



GREATER BOBS & CROW LAKES  
ASSOCIATION

# *Lake Views*

*Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association Magazine*

*Fall/Winter 2025*



*Photo by: Jim Flett*

*"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is time for home."*

*Edith Sitwell*



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Lake Views Design

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

As I write this, I am still recovering from the annual cultural shock of returning to city life. How I miss the peace and quiet of the lake and my daily conversation with the trees. It is hard not to envy the increasing number of folk who are choosing to remain on Bobs or Crow Lake year-round.

The summer of 2025 was not without its challenges, notably the worst drought in recent memory. The spring seemed hopeful with lots of rain. That changed dramatically in the middle of July and by the long August weekend we were facing a fire ban which lasted through the fall.

We had an early warning of the fire hazard as Mark Cooke recounted on Facebook how he and his wife, Martine, had been able to extinguish a fire near their cottage on the mainland between Lewis Bay and Timmerman's Island using a fire pump purchased with the assistance of GBCLA and the Foundation. Thanks to their efforts the fire was contained and extinguished before the fire department arrived.

Our volunteer fire department were there for us this summer and spent long hours fighting fires and saving lives and property. To them we are deeply indebted. Duane Meeks has given us some insight into the experiences of our fire fights this summer in his article for this magazine. In October, following the submission of Duane's article, the fire department were called out once again to try to contain a fire on Birch Island. Thanks to their efforts, no lives were lost but four cottages and some outbuildings were burnt to the ground.

We have some excellent photographers around the lake and we have tried to feature some of their images in this magazine. Facebook was alive with shared photographs during the summer. Recently, Nadine Pickard, owner of Irwin's Cabins, has launched a GBCLA Instagram page as we continue to reach out to our community and especially to the younger generation. We will look forward to more sharing of images and experiences on Instagram.

Your committees have been busy this summer and you will find reports of their activities in this magazine. Dan Kano updates us on the activities of the fishery committee, including a report on the stocking of walleye in September. Bonnie and Jeff Carabott have reported on the health of the water in our lakes. Dick



*Board Message (cont'd)*

Johnston reminds us of the importance of safe boating on our lakes and includes a report from Constable Ron Martell in his report on marine safety. There is also a report from Peter Thorp-Levitt on the preliminary results of our survey on invasive species and a recommendation to consider using iNaturalist to identify species, both invasive and non-invasive.

Once again, we welcome an article from David Thomas on the osprey, one of our magnificent birds of prey along with a stunning photograph by Jim Flett.

Carson Jen remembers Di and Robbie Hughes in our *Lives Lived* section. Carson also writes about how the cottagers on Burns Road have retrieved and restored their fire pump purchased with the help of the Foundation several years ago.

We hope you enjoy our fall edition of *Lakeviews* and that the memories of your summer on Bobs and Crow Lakes will warm your heart through the winter to come.

**Lynn Watson, Editor**  
**The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association**



*Heron – Ian MacLatchy*



# *Information and Updates*

## **Update From the Board**

The Fisheries committee had a great success with stocking nearly 10,000 walleye in the West Basin of the Lake in September. In a well-organized event, Dan Kano, and his volunteers spent a morning stocking the fish with the assistance from the MNR & F and the volunteer firefighters from South Frontenac. Lunch was served and received an enthusiastic response from the volunteers. Dan produced an excellent video of the event which is available on our website.

To learn more about invasive species on our lakes, a survey was circulated to our membership and to some of the road associations in early October. Results from this survey should assist us to identify awareness of invasive species on our lake and, hopefully, provide a path forward to better dealing with invasives, such as Eurasian Milfoil and Purple Loosestrife.

At the AGM, Carson Jen indicated his wish to step down from his position as Treasurer. He has served the board well over at least eleven years and will continue to serve on the board as a member at large. Thank you, Carson.

We are pleased to announce that Gary Mistak has joined the board as Treasurer and Green Bay Representative effective October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Gary has owned a cottage on Green Bay since 1979 and shares our passion for the lakes. He is a CPA and has recently retired from his position in business. Welcome to the board, Gary!

There has been no word on the development proposed for Campground Lane.

**Lynn Watson, Director of Communications/Acting President**

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## Annual General Meeting 2025

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the GBCLA's Annual General Meeting was held at Glendower Hall with an excellent luncheon provided by the Catholic Women's League. There were 62 in attendance including 51 members. There was one proxy.

Mayor Ron Vandewal and Councillors, Steve Pegrum and Adam Turcotte, attended and Steve gave welcoming remarks.

Ken Cox, Southern Region Fire Advisor for Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, gave an extraordinary presentation on forest fires in Ontario and how to protect our rural properties. You may access a similar presentation by Ken made to the Lake of Bays Community through this URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzNuBatOhwo>.

Lynn Watson, Secretary and Acting President, opened the business meeting by paying tribute to two of our volunteers who passed away this year, Don Goodfellow and John McCalla. She thanked all of volunteers who work to make sure our programs run smoothly.

Lynn reported that in September 2024, the board appointed Peter Thorp-Levitt to the new position of Lake Stewardship. Also, Heather Veltman was appointed recording secretary and Lynn Watson, took the role of Acting President.

In the spring 2025, the Board sent out a Request for Proposal to construct and host a new web site. Bruce Elliott came forward and offered his services for no charge. Within a few days, he had the site up and running. We are now working to update the content on the website. Bruce is President of New Phase Web Marketing.

As well, the board articulated a desire to communicate more broadly to the community through more frequent use of our Facebook page to keep people informed. There have been regular postings on conservation, fisheries and events of interest around the lakes.

There has been no word on the proposed development on Campground Lane since last year's AGM.

### **Financial Report**

Carson Jen reported that our finances are stable year to year with a slight operating loss of \$162.00. He indicated that he foresaw a need for a slight fee increase. He expressed appreciation for the support of the Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation and noted that he wishes to step down as Treasurer.

### **Fisheries**

Dan Kano reported that 8000 walleye were stocked in the West Basin in 2024, that the spring walleye count recorded slightly lower numbers and that divers were monitoring sections of the lake. The focus of the fisheries in the coming year will be on conservation of the fish habitat.



### Marine Safety

Dick Johnston reported on the joint committee with the Foundation to make recommendations to the Board regarding Marine Safety which resulted in 10 recommendations being brought to the board. He thanked the Foundation for their financial support.

### Water Quality

Bonnie Carabott thanked her 11 volunteers who monitor the quality of the lake water and reported that the water clarity and phosphorus levels in the lakes both meet or exceed provincial water quality objectives.

### Lake Stewardship

Peter Thorp-Levitt spoke about shoreline management and the importance of keeping it natural to preserve and protect the marine environment. He also pointed out that our lands are located on the Frontenac Arch Biosphere, an important land corridor for wildlife.

The following slate of officers was elected:

President: Vacant  
 Past President: Larry Arpaia  
 Secretary: Healthier Veltman  
 Treasurer: Carson Jen  
 Membership: Rick Prudil  
 Marine Safety: Dick Johnston  
 Fisheries: Dan Kano

Communications: Lynn Watson  
 Water Clarity: Bonnie Carabott  
 Lake Stewardship: Peter Thorp-Levitt  
 Cottage Safety: Kathy Yach  
 Crow Lake Representative: Jean Faucher  
 Crow Lake Gatekeeper: Mike Byrnes

### Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation

Andrew Parker reported that the Foundation hopes to reinstate the Frontenac Frolic in 2026. He indicated that they need more volunteers to help with their mission which is to support environmental and safety issues around the lakes.

### Lynn Watson, Director of Communications/Acting President





## South Frontenac Fire Rescue

South Frontenac consists of a vast township from south of Kingston to north of Crow lake, to West of 15 highway to East of Yarker, approximately 950 square kilometers and over 2200 water bodies.

We have 2 Full time firefighters, Delbert Blakney, Director of Emergency Services / Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief, Brad Smith. We have 115 paid on call firefighters. Four Platoon Chiefs each help oversee and represent two of our eight fire stations making recommendations for equipment, training, and facility requirements. Each station has Captains who supervise firefighters.

Station #1 Steele Road and Station #2 Burridge Rd. are the two halls that cover Bobs and Crow lakes area.

This year we have had some unique challenges; here are a few examples:



We ran a recruitment program consisting of information sessions at the fire stations, road signs, social media, and door-to-door solicitations for expressions of interest. This resulted in 7 new firefighters for station 1 and 2 who have just achieved their credentials to be fully trained firefighters and are now responding to emergency incidents in the community. They are certified in emergency medical response, search and rescue, and fire suppression activities. This increases our response capabilities and ability to serve the community.

This year has been an extremely dry year and we have responded to an increase in wildfires.

To mitigate this risk, we implemented a full fire ban at times and a level 1 fire ban remains in place at the time of writing this article.

We appreciate members of the community who adhered to regulations and identified persons violating the restrictions. Several fires were avoidable and caused by campfires not thoroughly extinguished and several from improperly discarded cigarettes along the road.

At one point this year we had all 8 halls responding to wildfires. One fire was approximately 20 acres around Perth Road, another fire in a ditch around Harrowsmith and a vegetation fire on an island on Bobs Lake. We are fortunate to have great relationships and mutual aid (assistance) from our neighboring townships.



Another challenge for our area this year was Fish Creek bridge replacement. As a department we strive to provide fast efficient service. To ensure adequate response we automatically call out two stations and assistance from Central Frontenac for structure and wildfires.



In our area we continually adapt to dry weather and difficult topography. Our population increases by about 10,000 in the summer months with our seasonal residents. We do our best to access laneways with our bigger apparatus and when necessary, we use portable pumps from the lake to extinguish fires. It is a challenge to maneuver in some laneways and we encourage property owners to try to keep your lanes clear and 911 signs visible.

In 2024, we obtained a new fire boat and sonar to assist with island fires and water emergencies which is stored at station #1. Recently we purchased a four-wheeler and trailer to help with wildland firefighting and patient extractions in wooded environments; this is housed at station #2.

We did a pilot project this year as we weren't happy as a department with our response times for island emergencies. We canvassed community boat launches to obtain several great launches for our marine unit and locations to access with a pumper to draft water from the lake to fill tanker trucks to transport to fires. We have been able to cut our response time in half for calls in the east end of Bobs Lake. We now have laminated signs with launches, island names and roads in area on our fire boats and fire trucks.

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As a department we all live and work in the area, we have multi generations on the department. We strive to maintain a strong relationship within our community and lake associations. The firefighters participate in many community events including the association meeting and volunteering to help stock walleye in Bobs Lake using our marine unit.



It has been a challenging year with a significant increase in wildfires caused by human error, lightning, and unfortunately arson.

South Frontenac would like to thank our community, neighbouring municipalities, and friends for all your support. Please feel free on a Tuesday training night to stop in and say hi to your firefighters in the area and see our equipment.

Thanks,

**Platoon Chief Duane Meeks**

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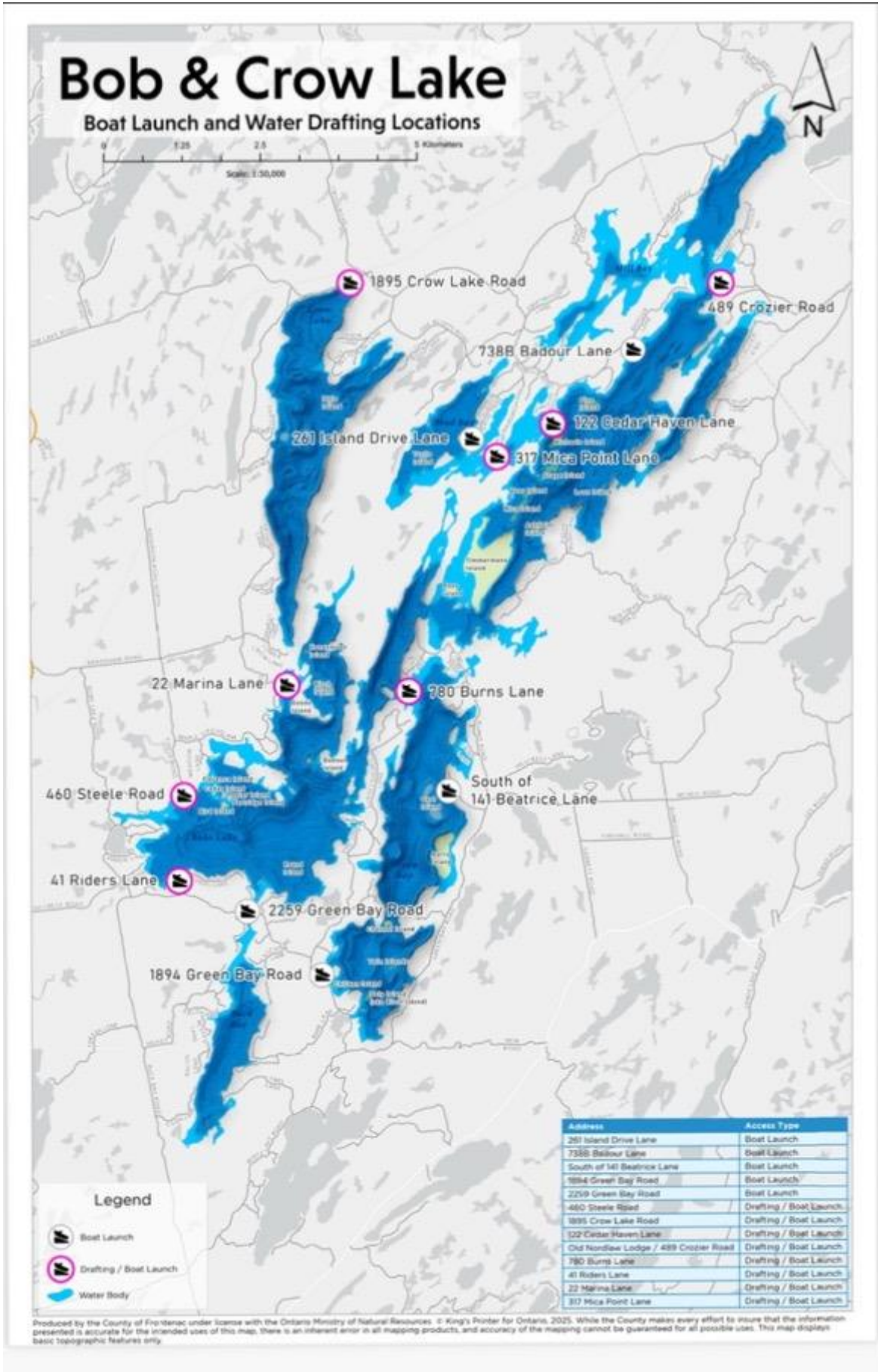
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## Burns Road Restores its Fire Pump

By: Carson Jen

With the alarming rise of wildfires during the past few years, the residents of the Burns Lane Road Association voted to resurrect the community fire pump program. Grace Welch initiated the plan to review the fire pump program at the 2025 Road Association Annual General Meeting. A single pump was assigned to Burns Lane over a decade ago as part of the fire pump program funded by the Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation in 2010. The pump, one of several similar pumps scattered around Bobs and Crow Lakes, was stored away at Twin Oaks camp. Since then, there were no known fires for which the pump was used.

The first step was a thorough inspection and testing of the pump and all ancillary equipment including outlet hoses, intake hose and nozzles. This was performed by Ben Stevens and Allen Kendrick.

Both gents also wrote a comprehensive manual for operating, maintaining, fueling, and storing the pump. Irwin's Cabins kindly agreed to store the pump at an accessible location at the camp, plus perform essential and annual maintenance with support from the Road Association.

On September 27, sixteen residents on Burns Lane attended an Emergency Fire Pump training session, hosted by Diane and Ben Stevens. Ben and Allen demonstrated how to use the pump and encouraged the "hands-on" involvement of all participants. The demonstration took place at a cottage elevation of approximately 75 feet using 300 feet of hose. The outlet pressure was strong with a projection distance of close to 100 feet.

The group noted that the setup time takes an estimated 20-25 minutes for an experienced user. The retrieval time to get the pump from its storage location must also be added in. Identifying an easily accessible location in the community is critical. Also, to be considered is the unrolling of the hose to



minimize kinks, priming (filling with water) of the pump reservoir and intake hose and the positioning of the intake hose away from aquatic vegetation are all critical steps. A set-up team involving at least 2 people is realistically a minimum requirement to get set up on a timely basis. During the demonstration, it became evident that the priming of the pump and location of the intake hose were important steps to getting adequate pressure at the end of the hose.

Despite the additional reassurance of having access to a working fire pump, there are limitations for what this pump can achieve in

case of a fire. A single pump with a single hose is not going to put out a large building or forest fire, nor can it be relied upon during the critical minutes from the start of a fire. The pump would also be of little





use to someone who has not been trained. Combating fires is a serious matter, so remember that a fire pump is not a substitute for immediately calling 911.

Yet there remain several useful functions for a residential-use fire pump including protecting buildings adjacent to a fire, pre-emptive action to slow down a forest fire, and of course, assisting Fire Department resources. During an emergency, this pump is several levels above that of an ordinary garden hose. However, a water pump is only one tool in the firefighting tool kit. Fire extinguishers, ground fuel maintenance measures, no-tree buffer zones, tree pruning, and annual fire drills are just a few of the other tools at one's disposal. Multiple and overlapping fire-fighting measures offer the most protection to your property and assets. For example, several high-capacity fire extinguishers offer immediate protection that could be complemented by other tools such as a pump. But the bottom line is that the residents of Burns Lane now have a fire pump program for participating residents.



*Editor's Note: The GBCLA and the Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation have established a committee to consider the feasibility of establishing a program to support the purchase of fire pumps by community groups around the lakes. If you have comments that you wish to forward to the committee, you may send an email to [communications@bobsandcrowlakes.ca](mailto:communications@bobsandcrowlakes.ca).*

## Lake Stewardship

### Invasive Species on our Lakes

By: Peter Thorp-Levitt, Director of Lake Stewardship

Many have heard about or seen damaging invasive species on our lakes and shorelines. Some invasive species in our area include spongy moth caterpillar, zebra mussel, purple loosestrife, and phragmites. Other varieties of introduced species also identified locally are blue green algae, Eurasian milfoil and Japanese knotweed. But what can we do to fight these invaders and to improve and protect the environment for generations to come?

This summer, the GBCLA took the next step in managing invasive species on our lakes. A preliminary committee began sharing information about invasive species and their damage, on our website, Facebook page and newsletter. The committee also sent out a

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survey to GBCLA members and several road associations asking about your knowledge about invasives and your willingness to help. This information is critical in guiding the GBCLA stewardship team on its next steps to address invasive species, including developing programs to educate our community and potentially planning removal operations.

What we heard from survey respondents is that they are very concerned about invasive species and want to learn more. A significant number also offered to help with this initiative. The results of this survey will be collated and shared with you over the course of the next few months.

### **You can help!**

One of the first steps we can take in addressing invasive species to is document them. We are asking for your help to do this.

iNaturalist is a free app that you can install on your phone. It provides a place to record all your species sightings – both invasive species and any others you want to record. You don't need to be an expert. The app will suggest an ID and others in the iNaturalist community will confirm. This means that your observation is geographically located and can be used by researchers. Simply put, while out on walks or in the boat, watch for plants, or animals and use iNaturalist to make a record. We are asking you to focus on invasive species or species that you're not familiar with but you could record anything. There are currently over 5,000 recordings in the Bobs and Crow Lakes area. Let's work together to get that number up.



*Spotted Sand Piper – Ian MacLatchy*



## What's next?

With the increasing number of people using our lakes for rest, recreation and to live, the introduction and spread of invasives is growing. How can we conserve and preserve our lakes? Should we target one specific invasive species or all of them?

The latest Ontario Lake Stewards Magazine suggests that '... with effort and the right timing, even small-scale, manual removal can help restore the natural beauty and biodiversity of precious wetlands. That means more space for frogs, fish, birds and the peaceful wild spaces we all love.' This can be true for all invasives, be they land or water borne.

What we can accomplish will be based upon the volume and accuracy of the information we gather together and the threat, based upon location, density and likely spread.

Will you help us?

# *F*isheries

## GBCLA Fisheries Update Summer/Fall 2025

By: Dan Kano, Director of Fisheries

The GBCLA Fisheries Committee has been busy again planning and executing several projects and events relating to the sustainable habitat and fisheries for our lakes.

A big thank you to our committee members Duane Meeks, Paul and Natalie Gagnon, Jim McIntosh, Gord Thompson, Carson Jen, Ken Connolly, Don Anderson, Steve Finlay, Rob Parker, Dave Naboznak, Brad Greenslade, Tanner Meeks and Al McNichols, all of whom have been instrumental in assisting and volunteering their time coordinating events such as the spring walleye spawn counts, walleye stocking events, future projects and providing insight and experience to our group to further enhance our enjoyment and sustainability of our waters.





## Spring Walleye Spawn Counts

Every year during the spring our committee members begin the process (non-scientific) of monitoring our creeks to count the spawning walleye and compare the accumulated data with historical records. Around mid-March our group starts to track weather and ice conditions and patterns and prepare for the evening counts, which last approximately 2 to 3 weeks. Some of the changes this year included collecting additional data for water depth, counting methods and expansion of creeks. This year's count was slightly down from last year due to the high and fast water levels and the inability to scan the centre channel of the creek beds but overall the number of spawning walleye appears to be fairly consistent. The focus on maintaining the spawn producing creeks, possibly adding new locations, while educating and highlighting the conservation and regulations for Zone 18 and discouraging poaching will be a high priority.

## 2025 Fall Walleye Stocking Event

On September 18, 2025 our committee members, with the partnership of the MNR, South Frontenac Fire and Rescue and GBCLA, released approximately 10,000 walleye fingerlings in the west basin of Bobs Lake. With 17 volunteer members, 5 boats and careful planning and preparation on exact drop points the event was a remarkable success! A wonderful lunch was provided by the Bedford Catholic Women's League.



*Walleye Stocking Event on Bobs Lake, Sept 2025*



To see the stocking process and watch the event please visit <https://youtu.be/GaNZ9GXutS4?si=pi2iB3OSKlbz8tp4>.

Or visit the “Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (GBCLA)” Facebook Page dated Sept 21, 2025: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/179439185516190/permalink/24273321869034585/?>



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# Water Quality

## Water Quality Testing Results

By: Jeff Carabott

The Ontario Lake Partner Program (LPP) has released the Lakes' testing data for 2024. Again, we thank the dedicated group of volunteers who conduct regular water quality testing at various key locations of our lakes, from May through September.

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

### Why sample?

Elevated 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 not linked to nutrient status (zebra mussels, climate change, etc.).



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

- High transparency (Secchi depth >4 m)
- Moderately transparent (Secchi depth 2-4 m)
- Low transparency (Secchi depth 0-2 m)

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



| Location     | Avg. Secchi disk 2024(m) | Avg. Secchi disk 2023 (m) | Avg. Secchi disk 2022 (m) | Avg. Secchi disk (m) 1996-2021 |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Buck Bay     | 4.8                      | 5.3                       | 3.6                       | 4.4                            |
| East Basin   | 4.7                      | 4.5                       | 4.7                       | 5.5                            |
| Crow Bay     | 4.7                      | 4.2                       | 4.5                       | 4.4                            |
| Ctrl Narrows | 4.2                      | 3.9                       | 4.1                       | 4.4                            |
| Green Bay    | 4.5*                     | 5.7                       | 5.6                       | 6.0                            |
| Long Bay     | 4.9                      | 4.1                       | 4.4                       | 4.6                            |
| Mill Bay     | 3.1                      | 3.5                       | 3.2                       | 3.1                            |
| Mud Bay      | 5.6                      | 6.4                       | 5.3                       | 5.3                            |
| Norris Bay   | 5.7                      | 5.1                       | 4.7                       | 4.8                            |
| West Basin   | 4.4*                     | 3.7                       | 4.1                       | 4.5                            |
| Crow Lake    | 4.7                      | 6.3                       | 5.3                       | 5.2                            |

*\*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 2024.*

**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) 2024 | Avg. TP (ug/L) 2023 | Avg. TP (ug/L) 2002-2022** | Avg. TP (ug/L) Pre-2002 |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Buck Bay     | 9.3                 | 16.0                | 9.8                        | 9.0                     |
| East Basin   | 9.3                 | 9.2                 | 8.7                        | 11.0                    |
| Crow Bay     | 11.7                | 9.3                 | 9.1                        | 7.0                     |
| Ctrl Narrows | 10.2                | 8.2                 | 9.6                        | 11.0                    |
| Green Bay    | 8.8                 | 6.6                 | 8.6                        | 11.0                    |
| Long Bay     | 9.5                 | 9.9                 | 9.0                        | 16.0                    |
| Mill Bay     | 14.9                | 16.0                | 15.6                       | 17.0                    |
| Mud Bay      | 7.6                 | 7.3                 | 8.1                        | 8.0                     |
| Norris Bay   | 9.4                 | 11.1                | 9.1                        | 14.0                    |
| West Basin   | 10.2                | 11.0                | 11.7                       | 10.0                    |
| Crow Lake    | 8.2                 | 8.4                 | 9.0                        | 9.0                     |

\*\* Possible outliers not included

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

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



## 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 as well as in Crow Lake, concentrations are close to meeting this point (>17mg/l).

Zebra mussels have well established colonies in Mud Bay and have been 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).

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# Marine Safety

## Marine Safety Committee

By: Dick Johnston, Director of Marine Safety

### Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

In our Fall 2024 Lakeview issue the Ontario Provincial Police Data and Statistical Analysis Unit provided the Association with their 'Fatalities in Boating Collisions/ Incidents 10 Year Trend Analysis', up to 2023. The OPP have provided an updated 10-year trend analysis to include 2024 data. Since it is a trend analysis, covering many years, a concerning fact is that 84% of deceased victims were not wearing a personal floatation device (PFD).

The OPP also provided us with a new chart. This chart shows a 'Year to Date Analysis' as of the end of August. While this chart provides some similar information with the 10-year trend chart there are a couple of areas where there are interesting differences. The first being that the percentage of deceased victims not wearing a PFD was 71%. This is a positive move. The other is that 100% of fatalities occurred when environmental conditions were clear, 36% occurred in a canoe and 64.3% occurred between the hours of 1201 and 1800.



FATALITIES IN BOATING COLLISIONS/ INCIDENTS YEAR 2025 TREND ANALYSIS

source: eCRS, data extracted: 25-Aug-25



FATALITIES IN BOATING COLLISIONS/ INCIDENTS 10 YEAR TREND ANALYSIS

source: eCRS, data extracted: 25-Aug-25





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I would like to thank Constable Robert Martell, Frontenac OPP – Marine Unit, for the following information relating to Bobs and Crow Lakes this past season:

“As one of the more populated lake areas in South Frontenac Township, the OPP Marine Unit is committed to patrolling and responding to assist the users of the waterways to ensure safety and education for marine activities.

The Opp Marine Unit had several officers navigating the Bobs and Crow Lakes area every week from May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 until September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Visible patrols during different days of the week and the weekend continued throughout the summer. No drownings or major incidents were investigated this summer season and that is the result everyone wants!

Constable Darcy Clow was the fulltime Marine Unit Officer conducting patrols this year for the OPP in Frontenac County. He reports two concerns from his many trips around the lake checking vessels. The first one was a lack of proper life jackets on human powered vessels. Canoes, kayaks, standup paddle boards and paddle boats require a life jacket on board for each person. The majority of these encounters on patrol involve temporary rental situations or week-long cottagers using equipment. It is important to remember the only life jacket that will save you, is the one you are wearing! Many drowning incidents are preventable when you are wearing a life jacket.

The second concern was a continuance of seeing open liquor on vessels. Several times Officers removed alcohol and tested boat operators for impaired boating. Alcohol usage is a major contributor to marine incidents.

The OPP Marine Unit works to maintain a good relationship with lake associations. We have a responsibility to patrol with our main goals being safety and education so everyone has fun on this great waterway. There are times when enforcement is required. The OPP Marine Unit makes it very clear that there are three elements that have no discretion among officers: operator competency licenses; life jackets; and liquor. These three factors can contribute to the majority of marine incidents we are involved in. Overall, the Bobs and Crow Lakes cottagers had a great boating season and enjoying the cottage life. We hope to see you out again on the waterway again next year!

Thank you,

Constable Robert Martell”

### **Volunteers**

I want to express my appreciation to all the dedicated volunteers who manage the buoys/ hazard markers on our two lakes. This year the record low water levels in the fall presented new challenges for the volunteers. Buoys had to be relocated more often to identify new shoals that are usually not apparent. With the low water level, accessing buoys on shoals became more difficult. Additional caution when approaching a shoal was needed to ensure their vessels were not damaged. In some cases, this increased difficulty created a personal hazard for the volunteers when they had to exit their vessel to retrieve a buoy.

So, on behalf of all boaters and cottagers – thank you.



## GBCLA's Buoy Program

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association (Association) manages its buoys program as follows:

- The funding of buoys is a shared responsibility between the Association and the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation (Foundation).
- The Association's use of buoys is, primarily, to indicate rock shoals or other hazards. Frequently we use the term 'Hazard Markers'. They should not be considered aids to navigation.
- The buoys meet Transport Canada's regulations for private buoys.
- There are approximately 60 different locations where the markers are deployed. This number changes as the water level decreases throughout the season.
- There are 10 dedicated volunteers who manage the different locations.
- The Association's insurance policy covers any liability concerns relating to the use of the hazard markers.

## *Lives Lived*

### **Diana (Di) Hughes and Robbie Hughes**

By: Carson Jen

There is a book of material that could be written about Diana (Di) Hughes and her husband, Robbie. Diana and Robbie met in England while she was serving in the Canadian military and married in 1947. Diana was a Royal Canadian Navy WW II Veteran and served from 1944-1946 in the defense of England. Her role as a Coastal Defense Anti-Aircraft Battery Technician helped to identify and bring down enemy bombers for London. Robbie Hughes was one of the last naval pilots flying in the Canadian Armed Forces with WWII decorations. He eventually attained the level of Brigadier General in 1980 after a decorated military career.

Di and Robbie were full time cottagers on Bobs Lake for over 25 years after purchasing their home on Burns Lane at the north end of Green Bay. It did not take long for this energetic couple to contribute significantly to the lake community. Their most notable achievement was leading the design, organization and installation of the civic addressing system for Bedford District. This facilitated the arrival of the 911 service, which is an essential service that we all take very much for granted today.

The civic project started in 2000 with the final digital map of the area completed by 2005. With the help of 45 other residents of the lake, the team started the project by banging on the doors of every cottage, home and place of business, to find the names of the occupant(s), phone number and a description of the buildings. This task required an enormous amount of effort and time by walking, driving and boating all along the lakes. The team was



*Di Hughes: 1926 to 2025*



*Robbie Hughes: 1925 to 2018*



also responsible for hammering in every numbered steel post indicating your Township address on those nice green metal plates.



*Hughes Island - 911*

In the summer of 2005, the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association received Ontario Government approval to name a tiny island in the central part of Green Bay to be known forever as “Hughes Island – 911”.

On a beautiful sunny day, Di and Robbie Hughes arrived on a barge decorated with flags to the little island. A flotilla of other guests followed on barges and boats. Upon landing, the entire party celebrated the unveiling of the “Hughes Island – 911” sign by Robbie and Di. Everyone then returned to the historic home of Susan MacTaggart, for a reception and speeches by distinguished guests. Representatives

from the ministries, Phil Leonard, the mayor of South Frontenac, several Councilors and long-term lake residents were in attendance. So, if you are out on the water in Green Bay, look for the Hughes Island - 911 sign. It honors the enormous contributions by Di and Robbie Hughes to the overall level of safety on Bobs and Crow Lakes.

Di and Robbie Hughes were both named as Volunteers of the Year for South Frontenac Township in 1999 for their tireless work in completing the 911 civic addressing system for Bedford District.

Also, on December 12, 2012, Di and Robbie Hughes were awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal from South Frontenac for their leadership in the 911 numbering system in Bedford District.



*Di is 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left, Robbie is 4<sup>th</sup>*



# *L*ake Resident Interest Pieces

## **Osprey**

**By: David Thomas**

The osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, is a magnificent bird of prey, widely distributed in a variety of habitats with access to water. Northern populations migrate south to overwinter primarily on fish-rich rivers, lakes and coastal areas in subtropical and tropical regions, returning north each spring as waters warm and fish become accessible\*.

The Osprey feeds almost exclusively on fish. These they obtain by diving into the water, adjusting their angle of flight to account for the distortion of the fish's image caused by refraction. Occasionally they will grab a fish which is almost too big for them to extract from the water and bring back to the nest. One of the osprey nesting on our island brought back a very large fish one afternoon. Instead of going directly to the nest the bird landed in a large pine tree some 50 yards away from the nest. Here the bird communicated with its partner on the nest and was there for well over 20 minutes. Unfortunately, I could not continue to watch this scene play out. But I did wonder if this bird hesitated to bring a large fish to the nest containing small young if the fish was still alive.

Osprey are quite versatile in their nesting habits and will use a variety of tall structures, including cacti, rock towers, tree-tops and human platforms. On our island, on Green Bay of Bobs Lake they have chosen



*Osprey – Ian MacLatchy*



a large white pine tree at the water's edge that had lost its very top branch. They have successfully nested here for several years.

Osprey begin breeding at 3 to 4 years of age and usually mate for life. They lay 2 to 4 eggs over a month, and the eggs are incubated for 35 to 43 days before hatching. Most young birds fledge by mid-August. The adults show a high nest-site fidelity and thus it is likely that the same pair return to our island each year.

Osprey populations underwent significant declines in the 1950s and 1960s due to insecticides such as DDT, but after these pesticides were banned the osprey population increased rapidly. Recent increases may be due to artificial structures being used for nesting and perhaps increased tolerance to human activity. I have heard some discussion around Bobs Lake that the population may be less now than in recent years but have not seen any data that would substantiate this. However, it does seem like the populations of sunfish, bass and rock bass have decreased, possibly to overfishing, and if so the ready supply of fish could result in a reduced population of osprey. Certainly, around the shore of our island the population of rock bass has significantly decreased in recent years.

\*from Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, Birds of the World

## Cottage Traditions

By: Lynn Watson

It was the long weekend in early August and we were excited. Our family was gathering at the cottage, a rare event as they are spread across the country. And, we were preparing to share a long-standing tradition that evolved in our early days of camping with the children when they were tots. We were going to serve jaffles for dinner on Saturday night.

Some call them toasties but we always called them jaffles. My sister, a veteran Girl Guide, introduced us to these treats cooked over a camp fire when we were camping in northern Saskatchewan many years ago. That day we harvested blueberries from around the campground, added a little sugar and lemon, put them between 2 pieces of white bread well oiled on the outside, loaded them into a sandwich iron and baked them over the camp fire. Delicious!

The list of ingredients that can be used is endless but we have settled on pizza type jaffles, with tomato sauce, cheese, pepperoni, peppers, onions, mushrooms, etc. Daughter-in-law, Sarah, has now inherited the position of chief jaffle maker as the tradition is being passed to the next generation. It wouldn't be a successful cottage gathering without our meal around the campfire with jaffles.

This year, Mother Nature threw us a wrinkle as we were entering what became a long drought and there was a ban on fires. Ever resourceful and determined to honour our tradition, we used the barbeque and still enjoyed our cottage tradition.

*We are wondering if you have a family cottage tradition that you would like to share. Send your story to [communications@bobsandcrowlakes.ca](mailto:communications@bobsandcrowlakes.ca). We hope to be able to publish some of your stories in our Spring edition of "Lakeviews".*



## Rooted In Strength & Resilience

Reprinted from Rideau Waterway Land Trust's monthly newsletter, authored by Rachel Zylstra, ([www.rwlt.org](http://www.rwlt.org)).

Trees are essential components of their ecosystems, and in Ontario, species such as Oaks, Maples, and White Pines are recognized as being keystone. They provide crucial habitat and food for various organisms, which supports the overall health and biodiversity of their ecosystems. These giants of the environment have necessarily adapted some strategies in order to outlast difficult conditions. Drought, in particular, has been at the forefront of many of our minds after the extreme dry spell we experienced in the region this summer.

When water availability diminishes, trees employ strategies like leaf abscission—shedding leaves to conserve moisture and energy. This process allows them to maintain minimal metabolic functions, thereby increasing their chances of survival until environmental conditions improve. Trees may also extend their root systems deeper into the soil, accessing aquifers that are otherwise unreachable, beautifully demonstrating their sentient and adaptable nature.



*Special thanks to Aanii Nichii Drones for providing aerial imagery of Rock Dunder. August 30, 2025.*

Despite their resilience, drought exposure has detrimental effects on tree health and growth. Prolonged water stress inhibits the production of defensive compounds, making trees more vulnerable to pests and disease. Drought conditions can also stunt growth patterns and provoke delayed physiological responses, including dieback or unusually high seed production. Some species may also enter a state of premature dormancy, which severely limits their photosynthetic capabilities and, consequently, their ability to sustain themselves in the long term.

Under drought stress, trees may present muted foliage colours, with browns and yellows replacing the vibrant reds and oranges typical of the region. Encouragingly, favourable weather after a period of extreme drought—cool nights and sunny days—can promote recovery in surviving trees. Adequate rainfall following a drought can rejuvenate foliage and quickly restore vibrant fall colours. This year, we have been fortunate to witness such a recovery at Rock Dunder Nature Reserve. The late summer rain and cooler weather have resulted in an incredible rebound by the trees with a spectacular display of colour rivalling autumns of years past.

This interplay between stress and recovery is a testament to the forest's enduring strength and capacity to support both wildlife and humans during challenging times and downturns. We can only hope to repay this support through our ongoing stewardship of the 25 protected properties we manage throughout the Rideau Corridor, backed by our Land Forever Campaign. Thank you to our supporters for your commitment to preserving these special places where the giants still stand.



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# Cooks Corner

## *Shrimp in Red Pepper Sauce*

*Grace Welch, Central Narrows, Bobs Lake*

### **Ingredients:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 2 red peppers  | ½ cup red onion finely diced                                    |
| 2 Tbsp. white wine or water  | 1 -2 cloves garlic  |
| 1 lb. shrimp (I use President's Choice jumbo black tiger shrimp with shells and defrost under running water) | Boursin herb and garlic cream cheese (light works equally well) |
| 1-2 Tbsp. olive oil  | ½ lb. angel hair pasta  |
|  | ¼ cup chopped parsley (optional)                                |

### **Instructions:**

Roast one of the peppers on the barbecue until blackened. Let cool; remove blackened skin, chop and purée in the food processor with white wine. Dice remaining pepper.

Bring a pot of water to boil for the pasta.

Remove shells from the shrimp and set aside.

Heat oil in a large frying pan; sauté onion, garlic and red pepper for 5 minutes. Add shrimp and cook for 3 -4 minutes until pink. Cook pasta according to directions (about 3 minutes); drain. Remove shrimp and vegetables to a bowl. Add red pepper purée and Boursin cheese to pan and heat over medium heat until cheese has melted. Return shrimp and vegetables to red pepper sauce and heat through. Serve over pasta with a sprinkle of parsley.

Serves 4.

*This recipe was almost selected by Cottage Life for their 2004 recipe contest. I was called and interviewed but didn't make the final selection.*

*Grace Welch, a board member of the Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation, is a member of the joint committee with the GBCLA to review the feasibility of using fire pumps on the lakes.*



## *Fabulous Fruitcake*

*Kathy Yach, Sunset Shores*

### **Ingredients:**

#### Fruit:

8 cups mixed fruit; combination of light and dark raisins, green and red cherries, candied pineapple, candied peel, currants  
2 cups pecan halves  
2 cups macadamia nuts or other nuts  
1 cup brandy

½ tsp. ground cloves

1 tsp allspice

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp. salt

1 1/3 cups butter, at room temperature

2 cups firmly packed light brown sugar

5 large eggs, separated and at room temperature

½ cup light molasses OR ¼ cup corn syrup and

¼ cup molasses

Brandy, optional

#### Cake:

3 ½ cups flour

2 tsp. cinnamon

2 tsp. nutmeg

### **Instructions:**

In a large bowl stir together mixed fruit and nuts and add brandy. Stir the mixture well; cover and let sit overnight.

Prepare 3 large loaf pans by greasing them well with shortening and lining them with parchment paper.

Into a bowl sift flour with cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, allspice, baking powder and salt. Mix well. In a large bowl of an electric mixer, cream butter with brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add lightly beaten egg yolks and beat well. Add flour mixture a little at a time, beating well after each addition. Add molasses and beat well. Stir in fruit with liquid and combine mixture well.

In another bowl, beat egg whites with a mixer until they hold stiff peaks. Fold beaten whites into batter gently but thoroughly. Spoon batter carefully into prepared pans. Cover pans loosely with a kitchen towel and let stand in a cool place over night. Preheat oven to 250 °F; put a pan of water on the bottom rack. Bake fruitcakes in middle of oven for 2 1/2 – 3 hours or until tester comes out clean. Let cakes cool completely in pans on a rack. Wrap cakes in foil and plastic wrap.

Store in refrigerator. Ice cakes if desired. This cake ages beautifully with or without the addition of brandy.

*The recipe was published in "Something to Crow About, The Best of Bobs Lake Cookbook". Kathy Yach serves on the GBCLA Board as Director of Cottage Safety. She has recently been elected chairperson of the joint committee with the Bobs and Crow Lake Foundation to investigate the feasibility of using fire pumps on the lakes.*