

Fall 2024 Lake Networking Group (LNG) Report

Lake Networking Group Meeting

Sep 26, 2024 at 9:30 a.m – 11:30 am

By Zoom

- **Attendance:** *Eagle Lake* – Doug Cummings, *Mississippi Lake Association* – Rob Bell, Gary Grimshire, *Otty Lake Association (OLA)* – Reid & Christine Kilburn, *Chaffey's & Area Lake Association* – Tom Todd, Mark Bacon, *Sharbot Lake Property Owners' Association (SLPOA)* – Ken Waller, Sue Cragg, *Black Lake Property Owners' Association (BLPOA)* – Bruce Brooks, *Pike Lake Association* – David Scott, *Big Clear Lake* – Art Dunham, *Little Silver Lake & Rainbow Lake* – Frank Johnson, Jeff Aird, *Silver Lake & Area Environmental Protection Association* – Greg Ellis, *Canonto Lake* – Mary Lynne Holton, , *Big Rideau Lake Association* – Hansen Downer, *Dog & Cranberry Lakes* – Janet Brown, Manuel Stevens, *Otter Lake* – Jeff Neal, *Bob's & Crow Lakes* – Lynn Watson, Larry Arpaia, *Elbow Lake* – Scott Lee, *Unknown* - Amy, Tom Ellis, *Cataragui Conservation Authority* - Holly Evans, *Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA)* – Haley Matschke, *Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)* - Kelly Stiles, *Watersheds Canada* – Melissa Dakers, *Friends of the Tay Watershed* – Taro Alps, *FOCA* – Michelle Lewin
- **Regrets** – *Big Gull Lake/FOCA Secretary* - Donna Commerford, *Chaffey's & Area Lake Association (CALA)* – Eva Leon, *Farren Lake Association* – Kristi McDonald, *Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA)* – Meaghan McDonald, *Water Rangers* – Kat Kavanagh, *Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry* - Darren Bonenberg, *Bennett & Fagan Lakes* – Andrew Oestreich, *Christie Lake* – Donna Walsh

Conservation Authority files can be found on the Friends of the Tay website, as well as attached to these minutes ~ see <https://taywatershed.ca/networking.php> and go down to Lake Networking Group Meeting Notes.

Link to meeting recording:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/12iXeHHWiaosmXA3jUL_lihEIEFFWAKyI/view?usp=drive_link

- **Welcome** – Doug welcomed everyone, and thanked them for attending. He thanked Terry for his excellent leadership in the past many years. Doug went through the logistics for the meeting, e.g. asking questions. Doug recognized the First Nations on

whose unceded territories we are meeting and thanked them for their ongoing stewardship. We continue this work in the spirit of true reconciliation.

- For this meeting, we are repeating the new format we used at the spring meeting, i.e. 2 presentations on topics recommended by members, rather than hearing from each Lake Association.
- **Conservation Authorities (CA) Updates**
 - **Rideau Valley Conservation** – Haley Matschke
 - Please see Haley’s attached report for various topics such as:
 - Stewardship – tree planting/ALUS – agricultural programs for farmers by farmers
 - Sustainable Drainage Pilot Project
 - “Reduce your Runoff” Workbook for property owners coming soon
 - Water quality monitoring
 - Source Water Protection Webinar series – next one, Oct 23 – climate change impacts on drinking water
 - **Question** – invasive species, specifically Eurasian water milfoil. Are there many occurrences in RVCA territory? Multiple lakes are facing challenges. Best practices for managing it have been published. There is a chemical product (ProcellaCOR) that costs about \$125K for applications lasting 3 years. Approved by Health Canada. Madawaska Lake is in 2 municipalities. There is an uproar that they don’t want to add chemicals to water.
 - **Question** – Changes to Wetland regulations Cease Order – any more information? The process was put on hold by the Ministry.
 - **Cataraqui Conservation** – Holly Evans
 - Please see Holly’s report attached, covering the following topics:
 - Watersheds Science, e.g. removal of water soldier patches on Red Horse Lake, Phragmites mapping & initial management plan project
 - Forestry – 200K trees to be planted spring 2025
 - Water level management
 - Drinking Water source protection
 - Education and Conservation Lands
 - Development Review
 - **Question** – how does water soldier reproduce? Like a spider plant, clone themselves, break off and can float along to new locations
 - **Question** – anything that will control phragmites? Biological control - a moth larva has been found which can control phragmites. Nurse locations have been set up by the province where larva can grow naturally. Trying

to control it in the interim to save our wetlands til the moth has been studied further.

- Manuel thanked Holly and her team for helping with their Conservation Plan for Dog & Cranberry Lakes. Holly and others have provided mentorship and assistance. It will be posted on their website shortly.
- Frank Johnson – there is a book about managing invasive species.. www.chelseagreen.com/product/beyond-the-war-on-invasive-species.
Bottom line – it recommends we let nature sort itself out.

- **Mississippi Valley Conservation** – Kelly Stiles

- Please see Kelly's report attached, covering the following topics:
 - Monitoring program, e.g. Clyde River, Poole Creek, Feedmill Creek
 - Stewardship programs, .e.g. planting of native shoreline plants, upcoming tree planting on NCC property thanks to funding from TD
 - ALUS program for agricultural projects in MVCA/RVCA territories
 - Success of pollinator garden planted with CWF
 - Invasive species
- Wetland mapping & regulation – MVCA went through that process in 2017. They do regulate wetlands and there are policies for ones they don't.

- **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry** – Darren Bonenberg, MNRF Resource Management Coordinator, Kemptville- Kingston District – couldn't join us.

- **Watersheds Canada** – Melissa Dakers

- Please see Melissa's report attached, covering the following topics:
 - Completion of Year 2 of in classroom programs in Ottawa – 87 students in Grades 1 to 4.
 - Expanded Nature Discovery Backpack programs – Regina and Saskatoon
 - Published Light Pollution Tool Kit
 - Natural Edge and Love your Lake programs
 - Fish Habitat Restoration projects
 - Identified projects in the future
 - Oct 26 – Kawartha Area – Wine & Water fund raiser
 - 50/50 draw ends Nov 2nd to protect watersheds
 - Belted Kingfisher carving draw ends Sep 30th
 - First ever national conference May 1 and 2 in Haliburton area

- **Question** – What funds Watersheds Canada? It's a national charity – fund raise for all their funding, and receive grants.
 - **Question** – Thanks was passed on to Chloe Lajoie and the whole team for their help with the Natural Edge program. Thanks to the whole team. Chloe went to all properties and helped plant when they couldn't find any volunteers.
- **Lake Links** – Lake Links Planning Committee – Melissa Dakers
 - Please see Melissa's report attached, covering the following topics:
 - Theme – Planning for Change – The Ripple Effect of Lake Planning
 - **Oct 26** – 10 to 3. Elgin Lions Community Centre. Can register on line. \$30 includes lunch.
 - List of Speakers
 - **Question** – Will there be Zoom access? Not this year, but this location has better internet access, so possibly next year. Hope to record each of the presentations and put them up on website and Facebook
- **FOCA** – Michelle Lewin.
 - Lesley Lavender sends greetings – replaced Terry Rees, who is still working on a couple of pilot programs
 - Deanna Forgie returned from leave to her job as Programs Coordinator
 - Please see Michelle's report attached, covering topics such as:
 - 2024 Lake Stewards magazine
 - Lake Partner Program Sampling data – thanks to all the lakes that have submitted
 - FOCA Fall seminar Nov 9th with theme Healthy Waterfronts
 - Subscribe to FOCA's eLert newsletter
 - **Question** – point of contact re invasive species? FOCA does not have a task force to come out and remove invasive species. Sudbury area had Eurasian milfoil for over 10 years. It has declined. Waiting for report from that region to see if anything can be gleaned. Natural life cycle. Ken has drone footage for his lake, showing expansion in some areas, increase in density in others. A lake which felt they'd lost access to their lake due to Eurasian milfoil got a \$200K grant to deal with it. Could be a 4 to 5 year cycle when the ProcellaCOR herbicide is applied.
 - **Question/Comment** – climate change is causing spread of invasive species. Should deal with the cause not the effect.
 - **Question** – marine safety – Bob's & Crow Lakes have had a few deaths. How can we get through to people on this? They have done on site workshops with marine OPP. Not getting through. 3 young people dying in this area is a huge concern. Have other LA's looked at how to get through to people? FOCA sits on

Transport Canada regarding recreational boating. In some cases, they've set up radar gun displays to show people how fast they're going. Reminds people that they're exceeding the limit. Michelle can put anyone interested in touch with the lake in Muskoka doing this.

- **Friends of the Tay Watershed** – Taro Alps
 - Glenn Tunnock, president, passed away suddenly on Sep 11th.
 - May 25, 2 to 4 pm – Tay Canal Walk started at Last Duel Park, or at the upper end of Mill St. Six stations along the canal provided information to the public. Very successful. Hopefully expand it next year and add a few stations
 - Tay cleanup scheduled this fall, but postponed to next year.
 - Watershed Discovery Day – Aug 17th – quite successful.
 - FoTW depends on its partners – the CA's, Watersheds Canada
 - Would like comments and questions from LA's for next year's themes
 - FoTW offers bursaries for High school students looking to study environmental issues. \$1K this year thanks mostly to H&R Block. This year 2 students from PDCI received grants, next year might expand to university students
 - Taro thanked us all for the work we all do.
- **Lake Associations' Sharing**
 - Art Dunham – Big Clear Lake – has a proposal for sharing information of interest among lake associations. Please see attached document to learn how to sign up for the emails.
 - **Question** – who does Art envision will use this information? Art's email process has a limit of 50 recipients. One member from each interested lake association should join. That person can then forward on to other Lake Association members.
 - **BASS SPAWNING SANCTUARIES** – Hansen Downer – Big Rideau Lake
 - Hansen shared very interesting information about bass spawning sanctuaries. Please see his attached document. Some information shared in his document:
 - The project in this area, as well as around the world, was led by David Philipp (professor at University of Illinois and summer resident on Opinicon Lake) with Steven Cooke (professor from Carleton U). They have done a huge amount of research. For example it is the male bass who guards the nest. If it is removed for as little as 5 minutes, the entire nest is destroyed. If there is early

- fishing and a male bass is caught, it is taken out of the water for 5 minutes and put back, and in that time the nest is done.
- Opinicon Lake has set up a bass sanctuary, which is a protected area where it is illegal to fish. The sanctuary is marked by signage.
 - Big, Lower and Upper Rideau lakes have been given a \$12K grant by the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation to implement sanctuaries on their lakes. They want to lobby the provincial government to establish more sanctuaries, so more voices and lakes would be beneficial. If interested please get in touch with Hansen or David. See attached document for contact information, as well as links and more details.
- Other facts Hansen shared:
 - The provincial government moved bass fishing season back 2 weeks which impacts bass fishing season and could have a significant impact on bass population.
 - Once bass is caught and released, it's not only the time interval impact, but the bass usually do not return to the nest.
 - If female fish get caught and released, they won't spawn during the rest of the year.
 - Poaching is a major problem on Bob's & Crow Lakes. No conservation officers in that area due to cut backs and people on leave. There has been a significant drop in population. OPP agree it's a major concern. Yet no one wants to address getting additional conservation officers. They can't do anything about it since fishermen say they're fishing for pike, not bass. But if you have a sanctuary, they can go in and grab the perpetrators.
 - **Question:** How do they identify the sanctuary areas and how do fishermen know? There are signs in the water. Others go and yell at the fishermen. ID areas via overhead mapping using drones.
 - **Question:** Where are good spawning areas? Work with LA's to ask what they think. Get a view from a biologist and fishermen.
 - In Little Silver Lake, the bass population is almost decimated. Fishermen take the biggest fish they can catch.
 - Sanctuaries are sanctioned by the province so they can be actioned.
 - **Question:** Conservation officers – who are they? How do you contact them? From Kingston to Ottawa, there are 2 conservation officers.

- **GREAT LAKES AIS (aquatic invasive species) LANDING BLITZ** – Rob Bell – Mississippi Lake
 - Rob introduced himself for those who are new to the LNG. He has been on the Mississippi Lakes Association since 2013. Mississippi Lake has 55 km of shoreline. He has lived there since 2007. He is on the environment team of the LA.
 - They looked in to boat washing station for their lake - \$55K.
 - Boats leaving will clean their boats, but it's also the boats coming in.
 - So we all have to participate to stop the spread from lake to lake.
 - To stop the unwanted spread of invasive species, we have to make sure boats are clean when they move from one lake to another.
 - Rob attended a webinar in March on Great Lakes Landing blitz. In June, he attended an OFHA webinar. All about going to boat launches and educating people on the importance of clean, drain and dry. Here is the link to the webinar.
 - ["Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz" webinar ...](#)
 - According to the Ontario Invasive Species Act - it's the law that all boats must be cleaned, drained and dry.
 - Education is the key.
 - 200 conservation officers in Ontario to enforce
 - Map icons in Rob's presentation have data attached about what was done
 - Training course is available (link above). Rob showed a brief portion of it. Includes a script of what you would say and do at the boat launch.
 - Engage high school students to help, and they earn volunteer hours.
 - Should clean boats away from one lake when going to a different lake.
 - Talk to bass tournament groups. Go through OFAH since tournament organizers might listen to them. They don't listen to lake associations. Hansen is willing to go to Parks Canada to see if they have anything in their tournament permits which say they have to clean their boats. \$800 fine if they haven't cleaned out their bilge. Go back to tournament organizers to ensure they know.
 - Kennebec Lake are bringing in a boat washing station for a trial (CD3 system) – about \$15K.
 - **Question** – can incoming boats clean before launching? More effective if done on the way out. There's a time pressure – fishermen want to get out

on the water. If washing on the way in, at the boat launch, you're still washing invasive species in to the lake.

- **General Question** – Did Darren have material he was going to present? Rob will ask.
- **Thanks**
 - Doug thanked all presenters – partners as well as guests
 - Rob thanked Doug for doing an excellent job.

Lake Association Reports submitted:

Little Silver & Rainbow Lakes Property Owners Association – :

1. We share the challenge with bass poaching. Those doing so on our lake are persistent and have decimated the breeding age bass. When challenged at the public boat launch they simply trespassed on a vacant lot.
2. We will consider the "sanctuary" idea, but our lake is small.
3. Dissolved oxygen levels in the deep water of the lake are falling, possibly as a result of weakening spring turnover. This is in turn a consequence of climate change.
4. Invasive species are a consequence of climate change, and therefore the root cause needs to be addressed.
5. Climate change is an existential threat, and a link to a good TED talk on this was provided. <https://youtu.be/Vl6VhCAeEfQ?feature=shared>
6. Our major issue with our Township is over the ongoing (18 months and counting) legal battle about Public Unassumed Roads. This has cost the taxpayers in TVT over \$100,000 and it has eroded trust and communication between the lakes and the township. This will be exceedingly difficult to restore.

Kennebec Lake Association –

The update to the Lake Stewardship document has been completed and implementation is underway. Brochures will be produced outlining Best Practices for Shoreline Living, Boating/Water Activities and for Cottage Renting. Common themes are in care and preservation of the watershed and respect for others.

There are also recommendations for the Association in terms of annual planning and reporting to the membership and for working with the municipality, Quinte Conservation and other levels of government toward safeguarding the lake and the larger watershed.

Recent concerns with regard to a presence of Eurasian Water-Milfoil have led the KLA to initiate a campaign to address the issue. Plans will include a program of education and communication for residents and cottagers and a partnership with Quinte Conservation has been established to explore the potential for a survey of aquatic vegetation in the lake. The intention is to conduct this through a fund-raising effort.

An initial effort around the milfoil issue has been an arrangement through Quinte CA to have a portable boat cleaning station located temporarily at the public boat launch in order to promote an awareness for the need to clean boats and equipment when re-locating from one lake to another. We feel this was a successful venture, but would recommend better timing. Circumstances meant this was delayed until the end of August, with the result that the numbers impacted were limited.

A major concern that we are facing is with maintaining a strong stewardship focus. Key people have moved away or been otherwise lost and we are seeking to identify individuals willing to undertake the role of Lake Steward and those of other support activities.

Chaffey's Area Lakes Association – please see attached document

Big Clear Lake Association -

Due to lack of ice we were unable to move rock out to a walleye spawning bed that we are rehabilitating ... thanks to Watersheds Canada for their help with this project. We will try again this winter.

We have implemented our emergency reach out process. Our emergency director, a retired policeman, will reach out to all our members in case of an emergency via SMS cell phone text. A test of this capability was successfully done this summer. One feedback was that members would like to have the option of entering 2 cellphone numbers, our association management provider has implemented this enhancement for us. This initiative was started in response to a jetski fatality on our lake 2 years ago and the need to inform members, in real time, of what happened and more importantly to stay away from the area where authorities were searching for the victim.

We are seeing more and more lake associations dealing with Eurasian Water Millfoil and will start informing our members on what to watch out for as far as identification. We like Kennebec Lake suggestion of having people fishing check the millfoil that snags on their fishing line or anchor to see if it is the native or invasive one ... and reporting the location if it is invasive. Once established it quickly gets out of control and it seems the only viable solution is the herbicide ProcellaCOR FX. It is very expensive. Is there an opportunity for LNG, the Conservation Authorities, Watersheds Canada and FOCA to lobby government to provide funds for this solution? Waterfront owners already pay high property taxes because we are on water. There should be government funds to help keep our water free of invasive's like this one, surely it can't fall back on property owners to fund this themselves.

We continue to work on getting ALL community event information on our website calendars and out to our members using 'event newsletter emails'. Members are appreciative of being

made aware of all of the events in one spot and event organizers are seeing increased attendance. We have Big Clear, Friends of Arden, the Legion and Kennebec Lake utilizing the same calendar software which allows automatic sharing of events - e.g. when the Friends of Arden adds a community event it automatically shows up on the Big Clear and Kennebec calendars and is included in our 'event newsletter emails'.

Mississippi Lakes Association

FALL 2024 LNG UPDATE FROM MISSISSIPPI LAKES ASSOCIATION

1. We had a very good season for Loons this year with 6 large young visible in August. It's the largest number we've counted.
2. We continue to work on safe road access for all the private roads around the lake. We are still working with the conservation authority to get accurate data to help focus our efforts.
3. Our cautionary buoys won't be out until after Thanksgiving. We've had high water all season... just getting back to normal levels now.
4. We're beginning to organize for participation in the Great Lakes Landing Blitz!!

Pike Lake Association

Our membership remains strong. The Board continues to communicate with them regularly and our Facebook group is very popular with our members, as is the calendar of Pike Lake pictures that we have produced for a second year. We will be circulating a fall e-newsletter again this year as it was really well received last fall.

A couple of Board members stood down this spring but fortunately two new volunteers have stepped up to the plate to serve until the end of the two year term next spring and we hope they will continue on for the next term.

While a wake surf boat was the main concern to many members last summer, unfortunately this year invasive species have become more of a focus. After not previously having been plagued by them, we have confirmation of Zebra Mussels in a few areas of the lake, and while not confirmed, we have discovered that we may also have Eurasian Milfoil in the lake this fall. I suspect it will be the focus of the coming year.

We have participated in citizen science lake sampling initiatives (through Living Lake Canada's

National Lake Blitz and Ontario/FOCA's Lake Partner Program) this year, to monitor water quality conditions in our lake and complement the regular sampling carried out by RVCA.

We had a more successful year for events this year, holding the popular Boatilla and Barbeque as well as our required AGM. We also tried out an "Ice Cream Boat", Ice Cream Sandwich and Freezies give away, the July long weekend this year. Several volunteer boaters visited Pike Lakers on their docks, (some even had ice cream truck music playing) in the afternoon. It was really well received by members and non-members alike and the volunteers perhaps had even more fun. They've all signed up to do it again next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Johnson
President, Pike Lake Community Association