

Lake Networking Group Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 10:00 – 11:30 am

via Zoom

NOTE: All Fall Lake Networking Group meeting information including links to the meeting recording and PowerPoint presentations can be found posted at <http://taywatershed.ca/networking.php> .

Complete 2020 Fall update information received from Lake Associations in advance of the meeting is included at end of the meeting minutes.

PARTICIPANTS

Lake Organizations: Conrad Gregoire (White Lake); Doc Maiorino, Terry & Judy Kennedy (Kennebec); Barbara Sabourin (Robertson Lake); Bob & Philippa Fugler (Loughborough Lake); Greg Ellis (Silver Lake); Daryl Neve, Sue Shaw (Dog and Cranberry Lakes); Gay Henniger, Eva Leon, Mark Bacon (Chaffey's Area Lake Associations); Judy McIntyre (Kashwakamak Lake); Judy Hall (Dalhousie Lake); Art Dunham (Big Clear Lake); Anita Payne De Gaia (Black Lake); Naomi Fowlie (Pike Lake); Christine & Reid Kilburn, Linda Cuthbertson, Rachel Roth (Otty Lake); Doris Albert, Buzz Boles (Big Rideau Lake Association); Rob & Lynn Bell, Doreen Donald (Mississippi Lakes Association); Ken Waller (Sharbot Lake); Donna Doelman (Bennett & Fagan Lakes); Mary Lynne Holton (Canonto Lake); Christine Ormsby, Frank Johnson (Little Silver & Rainbow Lakes); Steve Burgess (Eagle Lake); Laura (Shabomeka Lake); Donna Walsh (Christie Lake).

Karen & Murray Hunt (Lake Networking Group)

Agencies and Organizations: Meaghan McDonald (RVCA); Kelly Stiles (MVCA); Holly Evans (CRCA); Monica Siedel (Watersheds Canada), Kat Kavanagh (Water Rangers), Terry Rees (FOCA); Bruce Moore (FOCA & NFLAA), Elizabeth Holmes (MNRF); Taro Alps (FoTW and Lake Links)

1. Welcome and housekeeping: Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first via Zoom. It is wonderful to see everyone, both old and new friends. The meeting is being recorded, and links to the recording as well to the PowerPoint presentations, will be provided with the minutes to be issued after the meeting. Karen thanked the Mississippi Lakes Association for hosting the meeting and the tech team of Rob Bell and Doreen Donald (Mississippi Lakes Association) and Reid and Christine Kilburn (Otty Lake Association) for their meeting coordination.

The Lake Networking Group today works with 35 Eastern Ontario lake organizations. We communicate throughout the year by email, sharing information and usually meeting a couple of times a year to discuss common issues and plan activities e.g. workshops. We are also supported by many partners, including our conservation authorities, local municipalities, FOCA, FoTW, MNRF, MECP, Watersheds Canada, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit, Lanark Detachment of the OPP and more .

Information about the Lake Networking Group found on our webpage which is generously hosted by FoTW at

<http://taywatershed.ca/networking.php>

Thanks everyone for continuing to support the Lake Networking Group.

Karen turned it over to Reid to share Zoom etiquette.

A poll was conducted to provide background information (e.g. first time attendees/member of a lake association's Board of Directors/ interested member of lake community/ community partner. It was

great to see that we were welcoming 11 new attendees to a Lake Networking Group meeting.

2. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority – Meaghan McDonald

Lake Planning-Shoreline Stewardship Coordinator meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca

General

- view meeting recording and PowerPoint slides of her presentation

<http://taywatershed.ca/networking.php>

- RVCA office main office has been closed to the public since late March. Staff continue to work from home.
- All planning and regulatory roles have continued uninterrupted.
- All volunteer opportunities (City Stream Watch, Tree Planting volunteer events, etc.) are postponed for now.

Stewardship

- Forestry and Shoreline Naturalization Programs were able to complete planting in spring. 250,000 trees and 12,000 shoreline plants were planted. Site visits are still underway to line up projects for spring 2021.
- 1400 butternut seedlings were distributed through the butternut recovery program. 13,000 butternut seeds were collected in August/September. The program is always looking for new, healthy butternut to collect from.
- Plant sale partnerships were completed in spring with Upper Rideau Lake Association, Otty Lake Association, Otter Lake Association, and Lanark County. We are also continuing our partnership with Bobs & Crow Lake Foundation & Association to provide additional grant top ups for shoreline and septic stewardship projects.
- Septic Reinspection program was able to continue this year also

Conservation Lands and Education

- Summer education programs at Foley Mountain and Baxter Conservation Areas were cancelled due to COVID-19. A new Forest School model is being expanded this fall to replace regular school trip curriculum. Forest school is a “learn by playing in nature” program that is guided by skilled facilitators, using an inquiry-based approach lead by the child’s interest.
- Conservation Area attendance was up 30% this spring and summer. All Conservation Lands and trails (with the exception of one within the City of Ottawa) were able to remain open with additional safety precautions and social distancing.
- Increased crowds at Foley Mountain during fall are expected. Staff will be on site during peak weekends to limit the number of visitors for safety reasons.

Watershed Monitoring

- All lakes were sampled at least once through the spring, summer. Lakes with high nutrient concentrations or identified concerns were sampled a second time. Stream monitoring resumed with monthly sampling from June onwards, sites that were not safe for solo access have not been sampled. The Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network sampling remains

on hold, this impacts 10 sites in RVCA's watershed, though 3 have been sampled through our baseline program.

- A special study of Adrains Creek in the Rideau Lakes subwatershed was initiated and will be on going through the fall of 2020.
- Fall lake sampling will take place in October and will sample a subset of lakes. The number of lakes will be limited due to the inability to work with volunteers and resources due to social distancing requirements (i.e. trucks). Stream sampling will continue through November. We are also working to make up to date data available online through the website.
- June and October OBBN sampling was completed.
- **MONITORING PROGRAM REVIEW—INPUT NEEDED:** RVCA is currently reviewing the watershed monitoring programs and are looking for input from Lake Associations and residents for what data they do and do not use from the catchment reports. An online survey will be sent to lakes within Rideau Valley Shortly. For any questions, please contact Martin.czarski@rvca.ca

3. Kelly Stiles – Aquatic Biologist -MVCA kstiles@mvc.on.ca

- view meeting recording and PowerPoint slides of her presentation at

<http://taywatershed.ca/networking.php>

-Kelly highlighted ongoing development of the Mississippi River Watershed Plan

- Kelly noted that MVCA website is being updated

4. Holly Evans – Watershed Planning Coordinator CRCA HEvans@crca.ca

- view meeting recording and PowerPoint slides of her presentation at

<http://taywatershed.ca/networking.php>

Links from Holly's meeting slides below

Harmful Bluegreen Algae Blooms – [local research and observations](#); [identification workshop](#)

- [Low Water Conditions](#) – hopefully move out of Level 1 at the end of September; [online survey](#) for public input
- [Covid-19 Response](#) – education programs now restarting, [Outdoor Centre](#) open for small groups, reduced watershed monitoring over the spring and summer (fall?)
- [#HikeCRCA Challenge 2020](#) – runs Sept 1 - Oct 31
- Development Regulation – [new shoreline FAQs](#)
- [Latornell Conservation Symposium](#) – five free webinars Oct - Feb

Municipalities – South Frontenac: Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee; Rideau Lakes: lake-related official plan and website updates

Holly noted that CRCA is still reporting low water conditions – had hoped to move out of Level 1 at end of Sept, not the case

- some young people, e.g. home schoolers, are coming out for education programs
- Holly displayed a Fold-scope to view algae using a smart phone
- teamfoldscope.myshopify.com

- www.foldscope.com – range in price from \$30 for individual purchase, 10 for \$60

5. Terry Rees – Executive Director -Federation of Ontario Cottages Associations (FOCA)

<https://foca.on.ca/>

- see meeting recording and PowerPoint slides of Terry's presentation

<http://taywatershed.ca/networking.php>

- Terry highlighted that during the spring FOCA was much involved in negotiating with seasonal residents and municipalities due to COVID restrictions
- facilitated continuing communications amongst cottagers and waterfront property ownership
- FOCA fall meeting Nov 21st online. More information in this week's Elert.
- Lake Partner Program on hold. Interrupted due to COVID. Lab was closed
- FOCA Elert is available for individuals, not just lake associations. It is highly recommended for everyone.

6. Monica Seidel – Communications and Fundraising Coordinator, Watersheds Canada

<https://watersheds.ca/>

- see meeting recording and PowerPoint slides of Monica's presentation

<http://taywatershed.ca/networking.php>

There is an updated version of the Shoreline Habitat Creation Manual which is available for download here: <https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca/resources/>. This Manual offers options for landowners to enhance their shoreline habitat and is just one of many free resources available on the Natural Edge website.

2. Watersheds Canada has launched a gift catalogue and online store filled with meaningful and unique gifts, just in time for the holidays. Items like symbolic adoptions and habitat structures help restore local shoreline habitat and protect water quality while also making a great gift! <https://watersheds-canada.square.site/>

3. The Natural Edge Shoreline Re-Naturalization Starter Kit was launched across Ontario thanks to partnerships with five regional delivery groups: Quinte Conservation, The Land Between Charity, Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association, Muskoka Watershed Council. Each starter kit contains everything a landowner needs to naturalize their shoreline, including a site visit, custom planting plan, 50 native plants, tree guards, mulch, and resource guides. Want to learn more about naturalizing your shoreline? Email naturaledge@watersheds.ca

4. It has been another busy season of creating new videos at Watersheds Canada! We encourage you to check out our new YouTube channel to view program videos, testimonials, and instructional videos: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCB7DOdTPcstp1spoC0Zv1yw>

- gift catalogue on line, or by hard copy

7. Taro Alps – Lake Links update <https://watersheds.ca/lake-links-2020/>

- his presentation <http://taywatershed.ca/networking.php>

- Lake Links will be recorded and be available on Watersheds Canada website

- Register for Lake Links now at <https://watersheds.ca/lake-links-2020/>

8. Doreen Donald – Mississippi Lakes Association <https://www.mlakes.org/>

- see meeting recording and PowerPoint slides of Doreen's presentation on Mississippi Lakes Association's water safety concerns at <http://taywatershed.ca/networking.php>
- Nov 14, 10 to 11:30 am webinar re this MLA initiative
- register for webinar at boat_safety@mlakes.org
- webinar will be recorded
- will be sending invitations

9. Kat Kavanagh – Water Rangers, Executive Director <http://waterrangers.ca>

- supporting groups to keep water monitoring going
- tools for schools and home-schooled students
- share water testing equipment?

10. Karen Hunt – Overview of Lake Associations Update

- see meeting recording and PowerPoint slides of Karen's presentation <http://taywatershed.ca/networking.php>

Overview of Lake Associations Updates

- Prior to our Oct. 6th meeting I sent out a request for input from the local lake associations I included 3 headings with the thought of grouping the responses for clearer reporting
 - 1. describe the changes & challenges** that your lake community has experienced over the past 6 months
 - 2. what have been your communities' successes?**
 - 3. Do you have plans for projects and activities for 2021?**

The responses flooded in ... about 14 pages worth ...

Truly the following overview only touches the top of the iceberg – the full update from the lake communities will be collated and shared through the LNG email distribution list and posted on the LNG webpage along with the links to the presenters' slides and meeting recording

1. Under changes and challenges here are 3 Key points I learned from the input that I received

- that the **COVID pandemic and its restrictions significantly impacted** on the ability of many lake associations to hold AGMs, social events and volunteer programs and furthermore that limited internet coverage in some areas seriously impacted on lake associations ability to use technology to maintain good communication with residents in those areas.
- that this year's **Gypsy Moth infestation** had a major impact on many Eastern Ontario lake properties
- that more people spending **more time at the lake** this summer and perhaps investing holiday monies in **new and larger boats and personal water craft** led to water safety concerns on many local lakes

2. Successes. – and there were MANY – which speaks to the amazing resilience, ingenuity & creativity of lake people to deal with whatever happens

A few highlights

- Lake associations who could, moved to a greater use of different technologies to connect with members of their lake communities and achieved significant success in holding AGMs, providing educational presentations, increasing memberships, recruiting new board members and expanding data bases. Using tools like Facebook, they also discovered that they were connecting with/passing key messages to lake residents outside their usual member base. **Interesting as well** was that some lake associations who did **not** have access to greater technology but who did have more available volunteer time – these lake associations too were very successful in building stronger community connections this year by having more people to walk lake roads and drop material at docks and connect staying safely socially distanced.
- As well, a number of lake associations were able to adapt their programs making them covid - compliant and carried out water quality monitoring, shoreline plant sales and even a Love Your Lake Assessment
- At least two local lake associations **expanded and welcomed** a neighbouring lake group to become a partner in an expanded lake association
- Plans are underway for a **water safety webinar** in November

Plans for 2021

Lake communities were enthusiastic in planning for 2021 - there are plans for **improving walleye spawning beds and spring walleye counts**, for **community building events**, **lake specific boating safety flyers**, **development of a lake health plan**, **re-establishment of a formal lake steward role**, **expanding water quality testing** and for **retaining the gains** that some lake associations made in attracting new members this year. It was good to see also that lake associations were not just looking inwardly but that there was **enthusiasm to get involved in larger programs with a broader geographical base**.

Eastern Ontario lake associations are alive and well and ready to move forward into a new season next spring.

Lake Networking Group Notice Board

- Canada Water Agency –described by Kat Kavanagh

Federal Government is consulting on the new Canada Water Agency, and it would be great to have the needs of Lake Associations included. We're part of non-profit groups advocating for community-based water monitoring support and legitimacy. Voice your opinions here:

- ▶ <https://www.placespeak.com/en/topic/6321-protecting-canadas-fresh-water/#/overview>

October 7th 10:30 to 12:00 noon. Technical Gypsy Moth Webinar

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

- ▶ Presented by the Invasive Species Centre's Early Detection and Rapid Response Program and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest
- ▶ Presenters - Taylor Scarr, Natural Resources Canada- Canadian Forest Service, and Dan Rowlinson, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- ▶ Learn more technical information on monitoring, data collection, and management. Webinar will also examine best management options for gypsy moth and the measures landowners, land managers and municipalities can take to help slow the spread and

- protect forests from this invasive pest
- ▶ Contact: lbell@invasivespeciescentre.ca

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Fall Reports – Lake Networking Group

Following is the complete information received from local lake associations. Note that some lake associations used the form provided for their reports while others sent a regular update.

The responses to the questions from the form are included first with the regular reports following.

1. Briefly describe the **changes and challenges** that your lake community has been dealing with since the LNG Spring Report was distributed at the beginning of the COVID -19 pandemic

Otty Lake Association – Reid Kilburn, Past President

- a. COVID-19 delayed the Otty Lake Associations (OLA) AGM for two weeks. A successful zoom meeting was held with over 30 locations connected
- b. The OLA continued its own water sampling program with changes to accommodate COVID-19 guidelines. Other partner programs were cancelled.
- c. We had fewer volunteers to help with the Loon Survey
- d. The annual fish spawning habitat survey was cancelled
- e. Otty Lake watershed was hit hard in some areas by Gypsy Moths
- f. Boating safety continues to be a topic of interest for our members

Pike Lake Community Association– Naomi Fowlie, President

Although we thought COVIC would create issues for delivering an AGM with Board elections, the Pike Lake Community Association (PLCA) was able to work through the challenges and received full support from the membership to extend the mandate and Board representation for 2020-21. This was done through electronic voting.

Dalhousie Lake Association – Judy Hall, President

We have used this covid summer as a time to reflect on our goals and to recruit new board members. The directors have meet several times throughout the summer and have spent their time contacting property owners in their section to discuss what they value most about lake living and how they see this being sustained for future generations. We did not hold our usual meeting in July and postponed our AGM until June 2021

Canonto Lake Association – Mary Lynne Halton

Due to Covid we have not had our AGM or summer social. The executive has met a couple of times over the summer. We will be sending the reports that normally are discussed at the AGM, i.e., Lake Steward's report, Treasurer's report, President's report, to the membership this fall and we may have a Zoom meeting with the members.

Challenges: limited interaction with members. Lake partnership program is on hold, so no water testing.

Big Clear Lake Association – Mitch Laufman, President

1. No big changes other than not being able to meet people face to face. People going too fast and too close to shore in boats continues to be a challenge.

Farren Lake Association– Kris McDonald, Secretary

1. The main challenge for 2020 on our small lake was deciding what to do about an AGM. After much review of virtual options, somewhat questionable interest from cottagers, and the continued State of Emergency status, our Board decided to postpone our AGM. It is understood that as an incorporated association, we are legally required to hold an AGM within 120 days of the termination of the State of Emergency. Presently, in lieu of an AGM our members will be provided with a full overview of lake issues, an up to date financial report and the ability to email, text or phone in concerns or questions to the Board.
2. Another challenge is recruiting a volunteer to take on the position of Board President.
3. The gypsy moth infestation was another challenge. Our previous supplier of gypsy moth traps (Cooper Mill Ltd.) is out of business. We struggled to find a new supplier of bulk purchases, and would appreciate any suggestions from other lakes.

Robertson Lake Association – Barbara Sabourin

Our lake, like others, had increased boat traffic especially in August and early September, leading to concern about speed and erosion as well as noise. Other concerns include the progression of Eurasian Milfoil in the lake, and a larger population of Gypsy Moths.

Eagle Lake Property Owner's Association – Doug Cummings, President

Inability to hold a full AGM

Kashwakamak Lake Association - Sue MacGregor, Vice President

The biggest challenge for us was managing our Facebook Group and their discussions on COVID-19. First the local versus cottagers right to be at the lake and then nasty comments about the Americans wanting to come over the border. On March 16th we had 1,790 members and today we have 2,150 – a growth rate of 16.7%! Moderating the comments, vetting requests for members, ensuring the site was being used for its intended purpose was a lot of work.

The biggest group issue besides COVID was the Gypsy Moth outbreak on our lake. There was a lot of discussion and request for information regarding how best to deal with them. There was an area on the lake the sprayed with success so others are curious for next year. The KLA Board is taking FOCA's advice and is providing information to our members but not taking a pro or con stance either way.

Mississippi Lakes Association – Rob Bell, President

Our in-person volunteer activity has been very limited: No invasive species survey and loon count volunteers (in boats) limited to immediate family.

Black Lake Property Owners' Association - Cliff Halliwell, President

Challenges: There were two types of challenges: (1) the usual and (2) the new challenges that Covid-19 presents.

The **usual** challenges have been **membership, volunteers** for some key activities and **outreach**.

Membership: Typically, our membership is about a quarter of lake properties: 60 or so out of 230 or so properties. This makes it hard to claim to truly represent owners. This year our Treasurer, Bruce Brooks, spearheaded a drive to increase our membership while our President, Cliff Halliwell, developed a Microsoft Access database which became an inventory of lake properties and owner/member data. As of early Fall membership is now over 150 and the database has at least one owner name for all properties and more detailed contact information for the majority. (We could have gotten more owner info but for the closure, until recently, of the Tay Valley Township offices, which prevented accessing property tax records for owner database gaps.)

Volunteers: We solved our perennial problem of finding volunteers for deploying and collecting lake buoys (a problem compounded by trouble distancing in a small boat!) by paying someone to do it. Otherwise, we still have trouble getting volunteers and just a few people do most of the work.

Outreach: This past winter we were able to resurrect our e-mail outreach with a paid MailChimp account that allowed redundancy in creating and emailing information. We now only use MailChimp for 'official' BLPOA emails and use our active Facebook group to give people a heads up on emails and encourage them to sign up for MailChimp. Our MailChimp subscriber list has gone from around 120 to over 180. Note that we do not restrict subscriptions to paid members. We do, however, encourage that sign-up be for owners only, whereas Facebook clearly has a lot of family and friends (and others?). We also started using (the President's) Microsoft 365 subscription and the new 'Forms' tool to easily create, circulate and report on owner/members surveys. We have had owner surveys on the Tay Valley Township draft Master Recreation Plan, water safety (a major concern this year) and water quality.

The **unusual** challenges related to Covid-19 were **canvassing** for new members early in 2020 and **holding an AGM**. Early in the year some potential volunteers for membership canvassing were reticent to do in-person canvassing. Later on, this became less of a concern, although still real. It was clear by late March that holding an in-person AGM was out of the question. We feared that lake bandwidth issues would make attempting a Zoom AGM a failure, so did not try that. Once we proved the success of using the Microsoft 365 Forms tool for surveying, we solved our AGM problem by pre-circulating info and then having an online ballot via a survey. This enabled us to get the usual AGM approvals (minutes, financial report, fees, etc.), Board and President elections, and one non-recurring but important issue (of approving a new constitution that correctly has us as an association, not a corporation) approved. Obviously, there was no scope for 'discussion'.

Dog and Cranberry Lakes – Daryl Neve, President

At our July AGM, The Dog Lake Association (DLA) officially expanded to welcome residents of Cranberry Lake. As the **"Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association"** (DCLA) we have 10 more new members for a total of 87 households as part of our new association.

We are in the process of updating and reconfiguring our website and membership management systems in order to have a much more user friendly on-line presence. We are recognizing that due to Covid, we will need to a lot more communicating this way and so we want to be more accessible and more informative

Chaffey's Locks and Area Lake Association – Gay Henniger

- Cancellation of all Spring and eventually Summer meetings including the Meet and Greet, July 1st Canada Day Booth & Duck Race and July AGM. Inability to reach out to new members.
- Put off AGM until September
- Rest period (we had all been going flat out for years).
- Used this period to keep in touch virtually & learn new technologies to connect with partners and members.
- Volunteer Newsletter designer had to give up doing our newsletter

and also provide input about your successes.

Otty Lake Association

- a) Even without a face-to-face AGM where the majority of our members would typically renew the OLA's membership remained high due to an effective on-line campaign.
- b) An informative and comprehensive Gypsy Moth resource was launched on ottylakeassociation.ca
- c) The OLA's annual shoreline planting project with our partner RVCA was a success with 155 shrubs and trees planted. This brings the total number of shrubs, trees and wildflowers planted since inception to 2,782.

Pike Lake Association

1. Achieved highest number of PLCA membership in many years. Increased membership by nearly 20% over last year.
2. Initiated new revenue opportunities through asking for donations to add funds for the specific projects such as purchase of buoys, PLCA promotional signage and website. Donations \$100 each for these three projects. Raised \$500 through sale of advertising space on the back page of the annual publication of the Pike Lake Post.
3. Launched the new website which has proven to be a great improvement over the previous static platform. Includes a private, members only section.
4. The PLCA private Facebook site attracted 70 highly engaged participants in less than a year. Besides professional quality photos posted, it has been used to connect lost items with their owners, give away articles no longer needed as well as post activities and interesting articles.
5. Completed a cellular phone and internet survey. Results submitted to 27 stakeholders and all Pike Lake – Grant's Creek residents who participated. Results posted on PLCA website.

6. Initiated an electronic newsletter to be published each spring and fall. Purpose and focus is different from the Pike Lake Post.

Dalhousie Lake Association

We now have 3 new members for our board and will be working over the winter to update association goals based on property owners' input.

Canonto Lake Association

Accomplishments,

1. Water quality monitoring : Sechi disc readings and monitoring and logging the water temperature and water level continued.
2. Continue to communicate with members through email.

Big Clear Lake Association

In May we had a Zoom presentation by Quinte Conservation and Watersheds Canada re Shoreline Protection for our members. We recorded it and made it available to our members and others. Also held our AGM via Zoom in July. One of our execs, Art Dunham, is holding monthly informal zoom meetings with many of the other lake associations in the area – the objective being to meet and share info and concerns.

Farren Lake Association

On the success side, RVCA provided excellent support to Farren Lake through the Shoreline Naturalization Program. One fifth of our property owners connected with RVCA to have site visits. RVCA staff determined that many of the properties already had good natural coverage which bodes well for our lake health. Seventeen properties participated in shoreline /septic plantings with good results.

Our Farren Lake newsletter and website have been revitalized with the significant support of two diligent volunteers.

Robertson Lake Association

MVCA loaned us a Water Rangers Test Kit to use this summer, and the test results show little changes from those originally done by MVCA in the early 2000's. Robertson Lake continues to have great clarity and shows little change in other results including pH, dissolved oxygen, hardness and alkalinity.

Eagle Lake Property Owners' Association

- a. Water levels at good levels due to proactive management (dam flow control with MNR, and beaver-related actions)
- b. Fairly well attended zoom AGM in July.
- c. New board members recruited
 - Steve Burgess (Lake Steward, past Board Member)
 - Doug Cummings (President, past Board Member)

Mississippi Lakes Association

- Our AGM via zoom worked out well. We even picked up a new board member during the session.
- Response to an email reaching out to Road Associations around the lake has been excellent. People seem to be more attentive to their email these days.
- The loon count went off without a hitch.
- Water Rangers water sampling/testing appears to have proceeded successfully... we're still assessing the outcome.
- We successfully erected a new sign at the main boat launch for the lake in Carleton Place urging boaters to clean their boats between visits (among other information about the lake.)
- We're planning a water safety webinar in November.

Kashwakamak Lake

We were able to recruit a KLA member who is also a member of the Facebook Group to volunteer and become a moderator and join our communications committee. She's been a great help in not only vetting and monitoring the conversations but she's reached out to everyone who posted a sighting and encouraged them to submit it in our [Let's Get Tracking Survey](#) of Flora & Fauna.

We also updated our **Facebook Group** rules and created COVID-19 protocols. In addition, we now require anyone who wants to join the group to read and agree to follow the rules before we let them in.

We also successfully participated in the **Love Your Lake** program with a 2 ½ week assessment of our lake's shoreline. To my knowledge only one property owner did not want to participate. With COVID in mind we weren't sure how people would respond to the call for volunteers to drive the LYL student around and house her during this time. I'm pleased to report that we had an overwhelming positive response.

In the spring the KLA Board also decided to give any business who had advertised with us in 2019 in our newsletter and on our website a FREE year of advertising for 2020. We received a very positive response from the business community. We also made a cash donation to our local Foodbank (who normally received support from our Annual Fall Dinner).

Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association

In April we adapted our tree sale plans so that we could run a Covid-compliant ordering and pick-up procedure. Members were also able to schedule themselves in, on-line, for a summer garden/naturalized waterfront tour, which ran over a 3 day period in order to accommodate small groups of less than 10, outdoors, of course. Our AGM, normally accompanied by a summer BBQ at Gilmore Beach turned out to be a far less social, yet still productive meeting, via zoom.

Chaffey's Locks & Area Lake Association

- Thanks to part of the grant from the Twp. of Rideau Lakes, we have hired a marketing contractor to do the designing of the newsletter.
- Honed technical skills.

- Participated (virtually) in meetings of the Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee with Mayor and 2 Councillors - focus on the Official Plan.
- Found that technology allowed for meeting locally but also connecting with other groups further afield. We are now connected with the Muskoka Lakes Assoc. – keeping abreast of their projects. Also attended a webinar put on by Lake of the Woods on a Blue Algae Bloom in one of their lakes. (writing a newsletter article re: this subject).
- Despite glitches with the ZOOM technology, we had a successful AGM with a presentation from the MLA Safe Quiet Lakes Assoc. and we gained three new Executive members.
- Increasingly using Elerts to communicate with members.

2. Do you have plans underway for **new projects or activities in 2021?**

Otty Lake Association

The OLA is considering updating a map of the lake and properties to include clearly delineated 10 KM/hour speed zones and possibly navigational hazards.

Pike Lake Community Association

Nothing at this time.

Dalhousie Lake Association

Not at this time. Our directors meet in April and new projects will be discussed at that time.

Big Clear Lake Association

We hope to do some work on cleaning the existing walleye spawning beds to remove silt. We also hope to get out when the walleye spawn in the spring to do a count.

Farren Lake Association

Projects for 2021 are to have an AGM! Producing a Farren Lake specific Boating Safety flyer. Developing stronger relationship with MNR to monitor lake levels

Robertson Lake Association

With our AGM delayed until August 29th, the new executive is just getting underway. Tentative new projects include developing an activities schedule for our hall, and developing a lake health plan. We're also interested in having a Food Fair at our Park and Beach with several food trucks, and hope to integrate it with the 200th Anniversary of Lanark and area.

Eagle Lake Property Owners' Association

Areas of focus for 2021:

- a. Re-establish formal Lake Steward role
- b. Ensure relationship managers in place with all external groups
- c. Membership revitalization – wider geographic representation
- d. Not new, but continuing focus on communications (newsletter, website, facebook group, etc)

Mississippi Lakes Association

Our planning session is normally in January for the new year. We will be continuing whatever we can depending on pandemic progression.

Kashwakamak Lake Association

We will receive our overall *Love Your Lake Shoreline Assessment Report* in the spring of 2021 which will give the KLA a great touchpoint to assess and make future plans of action with our Lake Sustainability plan in mind.

Black Lake Property Owners' Association

Paid Membership Retention: The first challenge for 2021 will be at least retaining our new, record-high membership. The complication will be that the lengthy, volunteer canvassing effort it took in 2020 cannot be replicated annually. Hopefully, retention is easier than initial sign-ups. Ideally, we would like to increase our membership further as we still have a quarter or more of property owners who are not members. The challenge is that all the benefits of membership (emails, Facebook access, web site, lake buoys) are equally available to non-members. We have pondered restricting access to email and Facebook, but the cross-checking and filtering work involved could be considerable. We will restrict use of Facebook for monetary purposes (selling stuff or offering services) to paid members. We will also offer small buoys, for near shore use, at a nominal cost, to paid members.

AGM: A second challenge will be that we fear an in-person AGM will still be impossible for 2021, as a Covid-19 vaccine may still be something spoken of using the future tense for many. So, we may have to replicate what we did for 2020. We could also explore having some form of Zoom meeting to convey information and have some feedback but would have to pilot it to see if bandwidth permits. If an in-person AGM was possible, we might need a larger venue with a doubled membership. We also want our in-person AGM to be a bit more exciting, with less focus on member approval of administrative trivia which is properly the responsibility of the Board.

Financial Planning: A third, but welcome, challenge will be our greater financial success and what activities we could pay for with the larger ongoing revenues higher membership creates and our ongoing, significant, accumulated surplus. We are going to somewhat expand our buoys program, purchasing smaller buoys for near-shore shoals, but that is a one-off purchase.

Water Quality: Fourth, using the results of the water quality survey, we need to explore what the possibilities are for doing something – beyond extolling virtue through information – that would help preserve or improve lake water quality. One option is at least expanded water testing, beyond the sites covered by annual RVCA testing. The catch is that the Lake Partners Program (LPP) for testing is in a hiatus during Covid-19, so we could not sample through that program. Private lab testing could be an option.

Board Redundancy: Finally, we need to try and get more redundancy and back up for the activities of the Board (the President and Treasurer especially), as they are tending to carry the association but may not wish to do this forever.

Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association

In response to a recent membership survey we are organizing a number of activities. These include guided hikes through some of our local Nature Conservancy lands, a guided historical tour of some of our local locks, virtual presentations on “Improving Water Quality and Understanding Our Limitations” and “Citizen Science - How to use the iNaturalist App”.

The DCLA will be represented on the new South Frontenac Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee (SFLEAC, formed to “...support the health and welfare of the Township's lake ecosystems and the enjoyment and use of those lakes by lake residents, visitors and future generations.” They plan to promote their goals through;

- hosting an annual Lake Associations Forum - open to all of us in SF
- advising on the development of a Lake Study Grant program

The committee is made up of two township councillors, 6 lake association representatives, two other lake front residents, and a representative from the CRCA.

We are also looking forward to participating in the Rideau Canal Management Plan and a Lake Nutrient Budget Study.

Chaffey's Locks & Area Lake Association

- New executive to meet soon to discuss future meetings for 2021 and projects. We are excited to new members on Executive.
- Rebooked postponed Cottage Succession seminar for August 25, 2021 working with FOCA and Buck Lake Assoc.

3. Several of the lake associations have had Annual Meetings and may have changes in Board contacts or Board structure. Please include those updates.

Otty Lake Association

The 2020-2021 OLA Board altered our constitution to have 10 to 15 members on the board of directors rather than 15 total. With the retirement of three directors, and no new directors nominated, the board now has 12 members.

After 5 years as President, Reid Kilburn is retiring. The OLA is currently seeking a new President; however an interim Leadership Team has been put in place. In the interim, the board is being directed by Kristen Brouse, Rachel Roth and Barb Hicks. With core duties divided into Water Quality (Kirsten), Partnerships (Rachel) and Communications (Barb). Reid, as Past President, will be able to provide advice and support when necessary.

Pike Lake Association

No changes

Dalhousie Lake Association

None for us

Big Clear Lake Association

No change

Farren Lake Association

Our president for the past several years, George Willett, will unfortunately be leaving the lake. The Farren Lake contact will be: Kris McDonald, FLPOA secretary, mcdonald.kristi@gmail.com

Robertson Lake Association

President: Ryan Kozlowski ryan.kozlowski@gmail.com
Vice President: William Watson kelsawww@gmail.com
Treasurer: Barbara Sabourin ssabbarb@gmail.com
Secretary: Monika Fleischer Monikafleischer@storm.ca

Barbara Sabourin (ssabbarb@gmail.com) continues to be the main contact for the Lake Networking Group.

Eagle Lake Property Owners' Association

- Steve Burgess (Lake Steward, past Board Member)
- Doug Cummings (President, past Board Member)

Mississippi Lakes Association

- Our main contacts haven't changed.

Kashwakamak Lake Association

We did not have an AGM this year and we cancelled our Annual Fall Dinner and Charity Auction. The Board has conducted its meetings over Zoom and will continue to do so. We are contemplating reducing the number of meetings we have (either in person if allowable in 2021) or via Zoom given this years' experience. We will be discussing it this weekend. We are also updating our Constitution and will present it at the 2021 AGM. Our current board and contacts remain the same.

Sue MacGregor, Vice President, Kashwakamak Lake Association vp@kashwakamak.ca

Black Lake Property Owners' Association

We have added one Board member and the rest of the Directors remain unchanged and the President was re-elected in the greatest election victory ever (admittedly against no opposition).

Pike Lake Community Association

No changes

Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association

New Board Contacts: Daryl Neve, President darylneve@gmail.com

Janet Brown, Secretary francis.janet@gmail.com

3 members are new to our board: Carol Allmendinger, Manuel Stevens and Leslie Wood.

Chaffey's Locks & Area Lake Association

Chair – Eva Leon

Vice Chair – Laura Belton

Treasure – vacant (please remove Heather Arnold)

Secretary – Barb Bekooy (bbekooy@gmail.com)

Communication – Gay Henniger

Membership – Nancy McCormick

Members at Large: Mark Bacon (mar11soc@aol.com) and Tom Belton (tgbelton@gmail.com)

Following are the Lake Association Updates received using the regular reporting format

Christie Lake Association – Krystyna Williamson, Chair

The Christie Lake Association had an unusually quiet workload this summer, as gathering events were cancelled for the season. The one notable exception was the annual Canada Boat Flotilla, where our community proudly showed the Canadian spirit and safely visited with neighbours. Our lake safety markers went out as usual and new loon platforms were prepared by our volunteers, with financial support from the Daniel and Susan Gottlieb Foundation, are ready to roll. We observed one loon family raising young on a platform this year, so its great to see them making use of these as our water levels tend to fluctuate a lot. We have increased the frequency of our member outreach through our "Spotlight" communications to inform our members of things going on in and around our community, as well as webinars of interest. Of particular interest to our members this year was the webinar, hosted by the Invasive Species Centre, on the gypsy moths and methods to control their population. We had a low level of boating activity in general, as many lake residents were unable to be with us this summer and our private boat launch was closed to the public, so we did not see the increased usage many lakes had this year. There has been some cormorant activity on our lake - this invasive species is not welcome! We are wondering if others are seeing more of them as well? We can only hope that some greater degree of social life can resume next year, but we all agree that if you have to be isolated, the lake is a great place to be!

Kennebec Lake Association- Doc Maiorino, Chair, Kennebec Lake Assoc.

2020 has been a challenging year for the KLA, we started strong with our Family day event with over 100 local lake folks enjoying skating, ice fishing and roasting hot dogs and eating chill by a bon fire. Who would have expected that to be our last event so far in 2020. In fact since Covid it seems Mother Nature just wanted to keep challenging us with a spring infestation of Gypsy Moth that was as bad as any could remember! Most of our trees around the lake were stripped bare and the included our Pines.

Great concern was expressed via our Facebook page but thankfully most hardwoods came back but some of our pines were hit pretty hard and are struggling.

Finally by early July we got past and we settled into a warm dry summer with most of our folks respecting the Covid rules around gathering. The lake was busy but for the most part not by large groups. To our knowledge we have had no Covid cases on our lake.

Our major casualties from C-19 were our Canada Day Flotilla and BBQ as well as our AGM which were both cancelled. Our AGM materials were pulled together by the board and distributed to all members of the KLA via several platforms to ensure absolute coverage. These events are major opportunities

for us as an organization to meet and speak directly to many of our members and having to cancel has impacted our overall membership.

A few success this year partially driven by C-19 was our need to update and enhance our KLA web page into a more informative and interactive tool, this will continue over the winter. Also the emergence of our FB page as a very important communication tool for all of us on the lake. This past year has seen great interaction by our lake community as well as the ability for the board to reach a broad audience even greater than our direct members with key information.

As we look to 2021 we are hopeful for a more normal life! We are looking for some additional opportunities to engage as well. Small concerts, treasure hunts and smaller cookouts to help bring the community together. Of course all of these plus our annual events will be driven by what we hope will be a safe and healthy environment.

We are fortunate that our association has a large and active board. We has 15 going into our AGM distribution and proposed to our members a board of 14 for the coming fiscal year. We did unfortunately lose Charmaine Chartier from our board for family reason and will miss her contribution to our stewardship group. The rest of our board and positions remain as before.

Silver Lake & Area Environmental Protection Association Environment – Greg Ellis, Chair

The Silver Lake Association has had a quiet summer with not a lot of activity going on. We are in the process of trying to increase membership and hand delivered association introduction letters to all waterfront properties prior to the Labour Day weekend. A copy of the Lake Protection Workbook was included with each letter.

Due to Covid, we have cancelled our AGM this year, we will have one in 2021 for sure.

Our water testing program has continued on a limited basis, but no phosphate sample has been done due to the province's suspension of the Lake Partners program.

We have had an issue with lake levels this year, the beavers have been ambitious and the lake is still near spring levels, resulting in some erosion issues. We are working on the problem and will be consulting with Ontario Parks and Ontario Transportation staff to co-ordinate a solution, possibly installation of a beaver baffle device.

We did have a 10:00pm missing person incident this summer, with Frontenac OPP responding with helicopter, ground and water searches, with a successful conclusion about 4 hours later, a job well done.

WHITE LAKE PROPERTY ASSOCIATION ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, Dave Overholt

White Lake abridges the county borders of Lanark and Renfrew . As such it exists outside the jurisdiction of any Conservation Authority in Ontario.

In 2019 two lake groups, the WLPOA (White Lake Property Owners Association) and the WLPP (White Lake Preservation Project) combined their environmental interests. At the August 22 2020 AGM the motion was passed to redefine WLPOA membership to include residents that reside within the watershed of White Lake. This change aligns membership to the commitment to lake stewardship as established in the WLPOA constitution. At present there are over 220 active members in the WLPOA.

In January 2020 the Environmental Directorship completed the annual 2019 White Lake Water Quality Report. This report and others are available on the website www.WLPP.ca

CURRENT PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- Biweekly water sampling for Ontario's LPP (Lake Partners Program)
- Biweekly photo documentation of phytoplankton in White Lake at LPP sampling sites
- 2020 Aquatic Macrophyte Survey:
This survey will update observations made by an MNRF survey of 1976 that was published in 1977¹. The current survey will be the second time a systematic study of aquatic weeds has been made on White Lake during the last 44 years.

¹L.J. Bond: 1977: Ecological study of white Lake (Renfrew and Lanark Counties 1976, MNR

March 1977

- Monitor and report the presence of filamentous algae:
A bulletin was sent to the membership in June on observed heavy blooms. This report is available on the WLPP website.
- Monitor and report on the 2020 Gypsy Moth invasion:
A bulletin was sent to the membership in July. This is available on the WLPP website.
- Monitor and report on the occurrence of floating mats of native *Vallisneria spiralis* (tape grass). This is available on the WLPP website
- Monitor the ongoing changes that are happening to White Lake's invasive zebra mussels.
- Monitor and report on the occurrence of microcystis blooms.
- Monitor the resident loon & cormorant populations.
The 2020 loon report will be found in the 2020 White Lake Water Quality Report.

The White Lake Environmental Directors will be happy to communicate with any Lake Association that is interested in similar observations.

Conrad Gregoire: Environmental Director, WLPOA

Dave Overholt: Environmental Director- invasive species WLPOA