

**Next Lake Networking Group Meeting – Friday, April 8, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Location -- to be confirmed**

## **Lake Networking Group Meeting Notes**

Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. Burgess Hall, 4174 Narrows Lock Road

Attending –

Lake Association Representatives - Larry Arpaia, (Greater Bobs and Crow); Anita Payne (Black Lake); Jackie Stapledon, Kris McDonald (Farren Lake); Ian MacDonald, Connie Stackhouse (Bennett and Fagan Lake), Rob Bell, Lynn Bell, Jim Tye (Mississippi Lake); Murray Hunt (Otty Lake); Bob Fugler (Loughborough Lake); Larry Bowen (Christie Lake); Art Dunham (Big Clear Lake/Vital Volunteers), Gord Rodgers (14 Island Lake); Judy Hall, Pat Jones (Dalhousie Lake); Jim and Mary Lynne Holton (Canonto Lake); Brian Hawkins (Big Rideau Lake); Jayne MacDonald (Upper Rideau Lake); Barbara King(O'Brien Lake/ Watersheds Canada); Kevin Browne (Sharbot Lake Property Owners Association); Peter Ginsburg, Gary McElwain (Davern Lake); Terry Kimmel (Pike Lake); Karen Hunt (Lake Networking Group);

Agency Representatives - Mike Yee (Rideau Valley Conservation Authority); Alyson Symon, Paul Lehman (Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority); Tom Beaubiah (Catarauqui Region Conservation Authority); Dr. Paula Stewart, (Leeds, Lanark and Grenville Health Unit);

Regrets – Irv Dardick (Eagle Lake); Terry Kennedy (Kennebec Lake); Reid Kilburn (Otty Lake); David Taylor (FoTW);Taro Alps; Melissa Dakers (Watersheds Canada/Mississippi Lakes Association)

**1. Welcome** - Karen Hunt welcomed Lake Association and Agency representatives to the meeting

**2. Blue-Green Algae and Eastern Ontario Lakes in 2015 + Concerns about Wild Parsnips + Lyme Disease** – Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit (**please see Dr. Stewart's slides on Wild Parsnips and Blue-Green Algae which are attached in a combined pdf presentation**)

### **Blue-Green Algae and Eastern Ontario Lakes in 2015**

- In 2015 the Health Unit undertook to be more proactive/ to provide more information in advance of Blue Green Algae Blooms occurring and to ensure that, when Blooms did occur, lake associations were notified in a timely manner
- Dr. Stewart commented on the positive collaboration between the Health Unit and local lake associations in 2015.
- See Dr. Stewart's attached presentation regarding the approach followed, key messages and 2015 sample results

- In 2015 there were 14 reported Blue-Green Algae Blooms/6 were confirmed as Blue-Green Algae and 2 were confirmed as having toxins

Dr. Stewart was asked to comment on why the # of reports of Blue-Green Algae Blooms were higher than in previous years. It was suggested that:

- Warmer water temperatures being recorded
- Greater awareness about Blue-Green Algae

Dr. Stewart asked what else could the lake associations and the Health Unit do to further improve community education on this topic.

On the request of one of the lake association reps present at the meeting, Dr. Stewart agreed to share the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Public Health information on Blue Green Algae with the Lennox and Addington Health Unit.

It was commented that the Province of Manitoba has a more rapid turn-around time in confirming the toxicity of Blue-Green Algae Blooms than we do in Ontario. Question – what would it cost to have a similar system in Ontario. Dr. Stewart will investigate.

Discussion followed Dr. Stewart's comment that the biggest issue is what Blue-Green Algae Blooms are telling you about what is happening on your lake! We need to be aware.

What can be done? Mike Yee (RVCA) added that since the blooms are nutrient driven - focus is on control and mitigation of nutrients

**The Emergency Contact List for the Health Unit's use to notify lake associations/lake communities regarding the identification of Blue-Green Algae Blooms was circulated for updating – revised list will be sent to Health Unit.**

**2015 Concerns about Wild Parsnips/Dr. Stewart** - See slides included in Dr. Stewart's presentation for identification and how to handle

- 90% of roads in Lanark County have some growth of Wild Parsnips. This has become a public health issue. Sap from the Wild Mustard Plant causes burns to skin that comes in contact. **DO NOT LET SAP ON YOUR SKIN COME IN CONTACT WITH SUNLIGHT.** Wash affected area carefully and stay out of sunlight for 24hrs. – 3 days
- Mow regularly to keep the plants from producing seeds
- Some chemical control is being tried

**Black-Legged Ticks and Lyme Disease**

Dr. Stewart commented that they are still seeing a steady increase in Lyme Disease being identified locally. Some pockets are hotspots e.g. Murphy's Point Park

## **2. RVCA Updates – Mike Yee**

Lake Water Levels-

Pat Larson reports that above normal rainfall has put lake levels at or above normal levels for this fall.

Free Shoreline Makeovers!

RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program provides free shoreline site visits and planting projects to landowners in target areas. Natural shorelines are one of the best ways you can help protect water quality, mitigate erosion and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. If you live within the Rideau Lakes or Kemptville Creek subwatersheds and would like to increase natural plant cover along your shoreline, give us a call. Since the program's inception we've assisted 260 landowners, planted 50,000 shoreline plants and naturalized 16 kilometers of shoreline. For more information call MEAGHAN at ext. 1192 or [meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca](mailto:meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca)

Five Million Trees Planted Since 1983

Planning Issues Martha Bradburn is working on numerous lake files

## **3. Algae/Aquatic Plant Project 2015 Update – Mike Yee for Kaitlin Brady, Project Coordinator**

### **Workshops**

A session was co-chaired by project coordinator at the St. Lawrence River Institute annual symposium where the project was highlighted in the results from two university students who worked on the research, as well as by the project coordinator who spoke about the community engagement of the project.

We took the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors on a tour of the Big Rideau Lake to discuss water quality and best management practices. Most of the members are councilors in the area of the project. It was a great turn out and went well.

We have recruited volunteers to help map the aquatic vegetation of their waterbody using an echo sounder. We hosted a training day on August 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a great turn out with a lot of participation. There was so much interest in the project we had to purchase a second unit. We are hoping to turn it into a regular monitoring program completed by volunteers. 22 lake/river/streams are participating.

Dr. Jesse Vermaire will be speaking about his research that has taken place within this project at Lake Links.

November 14 at Almonte Civitan Hall 9:00 - noon, a half day (3 hour) workshop to present protecting the lakes and rivers through sustainable drainage/low impact development and nutrient management techniques. Dr Jesse Vermaire and Sharyn Inward – RAIN – community sustainability in dealing with storm water to protect water quality and quantity. Trillium funded and offered at no cost to participants

### **Community Events**

Five lake association meetings were attended where the work on the project, as well as information about algae and aquatic plants were provided.

We were a part of the Tay Discovery Day, highlighting the algae project, educating attendees on algae and aquatic plant growth as well as best management practices and answering any questions the public may have had.

We had a booth at the Bobs Lake Floatilla-educating attendees on algae and aquatic plant growth, best management practices to be used around the lake and answering any questions that boaters had regarding algae and aquatic plant growth.

### **Communications**

TV interview for CBC Ottawa's evening news show about the aquatic plant mapping project.

CBC Ottawa morning radio show interview about the aquatic plant mapping project.

Lake 88 afternoon interview about the algae and aquatic plant project.

CBC All in a day afternoon radio interview about the algae reporting app.

Two media releases

### **Manual**

The manual has been written and edited. Our graphic designer is currently working on the design.

### **Algae and Aquatic Plant Reporting**

We have 30 users on the website and are continuing to receive algae/aquatic plant reports [www.citizenwaterwatch.ca](http://www.citizenwaterwatch.ca)

We have also added a blog to it that provides information about topics about lake and river health.

Our android app is now complete and can be downloaded here

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.parse.citizenwaterwatch&hl=en>

We have had users sign up as well as make reports on the app.

## **Research**

All sediment cores have been taken and examined on the study lakes. There are three thesis' that have been written from this work.

Macrophyte plant biomass will be completed this summer/early fall.

The volunteer aquatic plant mapping will add to the research that is being completed by Dr. Jesse Vermaire.

## **4. MVCA Update**– Alyson Symon (Watershed Planner, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority)

### **Lake Monitoring**

- Watershed Watch program - MVCA's water quality monitoring efforts this field season will focussed on the Buckshot Subwatershed, as well as Dalhousie Lake.
- Watershed Watch State of the Lake Reports will be available in January.
- Reporting format changed to present the water quality results more in the context of the provincial water quality framework for trophic status.
- 2016 will focus on the Clyde watershed, sampling 12 lakes.
- In moving toward a subwatershed based monitoring and reporting cycle we also focus other monitoring efforts to the subwatershed that is being monitored in that given year – benthic and fish sampling.
- Worked with OFAH on Invasive Species Monitoring Program – sample for zebra mussels and spiny water flea – sampled 20 lakes – results in April

### **Monitoring Volunteers**

- Looking for volunteers to help us to expand our rainfall monitoring program geographically by monitoring rainfall on their own properties.
- Have partnered with CocoRAHs, on-line weather monitoring program, a Colorado based company that is currently expanding into Canada.
- MVCA provides participants with the rain gauge (cost covered by MVCA) which they install on their property.
- Volunteers input data directly online and have ability to view the results directly online or can send data directly to MVCA.
- With Cocorahs, option to monitor snowfall as well (for those interested in recording throughout the winters as well).
- **Ice monitoring to record and report dates for ice-on and ice off**
- Becoming increasingly important as we adapt our water management regimes to climate change. Particularly in terms of timing the filling of reservoir lakes in the spring.

- MVCA looking for people on each lake to report directly to MVCA the date of freeze up and the date of break up.
- If already participating in the IceWatch program (under Nature Watch) we're looking for those people to report directly to us as well.

**If you are interested contact Alyson Symon [asymon@mvc.on.ca](mailto:asymon@mvc.on.ca) or 613 253-0006 ext. 227**

#### **Mississippi Valley Watershed Lake Plans:**

- Mississippi Lake Plan was finalized and adopted by the MLA membership at their AGM in May
- Three implementation committees: Environment Committee, Communications Committee and Boating and Recreation Committee
- Malcolm/Ardoch Lakes and Kashwakamak both well on the way – have completed their background state of the lake reports and will have draft lake plans next summer.

#### **5. Conservation Authorities Act Review - Paul Lehman (General Manager, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority) -**

##### **See Paul's attached PDF presentation**

Paul began his presentation with a discussion about Wetland Conservation. Wetlands are important! (See attached slides for more information). Paul indicated that the Province is currently looking at wetland conservation in Ont. and how we are doing. He said that we are continuing to lose wetlands (see slide showing wetland loss). e.g. Climate change/higher temperatures will continue to dry out wetlands in the future. Conservation Authorities are looking at how they can improve wetland conservation in their regions. See slides re How Much Habitat is enough. MVCA is looking into the feasibility of monitoring unregulated wetlands. Note: there will be upcoming public meetings to get public views on extending monitoring to evaluate unregulated wetlands.

#### **Conservation Authorities Act Review – See Paul Lehman's attached pdf presentation on the CAA Review which follows the Wetland Conservation slides**

##### **Drivers for change-**

Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Service (Drummond Report)

- transformation within provincial ministries
- new working relationships with outside agencies
- Fewer resources to address growing environmental challenges which affect Ontario's economy and our quality of life
- Watershed Management Futures for Ontario (Conservation Ontario – 2012)

-need to define renewed working relationship between CA's and provincial ministries

**Discussion Paper posted to EBR - July 20, 2015 - Public comments received until October 19, 2015**

- Engagement sessions held across province
  - Conservation Authorities
  - Municipalities
  - Development industry
  - Agriculture
  - First Nations
  - ENGO's

**Areas of Discussion**

- **Roles and responsibilities of CA's**
- **Governance**
- **Funding**

Conservation Ontario has developed a list of Priorities and Recommendations for the Province (see slides)

- Conservation Authorities feel that stressors such as rapid urbanization, climate change, severe weather, invasive species and aging infrastructure will “significantly challenge the capacity of our natural ecosystems to support economic growth, a sustainable environment and the health of residents” ahead and decisions need to be made on how to address them
- CA's believe an Integrated Watershed Management approach should be integrated provincially

**Roles/Responsibilities of CA's – moving forward – what needs to be done?**

- Confirm the current mandate of CA's as defined in Sections 20 & 21 of the CA Act
  - broad mandate and suite of responsibilities
- -empower CA's to set local programs and priorities in collaboration with municipalities, government ministries and partners
- -Facilitates integration of provincial policy and local objectives through partnerships and collaboration
- -Conservation authority model recognized internationally as a best practice in integrated watershed management

**What is integrated watershed management?**

- IWM recognized internationally as the most effective approach to managing and protecting our water and related natural resources
- IWM is the process of managing human activities and natural resources on a watershed basis taking into account social, economic and environmental issues, as well as community interests in order to manage water resources sustainably  
It is science based and collaborative

**Governance** – CAs currently functions within a complicated framework (see slides for chart)

- CA Board of Directors appointed by member municipalities
  - Generally provides for effective representation
- -Enables municipalities to address issues beyond their administrative jurisdiction
- CA Act administered by MNRF
  - Policy and financial support for natural hazard (flooding, erosion, slope stability)

management

- Clean Water Act administered by MOECC
  - CA Board designated as Source Protection Authority
  - Policy and financial support for Source Protection Planning

**What needs to be done?**

- Formalize CA working relationships across multiple ministries (MNRF, MOECC, MMAH, OMAFRA)
  - Stressors such as climate change, urbanization and land use change necessitate an inter-ministerial response
  - Provincial Directive/Policy would mandate coordinated, multi-ministry engagement with CAs towards an integrated watershed management approach
- Should be discussed in the context of funding model
- Create opportunities for more formal and broader stakeholder involvement (Advisory Committees)

**Funding Context**

- CA's combined 2013 expenditures approximately \$290 million
  - average \$8 million/CA ranging from \$85 million to \$0.6 million
- CA revenue sources include:
  - Municipal levies in accordance with CA Act (48%)
  - Provincial transfer payments (10%)
  - Self generated revenue (42%) from federal agencies, other provincial ministries, user fees and contract revenue
- Municipal levies assessed on basis of relative assessment within individual municipalities
- Concerns with inconsistent capacity among CA's

**What is needed?**

- Sustainable funding needed for effective integrated watershed management
  - Funding model should reflect multi-ministry benefits and priorities (not solely MNRF)

-Potential new revenue sources may include carbon pricing, eligibility for development charges, Trillium grants, stormwater fees, infrastructure funding for recreation/outdoor education facilities

- Local capacity should be addressed in order that all watershed areas are adequately supported

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There followed a general discussion with lake association representatives regarding the role of Conservation Authorities including the future potential/need for conservation authorities to work collaboratively with other nearby conservation authorities.

It was agreed that Sharbot Lake, Canonto Lake, Black Lake, Christie Lake, Bobs and Crow Lake Association reps would provide input to Karen Hunt to be added to the Otty Lake input already submitted to develop a collaborative response from the Lake Networking Group to be submitted by Monday, Oct. 19. Karen asked for comments by Wed. Oct. 14.

**Note: Conservation Authorities Act Review comments submitted to Environmental Registry on behalf of the Lake Networking Group are attached to these meeting notes**

#### **6. Lake Links- Sat. October 24 – Barbara King (Watersheds Canada)**

- **Sat. October 24, 2015 - Perth Civitan Hall**
- Attendance encouraged. 2015 focus will be on fisheries/fish management/fish habitat restoration etc with information on how partnering can support lake communities success in carrying out projects on their lake

Watersheds Canada Side note-Barb King mentioned that there is still some availability for lake associations to be involved in their shoreline planting program for next season

#### **7. OPP/Lake Associations**

- At the April 29, 2015 OPP/Lake Associations Meeting it was decided that lake association reps would bring safety and security/OPP comments/concerns to the Oct. 8 Lake Networking Group meeting and that these comments would then be sent on behalf of the Group to Inspector Needham
- A suggestion was made that an invitation be extended to local fire chiefs to also attend a mtg. of the OPP/ Lake Association reps for a discussion about Emergency Preparedness. Karen to contact Derek Needham to see if this could be put in place for the spring OPP mtg.
- Karen to also contact Derek Needham to remind him that the local lake associations would like to be put back on the list to receive "neighbourhood watch" notices

- Pike Lake has provided both the OPP and the Fire Dept. with Pike Lake access maps. All those at the mtg. felt this was a sound idea for other lake associations to also consider doing
- **Note: Spring 2016 OPP/Lake Associations meeting to be held in the TVT Council Chambers, 217 Harper Road, 27 April 2016 at 9:30am**

## **8. Lake Association Updates**

The following lake association updates were provided for distribution or presented at the meeting :

### **Mississippi Lakes Association – Jim Tye**

- 1200 properties on the lake
- Lake plan was approved at the 2015 AGM – 60 recommendations to implement- if interested in viewing a pdf of the Mississippi Lakes Plan, contact MLA president Rob Bell at [rob.m.bell@gmail.com](mailto:rob.m.bell@gmail.com)
- Dave Hands, Chair of the MLA Communications Committee and the newsletter editor [davehands123@gmail.com](mailto:davehands123@gmail.com) , 613-267-2080 is looking for articles and advertisers for the Mississippi Belle newsletter
- Will do plant id workshop in July 2016 with the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists
- Undertaking aquatic plant mapping

### **Black Lake Association – Anita Payne**

- will participate in the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in Stanleyville
- lake association is trying to increase their membership numbers

### **O'Brien Lake –Barb King**

- No lake association –have small number of property owners
- No Zebra Mussels yet but are concerned about introduction

### **Sharbot Lake – Kevin Browne**

- Have seen a slow decline in membership
- Had a good attendance at AGM – date changed to avoid conflict with major event in Perth + social event attached
- Love Your Lake reports being distributed

### **Davern Lake – Gary McElwain**

- First time to attend Lake Networking Group Meeting

- Small lake – great community – 16 cottages-14 are members of lake association
- Current concern – undecided future for YWCA Camp Davern

### **Big Rideau Lake Association – Brian Hawkins**

- Currently membership of 300 – undertaking an aggressive campaign to increase membership. Have realized that they need to be talking to the younger generation with a social media campaign – will focus on that for next summer
- Currently following an OMB appeal re Rideau Lakes Township/Official Plan/ United Counties with a focus on waterfront protection
- Cormorants have become large issue for lake community - in the fall 600 1000 cormorants gather on Big Rideau Lake

### **Upper Rideau Lake Association (URLA)-October 2015-Jayne McDonald**

URLA hosted a successful AGM in July with guests, Mayor Robin Jones-Westport, Mayor Ron Holman-Township of Rideau Lakes, and Mike Yee and Meaghan McDonald from RVCA.

The water quality of the lake in the summer of 2015 was considered much better by many of the residents than it was in 2014. In August 2014 most of the lake was experiencing the effects of toxic, blue-green algae blooms. There were two confirmed algae blooms in July 2015 but these were fairly short-lived and tested negative for toxins.

URLA is participating as a member of the Technical Steering Committee for the Environmental Assessment for the Westport Wastewater Facility. A system with direct discharges into the surface water of the Upper Rideau Lake is not an option for the future of the site.

This year, in conjunction with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority we planted 790 trees and shrubs, bringing our total for the last six years to over 4000 plants. During this period, we have filled 117 orders, placed by 68 different property owners.

The Upper Rideau Lake Association completed the Love Your Lake program with Watersheds Canada and individual property owners were able to receive their reports. Of the properties assessed 87 of the owners have ordered their reports.

URLA is also a participant in the People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes Project and has long time volunteers who are involved with the Lake Partner Program water testing. URLA is also a member of FOCA

URLA has a number of buoys around the lake indicating various hazardous locations near the Rideau Canal navigational route.

URLA too are recognizing the importance of involving younger members of their community

### **Otty Lake Association – Christine Kilburn**

OLA AGM -The Board received positive feedback for its 2015 AGM, held on July 11th at the Perth Legion. Ninety four people, including board members, came out, a very respectable number. Careful planning kept the meeting time to a lean two and a quarter hours by reducing the number of speakers, and carefully controlling each presentation's length. The meeting focused on Otty Lake activities. Valuable summaries were presented.

FAMILY PICNIC- Approximately 70 participants enjoyed a highly interactive family time at this year's OLA Picnic, held on Saturday, July 19th. A variety of games including relays, target and toss, a giant sling shot, donuts on a string, bocce ball competition, tug of war and parachute fun were met with excellent participation! This year's BBQ was preceded by an interactive magic show with special guest Ry Guy Magic. His show was enjoyed by children and adults alike.

BIRD HOUSES -Duck, swallow and bat boxes were part of the plans for Phase III of the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement project. A call for volunteers went out on our website and by email in late July and a number of volunteers responded including Richard and Jay Hendry who volunteered to co-ordinate the sourcing of wood and preparing bird house kits. On August 31, Richard and Jay spent the day with Reid Kilburn in his workshop cutting the wood pieces required for the ten swallow/bluebird houses, and the ten wood duck houses.

Then on September 3, 4 additional volunteers from around the lake and 3 RVCA folks gathered at the Kilburn's place to help put the houses together. The nesting boxes will make great homes for a variety of birds around the lake. Eight wood duck nesting boxes and seven swallow boxes have already been installed at specific locations around the lake, with more to be installed shortly.

**BASS HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT** - An impressive contingent of Otty Lake volunteers gathered on September 21 to complete the third phase of the fish and wildlife enhancement project begun in 2013. Each year our volunteer numbers have grown which shows the extreme dedication and enthusiasm that Otty Lake residents have for their lake. We also had the dedicated team from RVCA as well as their own volunteers. It was a truly successful day. 49 spawning beds, 75 cornerstones and nine brush bundles were installed. A total of 27 volunteers for a total of 189 volunteer hours assisted with the project. Fun was had, and a more thorough understanding of small mouth bass was gained. Plans for 2016 include monitoring of the installed spawning beds in the spring.

**SHORELINE PLANTING** -The shoreline of Otty Lake has been further enhanced by this year's shoreline planting initiative that was held on July 4. A total of 50 shrubs and 72 wildflowers were purchased by residents of our lake community to further naturalize their properties.

**PADDLE POWER** - The third annual Otty Lake Paddle Power held on Sunday August 9th was a record breaking success! With perfect weather in our favour, approximately 80 boats, 102 people and 2 dogs formed a line then rafted their boats together between the shores of SW Otty, Hazard Island and BurgessWood.

### **Big Clear Lake – Art Dunham**

Big Clear Lake Association has a new website at <http://www.bigclearlake.com> to which they are also planning to automate dues collection using PayPal

### **Bennett & Fagan Lakes Association Fall Update Donna Doelman**

- Membership of 135 the highest ever
- thanks to a very successful logo competition, the winning design is being used
- 3 new Board members bring new ideas and energy to our 11 member Board.
- continue to be concerned with the less than meaningful inspections of outhouses
- an August Golf Tournament & dinner was added to our annual family regatta, volleyball & horseshoe tournaments
- during our spectacular fireworks show in August, we watched \$1700 go up in “colour” & sound

### **Projects for 2016:**

- review our Water management plan, especially re: optimum lake level
- revise by laws with proposals ready for July AGM

### **Pike Lake Community Association - Terry Kimmel**

After winning the FOCA Lake of the Year award in 2013 the PLCA has had two years of what can best be described as dissent among a portion of its membership. A challenge of the 2014 Board election process seemed to catalyze a group of our members who believe that the association has become too political. The definition of too political is a grey area but specific to this group is the association’s relationship with the Tay Valley Township, the RVCA, MNR and FOCA. The group has challenged the association providing its Lake Stewardship Handbook to the Township several years ago without, what some feel, was adequate consultation. This Handbook, in fact, was the result of a major consultation of both members and non-members that started with a State of the Lake Report. The timing of this report coincided with reports from many of the lake associations in the region and that was supported by the Township and

RVCA. This group of members also feels that the PLCA is not the voice for property owners on the lake since it does not represent every one of them. The PLCA has consistently had membership in the 45% range. So, a PLCA response to the Township Strategic Plan was also considered not to be representative of the property owners (although the content of the response was consistent to what was in our Stewardship Handbook). Also brought to question was the association's role in mandatory septic inspections, a by-law passed by the Township and affecting many lakes in the region.

The PLCA has continued to monitor lake water quality, participate in the National Loon Count Program, hold its Annual Boatilla and communicate with the membership through its Pike Lake Post, Website and direct e-mails. We plan to put in our third walleye spawning bed this winter.

Following this year's turbulent AGM it was decided to have a facilitated Workshop to determine how we could bring peace back to the lake. The Workshop was held in early September and we are still awaiting the report from the facilitator. The report will undoubtedly propose that we modify our constitution, a process that we began a year ago. There was also a strong indication from the membership that we should hold more than one member meeting each year.

### **Christie Lake Association Inc. Update – Larry Bowen**

#### **Fisheries Enhancement Program (Lake Stewardship Committee)**

- Volunteers gather twice this summer to create and distribute fishsticks and fish bundles at strategic locations on our lake 16 August and 12 September and plan to do so again in October.
- The former was more of a trial on building and distributing fish bundles. The latter also involved the 14th Gloucester Venturer Company at the Opemikon Scout Camp.(12 keen young guys and 2 leaders)
  - made up about 8 - 9 brush bundles
  - added concrete blocks to 11 xmas trees
  - sunk 2 groups of 3 xmas trees each in the lake near the camp
  - fitted 12 other concrete blocks and 3 large rocks with wire, ready for anchoring brush bundles
  - there are 5 xmas trees and 9 bundles ready to be positioned in the lake over the next month
  - developing an updated map with bundle locations
- **Annual General Meeting Format**
  - Changed format
  - Increased attendance (almost double from 2014)
- **Automated Water Level Monitoring Station**

- Apparently an agreement was reached in August between Tay Valley Township and Parks Canada for the installation of an automated Water Level Monitoring system near the outflow of the Tay R. from Christie Lake (Jordan's Bridge area).
    - Once operational the system is to upload water level data every hour and download to Parks Canada every 24 hours.
    - Not clear on our association access to the data. Work in progress.
  - All that remains is for Parks Canada to install the system before the ice forms.
  - We continue to collect daily water level readings courtesy the Jordan family.
- **Bolingbroke Dam (aka Bob's Lake Dam)**
    - The geotechnical and seismic field investigations have been completed;
    - PC is in the process of developing a terms of reference for a detailed impact assessment (environmental) and plan to initiate the study this fall;
    - The engineering consultant is working on the conceptual design for the new dam. The design concept cannot be finalised until the geotechnical report is completed and assessed as geotechnical conditions are a major factor for design development;
    - Construction is currently anticipated to begin in the summer of 2016, at the earliest. This timeline, however, is subject to change depending on design progress, reviews and necessary approvals; and
    - PC intention is to maintain the current operational procedures for water management during the course of construction and after completion of the dam. The existing dam will be operated during construction of the new structure.
  - **Public Islands Signage**
    - The Christie Lake Association together with OMNRF (Kemptonville District) entered into a cooperative partnership regarding Crown/Public island signage on Christie Lake. This was particularly important as it somewhat contradicts the OMNRF 'Free Use Policy for Crown Land' being a partial restriction of access to crown land. To date we have not had any reports of misuse since we posted the signage. A review by our association and OMNRF will be taken Fall 2015.

### Loughborough Lake Association - Bob Fugler

There are two developments happening on the lake. Both are being done by the same developer who is using a condominium arrangement. Community is concerned about lack of sensitivity to the environment in these proposed developments.

-South Frontenac is doing an Environmental Assessment

## Canonto Lake – Jim Holton

Over the course of the year a number of volunteers under the leadership of Bruce Moore, from Canonto Lake, and with the assistance of the North Frontenac Council and MVCA, re-established a number of non-motorized walking trails on land between Palmerston and Canonto lakes. Now on any given day you can enjoy the views from the many trails.

Residents from Canonto Lake also were involved in other activities like:

- the mapping of aquatic vegetation
- for the first time we had loons nesting on our loon nest
- participated in the Love Your Lake program
- with the help of Watershed Canada a number of cottage residents enhanced their property with the planting of native species.

## Farren Lake Property Owners Association –Jackie Stapledon

-Found Zebra Mussels for the first time last Fall

-The FLPOA has been sending a November newsletter each year by email while trying to build up the email address list.

This past May Newsletter was sent out by email for the first time with information for the AGM and our membership form included .

Usually this was done by regular mail and we were afraid that we would lose some memberships.

The results were surprising, as we ended up with 85, out of 110, a few more than the previous year -

but interesting to note that we did lose some, perhaps not familiar with the computer, but had others join that had not done so before.

-A few meetings at TVT were necessary re: new property owner requesting a change of zoning from Seasonal to Limited Residential.

The building was too large for the property and problems with wetlands etc. The owner finally reduced the size of the building and his zoning change will now be approved.

-Farren Lake had a very successful 2nd annual **golf tournament July 3rd** at Rideau Lakes Golf club with 22 people taking part.

-Then Sunday, **August 2nd a Fun Day** was held at Bolingbroke Estates with approximately 45 people attending.

This was the 3rd year for this event with lots of games for the kids and water races etc.

-For two days in the week of **August 24** we did the **Aquatic Plant Mapping**. We had perfect weather and 4 volunteers managed to map the whole lake. Kaitlyn Brady and Jesse Vermaire organized this project over August and September with many lakes taking part. Looking forward to seeing the results.

#### **Fourteen Island Mink Lake – Gord Rodgers**

- Gord raised Radon Gas as an issue to be concerned about and recommended Mr. Radon as a speaker for Lake Links or Lake Networking Group or lake association AGMs

-Participants were reminded that the survey from last year's Lake Links has lots of useful information and is posted on the Watersheds Canada website.

#### **Bobs and Crow Lakes- Larry Arpaia**

- Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation hired a summer intern to develop a number of initiatives for the lake community e.g. nature flotilla with stations around the lake + Environment Awareness Day
- Emergency Access Study undertaken
- Walleye Nesting Beds rehabilitated
- Improved signage around lake and increased # of hazard buoys placed in the lake
- Have been involved with the Septic Re-inspection Program in Tay Valley and are now discussing a similar program with South Frontenac

**After discussion about weekdays vs weekends/ full days vs partial days/ the next Lake Networking Group Meeting was set for Friday, April 8, 2016 at 9:30a.m.**

**A Sat. meeting may be tried for a future meeting. There was little support for a full day meeting.**

**Location – to be confirmed**