

Lake Networking Group Meeting
Thursday, May 10, 2012, 9:30 a.m.
Burgess Hall, 4171 Narrow Lock Road, Perth.

Attending:	Lake	Email Address
Karen Hunt	Otty	mkhunt@ripnet.com
Murray Hunt	Otty	mkhunt@ripnet.com
Eileen Barbeau	Little Silver & Rainbow	eileenb@primus.ca
Ed Barbeau	Little Silver & Rainbow	eileenb@primus.ca
Kay Rogers,	Pike	cameronrogers@xplornet.ca
Audrey Cook,	Pike	dgcook@ca.inter.net
Gordon Hill,	Christie	gordonhill@xplornet.com
Jim Lampman	Bennett & Fagan	j-p.lampman@mcf.ca
Eugenia Flett	Farren Lake	fcginc@rogers.com
Taro Alps,	Greater Bobs and Crow	mandtalps@yahoo.ca
Nona Mariotti	Loughborough	nona@mariotti.ca
Gord Rodgers	14 Mile Island/Mink	gordrodgers@xplornet.com
Jim Holton	Canonto	jholton@rogers.com
Mary Lynn Holton	Canonto	mlholton@rogers.com
Mary Ritter	Eagle	mritter@sympatico.ca
Betty McNichol	Black	bmax@ripnet.com
Jim Fraser	MNR, Kemptville	Jim.A.Fraser@ontario.ca
Alyson Symon	MVCA	asymon@mvc.on.ca

Regrets:

Terry Kennedy	Kennebec Lake	tkennedy001@hotmail.com
Judy Kennedy	Kennebec Lake	tkennedy001@hotmail.com
Andrea Klymko	RVCA	andrea.klymko@rvca.ca
Mike Yee	RVCA	michael.yee@rvca.ca

1. RVCA Update – Andrea Klymko and Mike Yee

Neither Andrea Klymko nor Mike Yee was able to attending the meeting but they sent the following email reports:

(a) Andrea Klymko

- (i) RVCA would be delighted to receive feedback from those who attended the Tay Watershed Open house. Please contact Andrea directly at:

andrea.klymko@rvca.ca

- (ii) “As part of the roll out of the Tay River Subwatershed Report, please remind members [of the LNG] that RVCA Stewardship Staff are happy to partner with any lake association within the Tay (as well as the upper Rideau Watershed) to carry out garbage clean ups (human origin debris), help with fish habitat enhancement projects, development of shoreline demonstration sites; and that grants are available for tree planting, shoreline planting, livestock restriction

from waterways, etc. They can contact the Landowner Resource Centre 1 800 267-3504 ext 1132 or 1128 to get more information “

(b) Mike Yee

Background to Mike Yee's Report - In the fall of 2011 an inter-agency working group (the IAWG”) was created to study and report on the factors which are relevant in determining when a lake has reached its capacity for development. Membership in the IAWG is made up of representatives from the Townships of Tay Valley and Drummond-North Elmsley, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Environment, RVCA, MVC, Parks Canada, the Otty, Farren and Adam Lake associations and the Lake Networking Group. The IAWG has held two meetings to date. The planners from the agencies involved are working together to discuss appropriate tools to manage development on local lakes.

Mike reports that a key message from the last meeting was that MOE is firmly suggesting that we don't want to rely solely on a phosphorus model to determine a lake's capacity for further development.

2. MVC Update – Alyson Simon

MVC is monitoring various lakes in Lanark County on a 5-year rotation basis for water quality (phosphorous, chlorophyll, clarity [sechhi disk], dissolved oxygen and temperature) and invasive species (zebra mussels, spiny water flea and rusty crawfish). This year, MVC will monitor 12 lakes (Clyde, Flower Round, Widow, Joe's, Robertson, Upper Park, Horne, Clayton, Taylor, Mississippi, Paddy's and Ardoch). In addition, MVC will monitor other lakes in its watershed for invasive species upon request. Last year's monitoring reports are available on MVC website.

Cottager participation in stewardship initiatives is appreciated and encouraged. MVC is offering shoreline planting program for waterfront properties in its watershed. Last year's program, which focused on potted plants rather bare root stock, was considered quite successful. MVC will offer potted plants again this year, subject to budget limitations. Procedure - MVC enters into an agreement with property owners who wish to enhance their shorelines. It then orders the stock and does the planting. MVC targets properties in which need has been identified through permit or planning application review.

3 MNR Management of Crown Land on local lakes and Islands

Jim Fraser, Area Supervisor, MNR, Kemptville District

(a) Administrative area is basically all of Eastern Ontario, lying east of the Frontenac and Renfrew Counties. The Kemptville District Office has 36 staff, including 8 Conservation Officers. Jim's responsibilities include, Crown lands, water management (dams) and aggregates (pits and quarries)

(b) Crown lands are lands that have never been patented (i.e. deeded) by the Crown and, consequently, are owned by the Province of Ontario.

(c) MNR promotes a free use policy of Crown lands and focuses positive messaging, emphasizing good stewardship. Crown lands are there for us to use wisely. MNR loves people who have a bested interest in keeping islands

clean. MNR is pleased to have lake associations clean up Crown lands and encourage good stewardship practices.

(d) If the island size warrants, overnight camping may take place on Crown islands. As a general rule, islands having a diameter of 200 feet or more are considered appropriate for overnight camping. Smaller islands may be suitable for overnight camping if campers bring “luggable loos”. Campsites on Crown land may be used for 21 continuous days. Then campers must move. There does not appear to be any stated policy as to how far, or for how long, a camper must move before returning to a Crown land campsite.

(e) Calls from public about problems or illegal activity on Crown lands are important to MNR. Although MNR may not have the resources to act immediately, such calls help MNR establish patterns in relation to improper activities or violations on Crown land. MNR experience indicates that prosecutions are challenging, because it is very often difficult to obtain evidence sufficient to sustain convictions. If you see violations, do not put yourself at risk. Where possible, obtain licence numbers for boats and cars or other identification information. The more information the better.

(f) It is not permitted to post signs on Crown lands without MNR permission. If lake associations wish to post signs on Crown land, then should contact Jim. MNR will work with lake associations in designing and providing (possibly) appropriate signage. Part of the problem of posting signs on Crown land is determining which lands are Crown lands and which are simply vacant lands owned by others.

MNR is working with Pike Lake Association to provide appropriate signage on Crown lands and camping opportunities and signage on islands that have the capacity for overnight camping. Kay Rogers (Pike Lake Association) circulated a copy of signage [see copy attached to the Meeting Notes], and advised that other lake associations are welcome to use or modify the template for their own purposes; She also advised that a 4 ft x 8 ft sign at a boat launch facility would contain brochure boxes with information on invasive species and “luggable loos” [a 5 gallon plastic pail with lid and heavy duty sealable plastic bag; cost about \$40].

(g) There are twelve dams in the Kemptville District. (e.g. Oxford Mills, Pike Lake, Farren Lake, Delta, Lyndhurst). Mother Nature has the biggest role in determining water levels. The MNR’s goal is to maintain balance. In the fall and winter, MNR tries to create capacity to take up spring freshettes and minimize spring flooding.

4 Septic Savvy Workshop – Kay Rogers

On behalf of the LNG, Karen Hunt thanked Kay Rogers, Taro Alps & Alyson Symon for their time and efforts in organizing the Workshop.

Kay Rogers noted that:

- (a) the annotated agenda was for our use and speakers use only; those attending the Workshop would not receive an annotated agenda;
- (b) Speakers gifts - Empty Bowls – proceeds to food programs for children and raise awareness about food scarcity issues;

- (c) the committee needs volunteers to look after refreshments, registration, the set-up of AV equipment, the information table;
Volunteers included: Karen Hunt, Eileen Barbeau, Audrey Cook, Jim and Mary Lynne Holton, Gordon Hill and Mary Ritter (tentative).
Karen Hunt and Taro Alps would see if they might obtain additional volunteers from their respective lake associations.

5 OPP Spring Meeting Update – Karen Hunt

As agreed at a previous meeting, the OPP would make presentations on subjects of interest to lake residents at spring meetings. Fall meetings would continue to follow a “round-table” discussion format. At the March 23, 2012 meeting, the OPP made presentations on its Safeguard Ontario and the Neighbourhood (or Community) Watch programs. Karen Hunt reported to members of the LNG on the spring meeting by email dated March 30, 2012. Karen would be pleased to forward a copy of that email to others upon request.

Eileen Barbeau reported that:

- (a) she had made enquiries to both TVT and the OPP about Neighbourhood (or Community) watch signs which lake associations might use. Neither was able to assist. Eileen enquired whether lake associations may wish to join with the Little Silver and Rainbow Lake Association to design and order signs. It was agreed that the lake associations should consider the issue and report at a later meeting.
- (b) she found the OPP TIPS to be overly generic, not particular to cottage properties and not particularly helpful. Karen will pass on that info to David Blair.

Gordon Hill reported that a group of residents on a particular private cottage road on Christie Lake had to decide to purchase a “bush camera” which would remain hidden and would take pictures of each car or pedestrian that travelled on the road. The camera would be monitored weekly. Although the camera may not deter break-ins, it may help catch those responsible. Murray Hunt suggested that a sign warning that the road was monitored by video surveillance might have a positive deterrent effect.

6 Ontario Stewardship Program - Gord Rogers

Background - As a result of a major downsizing about 15 years ago, MNR created Stewardship Councils in each of the 46 counties in Ontario as a new model to deal with stewardship issues. The mandate of each Stewardship Council is to explore, design and implement stewardship initiatives of particular interest or benefit to its county. Each Stewardship Council receives \$10,000 per year from MNR, a relatively small portion of its annual budget. Other funds are raised from, and with the assistance of, community partners. Stewardship Councils generally have between 13 and 20 members, depending upon county needs and interest. Apart from the Stewardship Coordinator, members of Stewardship Councils are all volunteers, and receive no per diem fees, nor mileage allowances. Each Stewardship Council has a Stewardship Coordinator, an MNR government

employee, who plays an important role tying the activities of the Stewardship Council together. The Stewardship Coordinator serves in a capacity similar to that of an executive director or CEO of a corporation. He or she co-ordinates everything (e.g. banking, office space, record keeping and storage.)

Concern - last year, as a result of pressure to reduce spending, MNR hinted that it would change the model that has worked so well for 15 years. The recent Ontario budget also threatens the current Stewardship Council model. It is likely that Stewardship Coordinators will cease to be available to Stewardship Councils, or will be available on a part time basis only. Stewardship Councils are not terribly concerned about losing annual grant of \$10,000, should that happen, but are very concerned about the possibility of losing the services of the Stewardship Coordinator. If that happens it is likely that some, if not many, Stewardship Councils may be unable to continue their activities. Alternatively, they may have to make arrangements with third parties (e.g. Lanark County provides office space and banking arrangements to the Lanark Stewardship Council) or incorporate and operate as non-profit entities.

The Stewardship Councils have tried to enter into discussions with MNR at staff and political level with extremely limited success. Letters and emails sent to the Premier and to the Minister of Natural Resources have not been answered.

Rhonda Elliott, former Chair of the Leeds & Greenville Stewardship Council, has initiated a petition and letter writing campaign. Gord expressed thanks on behalf of all Stewardship Councils to Friend of Tay for its letter to the Minister asking for its support of the Councils, and to the various lake associations that signed on to that letter. He encourages them to continue their efforts to politicize the issue, to lobby other lake associations and stewardship organizations to voice their concerns, and encourage us all to send letters to the Premier, The Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources, and local MPPs, expressing support for the role and efforts of Stewardship Councils and concern for the landscape if Stewardship Councils are unable to continue.

Gord hopes that representatives of the Stewardship Councils will have the opportunity to meet with the Minister and senior Ministry staff to express their views as to what Ministry may lose if Stewardship Councils cease to exist.

He is extremely concerned that the worst is going to happen. It would appear that if there is to be a solution to the concerns which Gord has outlined, it must be a political one.

7 2016 - 200th Anniversary of Perth Military Settlement

2016 will be the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Town of Perth, the three townships which were predecessors of the current Tay Valley Township and the two townships which were the predecessors of Drummond North Elmsley Township. Lake associations may wish to do something to acknowledge the anniversary. A history of Perth and surrounding area may be viewed via the website of the Perth Historical Society [www.perthhs.org]

8 Lake Association Updates

(a) Christie Lake Association Inc. – Gordon Hill

Completed and circulated Lake Stewardship Guideline; concentrating on implementing recommendations; mostly educational seminars and works shops

Spring newsletter will highlight:

- (i) water level issue and canvas lake residents to ascertain whether they are prepared to exert political pressure on Parks Canada
- (ii) Taxation levels – 56% increase in TVT tax requirements since 2004; concern that tax increases are not sustainable and that future generations may not be able to afford to maintain cottage properties.

social and sporting activities: spring and fall wine and cheese parties; mid–summer corn roast & softball game, end of season dinner dance, sailboat races,

markers buoys have been put out; shoal marker map to be distributed to lake residents (with approval of insurer)

(b) Pike Lake - Audrey Cook & Kay Rogers

Audrey Cook - Bluebird trail theft. 4 blue-bird boxes stolen; grey pine boxes stamped “Handcrafted by A Hinke”; a report has been filed with the OPP; if you see them at garage sale, please advise OPP.

Kay Rogers - Attached is a pdf of the sign MNR approved for use at the Pike Lake boat launch. It will be an 8 x 4 foot sign on plywood with posts & a little roof like at Foley Mtn & Murphy’s Point etc.

Further we will have clear plastic brochure holders for the brochure on invasive species & on “luggable loos”.

Other lakes are welcome to use this as a template for their lake if they so wish.

Jim Fraser, MNR, gave me several tent symbol signs for the two islands where camping is permitted and a few no camping signs for the islands where people camp but shouldn’t as they are too small

(c) Canonto - Jim Holton

Working on final stages of Lake Stewardship Plan (“LSP”); will consult membership on the LSP over the summer; hope to wrap it up by the fall.

Watching with interest proposed 40-cottage development on Ardoch Lake

(d) Eagle Lake – Mary Ritter

Identified stewardship issues as number one subject for the membership this year, both through official zoning by-law and the potential demise of the Frontenac Stewardship Council;

Looking to get responses from lake residents to State of the Lake Report distributed in July 2011; wish to continue to measure our data, determine “best practices” and measure outcomes to see how different initiatives (septic re-inspections, septic replacements) affect this data;

High water level is a concern (a beaver dam on CPR property restricts outflow). Many lake residents are not yet aware of the problem. Loon nests at risks. Have identified European Frog Bit as something to be removed from

shallow bays. Would like to combine Frog Bit removal with social connectivity to get people involved in, and aware of some of these invasive species. Congratulations to Eagle Lake's Irv Dardick who received a lifetime conservation achievement award for Rideau Valley.

(e) Little Silver & Rainbow – Eileen Barbeau

It has been very quiet lately – maybe the calm before the storm!

We have continued to issue a monthly News Sheet, usually 2 pages. People seem to appreciate that the Directors are keeping in touch about various issues and activities in the neighbourhood.

We are planning to precede the AGM in July by a pancake breakfast as we have done for the last couple of years.

This year there are many positions coming up for election; we are hoping that there will be a turnover of members

(f) Otty Lake Association – Murray Hunt

- The lake association continues to promote healthy shorelines. An article on **The importance of vegetated shoreline buffer zones around Otty Lake** will be included in the 2012 Summer Information Packages and the lake association is subsidizing the cost of potted plants from Ferguson Forest Centre for lake residents for this year's shoreline planting program.

- Also included in the 2012 Summer Information Packages will be an updated insert for the Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook on **Lyme Disease and the Black-Legged Tick** which was revised by Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health for Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit.

- Working with the Toronto Zoo – Adopt a Pond Program, the OLA will provide a “teach the teacher” workshop focused on turtle identification and turtle habitation protection and creation. Workshop participants will then share the information with others in the Otty Lake community

- In July, the OLA in partnership with the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, CSW, RVCA and Scouts Canada will hold a second Otty Lake BioBlitz (a 24 hour event with “experts” and other knowledgeable individuals leading activities and hikes designed to help participants and the lake association learn more about the plants and animals in the Otty Lake watershed.

- Captain Otty Day in August will be a fun social and educational day for adults and children

(g) Bennett & Fagan Lake – Jim Lampman

Regular summer activities – AGM, regatta day, fireworks, volleyball;

Continuing with water quality testing for phosphorous and dissolved oxygen a couple of times per year;

Membership development - partnered with Storm Internet to provide \$50 coupon toward installation for members of the lake association

(h) Farren Lake – Eugenia Flett

Over the past year we have:

- Completed our Lake Stewardship Action Plan as of today to be presented to our membership at the AGM to be held later this month;
- Collaborated with RVCA, MNR & MOE to better understand our water quality trend data, especially for phosphorus and oxygen;
- Attended numerous Tay Valley Township Meetings (Committee of the Whole and Council) to advocate for the interests and position of our association on three significant and relevant initiatives introduced by Council. These initiatives are: the enactment of the one year Interim Control By-law on Adams and Farren Lake, the establishment of Inter-agency Working Group as a condition of this By-law), and the enactment of the By-law for the Mandatory Septic Inspection Program; and lastly
- Established a Search Committee to prospect for new members by reaching out to members who have expressed an interest at one time or another. This activity is deemed important in the interest of succession planning for the position of president.

(i) Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association – Taro Alps

Spring magazine being sent out this month

Lots of emails, calls regarding low water levels, got a very good hydrograph from RVCA & Parks Canada

Water Quality information: have asked for and gotten more "layman term" type information

Bolingbroke Dam; rumours going around about a hole in the dam and problems but they are not true

Shoreline Survey will hopefully be finalized this year (the 3rd year) as long as we get funding

Marker buoys; we put out but our West Basin may not have them this year if we don't get volunteers to do the job

Formed a wildlife sub-committee last year working with the Toronto Zoo and we expect this to grow and evolve

Taro is stepping down from his role as president this year but will remain active with the lake association, the Lake Networking Group and the friends of the Tay Watershed

(j) Loughborough Lake Association - Nona Mariotti

We have completed our pilot survey and responses from our 14 volunteers.

The Centre for Sustainable Watershed ("CSW") doesn't have funding yet to continue but does seem to feel we can consider completing the whole lake in 2013 if the members vote to proceed at the AGM 2012. We are doing our own binders and printing of the sheets. CSW doesn't have the staff any longer and it can save us some money.

We are concerned about the possibility of more development going on in the east basin with a different approach taking place for boating. Permission has

been given by CRCA for 22 docks to be part of some condo type private homes—sharing docks, parking, and roads? We are thankful some of this has been offset by land purchases by the Nature Conservancy at the eastern end of the lake. There is value also here as they do studies for endangered species etc that we might be able to use for our members.

We are partnering with Southern Frontenac Community Services to raise money and build community, a get to know your lake - Poker Run/Flotilla in July. Hopefully we can increase our membership also!

(k) 14 Mile/Mink Lake – Gord Rogers

Lake Plan, including detailed action plan, has been completed; as a result of that plan, we have had many volunteers who are undertaking a host of stewardship activities;

Having challenges with a dam which needs about \$30,000 work, but no agency wants to take any responsibility for it.

Tick-Talk to be presented at AGM; will obtain info from Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington Health Unit which is undertaking awareness programs on ticks;

Attempting to build relationships with local municipalities;

For lake associations in Frontenac that wish to undertake stewardship programs, the Frontenac Stewardship Council has some funds available, and has a Ranger crew with time on its hands.

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9 Upcoming Events

- Septic Savvy Workshop – Aug. 18, 2012 @ 8:30 a.m. – Perth Lions Hall
- 2012 Lake Links – Oct. 20, 2012 – Perth Civitan Club
- OPP/Lake Associations Fall Meeting – Wed. Oct. 24, 20g12

10 Next Lake Networking Group Meeting – Thursday, September 13th at 9:30 a.m. at the Burgess Hall (location to be confirmed)

Jim Holton has kindly volunteered to do the meeting notes for the next meeting.