

## Next Lake Networking Group Meeting ... Friday, April 24th , 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

### Location TBCConfirmed

### Lake Networking Group Meeting

9:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2014

### Burgess Hall, 4171 Narrows Lock Road

**Attending** – Bruce Burwell (Black Lake); Judy and Terry Kennedy (Kennebec Lake); Kay Rogers (Pike Lake); Terry Kimmel (Pike Lake); Julie Burke (Adam Lake); Fred Godard (Adam Lake); Karen and Murray Hunt (Otty Lake); Mike Yee (RVCA); Kaitlin Brady(RVCA);Alyson Symon (MVCA); Judy Hall (Dalhousie Lake); Pat Jones (Dalhousie Lake); Doug Good (Big Rideau Lake); Marcia Maxwell (Otter Lake); Frank Mills (Mississippi Lake); Dave Hands (Mississippi Lake); Donna Walsh (Christie Lake); Gordon Hill (Christie Lake); Robert Ferrier (Bennett and Farren Lake); Larry Arpaia (Bobs and Crow Lakes);; Jim and Mary Lynne Holton (Canonto Lake); Irv Dardick (Eagle Lake).

**Regrets** – Jackie Stapldon (Farren Lake); Eugenia Flett (Farren Lake); Bob Fugler (Loughborough Lake); Larry Bowen (Christie Lake); Donna Doelman (Bennett and Fagan Lake).

1. **Welcome**; Karen Hunt welcomed the participants and asked they identify themselves and the organization they were representing.

Before the meeting began Doug Good presented Karen with a cheque for \$25.00 as a contribution from the Big Rideau Lake Association towards Lake Networking Group expenses – Received with thanks

### 2. MVCA update – Alyson Symon

#### Mississippi Watershed Conditions

- Spring 2014 was very late with snow on the ground and ice on lakes well into April.
- Experienced well above average flood levels, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest flows at Appleton and levels on Mississippi Lake since 1977 (highest being 1998)
- Water levels at or slightly above target levels throughout the summer. Several large rain storms occurred over the summer to help maintain levels
- At present Mississippi River watershed conditions are at “normal” levels
- Have started fall draw downs on dams, with Pine L. complete, Shabomeka in progress
- Drawdowns on Kashwakamak, Big Gull, Mississagagon and Widow Lakes will start immediately after Thanksgiving
- Mazinaw Lake drawdown will start the beginning of November

**MVC is always looking for volunteers on the lakes to monitor water levels and rainfall and ice on/ice off**

## **MVCA Monitoring Strategy**

- Developed a MVCA monitoring strategy to provide for greater efficiency in our monitoring efforts and improved reporting and use of the data that is collected.
- Moving to a sub-watershed based monitoring and reporting system 9 sub-watershed areas on a 5 year cycle – concentrated monitoring efforts (Watershed Watch, stream assessments, fish sampling, land use assessments, etc.):

Year 1: Upper Mississippi

Year 2: Buckshot Creek, High Falls, Mississippi Lake

Year 3: Fall River, Indian River

Year 4: Clyde River

Year 5: Mazinaw Lake, Lower Mississippi

- Implementing a scaled down City Stream Watch Program in the City of Ottawa – also sub-watershed based monitoring and reporting with help of volunteers
- More targeted and strategic delivery of stewardship opportunities based on sub-watershed reporting

## **Wetland Monitoring**

### **Municipal Site Evaluation Guidelines**

- Rideau Lakes Basin Carrying Capacity and Proposed Shoreline Development Policies (Michalski and Usher 1992) developed for RVCA by to assess impacts of shoreline development and water quality – also developed Site Evaluation Guidelines(1993) aimed at addressing those impacts when reviewing development in waterfront properties
- Provide a tool to assess development capability and site sensitivity and to determine recommended development setback from shoreline
- Uses a scoring system to measure sensitivity based on various physical and biological characteristics of the property (slope, soil conditions, drainage, vegetation cover, etc.). Score determines setback
- Phased in through municipal Official Plans (South Frontenac, Central Frontenac, Tay Valley and Drummond North Elmsley)
- Guidelines geared to lakes in the Rideau watershed, limitations in applying same guidelines in the MVCA and CRCA watershed areas where Canadian Shield dominates
- MVCA, RVCA and CRCA hired Hutchinson Environmental to update and adapt report to be more applicable across the broader range of watershed areas

- Endorsed by MVCA Board of Directors in May and has been presented to Township of North Frontenac Council, will be taken to Lanark Highlands senior municipal staff in October

#### **Natural Edge Shoreline Naturalization Program**

- MVCA and Centre for Sustainable Watersheds (CSW) have partnered in delivering a shoreline naturalization program in MVCA watershed.
- EcoAction funded project being piloted on four lakes (Canonto, Kashwakamak, Patterson and Mississippi) to plant 20 properties - property owners from other lakes can also participate through other funding sources. If you are interested contact Alyson Symon [asymon@mvc.on.ca](mailto:asymon@mvc.on.ca) or 613253-0006 ext 227

### **3. RVCA update on Algae/Aquatic Vegetation Trillium Project (People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes: Finding the Balance in Eastern Ontario's Lake Country)- Kaitlin Brady**

Project Update to September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

- 39 RVCA and 16 MVCA lakes have had sediment core sampled.
- Ten lakes in both RVCA and MVCA cores will be analyzed this winter.
- Those 20 lakes also had their vegetation mapped out.
- Kaitlin attended 2 workshop events (Bobs Lake Flotilla, Watershed Discovery Day) and will be attending Lake Links on behalf of the Project
- As well as presenting a display at the Stewart Park Music Festival.
- 5 Lake Association AGMs were attended
- Project webpage being hosted on the RVCA website was created. Updates and information on the project will be available there.
- Algae reporting website (citizen water watch) was created. We had roughly 12 algae report submissions.
- 2 press releases
- 1 radio interview

#### Study Lakes:

##### Rideau Watershed

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bobs (Green Bay) | 6. Otty          |
| 2. Burr ridge       | 7. Long Pond     |
| 3. Crosby           | 8. Tommy         |
| 4. Bobs (Buck Bay)  | 9. Adam          |
| 5. Christie         | 10. Upper Rideau |

## Mississippi Watershed

1. Mosque
2. Malcolm
3. Shabomeka
4. Clayton
5. Bennett
6. Dalhousie
7. Big Gull-main
8. Kashwakamak
9. Pine
10. Sharbot-East Basin

The above lakes have been chosen for the study.

Ardoch, Crotch, Fawn, Mississippi, Patterson and Silver Lakes will have sediment cores sampled. The remaining cores will be analyzed at a later date and may be dependent on funding availability

Kaitlin may be reached at [kaitlin.brady@rvca.ca](mailto:kaitlin.brady@rvca.ca)

### **Other RVCA updates – Mike Yee**

#### **Planning and Regulations**

- OP Amendments- RVCA comments to Townships Official Plan amendments reflect the Provincial Policy Statement considerations re natural heritage and natural hazard responsibilities.
- Reminder: Permitting requirements for shoreline alterations and for Provincially Significant Wetlands would be triggered by applications for projects on Otter, Otty, Big, Lower and Upper Rideau and Bobs Lake because of new regulations.
- RVCA is preparing an update for their Shoreline Works Guide which will be available for information. On- water access facilities and approvals will be required. The LandOwners Resource Centre will have this information and will send to anyone interested. Also hope to have it posted on the RVCA website soon.
- MNR and DFO have made changes for fisheries timing windows in some jurisdictions.
- RVCA has been contacted with concerns about discussion of mandatory vegetative buffers in Tay Valley Township as part of TVT OP Review process  
The Source Protection Plan is now approved

#### **Source Protection Plan Approved!**

On August 28, Glen R. Murray, Ontario Minister of Environment, approved the *Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan*. It will take effect on January 1, 2015. Under Ontario's *Clean Water Act*, the plan seeks to protect water quality in lakes, rivers and groundwater

sources that supply municipal drinking water systems in the region. Policies apply to the small, vulnerable area around a municipal well or watercourse that supplies municipal drinking water. Inspection programs for septic systems, risk management plans to handle pesticides,

fuel and manure as well as existing waste sites and storm water facilities, plus road signs to identify wellhead protection areas and intake protection zones will be put in place. Municipalities and/or conservation authorities will work closely

with affected residents to help them understand and meet the new requirements. For more information contact ALLISON at ext.1148 or [allison.gibbons@mrsourcewater.ca](mailto:allison.gibbons@mrsourcewater.ca)

### **Water Quality Monitoring**

- Completion of core sampling and Chl a sampling thanks to Trillium funded project
- RVCA has requested feedback from (Rideau Lakes) lake associations on water quality ratings for Rideau Lakes Subwatershed Reporting 2015
- Watershed Watch beginning our fourth sampling round in October-looking for volunteers for 2015 (Big Rideau, Lower Rideau, Upper Rideau, Bass, Pike, Crow and Bobs). Contact Sarah MacLeod if you can assist. [sarah.macleod@rvca.ca](mailto:sarah.macleod@rvca.ca)

### **Shoreline Naturalization Program**

For information about shoreline naturalization projects in the Rideau watershed please contact Andrea Klymko [andrea.klymko@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.klymko@rvca.ca) or Meaghan McDonald [meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca](mailto:meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca) .  
[http://www.rvca.ca/programs/shoreline\\_naturalization\\_program/](http://www.rvca.ca/programs/shoreline_naturalization_program/)

## **4. Bloom-Green Algae Blooms – Mike Yee (RVCA)**

There was a Blue-Green Algal Bloom reported on the Upper Rideau Lake in mid-August and this topic has been of considerable concern of late to many local lake associations.

Karen contacted MOE Kingston to invite a staff person to attend the Sept.19<sup>th</sup> Lake Networking Group Meeting to provide information to the Group regarding Blue-Green Algae. Unfortunately no one from the MOE Kingston office was available on the date of the meeting but Gillian Dagg – Foster indicated that if the Lake Networking Group wished, MOE would try to come to a future meeting. Gillian Dagg-Foster provided the attached new Blue-Green Algae document to distribute to members of the Lake Networking Group. The MOE attachment covers questions such as What are Blue-Green Algae, What are Blue-Green Algal Blooms?, What conditions favour Algal growth?, How can Blue-Green Algal Blooms be reduced or prevented?, Do Blue-Green Algal Blooms occur in Ontario?, How do I recognize a Blue-Green Algal Bloom?, What should I do if I encounter a bloom?, Is it safe to consume fish from a water body where a Blue-Green Algal Blooms occurred?, Can Blue-Green Algal Blooms be treated in the water body?, What are the potential health effects associated with Blue-Green Algal Toxins?, How much microcystin is allowable in drinking water under the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards?, Can I use my water if I know there is a bloom nearby?

With the unavailability of someone from MOE to attend the Lake Networking Group meeting, Mike Yee from RVCA kindly agreed to speak to this topic and try to answer questions for meeting participants.

**Mike stressed that identifying and responding to Blue-Green Algal Blooms is the responsibility of MOE not the RVCA and that MOE works with the Health Unit in their response. IF A BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM IS SUSPECTED, CALL THE SPILLS ACTION CENTRE AT 1800 268- 6060**

Mike differentiated between **Green Algae/Green Algal Blooms** and **Blue-Green Algal Blooms**. RVCA does monitor occurrences of Green Algae in the Rideau Watershed. Mike indicated that, in 2014, **Green Algal Blooms** were reported in Bass Lake, Wolfe Lake, Bobs Lake (Green Bay). Mike distributed cards with the **contact information for Algae Watch. You can report an algae or aquatic plant sighting at [www.citizenwaterwatch.ca](http://www.citizenwaterwatch.ca)**. Algae Watch received information about 12 sightings this summer.

Mike provided a very comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on Blue-Green Algal Blooms and answered questions. **(Please review Mike's attached Power Point slides)**.

There was a discussion amongst meeting participants on the response of MOE and the Health Unit during the recent Upper Rideau Lake Blue-Green Algal Bloom. There was a concern that MOE seemed to have difficulty locating all the blooms they were to investigate and that there was also a challenge in reaching and communicating adequately with members of the affected areas to help the lake residents understand what the situation was and how they should be responding.

**How can lake associations help?** A question was raised as to whether there was a role for lake associations in helping to notify residents in areas where a Blue-Green Algal bloom has been identified.

It was decided that Karen should write a letter to the Leeds, Lanark and Grenville Health Unit and MOE Kingston from the Lake Networking Group on behalf of the local lake associations offering that, in situations where there has been an Blue –Green Algal Bloom identified, individual lake associations are available to help the agencies more readily connect with members of the lake communities in the affected area.

Mike indicated that the conservation authorities were also looking at how they can be more effective in getting out information.

## **5. 2014 Municipal Election- Frank Mills (Mississippi Lake)**

**The Municipal Election will take place on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Frank Mills shared draft copies of a list of questions prepared for Beckwith Township candidates by the Mississippi Lake Association. Their questions focus on private roads and the Mississippi Lake Plan. An All Candidates meeting has been organized for Beckwith. Frank stressed that the role of lake associations before Election Day is to share information and encourage citizens to be more aware of issues and help focus the candidates on topics of concern in the community.

Doug Good cautioned meeting participants to be aware of the timing for mail-in ballots when arranging the dates for All Candidates Meetings. Dates and types of voting (telephone, internet, ballot box, mail-in ballot), vary with each municipality.

Terry Kennedy reminded everyone of the message that FOCA has been trying to get out i.e. lake associations need to make sure that everyone (renters and owners) knows that they have the right to vote in the municipality in which their seasonal property is located as well as in the municipality that their permanent home is located.

The Rideau Lakes Lake Networking Group has developed a series of questions for candidates in the Rideau Lakes area (attached). These were circulated at the meeting by Marcia Maxwell (Otter Lake).

Canonto Lake Association also has a list of candidate questions (attached) and has organized an All Candidates Mtg. in North Frontenac

The Kennebec Lake Association has developed questions for candidates in the upcoming municipal election in Central Frontenac.

## **6. New Anti-Spam Legislation and how this may impact on local lake associations – Gordon Hill**

(Please also refer to the **Copy of the CLA Opinion for Lake Networking Group** members which was circulated as an attachment to the Group on Sept. 16, 2014

Gordon noted that legal opinions are, of necessity, fact specific and his comments will reflect that.

Gordon suggested that all lake associations, incorporated or not, will be subject to the anti-spam legislation

Most lake associations communicate with their members through email and that was the focus of the discussion.

The lake association must have the consent of the individual receiving the email.

The email must identify the sender (lake association or person sending the email on behalf of the lake association) as well as the email address. It is good to also include the mailing address .

There must be an unsubscribe mechanism on each email or a note on the email which says to go to the website where there will be directions on how to unsubscribe.

Consent must be on an opt-in basis. The onus on burden of proof for consents will be on lake associations. Keep your records.

An individual could give consent for a limited period of time.

Volunteer organizations have until July 1, 2017 to comply.

Implied consent - emails can be sent to anyone who is or was a member at any time. Emails can also be sent to people who have volunteered to do something on behalf of the lake association.

The email must contain unsubscribe mechanism and you must act on requests to unsubscribe.

After July 1, 2017

You can send emails to anyone who was a volunteer for the previous two years.

Penalties will be designed to promote compliance.

CRTC has the responsibility for overseeing this legislation

CRTC will go after flagrant rule breaking and charges will be complaint driven.

**7. 2014 Lake Links – Sat. October 25, 2014 –Please mark your calendars and register soon!**

**Civitan Centre Perth (Please see the Lake Links promo attached for full information about the program)**

**8. Legacy cottages as part of the 200th Anniversary Perth Military Settlement? – Kay Rogers**

Information on the Legacy Cottage Program has been circulated to local lake associations. Please let Kay Rogers ([cameronrogers@xplornet.ca](mailto:cameronrogers@xplornet.ca)) or Karen Hunt ([mkhunt@ripnet.com](mailto:mkhunt@ripnet.com)) know if your lake association is interested in supporting this program. The Anniversary Committees will make a decision soon about whether the Legacy Cottage Program should be included in 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans depending on whether there is support from lake associations in TVT and D/NE

**9. Lake communities input for OPP** (as agreed at the spring 2014 OPP/lake associations comments on any current issues/concerns will be forwarded to OPP Lanark Detachment in lieu of our usual fall meeting.) The issue raised was OPP pricing and its potential impact on property taxes.

**10. Lake Networking Group organization** –questions from Donna Doelman (Bennett and Fagan Lake) regarding scheduling of meetings (weekdays or Sat. meetings), nametags, distribution of contact list.)

Members present at the meeting decided that they would prefer to continue to meet on weekdays with the hope that all lake associations would be able to find a representative



available in that time frame who could report back to their group. As well, the weekday meetings make it easier to have agency representatives participate in the meetings.

Stick-on nametags will be made available at the meetings.

Distribution of contact list- Lake association representation varies from one Lake Networking Group meeting to another. Karen is willing to provide contact information when requested and will look at making some copies of the sign-in sheets available at the next meeting.

11. **Terry Kennedy (FOCA)**. Terry mentioned that two areas in which FOCA had been particularly focussed on of late on behalf of waterfront property owners has been the OPP policing costs and hydro costs for seasonal residents.

## **Lake Association updates**

### **Big Rideau Lake Association – Doug Good**

Doug mentioned that large numbers of cormorants had been seen on the Big Rideau this past summer and inquired whether there had been similar observations on other local lakes. Numbers of cormorants observed on other lakes seem to be small.

### **Eagle Lake – Irv Dardick**

1. The results of the second round of broad scale monitoring and MNR's visit to assess potential lake trout spawning beds may be a prelude to the resumption of stocking, last done in 1994.
2. Results of the unique continuous water quality experimental studies by the Department of Civil Engineering at Queen's University has resulted in the publication of the first scientific paper specific to Eagle Lake.
3. Action plans to further investigate water quality, particularly poorly functioning septic systems, and control of water levels were developed.

### **Kennebec Lake –Terry Kennedy**

In addition to the 'usual activities', the Kennebec Lake Association has been working recently on the following items:

Developing questions for candidates in the upcoming municipal election

Designing procedures to comply with anti-spam legislation

Working with a Committee of Township Council to develop a Septic System Re-inspection program

## Monitoring activities of a waterfront development

### **Christie Lake Association – Donna Walsh**

It was a busy winter for some at Christie Lake!

In response to a request from Tay Valley Township (TVT) for comments on the mandated Official Plan review, a committee of CLA directors was formed and chaired by Gordon Hill. This committee met four times in January, putting in over 140 person hours that month alone, to arrive at recommendations on over 22 planning topics ranging from granny flats to night skies. Some were deemed not applicable to our lake while others generated very strong positions amongst the group. Gordon then spent the next two weeks formatting the group's opinions for presentation to TVT council. The comments may be found online at <http://christielakeassociation.com/news-and-events/current-notices/>. The committee continued to meet over the winter and spring reviewing TVT's updated drafts.

In June the Christie Lake Association was honoured to have Ed McPherson from the Lanark County Paramedic Service provide an interactive non-certified session on CPR and life saving tips.

June was also the month that the very first Christie Lake Community Yard and Craft sale was held. The successful event was attended by many and will be back next year!

Our Communication Committee continues to update folks via email, hard copy newsletters and web postings on the Christie Lake web site.

As one of our final items, the Association would like to thank Brooke Briggs for all his hard work as Christie Lake Association President. Brooke has stepped down but will continue to be a director on the board.

Our final update is to inform all that Larry Bowens was nominated to replace Brooke as our new president and accepted the challenge! Welcome to the board Larry!

**12. Next Lake Networking Group Meeting ... Friday, April 24th ,2015 at 9:30 a.m. Location TBA**