



Lake Networking Group (LNG)

Spring 2022 Report

With the Lake Networking Group Meeting Notes from May 5, 2022 Zoom meeting and the lake associations' updates

- **Attendance:** *Otty Lake Association (OLA)* – Kirsten Brouse, Reid & Christine Kilburn, *Mississippi Lakes Association* – Rob Bell, Anne Gourley-Langlois; *Kennebec Lake* – Terry Kennedy; *Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association* – Larry Arpaia,; *Sharbot Lake Property Owners' Association (SLPOA)* – Ken Waller; *Long Lake Watershed Property Owners' Association (Tay Valley)* – David Sward; *White Lake Property Owners' Association* – Dave Overholt, Conrad Gregoire; *Canonto Lake Association*– Mary Lynne Holton; *Silver Lake & Area Environmental Association* – Greg Ellis; *Chaffey's & Area Lake Association (CALA)* – Laura Belton, Mark Bacon; *Black Lake Property Owners' Association (BLPOA)* – Jennifer Brooks; *Lower Beverley Lake Association (LBLA)* – Tom Heinze; *Dog & Cranberry Lakes* – Daryl Neve, Bruce Jackson; *Otter Lake Property Owners' Association* – Jeff Neal; *Pike Lake Association* – Jim Tasker; *Farren Lake* – Kris McDonald; *Friends of the Tay Watershed* – Taro Alps; *Kashwakamak Lake Association* – Martin Reid; *Dalhousie Lake Association* – Judy Hall; *White Lake Environmental Association* – Doug Smith; *Lake Networking Group* - Karen & Murray Hunt; *Cataraqui Conservation* - Holly Evans; *Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA)* - Meaghan McDonald; *Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)* - Kelly Stiles; *Watersheds Canada* - Melissa Dakers; *Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources & Forestry (NDMNR)* - Elizabeth Holmes, Joff Côté; *Water Rangers* - Kat Kavanagh, Laura Gilbert

- **Regrets:** Sydenham Lake Association, Larry Graham; Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes, Frank Johnson; Mississippi Lakes Association - Doreen Donald.

- 1. **Welcome** – Terry Kennedy welcomed everyone, and thanked Rob and Christine for their contributions to today's meeting. It takes 3 people to do the work previously done by Karen. He went through the process for the meeting. There is one addition to the agenda, namely to hear from Elizabeth Holmes (*NDMNR*).

- 2. **Conservation Authorities (CA) Updates**
 - **Cataraqui Conservation** – Holly Evans, Cataraqui Conservation Watershed Planning Coordinator

- Lake Reporting Dashboard public launch next week. Use this link for a sneak peak:
<https://crca.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=73adc8a7a1bd45dab3be82f934c20efb>

- Very snowy winter and nice slow melt for the spring

- Special spring groundwater monitoring well sampling for select wells to learn more about fractured bedrock systems with thin soils

- Working to prepare for municipal service agreements to support non-mandatory aspects of the program

- Headwater stream mapping (identify many that are not currently captured) – aim to protect headwaters features

- Source Protection Plan update (fall consultation)

- Updated imagery (LiDAR) for detailed desktop analysis Development Review:
- Shoreline Management Plan with Quinte Conservation to assist with development review along the Lake Ontario shoreline protect life and property from flood risk (100-year flood elevation, including storm surge, modelling wave uprush limits, and applying a factor for climate change)

- Five-year Guideline Update for Ontario Regulation 148/06: Development Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses, pursuant to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act (summer consultation)

- Education:

- Nature Explorers Camp is back and sold out:

<https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/summer-camp>

- Different format for Cat Tales, if there are topics of interest for stories by lake associations, please let us know (we can also reshare easily and vice versa)

Conservation Lands: - Preparing a lands inventory / strategy (winter consultation)

- Hazard tree removal is going to be a big job this year due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Developing a process and will be spot checking properties as well as the Cat Trail to prioritize efforts.

Forestry: - The Friends of Mac Johnson and Friends of Lemoine are having their spring tree sales in May. - Mac Johnson: - Sales start Sat May 7 (Mother's Day tree sale, crafts for kids), other sale days are Saturdays and Wednesdays in May from 9 to noon - Details here <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/blogs/events> (events tab on our website) - Lemoine Point - Multiple dates – May 11, 18, 21 and 25 9 to noon - Details will be added shortly to the same link as above. - If interested in afforestation activities through us would, please contact Rick Knapton directly (rknapton@crca.ca). There are currently a few opportunities.

Phase 2 Regulations for the Conservation Authorities Act (released on April 22): - Includes requirements for CAs and municipalities to support programs – no major change to current practices - Cataraqui Conservation hosted a Municipal Workshop on our inventory (May 4) to initiate discussions and discuss process – we are also drafting MOU templates for consideration by municipal staff.

Holly Evans, Watershed Planning Coordinator: Email: hevans@crca.ca or Phone: 613-546-4228 x233

- Question from meeting participant – There was no mention of Spangly Moth or Eurasian milfoil. Are we to assume they are not an issue?
- Holly - Yes, they are an issue. Due to cold weather, we may be in a better position regarding moths this year. There is lots of milfoil and other invasive species. CA does not have active plan to work with invasive species. It is the responsibility of other groups.

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) – Meaghan McDonald – Lake Planning/Shoreline Stewardship Coordinator

Corporate, Planning & Regulations

- New planning policy document is in the works. There will a draft document available for public consultation and virtual/in-person open house spring/summer 2022. Contact: Phil.Mosher@rvca.ca

Education Programs

- All Foley Mountain & Baxter educational programs including school groups, forest school, and day camps are back up and running.

Stewardship

- 250,000 trees currently being planted throughout the Rideau and Mississippi watersheds through our largescale Tree Planting Programs. Contact: Ian.Cochrane@rvca.ca
- 7000 trees and shrubs currently being planted through the Shoreline Naturalization Program. Scheduling for site visits for new projects to be planted in 2023 will begin again in June. Contact: Meaghan.McDonald@rvca.ca
- Butternut tree seedlings are currently being distributed through the butternut recovery program
- **ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) programming coming to Lanark County.** A farmer-delivered program that produces, enhances and maintains [ecosystem services](#) on agricultural lands. Projects such as wetland restoration and enhancement, riparian buffers, shelterbelts, afforestation and native prairie grass restoration provide cleaner water and air, habitat, carbon sequestration and climate resiliency. Delivered through the RVCA and MVC Rural Clean Water Programs. Contact: Derek.Matheson@rvca.ca or mokum@mvc.on.ca
- **Septic Re-inspections**
 - Rideau Lakes – Mandatory
 - Delta, Lower Beverly, and Troy Lake
 - Tay Valley - Mandatory and Voluntary
 - Mandatory - Adam, Otty, Long, Pike, Farren, Bob's, Little Silver, Rainbow, Bennett
 - Voluntary – rest of township
 - Central Frontenac – Mandatory
 - Eagle, Crow, Sharbot (west basin)
 - North Frontenac – Voluntary
 - Locations to be TBD (generally any waterfront properties can participate)
 - Contact is Eric.Kohlsmith@rvca.ca
- **New Septic Smart document** coming this summer (merges Septic smart 1 & 2 with 2022 content).

Monitoring and Reporting

Stream Sampling:

- Programs began for 2022 in April and will continue through November/December. No current changes or special updates regarding programming.

Lake Sampling:

- Watershed Watch will begin in May and will be returning to the old format where we will be able to work and sample alongside our volunteers. We will also be offering a hybrid version for volunteers that preferred last year's format of independent sampling through gear drop off and pick ups. Student Staff levels for the program are also back to near "normal" levels so we are expecting to be able to complete another full sampling season.

Other Programs:

- Thanks to an initiative set forward by members of Lake Associations within Rideau Lakes Township, the township has approved funds for a new sustainable drainage project. The end goal of the project will be to monitor two drainage systems in the region (focus will be on drains draining towards Big Rideau Lake), prepare a thorough review of literature and research available on drainage/stormwater management and mitigation, and hopefully install some mitigation efforts on the studied drains this fall. RVCA is working with a working group on the project that includes members of neighboring Cataraqui CA, staff at Rideau Lakes Township, and members of Lake Associations. This project is in the very early stages but will be up and running this year.

Reporting:

- Staff are still working to finalize and prepare an updated Watershed Wide Report to be published in 2022. The report will include an update to Water Quality Scores for all sampled lakes in the region, along with a discussion of trends being observed across the watershed.

Research:

RVCA will be partnering with academia on an NSERC grant that will be looking at the science behind lake health issues like aquatic plant harvesting, shoreline erosion control, invasive species management. Formal announcement coming soon. Carleton University is the lead with RVCA contacts:

jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca and sarah.macleod-neilson@rvca.ca

Monitoring:

Due to the provincial directive to separate our programs into three categories (1 Provincial agreements, 2 Municipal agreements, and 3 Other) MVCA is evaluating all the programs we offer include those within the monitoring department. Our lake and stream monitoring programs currently fall within the Other category and will need municipal support to continue. If these programs are important to you please let your municipal representatives know this is how you'd like your tax dollars spent.

In the meantime, the monitoring program is moving forward as per usual but with some continued reduction in the number of sampling sites due to covid pressures on work schedules. This year we are focusing our sampling effort on the Fall River sub-watershed; White Lake, Black Lake, Sharbot Lake, Silver Lake and Bennett Lake. We will also be sampling Dalhousie Lake, Mississippi Lake and Constance Lake to round out the season.

The 2021 Integrated Monitoring Report is delayed due to the high work loads at our office. When it is launched online I will be sure to notify my list of lake association representatives. Please let me know if there have been any changes in your Lake Association's contact list that I should be aware of so I can keep you up to date. To read past reports please scroll to the bottom of our Reports page: <https://mvc.on.ca/reports/>

Stewardship:

The Stewardship Program has a number of tasks underway in 2022. At the end of May and start of June we will be offering Tree Day give aways in partnership with Silver Lake, Bennett Lake and Mazinaw Lake.

The stewardship program also offers personal shoreline planting advice so if you have questions about your shoreline or selecting appropriate native species to help enhance habitat and reduce run off please contact our office.

RVCA and MVCA are working together to bring the ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) program to Lanark County. To learn more about what this means for our area please read this press release: https://alus.ca/alus_news_and_events/alus-announces-a-new-community-in-ontario/

The Stewardship program has also received a grant from the Canadian Wildlife Federation to create pollinator friendly flower beds at two of our sites (The Mill of Kintail and the main office). Please stay tuned as we get these projects growing.

CWF has been partnering with Lanark County for a few years on roadside pollinator habitat and the MVCA flower beds will contribute to that.

<https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/environmental-initiatives/pollinators.aspx>

Invasive Species:

MVCA's Monitoring and Stewardship Programs have partnered with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) Invading Species Hit Squad Program again this year. (<http://www.invadingspecies.com/>) While invasive species management is not part of our core programs, this partnership helps us offer invasive species education and resources to the public and trains our staff to keep an eye out for invaders and report them to tracking systems such as <https://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/> .

Planning and Regulations:

The Planning and Regulations department continues to be very busy this year. If you have any inquiries or concerns about work near shorelines, floodplains or wetlands please contact us but understand staff may not be able to respond right away.

We also have 2 interactive maps available on our website that may be of interest to you. The first posts updates on the water levels throughout our watershed and shows the current level in context of past readings. The second map shows the locations of our regulatory boundaries.

MVCA response to question re Eurasian Water Milfoil

- CAs don't have capacity to monitor or combat it. They rely on other organizations. Suggest Lake Associations report, monitor, talk to Councillors.
- CAs are conduit for information, not action

3. Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources & Forestry (NDMNR)

- Elizabeth Holmes, Joff Côté

Joff shared with those present that Bait Management Zones with regulations regarding harvesting, transporting and disposing of live bait have been developed.

New Baitfish Regulations (Joff Côté, Management Biologist, Kemptville District)

- Ontario is now divided into four Bait Management Zones (BMZ) that affect the movement, possession and use of baitfish and leeches.
- Baitfish and leeches, whether live or dead, may not be transported into or out of a BMZ (with some limited exceptions).

- Anglers are only permitted to personally harvest baitfish and leeches in the BMZ where their primary residence is located.
- Anglers using or possessing baitfish or leeches for fishing in a BMZ where their primary residence is not located, must obtain them from the holder of a commercial licence and be able to immediately produce a legible (and detailed) receipt upon request by a conservation officer. Baitfish or leeches can only be possessed or used within two weeks following the date on which they were obtained.
- Please refer to pages 18 to 21 of the 2022 Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary for a map of the BMZs and for more information: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary>.

Questions from meeting participant–

1. Are there penalties for not following regulations?

Joff: There are penalties if rules are broken – none in regulations at the moment. Other bait regulations exist – e.g. how to dispose of live bait.

2. Regarding invasive species, municipalities are deferring to CAs, CAs are deferring to province. Can NDMNRF help?

Joff: NDMNRF is not involved in invasive species management. There will be support from another department, it must be a proactive legislation. For Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), an aquatic herbicide is being promoted in some areas. It is recommended to not drink the water for 5 days, don't swim for 1 after the use of an aquatic herbicide. Joff said that he understood that it was used at Silver Lake along the highway and proved useful.

4. **Conservation Authorities and Municipalities – Negotiations re Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Services** – Kirsten Brouse, President, Otty Lake Association (OLA)

CAs are starting conversations with Municipalities. Included in the discussions are non-mandatory services. Agreement must be reached via a MoU. Lake Associations should consider communicating with their Municipalities regarding services important to them. In discussions with RVCA, Kirsten asked if a letter to Townships about services helpful to lake associations would be beneficial. She has prepared a draft letter that the OLA will send to their townships, namely Tay Valley and Drummond/ North Elmsley. It discusses what services are critical to the OLA residents and that it is important that the townships continue to support these. The OLA letter is shared below, as well as a link to the list of mandatory and non-mandatory services.

See page 77 Section 13.0 Programs and Services report.

Otty Lake Association letter

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Dear _____

I'm writing on behalf of the Otty Lake Association to share our experience working with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), and to tell you about the RVCA programs, services and supports that our lake association deeply values and depends on.

We understand that, under the new Conservation Authorities Act, you will be working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the RVCA to outline which services the municipality will continue to support through its levy. **We strongly encourage you to continue supporting all of the excellent work that the RVCA currently does in our watershed.**

Our association feels strongly that we cannot afford to pull back on environmental services and stewardship efforts if we want to maintain and improve the quality of life in **Tay Valley Township**.

As you know, pressures on our natural ecosystems are only increasing. On Otty Lake, we're aware of how **climate change is bringing warmer waters**, and greater uncertainty to our watershed - in terms of water quality and quantity, as well as invasive species. This uncertainty means we need **more monitoring, testing and science-based advice**, not less. In particular, ongoing surface water quality monitoring is integral to ensuring the sustainability of lake-side living.

Warmer waters make our lake more sensitive to nutrients and more susceptible to algae blooms. **Septic inspections and enforcement have never been more important** to the health of the lake and the watershed, as this is one of the most effective ways we can keep nutrients from reaching the lake.

Increased development pressure on our lake means we rely even *more* heavily on knowledge, advice and support from the RVCA. Their support with shoreline naturalisation is often a critical part of making sure new development contributes positively to the health of the lake.

Finally, RVCA plays a critical role in **habitat monitoring and enhancement**. RVCA was a critical partner in helping the Otty Lake Association successfully improve the bass habitat on our lake, in the hopes of maintaining our fish populations, and possibly supporting previously lost species

to make a comeback. This type of large-scale stewardship effort would be impossible for our association to take on without the knowledge and support of RVCA.

In summary, the Otty Lake Association directly benefits from, and depends upon the following “non-mandatory” services provided by the RVCA:

- Septic re-inspection program (provided on behalf of the municipality)
- Monitoring
 - Surface water quality monitoring
 - Lake water levels
 - Aquatic and terrestrial habitat monitoring
 - Invasive species
- Stewardship
 - Tree planting
 - Shoreline naturalization
 - Educational programs

We hope **Tay Valley Township** will continue to support these programs and services through the upcoming memorandum of understanding with RVCA.

If you have any questions about the ways in which RVCA’s current programs and services benefit Otty Lake, McLaren Lake or Jebbs Creek, we would be very happy to discuss this further with you.

On Otty Lake, we are reminded daily of the tremendous value that the RVCA brings to the health of our natural environment and our quality of life as we live, cottage, swim, fish, and play at the lake. We hope you see this value too, and continue to support their important work.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Brouse

President, Otty Lake Association

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5. Watersheds Canada Update – Melissa Dakers, Habitat & Stewardship Program Manager

Watersheds Canada continues to develop resources, guides and tip sheets to help freshwater stakeholders protect their lakes and rivers. As we develop new resources in the coming months, we will share them with lake associations and organizations committed to freshwater stewardship to share with local residents.

Stay tuned for some exciting, useful and impactful tools and information to help sustain the freshwater that sustains us.

Natural Edge (NE) Shoreline Planting Program:

- Planting season officially started this week.
- 15 delivery partners delivering the NE across Canada
- GREAT Lakes protection initiative- partnering with Mohawk council of Akwesasne, River institute, raisin region conservation authority and the Great river network
- Continuing to delivery locally throughout the Cataraqui and Mississippi valley watersheds through kits which you can purchase \$395 base price, plant yourself, we can plant for a fee \$7/plant & gas \$50 – contact naturaledge@watersheds.ca or visit <https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca/>

Love Your Lake (LYL) Program:

- **2021** – WC assessed Cranberry Lake, Wellers Bay, West Lake & East Lake – access codes have been mailed out and residents will be able to download their property reports. And the Lake Summary & Value reports are being sent out this week.
- **2022** – WC will be assessing Lake Dore, Lake Clear (Renfrew Cty), Dog Lake & Stoco Lake
- For more information & resources - visit <https://loveyourlake.ca/> or contact Melissa Dakers dakers@watersheds.ca

LYL partners 2022:

- North Saskatchewan (SK)
- Carrot River (SK)
- Munro Lake Cottagers Association (ON)
- Muskoka Watershed Council (ON)
- Lake Bernard Property Owners Association (ON)
- Watersheds Canada (ON)
- City of Greater Sudbury (ON)
- Re-imagining Atlantic Harbours (NS)

Fish Habitat Program:

2021

- Brush Bundles on Olmstead Jeffrey Lakes in partnership with Olmstead Jeffreys Lakes Association, Muskrat Watershed Council & Algonquin College

– funded by Bass Pro Shops & Cabela’s Outdoor Fund & Petawawa Pembroke Community Foundation

- Diamond Lake Trout Spawning bed restoration project – fall washing of the bed and added stone in the winter on the ice – funded by Bass Pro Shops & Cabela’s Outdoor Fund & Petawawa Pembroke Community Foundation

2022

- Jeffrey Lake – Walleye Spawning Bed restoration project
- Farren Lake – Brush Bundle Project
- Otter Lake – in the process of developing a lake trout restoration
- Starting to develop a Lake Trout Spawning Bed Restoration Protocol & Video for the Fish Habitat Enhancement Toolkit available – <https://watersheds.ca/download-the-fish-habitat-enhancement-toolkit/>
- More information contact Melissa Dakers – dakers@watersheds.ca

Planning For Our Shorelands:

The Planning For Our Shorelands program is a collaborative new policy program with Watersheds Canada and a diverse steering committee and we are almost ready to launch the *Municipal Best Management Practices Toolkit for Sustainable Waterfront Land Use Planning*. This Toolkit is designed to help municipalities make informed decisions around sustainable shoreland development and communicate the scientific benefits of shoreland vegetation. It will highlight the scientific literature discussing the social, economic and environmental benefits of natural shorelands, discuss common planning issues municipalities are currently facing with regards to shoreland development, and offer policy solutions based on the success of municipalities from across Ontario. Keep an eye out as we release materials in the coming months!

If you have questions or want to be added to our mailing list to receive a copy of materials, please email shorelandproject@watersheds.ca

Join us for the "Sustainable Waterfront Planning Through Reconciliation" webinar on June 16th at 1pm EST

The Planning For Our Shorelands project is proud to present this collaborative and interactive workshop aimed at breaking down barriers and familiarizing local decision-makers and the public with Indigenous relations to land and water. Following presentations by our guest speakers, the audience will be engaged to discuss how their municipality can develop the waterfront sustainably through acts of Reconciliation.

Freshwater Stewardship Community:

- Looking to connect your community group and shoreline residents with resources, ways to help protect local freshwater health, and other freshwater stewards?
- Join the 1,400 individuals who are already a part of the free, online **Freshwater Stewardship Community!**
- So far this year we have created 6 education handouts and hosted 7 webinars, covering topics like invasive species awareness and removal, rain smart neighbourhoods and shorelines, legacy phosphorus and algal blooms, and bird identification. All past webinars and handouts are archived on our website and are available for free viewing: watersheds.ca/freshwater-stewardship

Funding: Peterborough K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation, Invasive Species Centre, S.M. Blair Family Foundation

Nature Discovery Backpack Program:

- Watersheds Canada is excited to grow our **Nature Discovery Backpack program** to Sudbury this summer as we work with the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee, Greater Sudbury Public Library, and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation.
- Thirty backpacks will be available for borrowing through the public library system, with each backpack containing field equipment and Ontario-curriculum linked workbooks for youth to get outside and active in protecting their local environment.
- If your waterfront association or community group is interested in bringing the Nature Discovery Backpack to your area, please email Monica at info@watersheds.ca for more information.

Funding: TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Education Program:

Also growing this year is our "**Bringing Nature in the Classroom**" program! This program is again being delivered to classrooms at two elementary schools in the Ottawa area that have high populations of English as a second language, Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, and New Canadian students.

This program will be the first introduction for many of these students to local native species, environmental issues, and how they can help. All Ontario-curriculum linked resources created will be available on Watersheds Canada's website for free download. These lessons, videos, and activities

are appropriate for grades 1-6 students and will focus on nature-based learning, observation and identification, and experimentation.
Funding: Ottawa Community Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Be sure to check out Watersheds Canada's social media pages during **Rivers to Oceans Week** (June 8-14th) for two exciting webinars, education resources, and family-friendly activities!

Facebook: @WatershedsCanada

Twitter: @WatershedsCAN

Instagram: @WatershedsCanada

6. **Fishing Tournaments on Local Lakes** – Doreen Donald, V.P. Mississippi Lakes Association

Doreen was unable to participate in the meeting in person due to a family emergency situation – her presentation in PDF is [attached separately](#)

7. **Lake Links 2022– Melissa Dakers**

Save the Date!!!

Saturday October 22, 2022

In-person workshop at the Perth Civitan Hall

Lanark County Rd 43, Perth, ON K0G 1B0

1-3 pm – presentations

3-4 pm – networking opportunities

***Stay tuned for more info – planning to live stream/record the event**

Planning Committee 2022

- Lake Networking Group
- Friends of the Tay Valley Watershed
- Cataraqui Conservation
- Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Watersheds Canada



- The theme has not been determined yet.
- Lake Protection Workbook – sold out, over 5,000 distributed. They’re doing a second printing. Send Mel a note if you want to reserve them.

Question from meeting participant – will Lake Links meeting also be on Zoom?

Mel Dakers: Lake Links will be recorded, if having it in-person and on Zoom if in-person is not possible.

8. **Friends of the Tay Watershed - Taro Alps**

HIGHLIGHTS – Due to COVID, it’s been hard to get together. The AGM in March was via Zoom. Attendance was down quite a bit. Webinars are being held. The next one is May 19th at 2:30 on turtle habitat. The Board has been meeting on Zoom. First in person meeting will be on May 26th, hopefully outside.

9. **Lake Associations’ Updates**

Note: In instances where an update was not received from a lake association, we have included information from the meeting notes under “Highlights”

a. **Otty Lake Association - Kirsten Brouse**

New projects starting this year

- Shoal marking getting underway this year
- Reconciliation working group (meeting monthly, conducting a blanket exercise to help educate and connect our lake community)
- Nature floatilla (multi-stop nature tour with expert speakers on the lake) - to happen for the first time this year

Existing projects underway

- Water quality testing, water level monitoring ongoing.
- AGM will happen virtually again this year
- Plant sale for shoreline planting offered again this year in partnerships with RVCA
- Phragmites fighting equipment purchased last year and available for use around the lake
- Beaver management efforts on Jebbs creek ongoing
- Considering an update to our website in the coming year or two (welcome advice on this!)
- Captain Otty's Log (newsletter) continues to go out 3 times / year - we are considering moving to a new format that is more optimized for digital

- Mapping project last year was very successful - with paper maps handed out to all members. This drove membership renewals and new memberships around the lake. The map team is now working on making the map available electronically and getting it put up at our boat launch.

b. Mississippi Lakes Association – Rob Bell

Hi from Mississippi Lake!! Here's our update for spring 2022...

PANDEMIC EFFECTS This will be our first year for an in-person AGM since 2019. We will be doing a hybrid session, employing Zoom as well. Lack of in person AGM and any social activities for the last couple of years has had a negative impact on volunteer recruitment. Boating traffic the last two summers has been the most intense ever. Availability of new recreational boats is very limited with waiting times for seadoos of 18 months. Prices of all boats have jumped dramatically. Land between highway 15 and the east side of the lake has seen accelerated housing development. Typically these are homes on 1-2 acre parcels. Lot sizes need to remain large enough for well/septic systems. Beckwith has no municipal water or sewer infrastructure. Carleton Place has been designated as one of Canada's fastest growing communities with a potential doubling of population expected in the next 10-15 years. This will increase pressure on the lake on many fronts. For example, the town's water supply comes from the lake. Interestingly Carleton Place residents do not have water meters so there's no incentive to limit water use. Potential impact to lake levels is currently being assessed.

ACTIVITIES The MLA is proceeding with its normal activities such as cautionary marker deployment, loon counts, invasive species survey, water rangers water sampling/testing, by and large without pandemic restrictions.

A new initiative for 2022 is a Mississippi watershed youth engagement program we are hoping to involve 12-15 young people in learning about our beautiful watershed.

We're also engaged in the Lanark County Climate Change Action Plan, the Safe Quiet Lakes effort to limit boat motor noise, and a Fishing Tournament Coalition effort along with the Big Rideau Lake Association. (See separate report from Doreen Donald on that topic.)

MUNICIPAL MATTERS We have three initiatives that potentially involve our municipalities: Beckwith, Carleton Place, Mississippi Mills and Drummond North Elmsley. Number one is Safe Roads making sure our private roads around the lake are ready for high water events. Second is working to help secure more funding for private road maintenance from municipalities for our members (Private Road Equalization Payments). Finally, we are going to tackle mandatory septic inspection this year.

Read more about us on our website: <https://mlakes.org> Sign up for our e-newsletter at: <http://eepurl.com/cqz1UL> Rob Bell, president@mlakes.org

c. Kennebec Lake Association – Chair, Terry Kennedy

Following two years of disruption and dislocation from COVID-19, the members of the Kennebec Lake Association and their executive are collectively looking forward to a return to more normal enjoyment of life at the lake.

The resumption of in-person activities will include the very popular **Canada Day/Independence Day** celebrations featuring a boat flotilla, followed by a barbecue lunch prepared by the local volunteer firefighters. It is also anticipated that this year's **AGM** will see a return to in-person attendance. In mid-August.

Stewardship activities planned for this working season will include:

The second year of a **Lake Monitoring Program** with an extensive set of sampling and analysis for a variety of water quality factors. Some of these assessments are part of the Lake Partner Program whereas others include areas such as conductivity and levels of mineral content.

Boating Activity will be surveyed for assessing types of watercraft and their use. The intent is to try to determine current levels of boating involvement and the impact on the lake and its residents. Models developed in the US will be used to look at the capacity of the lake to support boating activities.

A small stand of the invasive species **Phragmites**, has been identified and planning is underway for its removal.

It is hoped that a review of the current **Lake Stewardship Plan**(2012) will be conducted, followed by an updating as required.

A working group is being formed to address the issue of **Short Term Rentals (STRs)**

Certainly, there have been significant impacts from the pandemic on lake residents and seasonal cottagers alike, with perceptions suggesting:

- Increased demand for recreational properties
- Property values everywhere have wildly escalated
- High levels of property turnover
- Unexpected numbers of owners who are inexperienced cottagers
- More owners are turning to renting to help with expenses
- Increased concerns regarding the impact of short-term rentals

- May be shifting patterns of expectations for what cottage living should entail
- Some express concern for price impacts on property taxes

It will be interesting to compare perceptions from varied lake groups and to consider the implications for all of us as cottagers and as lake associations.

d. Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association – Larry Arpaia

HIGHLIGHTS – They are slowly emerging from the Zoom world and have an active agenda for summer. They are organizing a Bioblitz on Aug 12 -13. 20 experts are joining them from across Canada about a number of different topics. The experts will spend 3 to 5 days on Crown land, then hold the 24 hour Bioblitz, including evening presentations – black lights, white sheets, getting names of the various bugs. They are also organizing a cottage safety fair for July. 13 – 14 people will be sharing safety information from every aspect possible. Short term rentals are an issue. They want to encourage people who want to rent, but rent safely. Some are coming on to the lake with the sole purpose to rent. The association has approached municipalities/townships about this issue. They are reluctant to do anything. They can't take the right to rent away from owner. Common sense by-laws are required to protect renters and others. Unfortunately, there have been 4 deaths of renters. The Association is not against renting, but common sense must be brought to the process. The Lake Association is working with the townships to ensure that the conversion to year round homes is following due process in development.

e. Sharbot Lake Property Owner's Association - Ken Waller

Membership

SLPOA saw a decline in membership during Covid attributed to not using area reps to canvass members. From 222 members in 2018, we are down to 167. There does not appear to be any major increase in property sales attributable to Covid.

AGM

After a Zoom AGM in 2021, we are planning an in-person AGM in July 2022.

Septic Re-inspection

Mandatory septic re-inspection has returned to Central Frontenac with the west basin of Sharbot Lake being one of the three lakes being inspected in 2022.

It is hoped that re-inspection will provide an accurate baseline of just what the condition is of the various septic systems that are out there.

On a related note, we have identified a business with the capability pump out septic tanks of water-access-only properties. The re-inspection program will undoubtedly increase the interest in this service.

Invasive Aquatic Species

Sharbot Lake experienced an explosion of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in 2021. It is likely that the problem will only get worse in 2022. SLPOA is partnering with Granite Ridge Education Centre (GREC) in Sharbot Lake with the use of drones to note and observe the growth of EWM in selected areas. It has been frustrating trying to find support in combatting this invasion. The township says they do not have the resources and we should deal with MVCA. The township doesn't even have a point of contact for environmental issues. MVCA has limited resources and defers action to the province and the province is conspicuous by its silence.

LDD/Spongy Moth

Sharbot Lake was again subject to a heavy infestation of spongy moth caterpillars in 2021. Many residents participated in the aerial spraying available through Zimmer Air Services and reported good success. Many have signed up for spraying in 2022 by a company formed by Zimmer (called Ontario Centre for Forest Defoliator Control (OCFDC), specifically to handle aerial spraying.

f. Long Lake (Tay Valley) Watershed Property Owners Association - David Sward

Long Lake cottagers are seeing similar issues as reported by other lake associations as listed below.

1. Lake Milfoil: Moderate infestation but seems to be stabilizing based on a mapping report done by RVCA in 2020. No easy fix.
2. Spongy Moth: Significant infestation over past 2 years. Egg patch density much reduced over last year, hopefully we will see less defoliation. Many residents have arranged for aerial spraying.
3. Boat Launch: We are working with RVCA and Ontario Lands to update responsibilities and establish rules for use.
4. Increased Lake Usage: As reported by others, we have seen increased boat traffic through the launch and properties offered for short-term rental. This may reduce somewhat as Covid declines but working with owners has been effective.

5. Water Testing: We participate in the RVCA water testing program. Lake is in good condition with the possible exception of slightly lower dissolved oxygen levels at deep water points which may be the result of decaying milfoil.
6. Insurance: We have a small population making insurance expensive, however, with increased property values and lake usage we are giving this consideration. It is also a factor in attracting Association participation.

g. White Lake Property Owners' Association - David Overholt

Also please see [see attached PDF report](#)

HIGHLIGHTS - They are envious of other Associations, since they don't have support of a CA in their area. They participate in the Lake Partner Program. They monitor phytoplankton, loons. They are noticing a rise in algal blooms after 7 years of monitoring. They rely heavily on communication via bulletins – 9 over last 9 months. These are well received and cover all kinds of topics of interest, e.g. nature, environment. Water quality reports are available, for 7 years now. Phragmites are still an issue, not only on shorelines, but also wetlands.

h. Canonto Lake Property Owners' Association – Mary Lynne Holton

-report below provided by Association President, Dave Marcotte

Our Lake Association looks forward to being a little more present as the public and individual response to the pandemic lessens. I sense that an alignment of forces - the pandemic being only one of them, has brought us to an inflection point and that some change factors will be a significant theme of the season ahead, as well as the years ahead. Among the changes that we are following and hopefully managing is the new legislation affecting not for profit organizations such as our Lake Association. In addition there has been, in the last two years, a slight quickening of properties changing hands and I see this as continuing. And of course there is some change in our lake association executive. Finally a township election this year may herald some change. Through our Lake Association Alliance, we are endeavouring to identify the key issues that are dear to our members and seek to offer an opportunity for the township candidates to comment on these. We are also aware and watching the emerging concerns with short term rentals. Balancing the concerns of property owners - both those who rent out their properties and those who do not, will be just that - a balancing act. I look forward to discussing these issues with a membership who will finally, be able to meet in person.

Dave Marcotte

i. Silver Lake & Area Environmental Association – Greg Ellis

A quiet and mostly peaceful summer last year on Silver Lake, there were no issues that needed to be dealt with!

It all changed in late fall with a rezoning application to change a parcel of lake frontage property in an environmental protection zone to rural residential to allow for a cabin construction as part of a campground/cabin rental business proposal. Some valuable lessons were learned on municipal process. Members of our lake association and our neighbours provided 30 letters of opposition to the proposal.

One area we've found that the Covid situation and market conditions has adversely affected has been response by authorities to enquiries and concerns. Most agencies are experiencing staff shortages and changes and take a long time to respond, especially in planning areas.

We are continuing to have issues with beaver dams but have so far managed to maintain reasonable lake levels.

We expect to have our 1st AGM since 2019 in mid June this year, we will try and increase the size of the executive and propose to modernize our constitution.

Co-Chairs Greg Ellis (gregbicycles@gmail.com) and Kyla Baron (kyla.baron@gmail.com) Association email is silverlakeenvironment@gmail.com

j. Chaffey's Area Lake Associations (CALA) - Laura Belton

– HIGHLIGHTS – They are participating in the Western chorus frog survey and in the “Get out the lead” program being led by Wolf Lake. No wake signage program continues. They are on the Canal system and consist of 5 lakes. They will be holding an In person meet and greet the end of May. The AGM will be in person. They are forming alliances with various organizations, e.g Muskoka Lakes. A Newsletter is sent out 2 times a year. There will be spraying on Clear Lake for spongy moths. Due to the Pandemic, construction renovations have increased. Property values are up. There are concerns about campground overpopulation, and bringing in new structures.

k. Jennifer Brooks – Black Lake Property Owners’ Association (BLPOA)

Activities:

(1) 2022 Annual General Meeting

- After two years of virtual Zoom meetings, we are considering an in-person AGM for 2022.
- We are currently polling members about their preferences - how, where, and when.

(2) Facebook

- a. Highly active, now at 569 members (this number clearly represents many families, friends, or stalkers, as there are only about 240 properties).
- b. We do not restrict FB to paid members. However, if people are using FB to advertise services or goods for sale, we do require them to be paid members.

(3) Newsletter

- a. Has been dropped for a lack of volunteer contributors. Cliff Halliwell assumed this role in the past.

(4) Membership Drive

- a. Thanks to our Treasurer, Bruce Brooks and other volunteers, our membership has tripled since 2020. This years (2022) membership is progressing well.
- b. Convincing the last 15-20 per cent of owners to join may be a lost cause.

(5) Finances

- a. In good shape, with a healthy reserve due to increased membership.
- b. unsure how to spend reserve money in 2022. Any project needs volunteers (in short supply) as well as money. We don't think it appropriate to build the surplus further and are considering our options.

(6) Lake Buoys

- a. We hired someone two years ago to put out, take in and store our buoys. We now have 28 deployed.
- b. We have an association insurance policy, in part for general liability issues with respect to the lake.

(7) Water Quality

- a. RVCA continues regular (twice a year) testing. We have charts of the testing trends, showing water quality is generally good and slightly improving. Nutrient levels still oscillate between good and worrisome.

- b. Volunteers and RVCA (paid) did some additional near-shore testing to identify issues, perhaps related to septic system failures. No specific problems identified. We will conduct additional near shore sampling in different sites this year.

(8) Lake Management Plan

- a. We don't have one. Compiling the data and researching the impact of various activities on the health of the lake would require too many man/woman volunteer hours that we simply don't have. The BLPOA may consider going to its membership to seek approval for mandatory septic inspections, as we are currently voluntary.

(9) Members' Surveys

- a. Did several as reported in September 2021.

(10) Board of Directors and Other Volunteers

- a. Always a struggle to attract volunteers.

Perceived impacts of the pandemic to your lake and its residents, cottagers, and property owners.

1. There appears to be an increase in renovation and rebuilding.
 - This could reflect the strong economy, the savings people have made during Covid, ageing cottage structures or all three.
 - Several seasonal cottages have been replaced by permanent 4 season homes.
 - One property is adding a second 2 story building behind the original cottage. This building will house a gym and 2 studios to enable the owners to work remotely.
2. There has been a growing demand for faster Internet
3. we have noticed an increase in boat traffic, especially noisy sea-doo's 😊
4. properties are changing hands at higher than asking prices.

I. Lower Beverley Lake Association - Tom Heinze

HIGHLIGHTS – They have the same concerns as all other lake associations.

They would like to change their name – 2 lakes, Upper and Lower. Tom is serving 4th term as president – not enough volunteers. They started a scholarship for students going in to Conservation studies. They want to do water testing, but have to borrow equipment.

m. – Dog & Cranberry Lakes Association – Daryl Neve

Water Quality is, and always has been, a focus for us. Our lakes are partly natural and partly flooded lands of the Rideau canal. They are classed as eutrophic, having consistently high phosphorus levels. Still popular for fishing (bass, crappie, pike and stocked splake) there has not been a known trout population since the 1970's. We have an abundance of aquatic vegetation and experience algal blooms.

Eurasian Milfoil is widespread among the native plants in both of our lakes. It reaches the surface and makes power boating difficult in some shallow (15' deep or less - which is most of Cranberry lakes) areas by mid-July. Some people find that it chokes itself out over a few years and then grows up in other areas. We find masses of it that have been cut by boat props floating on the surface, along shorelines where wind and waves leave it piled up and also out on the lake where some of the aquatic plants that break the surface block it from moving to shore. Being on the Rideau Waterway means that we can't touch anything on the lake bottom without a permit. Property owners can buy a 5 yr, cutting permit for clearing weeds from a very limited area around their dock. We do not yet have an efficient way to skim already-cut-weeds from the surface so have not approached Parks Canada to see if this would be allowed.

Short term rentals: A request for information from residents is going out through members of the South Frontenac Lake Ecosystem Advisory Council, asking if there are any concerns about short term cottage/home rentals on the lakes.

Development on the lakes: There are at least 3 of the 4 trailer parks on Dog and Cranberry which have new owners. Improvements are noticeable and ongoing. There are also 3 sizeable (approx. 12 lots each) condominium developments: Cranberry Cove, which has waterfront and back lots and Pine Point, which has seven waterfront lots are both almost all sold. Shield Shores has just a few waterfront lots and many back lots with shared water access. These could be ready to sell as early as this fall. They have a comprehensive website.

Any homes, cottages or properties for sale around here, sell fast and at high prices.

Water Quality initiatives:

1. Watersheds Canada's "**Love Your Lake**" program of shoreline surveying and recommendations for property owners. Residents of Cranberry Lake are now

receiving the results of the surveys done last August. Dog Lake properties are on the list for surveys this summer.

2. Watershed's "**Natural Edge**" program is underway on two properties -one on each lake - with a team of volunteers being put together to help with planting.
3. **Floating Treatment Wetland**_platforms: These are being funded through a grant from the Lake Ecosystems Advisory Council, with permits from Transport Canada and Parks Canada. We are supporting a member of our lake association in building, launching and monitoring 3 "nutrient absorbing rafts" in Milburn Bay. The project runs May - December, 2022.

Research projects underway or in the planning stages from other agencies include:

4. Modelling Land Use Change Impacts on Nutrient Inputs and Water Quality in Dog Lake, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. This is Emma Lanciault's, current Master's degree research project through Queens.
5. Continued eDNA research, being done by a team from Queen's University Biology Station has been funded by the South Frontenac Lake Ecosystem Advisory Council.
6. Nutrient Budget Study – An investigation of nutrient fluxes in a temperate lake system in Eastern Ontario. An application is going in for an NSERC grant to support research to look for sources of nutrients in the lakes by applying water sampling data to water quality and water flow modelling tools.
7. Bioremediation of Harmful Algal Blooms in Dog and Cranberry Lakes. We have supported an application for funding for an Environmental Damages Grant for this 4 year remediation/enhancement research project, looking at methods to mitigate algae using existing aquatic invertebrates.

Activities we offered to our members over the past year:

1. **Shanlake Farm Tour:** This family run waterfront dairy farm is a model of shoreline stewardship having followed an Environmental Farm Plan for decades. They introduced us to their dairy herd and showed us the facilities they have designed and the practices they follow to care for the environment.
2. **"Dock Talk" on the history of the Rideau Canal:** It was a beautiful August afternoon, at Upper Brewer's Mills Lock Station, with an informative and entertaining speaker, Hunter McGill, from the "Friends of the Rideau" who made some of the history of the Rideau come alive for us!
3. Our new Wildlife Group hosted **"Tracks in the Snow"** and **"Gypsy Moth Walk and Talk"**, providing members with two great afternoons in the outdoors learning about some of the animals with whom we share our habitat. Our Chair of this group also hosted a webinar on **Bird Migration**.

4. We continue to put out an **annual interest survey** to our members, for direction, in order to decide on topics for our workshops, webinars and activities

In the background:

1. **Lake Plan:** We are in the early stages; meeting with stakeholders and potential committee members, developing a stakeholders' survey and outlining plans for a "State of the Lake" document.
2. **Eco-Internship:** We are in the process of applying to participate in this program that would enable us to hire a recent college grad to work with us for June-December. Ideally we would "share" this intern with a larger, local not for profit organization.
3. We attended the final day of the Renegade **Bass Tournament**, launch and final weigh-in, to get a closer look at how these competitions run and to open channels for dialogue with the organizers.
4. Our **Annual Native Tree Sale** has over sold 700 tree seedlings. They are purchased through the CRCA sold to members and other neighbours, through our website and facebook group. This year we have added a **Native Plant Sale** which is still in progress. See our website to order (by May 12th).
5. We plan to coordinate our LYL results for Cranberry Lake and notice of the program starting on Dog Lake with a **Membership Drive** this spring/summer.
6. Other regular activities/projects we are continuing with: **AGM and summer BBQ, Lake Partners water testing, Loon Survey, Annual Newsletter**, hosting of an **All Candidates Meeting** for the fall municipal election. New this year: a fall **"Conservation Day"**.

<https://www.dogandcranberrylakes.ca/>

Daryl Neve DCLA President darylneve@gmail.com

n. Otter Lake Landowners' Association - Jeff Neal

We are continuing our efforts to have Lake Trout reintroduced to the lake. Water quality testing, including Dissolved Oxygen, has show we have appropriate conditions for Lake Trout. A number of potential spawning sites have been identified and discussions are now underway with MNRF regarding stocking. Further to the Restocking Project, OLLA's Lake Steward contacted Watersheds Canada about their spawning beds restoration project in Diamond Lake in Renfrew County. Fortuitously, Watersheds Canada was beginning the process to apply for a significant grant from the Environmental Damages Fund and were quite keen to include Otter Lake in its submission for lake trout spawning bed restoration. OLLA provided a letter of support to Watersheds Canada to help secure funding. Should the funding application be successful there is a two-year period to complete the project.

OLLA has become an official supporter of the Wolfe Lake Association's program "Let's Get the Lead Out" <https://wolfelake.org/fish-lead-free> through a financial contribution, an article in our upcoming Newsletter informing our membership of this initiative, putting up poster on our bulletin board at the boat launch, etc. We are also considering handing out flyers at the boat launch on Saturday, June 18, the official opening of Large and Small-Mouth Bass to encourage day fishers to replace their fishing tackle with lead-free options.

Rideau Lakes Township has completed the planned Mandatory septic inspections and have published the report on the findings. Inspections were conducted on Otter Lake (221) and Otter Creek (51) as well as some other areas of the Township. The results were not as good as we had hoped so we will be putting more emphasis on education in upcoming newsletters and at our AGM. The report can be found on the Townships website: <https://www.rideaulakes.ca/live/home-and-property/developing-your-property/septic-re-inspection-program>

Association volunteers constructed two Loon Nesting Platforms which have now been deployed on the lake. Although we have 5 active pairs on the lake, only one chick survived last season. Hopefully the new accommodations will prove satisfactory.

With the lifting of COVID restrictions, OLLA will once again conduct water quality testing to supplement that of the Rideau Valley Conservation Area.

OLLA Board members are working on the requirements for registration under the new Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, drawing on support from other associations and agencies.

o. Pike Lake Community Association – Jim Tasker

We suspended all social events during 2020-2021, but are returning to normal this year. The exception during 2020-2021 was our annual boat-in movie night, where one cottager projects a movie at their dock and people come in boats for a drive-in movie experience.

In 2020 we did not hold an AGM. In 2021 we did a virtual AGM but had very poor attendance – barely achieved a quorum. All board meetings have been virtual during this period and we will likely continue to hold most board meetings that way post-pandemic. This year we will have an in-person AGM with masks and distancing and will have coffee and doughnuts outside afterwards (for a while we had planned a pancake breakfast with the AGM but changed plan due to current high infection levels).

Since we were not as busy with events to plan, we have undertaken to review and update our constitution and policy manuals. Some changes were required due to pandemic (such as allowing virtual board meetings and AGM), other

changes were primarily to reconcile the two documents and create better documents.

Our membership levels have remained near historically high levels since about 2019, covid did not seem to impact membership numbers.

We have not observed big differences in life at the lake during the pandemic. I think it's likely that people have spent more time at the lake with so many other activities shut down, and it also seems that property turn-over may have increased.

p. Farren Lake Property Owners' Association– Kris McDonald

1. Farren Lake held a virtual AGM with support from FOCA on April 28/22. This was our second virtual AGM & not as well attended. Feelings are that the pandemic has softened our connection with members. Several members expressed hope for an in-person AGM next year.
2. There have been very few permanent homes on Farren Lake in the past. However, the pandemic caused several more families to winterize their cottages. This may also be a trend because of the availability of improved internet coverage around the lake. How will this affect our lake community?
3. Our Board is encouraging more engagement with our municipal government. There seems to be a new interest in decisions being made by municipal representatives in regards to waterfront development, short term rentals, and climate action (lake health). Did the pandemic make us more aware of our precious setting?
4. With the support of Watersheds Canada, we are working to complete a "brush bundle" fish habitat enhancement project this summer.

FLPOA secretary, Kris McDonald

q. Kashwakamak Lake Association– represented at meeting by Martin Reid, Director

Activities:

The KLA went ahead with the *Love Your Lake Shoreline Assessment* in the summer of 2020. Individual property reports were delivered in April 2021. We were hoping to have LYL present the highlights at our virtual July AGM but the overall lake report was not completed in time. We received the report later in the season and shared it with our members. We have invited them to participate in our 2022 AGM, which will be in person and possibly via Zoom as well.

For the first time the KLA had a virtual Zoom AGM in 2021 thanks to the help of volunteers. We had great participation which included property owners/members from the US. We are now looking at whether we can combine this year's AGM as both an in-person and Zoom event, so people who can't physically make it, can attend.

We also had to cancel our fall dinner and Charity Auction, for the second year in a row, which we usually hold at Fernleigh Lodge.

A major business on the lake was sold in late July, Woodcrest Resort. It has permanent trailers, trailers for rent, as well as camping spots. Not much was known about the new owners, Compass Resorts, but we were able to virtually meet them in early 2022 to learn more about their plans. We are optimistic that they will be good stewards of the property and the lake. They are making significant infrastructure upgrades (new septic, possible wells for drinking water, new floating docking system), as well as looking at shoreline erosion options. We were able to get them a copy of their personal Shoreline Assessment report. They joined the Lake Association, are sponsoring our AGM BBQ and will be on the Agenda as well, to present their plans and answer questions.

Perceived impacts of the pandemic to lake, its residents, cottagers and property owners:

We think the biggest impact to date is the massive increase in the price of cottages selling on our lake. What used to be a \$600,000 - 700,000 purchase has now skyrocketed to over \$1 million in several cases. Several original cottages have been demolished and replaced with large, more modern structures. There has also been an increase of requests to rent cottages (as witnessed in our Facebook Group). We are monitoring the possible impact of rentals and the Airbnb's on the lake (there are several), as this is a topic of discussion at the North Frontenac Lake Association of Associations (NFLAA) and North Frontenac Council.

The lake seemed quieter last summer, due in part to the Canada/US border being closed until well into August. Kashwakamak Lake has about 20 – 25% American cottage owners. (There are about 580 cottages on our lake, our Association has 350 members/associate members and 5% are US members).

The other major business on our lake, Fernleigh Lodge, was able to pivot to having Canadian guests, instead of its majority of US visitors. They have reported it was a difficult year. Their dining room was closed (American plan), and they offered take out on a limited basis. The Lodge is currently up for sale: they are asking \$7.9 m. They continue to operate this season.

Sue MacGregor, President
Kashwakamak Lake Association
president@kashwakamak.ca

At the close of the meeting, Karen Hunt expressed her delight to see so many familiar faces and to listen to everyone. It is important to hear from the local watersheds and communities. It helps us plan for our healthy lakes. Thanks to Terry Kennedy and Rob Bell for organizing the Spring meeting, and to the MLA for technical expertise. Thanks to Christine for taking notes. Karen and Christine will work together to get the Spring Lake Networking Group Report out as quickly as possible. To assist with that, please get your reports in to Karen. Karen thanked all her Lake Networking Group friends for all the notes of support during her ongoing battle with multiple myeloma.

Terry Kennedy wrapped up the meeting with THANKS TO ALL.