



2021 Lake Networking Group Spring Report

A. Lake Networking Group Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 7, 2021, 9:30 – 11:15 am

via Zoom

PARTICIPANTS

Lake Organizations: Dave Overholt, Conrad Gregoire (White Lake Property Owners' Association); Terry & Judy Kennedy (Kennebec Lake); Greg Ellis (Silver Lake); Daryl Neve, Bruce Jackson (Dog & Cranberry Lakes); Eva Leon (Chaffey's Area Lake Associations); Christine & Reid Kilburn, Linda Cuthbertson, Kirsten & Eve Brouse (Otty Lake); Rob Bell, Doreen Donald (Mississippi Lakes Association); Kris McDonald (Farren Lake); Ken Waller (Sharbot Lake); Mary Lynne Holton (Canonto Lake); Frank Johnson (Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes); Tom Heinze (Lower Beverley Lake); Bob & Philippa Fugler (Loughborough Lake), Donna Walsh (Christie Lake)

Karen & Murray Hunt (Lake Networking Group)

Agencies and Organizations: Meaghan McDonald (RVCA); Kelly Stiles, Alyson Symon (MVCA); Holly Evans (CRCA); Barb King (Watersheds Canada); Elizabeth Holmes (MNRF), Taro Alps (Friends of the Tay Watershed Association).

1. **Welcome:** Karen welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She also thanked the Lake Networking Group Advisory Committee for their participation in organizing today's meeting, and thanks to Christine Kilburn for taking notes today.
2. **Housekeeping:**
 - a. Karen spoke about the LNG logo which appears at the top of the Lake Networking Group Page on the Friends of the Tay website. The logo was developed by the FoTW webmaster, Colin Stephenson. Colin has offered that the Lake Networking Group can use this logo as their official logo for whatever purposes it might be useful. Colin's offer was accepted/ approved by those participating in the May 7th meeting. Karen will extend our thanks to Colin.
 - b. Advisory Committee – members, representing the various geographical areas covered by the LNG, are Terry Kennedy (Kennebec Lake), Mary Lynne Holton (Canonto Lake), Claire Martel (White Lake), Rob Bell (Mississippi Lake) and Sue Shaw (Dog and Cranberry Lakes). Thanks were extended to Claire for her years of participation and Lake Networking Group meeting participants were unanimous in their support of Dave Overholt who has offered to replace Claire as a member of the Advisory Committee.
 - c. We did not have our meeting with the OPP in 2020. We are planning to have one in the fall of 2021. Greg Ellis (Lake Associations liaison with OPP) will let us know when he has a date.

Community Partner Updates

Meaghan McDonald – Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA)

- please see the RVCA update which follows

Kelly Stiles – Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)

- please see the MVCA update which follows

Holly Evans – Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

- please see the CRCA update which follows

Barbara King – Watersheds Canada

- please see the Watersheds Canada update which follows

Elizabeth Holmes - MNRF

- Please see information following
- Glad to hear some associations are looking to connect with youth

Taro Alps – Friends of the Tay Watershed (FoTW)

- FoTW recently partnered with the Otty Lake Association to offer an Invasive Phragmites webinar – thanks to Dave Overholt for his presentation – very successful webinar
- FoTW looking at water levels on the Tay, developing some water quality guidelines

Lake Association verbal updates offered by participants during the meeting. Written updates as received are included in Section C.

- Rob Bell – Mississippi Lakes Association (MLA)
 - Please see written MLA update which follows
- Reid Kilburn – Otty Lake Association (OLA)
 - Shoreline Planting Program again this year, with RVCA – thanks to them. Plants sold out within 2 weeks – high demand under COVID
 - Planning departments in townships, as Kelly mentioned, are being kept busy, e.g. people turning their cottages into 4 season homes. The Townships and RVCA have worked with OLA to ensure done properly. One benefit is improving septic and drainage. This is a challenging time for planners and the OLA appreciates their efforts.
 - Boating – are updating Otty Lake map. Etiquette around boating. Marking shoals, and also indicating where the 30 metre/10 km speed zones are. Interesting to see how those lines intersect around some islands
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- Linda Cuthbertson – Otty Lake Association
 - Great to see Dave Overholt again, his passion to fight phragmites is inspiring

- On behalf of the OLA, Linda, along with FoTW, co-sponsored a phragmites webinar which was attended by many, including the CBC and later highlighted on their Ottawa News TV show
 - Received a grant from FOCA to get equipment and supplies so we can send teams out to be Phragmites sighters and fighters.
- Frank Johnson – Little Silver and Rainbow Lake Association
 - Please see update which follows
 - Dave Overholt/ Conrad Gregoire – White Lake Property Owners’ Association
 - Please see update which follows
 - Please visit WLPOA website www.wlpp.ca
 - Tom Heinze – Lower Beverley Lake Association
 - Please see the Lower Beverley Property Owner’s Association update which follows

Terry Kennedy – Kennebec Lake Association

- Please see Terry’s written update which follows
 - Great to see Karen and Murray. Wish Murray all the best in his recovery. This was reiterated by many lake representatives, also thanking Karen for all her hard work to keep us connected.
- Bob Fugler – Battersea Loughborough Lake Association
 - Doing a name change, which is complex
 - Eva Leon – Chaffey’s Area Lakes Association
 - Please see the CALA written update which follows
 - Mary Lynne Holton – Canonto Lake Property Owners’ Association
 - Please see written update provided by Jim Fawcett which follows
 - Ken Waller – Sharbot Lake Property Owners’ Association
 - Please see written update which follows
 - Kris McDonald – Farren Lake Property Owners’ Association
 - Please see their written update which follows.

As well, Kris had the following questions for other lake associations

1. Suggestions/information about where to obtain gypsy moth traps?
2. Are there actions we should be looking at in regard to the increased use of our lake and cottage lanes due to rentals/Airbnbs?

3. Memberships...how do other lake associations determine criteria for membership? One voting member per cottage? One vote per property owner, i.e. two votes for jointly owned properties? Full members vs associate members? What is the average designated amount for lake association membership dues?

a. ACTION – Karen asked representatives to send any comments/answers related to Kris’s questions to her and she’ll forward to Kris and everyone

- Daryl Neve – Dog & Cranberry Lakes Association

b. She’s a new president, so there’s hope for those lakes with long standing presidents

c. Please see her written update which follows

- Greg Ellis – Silver Lake & Area Environmental Protection Association

d. Please see written update which follows

Additional Lake Association written updates included in Section C

e. Bennett and Fagan Lakes

f. Black Lake

g. Big Rideau

h. Desert Lake

i. Eagle Lake

Lake Links by Zoom again this year, on October 23rd – Topic – what we say vs do to protect our lakes and rivers. Further details will be available soon.

Karen – re newsletters. We have an informal group of LNG lake associations who share information for newsletters. Any other lake association who wishes to be part of this newsletter sharing group should contact Karen.

Karen extended her thanks to the Mississippi Lakes Association for hosting today’s meeting.

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B. Community Partner Written Updates

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) – Meaghan McDonald

1) Conservation Areas & Education Program

- Conservation Areas continue to remain open. Social distancing enforced and facilities such as washrooms and interpretive centres are closed.
- All programming (Forest School) is cancelled for duration of the Stay-at-Home Order

- Two new Conservation Lands have been obtained. One is located on Rainbow Lake, the other on Long Lake, connected to Mica Mines Conservation Area. Neither will be developed.

2) Lake Monitoring

- Watershed Watch will begin sampling lakes in early May. Due to Covid19 we will again be operating with reduced staff capacity but will be working with the community to maintain our regular sampling effort. Volunteers will assist directly in sample collection on their lake to help with equipment provided via curbside pickup to volunteers.
- We are continuing work on the Adrain's creek enhanced monitoring project in partnership with URLA and Township of Rideau Lakes, press release [here](#). Most recently (April 8) flow monitoring and additional sampling was completed to capture spring conditions.
- A summary of lake information and resources has been developed for the Township of Rideau Lakes website, available [here](#). This was prepared in collaboration with Cataraqui Conservation and the Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee.
- Contact: sarah.macleod-neilson@rvca.ca

3) Stewardship

- Landowner programs continue including tree planting, shoreline naturalization program, Rural Clean Water Grants Program, Butternut Recovery and Septic Inspections
- Forestry Program is planting 200,000 trees this spring, Shoreline Naturalization is planting 10,000 trees and shrubs along shorelines, 2000 butternut seedlings distributed this spring
- Special projects include bulk plant sales with Upper Rideau Lake Association and Otty Lake Association, Tree giveaway with Lanark County (Spring cancelled, but there are plans for a fall giveaway), Large pollinator meadow project in partnership with Canadian Wildlife Federation and Hydro Ottawa, Top up grants for Bobs & Crow Lake residents with the Bobs and Crow Lake Foundation (septic, erosion, shoreline planting), working closely with Rideau Townships to have shoreline buffer plans on title for new shoreline development projects
- NEW Ferguson Tree Nursery is taking over the counter orders for native perennials and groundcovers. There is a minimum order. Any Rideau Valley Lake Associations looking to do a bulk order, we may be able to assist.

4) Septic Re-inspection

Rideau Lakes

- All of Otter and sections of Otter Creek
- Finishing the village of Portland – not on water

Tay Valley

- Mandatory – Bennett, Bob’s, Little Silver, Rainbow, Farren, Christie, Pike, Long and Adams
- Voluntary – the other 19 or so lakes and river

North Frontenac

- Big Gull
- Brule
- Grindstone
- Canonto

Central Frontenac

- Postponed for 2021 – due to COVID-19. Individual property owners pay for the program and the Township does not want to incur any hardships due to the program.
- Property owners can voluntarily participate – the completed inspection will count towards the mandatory program. We charge the property owner \$100 for the inspection. The intent is not to solicit inspections.
- Potential for “Virtual Septic Social” this summer- stay tuned.
- Contact Eric Kohlsmith for further details: eric.kohlsmith@rvca.ca

5) Weed Thrusters Statement

It has been brought to our attention that a number of Lake Associations have been approached by a company promoting the use of aquatic weed thrusters used to remove aquatic vegetation on lakes.

While the removal or alteration of shoreline vegetation falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Parks Canada Rideau Canal (for waterbodies belonging to the Rideau Canal System), the Conservation Authorities do have a number of concerns related to their use including:

- *Impacts to spawning and nursery fish habitat*
- *Increased turbidity*
- *Impacts to the abundance and community structure of the benthic invertebrate community through sedimentation, which could then impact food supply for fish and wildlife*
- *Changes in water temperature and dissolved oxygen levels for aquatic organisms*
- *Native and non-native plant are targeted indiscriminately*
- *It could aid in the further spread of invasive plants*
- *Nutrient dynamics within the water column could change*

In isolation these impacts may be at a small scale, however, if there were a number of these at a location it could result in a larger scale of impact.

- *There may also be a need for review by DFO prior to any installation, more information is available here: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-002-eng.html>*

When considering aquatic vegetation removal options for waterfront properties, landowners should refer to the following guidelines:

- *Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Native Aquatic Plants Plants): <https://www.ontario.ca/page/remove-native-aquatic-plants>*
- *Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Invasive Aquatic Plants Plants): <https://www.ontario.ca/page/remove-invasive-aquatic-plants>*
- *Parks Canada Rideau Canal Office: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/info/vegetation>*

6) General

- Ongoing review of the Conservation Authorities Act- we are expecting two phases of regulatory postings this year (first one should be shortly).
- Keep in touch with news from the Watershed by subscribing to our Blog, [the River Reed: Life in the Rideau Watershed](#)

7) Hydrometrics/Water Levels

- Winter conditions for 2020-2021 were generally mild with below normal precipitation leading into January. A significant rain event in late December 2020 resulted in elevated water level conditions in select lakes and rivers in the Rideau Lakes and Tay Valley subwatersheds. Conditions stabilized by the end of January with flows and water levels dropping to below normal for much of February & March.
- Snowpack conditions up until early February were low with limited storage across the watershed, however seasonal normal conditions were achieved leading into early March.
- An abnormal warming trend was observed in early-mid March which produced daily highs ranging from 6-16 C across the watershed over a 3-day period. This resulted in rapid melt conditions from March 10th-12th and subsequent elevated flows in all subwatersheds. With these early warm temperatures, spring melt occurred approximately 3 weeks earlier than expected based on the historic average. Snowpack conditions were largely reduced after this event, with a slow sustained melt of the remaining snowpack over the following weeks. A 25+ mm precipitation event in late March resulted in a minor secondary peak event for most subwatersheds and consequently depleted the remaining snowpack. Despite the rapid melt conditions in March, peak flows were relatively low for most regions and remained well below the 1:2 year return period.

- Precipitation accumulation over the last 90 days (mid January to present) ranges from approximately 50-70% of normal across the watershed, with the Kemptville region exhibiting the largest deficit at 47% of normal. Reservoir conditions in the upper Tay subwatershed (Bobs & Christie Lake) are currently tracking below normal, as Parks Canada staff have minimized outflows from Bobs Lake. Typically, levels on Bobs Lake would continue to increase into late April / early May, but have levelled off at approximately 24 cm below the average storage level.
- **Summary Stats**
 - **Average Peak Snow Water Content (by Station)**
 - Ashton: 103.3 mm (**2021 – 86 mm, 83% of normal**)
 - Bells Corners: 102.8 mm (**2021 – 76 mm, 74% of normal**)
 - Nolans Corners: 75.6 mm (**2021 – 73 mm, 97% of normal**)
 - Pierces Corners: 91.1 mm (**2021 – 71 mm, 78% of normal**)
 - **Reservoir Conditions (Bobs Lake)**
 - Current: 162.43 mASL (April/13/2021)
 - Daily Historic Average: 162.53 mASL; 0.10 m below average
 - Late April / Early May Average Historic Supply Level: 162.67 mASL; 0.24 m below average
 - Late April/Early May Rule Curve Supply Level: 162.70 mASL; 0.27 m below peak rule curve
 - **Seasonal Flow Conditions (Major Subwatersheds)**

Stream-Flow (cms)	Date / Time	Current Flow	Historic Median	% Historic Median	Daily Percentile
Rideau River @ Carleton	4/13/2021 9:00:00	32.30	146.43	22.1%	LOW <Q5
Jock River @ Moodie Dr	4/13/2021 9:00:00	5.90	23.11	25.5%	Q5-Q10
Kemptville Creek @ Kemptville	4/13/2021 9:00:00	5.20	15.81	32.9%	Q5-Q10
Tay River @ Perth	4/13/2021 9:00:00	4.73	17.68	26.7%	Q5-Q10

- Hydrometrics Questions can be directed to Justin.Robert@rvca.ca

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) - Kelly Stiles

- Due to Covid-19 restrictions MVCA is continuing to perform a reduced application of our core monitoring programs and all of our volunteer engagement events will remain suspended for the time being.
- Lakes

Our lake monitoring program is again reduced to 6 lakes rather than the 12-13 we would normally do in a year. This year's lakes are Mazinaw, Sharbot, Clayton-Taylor, Dalhousie, Patterson and Mississippi. Thankfully this year we are getting out to do a spring sampling run.
- The Integrated Monitoring Report based on last year's rains, flows, lake and stream monitoring is due to be released shortly. I will be sure to notify our lake association's when the document goes live.
- MVCA has 4 **Water Rangers kits** that we would like to **loan out** to our lake associations to help increase citizen science in our watershed. If you've ever been curious about the kits this is your time to try one out for a summer. Your participation in this program is particularly helpful to us this year with our monitoring efforts being scaled back due to Covid.
- The partnership with the OFAH Invasive Species Hit Squad is back again this season. The OFAH is sponsoring our summer student to be a local representative of the program. His training will begin next week and we will have to wait and see how the program shapes up this year. In the mean time if you have any questions about invasive species or are in need of promotional/educational material I would be happy to share what we have or help you contact the OFAH directly.
- Streams

Our stream program is currently reduced to work we can do while maintaining safe social distancing between crew members. We are currently launching a number of temperature loggers in our streams to assess the habitat characteristics of those waterbodies and how they might change year to year. We are also continuing to work in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on their surface water quality monitoring program.
- Stewardship

MVCA is in the process of hiring a new stewardship technician under a 3-year pilot project. We continue to offer a small-scale private shoreline planting service for waterfront property owners. If you are interested in how this program might be able to work with your site please contact Kelly Stiles (kstiles@mvc.on.ca) until we have the new technician in place. This year we are delivering our Tree Day program in partnership with Sharbot Lake and Dalhousie Lake associations. This year's program will see 985 plants delivered to 72 properties in two weekends.
- Conservation Areas

Our Conservation Area properties continue to be popular locations for the public to enjoy the great outdoors during Covid. We continue to ask people to leash their dogs, pick up after themselves, and if the parking lots are too full consider visiting at a quieter time.

- Planning & Regulations

If you have a planning, permitting or regulations inquiry please understand that the planning department is busier than ever but will do their best to get back to you in a timely manner.

- Mississippi River Watershed Plan

Work continues on the Mississippi River Watershed Plan. Earlier in the spring a number of lunch and learn sessions were held. For more information about the Plan please visit our website.

<https://mvc.on.ca/watershedplan/>

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) - Holly Evans

Our website has been updated website has been updated with our resources such as the lake pages and is much easier to navigate.

For water access points, our docks have put in for the year.

Planning and permitting work has never been so busy and we are receiving many applications for works along shorelines which we are processing as best we can.

Also, we participated on a working group (Municipal Policy Steering Committee) led by Watersheds Canada who just released a final report on the Future of Our Shores which highlights the results of a province-wide survey (including comments from lake associations) for the need to enhance best management practice implementation on shorelands and the education of science-based principles for shoreline protection across multiple sectors.

1. **Forestry: Staff contact is Rick Knapton** rknapton@crca.ca

Mac Johnson Wildlife Area May and June Tree Sales

<https://cataraquiconservation.ca/blogs/events/friends-of-mac-johnson-wildlife-area-may-june-tree-sales>

The Friends of Mac Johnson will once again be hosting our Annual Tree Sale on six dates in May and June. You will find 30 species of Native Trees, including Deciduous, Conifers, and Shrubs. Proceeds go towards the Friends' projects to maintain and upgrade the facilities at Mac Johnson.

Please see our [detailed species list](#) of our tree inventory including tree sizes, quantities and prices to help you plan your visit to the nursery.

Location: The Friends Tree Nursery at 4673 Debruge Road (0.5 km past the Mac Johnson entrance and behind the Cataraqui Conservation Workshop). [Google Map](#).

Dates:

Saturdays: May 22 and 29, June 5 (from 9 am to 1 pm each day)

Wednesdays: May 26, June 2 and 9 (from 9 am to 1 pm each day)

10% discount for paid-up members of the Friends (renewals on paper forms available at sales). A selection of wild flowers and vegetables are free with your purchase of trees (while quantities last).

COVID protocols are strictly enforced. Masks are required and contact tracing and symptom screening will take place before you enter the nursery area.

For more information, please email us at friendsmacjohnson@gmail.com

Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery Sales

We are in the process of getting online sales setup on our website so that curbside pick-up can be supported.

Spring 2022 Planting Programs

We have (4) options available to landowners for afforestation assistance for Spring 2022, which means that I am looking for interested landowners now, in preparation for the 2022 planting season. I already have a long list of landowners interested in taking advantage of the large funding subsidies available for next Spring, but still have tree allocations available. If tree allocations have been used up by the time some of your group contact me, then we can always put them on the list for 2023 planting season! The sooner they contact me, the better.

All planting funding described below includes the initial site inspection (to determine suitable planting area and soil condition, and to prescribe suitable tree specie/s), the trees, initial herbicide treatment to control competing vegetation, planting of the trees, and numerous post-plant audits. If site preparation is required the Fall prior to the Spring planting season (usually mowing of the area with a tractor and rotary mower), that would be done by the landowner. The vast majority of the trees planted are conifer species (pines, spruces, cedar, larch), and either a 15 year or 20 year agreement signed with the landowner, dependent on the funding program. The main purpose for all of the funding programs is to mitigate climate change through trees and carbon sequestration, so shrub species are not eligible. Also, the areas that we would plant would have to be largely open areas, such as hay fields, crop land not utilized for agricultural purposes any more, or open pasture land, as examples.

50 Million Tree Program + Highway of Heroes Tree Campaign

- a. Landowner Cost = **\$0.15 per tree**
- b. A minimum of 1.0 Ha (2.5 acres) to 1.9 Ha (4.9 acres) planted: cost to landowners is \$0.15 per tree
- c. Planting density of 800 trees/ acre, so 2.5 acres = 2,000 trees @ \$0.15 per tree = \$300.00 + tax
2. 50 Million Tree Program + Highway of Heroes Tree Campaign
 - a. Landowner Cost = **\$0.10 per tree**
 - b. Planting area from 2.0 Ha (5.0 acres) to 4.0 Ha (9.9 acres)
 - c. Planting density of 800 trees/ acre, so 5.0 acres = 4,000 trees @ \$0.10 per tree = \$400.00 + tax
3. Tree Canada National Greening Program
 - a. Landowner Cost = **\$0.05 per tree**
 - b. Planting area minimum 4.1 Ha (10.0 acres) and up
 - c. Planting density of 800 trees/ acre, so 10.0 acres = 8,000 trees @ \$0.05 per tree = \$400.00 + tax
4. Over-the-Counter (OTC) tree sales program
 - a. For landowners who don't qualify for any of the above programs, or don't wish to plant that much area, we sell seedlings to landowners who wish to plant their own trees and shrubs
 - b. Minimum order of (500) seedlings, with species ordered in multiples of (50); group orders are welcome, for those who wish to get together to order the minimum 500 seedlings
 - c. A wide range of tree and shrub species usually available
 - d. Depending on species type and age (all are bare root seedlings), can range anywhere from \$0.85 to 1.80 each, + \$25.00 order charge and tax
 - e. Trees are delivered in Spring to our cold storage facility located at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston, which is where landowners pick up their orders.
 - f. Best time to send in a request for species and prices is in the Fall (i.e. October of 2021), for Spring 2022 pick-up.

*Note: The actual cost to provide the above planting programs is around \$2.00 per tree. Taking Sample # 3 above: 8,000 trees planted @ \$2.00 per tree = **\$16,000.00**. Landowner share of the is **\$400.00 + tax!** The OTC program is a service we provide for those who don't qualify for the funding programs but wish to plant smaller amounts of trees and shrubs on their properties.*

2. Lake Report Updates: Staff contact is Holly Evans hevans@crca.ca

Updated lake fact sheets and a lake vulnerability framework will be completed this year and into early next year. The intent is to provide at least some information for all the lakes in the region and to highlight relative levels of stress on the lakes and recommendations for strengthening ecosystem resilience.

3. **Online Forest Therapy Walks: Staff contact is Stana Luxford-Oddie sluxford@crca.ca**

More information and registration can be found on our website: cataraquiconservation.ca in the education section.

4. Summer camps have been cancelled.
5. Cataraqui Conservation participates on the relatively newly formed South Frontenac Township Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee (grant program, tree cutting bylaw or shoreline alteration by-law, lake forums). South Frontenac Official Plan review for an update now beginning.
6. We are putting out stream temperature loggers in streams where no data to date.

Watersheds Canada – Barbara King www.watersheds.ca

We are continuing our **online shoreline freshwater series**. Our next session is *Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 4pm EST – “Helping Kids Love Nature: Water-inspired activities for COVID-times and beyond”* Annabel Slaight, C.M., O.Ont, Founding Chair, Clearwater Farm

- **[Love your Lake](#)** is being run this year on West Lake, East Lake and Wellers Bay with potential for delivery on Stoco Lake & Cranberry Lake.

- **We just released our collaborative report "[The Future of our Shores](#)** that would not be possible without the project steering committee including: Barbara King (Watersheds Canada), Janet Taylor (White Lake Preservation Project), Mark Snider, Glenn Tunnock, Leora Berman (The Land Between), Terry Rees (Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations), Mary Rae, and Katrina Furlanetto (Cataraqui Conservation).

The **Future of our Shores** provides critical insight into complicated questions related to:

- shoreland development and freshwater stewardship;
- science supporting the importance of shorelands and freshwater and its availability;
- adequacy of provincial and municipal policy and laws to protect shorelands and freshwater in Ontario; and
- effectiveness of implementation and enforcement

The **[Natural Edge Program](#)** continues with spring planting and we hope to be able to resume site visit for new sites pending COVID restrictions this summer

- A new video project is up and coming in partnership with Mississippi Lakes Association and Pinegrove Productions to create a video documentation of a developed and undeveloped shoreline looking both above and below water to showcase the importance of keeping our shorelines natural.

MNRF Kemptville District - Elizabeth Holmes, Resource Management Coordinator

So good to connect with the LNG this morning! This call for proposals from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) may be of interest to some. It might support some of the wonderful project work we heard about this morning. The deadline for applications is June 23rd.

From: Ontario Community Environment Fund (MECP) <OCEF@ontario.ca>

Sent: May-05-21 5:25 PM

Subject: 2021 Enhanced Ontario Community Environment Fund Call for Proposals – Application Deadline June 23rd @ 5pm

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is currently accepting applications for our enhanced Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF). We are specifically looking for projects that focus on the protection and preservation of our land, air and water.

As part of our Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan commitment to protect our air, land and water, Ontario is holding polluters accountable by strengthening the enforcement tools we use to ensure compliance with environmental laws, while taking steps to help communities improve the environment in areas impacted by pollution.

Our enhanced [Ontario Community Environment Fund](#) invests money, collected from environmental penalties, back into community-based environmental projects in the region where a violation or environmental impact happened.

This year, close to \$900,000 is available for projects in four of the five regions identified by the [Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regions](#). Please visit the [OCEF webpage](#) to see if your project proposal would fall within one of the following eligible regions:

- Northern Region: \$475,009.52
- Southwest Region: \$306,151.65
- Eastern Region: \$62,864.40
- West-Central Region: \$43,298.00
- Central Region : No funding available this round because the value of penalties collected did not meet the minimum funding threshold of \$5,000.

The funding available this year (2021) was collected between 2016 and 2019, while the program was temporarily paused. During this period, the ministry considered how the fund

could be enhanced in the future, outlined in our proposal to [expand the use of administrative monetary penalties](#) to a broader range of environmental violations.

Not-for-profit organizations, First Nations and Métis communities, municipalities, schools, colleges, universities and conservation authorities can apply to access these government grants. During the competitive evaluation process, applicants will be required to demonstrate that their projects have a direct benefit to the environment, and support one, or both of the following goals:

1. **Increased environmental restoration and remediation activities, that repair environmental harm.** Project examples may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Planting trees, shrubs or plants to help mitigate and adapt to climate change
 - b. Rebuilding fish habitat and creating fish spawning beds
 - c. Stabilizing stream banks and creating buffer strips to reduce nutrient run-off
 - d. Restoring streams to improve habitat and water quality
2. **Resilient communities and local solutions to environmental issues.** Project examples may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Improving the resilience of natural ecosystems by restoring wetlands and preserving areas of significant environmental and ecological importance
 - b. Installing rain gardens to reduce the risk of flooding and help communities adapt to climate change

The deadline to submit an application through the [Transfer Payment Ontario portal](#) is **June 23rd, 2021 at 5:00 PM**. Please review the program [application guide](#) for guidance on applying to the program. We will notify successful applicants of the result by summer 2021 and projects may begin in fall 2021.

Need more Information? We will be holding **webinars** to provide information and updates on the program, and application process. To attend a webinar, please **respond to this email** and provide your name, organization, contact information, and preferred webinar date. You may select one of the following dates to attend:

Wednesday, May 19th – 1:30PM – 3:00PM / Thursday, May 27th – 10:30AM – 12:00PM

*Meeting details will follow via email, in the days leading up to the event.

If you have any additional questions, please email OCEF@ontario.ca.

Melissa Weber, Director (A) | Divisional Compliance Branch

Drinking Water and Environmental Compliance Division, OMECP

C. Lake Association Written Updates

Farren Lake Property Owners' Association - Kris MacDonald

- AGM was held on April 28, 2021 with the support of FOCA. We had good attendance and positive reviews were received from participating members. It felt good to reconnect with our cottagers after not convening in 2020. Board member, Paul Seidl researched the (present and historic) fish population in Farren Lake with the support of MNRF. This research culminated in an informative short video "The Dish on Fish" which was presented during our AGM. Board member, Mike Denomme, revised our Water & Boating Safety Guidelines which were also highlighted at our AGM and distributed to all members via email.
- Farren Lake continues to participate in and benefit from RVCA water testing and the Lake Partners Program.
- Invasive species signs have been ordered from OFA to be placed at the entrance of our six cottages lanes.
- We have registered with Watersheds Canada to participate in the Fish Habitat Enhancement Program (Brush bundles).
- Board projects for 2021 include revising our outdated by-laws and reviewing membership criteria and dues.

NOTE: Our Board has three questions to pose to other lake associations:

1. Suggestions/information about where to obtain gypsy moth traps?
2. Are there actions we should be looking at in regard to the increased use of our lake and cottage lanes due to rentals/Airbnbs?
3. Memberships...how do other lake associations determine criteria for membership? One voting member per cottage? One vote per property owner, i.e. two votes for jointly owned properties? Full members vs associate members? What is the average designated amount for lake association membership dues?

Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes Association – Frank Johnson

- We have a new website (www.lsarl.ca or www.lsrl.ca). Comments invited - we are still working on the content.
- Tay Valley Township has set up a working group on Road Liability Issues, but it has not met yet
- A lake history has been produced by Keith Keyes and will be published on the website soon.
- We have started to use drone surveys to monitor gypsy moth damage, and other invasions.

- Speeding is also an issue on our lake, and we are interested to follow up with Reid Kilburn on their new mapping
- Our Nature Notes author, Alison Bentley, has introduced us to a bird monitoring project <https://ebird.org/home>
- The new conservation area on Rainbow is of interest - I will be following up on that.

Sharbot Lake Property Owners' Association – Ken Waller

Water Testing

We now have two testing kits from Water Rangers and hope to expand testing. COVID may direct otherwise. In 2020 we tested 5 of the 6 locations on our Lake.

Overall, the testing data showed year-over-year consistent, and favorable results. One particular observation was that via the secchi disk measurements. We typically measured 0.5-1.0 meter LESS depth than in previous years and this “could” be associated with fewer zebra mussels and the overall clarity slowing returning to that of previous years. Future testing will confirm or deny this as the trends are reviewed by biologists and specialists.

MVCA will be doing extensive water testing of Sharbot Lake this year (along with Mazinaw, Dalhousie, Clayton-Taylor, Patterson and Mississippi Lakes.) Such testing is normally done on a 5-year cycle.

MVCA Tree Day

On Sat, 22 May, MVCA with assistance from SLPOA will be distributing 466 plants to more than 33 properties. Participants were able to order up to 15 trees & shrubs in return for a \$25 donation to MVCA's stewardship program.

Mandatory Septic Re-inspection Program

Central Frontenac suspended the program for the 2nd straight year due to COVID. The west basin was due to be inspected. Hopefully, the program will be continued next year.

Septic Pumping of Water-Access-Only Properties

Doug Cummings from Eagle Lake Property Owners' Association found a contractor who could pump out septic systems on water-access-only properties. The company is Georgian Bay Septic and Barging <https://georgianbaysepticandbar,ging.ca/> . The owner/operator is Mike Smith, and his e-mail is info@georgianbaysepticandbarging.ca . Phone number is 705-321-5282.

In 2020, the company pumped out eight properties on Eagle Lake. Unfortunately, the barge was too big to gain access to the east basin of Sharbot Lake. This year, Mike Smith announced that he had a new, smaller system that will be able to service Sharbot Lake. He will be making the trip from Georgian Bay in late May or early June. The cost is approximately \$2500 per property.

Gypsy Moth Infestation

Some areas of Sharbot Lake suffered severe defoliation due to the gypsy moth caterpillar. Over 175 Sharbot Lake property owners have reached out to sign up for Zimmer Air Service spraying this year. Spraying is likely to occur late May or early June once the eggs have hatched and the caterpillars are eating the leaves.

SLPOA Membership

We are down 40 members to 150. Due to Covid, we did not use door-to-door canvassing. Thankfully, there was a good response to our on-line membership application which allows payment via PayPal.

AGM

We cancelled the meeting in 2020 due to COVID. This year is an election year, so a meeting is definitely needed. Still hope to have an in-person meeting in July but may have to go the Zoom route.

Kennebec Lake Association – Terry Kennedy

Organizational Challenges Following Covid-19

- **Membership and Re-Vitalization**

The Kennebec Lake Association is focused on revitalizing as we move through the COVID-19 recovery period. We need to ensure membership numbers, and build back from the strengths of before the pandemic and return to face-to-face events.

There has been high owner turnover and personal contacts will be undertaken to establish new contacts and also to re-establish connections with existing owners.

- **Website**

Difficulties were encountered when the association lost its long-time webmaster over the winter and serious hacking attempts disrupted attempts at fixes. Arrangements with a new provider were made and efforts will need to be made to ensure a successful transition.

- **Gypsy Moth Spraying Program**

Severe damage to the area resulted from the gypsy moth infestation of 2020 and all indications are that 2021 could present another serious problem. The association embarked on a program of awareness and education for members around approaches toward mitigation that could be undertaken by owners. This included information regarding the use of Zimmer Air Services, a company that would contract to spray properties against the gypsy moth during the feeding

period of May-June. The association did not advocate for spraying but was making information available for individual owner decision.

- **Lake and Watershed Monitoring Plan**

From spring through this fall, the association is undertaking a large-scale assessment of various aspects of the water quality of the lake and parts of the surrounding watershed. Sampling and analysis through the Lake Partner Program will monitor Phosphorus, Calcium, Chloride levels in the lake and in four smaller up-gradient lakes. Analysis through the assistance of Water Rangers and Quinte Conservation will enable the collection of further data on Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature, pH, Conductivity and Metal Concentrations in the lake, at the inflows from all streams/rivulets and in the four up-gradient lakes.

The data collected, along with the results of boating activity surveys will hopefully help to better understand the lake and its protection as well as contribute to discussions of its capacity to support future development and recreation

- **Short Term Rentals**

The association is looking at working with the township and other parties around growing concerns around the question of short-term property rentals. The intent would be to better understand the issue and to seek solutions that could help minimize perceived negative impacts on residents, neighbours and the environment.



Chaffey's Area Lake Associations – Eva Leon

Last September, 2020 there were many new executive members voted in at the virtual AGM. We have a new secretary and treasurer, 2 members-at-large, and 3 other directors, including a Chair, Vice Chair, Membership Director and Communications Chair. Much has been accomplished over the past 8 or 9 months:

- ongoing preparations for a membership drive to take place in June. Volunteers to go door to door leaving door hangers and educating new owners on the importance of keeping our lakes protected, safe and beautiful. Posters and announcements in the local newspaper, etc.
- working on an information package to be left at marinas, airbnbs, campgrounds and rental properties
- CALA has a new logo (above)

- signage for marinas is being made,
- website has been produced (www.remembercala.ca)
- Facebook page and group is operational and will be promoted
- plans for September AGM with Cottage Succession speaker
- Meet and Greet Zoom meeting plans for May 18 with guest speaker - Dave Philip, a long time summer resident on Opinicon Lake
- an informative newsletter ready for circulation this month with information from the many webinars that the executive has attended
- 4 CALA volunteers participated in the Western Chorus Frog Monitoring Program.
- member at large attends the Rideau Lakes Lake Associations Committee meetings with the Rideau Lakes Township keeping abreast of business in the township and discussing issues pertaining to lakes and lakefronts.
- Hopefully, the Lake Monitoring Program will be happening this year. All volunteers on our 6 lakes are ready!

These are some of the projects being undertaken. We look forward to enhancing our membership and keeping our lakes healthy and happy. CALA is definitely moving forward with the many programs and information on offer to members and non members alike. We do it gladly FOR THE SAKE OF THE LAKES.

DOG AND CRANBERRY LAKES ASSOCIATION – Daryl Neve

Welcoming Cranberry Lake residents to our association was a good initiator for a year of refocusing and restructuring our organization. Making the name change to include Cranberry Lake led to us pursue updates to our website and membership management system, incorporation status, banking practices, improved communications with members and the purchase of insurance for association directors and activities.

Some activities and some new initiatives this year included;

- hosting a garden tour which featured an extensive naturalized waterfront
- putting together a “Welcome Package” for new lake residents and new DCLA members
- designing and selling DCLA merchandise (laminated lake maps, mugs, caps, t-shirts etc.)
- introducing “letter boxing” as a healthy, socially distanced activity
- launching a Dog and Cranberry Lakes Facebook group
- hosting webinars:
 - Using the iNaturalist App (Nature Conservancy of Canada)
 - Improving Water Quality & Understanding our Limitations (Shirley French)

- supporting Shirley’s proposal to build, monitor and analyze phosphorous uptake from three Floating Treatment Wetlands this summer
- ongoing Revenue Planning following a short fundraising campaign to support water quality research and improvement projects
- introducing the Love Your Lake shoreline program with the goal of seeing shoreline surveys and assessments begin this August
- taking steps to assume care for a small, over-used (by campers) government owned island
- beginning a Lake Stewardship Plan

We have also spent time this year on issues and projects that extend beyond our association.

PLANNING:

In this year of updates/re-writes to the **Management Plans** of the Rideau Canal and South Frontenac Township we worked to understand how our governments view and manage environmental and cultural heritage issues. Since both Dog and Cranberry Lakes are a part of the Rideau Canal we felt it important to respond to their Draft Management Plan and encourage our members and other Rideau Canal lake associations to do so as well.

RESEARCH:

We hope that the results of research on our lakes will allow us to develop an effective Lake Stewardship Plan. Geof Hall, (Queen’s Engineering and Beatty Water Research Centre), is currently pursuing an NSERC grant for a **Nutrient Budget Study**; Jessie Vermaire (Carleton) is continuing research in **paleo-limnology**; Nathan Young, (U of O) has been heading up studies in **“Collaborative Systems Thinking for Effective Engagement”** re: issues on our waterways.

FUNDRAISING:

We found great local support while fundraising for **water quality research**.

The **Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority** continues to offer strong leadership and support for our environment initiatives. We now have opportunities, through their foundation, to partner on funding applications for lake related research and environmental initiatives, and to receive charitable donations for these projects.

South Frontenac Township’s new Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee, with both community and lake association representatives, is up and running. They have completed work to write criteria and an application process for an annual \$30 000 Lake Study Grant Program funded by the township. There is now discussion about a by-law which would require permits for “tree cutting” within 30m of a shoreline. We look forward to this committee representing lake association interests as the new Official Plan is developed.

Other concerns: invasive species (swans, milfoil, phragmites), protecting loons and SARs, impacts of boating and fishing derbies on shorelines, nesting sites and fish populations

Silver Lake & Area Environmental Protection Association – Greg Ellis

LAST WINTER: We had a more moderate winter at Silver Lake, not quite as cold, not quite as warm as past winters. The ice left early this year and spring has been here for a while! And the black flies are back!!

Here are some of the things our lake association is working on:

MTO Boat Launch: Opening date is May 15. We tried to get MTO to open it earlier with no success.

Silver Lake Level:

We've been working with Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority on lake level data. There are some discrepancies that have to be resolved before they can post the automated level gauge information on their webpage, the last lake levels on the webmap are from December 30. They are working on it and plan to have a solution soon. The lake level is still higher than it should be, we are also working on solutions to regulate the lake level to minimize erosion.

Water Quality Testing:

We expect to continue with our Water Rangers and Lake Partners Program water sampling. Last year the Lake Partners Program did not operate and we were unable to get many Water Rangers samples done. We are expecting this year to be a big improvement! We are looking at doing some phosphate sampling too.

Communications:

We currently have our underused email group list of members as well as our Facebook page, which is not limited to members. We plan to be more communicative in the future!

Annual Meeting:

We usually have it in June, we will decide in the next few weeks on whether to try a Zoom meeting of the membership or wait for the fall to have an in person meeting. We need to update our Association's Constitution and we need to fill some vacant executive positions.

Shoreline Cleanup Day:

We will try to get something going this summer

Mississippi Lakes Association – Rob Bell

This year the MLA will be proceeding with everything we managed to carry off last year including loon counts, water rangers sampling and cautionary buoys using the same covid-restricted approach as last year. Efforts that have gained momentum include our water safety program which involve many efforts on the social media front. High levels of boat traffic in 2020 have reinforced our commitment to this initiative. We will attempt to do an invasive species survey this year although training volunteers in the covid world may be challenging. Late last year and into the new year we devoted time to the new legislation affecting conservation authorities. We attended a number of virtual sessions and wrote letters protesting many of the changes as well as the dramatically increased use of Ministerial Zoning Orders which have allowed the Ford government the ability to skirt all environmental and procedural oversight. An on-going effort has been our participation in the Public Advisory Committee for the Mississippi

Valley Conservation Authority's Watershed Plan project. This plan has reached the point of being finalized. Some new initiatives this year include possible experimentation with 'home use' Blue Green Algae test kits and a public outreach program for the association that includes cruising the shorelines of our lake to hand out boating safety cards and floating key chains. This innovative idea will let us talk to our members at their docks in a covid safe way

2020-2021 WHITE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES – Dave Overholt and Conrad Gregoire

WHITE LAKE AGM: August 22, 2020 Zoom Meeting

- Resolved- the WLPOA membership area includes the White Lake Watershed

LAKE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

- Lake partners Program on White Lake: Bi-weekly sampling at 9 stations mid May to mid October
- Loon Survey
- Cormorant Survey
- Invasive Species Monitoring: New phragmites cells were reported to Eddmaps and the occurrence of Eurasian Watermilfoil was recorded.
 - Aquatic Macrophyte Survey of 174 vegetated sites: mid July through September

2020 PUBLICATIONS WHITE LAKE SCIENCE AND INFORMATION WEBSITE these are available at www.wlpp.ca

ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETINS 2020-2021

- WATER ON ICE
- GREEN ALGAL BLOOM
- LAKE FOAM
- E. COLI
- TAPE GRASS
- LOON SURVEY
- CORMORANT SURVEY
- CONTROL OF GYPSY MOTH INFESTATION
- WATER LEVELS

WHITE LAKE REPORTS 2020-2021

- 2020 WHITE LAKE WATER QUALITY REPORT
- WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES 2020
- SPECIAL REPORT: HISTORICAL AND CURRENT STATE OF WHITE LAKE WATER QUALITY 2020
- DOCUMENTED ALGAL BLOOMS WHITE LAKE 215-2020
- 2020 REPORT: AQUATIC PLANT SURVEY OF WHITE LAKE

PRESENTATIONS 2021

WEBINAR: April 17 2021: WHITE LAKE: OURS TO PRESERVE

presented by Dr. Conrad Grégoire PhD. Environmental Director WLPOA and WLPP
hosted by Watersheds Canada Freshwater Stewardship Community Program
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNuEJ3fXctA>

WEBINAR: April 22 2021: INVASIVE PHRAGMITES AND LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

presented by Dave Overholt WLPOA Director Invasive Species
hosted by the Otty Lake Association & Friends of the Tay

Canonto Lake Property Owners' Association - President, Jim Fawcett via Mary Lynne Holton

2020 - we continued to monitor water temperature, levels and clarity (secchi disc readings). The Executive continued to meet regularly either in person or virtually. There was no desire for a members in-person or virtual meeting, so we communicated with the members through the spring newsletter, provided electronic copies of the lake steward's, treasurer's and president's reports, and forwarded FOCA, MVCA, Township, Watershed Canada... information. The executive chose not to collect a member's fee for 2020, due to the concerns with collecting the fee and that other than the annual FOCA membership, we had no costs.

2021 - We will continue to monitor the water quality. We hope the Lake Partners Program will resume, allowing for additional water testing. The Executive will continue to meet and communicate with the members via email. We are hoping an in-person members meeting can be arranged late summer or early fall.

Lower Beverley Lake Association – Tom Heinze

As I begin to compose my thoughts for this communique, I am still amazed at the past sixteen months...not just on Lower Beverley Lake...but the world in total! So many changes have been thrust on the human condition and the societal and political evolution of our lives has been shocking. One cannot help, but to be awed by the differences to which we have all become accustomed and the new ways of living and loving that are now necessary to interact with one another. Much has changed for us...but my greatest comfort is that the earth...our earth...has been a wonderful constant in spite of this human condition, and continues as a quiet and majestic biosphere where we can maintain a sense of “equilibrium” as we observe the unaffected state of the world around our uncertain times. Never before, have we felt a greater responsibility to be good stewards of this ecosystem for our species and the board of the Lower Beverley Lake

Association has used this time of trial to redouble our efforts in caring for the local environment we are so blessed to call “home”.

Rest assured that our local association has shared many of the same challenges our neighbors and colleagues have experienced. We too, are missing contacts with so many of our lakeside partners who have been unable to enjoy the serenity and beauty of our natural blessings and we are feeling a sense of “lower than normal” membership response...though we are hoping much of that condition will be corrected when the current lockdowns and border restrictions are lifted. Our contacts with most of our members have been relegated to our LBLA web site and Facebook pages...a process that is informative and timely as programs need to be rescheduled or entirely postponed...yet personal connection is a major way for us to welcome new members and gently remind our longtime associates that the season for dues payment is at hand. We are hoping to redouble our efforts to welcome back our “missing” friends and neighbors, while encouraging new residents to become active participants with our local group. One of our most important initiatives will be to encourage a new partnership with our friends at Upper Beverley Lake and to invite them to join us in unifying the residents from both of the “Beverley Lakes” into one larger and more vital organization. This unification will help both of our lakes’ residents to be better represented in township and provincial organizations and to institute a larger group of members living in both the municipalities of Lyndhurst and Delta.

During this period, the LBLA has undertaken programs to monitor our water quality and to test our dissolved oxygen and nutrient levels on a seasonal basis by acquiring new testing equipment and putting it in the hands of some of our lake residents who have a background in earth science. Many thanks to Holly Evans (CRCA) for her guidance and information pertaining to the purchase of the type of equipment we need to undertake such a program of seasonal testing. It’s somewhat ironic that this program is on hold due to the pandemic. It seems that the testing equipment and manuals for effective use were delivered to our board member, who will be using them, in November of 2019 at his mailing address in Theresa, New York. If you are guessing that our colleague has not been to his cottage during any of 2020 and up to this point in 2021...you would be right! Another “pandemic postponement”! We look forward to keeping records on a quadra-seasonal basis and to be able to compare them as we monitor clarity and algal blooms annually. We will simply be one year behind in the inception of this program...but “better late than never”!

As 2018 turned into 2019, we began a program locally known as “BLAM”. The acronym stands for “Beverley Lakes Anglers’ Meetings” and has become a forum for local anglers to meet twice during the summer season. These meetings are an important opportunity for our fishermen to discuss and compare notes on water clarity, fish harvests, and aquatic weed growth at various points in our lakes. We are then able to collate the observations of the anglers with the levels which result from our scientific testing and add another set of observations about lake health. Additional discussion items for this group of members, deal with less environmental issues such

as the number of fishing tournaments on Lower Beverley, the need for better marking of the “thirty meters” rule and the effects on sensitive shorelines, and a “possible preemptive plan” to deal with the unwelcome introduction of wake boats on our waterway. Unfortunately, this group did not have the opportunity meet in 2020 and our first meeting for early June (prior to the bass opening) has been cancelled. We are hoping to meet in late July for our second seasonal meeting when the water temperature is peaking and algal blooms begin to appear in bays and shoreline areas where there is less boating traffic. These are the very areas that anglers frequent and their input is very important to make clear comparisons to our levels of nutrients in the water column. We are still hoping to hold our second meeting in person and will make that determination as the summer and “world events” give us a better platform for that decision.

Finally, LBLA is proud to announce the beginning of a new program which we hope will bear fruit for the study and stewardship of our local water habitats and possibly, to the larger area of conservation and quality studies on a provincial and federal basis. The board of our lake association has been able to join with the Rideau District High School, in Elgin, and to initiate a new bursary called the “Lower Beverley Lake Association Conservation Award”. The award, of five hundred dollars, will be presented annually by the faculty and staff of the RDHS, to a graduating senior who is hoping to pursue a career in environmental science with a special interest in water studies and quality. The successful candidate will be presented with a check and certificate at the annual graduation ceremony and his/her name will be added to a plaque that our association is donating to the high school building as a means of recognizing the recipients’ designation on a long-term basis. LBLA is entrusting the selection of the annual honoree or honorees to the staff who have worked with the class for four years and have deemed that student or students to be worthy of such recognition. If multiple classmates are determined to be co-winners, the staff of RDHS is empowered to distribute the funds in a manner that they feel will be appropriate. The association will provide certificates and name plaques for those multiple designees if such a determination is made. We do not know how far this type of investment in our future naturalists will advance the conservation and study of water quality and aquatic habitats in our locale, the province, Canada, and indeed all, of North America. We do know that the generations to come will be the recipients of the “torches we pass” and it is an imperative for our generation to offer them our support as they begin to consider their place in the future.

Lower Beverley Lake Association is hoping that our “seed” will become a “tree” of potential in the quest to develop policies and programs for environmental stabilization and climate change in our extraordinary geographical address known as the Beverley Lakes!!

Christie Lake Association- Donna Walsh

Last year, areas around the lake were decimated by the Gypsy Moth infestation. As a community, the lake came together and with the help of Penny Nault with her data base skills

and the leadership of Krystyna Williamson, we were able to get well over 100 properties signed up for a Gypsy Moth spraying. We're hopeful that this will reduce the serious defoliation that our forests have been subjected to.

Other projects that we've been involved with include the following:

- Roadside clean-up
- Loon platform building and maintenance
- The building of community library boxes which will be installed this summer
- Organizing Canada Day flotilla
- Other events are limited until restrictions are lifted BUT are being explored

Bennett and Fagan Lakes Association- Eric Boysen

- We held a virtual AGM via Zoom on May 5th. This was for both the 2019 and 2020 years, given that we missed having one completely last year. We had good attendance (even more than what we may have had if we held the meeting in-person). Thanks to Art Dunham for allowing us to use his Zoom platform
- We will not be hosting our annual fireworks display again this year. Partially due to Covid restrictions, but also due to availability of manpower and materials to put on the show
- Our American cottagers are very anxious to be able to return. They are worried about their cottages, but also really miss the lakes
- We continue to put out supporting materials and advice for anyone battling with gypsy moth. The hatch began in earnest on May 3/4. This cooler, wetter spring will likely stretch out the hatch period, but may also allow the fungus to take hold and thin out the population. We'll need to wait and see!
- We worked with the MNRF to conduct an Angler Survey in 2020 (similar to the approach used by the Pike Lake folks). We had some participation, but need more data, so we will be encouraging all anglers to participate in 2021. Our lakes have not been assessed since 2001, and there have been many changes since that time, such as the introduction of Black Crappie and the disappearance of American eel.

Big Rideau Lake Association – Grant Leslie

How fortunate we all are to be able to enjoy the Big Rideau - spring, summer, fall or winter. And with that – we have much to update you on! Your expanded Board of Directors (comprised of Cindy Laprade, Michael McSweeny, Peter Merkley, Mary Ann Calzonetti, Steve Nichol, Charles Buckingham, Robin Copestake, Gayle Mathe and Phil Albert) along with myself are already hard at it, wrestling with on-going and emerging

issues.

The revised Township of Rideau Lakes **Official Plan update**, draft #4 is nearing completion to be followed by public consultation. We are very disappointed that unfortunately the Township has refused to incorporate lake protection policies of the type included in the Official Plans of neighbouring townships.

The number, noise and speed of bass boats participating in **Bass Tournaments** continue to be a disruption for many lake residents and we are getting letters to that effect. Although most participants in these tournaments are respectful of lake residents and their privacy - some are not. We have begun research into the increasing frequency and scope of the tournaments as well as working on quantifying how the broader lake community views these events. The Board will be initiating meetings with Parks Canada and the Tournament organizers in the hope that we can get a collaborative process started to find ways to lower event disruption.

Excessive noise from **performance boats** intentionally running off muffler remains an aggravating problem. Increased numbers of day boaters will no doubt intensify this issue and Bass Tournament boats are also part of the problem. The Board is aligned with the Safe Quiet Lakes and the National Decibel Coalition organizations who are working towards changes to provincial and federal legislation to resolve some of these concerns. This will take time to be sure but we know that strength comes from a national effort to get the collective pressure needed to get the changes achieved.

These concerns include **boat speed** and “day boat” **traffic** on the lake along with **wake** which is of growing concern to lake property owners. Along with monitoring what Safe Quiet Lakes is doing, the Board is involved with investigating what sort of buoys could be deployed to direct boaters to reduce speed in certain zones or away from areas sensitive to wake.

When I stand on the end of my dock and look down into the water, most of the time I'm hard pressed to believe our lake water is endangered, despite the mediocre **water quality** index rating (fair) calculated by RVCA. Yet the academics studying the biochemistry of our lake water are indicating that significant negative variables are affecting lake water quality and will cause more deterioration in the future. The more frequent appearance of algae blooms seems to support these observations. An article in the December 2020 edition of National Geographic Magazine examines the damage caused to Lake Erie and some parts of the other Great Lakes by the nutrients from agricultural run-off. It provides a frightening picture of what could happen to our lakes.

The Township of Rideau Lakes has agreed to add a page to its website as soon as the design is complete. This page will show the water quality index ratings prepared by RVCA for all of the lakes in the Township, and will also eventually post lake sensitivity ratings for various lakes on that page.

The Pandemic has clearly initiated a demographic trend/shift towards increased **interest**

in boating and country/lake living. The number of applications for building permits in the Townships has increased dramatically. The increases in the sale of boats has resulted in very limited inventory in our local marine dealerships and there are reports that major manufacturers are adding additional shifts to try and meet this upcoming season's anticipated demand. No doubt, this trend will result in added pressure on our lake in terms of increased boat traffic, more intense development and more commercial rental operations.

The Pandemic has also ignited a demand for access to waterfront accommodations. This trend will likely continue for a number of years to come. One of the first indications that this trend is real is the purchase of the **Waterways campground** on Hudson's Bay by Summerhill Resorts who clearly stated that the motivation for their purchase was the increasing demand for waterfront accommodation. This company is now advertising "park model" units which are manufactured (3 season) accommodations for sale as cottages and is apparently planning expansion of the "campground" beyond the 150 existing sites although the zoning only allowed 94 units.

BRLA sent a letter to the Township Council expressing major concerns and posing a number of questions about the Summerhill development of Waterways. The letter was redirected to the Planning Advisory Committee which after some discussion recommended to full Council that ... "The committee recognized the letter from the Big Rideau Lake Association. That Staff should continue to be responsive to enquiries from the public and that the Township should increase the budget allocation to the Planning department by \$20,000 to hire a resource " (summer student)to investigate and report on the scope of the campground issue.

A webinar presentation by Summerhill Resorts on February 9th indicated that they intended to apply for an increase of an additional 150 sites. This would result in a total of 300 units that would result in a summer population exceeding that of Westport, and would in fact be the equivalent of a high density subdivision. The potential volume of sewage effluent, even from a properly functioning septic treatment facility, would result in a nitrate nutrient plume in the lake that would help fuel more algae growth. BRLA will continue to represent the views of the membership to the Township of Rideau Lakes and the responsible Ontario Ministries as this situation unfolds.

There are a number of year round rental operations on Big Rideau, situated in residential zones, that offer short term rentals that can often include large groups, weddings, corporate retreats and other large gatherings. The traffic and noise from these operations has disturbed nearby neighbours for a number of years. These are not short term rentals of family cottages in the traditional sense but rather significant commercial operations. The Board has labeled them '**Ghost Hotels**' and has requested that the Townships licence, inspect and control these commercial operations.

The **Portland Waste Site** has been capped but the leachate emanating from it continues to contain high levels of PFAS, a toxic chemical that can produce serious health hazards. The wetlands, next to the waste site, drain into the lake by Sheldon's

Creek. The Township is planning a study to determine whether or not PFAS is entering the lake.

Parks Canada has invited comment on its latest draft of a plan for the management of the Rideau System and its lakes. This is the first opportunity for the public to provide input to Parks Canada since 2018 (The last substantive management plan was tabled in 2005). The BRLA Government Relations Committee is working with other Rideau Lakes associations to develop a comprehensive collaborative response that identifies gaps in the current draft that need to be addressed.

Our 115 **shoal markers** as always will continue to be placed, monitored and maintained.

Due to the Pandemic, we were forced to cancel last summer's Social and Recreation programs. We are hopeful that, with approved safety protocols in place, we will at minimum be able to hold the 2021 **Canada Day Fireworks** event, with Cow Island opened and maintained for member use. We will have to wait to determine the viability of our other Social and Recreation programs in 2021 depending on the effectiveness of the vaccine roll out.

Lastly, having member help on the volunteer side will be crucial to the future health of the BRLA. As reported previously, we have developed a more organized approach to **volunteer management**. BRLA's scope of activities has expanded and there are a wide range of support roles up for grabs, whether with Social and Recreation events or in supporting many of the BRLA initiatives mentioned in this letter. We can't possibly succeed with all that we have going on without expanded member support. We are well aware there are many members who would be interested in lending a hand if the tasks were clear. Watch for details as we roll this out in early spring.

North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance – Bruce Moore

While the North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance (NFLAA) has not been highly visible in the Lake Networking Group, our member lake associations (20 cottage and lake associations) are more active. Our Alliance has been growing in its programs and advocacy. Until recently we missed an important tool – a website . Today is a chance to share a milestone in the growth of the NFLAA. With a primary goal of education, awareness and engagement as tools to work with others to protect the lakes and environment in North Frontenac, the website will be an important means. You can “check us out” at <www.nflaa.ca

Black Lake Property Owners Association (BLPOA) – Cliff Halliwell

BLPOA was busy in 2020. Last winter we started a push to create a comprehensive database of lake owners. Our old list was mostly past and present members. It is not yet complete, as we have been unable to get into contact with some people and were unable to get into the Tay

Valley Township offices enough to check property tax records to fill in gaps. That said, we know we have about 230 distinct properties on the lake, with slightly fewer owners as some have several properties.

Then our Treasurer spearheaded a drive to increase our membership. For years, our membership had been hovering around 50, so just over one in five owners. Hardly representative. In 2020 we got it up to around seven of ten owners, aided by having an e-payment option and some serious canvassing (for \$25 we will leave you alone!). For 2021 we hope to get closer to 200 and are already at 120 as of mid April.

Our most 'visible' activity, on a lake with many shoals, is lake buoys. For 2020 we gave up on recruiting volunteers, a perennial problem made more severe by Covid-19 distancing. We hired someone to put them in and take them out. This gave us good shoal coverage; important as partial coverage could be a liability issue despite our insurance (a 'duty of care'). This past winter we bought more buoys and hardware, to slightly expand shoal coverage and have spares. This helps show what membership payments cover. Note that every communication on buoys and shoals always tells boaters the onus is on them to be safe, as buoys could drift or disappear and not all near-shore shallows are marked.

With membership tripling our subscribers to our email system have also increased greatly. While our Facebook group is active, 'official' BLPOA communications go through our MailChimp email system where people must subscribe. FB has too many non-owners on it. We do an annual newsletter, this year with a focus on Gypsy Moths and, new, a directory of some local lake services (such as boats and docks but not contractors, electricians, and plumbers).

We conducted several member surveys in 2020, using the 'Forms' feature in Microsoft 365 for the questionnaires. The first was on the Tay Valley draft Master Recreation Plan. The second was on water safety, an issue of greater concern last year. The third was on water quality. The second and third were to help inform us and others, as association scope for action is limited.

With no in-person AGM possible we went virtual. We emailed information and an agenda and set up a vote on items needing approval using 'Forms'. Mostly the meeting was annual housekeeping, but we amended our ancient constitution to correctly describe us as an association, not a corporation.

For 2021 we will go 'virtual' again', with a Forms survey and an email agenda. We will, however, experiment with one or more Zoom meetings to get the interactivity with members that we missed last year. We are planning one survey soon, on cellular/Internet/TV access and issues and unmet needs. This will help those trying to choose a service and may help potential service providers see unmet needs.

We hope to expand on the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) water sampling by having volunteers doing the sampling and RVCA providing the test materials and doing the analysis.

Desert Lake Property Owners' Association – Graham Pryce

- 1) Successful application for funding to FOCA for Phragmites signage with will be installed by South Frontenac Works department. (if you wish to see a copy of the sign, please contact Graham directly at gpryce22@gmail.com)
- 2) Launch of new website (DesertLakeLife.ca) including an intitial offering of branded merchandise.
- 3) Ongoing application to Watersheds Canada for a grant to implement a pilot project to fulfil a Love Your Lake property report. We have secured a site to do the project – waiting for word on the grant so we can proceed.
- 4) Launch of YouTube Channel to try to educate and capture new members. (Desert Lake)
- 5) Ongoing newsletters to members

Eagle Lake Property Owners Association – Doug Cummings

- Irv Dardick, a past President of the ELPOA, was the very deserving recipient of the 2020 FoTW Environmental Award for his Contribution to the Tay Watershed. The award was announced at the virtual FoTW AGM on Wed., March 24th. The description read “for providing tireless leadership, focus on execution and engagement on the lake and with other stakeholders making a huge impact not just on Eagle Lake but on the entire watershed”.

With regard to the Award, Doug Cummings, ELPOA President, posted the following message on the ELPOA Facebook page ...

“The Friends of the Tay Watershed recently held their Annual Meeting and Irv Dardick was awarded an Environmental Award for his contribution to the Tay Watershed. As many of you know, Irv is a multi-term President of ELPOA in addition to having spent other terms on the Board. The ELPOA Board wrote a summary letter of support for his nomination after speaking with many current and past Board Members ... the number of stories about his contributions was incredible. State of the Lake Reports, water testing and water quality initiatives, relationships with other stakeholders and his generosity with his time and his knowledge were suggested by many as examples of his contributions.

- ELPOA Challenges
Since the last Lake Networking group meeting we have not had any significant changes or challenges. We did have 1 board member resign.
- ELPOA Successes
 - Continuing success with water management initiatives. 19 beavers trapped during the season.
 - Got another newsletter out the door! A lot of work for a small group of people.

- While not an official ELPOA initiative, we have coordinated a group of roughly 75 property owners who will be spraying for the gypsy moth by Zimmer Air Services.
- Facebook group continues to have lots of good activity – people helping each other out with issues, ideas circulated, etc.
- Signed on as a FOCA member.

1. Areas of focus for 2020/21:

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

2. 2021/22 Areas of focus:

- a. Get an active board member to own our ELPOA website
- b. Establish an archive of ELPOA material (volunteer identified by Irv Dardick – an ex board member and the Director of RKY Camp – D’Arcy Munn)
- c. Grow ELPOA membership to 100 (from 75-80 right now).
- d. Recruit 4 new board members to replace retiring ones (1 identified so far).