

## Lake Networking Group Spring 2020 Report – April 11, 2020

Greetings all. It's hard to really comprehend how much all our lives have changed in so many ways in a few short weeks. I know that everyone has been working very hard to adapt to this evolving situation. The Lake Networking Group Advisory Committee and I have been carefully considering the support the Lake Networking Group can provide to local lake associations at this time.

We are hoping that even without the opportunity to physically meet as a group, Lake Networking Group participants will continue to be well supported using the email connections that we have established.

The Spring Report will provide an overall update on activities of both the lake associations and our community partners.

As well, on a continuing basis, I will continue to distribute the notices that regularly come from the agencies and lake groups to all on our distribution list to keep everyone informed.

A number of lake associations' representatives within the Group have already established strong connections and will continue to reach out to one another. I will continue to support this as needed.

I know that a number of individual lake associations have begun to utilize Zoom and other social media tools to connect with their board directors, committees and lake communities. Recently Art Dunham (Vital Volunteers and Big Clear Lake Association) approached me to suggest that Zoom Meetings that he is organizing beginning in May be offered as an extension of Lake Networking Group activities. Following consultation with the Advisory Committee, I have indicated to Art that the Lake Networking Group will continue to function as I described in the introduction above and that Art should offer his Zoom Meetings as a separate entity from the Lake Networking Group. Any lake group interested in being involved in Art's Zoom Meetings can reach Art directly at [artdunham@outlook.com](mailto:artdunham@outlook.com) .

While we will all miss being together at our spring meeting, I hope that this Lake Networking Group Spring Report will provide all of you with a good connection with your neighbouring lake associations and community partners. Hopefully by the time for our Fall Lake Networking Group meeting, we will all be able to meet together again at the Burgess Hall.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this Spring 2020 Report. In the Report I included first the updates from the community partners followed by a special report from Penny Nault (Christie Lake Association Inc.) with material that she was going to present at the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the work their group has been doing to document the challenges that many in their area have with cell phone and internet service coverage. Penny's report is followed by the updates that I have received from many lake associations. I have inserted the lake updates alphabetically by the lake associations' names to make them easier to locate.

Stay healthy and stay safe my friends, Karen

## **Rideau Valley Conservation Authority- April 2020 Updates – Meaghan McDonald**

### **General COVID-19 Response**

- All RVCA buildings (office, interpretive centres) remain closed to the public until further notice (most staff are working remotely).
- Trails remain open at conservation areas, but all amenities and facilities are closed (picnic shelters, benches, beaches, lookouts). Any further closures will be announced if needed. Sites are being monitored for social distancing compliance and may be closed in the future if safe use is not being observed.
- Education programs and rentals are cancelled until further notice
- Most other programs are continuing as of now with modified operating procedures (no contact site visits, physical distancing)
- RVCA continues to monitor the situation and will follow all provincial, federal and public health advice.

### **Planning & Regulations**

- All RVCA planning, permits and regulatory services are operating with additional safety measures in place.
- Septic Re-Inspection program will continue as planned.

### **Stewardship Programming**

- Planting programs (Tree Planting and Shoreline Naturalization) are hoping to move forward this spring with additional safety precautions in place.
  - All participants will be contacted in the coming weeks with updates. It is possible that some smaller projects will need to be delayed/postponed.
  - Our nursery suppliers are still operating, so if you are still looking for plants this spring (pick up/drop off only), please contact [meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca](mailto:meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca) or the Ferguson Tree Nursery directly <https://www.fergusontreenursery.ca/>.
  - If all goes to plan this spring, 255,000 trees will be planted, 11,000 shoreline plants, and 2,000 endangered pure butternut seedlings will be distributed through the butternut recovery program. We will also be installing five acres of pollinator habitat in partnership with Hydro Ottawa and Canadian Wildlife Federation.
  - In June we will resume site visits for new projects, as long as it is still appropriate.
- Rural Clean Water Program (grants for farm and rural properties) will continue business as usual although there may be delays grant approvals. Contact: [rcwp@rvca.ca](mailto:rcwp@rvca.ca)

- Phase 2 of the Hutton March wetland creation project in partnership with Ducks Unlimited was completed this winter. For more information, contact [Dan.cooper@rvca.ca](mailto:Dan.cooper@rvca.ca).

### **Flood Forecasting**

- The winter of 2019-20 was warmer than average with near-average snowfall amounts. A large rain event in January across the Rideau Valley Watershed resulted in temporarily elevated water levels and flows in all waterways, and a significant ice layer within the snowpack. In early March, RVCA and Parks Canada snow monitoring confirmed above average water content within the snow-pack. Above average March temperatures (by 2 degrees) and rainfall resulted in a gradual snow melt and slightly elevated water levels and flows across the watershed with limited flooding observed or reported. Water levels and flows across the watershed are currently at or below average for this time of year.
- As of April 3, 2020, RVCA terminated the FLOOD WATCH that was previously in effect and issued a HIGH WATER SAFETY message for all areas. Water levels and flows are still high for most, but not all, of the larger waterbodies in the Rideau Valley Watershed. For most recent updates, check the RVCA website at <https://www.rvca.ca/watershed-conditions> or subscribe to our mailing list for regular emailed updates. Any local flooding issue should be reported to our office.

### **Monitoring**

- All water quality programs are currently on hold including Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network, RVCA baseline (stream monitoring) and Watershed Watch. Staff will continue to work from home and are available to answer questions that any group members may have.
- Post effectiveness monitoring for fish habitat enhancement projects are currently on hold
- In 2019, 185 water quality sampling sites were sampled through lakes in Rideau Valley Watershed. All deep point sites (DP) was sampled 4 times (May-October) and shoreline sites (A, B, C, etc.) were sampled twice between (June-August). For more information, contact: [sarah.macleod-neilson@rvca.ca](mailto:sarah.macleod-neilson@rvca.ca)

**Table 1:  
Total Number of Water Quality Sampling Sites Per Lake in Rideau Valley Watershed**

<b>LAKE</b>	<b># of sampling sites</b>	<b>LAKE</b>	<b># of sampling sites</b>	<b>LAKE</b>	<b># of sampling sites</b>
Adam	4	Crosby	3	Lower Rideau	10
Bass	5	Crow	3	McLaren	1
Big Rideau	9	Davern	4	O'Brien	3
Black	6	Eagle	5	Otter	5
Bobs Buck Bay	2	Elbow	9	Otty	5
Bobs Central Narrows	1	Farren	4	Pike	5
Bobs E. Basin, Long Bay	4	Fermoy	1	Rainbow	2
Bobs Green Bay	4	Green	1	Rock	1
Bobs Mill Bay	2	Hoggs Bay, Big Rideau	4	Round: A B DP	3
Bobs Mud Bay	2	Leggatt	9	Spectacle	1
Bobs Norris Bay	1	Little Crosby	1	Tommy	1
Bobs West Basin	4	Little Silver	5	Upper Rideau	5
Burridge	3	Long (east)	4	Westport Sand	4
Butterill	1	Long (west)	11	Wolfe	13
Carnahan	6	Long Pond	1		
Christie	5	Loon	2		

**Table 2: RVCA Stewardship Program Uptake 2019 and 2020 (Includes Shoreline Naturalization Program and Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program Grant Recipients)**

Lake	2019				2020	
	# of Shoreline Naturalization Projects completed	# of Shoreline Plants (planted or distributed)	# of Rural Clean Water Program Grants	Total value of grants distributed through the Rural Clean Water Program	# of Shoreline Naturalization Projects currently planned	# of Shoreline Plants (planted or distributed) currently planned
Bass Lake	3	70	2	\$546.30	1	20
Big Rideau Lake	1	37	4	\$5,187.15	3	175
Black Lake	2	163			1	80
Bobs Lake	10	889	7	\$3,802.61	11	466
Christie Lake	1	59			5	375
Crosby Lake					1	64
Crow Lake			1	\$700.00	2	262
Eagle Lake	3	20				
Elbow Lake	1	8				
Farren Lake					16	868
Lac Deschênes			1	\$7,500.00	1	77
Little Silver Lake	2	214			1	100
Lower Rideau Lake					2	330
Otter Lake			1	\$375.00		
Otty Lake	7	598	5	\$5,009.48	9	1163
Pike Lake			1	\$300.00	1	18
Round Lake			1	\$3,500.00	1	100
Upper Rideau Lake	2	104	1	\$540.30	5	370
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2162</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>\$27,460.84</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>4468</b>

## Cataraqui Conservation - April 2020 – Holly Evans

During the COVID-19 pandemic Cataraqui Conservation is operating in a new way. All staff are working from home or performing modified site visits. Planning and permitting, flood forecasting & warning, trail maintenance, watershed science, finance, educational program planning, capital project delivery, and forestry (tree planting program), are all ongoing with necessary modifications and accommodations for social distancing and reduced external services. Tree planting efforts will be taking place in the latter part of April moving into May. Most recently, Cataraqui Conservation has closed its conservation areas to the public and boat launches along the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario shoreline until further notice. All inland boat launches remain open currently with enhanced signage for social distancing and responsible usage. For more up to date information, please refer to this webpage: <https://crca.ca/coronavirus/> as information changes frequently to adapt to new developments and governmental directions.

- The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority has a new look and we are now called, 'Cataraqui Conservation' for everyday purposes. Our legal name remains, 'The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority'.

- The Kingston Federation of Naturalists are hosting an algae identification workshop to be scheduled before May 15th. Check their website, <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/>, for updates and contact Shirley French ([shirleyfrenchka@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyfrenchka@gmail.com)), Education Chair, if you are interested to learn more.

- Cataraqui Conservation's Watershed Science Program: Projects that use co-op students / volunteers and our component of the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network have been suspended. Staff are working to deploy logging equipment and implement a modified watershed characterization methodology that requires one person and no in-water work. In addition, work to enhance data storage, management, analysis and reporting continues.

- Cataraqui Conservation's Forestry Program: This spring - 27 new planting sites throughout the watershed for a total of 155,000 trees; four refill planting sites for a total of 20,000 trees; 12 over the counter properties for about 10,000 trees (includes Dog Lake Association); there will be no native tree and plant sales for the time being; for more information about our forestry program, contact Rick Knapton at [rknapton@crca.ca](mailto:rknapton@crca.ca).

- Cataraqui Conservation's Flood Forecasting & Warning Program: Although there have been some significant rain events, the early spring melt this year was slow and steady with no major issues for inland lakes and streams. All Cataraqui Conservation-managed lakes are at typical water levels for this time of the year. Staff are managing water control structures for a forecasted wetter spring and early summer while ensuring enough storage if the predictions do not materialize, and more flow augmentation is needed to support downstream areas. Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River levels are expected to be high again this year. For more information on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, please visit the International Joint

Commission's website: <https://ijc.org/en/loslrb> or their forecast page: <https://ijc.org/en/loslrb/watershed/forecast>

- Cataraqui Conservation is undertaking a five-year review of our Environmental Planning Policies (last updated in 2015). These are Board-approved policies that help guide comments on *Planning Act* applications.

- Both Rideau Lake and South Frontenac Township are updating their Official Plans and Cataraqui Conservation staff are reviewers. If people are interested in Cataraqui Conservation's comments, they can contact Michael Dakin, Resource Planner: [mdakin@crca.ca](mailto:mdakin@crca.ca), to discuss.

- If any lake associations have recommendations for what type of information should be included in Cataraqui Conservation's lake report update, please let me know as planning and data mining are now underway.

- Although the future is uncertain, registrations for Cataraqui Conservation summer camps are now being accepted. More details about our Nature Explorers Summer Camp can be found here: <https://crca.ca/education/summer-camps/>.

- You may be interested to know about the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust and their Thousand Acre Challenge: <https://www.tiwlt.ca/> which includes the entire eastern portion of Cataraqui Conservation's jurisdiction.

Update prepared by Holly Evans, Watershed Planning Coordinator:

Email: [hevans@crca.ca](mailto:hevans@crca.ca)

Phone: 613-546-4228 x233 (messages are received during COVID-19 office closure)

**Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority – Alyson Symon and Kelly Stiles**

**MVCA Monitoring and Stewardship Activities:**

- The 2019 Integrated Monitoring Report will be out this spring. A number of our lakes had high TP values but we feel those are due to sampling errors and not due the actual condition for the lake. This stresses the importance of long term monitoring to rule out outlier results.
- In 2020 we are intending to sample the Buckshot and High Falls subwatersheds. However, due to the Covid-19 safe distancing restrictions we will have to adjust our sampling schedule and priorities. This situation is continually evolving. Staff are currently predominantly working from home and can be reached by email if you have any questions about how we're adapting the program for 2020.
- The Tree Day Program for 2020 has partnered with Mississagagon Lake and Shabomeka Lake and is scheduled to deliver 374 plants to 25 properties. Delivery of plants will be adapted to accommodate concerns for safe distancing.

## Mississippi River Watershed Plan Update

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority is currently developing a Mississippi River Watershed Plan. The goal of the plan is to examine long term stressors affecting the natural resources of the watershed, provide a forum for government and the public to articulate a vision for the desired state of those resources and develop a collaborative action plan to achieve that vision. A Watershed Public Advisory Committee (PAC) was created in the Fall of 2019 to provide a mechanism for the public to contribute to development of a watershed plan, follow the progress of the plan's implementation and be aware of any issues or proposed changes to the plan. The PAC includes representatives from the North Frontenac Lake Associations Alliance and the Mississippi Lakes Association.

Four **Background Reports** have been prepared to support the development of the plan. They examine various characteristics of the Mississippi River Watershed, looking at past and current conditions and, where possible, anticipating future changes on the landscape. They provide the basis for consultation and discussion with key stakeholders, and the broader watershed community, who are all partners in developing the Mississippi River Watershed Plan. Watershed residents are encouraged to look at these reports and provide comments. The reports can be found here: <http://mvc.on.ca/mississippiriverwatershedplan/>

A **Discussion Paper** will be available for public consultation this spring and the plan is expected to be finalized by November. If you have any questions about this project please contact Alyson Symon [asymon@mvc.on.ca](mailto:asymon@mvc.on.ca)

Alyson Symon | Watershed Planner | Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

[www.mvc.on.ca](http://www.mvc.on.ca) | t. 613 253 0006 ext. 227 | f. 613 253 0122 | [asymon@mvc.on.ca](mailto:asymon@mvc.on.ca)

## Watersheds Canada Update – April 2020 – Melissa Dakers, Lake Stewardship Coordinator

In response to COVID-19, Watersheds Canada has temporarily closed its office doors to practise social distancing. All employees are working from home and can be reached via emails.

During this time Watersheds Canada is continuing its communications and has been creating new resources for waterfront property owners including a Climate Change Booklet that focuses on actions property owners can take to manage and adapt their properties to events caused by Climate Change (for example: flood and drought events)

We are working on a **Fish Habitat Toolkit** - that will allow groups to organize fish habitat enhancement projects on their lakes. This resource will be available on our website and will include a getting started guide, written protocols and videos for adding woody debris - brush

bundles, spawning bed enhancements and cold-water creek enhancements. This project is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The **Love Your Lake Program** will be offering a mini grant program for lake associations that have participated in the program and need funding to complete projects on their lake. More details coming soon...

**Natural Edge:** We are continuing our Natural Edge Muskrat and Quinte projects, and offering Natural Edge Starter kits to landowners outside of those two watersheds.

We are looking for farmers in the Quinte and Muskrat watersheds who would like to naturalize shorelines along any tributaries, creeks, rivers, or lakes.

We have completed Phase 2 of our **Natural Edge App** and are now looking for delivery partners across Canada.

#### **Other highlights:**

- Blue Fish Radio Show podcast for Quinte Natural Edge project: <https://www.spreaker.com/user/5725616/e287-the-bay-of-quinte-conservation-and->
- Muskrat NE press release: <https://watersheds.ca/muskrat-media-release/>
- Quinte NE press release: <https://watersheds.ca/quinte-press-release/>
- New WC blog post "Children Out of School? Here are 7 Free Educational Resources to Help You Teach about Nature at Home": <https://watersheds.ca/7-education-resources/>

All programs are continuing as planned in 2020, and are being revised as needed during this time.

Stay safe and healthy

Watersheds Canada Staff

Melissa Dakers, Lake Stewardship Coordinator, Watersheds Canada

115-40 Sunset Blvd, Perth, ON K7H 2Y4 O: 613-264-1244 C: 613-257-9405

[dakers@watersheds.ca](mailto:dakers@watersheds.ca)

#### **Tay Valley Township** - Noelle Reeve, Planner

Noelle reminds associations to encourage members to sign up to their Township email notices (if they have them). To sign up for Tay Valley Township's email notices, Go to the Home Page and click on News and Public Notices and then on the Subscribe box.

Noelle also pointed out is that even though new residential construction is on hold by the province, the Planning, Building, and Septic services are still accepting applications electronically and will review them but not issue permits until the province lifts the essential services order.

### **Lake Links 2020 – October 24<sup>th</sup> , Civitan Hall**

The Lake Links Planning Committee continues to work towards our October 24 workshop day. Our working title for 2020 is “Effective Engagement for Positive Action.” One of several topics that we would like to include is the importance of youth engagement in lake association activities. **Question from the Planning Committee – do any lake associations currently have specific Youth Engagement Committees and, if so, we’d like to learn more about how it works.** Please be in touch if you have information [mkhunt@ripnet.com](mailto:mkhunt@ripnet.com)

### **FOCA Update - Bruce Moore, FOCA Board**

#### **FOCA AGM and Spring Seminar**

Full access to the reports, reference documents and outcomes from the FOCA AGM and and Spring Seminar attended on March 7 by 125 cottage representatives can be found at: <https://foca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Event-Summary-FOCA-AGM-Spring-Seminar-2020.pdf> where links are provided to all presentation and supporting documents.

### **COVID-19**

FOCA has posted information <https://foca.on.ca/covid-19-update-from-foca/> and been cited in the press specifically related to sheltering in place. Public Health authorities have been explicit in their instructions, and FOCA has tried to weigh in just to share their message. FOCA is convening, via ZOOM, a briefing on Tuesday April 14 from 1900-2000h. Register on the FOCA website and / or visit the site thereafter for further information.

### **OEB Rate Review and Seasonal Cass Elimination**

On March 12, the OEB issued a ruling that based on the input from Hydro One and related information from FOCA that the elimination of Seasonal rates needs to be reviewed again, in light of new fixed distribution rates. FOCA will plan to participate in OEB hearings, if they happen. FOCA was in close contact with Hydro One throughout the summer 2019, ensuring our communications are consistent. Hydro One has communicated with every seasonal customer

about this change; FOCA has had a dozen or more media hits on this topic.

### **Conservation Authority Review**

See: <https://foca.on.ca/conservation-authorities-act-under-review/>. FOCA commented on the previous (2015) review, and most recently (February 7 and 14th) participated in a town hall (200, and 400 participants) hosted by the Minister, Jeff Yurek where FOCA presented its many interactions with CA's. Ontario has introduced amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act, insisting that conservation authorities focus and deliver on their core mandate; there is still significant confusion as to what this means, and why the Province feels they can dictate operational decisions funded mostly through municipal levy.

### **Invasive Species Act**

<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1162> FOCA will be submitting comments by April 14 and will utilize the technical input of the Invasive Species Centre, and Ducks Unlimited. Specifically: The movement of watercraft overland to different bodies of water is a known pathway contributing to the spread of aquatic invasive species. To date, Ontario has relied on educational activities to reduce the spread of invasive species through this pathway. However, public reporting and ministry surveys indicate that various invasive species continue to be introduced to new bodies of water in Ontario. Therefore, the ministry is considering if additional measures are appropriate.

Several Canadian and American jurisdictions have established rules that require removing plants and aquatic organisms from trailers and boats and draining water from bilges and live wells to reduce the risk of spreading invasive species.

### **MPAC**

2020 is a reassessment year. FOCA will be providing an "information kit from MPAC to all of its members – a kit they can use to communicate the reassessment process with their members.

### **Succession Seminars**

FOCA is investigating whether it is feasible and worthwhile to offer the summer 2020 Succession Seminars virtually, such as via ZOOM. This discussion will be opened with the intended hosts if it is found to be feasible from an overall organizing perspective when it will depend on whether the host association considers it to be worthwhile.

### **Lake Partner Program**

The five year LPP/FOCA agreement is complete. The next LPP/FOCA agreement is being drafted – FOCA expects to receive an update from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks soon.

### **Asian Carps Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Program**

The 2019 Program has been completed. FOCA recently submitted another fee for service agreement proposal to the DFO to do similar outreach work in 2020. FOCA expects to receive an update from the DFO soon.

### **Invasive Species Management**

FOCA will be partnering with the Invasive Species Centre to deliver invasive species programming to FOCA Member Association in 2020. FOCA will seek participation from Member Associations to run Projects aimed at addressing aquatic invasive species at the local level.

### **COVID 19 – An Operating Challenge for FOCA**

Membership Fees provide the foundation for the services and roles that FOCA provides to its membership. FOCA must therefore ask its members to remain mindful that if COVID 19 continues through most or even all of the summer that member associations of FOCA may not be able to fully renew their memberships through AGMs, encounters on docks, at the marina, etc. Any resulting drops in the membership of local lake or road association could mean lower fees will be passed along to FOCA. Furthermore, special events across the province by members of FOCA or through sponsored events by commercial interests may be cancelled, having further effects on FOCA revenues. It is to be hoped that strong local associations will not be effected in any major way because of its effects on local activities. Bringing this to the attention of FOCA members seems to be the responsible thing to do, such as through this update to the Lake Networking Group.

**Special Report** – Penny Nault from the Christie Lake Association Inc. was set to provide a presentation for our April 17<sup>th</sup> Lake Networking Group Meeting regarding the work their group has been doing to document the challenges that many in their area have with cell phone and internet service coverage. As we will not be meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> Penny has provided the report below.

## RESULTS

### Christie Lake Cellular Phone & Internet Service Coverage Survey



#### Executive Summary

**Survey results indicate the need for action to address the inadequate levels of cellular phone and internet service coverage in and around Christie Lake.** Detailed survey results (survey questions and responses, and mapping depicting levels of CSP/ISP service coverage by property) have been shared with the Lake Networking Group (LNG), Tay Valley Township, Lanark County, MP Scott Reid, MPP Randy Hillier and the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN). Detailed survey results can be viewed and/or downloaded at:

<http://christielakeassociation.com/christie-lake-internet-cellular-phone-service-coverage-survey/>

#### Background

In an effort to identify gaps in cellular phone and internet service coverage in and around Christie Lake, the Christie Lake Association Inc. (CLA) sent an on-line survey (see Questions below) to 304 members of the Christie Lake community who are on the CLA Spotlight email distribution list. Survey participants were asked to answer 10 questions related to the level of cellular phone and internet service coverage at their lake property.

The individuals who were sent the survey represent 188 (72.3%) of 260 properties in and around Christie Lake (excludes Crown land and small islands with unknown ownership status). One hundred and twenty four (124) individuals responded to the survey. These individuals represent 113 unique properties. The survey {property} response rate is 60.1% (113/188).

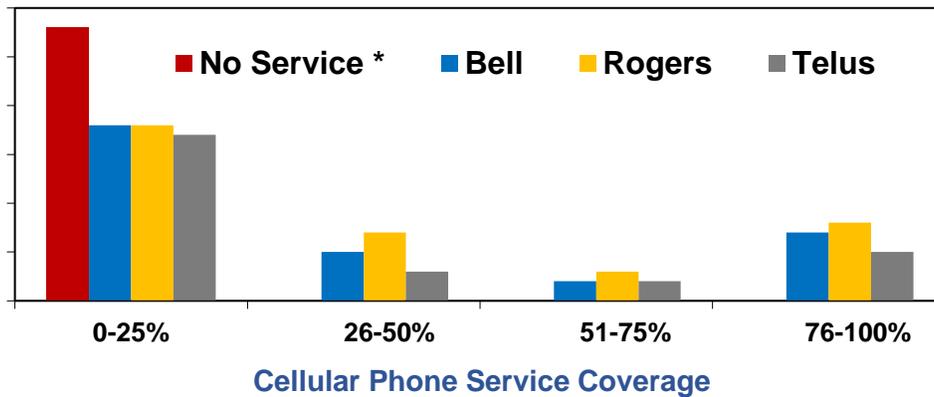
The CLA wishes to thank all 124 individuals for their participation in this important survey.

#### Survey Highlights

More than half of the survey participants (54.0%) reported they do not use a traditional telephone land line (Bell/WTC) at their lake property. A handful of participants (8.0%) reported they utilize an internet-based (VOIP) telephone line. Fifty survey participants (40.3%) stated they telecommute (work from home) from their lake property.

## Cellular Phone Service Coverage

Ninety-three (75.0%) survey participants reported using a cellular phone at their lake property. The top three cellular phone service providers (CSP) reported to be utilized by cellular phone users are Rogers (38.7%), Bell (34.4%) and Telus (29.0%). An additional 28 (22.6%) survey participants reported they do not use a cellular phone because of service coverage limitations. Of the survey participants who do use a cellular phone, 66 (71.0%) reported having adequate cellular phone service no more than 50% of the time. The top three CSPs with reported service coverage less than 50% of the time are Telus (74%), Rogers (69.4%) and Bell (71.9%).



\* do not use because of service coverage limitations.

Almost half (46.2%) of cellular phone users reported they telecommute (work from home) from their lake property. Twenty-five (26.9%) cellular phone users reported using a signal booster to receive or improve their signal but only 4 (16.0%) of these users reported having adequate service more than 50% of the time. Five (5.4%) cellular phone users reported they installed a tower to receive or improve their service, but only 1 (20%) of these users reported having adequate service more than 50% of the time.

Six cellular phone users reported the need to call 911 from their cell phone. One of these users reported they were unsuccessful in reaching 911. The reported CSP was Rogers.

Three cellular phone users reported utilizing a USA-based CSP, one of which reported having a Canadian home address.

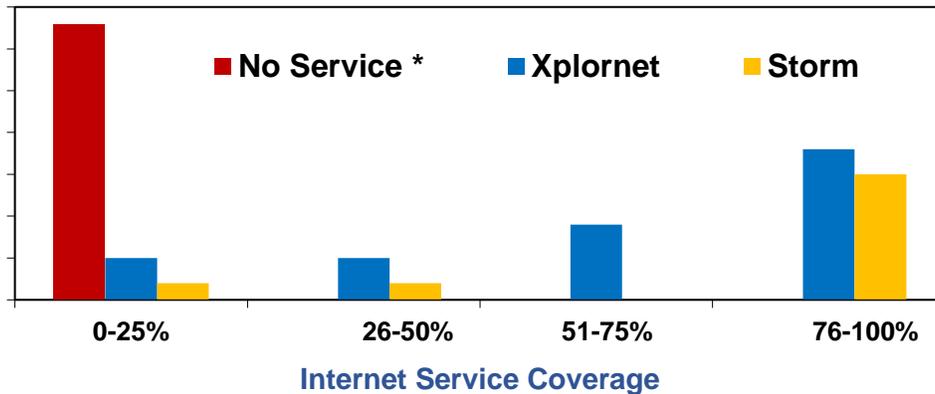
## Internet Service Coverage

Sixty-five (54.17%) survey participants reported having internet service at their lake property. The top two internet service providers (ISP) utilized by internet users are Xplornet (63.1%) and

Storm (29.2%). An additional 34 (28.33%) survey participants reported they do not utilize internet service because of service coverage limitations.

The top two types of internet service utilized by internet users is satellite (64.6%) and fixed wireless (27.7%).

Of the 65 internet users, 27 (41.5%) reported having adequate internet service less than 75% of the time. Over half (52.3%) of internet users reported they telecommute (work from home) from their lake property. Half (50%) of these telecommuters reported having adequate internet service less than 75% of the time.



*\* do not use because of service coverage limitations.*

Nine (13.8%) users reported they installed a tower to receive or improve their internet signal. Five (55.5%) of these users reported adequate internet service at their lake property less than 75% of the time.

More than half (55%) of survey participants reported they would consider saying yes if asked by a CSP or ISP for their permission to allow them to install a tower on their property that would provide cellular and/or internet service to one or more properties around the lake.

Survey questions and corresponding participant response details are provided on the following pages. Also available for viewing and/or downloading are property-specific colour-coded cellular phone and internet service coverage distribution maps for Christie Lake. We have also provided a list containing comments and service coverage issues reported by survey participants (identifying information removed).

## Conclusion

**Clearly, these results indicate the need for action to address the inadequate levels of cellular phone and internet service coverage in and around Christie Lake.**

As mentioned above, detailed survey results (survey responses and questions, and mapping depicting levels of CSP/ISP service coverage by property) have been shared with the Lake Networking Group (LNG), Tay Valley Township, Lanark County, MPP Randy Hillier and the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN). Detailed survey results can be viewed and/or downloaded at: <http://christielakeassociation.com/christie-lake-internet-cellular-phone-service-coverage-survey/>

If your lake association is interested in conducting the same survey, CLA would be pleased to facilitate your on-line survey hosted on our website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [dpnault@xplornet.com](mailto:dpnault@xplornet.com).

Penny Nault, Chair, Communications & Website Committee, Christie Lake Association Inc.

**Bennett and Fagan Lakes Association – Eric Boysen, Lake Steward**

Bennett and Fagan Lakes Association (BFLA) would like to initiate an Angler's Diary for the open water season in 2020. This will be a pretty simple log of fish caught by date, by lake - along with some details on the fish itself.

It is completely voluntary, and will be used to assist the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to compile an up-to-date picture of how our fishery is doing.

**[N.B. PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FOR AN EXAMPLE OF THE DIARY THEY WILL BE USING](#)**

**Big Clear Lake Association – Mitch Laufman, President**

Big Clear Lake Association is starting to ramp up for the summer. COVID 19 is of course a concern and we recently sent an email to our members highlighting the concerns of government about people coming to the cottage, we attached the letter used by Bobs and Crows Lake Association which was very well done. We recently had an executive meeting online using Zoom, it went very well and we certainly recommend this as an alternative to face to face, even after the COVID 19 threat it could be used when it is difficult to get everyone together at the same time due to our busy schedules. We decided to take the Zoom concept to the next level and try it to do a presentation to our members - we had Maya Navrot from Quinte Conservation and Chloe Lajoie from Watersheds Canada present Shore Protection and the Natural Edge program. 21 people attended and the audio and visual were good and the material presented even better - we were able to record it and it is available via this link <https://vimeo.com/403519830>



## [Shoreline Protection & Natural Edge Apr2 2020](#)

On Apr 2 2020 the Big Clear Lake Association invited Quinte Conservation and Watersheds Canada to present to our members on Shoreline Protection and the Natural Edge Program. This was a new initiative for us - using an online video conferencing tool, Zoom, to stay in touch with our members during this time of social distancing and self

...

Central Frontenac enacted a bylaw regarding its septic re-inspection program where the bylaw allows the septic inspector to go on the property if the owner was unable to be contacted. We did a survey with our members who agreed that there were 2 major concerns - first the bylaw does not specify the method of attempted contact or the number of contact attempts - is it mail, registered mail, phone call, email, note on the cottage door (note the lake association might be able to help with sending the owner an email or getting a neighbour to leave a note on their door) and second if the owner is not present then how is the inspector going to know where the septic tank is - digging up the tank lids and inspecting the tank is the critical step in the re-inspection. Our executive will be following up with the township on these concerns. The executive also plans on doing a walleye spawning observation, the ice has just gone out so probably in the next few days.

### **Black Lake Property Owners Association (BLPOA) – Cliff Halliwell, President**

BLPOA had a difficult year in 2019, with personal circumstances and lack of redundancy leaving us unable to send out emails or update our web site. That left us relying exclusively on Facebook for communications, a problem inasmuch as many owners are not on our Facebook group and many who are on Facebook appear to be friends and family rather than owners. (BLPOA long ago took the view that it would not limit communications, whether via Facebook or email to paid members. BLPOA is for all owners.) This resulted in a very low 2019 AGM turnout.

In the late Fall of 2019, a bit of a push on membership kicked our membership up over 60, good by recent standards and enough for revenues to again broadly matches outlays, but still a

minority of the 200+ (we don't really know how many) owners. We also took the fortuitous step of setting up a system for e-payment of membership dues. We also dropped our P.O. Box, as its cost used up far more memberships than it brought in. One board member volunteered a mailing address instead.

During 2019 the President also took on the task of documenting many of the things BLPOA does, whether the annual AGM, maintaining the buoys, the email system, etc. for the same reason pilots have checklists: so we don't forget.

In late Winter we ordered 10 new buoys, as the original 20 had been subject to losses and were inadequate to mark all the important shoals. These shoals were carefully marked by kayak and a GPS.

In early 2020 we got our email system back up and running, with some redundancy. We use MailChimp and have upgraded from a free account restricted to a single user to one that costs us \$10 U.S. a month but allows more people to edit and send emails. We also got some key documents up on the website. MailChimp turns out to be fairly easy to learn, if one keeps email formatting quite simple. Documents, such as PDFs, can be part of an email, via a link to the document on the MailChimp site rather than an attachment. MailChimp also manages permissions for email, as those who subscribe have consented under the Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL). One can also use it, via Survey Monkey, to poll those on the email list.

That, along with Facebook and e-payments for dues has enabled us to have an early push on membership. So, e-payment is worth doing for associations if you have not already.

We also mounted a push to create an owners/members database. Our accounting records have just captured past and recent members, and been far from comprehensive, with little contact information for many. To do that the President, suffering from isolation, decided to learn Microsoft Access and Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) to create an easy-to-use owners/members database and report on status. We have been using email and FB to appeal for contact information for updates. The Access database works well but the data capture has only been moderately successful, as we still have about half of the owners within the records without even a lake address. So, we don't even know if they are still on the lake. We certainly don't know about new owners who may not even know about us. Our intention was to go to the Township office and update our records from the public tax rolls, a laborious process, and then attempt mail contact. That is out of the question at present. We will push again, but not until the end of April as other thoughts are likely top-of-mind for people as of end of March.

We are concerned that 'flattening the curve' on COVID-19 means 'extending the curve', possibly by months and months until 'herd immunity' develops either through exposure or a vaccine (unlikely before 2021). To that end we are pondering having a 'virtual AGM' this year, using email and Facebook and Survey Monkey polls through Mail Chimp to count votes. We don't have any pressing issues to deal with this year. We would like to amend our Constitution,

which has been out-of-date for years, and this could be done via a virtual AGM. One bigger issue we wanted to take on may just have to wait until we can get better representation of owners.

As usual for lake associations, getting volunteers has always been a problem, so there is little redundancy. This will not be much helped by developments this year.

**Chaffey's Lock & Area Lakes Association (CALA)** - CALA team - Heather, Nancy, Laura, Eva & Gay (newsletter designer – Emily Agar)

What's UP with the Chaffey's Lock & Area Lakes Association (CALA)

CALA serves the community surrounding Rideau Lakes and centred in the hamlet of Chaffey's Lock. We currently have members on, or associated with, the following lakes: Indian, Clear, Newboro, Benson, Opinicon and Sand Lakes. We are inclusive and encourage all persons who have an interest in maintaining and improving healthy lakes and shorelines to join as members.

CALA was formed back in the late 1970's as a road association and once that road was handed over to the Twp. back in 1998, the focus for CALA Executive and members changed. CALA is still evolving. Volunteers are key to setting direction and moving CALA forward.

About 5 years ago, membership had dropped to only a handful of people, but a group of concerned residents picked up the torch and are gradually building up interest in the area. The Twp. of Rideau Lakes has also been a key partner in helping all lake associations in this region – to institute a committee of Lake association reps within the Twp. to network with each other, and also by supporting these lake associations financially, with seed money to help pay key bills like FOCA fees and insurance while membership is growing. The current Executive is truly thankful for this aid. Membership this past year was 70 families. Before the current outbreak of COVID 19 and resulting isolation efforts, we had set a goal of 100 member families this year. This may be a challenge.

We publish a Newsletter (usually about 16 pages) that helps us push information down to the membership level. This year we moved to a twice a year format – much easier on our volunteer editor and designer.

Two new volunteers stepped forward to sit on the Executive. Nancy McCormick has been instrumental in leading our Membership drive, setting up a new membership form that also helps us to collect volunteer information and redesigning our intake process for new members. We moved from a cash/cheque for fees to include ETransfer. We are hoping these tools will help us at Renewal time. Nancy is also working at developing a website for CALA. We will gradually be introducing our new branding – REMEMBER CALA – starting with our new email address ([remembercala@gmail.com](mailto:remembercala@gmail.com)) and the mast of our next newsletter.

Eva Leon, retired elementary teacher, has also joined the Executive this year and has become very involved by attending Lake Networking meetings and workshops offered in the area, and she attended the FOCA AGM this year in Toronto. With the introduction of new networking/meeting tools such as Zoom we are predicting more changes in the future.

If our world (local and global) sorts itself out before summer, CALA is co-hosting a “Cottage Succession” Workshop August 15<sup>th</sup> – working with the Buck Lake Association and FOCA. It is being held in the historic Chaffey’s Lock Community Hall, Chaffey’s Lock, ON. [Attaching a poster.](#)

Thank you Karen, for helping us connect, and for supporting us continually with networking even in these difficult times.

Stay Safe!

Heather, Nancy, Laura, Eva & Gay (newsletter designer – Emily Agar)

**Christie Lake Association Inc.** - Krystyna Williamson, President

Greetings to you from the Christie Lake Association Board of Directors. We have been thinking of all our friends, family and neighbours as we deal with the changes we are all living with in our community effort to protect each other from the spread of COVID-19. As elsewhere in the province, all but the essential businesses are closed locally, external line ups for controlled access to grocery stores is the new normal, and greeting neighbours involves standing on opposites sides of the road and shouting hello. The trailer parks and campgrounds are now closed as well. Our association’s communication email “Spotlights” updates have shown, even Perth has been hit with infections.

We know that many of us will not be travelling to our beloved cottages for the present time. For members concerned about having their property checked in their absence, we’ll organize site visits by resident volunteers. For those living at the lake, shopping and waste site errands can be shared with neighbours. We’ve asked to be informed if there are any residents who need a wellness check from neighbours to reassure all that they are ok. We are here to help our community!

Our board has been discussing our summer schedule of activities and how far to go in our planning optimism. Currently we can confirm the following:

Welcome Back Wine and Cheese June 15 - **cancelled**

Community Lending Library - **on hold**

Association Annual General Meeting July 11 - **alternatives under consideration**

Corn Roast Field Day Aug 2 - **tentative planning underway**

End of summer Gathering - **tentative planning underway**

New outhouse facility on Big Island - **underway**  
New Loon Platform placement - **underway**  
Water Level Monitoring Meetings - **underway**

Stay well during these trying times!

#### **Dog Lake Association - Sue Shaw, President**

Back in the fall (it seems like a long time ago now) we sent a message out to our members about appreciating bats and helping them to survive well. We encouraged members to preserve and protect natural nesting places and we also had bat houses for sale (made by one of our very talented members).

In January and February we were busy with a new project funded by the Gottlieb Lake Stewardship Grant Program. We used the funding we received to reach out to all cottagers and homeowners on our lake who were not currently members of our Association. We sent out over 160 packages by mail to non-members. These packages included information about our work and our goals, and encouragement to all to join our association. We did get an increase in memberships, although not as many as we had hoped (approximately 10: and we didn't know if new members responded to our specific message or not). At least all of the lakeside residents and cottage owners do now know who we are.

In March we held our first DLA "Winterfest". It was hosted by one of our members, and participants were invited to drop by for skating on the lake and for various outdoor games. After the games, many of the participants went to a local pub for dinner. I expect we will continue to host this event in future years.

Like everyone else, we are currently struggling with how to continue our lake association work, and how to communicate with our members given the corona virus situation. I think the year round residents are very happy to be here on the lake, rather than in the city!

#### **Eagle Lake – Irv Dardick**

Irv has been working with Martin Czarski, RVCA with regards to the summary reports for the Tay River Subcatchment Reports. Irv sent along this link to a flip-book format for both the summary and full reports suggesting that he felt that the various lake associations in the Tay River Subcatchment might be interested. (<https://watersheds.rvca.ca/subwatersheds/tay-river/catchment-reports-tay-river>)

### **Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association**

Many lake association representatives wrote to say how helpful the GBCLA's COVID -19 Resource Information for Lake Associations was for their group. Thanks GBCLA for sharing. (If anyone missed receiving that report and would like a copy, please let me know and I will re-send it – Karen)

### **Kennebec Lake Association – Doc Maiorino, Chair KLA**

Our Winter like most in our region was milder than normal with less snow certainly compared to previous years and this did lead to less on- lake activity

We did have our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Family Day outing and, with some hard work from several of our members, we were able to get a large rink done, also trails and slides for the kids. We had close to 100 out during the day enjoying the activities, snacks and roasting hot dogs or eating several different chilies by the fire pit! A great day was had by all.

As we look to prepare for our spring and summer activities we all find ourselves focusing on the Pandemic as opposed to the summer of 2020 on our lakes.

We at Kennebec are eager to hear how we as an association can help (within the limited resources that we have) to the well- being of our members.

We will be participating in the FOCA webinar on this subject on the 14<sup>th</sup> which should give us all some guidance on our role during these troubling times-

Cheers, be safe and healthy;

### **Long Lake (Tay Valley Township) – Gayle Singer, President, Long Lake Watershed Property Owners Association**

Following a notable increase in Eurasian Milfoil last summer, our association has become very concerned about its spread in a number of areas of the lake. Since then we have looked into Benthic mats, weevils, rakes, hand pulling etc. to control the spread of the milfoil and have made our members aware that they should not cut the weed. So far hand pulling is what we are going to rely upon for the time being.

Long Lake is a small, shallow lake which is ideal for the spread of the milfoil. It is in the Perth area which is close to Queen's, Carleton and Ottawa universities. **We are currently trying to get the name of a researcher in the area who would be interested in working at our lake. If your association could help us with that, we would be very appreciative.**

We have also been working with Rideau Valley Conservation Association who have agreed to collect data on the extent and spread of the milfoil, improve signage at the boat launch, and to clear the area in front of the boat launch of milfoil.

Thank you for the work you have doing in getting the associations together.

### **Mississippi Lakes Association - Rob Bell, President**

Hi from Mississippi Lake!!

Here's our update... all of the future activity is subject to limitations associated with COVID-19. Let's hope we have a vaccine soon!!

#### **WEBSITE**

We have had a busy winter starting with a project to revamp our website. We switched to Wix technology and there are a variety of benefits: 1. The skill set to add pages required is much less technical 2. The cost is reasonable ~\$200/yr. 3. The feature set available is excellent. Check us out at <https://mlakes.org>

#### **WATERSHED PLAN**

The MVCA has undertaken to draft a new Mississippi River Watershed Plan. Doreen Donald, the MLA VP and Environment Chair and I are sharing a seat on the Public Advisory Committee in this effort. It is planned to be released in 2020. For the EXCELLENT Background Reports see: <http://mvc.on.ca/mississippiriverwatershedplan/>

#### **CAUTIONARY MARKERS**

Deployment of 50+ cautionary markers throughout the lake is delayed right now due to COVID-19. The main boat launch in Carleton Place is closed as of April 8, 2020.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

Projects for 2020/21: (all are subject to timing with respect to COVID-19)

Loon Survey: Underway, no issues/concerns at this point

Water Rangers: 5 additional kits have been purchased and received (up to 15)

Replacement consumables have been purchased and received

Invasive Species: Annual survey will happen over a 2-week period in July.

Education and Public Awareness: We have agreement from Carleton Place to proceed with a new sign with a significant Invasive Species focus.

Frogbit Pull: New location TBD which would be cordoned off and monitored.

Eurasian Water Milfoil Weed Mats: Mats to be installed after July 15 as permitted by MNR. We hope to monitor growth with our drone and produce a report at the end of the year.

Drone Projects: Our Standard Operating Procedures are complete. We're ready to fly!

## PRIVATE ROADS

If you live on a private road, you know that there can be a variety of challenging issues. Topics that the MLA has researched and are now available on our website include: establishing a Road Committee, liability issues, road dues collection, incorporation, and municipal grants. In 2020 we will be re-invigorating our efforts to help the Road Committees around our lake to tackle their issues. You can reach the Roads committee [roads@mlakes.org](mailto:roads@mlakes.org)

COMMUNICATIONS Sign up for our e-newsletter at: <http://eepurl.com/cqz1UL>  
Hope to see everyone soon!

## **Otty Lake Association** - Reid Kilburn, Co-President

We hope that this report finds all of our friends in the Lake Networking Group both safe and healthy. These are challenging times and the Otty Lake Association continues to seek creative ways of managing through the closures and guidelines to be in the best possible position to welcome our seasonal community back to the lake and our residents out of isolation.

At this time of year we usually look forward to meeting with our Area Counsellors who represent the OLA by visiting every home and cottage around the lake. On behalf of the OLA they reach out, welcome, share and inform and hopefully collect some memberships 😊 We also look forward to assembling our spring information package containing the latest information and seasonal plans. These packages are dropped off by our counsellors during their rounds. This tradition of connecting with everyone has been a mainstay of our communication plan for years. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel this activity for 2020.

We have been managing the affairs of the Association via email and we have decided to replace our Spring Board meeting with a zoom conference call.

Some other annual activities that are still being addressed include:

- Our annual shoreline planting project where we encourage residents and cottagers to order trees and shrubs to help naturalize their property. This project has been on-going for many years and to-date nearly 2000 shrubs and trees have been planted around Otty. *Pause for a promotional announcement* – thanks to RVCA for partnering with us and supplying the trees and shrubs over these many years. Can we continue with this project? Will the supply of trees and shrubs still be available? How do we modify the supply chain to respect physical distancing?
- Our spring “pitch-in” project where volunteers from around the lake pitch-in and pick up garbage from surrounding roads will need to be addressed differently this year. We have two primary organizers who do an amazing job. We need to understand how best to support that project while respecting physical distancing.

- Our annual Paddle Power event which attracts paddlers from all around the lake. The group photo, gunwale to gunwale certainly doesn't respect physical distancing but they are great photos of a community coming together. 😊
- Our Annual Picnic.
- Our annual AGM scheduled for the second Sunday in July which usually attracts around 120 members. To zoom or not to zoom is just one question.

Another concern is our Lake Steward program. For over 40 years physical and chemical limnology measurements have taken place and we have accumulated an extensive database of information regarding our lake's health and trends. From a science, tradition and continuity perspective we would love to continue this practice in its entirety this year but we are concerned about the safety of our Lake Steward and our volunteers who provide boats and time. We will be working with our partners and monitoring the latest COVID-19 legislation to determine if we can salvage any part of this program before season ends.

We are all in this together and the need for communication amongst our members is, in my opinion, even greater. To the extent possible, I would encourage us to consider some form of interim communication process during these difficult times. Perhaps once we have shared these notes it will become more clear as to what common challenges we face and how our collective needs could be better addressed. We will get through this.

A big thanks from the OLA to Karen and the Lake Networking Group for their continuing efforts to keep us connected and current.

Last, the only public boat launch on Otty has been closed. It is owned by Tay Valley Township and the boat launch is included in the list of public land closures issued by the Ontario Government. It may be unusually quiet on our lake for a while.

Ice is out so I am looking forward to my first paddle and I want to assure you that I will respect the adapted physical distancing guideline of two paddle lengths.

Hope to see everyone soon.

**Pike Lake Community Association** – Naomi Fowlie, President

The COVID-19 has created challenges. However, the Pike Lake Community Association (PLCA) has/in the process of completing several major projects.

The PLCA has a new website. It boasts several key features: easy to navigate, straightforward to manage, & attractive in design. There is now a member only section – a key difference from previous association websites. This area holds documents of interest to members only and which pertain to the running of the PLCA. [www.pikelake.ca](http://www.pikelake.ca)

At the 2019 AGM, members asked about obtaining improved cell & internet service. Thanks to Penny Nault, Christie Lake, for all her help in setting up the survey for our association and taking us through the process. Information provided in the survey is now being collated. Proof of interest in improving service was found in an approximate 65% plus rate of return of surveys.

The PLCA continues to work with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNR&F) to stock Pike Lake with walleye fingerlings. Surveys provided by those who fish on the lake were provided to the MNR&F last fall as part of the final stage. Results have been assessed by the MNR&F. Meeting to learn the results has been delayed.

A focus of the Board was to increase membership to encourage community involvement with the work of the organization. As a critical first step, the Board asked members to complete a survey to determine if the PLCA is meeting the expectations of its membership. The results are very positive. We plan to continue with our program to as we work through the challenges presented by COVID-19.

To increase and facilitate communication among members year-round, the Board established a Facebook Page, which is proving popular. It is limited to PLCA members or an assigned individual. This was done to ensure the quality of dialogue and respect for participants on the site.

For the first time, local businesses were invited to advertise in the *Pike Lake Post*. The spaces sold out in 48 hours.

Another revenue generator is increasing opportunities to make donations to the PLCA. Each year we receive one or two with the submission of memberships. This year, several people came forward to donate monies to enhance specific existing projects.

Our greatest challenge for 2020 is how to deliver the Annual General Meeting as this is an election year. The constitution is very specific in the process and when written never envisioned the effects of an event such as COVID-19. Options are being reviewed.

### **Sharbot Lake Property Owners' Association – Ken Waller, President**

The July 2019 annual general meeting was well attended. There was an excellent presentation from Central Frontenac Fire and Rescue. It was an election year and the executive had only one change: Mike Jarvis is the new vice-president replacing Guy MacLeod (although SLPOA has no intention in letting Guy become inactive). Sadly, attendance at the evening dinner event was, again, less than we had hoped.

We had a hard look and what would bring in more people or at least curb the string of money-losing events. We created an on-line survey and, thanks to all who participated, a clearer idea

of what is wanted was realized. In 2020 SLPOA plans to combine the AGM and a BBQ. Of course COVID-19 will probably have a major impact on what is finally arranged.

Of major importance to Sharbot Lake and all lakes in Central Frontenac, is the recently-released report on the first year of mandatory septic re-inspection. The results were a bit shocking with almost 10% of the systems inspected requiring replacement. This report validates all the time and effort expended by so many lake and property associations and individuals to get this program implemented and the need to ensure all septic systems within Central Frontenac are inspected. Regrettably (but understandably) Central Frontenac has postponed septic re-inspection for this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SLPOA will be doubling its water-testing efforts in 2020. They have acquired a complete second set of testing equipment which will allow two teams to carry out testing, permitting for the testing at more locations. The data obtained is passed to water Rangers and shared with MVCA

With the ice just going out this week, it was surprising to see loons already on the lake. Last year, SLPOA built and installed 4 loon platforms. Not unexpectedly, the loons did not nest on any but hopes are high that the accommodations will meet loon standards this year.

2020 will be a very challenging year for SLPOA and all lake/property associations as they try to balance meeting the needs of members without putting folks at risk. A steep learning curve awaits.

Stay healthy everyone.

**Silver Lake and Area Environmental Protection Association** - Greg Ellis, Chair and Diane Gear, Treasurer

It was a very quiet winter on Silver Lake!

Our plans for spring, summer and fall are very dependent on how long it takes to get back to "normal" and returning to cottages will be an accepted activity!

Our plans to increase membership with deliveries of information letters and copies of The Lake Protection Workbook to everyone on the lake may have to wait until our social isolation regime is more relaxed.

We should be able to return to a more stringent water sampling program, as last year's program was limited due to time constraints and equipment failures of the sampler.

We will continue to interact with Silver Lake Provincial Park, Ministry of Transportation, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority and Silver Lake Wesleyan Camp on items of mutual interest. As well as owning most of the water frontage on the south shore of the lake, The

Ministry of Transportation operates the small parkette on Highway 7 that has the only free public boat launch on the lake and we are trying to get them to allow access before May 15 and after October 15 when the parkette is closed with no access.

We are also looking at having a shoreline cleanup day to remove debris from the south shoreline and outlet of the lake, which are on property owned by the Province of Ontario. This may have to be done by the people living on the lake.

We have decided to postpone our AGM until later in the summer, in the past it has been held in mid- June. We are looking at a date in August, but this will depend on how things are going.

Hopefully, the return to "normal" will be sooner rather than later!

### **South Lavant Association (Robertson Lake) in Lanark Highlands:** Barb Sabourin

Like everyone else, we are finding the current situation with Covid 19 a challenge. In our small community, we have several families who have returned from winter travels and are now finishing their self-isolation. Neighbours and family members have stepped up to help with groceries and other errands. Two people in particular have helped by sharing information and news on our group Facebook page. As time goes by, we will continue trying to inform residents and cottagers of public health advice, and hopefully stop the spread of this disease. Our AGM is usually in June, but with the current state of emergency, I'm not sure when it will be held.

Last year, our lake was one of those monitored by MVCA, and we are looking forward to finding the results of that routine testing, although we do not expect to see much change. Members and non-members alike continue to be concerned about the weed growth which is predominately the invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil. Members are also concerned about shoreline erosion, especially if there is an increase in motorboat traffic on this small lake. The water levels last year were fairly consistent and were controlled in part by installing beaver baffles at the beaver dam on the only outlet. This allowed us to maintain the water level at the desired level which was determined by a survey a few years ago.

### **White Lake Property Owners Association – Claire Martel, President**

Members were happy to meet last November for our traditional merry mingle held at the community centre. Directors have been busy since the fall with monthly meetings skipping only the month of January and February. Our April meeting was our first virtual experience and more than likely not the last. In March, WLPP and WLPOA jointly distributed four reports to members: a loon report; a cormorant report; two 2019 water quality monitoring reports (a summary and a detailed report). The Board of Directors is currently working on adding a clause to our Bylaws to allow proxies and is considering changes to membership eligibility. Due to

Covid-19, Earth Day (road clean up) followed by a BBQ will be cancelled. The AGM is scheduled for Aug 22nd, it is hoped that social distancing will be over by then, if not, we will postpone the event.

**White Lake Preservation Project/White Lake Property Owners' Association - Water Quality Monitoring Reports – Doug Smith**

Please find in the attachments to the Spring Report, the joint reports, published under the banners of the White Lake Preservation Project and the White Lake Property Owners Association (referenced in Claire's update above) – Doug Smith suggested that these reports may be helpful for lakes that want/can undertake a citizen science approach to evaluating the water quality parameters that often indicate how lakes are adapting to climate change and the effects of human activity.

[Attachment 1: Table of Contents](#)

[Attachment 2: Summary Report](#)