



GREATER BOBS & CROW LAKES
ASSOCIATION

Lake Views

Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association Magazine

Spring/Summer 2025



Photo by: Lynn Watson

“A little bit of summer is what the whole year is all about.”

John Mayer



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

It is another quiet sunny day in mid-May as I sit by the lake writing this message. What could be more idyllic than a day by our beloved lakes.

The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association continues to work to enhance our environment through the efforts of Bonnie and Jeff Carabott and their team of volunteers who monitor the water clarity; of Dan Kano and his committee who work to enhance the fishery; and of Peter Thorp-Levitt who promotes the stewardship of our precious environment. Dick Johnston continues to support marine safety on our lakes assisted by his team of “Buoy Boys”, who install and monitor the buoys that mark the shoals and danger spots for those who enjoy boating. Kathy Yach works to encourage safe practices around our cottages and Rick Prudil ably takes care of our memberships.

These committee chairs are well supported by our amazing treasurer, Carson Jen, our recording secretary, Heather Veltman, and past president, Larry Arpaia, who continues to be an active contributor to our association. Jean Faucher represents Crow Lake on our Board and Mike Byrnes continues to be the Crow Lake Gatekeeper.

With regret, the board accepted the resignation of our Communications Director, Christine Obbema, this spring. If you have expertise in communications, please consider offering your services to the GBCLA. This is a great opportunity for someone who is interested in all things about Bobs and Crow Lakes.

Although the board is actively working to get our website up and running by the early summer, you can still renew your membership on the current site. The contact management system is very effective.

On the development front, there is silence. We closely followed the Land Tribunal hearing on the proposed Skycroft project on Opinicon Lake in February. We continue to wait for that decision in the case which included South Frontenac Township, the Opinicon Project, and Queen’s University arguing against the size and scope of the project to enlarge the Skycroft campground. There has been no additional filing on the Long Bay campsite development proposal by Caivan.



Board Message (cont'd)

As usual, our spring edition of Lake Views contains a good deal of information and inspiration for the cottage season ahead. In this issue, you will read about what is happening on the lake, including ongoing testing of the water and the annual walleye count. As well, there is an article about the joint committee of GBCLA and Crow and Bob Lakes Foundation to improve marine safety on the lake.

Carolyn McGrath has contributed a wonderful story of her encounter with a black rat snake (now called a gray rat snake in the Frontenac Arch) and Jeff Carabott has, once again, given us some tips on stargazing and what to look for in the summer skies.

Summer is a great time to read a book and many magazines and newspapers feature the best books for summer reading in their leisure sections. In this issue of Lake Views you can learn about a local book club called “The Summer Readers” as well as the activities of a small group of men who have wandered the length and breadth of eastern Ontario seeking out points of interest and good eateries.

Once again, we have included “Cooks Corner” with a couple of recipes from “Something to Crow About”, the cookbook produced many years ago by the GBCLA. We will have copies of the cook book available at the AGM.

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

Thanks to Julyanna Trickey who ably provides technical support for this magazine.

Board of Directors
The Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association

Notice of Annual General Meeting

July 20th, 2025

Bedford Hall

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Meeting





*I*nformation and Updates

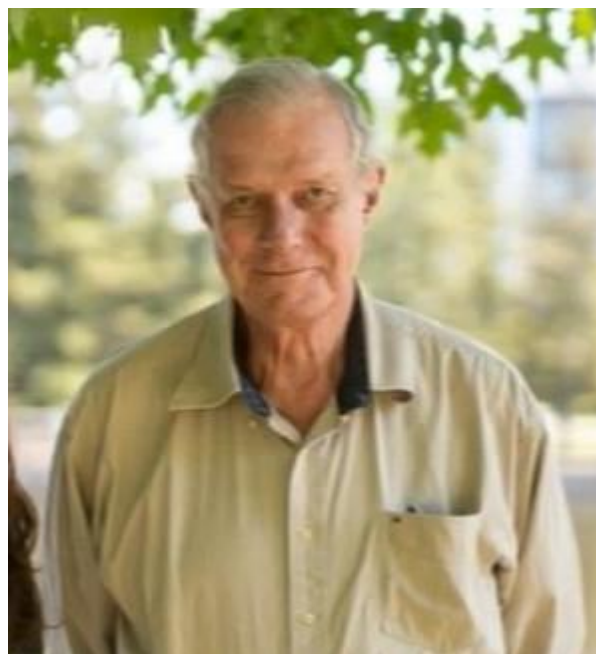
Lives Lived

We remember John McCalla who passed away on April 24th, 2025.

John and his family lived in Ottawa and vacationed at their cottage on Bobs Lake. For several years John was a Director of the Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association.

John also endorsed and supported the vision to create the Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation, as the fund-raising vehicle to finance projects for the lakes. John took on the responsibility to guide the incorporation of the Foundation. He consulted with a law firm and financial firm in Ottawa for guidance to file the documents required.

He organized and chaired meetings with the provisional directors. He filed the required forms with Industry Canada and Canada Customs and Revenue. John also worked closely with Bill Brink who oversaw the required forms for the Internal Revenue Service in the United States.



Remembering John McCalla

John chaired the first meeting of members to confirm the bylaws, elect Directors and appoint an auditor.

John was appointed the first President of the Foundation and held that position until September 2009. During that time the Foundation met its objectives and exceeded the expectations of the board. From 2014 to 2019 he held the position of Secretary.

John was an ardent supporter of the Frontenac Frolic where he, Joan and their family operated the canteen each year.

John was a true gentleman who will be remembered for his strong leadership, his many accomplishments, and his enduring commitment to achieve the goals and objectives of the Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation.



The Black Rat Snake

Locally known as the gray rat snake, this snake is a “threatened” species in Ontario. That means that, although it is not on the “endangered” list, it may become so if steps are not taken to manage the factors that threaten the snake.

This elegant snake has a shiny black body with a white chin and throat. The belly is white or yellowish with dark spots that often produce a checkerboard pattern. Young snakes are grey with dark blotching on the body and tail.

The Frontenac Axis population requires a variety of habitat types including deciduous forests, wetlands, lakes, rocky outcrops and agricultural fields.

The Carolinian population is found in a mix of agricultural land and deciduous forest, preferring habitat where forest meets more open environments.



Grey Rat Snake. Source: [ontario.ca/page/gray-ratsnake](https://www.ontario.ca/page/gray-ratsnake)

Adults are strongly attached to their home ranges and often return to the same nesting and hibernation sites. They frequently lay eggs in logs or compost piles that serve as incubators. Sometimes several females will use the same site to deposit eggs.

This snake is slow to mature and reproduce which adds to the threat. And since they return to the same sites year after year, destroying these sites can have a major effect on the local population. The most significant threats to the Gray Ratsnake are the loss and fragmentation of habitat and persecution by people. Other serious threats include motor vehicles and the destruction of suitable hibernation sites.

Tick Season Is Here



Black-legged tick. Source: [ontario.ca/page/tick-borne-diseases](https://www.ontario.ca/page/tick-borne-diseases)

Just a reminder that tick season has arrived. If you are bitten by a tick and can safely remove it and take it to a pharmacy within 72 hours, the pharmacist may be able to prescribe a prophylactic antibiotic.

Valuable information about ticks, the diseases they carry and how to avoid them is available on the Province of Ontario website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/tick-borne-diseases>



Clean, Drain and Dry Your Boat

As of January 1st, 2022, Ontario has regulated watercraft (boats, canoes, kayaks) as a carrier of invasive species under the *Invasive Species Act*.

Boaters are now required to take the following steps **before transporting** a boat or boat equipment overland:

- Remove or open drain plugs to allow water to drain from the boat or boat equipment
- Take reasonable precautions to remove all aquatic plants (weeds), animals and algae from any boat, boat equipment, vehicle or trailer

Before reaching a launch site or placing a watercraft in any body of water in Ontario, boaters are required to ensure their boat, boating equipment, vehicles or trailers are free of all:

- Aquatic plants
- Animals
- Algae

It is illegal to place a boat, boating equipment or any vehicle or trailer into any body of water if there are any aquatic plants, animals or algae attached to it.

These rules recognize that it may not be possible to fully remove all aquatic plants, animals or algae (for example, hidden zebra mussels or small plant fragments in hard to reach locations) when removing the watercraft from the water at the launch site. Boaters can do a more thorough cleaning of their boat, utilizing special equipment, such as pressure washers at a more suitable location, to ensure their boat is completely free of aquatic plants, animals and algae.

The requirement to remove drain plugs does not apply to:

- drinking water systems, marine sanitary systems, or closed engine cooling systems
- a livewell, if the person transporting the livewell overland is transporting live fish in the livewell pursuant to a licence to transport live fish issued under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*

Source: *Ontario Invasive Species website*.

ATTENTION
Invasive species impact our waters

prop anchor ball bucket deck lines hull rollers trailer seats out-tie with hinge prop motor

Once you leave the water...

CLEAN
plants, animals and mud from boat and gear

DRAIN
all water from boat and gear onto land

DRY
all parts of your boat and gear completely

CLEAN DRAIN DRY

Report Zebra or Quagga mussel sightings to the R.A.P.P. Hotline 1-877-952-7277
For more information: CleanDrainDry.ca

Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, ISC

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Lead Free Program

Wolfe Lake Cottage Association has taken the lead in urging anglers to get the lead out of their tackle box.

You are encouraged to drop off lead sinkers at the Westport Lions R & R Center at 5295 Salem Road, Westport.

Drop offs may be made at Westport Hardware and Norris Baits as well. For further information go to <https://wolfelake.org/toxins-in-your-tackle-box.>

GOT LEAD?
Drop off at Westport Lions
R&R Centre
For chances
to win prizes

fishleadfree.ca

R&R hours: Fridays & Saturdays 9am - 1pm



Lake Stewardship

Shoreline Management

By: Peter Thorp-Levitt, Director of Lake Stewardship

I would like to personally welcome back all our seasonal residents to this wonderfully natural lake environment. I am so thankful that it is situated in the iconic United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) biosphere called the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. One of only 16 such reserves in Canada, it is a region of global ecological significance that provides a uniquely natural place to live, work and play.

The Frontenac Arch website explains that “Biospheres are living laboratories that boost nature-based solutions for sustainable development.” It includes 2700 square kilometres that includes most Bobs and most of Crow Lakes. To keep our lakes healthy, we need your help.

Over the past few months some members of your Greater Bobs and Crow Lake Association (GBCLA) Executive were able to attend informative lake stewardship seminars. Representing the International Institute for Sustainable Development Experimental Lakes Area, Thomas Saleh told us he has worked many years surveying most of the organization’s 58 study lakes, located in northwestern Ontario, and has drawn some astonishing conclusions. Thomas suggests that the impact of human activity on our environment has been dramatic, and that one change can negatively impact on an entire lake ecosystem. For example, he found that pollution from manmade phosphorous increases algae blooms and causes water to become darker. In turn this causes lake temperatures to decrease, which increases carbon and bacteria. This reduces oxygen in the water which aquatic life needs to survive.

Similarly, Paul Lehman from the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority stated that greenhouse emissions caused by humans have increased the average temperature of our air by 1.1 degrees Celsius worldwide since 1950. Elevated air temperatures have meant higher water temperatures which directly affect fish populations. Also, he indicated that stream flows have quickened causing the deterioration of fish spawning habitat. To help our lakes become more resilient, we can better manage our shorelines.

FUNDING AVAILABLE!

The Bobs & Crow Lake Foundation, in partnership with RVCA, is offering special funding for Bobs and Crow Lake residents to complete projects that help protect the health of our waterways.

This program supports:

- Free Shoreline Planting projects
- Top-up grants for Shoreline Erosion Control projects
- Top-up grants for Septic Improvement projects

Natural shorelines help:

- Discourage geese
- Prevent erosion
- Improve water quality
- Reduce algae blooms
- Support local wildlife

Book a site visit today!

 For more information:
Meaghan.Mcdonald@rvca.ca
613-692-3571 ext 1192
www.rvca.ca/stewardship-grants





Both the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations and Watersheds Canada, for example, advocate a natural balance to maintaining lakefront

properties to help offset the impact of human activity. This can be done maintain the tree canopy on our properties and maximizing native bushes and flowers along our shorelines. Plants absorb nutrients that would otherwise run off into the lake when it rains and minimize soil erosion, positively affecting our quality of life and investments.

Watersheds Canada, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) each have a great deal of free information available on how to reduce the impact of human activity on our lakes. Their native plant guides help us identify existing fauna and select species that will survive our harsh climate and ensure the health of the water and natural beauty of our shoreline. Further, the RVCA offers a shoreline naturalization program that consists of a site visit to assess planting potential and other enhancement opportunities for your waterfront. They can provide, deliver and plant native bushes trees, shrubs and wildflowers at a small cost. In fact, the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association Foundation helps fund this program.

I've attached some photos of our property on Coldstream Cove, nestled at the mouth of Eagle Creek, for comparison. The first one (*Figure 1*) depicts an unhealthy, urban lawn with no native plants. With the help of the RVCA, this spring we are populating this monoculture with numerous native shoreline shrubs and pollinator wildflowers. In years to come we hope this sterile landscape will be transformed into something more like the second picture (*Figure 2*) that reflects a natural shoreline where nature thrives, and people can enjoy for generations.



Figure 1: Unhealthy, urban lawn with no native plants



Figure 2: Natural shoreline where nature thrives



Shoreline Management (cont'd)

Watersheds Canada suggests that six advantages of a natural shoreline buffer are: maintaining water quality, moderating land and water temperatures, creating wildlife habitat, mitigating flood frequency and impacts, reducing erosion and maintaining or increasing property values. The Mississippi and Rideau Valley conservation authorities explain that a healthy lake:

- Has natural shorelines providing a buffer that filters runoff and pollutants
- Is well vegetated with shade in the form of trees and shrubs
- Has good water quality that has low levels of pollutants or excess nutrients
- Has constant or normal water clarity
- Is relatively void of invasive species
- Has abundant and healthy fish and wildlife, and
- Stewards gradual vs rapid lake condition change.

Lake health can also be enhanced by addressing invasive lake water species like mille feuille, phragmites and zebra mussels. To begin, we must refrain from emptying live bait and water from other sources into our lakes and clean our boats thoroughly if they have been in another body of water within the past three days. As importantly, we should have an adequate grey and black water treatment system in our lake properties to reduce chemical and human waste contamination through seepage and runoff. Retaining walls and some docks can inhibit movement of wildlife and exacerbate soil erosion both above and below the waterline so should be avoided.

These are some of the ways we can enjoy nature without harming it. Together we can steward the natural beauty of our lakes to ensure that as property owners we thrive in a natural setting through purposeful, low-cost shoreline management.

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

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Fisheries

Fisheries Update - 2025 Walleye Survey

By: Dan Kano, GBCLA Director of Fisheries

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

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



Duane Meeks pre-planning spawn locations

The 2024 spawn was one of the most unusual runs ever witnessed by long term residents of the lake. The initial migration of walleye into spawning creeks was at least two weeks earlier with the first fish observed on March 17. Typically, the fish survey begins seeing fish during the first week of April. The early arrival this year was expected due to the record and early Ice-Out date between March 13 to March 15, depending on the location on the lake.

Walleye begin their migration upstream when water temperatures are approximately 41F to 43F. Counting the fish is an inexact science so the numbers can fluctuate widely and is mainly impacted by variations in counting methodology. However, the primary goal of the spawn count is to provide an indication of overall fish activity from year to year.

2025 Dates	Event	2024 Dates	Event
March 26	Estimated Ice-Out	March 26	Estimated Ice-Out
March 28	First nightly monitoring	March 28	First nightly monitoring
March 28 – April 12	Weather conditions between -2C to +1C	March 28 – April 12	Weather conditions between -2C to +1C
April 3	Weather conditions 19C, first Walleye spotted	April 4	Last day of count
April 4 – April 12	Weather conditions between -4C to +7C		
April 16	Water levels drop coincides with much higher Walleye count		
April 21	Last day of count		



Walleye Survey (cont'd)

Given the strange weather, high water levels and very fast creek flows, the overall count in 2025 amounted to approximately 25% lower than last year. Although there may not be a correlation between a declining fish count with reported lower fishing success rates by residents, the overall trend observed in Bobs Lake is a greater concentration of spawning activity in a small number of creeks supported by anecdotal evidence of a dropping walleye population.

Our Fisheries Committee will prioritize the conservation of fish species on our lakes and will promote Zone 18 regulations and education to assist with potential poaching and under and over slot possession.

Zone 18: Zone-Wide Season and Limits

Walleye and sauger combined:

- **Season:** January 1 to March 1 and second Saturday in May to December 31
- **Limits:** S-4 and C-2; must be between 40-50 centimetres

Largemouth and smallmouth bass combined:

- **Season:** third Saturday in June to December 15
- **Limits:** S-6 and C-2

Northern pike:

- **Season:** January 1 to March 31 and second Saturday in May to December 31
- **Limits:** S-6 and C-2

Lake trout:

- **Season:** fourth Saturday in May to September 8
- **Limits:** S-2 and C-1



For further information on Zone 18 regulations please visit the MNR website at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary/fisheries-management-zone-18>



Poaching:

Kemptville-Kingston.mnrf@ontario.ca

1-877-847-7667

Note: When a tip is received at the hotline it is sent to all available officers in the region. Please take as much info down as possible including licence plate, hut number, location, time and date.

MEMBERS SHOULD NEVER ENGAGE POACHERS



Water Quality

Water Quality Testing Results

By: Jeff Carabott

The Ontario Lake Partner Program (LPP) has not yet 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?

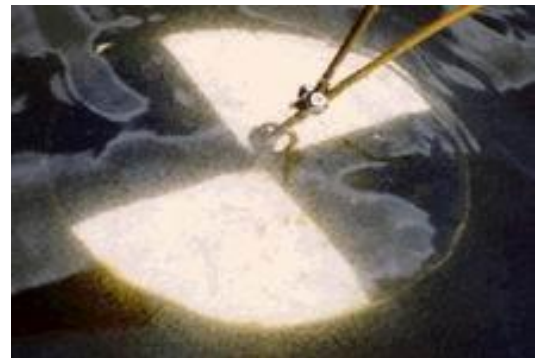
High levels of phosphorus can lead to algal blooms and in some cases affect the habitat of cold-water fish such as lake trout. By sampling the total phosphorus in May of each year it is possible to detect a change in the nutrient status of your lake. It is important to note that several years of data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

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

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

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

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



Secchi Disk

Typically, all test sites in Bobs and Crow Lake exceed this objective. The lowest average clarity depth in Bobs Lake on an annual basis are generally observed in Mill Bay, due in major part to the shallowness of the water level and higher nutrient levels.

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 at least observed in all other areas. **Therefore, it is important property owners and users of the lake remain vigilant in protecting against the spread of this invasive species, particularly at public access points.**

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

RVCA Water Quality & E.Coli Testing

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) once again conducted water clarity and E.Coli bacteria testing in 2024, as part of their Watershed Watch program. Overall results for both lakes are good.

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

Average nutrient parameters, total phosphorus (TP) and total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN) were below their respective PWQO maximum objectives of 20 ug/l (0.020 mg/l) and 500 ug/l (0.500 mg/l) at all sites. The highest average concentrations in Bobs Lake on an annual basis are generally observed in Mill Bay, due in major part to the shallowness of the water level. For more information, see the RVCA Surface Water Quality website: <https://www.rvca.ca/docs-annual-reports/surface-water-quality-and-aquatic-habitat/viewdocument/512>

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Marine Safety

Marine Safety Committee

By: Dick Johnston

In the fall of 2024, a Marine Safety Committee was established to generate recommendations for projects and ideas to improve marine safety on Bobs and Crow lakes. The membership of the committee was comprised of volunteers from both the Bobs and Crow Lake Foundation and the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association.

Committee members were Sandy Cameron, Jim Flett (chair), Bonnie Carabott, and Richard (Dick) Johnston.

Building on the knowledge of the committee members, research was undertaken to obtain information from other Lake Associations and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA); review the different authorities of Government entities; and solicit input from knowledgeable partners, such as the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Township of South Frontenac. We also contacted different companies and reviewed potential products geared towards marine safety.

Following our research, it was confirmed that we already have an active program that addresses many aspects of marine safety e.g. our Lakeview newsletters, Elerts, hazard/buoy markers, signage (10km Speed and Slow No Wake sign), and compliance with Government regulations.

The outcome of all the work of the committee is a list of recommendations and associated costs. These recommendations include message boards at public boat launches; a possible broader use of social media; education and awareness sessions; producing a Marine Safety Card similar to our Cottage Safety Card, and; the installation of radar technology to assist with speed related issues.

A few of the recommendations will require the assistance of volunteers. These recommendations are currently being reviewed. I will keep everyone informed as to their status.

Based on the information we uncovered and the positive working environment of this initial committee it is also recommended that a standing committee for Marine Safety activities be established.





*L*ake Resident Interest Pieces

Work Gloves Come In Handy

By: Carolyn McGrath

One summer, my daughter and her son came from San Francisco to join my husband and me for a week on our small island on Bobs Lake. My daughter and my husband are innately afraid of snakes.

One afternoon we were all sunning on the dock except for my daughter, who came out of the cabin and asked her son if he had left a belt, or anything like it, lying on the dresser in his bedroom. As he was saying “no,” I was getting up to look. Something told me.

Sure enough. A black rat snake was lying across the top of the dresser among some clothes, at least five feet long, a great deal bigger than I’d feared. I knew snakes had always kept the mice numbers down, but I’d never seen a rat snake come inside, at least not while we were there.

My grandson, Will, joined me, and somehow, we both remained self-possessed. [Rat snakes](#) are aggressive, but humans aren’t their prey. Both this snake and I were in a dire situation. The snake was not looking for a fight. It slowly moved onto a corner cupboard where it (he? she?) coiled up tight and faced me, tongue flickering, trying to figure out what in the hell to do, just as I was.

I said, “Will,” bring me my work gloves.”

While he was gone, the snake and I stared at each other, each of us facing a formidable foe. I wished I could flick *my* tongue. Will returned, and I put on my gloves. Still, I couldn’t grab the snake while it was facing me. We continued to stare at each other.

Finally, the snake thought it should make a move and turned and moved its head back toward the top of the dresser. I didn’t know I could move so fast. I lunged and grabbed it behind its head, pulled it until I could grab the middle of the snake in my other hand, shouted at Will, “Open the back door,” and carried this heavy, writhing, constrictor through the kitchen, out the door, and down the path toward the boathouse, away from the dock where my husband and daughter were.

The strength of its coiling body made it difficult to hold onto it. The snake was trying to constrict ME. It could have killed me if it had won that battle, but I was able to hold on until I got behind the boathouse and threw it into the lake.

When I returned to the dock, where Will had told them what I had done, my daughter said I’d gone up a notch in her estimation. My husband did not say a word.



The Summer Readers

There are six or seven of us sitting on a deck overlooking beautiful Bobs Lake on a quiet summer morning.

“This novel paints such a beautiful picture of the lake, the local people and the wildlife. You can feel the love in it.”

“I identify with her story about her dying Mother. Haven’t we all been through that?”

“The antics of Blue and Ring, the dogs, enchanted me.”

We are discussing *Two Faces of the Moon* by author, Carolyn McGrath, whose memoir about one summer at her cottage on Bobs Lake is our chosen book for this week. Clearly, this book struck a chord with our book club.

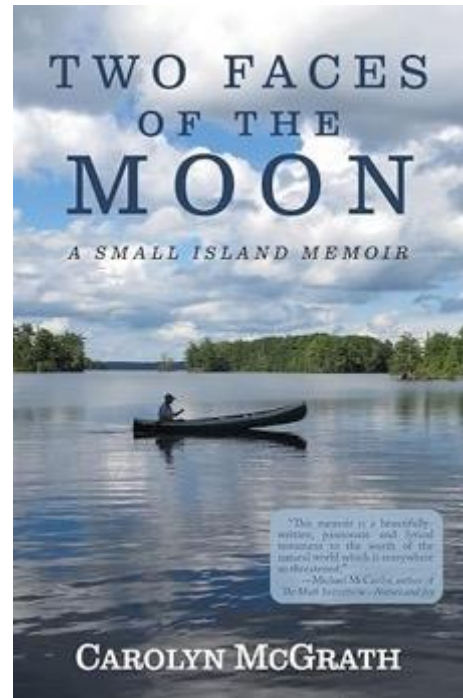
For twenty years, the Summer Readers have been getting together weekly to discuss our chosen books. At the end of each summer, we choose our books for the following year – eight weeks, eight books, eight or so members. Each member is responsible for leading the discussion on her chosen book, a discussion that usually lasts a good hour and a half. Only following our review of the book do we break into the usual chatter that animates a women’s group.

The final meeting of the Summer Readers always involves a potluck supper and husbands are invited to attend. On one memorable occasion, we were delighted to welcome Lloyd Jones and his wife to join us for our celebration. Besides Lloyd’s books, *The Dammed Lakes* and *Living by the Chase*, we have read Laura Davidson’s memoir on her experience living on Bobs over the winter at the beginning of the Great War, *The Winter of Content*.

On one occasion, we each chose our favourite children’s book which we brought to the meeting and read to the group and explained why it was so special to us. So many memories were shared at this meeting, that the following year we chose to have a meeting when each member brought along her favourite poem to read to the group. This was equally successful.

When COVID hit, we changed our format. Previously, the sponsor of the book hosted the meeting and we usually met in the afternoon. In 2020, Kathy offered her deck so that we could meet outside and socially distance and still discuss our book. Instead of the afternoon, we met in the morning when it was cooler and more shaded on the deck. We each brought a bagged lunch and the sponsor of the book for that week brought wine and dessert. The format has proven to be so successful that we continue to meet at 10:00 a.m. every Wednesday on Kathy’s deck and finish with a shared lunch.

Over 20 years, we have read about 160 books, many of them forgotten to us now, but the friendships we have built and the memories we share will never be forgotten.





“Two Faces of the Moon” is available in local book stores and at Amazon.ca. Carolyn McGrath has not only written a beautiful memoir of a summer on Bobs Lake, but, also, she is a frequent contributor to “Lake Views”. Look for her experience with a snake in this edition.

“The Dammed Lakes, Environmental History of Bobs Lake” by Lloyd Jones is no longer in print and is not available at the Kingston Frontenac Public Library (KFPL).

“Living by the Chase: The Native People of Crow and Bobs Lake” is available at the Sharbot Lake Branch of the KFPL.

“The Winter of Content” (1922) by Laura Lee Davidson is freely available at Project Gutenberg, www.gutenberg.org and at librivox.org.

Burger Run On 38

The Men’s Professional Development Group

Several years ago, our wives created a weekly book club where they would have a light lunch together and discuss the merits of a Charlotte Gray or a Richard Wagamese. So, group of five husbands decided, since four of the five of us were retired high school teachers, to do what we did back when we wanted to expand our horizons and give meaning to life – PD, Professional Development.

A plan came together that every Wednesday when the women were at book club, we would brighten the mind and widen the beltline in our own way, visit a place of interest and have a nice lunch somewhere. One condition was that the location be not much more than an hour’s drive from our cottages. Each week then, one of us took on the mission of selecting a place of interest for the group to visit and a place to eat, on the understanding that the latter not necessarily be of lesser consideration than the former.

Over the years, we have had art lessons from Keith, the surgeon general, who is an accomplished Ottawa painter, had a grand tour of Napanee and area by Don, a childhood resident there, and been entertained with dissertations on being a landlord of student accommodations from Richard. We have visited a yak farm in Lanark County, the fish hatchery at White Lake, the Miller Hall mineral museum at Queen’s and every museum and place of interest in between. We have dined on pancakes and sausages at Wheelers, schnitzel in Perth, funky sandwiches at Pan Chancho. When we ran out of ideas, our default go-to was always The Golden Rooster in Kingston, recently closed. Sadly, another institution gone.

Of all the things we have seen and done, one still makes us chuckle, *The Great Highway 38 Burger Run*. Given that a majority of us were teachers who cannot shake the impulse to evaluate whatever is before us, we decided to judge the merits and demerits of the four food trucks on Highway 38; one in Harrowsmith, one in Hartington, one beside the garden and soil emporium south of Sharbot Lake and Josie’s on Highway 7. All of them are gone now.



The plot was to buy one hamburger and one small fries at each food truck. We nominated one of the Keiths (We were one Don, one Richard and three Keiths) as surgeon general, whose task it was to dissect each burger into five equal parts, each of us sharing just enough to make a formal judgement. Part of our thinking was that when finished the run, each of us would have consumed roughly a whole meal.

The marking scheme was 0 – 10, worst to best. The list of marking criteria went something like this:

1. Ambience and setting: likelihood of getting hit by a passing motorist; lots of room to park and loiter
2. Cleanliness/hygiene: more flies than the Portland dump; still a faint odour of Lysol
3. Seating: stand and gobble; picnic table(s) with no detritus left by previous patrons
4. Reception: proprietor should have stayed in bed; “Hey, how y’all doing today?”
5. Patty source: frozen Frisbee; handmade lean ground
6. Patty doneness: torched or still bleeding; just off pink and succulent
7. The bun: Jane Parker discount; sesame seeds and more
8. Centering of patty: hunk hanging out like a hound dog’s tongue; perfect 1/8 inch collar showing evenly all round on bottom of bun
9. Fries: soggy than a boat sponge; crisp as a sunny morning in April
10. Condiments: basic mustard, ketchup, relish in Dollarama squeeze bottles; added diced onion, tomato and peppers, etc.

Each of us kept a record sheet as we progressed. At the end we compared assessments. All of us agreed that it was a toss-up between Josie’s and the garden centre place, all except one who quietly advocated for Nancy’s in Hartington, which the rest of us had placed a distant dead last. “The burger was a lot bigger and there were twice as many fries,” he said. Richard !!!!!

A few years later, I went to the garden centre to order some soil and mentioned the food truck that used to be next door and our little contest. “So, you’re the ones,” the woman at the counter exclaimed, “The cook told me that he felt really sorry for the poor five men who were so destitute they had to share a single burger.”

For some time now, we have exhausted the list of the places we want to visit. Just the same, we still go out every week, but it’s more regularly Princess Auto, Red Lobster or burgers at Amy’s. The best part is, as much as ever, we still have a grand time shooting the breeze and enjoying each other’s company which was the point in the first place, wasn’t it?

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Stargazing On The Lake

By: Jeff Carabott

The night skies around Bobs and Crow Lakes are a great place to experience the wonders of our galaxy. We are very fortunate to have some of the darkest skies in Eastern Ontario, which offer magical views of the Milky Way, constellations, planets and much, much more.

Nothing is required other than your own eyes, but of course any pair of binoculars will provide more detail and additional targets. If you can, attach your binoculars to a tripod or mono-pod to steady the view and be more comfortable. As an alternative, use a zero-gravity chair, or even lay on a child's inflatable raft pulled up on shore.



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

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

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A few highlights for this summer include:

- In June and July, bright Venus can be found low in the eastern sky before sunrise.
- In July, test your eyesight by trying to see both Alcor and Mizar (a close pair of stars in the Big Dipper's handle -- 2nd from the end) with your naked eye. Use binoculars if you cannot separate the pair unaided.
- Throughout July and August, look to the south to view rich constellations towards the centre of our Milky Way galaxy.
- On August 12th, there will be a bright conjunction of Jupiter and Venus in the eastern morning sky before sunrise. The planets will be separated by only less than a quarter of a degree (less than half of a full Moon).
- August 12-13, the Perseids meteor shower peaks, with up to potentially 120 meteors per hour on a peak night. Unfortunately, this year, a waning gibbous Moon will be visible during this time, so only the brightest meteors will be visible.
- The Sun is currently experiencing a period of peak solar activity (an 11-year cycle). Much as it was last year, the opportunity to observe Northern Lights should be very good this summer. Download Apps such as My Aurora Forecast & Alerts or Aurora Alerts Canada to set up your own alerts for your area. Remember that dim aurora activity can be made much more visible by capturing an image with your cellphone camera, especially a phone with a night or astrophoto mode. These modes can also be great to capture stunning Milky Way images (be sure to use a tripod for best results).



We are also very fortunate to be within about a one-hour drive from two dark sky viewing areas, both of which schedule public events:

- North Frontenac Astronomy Park, north of Sharbot Lake, near Plevna
<https://www.northfrontenac.com/en/open-for-business/north-frontenac-astronomy-park.aspx>
- Lennox & Addington Dark Sky Viewing Area, 37km north of Napanee
<https://naturallyla.ca/explore/dark-sky-viewing-area-lennox-addington/>

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

Clear skies and happy stargazing!



Cooks Corner

Cheesy Chicken Casserole

Ingredients:

2 cups cooked chicken, chopped
2 cups cooked egg noodles
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
¼ cup grated parmesan cheese
½ cup chicken broth
¼ cup white wine

½ cup mayonnaise
1-2 oz. jar diced pimento, drained
1 tbsp. minced onion
1 tbsp. parsley flakes
Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

Combine all ingredients; spoon into a greased 8" square baking dish. Cover and bake at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes, or until thoroughly heated.

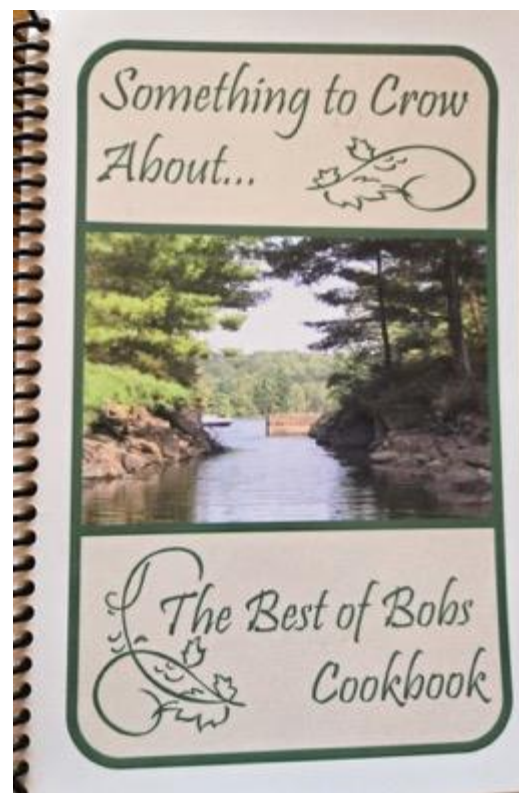
Makes 4 – 6 servings

Suggestions. Add 1/3 cup sour cream to this recipe and a cup of panko and some butter on top.

Debbie Stewart, Loon Island

This recipe is included in the cookbook published by the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association, Something to Crow About... The Best of Bobs Cookbook. Now out of print.

Debbie's son, Matthew, now owns Loon Island. Her husband, Charlie, is a past president of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association. Debbie and Charlie, who live in Virginia, hope to visit this summer.





Lemon Pudding

Ingredients:

¼ cup soft butter	1 tbsp. fresh grated lemon rind
¾ cup granulated sugar	¼ tsp. salt
3 eggs, separated	1 ½ cups milk
1/3 cup fresh lemon juice	Pinch cream of tartar
1/3 cup all purpose flour	

Instructions:

In a large bowl cream together butter and sugar with an electric mixer. Beat in egg yolks one at a time followed by lemon juice, flour, rind and salt. Gradually beat in milk.

In another bowl beat egg whites and cream of tartar until they hold stiff peaks. Stir one quarter of the egg whites into the lemon mixture, then fold in remaining whites.

Pour into a well-greased casserole or 8 " round pan. Set in a larger, deeper pan and pour enough hot water into the large pan to reach halfway up the sides of the casserole.

Bake at 350 degrees F., for 40-45 minutes or until puffed and golden.

This dessert will separate forming a sponge layer on top and a custard layer on the bottom. Serve warm. Spoon some sauce over each serving and add fruit if desired.

Serves 6

Submitted to "Something to Crow About: The Best of Bobs Cookbook" by Susan O'Brien Mactaggart of Green Bay, a 3-time President of the GBCLA. She recalls that this recipe was her mother's favourite dessert recipe.

This recipe was also submitted by another Susan: Susan Davies, Bobs Lake.



Rhubarb Pie

Ingredients:

10" uncooked pie crust	1 ½ cups white sugar
1 cup flour	¼ cup margarine
4 ½ cups fresh or frozen rhubarb	1 cup sour cream
½ cup brown sugar	

Instructions:

Pour fruit into pie shell. Combine sugar, sour cream and ½ cup flour and pour over fruit. Make a crumble from the remaining flour, brown sugar and margarine. Sprinkle the crumble over the fruit. Bake at 450° F for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 325° F and bake at least 40 minutes longer or until crumble is golden and fruit is soft and juicy.

Submitted to "Something to Crow About: The Best of Bobs Cook Book" by The Cove Country Inn, 2 Bedford Street, Westport, Ontario.

Scones

Ingredients:

1 cup sour cream	1 cup salted butter
1/4 tsp. cream of tartar	1 cup sugar (or a little less)
1 tsp. baking soda	1 egg
1 tsp. salt	2 tsp. baking powder
4 cups flour	(1 cup of raisins, optional)

Instructions:

In a small bowl blend soda & sour cream and set aside. Pre-heat oven to 350 ° F. In a large bowl mix the flour, sugar, baking powder, cream of tartar and salt. Cut in the butter. Stir the sour cream mixture and the egg into the flour mixture just until it is moist. Turn out onto a floured board and knead lightly. Roll into a ¾ inch thickness and cut into rounds with a warm glass or a metal cookie cutter.

Bake for 15 minutes or a little more until light brown at the bottom.
These scones freeze well.

Submitted by Teresa Tyszewicz, Green Bay