with Visa or Mastercard.





# Marine Safety

## Marine Safety

By: Dick Johnston

### Covid-19 and Boating

In my wildest imagination I never thought I would use these two words in the same sentence.

Following are some of the questions that have been raised regarding boating in the time of Covid-19:

- Is it safe to go boating or fishing?
- Where can I launch my boat?
- When will marinas open?
- Will marinas perform repairs?
- Will I be able to get gas on the lake?

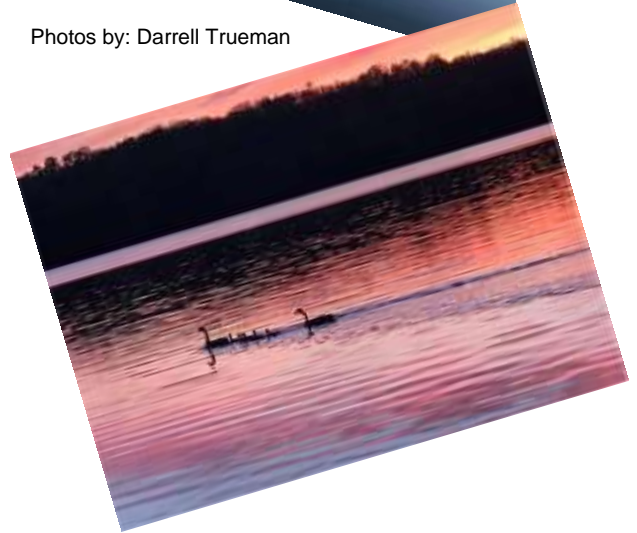
The list is long. Under normal circumstances I would have contacted the appropriate organizations and provided you with the best information possible. As you know things are changing frequently, almost daily, in some areas. By the time this article is published any information I provide could be out of date.

The best advice I can give you is to review the different web sites for the Federal, Provincial, Municipal/Township governments. Also, to avoid confusion I would contact those businesses you deal with to ensure you receive timely and accurate information.

Stay Safe



Photos by: Darrell Trueman



**COVID-19: PHYSICAL DISTANCING FOR CANADIAN BOATERS**

**PLANNING TO TRAVEL BY WATER?**  
If you are getting out on the water:

- Only take people from your immediate household with you on your boat:
  - ✗ No family members who don't live in your home with you
  - ✗ No boating buddies
  - ✗ No other guests
- While preparing to leave shore and on the water, try to keep a distance of at least 2 arm lengths (approximately 2 metres) from other boats and people who don't live in your household. This is the length of approximately:
  - ✓ 0.5 Canoe
  - ✓ 1 Fishing rod
  - ✓ 1.5 Wakeboards
- Consider wearing a non-medical mask or face covering when you can't keep a distance. If so, refer to the Public Health Agency of Canada guidelines on wearing non-medical masks and face coverings and how to make you safe.

For more information on COVID-19, visit [Canada.ca/COVID19](https://Canada.ca/COVID19)

Canada





## Buoy Volunteers Needed!

By: Dick Johnston

### Big Bobs

In our Fall 2019 magazine I noted the requirement for a new volunteer, or volunteers, to manage the buoys in the Big Bobs area (Western Basin) of Bobs Lake. At that time, Rick Smith indicated last fall he would be retiring. Unfortunately, we have not been successful in finding anyone to replace him.

This spring knowing that we did not have a replacement, Rick ensured that the buoys were deployed. Rick, thank you for looking after things.

So again, we are asking for assistance. If there are any cottagers or residents in that area willing to participate please contact me.



### Central Narrows

Early this spring I received an email from Bill Brink, the volunteer who looks after the Central Narrows area. He was contacting me to inform me that given the Canadian – U.S. Border closing he was not sure when he would arrive at the lake. He also indicated that this would be his last year managing that area. Therefore, we are also looking for someone to take over Bill's area of responsibility.

Bill was one of the original architectures / organizers of the Marine Safety Program. He is still a very active and valued volunteer. I can always tell when spring is around the corner. I will get an email from Bill inquiring about how things are proceeding. This year when I received the email it was still snowing. Bill lives in Atlanta Georgia and was probably wearing shorts!

### Spring Conditions

I want to extend a well-deserved thank you in recognition of the extra effort by our volunteers this spring. I do not remember a more miserable late start to the boating season as we experienced this year.

Yet, even during the cold, blowing, snowy weather many buoys were deployed to critical areas.

Thank you for your outstanding efforts.

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is your wake up call.**



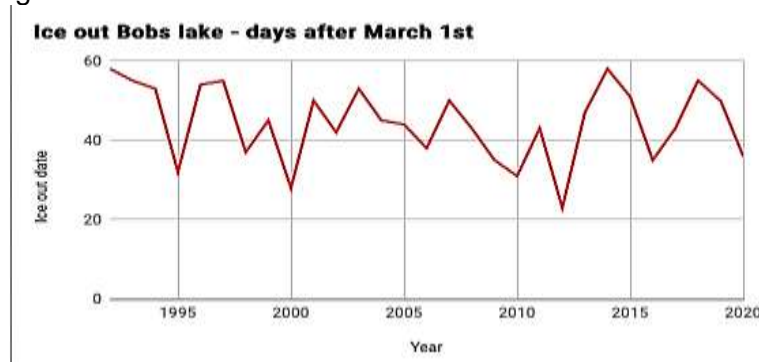
# Fisheries

## 2020 Walleye Spawning Survey

By: Paul Patterson

We had 17 Volunteers sign up for this year's spawning survey most returning to the job after our first run last year. The plan was to survey the restored beds at End Creek, Eagle Creek and McEwan Creek. In late February we had a new volunteer approach the Association with specific access to an additional site that was added to the survey.

Our resident Ice Out expert Bill St Arnaud has been monitoring Ice Out on the lake since the early 90's. He was consulted in early March and gave us a window of April 2 to April 11. As it turned out the spawning sites were ice free much earlier this year with the temperature in the spawning creeks hitting prime time April 1 making this the earliest date on record.



Everything was set to go until Covid-19 entered the equation. As Dr. Fauci says, 'you don't set the agenda, the virus set's the agenda.' After consultation with the volunteers it was determined on March 19 that we would cancel the Official 2020 Walleye survey.

Notwithstanding 2 of our volunteers carried on with their plans to unofficially monitor the spawn.

On the new site 117 Walleye were spotted over the course of 11 nights. With each female producing up to 50,000 eggs in the course of their one-night spawn this is a very healthy result for the lake. Taking in to account that our volunteer monitored 100-150 yards of shoreline for a 45- minute period the total number of Walleye in the spawning ground would have been much greater. A very encouraging result for the Walleye Fishery.

On the Eagle creek site our volunteer went out for 6 nights through the spawning period. No fish were spotted in the rehabilitated spawning bed as low water levels prevented them from entering the spawning site from the lake. This was largely due to the early ice out date with water levels rising historically toward the end of April.





### **2020 Walleye Spawning Survey (cont'd)**

Our unofficial results were shared with both the MNRF and RVCA biology teams with responsibility for our region. The RVCA biologist was very encouraged by the results and has agreed to a field review of the spawning sites later this summer. We hope to improve on the beds in the new site and look for ways to improve access to other sites impacted by low water levels.

On a related note the MNRF has not adjusted Fishing regulations for 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Municipal and some private boat launches are open on the lake and fishing is allowed within the larger guidelines in place on Social Distancing.

## **Restoring Walleye Spawning Grounds**

**By: Paul Patterson**

### **Camsel Creek**

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA) and Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation (GBCLF) are working to restore Walleye spawning grounds in key areas of the lake.

We have completed 4 such projects and are looking at a 5th site at Camsel Creek between the Doran Wetlands and Green Bay of Bobs Lake.



Historically the Doran Wetland and Bobs Lake were connected by Camsel Creek as shown above by the blue arrow. Green Bay road crossed the creek east of New road via a bridge. That bridge failed many years ago and as an emergency measure the Township installed a causeway with culverts to replace it.







### Restoring Walleye Spawning Grounds (cont'd)

These culverts are out of the water most of the year and in spring the rate of flow through these culverts is such that fish cannot transit upstream. Effectively the culverts have blocked transit between the wetlands and the lake and historic spawning grounds of walleye.

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association and Foundation would like to work with the municipality to restore Camsel Creek by replacing the existing culverts with a fish habitat friendly structure that would allow for restoration of the creek bed, creation of a Walleye spawning ground and fish access between the Doran wetlands and Bobs lake at Green Bay.

The GBCLF has agreed to provide a donation to the Township in the amount of \$20,000 to support the engineering work for the project on completion of the works.

In February Jim McIntosh from the Fisheries Committee of the GBCLA and Sandy Cameron from the Foundation presented the project to the Public Services Committee of the South Frontenac Township at the invitation of Mark Segsworth, Director of Public Services. While the Township supports the initiative and appreciates the financial contribution from the Foundation they declined to move forward in 2021 as Green Bay Road is not included in the current multi-year Capital budget which runs to 2022.

We will continue to work with the Township to promote replacement of the culverts coincident with Township plans to improve Green Bay Road.



The phenomenon called scattering

Photo by: Robin Kasem



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## ***E*vents and Information**

### **Bolingbroke Dam Update – Spring 2020**

By: Larry Arpaia

The Bolingbroke Dam Project was to a large extent, completed in the Fall of 2019. The dam is functioning and being monitored by Parks Canada employees through both electronic gauges and regular inspections. Parks Canada staff in collaboration with their partners TayNet, RVCA and the Municipalities along the Tay, have full responsibility for water management through managing the dam's flow.



In November/December 2019 the old Dam was dismantled and “rip rap” (contained and large rocks) placed along the shores of the mouth of the Tay River.



During the Spring 2020, the dam contractor will be on site fixing, adjusting a few defiances, finishing site clean-up and proceeding with relevant

landscaping. Due to the current COVID 19 restrictions, Parks Canada is unable to provide an exact schedule of activities for the balance of the Spring construction period, as plans can change very quickly.

Parks Canada has repeatedly emphasized that there is **absolutely no public access to the dam**. Foot access to the dam must travel over private property and is prohibited by the current landowner. There is no water access, no safe location to tie up a watercraft and walking on the dam is considered trespassing. There are strong water flows and currents ahead of the dam which can be dangerous and unpredictable. Parks Canada urges all residents and guests to stay away from the dam structure at all times for safety reasons. The dam is not a tourist attraction.

If residents and guests of Bobs and Crow Lakes are interested in any additional information on any of the Parks Canada projects, they can go to the following website:

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/Lin-nhs/on/rideau/visit/infrastructure> .



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**Be Safe  
Stay Well  
Be Kind**



## Bolingbroke Bridge Replacement Update Spring 2020

By: Dick Johnston

The Bolingbroke Bridge is located on Crow Lake Road approximately 80 metres north of the intersection of Crow Lake Road and Bolingbroke Road. It is a steel bridge over the Tay River that has a span of approximately 37 metres. I believe it is the longest bridge in Tay Valley.

Those of us who cross the bridge have a unique opportunity to view the start of Tay River, as it flows from the Bolingbroke dam. It is a very picturesque sight.



Many of you may already know that the Bolingbroke Bridge is being replaced due to its deteriorating structure. Following engineering and environmental

assessment studies, the Tay Valley Township is proceeding with the replacement of the bridge at an estimated cost of \$1,040,000.

A 'Request for Tender' has been issued by the Corporation of Tay Valley. Sealed bids are to be submitted to the Municipal office no later than 1:00 p.m. on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The construction project will include the removal of the existing bridge and the building of a new structure. The tentative start date is mid-August with a completion date of early-November.

As we did with the new Bolingbroke dam, the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association will provide updates on the project as information, such as detour routes and timeframes, becomes available.



Spring Thaw

Photo by: Trish Chartrand

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## ***I***nterest Pieces

### **The Radiance of the Ordinary**

**By: Susan O'Brien Mactaggart**

As you approach the little hamlet of Burr ridge, situated just north of the Westport Road on Burr ridge Road, one building in particular catches your attention. It is of fair size with a very long sloped roof, is painted a soft silver and the grounds around the building are very tidy with wood piles, unusual wood objects and a wattle fence that defines the property line. This is the circa 1885 Burr ridge Cheese Factory purchased over 30 years ago by Raphael Kerem.



It has been lovingly restored by Raphael and his wife Tanya Deacove into his workshop, living quarters and show room known as The Radiance of the Ordinary.



Raphael's childhood was spent in Israel and Africa where he first learned and appreciated the value of hand-made objects that were such an important part of the cultures of these countries. Later, prompted by his own curiosity, his keen observation and his own creative ability, Raphael mastered cheesemaking and wood joinery in Switzerland. Any discipline that required handcrafted and design work was of particular interest to him and over the years in his travels he developed skills in broom making, coopering, furniture making, oriental painting, copper repoussé and some building design.

Raphael is a true artisan. He is the master of his craft and he is only satisfied with excellence in any of his projects. Raphael has incredible patience and self-discipline and every item he crafts is not only a statement in design perfection but it often tells a story. The show room of The Radiance of the Ordinary displays many smaller items from his legendary brooms, to copper dust pans, hand-turned maple bowls and many other items of unique interest. However, this display is only part of Raphael's present working schedule as he also focuses on private commissions for clients who have requested special items such as dining room tables, fireplace fronts and mantels, chairs, unique doors and other furniture pieces.



Legendary Brooms

Some clients come to him with specific requests for projects but many of his commissions can begin just with a conversation with people interested in his work. From this conversation, a rapport and special relationship is established between the potential client and Raphael. As he learns more about his client, Raphael is then able to suggest designs or decorative elements for a project that would be most meaningful for the client. The end result might be a unique piece of furniture or the set of doors just mentioned, that tells a specific story and is custom designed for the location in the client's home. This client had built an addition on to his home on Bobs Lake and these doors, made of western red cedar, became the portal between the old and new sections of his home. In the early process of any commission, Raphael creates a series of designs of the project that go back and forth to the client as each change or suggestion is considered. Only when the final design is approved does the work begin. It is also at this point that Raphael

*Radiance of Ordinary (cont'd)*

can accurately quote on the project and outline the materials and time required.



Custom Dining Table with Copper Panels

When I visited his workshop recently he was working on his present commission for three unique chairs. These chairs are of Swiss design, only found in a specific part of Switzerland. Not one nail is used in their construction and the precision of the joins of the legs to the seat to the decorative back is absolute perfection.

The commission also required the names of children to be carved on the back of each chair. Raphael was in the process of practicing the carving of the letters that had to follow an arc in the design. As there was no allowance for error on the finished chair back, Raphael was mastering each letter and the position of the chisel as he carved letter after letter over and over on sample pieces of wood. Only when he felt confident that he had mastered each letter would the final carving begin. Such devotion to one's craft takes unbelievable patience and perfection.

Raphael has used many different woods in the various commissions; in some cases, unusual wood pieces found on the client's property that give an added sentimental value to the project. If decorative painting is involved in the finishing, this again can give a personal touch. In one instance, Raphael captured a scene of the lake near the client's home.

The BurrIDGE Cheese Factory is located at 326 BurrIDGE Road. It is well worth your trip to see Raphael's show room and his workshop. The workshop, in the central part of the old cheese factory, is in itself a work of art; the precise display of how the tools are stored, the huge working table and the big window that looks out on BurrIDGE Road. Visit Raphael and who knows, maybe you will be his next client. If so, I guarantee that the piece you commission will not only be a work of art but it will be a piece loved and handed down to future generations in your family. You can reach Raphael at 613 273-5693.

## Get in Touch

By: **Joselyn Morley**

These are strange times indeed! In many ways, wildlife is enjoying our absence from their domain. While we're all isolating, dreaming about our lakes, I encourage you to think about what wildlife you are interested in, and what issues you are particularly passionate about.

Much of what has been planned for this summer, including the BioBlitz, has been deferred to 2021. Although this is understandable, and prudent, it is also sad. We are missing the opportunity to find out more about all the animals and plants around us, especially the endangered and threatened. Opportunities for Citizen-Science are usually all around us, yet this year we cannot participate.

Let's share some ideas! What animals or plants would you like to know more about? Are there any organizations or projects that you've heard about in which you would like to participate? What are some of the concerns you have about wildlife at the lake? What do you love? What do you hate? Are you an avid birder; an herbalist; a forager; a hunter; or a photographer?

What are you most looking forward to seeing when we can return to our beautiful lakes? What are you most worried about concerning wildlife on our lakes? Are there projects you would like to see undertaken at the Lake concerning the wildlife?

I would love to hear from permanent & seasonal residents, and visitors! I encourage you to send me an email. I would love to hear from you and, hear what you are passionate about!

**Joselyn Morley, [jmorley@ncf.ca](mailto:jmorley@ncf.ca)**





# **Wildlife Around the Lakes**

## **Slithering Around the Lake – Black Rat Tales**

**By: Ben Stevens**

The most common snake we see around here is the Black Rat Snake. Yes, we have lots of garter snakes too, but they quickly disappear from sight. The Black Rat on the other hand, takes his time, and is full of really neat tricks.

A friend was visiting from Montreal and she was telling us she was totally petrified of snakes. One morning there was a big Black Rat snake following her out of her bedroom. Luckily she was totally oblivious, and we kept it that way! He just passed through the living room and out the front door – but for sure he'd taken up residence in her bedroom overnight. It's one we've seen many times. He is about 2metres, or 6ft long (we know how big he is from the complete snakeskin we found).

Identifying whether a snake is male or female is not easy, so we just call him Ratty. The snakes shed their skin each year because they outgrow them and curiously, the skins even include a complete eye-covering. If you find a snake skin, you'll see it is dry and a bit fragile, like fine tissue paper. This means snakes are not slimy and slippery – that's eels!



Several local friends love snakeskins. We watched a Great Crested Flycatcher swoop down and grab the long piece of skin we had put out for it, flying away with the skin trailing behind like a long tail. I had also cleaned a red squirrel nest out of our blue box in the garage and there were upwards of 15 sections of snakeskin she'd collected to line the nest.

One day we were watching the Black Rat on the back deck and he suddenly disappeared. A couple of hours later when it was barbecue time, and as I leaned over to turn on the propane, there was his

tail end, hanging out of the bottom of the barbecue. Needless to say we gave him time to escape. Have I ever eaten snake? Actually yes, but only in China, barbecued and served with a medium hot sauce. It actually tasted quite good – but the bones! Whereas we have 24 ribs, snakes have up to 400, so you're forever spitting them out.

Ratty lived in our basement one winter. We have a dirt floor and it's impossible to keep the mice out, but he grew fat and happy taking care of that for us. It was in the workshop that I first saw him out of the corner of my eye. I saw a hose pipe hanging over a hook, and I could have sworn that it moved. Sure enough it was Ratty. Mice are obviously a favourite food, as are rats (surprise!), lizards and a wide assortment of wee beasties. The snakes are constrictors so when they grab their prey, they squeeze the life out of them before swallowing them whole, then sleep it off for a week or so.

We were lucky to have him as a guest over winter as usually they look for a rock crevice or an old tree stump to hunker down and hibernate until it warms up again. As a member of the reptile family, they are cold blooded. This means they can't generate their own heat, so need to look for the sunshine, often curling up on any dark surface. One of his most amusing tricks was to curl up on the steering wheel of the lawn tractor, and on the engine block of Diane's car.



This heat-seeking habit forms one of its most dangerous traits in that warm weather brings them on to the roads to sunbathe. Some people hate them so much they will swerve to run over them. We came across one last fall stretched out on the road, so we stopped to admire and also to encourage it to get out of harm's way. As soon as we approached, it made a mad dash to hide right under the car and refused to come out. Having



*Slithering Around the Lake (cont'd)*

seen the reptile handlers on TV, I knew exactly what to do. I grabbed it behind the head so it can't bite. Good thought, except he was a whole lot faster than I was and, in a flash, had sunk his teeth into my finger, leaving two tiny needle pricks behind. Not at all painful, but a good lesson. Glad he wasn't a cobra!

Are they poisonous? No, not at all. But besides biting, they do have some good defensive maneuvers, like imitating a rattler by vibrating its tail, or a skunk by emitting a smell you don't want to know about. Mostly they just want to keep out of our way.

They are amazing climbers so trees are a cinch. Once we watched as Ratty climbed vertically up the crack between the door and the door-post – talk about muscle control. We don't know if it's the same one we see all the time, but we do know they mate in May and June, with a clutch of up to a dozen eggs hatching in July to September. In captivity they can live 25 or 30 years, but as they are prey for hawks and foxes, in the wild, a 10-year old is doing well.

Given that they are harmless, entertaining, and do such a good job of keeping the rodents under control, why do people hate them? Most scientists believe that it's an innate fear from way back when our ancestors from Africa were scared for their lives because of the wide variety of poisonous snakes. I've been in many places in Africa where the easiest way to create a big reaction is to show a picture of a snake. But for us, we like to see him around and are happy to share our bit of paradise with him.



## Turkey Vultures

By: Joselyn Morley

Look up some hot summer afternoon. Way way up. You might find a bird, with an impressively large wing span, soaring, gliding on the columns of warm air that rise from the heated land far below. The ends of their wings look like fingers. If you look carefully, you may see another in the distance, gliding, searching their own field below. When one finds some tasty dead thing, others will eventually arrive.



These are Turkey Vultures. There are many around eastern Ontario right now. They don't stick around during winter, but return when things thaw out a bit, searching for every bit of thawing carrion that has accumulated through the winter.

They aren't native to this area. They followed the roadkill north from the warm south. As road networks expanded after WWII, so did the turkey vulture's range. This is the only vulture you will see in this area. Although there are 23 different vultures over all continents except Australia and Antarctic, only the turkey vulture is found in Ontario. Their closest neighbour is the black vulture, found in the southern US, which is smaller and more agile.

They are fascinating birds! They survive on carrion and do not eat or hunt living things. For years it was believed that they searched for food with their eyes. Now it is known that, although their eyesight is incredible, they find the bulk of their carrion by scent. They circle very high up, and when they identify a potential meal, they will circle lower and lower, checking it out. You will see them hunting high up, seemingly alone, yet when one of them starts to descend to investigate something, others searching farther afield will gradually move closer. At first they appear to be lone birds, but they rely on their social groups for survival. They roost, feed, and fly in large groups. A group of vultures is called a committee, venue, or volt. When they are flying they are called a kettle, and when they are feeding together it's called a wake. Gas companies have used vultures to locate gas leaks, for they will flock to the sulfurous stench that is added to gas. They require that the carrion has begun to decompose in



***Turkey Vultures (cont'd)***

order to smell out their meals, and they will eat long-dead and decomposing carrion, but given their choice they prefer fresher meat. Dead and rotting, just not putrid!

Vultures of all types do not have feathers on their heads, for feathers would get filled with dead things and subsequently bacteria. They also use their necks and bare heads to help regulate their temperature. You will see them early of a morning roosting in trees with their wings hunched up and their necks tucked in, trying to keep warm. In the heat of the day they will extend their necks to cool off. They also urinate on their legs to help keep cool, but the urine also kills bacteria that accumulates on their legs and feet through feeding. The acid in their stomachs is much more corrosive than in most animals. This allows them to consume bacteria that would fella humans. Lore says they vomit on their adversary when threatened in order to escape, which they will do when protecting chicks. More often though, they are actually trying to expel all food possible to lighten themselves enough to take off as quickly as possible.

They are notoriously horrible at flying! They soar beautifully, but when on the ground, they can barely get airborne. They flap and hop, looking like they will never take off. Their legs are weak and their feet cannot tear or hold. They have just enough control of their feet to not fall out of trees as they roost. They rarely flap their wings when flying but catch and ride the thermals (columns of hot air). You rarely see them airborne in the early morning. They wait until the land starts to warm up and the air starts moving. They roost in trees at night, and somehow sort out a pecking order so that many can feed on one dead animal. They do not squawk, or caw, or vocalize in any bird-like way. They hiss.



They don't build nests for young. They lay 1 to 3 eggs directly on the bare surface of a protected location, such as a rock crevice, a cliff, a cave, or in some instances, an abandoned and decrepit shed

or outbuilding. Male and female take turns incubating the eggs and caring for them for 12 weeks. They are helpless and very cute at birth.

Our turkey vultures are not endangered or threatened for extinction. Nevertheless, most vultures in the world are endangered or threatened. Many people dislike them, as they are associated with death, decay, and disease. In reality they are preventing the spread of disease by cleaning up rotting dead things. The next time you're on a back road, and you see some vultures up ahead feasting on some roadkill, stop and watch them for a few minutes.

## **Hummingbirds**

**By: Carolyn McGrath**

Song sparrows have hatchlings in a tree cavity by the path to the outhouse. The parents have been too busy to sit on a branch and sing their bright intricate songs, but loud raucous baby cheeps erupt whenever I come and go. This morning I saw seven young ducklings following their momma behind the island. I live in a nursery. Even the moon is new. There'll be only fireflies to light the night.

One day I think I hear a bumble bee, but it's a female ruby-throated hummingbird who has begun to build her nest in the cedars near the porch, the tiny roar of her wings describing each take-off and return. Where her mate's throat would be ruby red, hers is white, but she has sparkly metallic green on her back, head and wings. No sign of him.

I watch through the screen with binoculars as she brings plant fluff and the gauze of spider webs to form a white silky nest fastened onto the side of a branch. For two days she's worked on it, fluttering her body into the material to shape it. She leaves about every five minutes to zoom over to the hummingbird feeder Julie Lewis put up at the farm, and for a while I'll hear no more purr of wings. I find in a book that she has a wingbeat of 25 times-per-second. However, when she lays her two white eggs, her heartbeat will slow and her body temperature drop so that she can brood. The nest is too high for me to peek inside to see the eggs, but the book says they're the size of navy beans.

On her third day of nest-building, Mrs. Hummingbird puts on the finishing touches, sticking pale green

*Hummingbirds (cont'd)*

lichen on its sides, making it look so much a part of its surroundings that if it weren't for the hum of her coming and going, I'd never find it. Probably the lichen waterproofs it as well. Though the hummingbird is the smallest bird of all, this nest seems small even for her, perhaps an inch and a half across at its widest.

The next day I see that something has torn her nest apart. Either that or she hasn't bound it well enough with webs, for fluff has escaped and hangs all around among the cedar sprays. I watch for her return to see her reaction. Squeaking like a mouse, she gathers up the fluff and replaces it, and while shaping it, looks above her, perhaps for the marauder. Such a tiny female all on her own.

For more than two weeks Mrs. Hummingbird sits patiently, her slender black bill pointed east, keeping her eggs warm. Only occasionally does she come and go. She's been adding to her nest even as she broods, making it softer and deeper.

Finally, I hear her coming and going busily again, feeding her young ones nectar that she's collected. It will be three more weeks before they fledge, but I must leave the lake before that. How I would love to see little hummingbirds learning to fly.



Baby Hummingbirds  
(Note: not actual baby birds witnessed by author)

Do not touch! Leave me be ... my momma will come and get me!! Just enjoy the experience of watching me rest!



# Lives Lived

## Brian McAndrews

December 25, 1949 - February 20, 2020



Brian peacefully passed away February 20, 2020 after a courageous 13-year battle with Alzheimer's. He will be greatly missed by his wife of 48 years, Mary Ann (Crawford) and his children, the pride and joy of his life, Amy (Jorge) and Luke (Luann).

Predeceased by his parents, Eddie and Doris, Brian also leaves his sisters, Florence (John), Betty, Ann (Gil) and Cathy (Jurgen). Favourite uncle to his many nieces and nephews.

Brian's life work was in education. Graduating from Ottawa Teacher's College and receiving his B.A. and M.Ed., his favourite place was being in the classroom with his students. Brian taught all levels of education - elementary, high school, special needs, resource and finally finishing his career at the Faculty of Education at Queen's University.

The sound of Brian's axe and saw will be quiet now at the family cottage. He loved fishing, swimming, and in his last years, long walks with his good friend Peigi and the dogs.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire"

W.B. Yeates

Editor's Note: Brian and I worked together for 9 of his 15+ years at the Faculty of Education at Queen's University. I became involved in the desktop publishing of the GBCLA 'Newsletter' in 1999 with Brian's encouragement. He was one of the most genuine and caring people I have had the privilege of knowing.

Tammy O'Neil





## **Joe Slater**

**March 19, 1940 - November 13, 2019**



In the late 1990s, Joe Slater and his wife Sandi moved to a cottage on Anderson Road, overlooking Crow Lake after converting it into their year-round home. Soon Joe joined the board of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA). As a director from 1999 to 2005, he brought his water management expertise and executive ability to our association. Throughout this period Joe represented the interests of the GBCLA with governmental agencies and regional organizations.

A graduate of the RMC (Royal Canadian Military College of Canada), Joe spent many years with Environment Canada. He had extensive experience in water level management issues. During the mid-1980s he was the Canadian representative to International Control Boards that established policies to manage the water levels in the Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake areas between Minnesota, Ontario and Manitoba.

As a director on the GBCLA board, Joe applied his professional experience to the water management portfolio, which is centred around the graphic Rule Curve employed by Parks Canada. Joe recorded the annual seasonal lake levels dating back to the 1940's. His water levels work along with the GBCLA Fisheries program helped protect fish spawning sites in Crow and Bobs lakes from excessive lake water level fluctuations.

When the company Omya in Perth applied to take water from the Tay River for its operations, local organizations and individuals with interest in the watershed formally appealed the proposed terms of their application. Joe professionally represented the GBCLA during the intensive provincial review hearings. He played a pivotal role in developing the revised conditions and was instrumental in ensuring Omya's water-taking permissions under the final

agreement would not have an adverse impact on our lakes.

Joe addressed water-level management issues with many governmental organizations at all levels. Among those were the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Rideau Canal Organization, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and the federal Ministry of the Environment. He represented the GBCLA during the Tay River Watershed Study and the development of the Rideau River Management Plan. He also highlighted deficiencies in provincial water-level monitoring and management for Bobs Lake. As a result, the provincial authorities refined their procedures and upgraded the on-site monitoring operations. When the association embarked on drafting a comprehensive lake plan, Joe was instrumental in presenting our successful grant application to the Trillium Foundation.

Sandi Slater, Joe's wife of many years, passed away suddenly in the spring of 2003. To preserve her memory, Joe established the Sandi Slater Memorial Walk in the RVCA Meisel Woods Conservation Area across from his home. The Area contains 130 acres of excellent Precambrian Shield land and is a forested natural area typical of the headwaters of the Tay and Upper Rideau watershed. Joe Slater's contribution to and impact on the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association were monumental.

Joe lived out his last years in Victoria with his long-time friend Noreen Greig, who he first met in 1967 in Winnipeg. They were married in 2012 and spent many precious moments with their favourite dachshund "Sophie". Joe was eventually struck with PSP (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy) and consistent with his life's contributions, donated his brain to a worthy research project.





## Remembering Mel Fleming

October 15, 1937 - October 2, 2019



There have been many dedicated volunteers over the years who have contributed to the work for the preservation and caring for our beloved Bobs and Crow Lakes but when we think of the development of the fisheries program over the years it is Mel Fleming who immediately comes to mind. Mel was a true gentleman, a quiet man, soft spoken, organized, dedicated and extremely knowledgeable about our lake fisheries. The improvement of the fisheries was a passion for Mel and his aim was to develop a long- term solution for the natural propagation of the walleye in particular. To that end his main focus was on the spawning beds sites.

As early as 1997 Mel oversaw the building of a bridge over Warren's Creek as part of the early rehab to open up access for the walleye from Bobs Lake to those spawning areas. With his dedicated team of helpers, he then mapped out the program for the rehabilitation and some seeding of the spawning areas of the lakes. From the Crow Lake Village Creek, to McEwen's Creek, to Thompson's Creek, to Scott's Creek, to the channel between the two lakes, to Fish Creek, to assessments for Green Bay, not one area missed his plans for improvement. He also applied for CFIP grants to supplement the Association funds for parts of the projects. His enthusiasm was infectious and as Mel reported detailed progress at Association board meetings, the annual meetings and through his lengthy articles for the magazine, lake residents became more aware of and appreciated this huge undertaking and the outstanding progress that was being made.

Mel had a solid rapport with the Ministry of Natural resources and they in turn had a deep respect for Mel. I remember in particular Ross Cholmondeley, the district biologist, who worked tirelessly with Mel to develop the programs. Mark Ferguson and Rick Topping of the MNR also supported Mel with their constant assistance and advice. Anyone who worked with Mel loved and respected him and went the extra mile to help. It was just Mel's manner. He

was so sincere, so genuine in his dealings with everyone.

As years went by, with the constant support of his wife Peg, Mel coped with serious health issues but even then nothing would hold him back from his love, the fisheries projects for the lakes. Mel gave his all to all of us and the preservation of the future enjoyment of one of the popular past times on our lakes. Mel died in October of 2019. He will forever be part of the history of these lakes

The Crow Lake volunteers were so dedicated. Brian McAndrews, Mel Fleming, Joe Slater, Lloyd Jones and Bernie Gelineau, who in his retirement continues his support for the Association and the Foundation. It was a privilege for the GBCLA to have had the expertise of these outstanding volunteers for so many years.





## Chuck Morter

### News from Charlene Morter

Dear Diane Stevens and Bob's Lake citizens,

It's just become clear to me that I've not updated my news to you all. You may have heard but I'll tell you anyway. It's been a very long & stressful time for me down here in Davie, FL.

In case you didn't know, my husband of almost 12 years and the love of my life, passed away on May 15, 2019. I have since been unable to think clearly, communicate on your levels, or believe it happened. Soon after we sold up there & moved down, he went for a test for minor surgery. The doctor told us his white blood count was abnormal. We didn't think much of it as he felt fine & was healthy, so we thought.

He had a condition call CMML. It's a condition of Chronic Leukemia in his blood. He was in remission for almost 2 years, then it showed its very nasty head and within 3 1/2 weeks, we lost him.

Chuck wasn't feeling well when we sold, but we never would have thought it was something like Cancer. My heart is still broken & I miss my Honey more than I can say. He was so brave and doctors & nurses just loved him. He was funny and made everyone laugh in the hospital. We didn't know at the time that is a terminal disease so we prepared ourselves for good news. Only it wasn't.

Now my life has changed drastically and I'm finding ways to start over. It's hard for those of you who have lost loved ones. Only God at this point is holding me up with His strength, Grace & Love.

Chuck loved Burr ridge & the lake & I fell in love with Canada and the people that I've met. And I miss it terribly. I can only say that I hope to return one of these days to visit his Sister & bro in law, Marlene and Don Greenslade whom I also miss terribly.

My thoughts are with you all and I wish you the very best Holidays and hope the New Year will bring happiness, peace, love & health.

Merry Christmas,  
Charlene Morter



Red Trillium

Photo by: Lynn Watson



Columbine

Photo by: Lynn Watson



**2020 - Membership Application / Renewal Form**

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

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

eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_**Magazine by e-mail: Yes / No**Summer Address (911 number): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Winter telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Township (Please circle appropriate): Central Frontenac, South Frontenac or Tay Valley

Cottage Location (select appropriate location):

☐ Big Bobs (Main/West Basin)☐ Crow Bay☐ Central Narrows☐ Long Bay☐ Green Bay☐ Buck Bay☐ Mud Bay Basin☐ Norris Bay☐ Bobs Lake East Basin☐ Crow Lake☐ Mill Bay☐ Island PropertyAnnual membership dues are **\$40.00**. Corporate membership is **\$75**.

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

Please make cheques payable to Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association. Membership form and cheques may be given to any Lake Association Board member, or mailed to:

Greater Bobs &amp; Crow Lakes Association

c/o Rick Prudil

2018 Centreville Rd / Centreville ON K0K 1N0

Membership enquiries: [membership@bobsandcrowlakes.ca](mailto:membership@bobsandcrowlakes.ca)To pay by **PayPal** or **E-transfer** visit our website at: [www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca](http://www.bobsandcrowlakes.ca)