

Next Lake Networking Group meeting date – Friday, April 17th, 2020 at 9:30 am, Burgess Hall, 4174 Narrows Lock Road

Lake Networking Group Meeting Notes

Friday, October 4th, 2019, 9:30 – 12:30 pm

Burgess Hall, 4174 Narrow's Lock Rd, Tay Valley Township

PARTICIPANTS

Lake Organizations: Claire Martel, Doug Smith & Janet Taylor (White Lake); Larry Arpaia (Greater Bobs & Crow); Terry & Judy Kennedy, Charmain Chartier, Doc & Sheila Maiorino (Kennebec Lake); Barbara Sabourin (Robertson Lake/South Lavant Assoc.); Evonne Potts, Bob Fugler, (Loughborough Lake); Greg Ellis (Silver Lake); Bruce Jackson (Dog Lake); Laura Belton, Eva Leon (Chaffey's Area Lake Associations); John Murphy (Pike Lake); Krista Hearty McLean, Linda Cuthbertson, Murray Hunt (Otty Lake); Grant Leslie, Buzz Boles (Big Rideau Lake Association); Rob & Lynn Bell (Mississippi Lakes Association); Kris McDonald (Farren Lake); Joe Kelly (Lower Beverley Lake Association); Frank Johnson (Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes Association); Allison Smith, John McDowell (Upper Rideau Lake Association); Mary Lynne Holton (Canonto Lake Association); Karen Hunt (Lake Networking Group)

Agencies and Organizations: Sommer Casgrain- Robertson (RVCA, General Manager), Sally McIntyre (MVCA, General Manager), Katrina Furlanetto (CRCA, Manager, Watershed Planning & Engineering), Emma Deyo, Alyson Symon (MVCA); Holly Evans (CRCA), Taro Alps (Friends of the Tay Watershed) Rob Rainer (Councillor, Tay Valley Township), Barrie Crampton (Deputy Reeve, Tay Valley Township)

Regrets: Dave Overholt (White Lake), Reid & Christine Kilburn (Otty Lake), Sue Shaw (Dog Lake), Krystyna Williamson and Donna Walsh (Christie Lake), Naomi Fowlie (Pike Lake), Judy Hall (Dalhousie Lake), Bruce Moore (North Frontenac Lakes Alliance), Elizabeth Holmes (MNRF), Mel Dakers (Watersheds Canada)

1. Welcome/Introductions/Others:

- Karen thanked everyone for coming saying that she was pleased to see old friends as well as new participants. She invited everyone to introduce themselves. We had the pleasure of having, at the meeting, two representatives from Tay Valley Township Council. Karen thanked Tay Valley Township for making the Burgess Hall available for the Lake Networking Group (LNG) meetings for over a decade.
- **Description of LNG Advisory Committee:** The description was emailed with the Agenda. The intent of the Advisory Committee is to provide a small brainstorming sub-group to work with Karen in reviewing, as needed, input received by or material to be sent out from the Lake Networking Group. Meeting participants didn't have any questions, all agreed to adopt the description.
- Members of the Advisory Committee are: Claire Martel (White Lake), Terry Kennedy (Kennebec Lake), Susan Shaw (Dog Lake), Mary Lynn Holton (Canonto Lake), Rob Bell (Mississippi Lakes) and Karen Hunt (Lake Networking Group).

The Lake Networking Group meets twice a year, in the spring and fall and remains connected between meetings through email.

- **Lake Protection Workbook:** The workbook has been completed and is now available. Core funding for the printing was provided by Watersheds Canada through the Daniel and Susan Gotlieb Foundation. The support has been tremendous and great feedback has been received to date. Property owners can order a print copy of the Workbook (\$1.50 each) or download an online version of the Workbook for free by going to <https://watersheds.ca/our-work/resources/publications/> (Paper copies are available at \$1.50 each in Watersheds Canada's office. Phone: 613-264-1244.)

- On **July 7th** the **Lake Networking Group** partnered with **FOCA** to offer in Perth another **Cottage Succession Seminar with lawyer, Peter Lilico.**

A total of 98 people attended the seminar (and the speaker's notes were later made available to members of the Lake Networking Group).

Following the seminar, interested lake associations reps had the opportunity to participate in a **meeting with Terry Rees** (FOCA Executive Director). Terry answered a number of questions and later circulated additional information on some of the topics raised by the lake associations.

- **Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit (LGLDHU) Radon Gas Project:** Last year, following a Radon Gas Information Session offered by the Otty Lake Association the LGLD Health Unit successfully applied for a grant to increase public awareness and to obtain more testing. A Steering Committee is getting organized and will start work this winter. There is an opportunity for a representative from the LNG on the committee. **(Please let Karen know if you are interested).** Community workshops will be offered.

Note from LNG participant- In the past, the Kingston & Frontenac Health Unit was providing test kits at no cost, participant didn't know if kits are still offered today.

Key messages from Dr. Paula Stewart about Radon Gas

- The recent national Health Canada study found that 19.4% of the homes in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark had levels of radon above the recommended amount. Radioactive radon gas exists underground in Leeds Grenville and Lanark, formed from the decay of uranium in the rocks underground. The amount of radon in homes/buildings varies from house to house or building to building in the same community. Radon gas is under pressure underground and so moves into the air above the ground where there is less pressure. It can move into a house/building through cracks in the basement or any other entry point like a sump pump. If the house is well ventilated as in the summer when the windows are open it will dissipate. In the winter months when the house is closed up it can accumulate in concentration.
- Radon in the air is breathed into the lungs. As it decays, it gives off particles that can change the cells in the lungs. Over time these cellular changes can increase the risk of lung cancer. The risk of lung cancer is related to the concentration of radon in the house/building and the duration of this exposure. Cigarette smokers have a higher risk of lung cancer when exposed to radon than non-smokers. Children may be exposed to more radon than adults because their rate of breathing is quicker than adults and they play closer to the floor. Health Canada recommends that radon levels be less than 200 Bq /m³.
- Testing for radon is important because it is odourless and tasteless. Testing is best done between November and March when the house or building is less well ventilated. Go to our website www.healthunit.org for information about testing.

- Remediation for high levels of radon can be done by a trained professional and involves closing off places where the radon can enter the house/ building, and venting the radon gas under the building or house to the outside.
- The LGLDHU will organize community meetings in November to review the risk of radon, testing, and what can be done about high levels, and will be giving out free radon test kits to about 30 people attending each meeting (check the website www.healthunit.org for locations). We will also be meeting with municipalities, Chief Building Officials, real estate agents and contractors to discuss the importance of radon and what each one could do to ensure homes and buildings are safe.

- Karen circulated contact lists for participants to update for the **Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit and Tay Valley Township**.

- **Lake Associations /OPP Annual Meeting, Sept.20, 2019:** Over the past 15 years, the Lanark County OPP has met with local lake associations to share various information. The most recent meeting took place in September in Tay Valley Township Council Chambers (meeting notes will be available in a few days). Greg Ellis is now the Lake Networking Group liaison with the Lanark County OPP Detachment.

2. RVCA, MVCA, CRCA, Joint Presentation: Sommer Casgrain- Robertson (GM,RVCA), Sally McIntyre (GM, MVCA), Katrina Furlanetto (CRCA, Manager,Watershed Planning & Engineering)

Provincial Flood Advisor

In July, Minister Yakabuski appointed Doug McNeil as Ontario's Special Advisor on Flooding. His role is to review Ontario's flood management efforts and point out ways it could improve. The advisor held round table discussions in August / September with key stakeholders including conservation authorities, municipalities, power generators, Ottawa River Regulation Board among others. He also visited communities impacted by flooding and took some field trips to better understand flooding in Ontario and some of the flood control structures that are in place across the province. Round tables were held in Ottawa, Pembroke, North Bay, Toronto, Huntsville, Cambridge and London. We anticipate that the Advisor will submit a report and recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry this fall.

Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation Conservation Authorities were invited to attend the Ottawa roundtable discussion along with two local MPPs and municipalities along the Ottawa River. Comments that were raised at the Ottawa session included:

- An independent review of flooding on the Ottawa River is needed to provide transparency and separate fact from fiction
- Discussed impact of flooding on communities (2017 flood on Ottawa River was 10 days, 2019 flooding was 40 days). This leads to burnout of volunteers, staff and trauma for residents
- Partnerships are critical in the capital region and all players must be at the table (municipalities, conservation authorities, federal and provincial govt, national capital commission). Frustration

was expressed that the federal government had not been invited to the Ottawa roundtable discussion.

- Municipalities want more support from the province before, during and after flooding (stockpile of sandbags, communications support, public education about flood warning levels, funding, clean up)
- Having clear roles/responsibilities and good communication is critical before, during and after flooding
- Floodplain mapping is critical and government investment is needed to make mapping affordable especially in smaller rural municipalities
- MNRF needs to update their provincial tech guidance for floodplain mapping, especially in light of climate change (current guidance is from 2002)
- MNRF needs to revisit the 1:100 year standard that is currently used for floodplain management, especially in light of climate change
- Everyone wants clear provincial policy direction on how to address existing and future development in flood prone areas
- Talked about the unique challenge of development on private roads which are often flood prone
- Important to also discuss low water conditions and droughts and their long-term impacts on communities
- Need to explore additional mechanisms that would notify prospective property purchasers of flood risks (zoning, registering something on title)
- Discussed importance of watershed resilience and how forest and wetland cover mitigate flood conditions by holding back water and releasing it slowly over a longer period of time
- Strong desire from all sectors to see reforms to provincial disaster relief funding (require rebuilt structures to be floodproofed / set back, offer a buyout option)

Provincial Press Release: <https://news.ontario.ca/mnr/en/2019/07/ontario-names-special-advisor-on-flooding.html>

Comments/Questions from Group

1. What is the status of flood plain mapping?

In urban area, more work has been done.

In the rural areas, the CAs are looking at all lakes to prioritize work. There is a list of 10 lakes which, if work is done on these lakes, this would cover 80% of shorelines. There is pressure to get the work completed.

2. A question on micro-hydro electrical power generation being environmentally friendly or not was discussed.

The microFIT program is now over ... under the last provincial government, program participants could get paid for kilowatt per hour. There might however be opportunities worth exploring.... If there are community members who presented applications for that program, there is still funding left. Useful information may be found on the Independent Electricity System Operator website at ieso.ca. (The Ontario microFIT (Feed-in Tariff) program is not currently available at the single family home level, it is at a commercial scale. This may change in the future.)

3. Question on whether or not there is a requirement for home sellers to declare any floods to potential buyers was brought up.

Last year, about 800 inquiries related to real estate transactions were presented to the CA. The CAs are looking at what can be done to ensure flood information is passed on. The fact that roads can be closed for days could also be part of information to disclose possibly via the agreement of purchase and sale. There is a need to educate key players in the real estate sector. Home buyers are expected to do their due diligence.

4. Level of coordination with Parks Canada was discussed.

Until 4-5 years ago, some lake associations noticed that there was no involvement from Parks Canada. Last year was successful for one of the participating lake associations due to good communication. Flood advisory, forecasting, dam and reservoir operation are discussed regularly, the CA has a good relationship with Parks Canada.

5. Flooding has dramatic consequences but we can't forget about the impact of drought. Lack of water is not managed. Drought can last days, weeks, months and even years. Water allocation needs to be looked at as there are competing interests for different watersheds. It is challenging to have both floods and drought in the same year.

6. In protecting shorelines, Parks Canada has a role to play in development. In the past, agreements were in place as to how CA and Parks Canada would work together. The need exists to initiate conversation with Parks Canada, the latter lost staff, their capacity has been lost over the years, review of development is currently a weak area.

From a regulatory point of view, CAs work with Parks Canada and benefit from a strong partnership.

7. Agricultural run offs is a significant problem but no one seems to be managing it. Monitoring programs are also important.

Conservation Authority Legislation and Regulations Update

The Conservation Authorities Act was reviewed earlier this year with amendments regarding five areas for core program delivery listed below. Regulations will be drafted to determine the extent of what each of these program areas will entail. For "other" activities, a service level agreement will need to be drafted with municipalities and partners to ensure support and transparent understanding of the local activity for it to continue in 2021 and beyond.

- (a) Natural hazard management
- (b) Conservation land management
- (c) Drinking water source protection
- (d) Lake Simcoe Protection Act
- (e) Other

In addition, the Province is looking at conservation authorities and their role in reviewing applications for development. This includes ways to improve customer service delivery, reporting on performance metrics, reviewing setback distance allowances to wetlands, and determining which eligible activities will require a permit.

Highlights of ongoing discussions and next steps include the following:

- There were two main communication pieces from MECP this summer speaking to the Conservation Authorities Act and current programs and services
 - o August 16th letter circulated to municipalities and Conservation Ontario from the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks asking CAs to not proceed with any increases to fees or levies and withdraw from any programs outside the “core” list
 - o August 23rd e-mail from the Minister circulated to CAs noting to not proceed with any increases to fees or levies during legislation and regulation updates “unless they are supported by your partner municipalities for 2020 and beyond”
- Further regulations will be drafted pertaining to the five “core” mandated programs noted above. Regulations are anticipated to be drafted and released end of 2019.
- Lake Associations are encouraged to comment on the regulations and write to their respective MPPs and political leaders on the relationship with CAs and the important collaborative work that goes on between the groups
- Over the next month, conservation authorities will be meeting with the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks or representatives to speak about our local watershed challenges, ongoing programs, areas for improvement, and areas where additional support is needed
- Moving into 2020, programs will remain “status quo” until further information is released.
- There will be an 18-24 month transition period for implementing any changes that result from the updated regulations.

Group discussion

Looking ahead there is a 4 to 6 week window to influence legislation. It is felt that representatives of the Ontario government will listen to voters. Karen suggested we need to work with the three CAs. Lake associations were encouraged to write letters to their elected officials and appropriate government ministries. Letters could be at the association and individual level. FOCA and local MPP should be copied on correspondence. Contact links are included below.

(It was recognized that the Province provides only about 4% of the annual funding to CAs (soon to decrease to about 3%), Municipalities provide about 50% (the remainder comes, primarily, from contract revenue and, secondarily, from the federal government). Back note: In the 1990s, all funding was from the province.)

To better understand the changes being made or proposed to Conservation Authorities, you can review the following:

- EBR Notice <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-5018> led to [Bill 108](#). Schedule 2 deals with changes to the CA Act. Regulations under the Act are anticipated by the end of the year.
- EBR Notice <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4992> proposes further changes to the powers of CAs. Regulatory changes are anticipated by the end of the year.

Note: While the comment period under both notices have passed, there remains an opportunity for people to influence the drafting of the regulations. Anyone interested can contact the following Ministers to provide comment:

- [Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)
- [Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry](#)
- [Minister of Environment, Conservation & Parks](#)

3. Program Updates from Conservation Authorities

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA): Holly Evans hevans@crca.ca

- Smaller batches of trees, shrubs and wildflowers available for order / purchase (hard copy order forms available and soon to be posted on our website) – **see attachment**
- Low water conditions – currently Level 1; will determine whether this has changed by mid-next week
- Blue-green algae blooms reported on some lakes this year: Dog, Collins, Inveraray, South and Grippen (Lake Networking Group meeting attendee noted Cranberry Lake too)
- CRCA will loan DO / temperature meter or groundwater model to lake associations; fill in a related waiver
- Continuing to work with people from three lakes in the lower portion of the Cataraqui River (Dog, Cranberry and Colonel By) to partner with Queen’s University to conduct a nutrient budget study – need matching funds.
- Have piloted headwater stream surveys and stream characterization surveys to build a stronger link with and better information for development review consideration
- New CRCA GM at the beginning of next year, Katrina Furlanetto

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA): Emma Deyo edeyo@mvc.on.ca 613-253-0006 x.272

Reports:

- The 2018 Integrated Monitoring Report is now finished and posted on our website.

Lake Monitoring:

- In 2019 our lake monitoring focused on the Clyde River Subwatershed (Palmerston, Canonto, etc), while also visiting four main stem Mississippi River lakes: Mazinaw, Crotch, Dalhousie and Mississippi. Visiting a total of 13 lakes (Sunday, Widow, Clyde, Robertson, Flower Round, Joes, Kerr)
- In 2020 we will focus on 2 subwatersheds High Falls and Buckshot. While also visiting 2 lakes on the main stem of the Mississippi River.
 - o 13 lakes total - Sharbot, Bennet, Silver, Clear, Grindstone, Sand, Blue, Miller, Mississagagon, Shawenogog, Buckshot, Mississippi and Kashwakamak

- The lake temperature monitoring at our pilot sites continues to go well. Our temperature loggers will be retrieved in the coming weeks. We hope to use this data to understand surface water temperatures during possible algae blooms. **Please be sure to report** blooms to the Ministry of the Environment so the type of algae can be properly identified. (Spill Action Hotline 1-800-268-6060).

Stream Monitoring:

- We electrofished 16 sites in 2019, and confirmed cold to cool water species at 5 locations.
- We are beginning collection of benthic macro invertebrates we hope to visit 15 sites. Those samples will be processed over the winter.
- We launched 27 temperature loggers across our system (including the lake sites) in 2019. Once all loggers are collected they will be analyzed to determine their temperate classification.
- In 2020 we will be targeting a similar number of sites for all three monitoring protocols, with a focus on the Buckshot and High Falls subwatersheds as per our 5 year subwatershed monitoring rotation.

Shoreline Stewardship:

We held two very successful Lake Tree Days in early 2019 in partnership with Palmerston and Silver Lakes. We distributed 600 plants throughout the watershed with most going to the Lake Tree Days.

- If you are interested in hosting an event like this on your lake please contact Kelly Stiles.
- There is still some space in our shoreline site consultation program for this year so if you know someone who would like some personalized planting advice please let them know to call Kelly Stiles.
- We also participated in Watersheds Canada's planting of 74 trees along Easton's Creek. This is known cool to cold water system that MVCA monitors regularly. This site was chosen as the banks of this reach were mostly tall grasses and the trees planted will provide more shade for the cold water species that reside in this creek.

Emma Deyo edeyo@mvc.on.ca 613-253-0006 x.272

Kelly Stiles kstiles@mvc.on.ca

Additional note from Alyson Symon asymon@mvc.on.ca

Mississippi Lake Algae Monitoring Pilot Program

Data collected to support MVCA/Queens University Algae Research project on Mississippi Lake

Volunteers monitored 6 sites around the lake once a month (May to Aug), biweekly (Sept to Oct)

Data collected will be used to run the Ecological/Algae model for 2019 conditions (also using 2019 flow, weather and water quality data)

Will provide for assessment of algae responses to a broader range of conditions across more years of data.

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority – Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

A committee established to provide for public consultation in the development of the Mississippi River Watershed Plan

Includes representatives from a broad range of sections (i.e. agriculture, forestry, lake communities, developers, power producers, etc.)

MVCA advertised in August for individuals to apply to the committee.

Selected 12 committee members.

Lake community representatives include:

- Ken Grant (North Frontenac Lake Associations Alliance and former President of FOCA)
- Rob Bell /Alternate Doreen Donald (Mississippi Lakes Association)

First meeting of PAC will be October 24th 2019. There will opportunities for public consultation and input throughout the process.

Anyone who is interested in being on the contact list for the Mississippi River Watershed Plan can contact Alyson Symon, MVCA Watershed Planner at asymon@mvc.on.ca

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Update October 4, 2019

1) Landowner Stewardship & Habitat Enhancements

Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects

- **Wolf Lake Brush Bundles-** Volunteers from the Wolfe Lake Association, the Westport Area Outdoor Association and Camp IAWAH partnered with RVCA to install Christmas Tree/Brush Bundles at six locations on Wolfe Lake.
- **Scanlon Creek-** Wolfe Lake Association and the Westport Area Outdoors Association partnered with RVCA with funding from TDFEF to install a new walleye spawning bed on Scanlon Creek, a tributary of Wolfe Lake.

For more information contact Jennifer Lamoureux at jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca

Tree Planting

- 200,000+ trees were planted on private land in spring 2019 throughout the Rideau and Mississippi Watershed.
- The province's 50 Million Tree Program, the main funding sources for this program was cut earlier this year. The federal government has since stepped in so that private land tree planting can continue over the next four years. Program guidelines are still being finalized, we are hoping to move forward business as usual and already have 250,000 trees planned for spring 2020.

For more information, contact Scott Danford at Scott.Danford@rvca.ca

Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program (Grants)

- Landowner incentive grants are available for a variety of projects including erosion control (includes shoreline), well and septic projects, livestock restriction fencing and alternate water sources, MFTIP and managed wetland plans, educational grants, and various farm BMP grants.
- Last year, more than \$220,460 in grants were distributed throughout the watershed.

For more information, contact Derek Matheson at Derek.matheson@rvca.ca .

Shoreline Naturalization Program

- 66 projects completed in the Rideau watershed 12,000 trees and shrubs planted on along shorelines in Rideau Watershed in spring 2019.
- Program uptake, especially around the lakes has been steadily increasing. Promotion of the program by Lake Associations has been much appreciated.
- Reminder that we provide free site visits and planting plans. Provide plants and can even complete the planting. We cover 75% of the costs with potential of additional top ups where funding allows.

For more information, contact Meaghan McDonald at Meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca .

Septic Reinspection Program

- 450 + septic inspections planned for this year
- New this year: mandatory inspections in Central Frontenac on select lakes.

For more information, contact Eric Kohlsmith at eric.kohlsmith@rvca.ca

Other Lake Partnerships

- URLA plant sale partnership with Shoreline Naturalization Program
- Otty Lake plant sale partnership with Shoreline Naturalization Program
- Farren Lake outreach partnership with Shoreline Naturalization Program promoting establishment of vegetated areas between septic fields and shoreline areas.
- B&CLF project top up partnership to promote BMPS for shoreline properties
- Otter Lake Association partnership for frogbit removal on Otter Lake with Watershed Watch summer students

2) Watershed Science & Monitoring

Watershed Watch Program

- 39 lakes sampled this year for water quality (nutrients, *E.coli*, clarity, dissolved oxygen, etc.)
- Looking for new volunteers as well as a new lake steward for Crosby Lake
- 2019 water quality results will be available in November **upon request**

For more information, contact Sarah MacLeod-Neilson at sarah.macleod-neilson@rvca.ca

Watershed Reporting

- Summaries for the Tay Subwatershed catchment reports will be available online later this year.

- Staff will be reaching out to lake groups in the Tay to work on implementation of recommendations made in the reports.

For more information, contact Martin Czarski at martin.czarski@rvca.ca

3) Planning & Regulations

- **Rideau Lakes Township/ Site Plan Control-** Working closely with the Lake Associations and the township staff to get site plan control, including buffer requirements registered on title.
- Rideau Lakes Township official plan being updated
- Two partner information sessions were held in early 2019 (one in Manotick and one in Perth) aimed at contractors and municipal staff.
- Official complaints/concerns increased in 2019 regarding shoreline development on lake front property

For more information contact Mike Yee at michael.yee@rvca.ca

4) Conservation Lands

- Foley Mountain Conservation Area Management Plan currently being updated.

For more information contact Megan Dunster at megan.dunster@rvca.ca

5) Communications

- Not following us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram? You might be missing out on the RVCA's latest news, photos and blog posts! Connect with us online for regular updates and information about our programs, events, volunteer opportunities and watershed conditions.
- **NEW:** Subscribe to The River Reed blog for stories about our most dedicated staff, volunteers and landowners working hard to keep the watershed clean and healthy!

Facebook: @RideauValleyConservationAuthority

Twitter: @RideauValleyCA

Instagram: @RideauValleyCA

Youtube: @RideauValleyCA

Blog: The River Reed, www.rvca.ca/blog

Question/Comment from meeting participant

A permit is required for development but not for landscaping. Some owners work on landscaping prior to building a house/cottage which can cause problems. Material such as the Lake Protection Workbook would be a good tool to provide to new owners. Lake associations are not given access by their township to MPAC data. Often times wrong doers are not members of the lake association. Access to MPAC data is a problem for CAs as well, the latter asked municipalities to mail information to owners from specific areas.

Wildflowers, which do not block the view are better than grass but trees and shrubs with deep roots are best.

4. Invasive Species Monitoring: – Emma Deyo (MVCA)

- In a usual year the OFAH Hit Squad program would fund about 20 summer students across Ontario to provide education to the public about prevention, identification and reporting of invasive species. Due to funding restrictions OFAH and MNRF did not run their usual Invasive Species Hit Squad Program.
- What do we now?
 - Keep reporting
 - OFAH and MNRF staff are still available to help
 - Sightings are to be made using eddmaps or inaturalist
- MVCA is also still available to help. This year we lent out our zebra mussel testing kit as well as aided some lake stewards in identifying aquatic invasive species.
- We continue to document the invasive species we come across in our lakes and streams.

5. MNRF : Elizabeth Holmes was not available, Karen shared information on her behalf.

Chronic Wasting Disease which affects the central nervous system of species such as deer, moose, elk, and caribou has been found in neighbouring US states and in Quebec but not yet in Ontario. **Please see attachments for more information.**

6. FOCA Update to LNG – Fri. Oct. 4, 2019 – Terry Kennedy

Electricity Pricing

The issue of electricity pricing has been receiving a great deal of attention in the press for some time now and continues to be a 'hot topic' of inquiry from Ontario cottagers to the FOCA office. Certainly the elimination of the seasonal class of Hydro One (H1) customers could have a significant negative impact for many cottagers.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB), in the process of reviewing and approving hydro rates, has directed H1 to eliminate the seasonal ratepayer class and directed that all these customers must be placed in one of the two H1 rural classes based upon density (number of customers per km of line) and that all customers pay the same rate for distribution or delivery of electricity. Consult your electrical bill statement to determine the category in which you are currently placed. Note that Distribution costs are separated and distinct from the consumption or usage of electricity.

It has been the concern of H1 that eliminating the seasonal class would result in a severe financial impact for many of its customers and proposed alternatives that they felt would both allow for consistency in distribution levies and allow for the retention of a seasonal category.

The OEB directed in a procedural order of September 17, 2019 that if H1 still wished to contend the elimination of a seasonal category, that this be regarded as an appeal, with supportive documentation to be submitted by October 1. This has been done.

Lake Partner Program

Operating out of the Dorset Environmental Centre, the Lake Partner Program between FOCA and the provincial MECP has been operating in its current form since 1996 and in various forms for years before

that. One of the earliest forms of 'Citizen Science', by helping to assess water quality and determine trends across the province, the program has proven immensely popular with lake associations, individual cottagers and academics alike.

The concern is that this program is considered vulnerable to elimination from the current government in its quest for cost cutting to programs that don't directly reflect its priorities.

The current contract ends as of next March, 2020 and a campaign needs to be mounted to provide for the continuation of the program through at least the next budget year and beyond.

Toward that end, Emily Shapeira, who has been the main individual working at Dorset, has now been hired to work out of the FOCA office toward the goal of ensuring that the program can be seen to be aligned with the priorities and intentions of the current government, in order that its future might be secured.

Fall Seminar – Saturday November 16, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Boulevard Club, Toronto

The Lake Links workshop in October and the FOCA twice yearly seminars represent excellent opportunities for cottagers make contacts and gain information to bring back to their own association. The main topics that will be covered in this year's program will be Electricity Pricing, Septic Re-Inspection, Lake Partner Program, Short Term Rentals and Rural Road Issues.

Other Current Issues raised at the FOCA Office:

Threats to Role Conservation Authorities

Approaches to Water Management – in face of climate change

Septic Re-Inspection – what's happening across Ontario

Lake Capacity – beyond phosphorous level

Short Term Rentals – renters, wild parties, no commitment to lake well-being

Trailer Parks – what requirements for managing sewage

FOCA Contact Info: Website www.foca.on.ca Office 705 749-3622

7. 18th Annual Lake Links Workshop- October 26th -Perth Civitan Hall: Taro Alps, Lake Links Planning Committee

Workshop starts at 8:30, cost including lunch is \$25. **Registration is required, visit the [website](#) for registration details.**

2019 Theme - Enhancing, Restoring and Exploring – Applications for Citizen Science on Your Lake

Presenters: Kat Kavanagh-Water Rangers

Kathy Jones – Bird Studies Canada

Brooke Schryer- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Invasive Species Monitoring

Emily Shapeiro – Lake Partner Program

FOCA – Terry Rees – Citizen Science Matters

4 local lake associations and their Citizen Science projects

8. Other –

Larry Arpaia (Bobs and Crow Lakes Association) spoke about the need for lake associations to communicate to their municipalities what their priority issues and concerns are so that these can be taken into consideration when Municipalities set their priorities for long term planning.

9. Lake Associations verbal updates –

Notes below are those which have been received electronically from participating lake associations

Farren Lake Review October 4, 2019 – Kris McDonald

An Interim Control Bylaw enacted by Tay Valley Township in 2017 froze new severances and new development on Farren Lake. This was a result of an Interagency Group report which determined that Farren Lake is at capacity for development due to nutrient (phosphorous) loading. The Interim Bylaw expired on Dec 19, 2018.

The 2019 priority focus of the Farren Lake Property Owners Association (FLPOA) was supporting avenues to minimize phosphorous in our lake in the following ways:

1. A survey was generated and emailed to all 125 property owners (not just members) to ask if they agreed or disagreed to the proposals included in a TVT Official Plan Amendment which would limit development on Farren Lake by requiring larger lot sizes (.8 ha) and increased lake frontage (91m) as well as requiring the use of a phosphorous removal add-on to all new septic systems. We received 90 responses of which 83 agreed and 7 disagreed. The survey results were presented at a Public Information Centre and to the TVT Council. TVT Council was impressed with the significant membership response. On June 25/19 the Official Plan Amendment was passed by TVT.

2. FLPOA continued to educate and advise property owners about phosphorous reduction initiatives through emails, FaceBook, AGM speakers, and door-to-door canvassing. Initiatives included septic inspections, zero phosphate soaps, increased use of outhouses, correct grey water management for outdoor showers & vegetative buffers.

3. The Farren Lake website was resurrected with volunteer help. Phosphorous reduction initiatives were emphasized through posted articles. FLPOA is trying to determine how to encourage more members to visit and contribute to the website.

4. Water quality (including phosphorous levels) were monitored through Watershed Watch and the Lake Partner Program.

5. As part of the Tay River Watershed, Farren Lake property owners were eligible in 2019 for a free planting project through the RVCA Shoreline Naturalization Program. FLPOA persistently promoted this excellent offer to all property owners. **FIFTY** cottage owners have signed up for a free on-site consultation, free shrubs and a free custom planting plan. Deep rooted planting between septic beds and the lake was encouraged to reduce phosphorous runoff.

Kennebec Lake Association Update- Doc Maiorino - Chair

(Kennebec Lake is in Central Frontenac)

We had a very good summer on Kennebec lake, after the dismal spring we transitioned into what proved to a great summer for our folks on the lake.

1. We had our 8th annual flotilla celebrating Canada Day and 4th of July. 20plus boats this year and 85 for the BBQ. A great time was had by all
2. We continue to monitor the Septic Re-inspection plan and lobby for more creative ways to speed up septic certifications.
3. We completed our Love your Lake audit and all property owners received their reports this spring. Most of our property owners were pleased with their reports and the recommendations given; the overall report for the lake was favourable.
4. KLA AGM was held on Aug. 10 and again was very well attended! We were fortunate to have representation from the OPP Marine Unit PC Marcie Martin. She gave a great talk on Boating do's and don'ts and we had her highlight speeding and boater responsibilities related to wake and speeds in narrow waters. She also highlighted key boating laws and fines associated with those laws. We also said goodbye to 4 members of our exec including our Chair Kevin and his wife Carrie who are leaving the lake and Peter and Gloria Smiley who have been long standing members and full time residents of Kennebec. We had 4 new residents join the exec and continue to have a 14 member board. Our membership is currently at just over 50% which has been fairly constant over the last several years.
5. The Kennebec wilderness trails had its official opening this summer and is in full operation with 7 km of rugged trails, we are delighted to have these trails as part of the Kennebec experience and invite any hikers here to give it a try.
6. Our lake has seen a significant turnover in property ownership in the last couple of years and we expect that will continue over the next several years. Many of our new cottage owners are first timers, younger, with bigger and more toys and larger and louder parties, this changes the social makeup of a lake and can be disruptive to long standing cottage owners. I share this only as an observation. I'm sure many of you on larger lakes see this all the time but our lake might have had 1-2 properties a year change hands in the past and last year there were 12 not counting Kennebec Shores. On the bright side property values have gone up nicely as well with the demand!

Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes Association – Frank Johnson

Our association has about 80 members.

Our Lakes are zebra mussel free so far.

Our Lake Stewardship Plan was submitted and accepted by the township as part of the Tay Valley Official Plan. This has helped with discussions of planning, as well as resonated with Martin Czarski at the RVCA with whom we shall be following up.

Mandatory septic inspections introduced two years ago by an AGM vote.

After years of effort to maintain the beaver baffler a few residents this year removed a section of the dam and killed the beaver. Water levels by the end of the season were very low and weed and slime growth reported.

An informal survey suggested 25 to 50% of residents had seen an incidence of Lyme Disease in their family or pets.

120 copies of the Lake Protection Workbook were purchased, one for every household and cottage.

Mississippi Lakes Association - Rob Bell, President

1. Everyone should register their loon counts at Bird Studies Canada. **Ours is attached.**
2. J.P. Thonney did a microplastics survey on Mississippi Lake. And we have them. Unfortunately.
3. If you would like to receive our e-newsletter, please see:
<https://mississippilakesassociation.org/index.php/about-us/mla-publications/your-mississippi-minute-e-newsletter>
4. We are in the middle of completing a Eurasian Water Milfoil survey and we have confirmed 4 locations on the lake already. One interesting note is that according to the Wikipedia entry on EWM, the chemistry of this plant inhibits the growth of Blue Green Algae (cyanobacteria). Go figure!
5. Our new Roads committee has recently held a town hall with folks from private roads able to talk about their issues. Also, they've been getting out the word on how to sign up for road grants.
6. We are still conducting an enhanced algae survey (every two weeks at this point) which will help us improve the accuracy of our lake model.
7. Finally we've completed the first year of a water rangers program with the distribution of 10 kits around the lake. The program involved young and old. We are looking forward to even more data about old Miss!!

Rob Bell, President Mississippi Lakes Association

613-257-5292

Sign up for our enewsletter:

<https://mississippilakesassociation.org/index.php/about-us/mla-publications/your-mississippi-minute-e-newsletter>

See us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MississippiLakesAssociation/>

Pike Lake Community Association (PLCA) Report – Naomi Fowlie

Walleye (Pickerel) Fish Enhancement Project. Tracking sheets were distributed early in the season with people starting to return with results. It is hoped that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will view results positively with the intended outcome of having 20,000 fingerlings deposited in the lake.

Buoy program is in its second year with 22 buoy installations.

Pike Lake Community Association Facebook site now online. Attracted over 30 PLCA members within two months. Only PLCA members were invited to participate.

AGM well attended. BBQ followed.

Membership is down from 2018 - reviewing ways to retain members and to attract new membership. A Membership Committee was created to study the situation this fall.

White Lake Property Owners Association (WLPOA) - Claire Martel

A significant rewrite of our Constitution and Bylaws was completed in the spring, the document was approved at our AGM in August. In July, the Board completed a welcome package for newcomers (which includes, among other things, a copy of the Lake Protection Workbook). As per the new Bylaws, a Recruitment Committee, chaired by the VP and including two members from the community, was set up in May. Recruiting is never easy, but we were successful in getting five new Directors to join the Board. We are currently reviewing our priorities. We initiated preliminary discussion with the White Lake Preservation Project on a possible merger recommended by the Environment Subcommittee. One of the first steps is to work together on a few initiatives. Overall both organizations are open to the idea but realize that we need time to make things happen. As per the tradition, Earth Day (road clean up) followed by a BBQ took place in May.

Chaffey's Area Lake Associations – Laura Belton

- Our Meet and Greet speakers were Joshua Kingsley and Trevor Cavanaugh from the OPP Marine Unit and Andrew Castle, the paramedic supervisor out of Brockville. Their respective talks held everyone captive. Lots of Q and A.
- At the AGM, our guest speaker was Terry Rees from FOCA. The Henniger's hosted him overnight. Terry held everyone captive with his vast wealth of information and sense of humour.
- Over July 1st weekend CALA set up a tent at Chaffey's Lock to promote our cause and stir up membership. We also resurrected the duck race and sold dozens of ducks. It turned out to be an exciting event and was a show stopper on July 1.
- We are seeking new memberships in earnest. Our new membership director, Nancy McCormick is doing a stellar job in this area. Lots of new people are showing interest in joining our cause.
- In late August we sponsored a first aid and AED day-long course at the Chaffey's community hall. Jon Alcide of Action First Aid gave the course. He presented the course in a serious but creative way. Three or four individuals purchased AED's so the Chaffey's area has about six devices now. The whole day was over too soon. A great presentation!
- Gay Henniger will have the fall newsletter out in a week or two. You will find many informative articles and learn more about some of our newest members. A first class newsletter!

Otty Lake Association – Krista Hearty McLean

- We changed our policies slightly allowing for a decrease in the minimum number of board members as well as moving to a trial Co-Presidency model in order to share the work load.

- At our AGM and in our newsletter we have been promoting the use of the new “Lake Protection Workbook: A Self-Assessment Tool developed by the Lake Links planning committee and printed with the support of Watersheds Canada – Thank you Holly et All!
- We had 3 surviving Loon chicks from our 5 Loon pairs on Otty Lake this year which was a treat for residents as we have only had 1 chick survive to the juvenile stage in the last two years.
- We continue to have volunteers doing sampling throughout the summer and the Lake Steward report has been submitted with the results for Physical Limnology, Bacterial sampling, Nutrient sampling, as well as unofficial invasive species monitoring
 - Dense growths of Eurasian water milfoil was seen this summer. It appears this was a low year for aquatic green algal blooms.
 - Wetland environments around the lake produced strong growths of purple loosestrife and Phragmites.
 - The forests in the Otty lake watershed showed less infestation of tent caterpillars than during the summer of 2018. However, the appearance of heavy concentrations of gypsy moth caterpillars, adult moths and egg masses suggests that deforestation of hardwood species may be a problem next summer. Information on how to eliminate egg masses was circulated to lake residents.
- There was great Otty Lake community support for our successful 2019 shoreline planting program. Once again it was an excellent partnership with RVCA’s Shoreline Naturalization Program. A total of 265 plants were ordered including wildflowers, shrubs and trees.

Next Lake Networking Group Meeting – Fri Apr 17, 9:30 to 12:30, Burgess Hall (location to be confirmed). We will need volunteers to provide refreshments.