

Next Lake Networking Group Meeting – Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Location –Burgess Hall- to be confirmed

Lake Networking Group Meeting Notes

Friday, April 24th, 9:30 a.m. Burgess Hall, 4171 Narrows Lock Road

Attending –

Lake Association Representatives - Larry Arpaia, Mac Prescott (Greater Bobs and Crow); Anita Payne (Black Lake); Jackie Stapledon(Farren Lake); Karen Dokken (Bennett and Fagan Lake), Judy and Terry Kennedy (Kennebec Lake); Ed Carew, Frank Mills, Melissa Dakers (Mississippi Lake); Robert Cosh, Murray Hunt (Otty Lake); Bob and Philippa Fugler (Loughborough Lake); Donna Walsh, Larry Bowen (Christie Lake); Art Dunham (Big Clear Lake/Vital Volunteers), Irv Dardick (Eagle Lake); Julie Burke, Fred Godard (Adam Lake); Gord Rodgers (14 Island Lake); Judy Hall (Dalhousie Lake); Graeme Gardner(Canonto Lake); Douglas Kirkland, Buzz Boles, Peter Hannah (Big Rideau Lake); Jayne MacDonald (Upper Rideau Lake); Barbara King(O’Brien Lake/Watersheds Canada); Kevin Browne (Sharbot Lake Property Owners Association); Karen Hunt (Lake Networking Group)

Agency Representatives- Robert LeBlanc (Ontario Clean Water Agency); Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Kaitlin Brady, Mike Yee (Rideau Valley Conservation Authority); Alyson Symon (Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority); Dr. Paula Stewart, Teresa Clow (Leeds, Lanark and Grenville Health Unit; Laurel Rudd (SMOECC); David Taylor (FOTW); Kristina Inrig (Sustainable Eastern Ontario)

Regrets – Jim and Mary Lynne Holton (Canonto Lake); Kris McDonald, Eugenia Flett (Farren Lake)

Welcome - Karen Hunt welcomed Lake Association and Agency representatives to the meeting

RVCA Updates – Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Mike Yee, Kaitlin Brady

Rideau Lakes Subwatershed Report - Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager, RVCA

- Sommer provided copies of the newly released which is now available online and in hard copy. More detailed catchment reports will be available online shortly.
- This report provides an overview of the health of the Rideau Lakes subwatershed using four key indicators – water quality, wetland cover, forest cover and riparian shoreline cover.
- Most lakes in the area have a “fair” or “poor” water quality rating which means we have work to do to protect and improve water quality. The goal is to have resilient lakes that are able to withstand pressures but right now our lakes are vulnerable because they are being pushed to their limit. This makes them susceptible to extreme issues.

- The last section of the report outlines actions that should be taken to help protect and improve water quality. Various actions are aimed at the RVCA, municipalities and residents/businesses/community groups/lake associations. There is no one group that can solve this problem, it will require everyone doing their part.
- Lake associations have a key role to play because individuals can be model residents by practicing best management practices on their own property, they can help influence neighbours and other lake residents to also implement good stewardship practices on their property, they can create a lake management plan, and as voters they can influence municipalities to make good decisions.
- RVCA would like the opportunity to work with Lake Associations to promote the report, its findings and the recommended actions. Specifically we would like to attend any AGMs that lake associations might be hosting. We're also looking for partnership opportunities on the lakes (e.g. habitat enhancement projects, stewardship projects).

Algae/Aquatic Plant Project Update - Kaitlin Brady, Project Coordinator

- We are starting to plan workshops that will be happening this summer and fall. Once they are finalized we will let Karen know to pass on information to the Lake Networking Group.
- We are changing the look of the reporting website. It will have a blog format where we will make posts regularly.
- As mentioned in the email that was sent out to the Lake Networking Group - A deliverable of this project is an educational manual. We will be making a concise version and a comprehensive version. The comprehensive version is almost complete. Thank you to those that provided me with comments. We are hoping to have both copies ready by the summer. This may change depending on how long it will take to get the pictures we need and to have to have our graphic designer put it together.
- Jesse Vermaire's students have completed their thesis. Following are the general research findings:

Study Lakes:

Rideau Valley Watershed

1. Mosque
2. Malcolm
3. Shabomeka
4. Clayton
5. Bennett
6. Dalhousie
7. Big Gull-main
8. Kashwakamak
9. Pine

10. Sharbot-East Basin

Mississippi Valley Watershed

1. Bobs (Green Bay)
2. Burrige
3. Crosby
4. Bobs (Buck Bay)
5. Christie
6. Otty
7. Long Pond
8. Tommy
9. Adam
10. Upper Rideau

Preamble: We are using diatoms which are a single celled algae to track changes in the lake ecosystem through time. Diatoms are often the most abundant algae in lakes and there are hundreds of different species that all have their own environmental optima. Therefore by examining changes in the diatom community we can infer what conditions in the lake were like in the past.

Research bullet points:

- 1) Sediment cores have been collected from 19 of the 20 study lakes (in fact we managed to core 70 lakes). Equipment failure is the reason we didn't get a core from the final study lake but it will be sampled this summer.
- 2) Diatoms have been analyzed from the top and bottom of the sediment core in the study lakes as well as the entire sediment core from Otty and White Lake. This diatom analysis has shown that nearly all the study lakes have undergone a change in their diatom community consistent with both warming water temperatures and nutrient enrichment. Although nearly all the lakes show evidence of this change for the majority of lakes the amount of change would be considered minimal to moderate.
- 3) The amount of change in the diatom assemblage is related to the modern Total Phosphorus of the lake. This suggests that lakes that are presently more nutrient rich have undergone a bigger change in there diatom assemblage presumably in response to anthropogenic nutrient loading.
- 4) The presence of zebra mussels is not an important variable in explaining the change in the diatom community. This may be because the majority of lakes with zebra mussels have relatively low concentrations compared to more heavily impacted systems such as the great lakes.

Research still to do:

- 1) Aquatic plant beds in the 20 study lakes will be mapped this summer. This will allow us to test what factors are controlling plant density in these lakes.
- 2) The last study lake will be cored.
- 3) Diatom analysis will be carried out on the entire sediment cores of 2 additional lakes.
- 4) All diatom analysis should be completed by the end of the summer.

MVCA Update– Alyson Symon (Watershed Planner, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority)

- **Monitoring:** Through our Watershed Watch program, MVCA’s water quality monitoring efforts this field season will focus on lakes within the Buckshot Creek subwatershed, as well as Dalhousie Lake and Mississippi Lake.
- **Lake Plans:** We are continuing our work with a number of lakes, including Mississippi Lake, the Kashwakamak Lake, and Malcolm/Ardoch Lakes, on their lake plan projects. All are moving ahead very well.
- **Nutrient Budget:** MVCA is working on a Nutrient Budget Project to assess nutrient loading in the Mississippi River system. The nutrient budget is an engineering model that uses water quality, flow, land use, and climate data, to assess sources, and input and output of nutrients through the system. It also allows for the testing of scenarios to assess how changes in land use and/or the implementation of best management practices may impact the nutrient levels downstream. We hope to have preliminary results from the project this fall.

Blue-Green Algae and Eastern Ontario Lakes

Identification of Blue-Green Algal Blooms and related information – Laurel Rudd, Surface Water Specialist MOECC

-new MOECC Blue-green Algae Information Fact Sheet attached

Note: LAUREL RUDD’S PRESENTATION SLIDES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS SOON AS THEY ARE RECEIVED FROM MOECC.

- Blue-Green Algal Blooms are being reported more frequently in the lake areas of North-Western and South-Eastern Ontario
- Future objective for the MOECC lab in Dorset is to be able to better predict when a Blue-Green Algal Bloom may occur on a lake.
- Blue-Green Algal Blooms occurred at 4 local lakes last summer- Upper Rideau, White, Dalhousie and Mississippi. Circumstances around each occurrence were quite different.

- There were concerns raised about the MOECC response times in the 2014 Blooms
- MOECC 's new approach is that any Blue-Green Algal Bloom is now being regarded as potentially toxic until proven otherwise. (not all Blue-Green Algal Blooms are toxic). MOECC now has a 12 point action plan for responding.
- MOECC takes 2 weeks for positive identification of toxins in Blue- Green Algae in the lab (results of Elijah pre-screening are available in 24 hours)

See slide presentation

Blue-Green Algae from a health care perspective – Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health and Teresa Clow, Senior Public Health Inspector Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit

Teresa Clow's presentation discussed What is Blue-Green Algae and how to recognize it, potential risks to health, drinking water, recreational water and consumption of fish, reducing algae blooms and reporting of algae blooms

N.B. Teresa's presentation is ATTACHED TO THESE MEETING NOTES

Summary Messages from Teresa Clow's presentation:

- Learn about blue-green algae and the health risks
- Recognize blue-green algae blooms
- Know what to do
 - Contact Spills Action Centre 1 800 268- 6060
 - Notify your neighbours and lake association
 - Avoid contact with the water
 - Know the symptoms of exposure
 - Monitor the bloom and local conditions

Teresa also provided a link to the Recreational Water Guidelines which she mentioned during her presentation.. She indicated that the section on Blue green algae and its toxins is found in section 6 of the document.

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/guide_water-2012-guide_eau/index-eng.php#a6

Teresa indicated that 30-50% of Blue-Green Algal blooms are toxic

Dr. Paula Stewart stressed that from a Public Health point of view if there is a possibility of Cyanobacteria present in the Blue-green alga bloom, lake communities should take precautionary steps while they are waiting for final confirmation from MOECC as to whether or not a Blue-Green Algal Bloom is toxic i.e. Lake associations should notify members of the community about the bloom, no swimming in the water, keep pets out of the water, do not boil, do not cook or wash with the water, avoid eating fish caught in the affected area for at least 2 weeks after the bloom is gone.

Tick Pamphlets

The Health Unit also provided copies of their Tick and Lyme disease pamphlets. Additional copies can be obtained from the Leeds, Lanark and Grenville Health Unit.

Mississippi Lake 2014 Blue-green Algal Bloom

Ed Carew (Mississippi Lakes Association) provided information on the 2014 Mississippi Lake Blue-Green Algal Bloom via a power point presentation which is **attached**

Upper Rideau Lake 2014 Blue-green Algal Bloom

Jayne MacDonald (Upper Rideau Lake) described her community's challenges with getting the 2014 Blue-Green Algal Bloom on the Upper Rideau identified and her concerns with the health of Upper Rideau Lake. Jane shared a number of photographs of the Blue-Green Algal bloom.

Lake Associations Emergency Contacts List

Over the winter the Lake Networking Group has prepared an Emergency Contacts List for the Health Unit to use when they need to contact lake residents to let them know that MOECC has identified a toxic Blue-Green Algal Bloom on their lake. The List was circulated at the meeting and participants were invited to update the list as needed.

FOTW 10th Anniversary Lake Management Planning Program – David Taylor

In 2015 FoTW is planning to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Lake Management Planning Program in the Rideau, Tay and Mississippi watersheds, In 2005 the Program was established through the collaboration of The Friends of the Tay Watershed Association, Otty Lake Association, RVCA, Tay Valley Township, and the Lanark County Stewardship Council. The collaborators applied for a Trillium Grant to assist in providing technical and related funding assistance for the development of lake management plans in these watersheds. The lake plans for many of the local lake associations were developed with the support of the Lake Management Planning Program (LMPP) or later with the assistance of lake associations who earlier developed a Lake Plan working with the LMPP.

The Lake Planning Program Anniversary will be the theme of FoTW's 2015 **Watershed Discovery Day**, which will be held on Saturday, August 15. Lake associations are invited to participate by providing a copy of their lake management plan for display and to have a representative attend.

Kristina Inrig (Sustainable Eastern Ontario),

Sustainable Eastern Ontario works with incorporated and non-incorporated organization on capacity building, funding and support for e.g. bookkeeping, grant applications, board development, branding, volunteer management/training, insurance requests, micro grants and larger grants etc.

Kristina would like to know: what are the top three things that your association needs?

Let her know at www.ncnn.ca/survey

*Kristina will be at Lake Links on October 24th.

Lake Links- Sat. October 24 – Barbara King (Watersheds Canada)

- 2015 focus will be on fisheries/fish management/fish habitat restoration etc

FOCA Update- Terry Kennedy

Files that FOCA continues to work on, on behalf of Ontario waterfront property owners

- rising OPP costs,
- measures of lake capacity (other than justphosphorus)
- Concerns about increasing reports of Blue- Green Algal blooms on Ontario lakes.
- Hydro One - *Seasonal* category for Hydro One customers will remain in effect for the rest of 2015. Through the rest of this year it is anticipated that the specifics will be determined for the process of moving everyone into one of the other three groups effective January 1st of 2016. There will be adjustments to the delivery charges which will vary with power usage. The next FOCA elert for mid-May will provide information for cottagers and further info will be posted on the FOCA website.
- FOCA working with MNRF hosted a workshop on March 13 regarding the identification of invasive species. Please go to <http://foca.on.ca/ais-monitoring-program/> for information on FOCA's Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Monitoring Program

OPP/Lake Associations Spring Meeting

Karen reminded meeting participants of the **OPP/Lake Associations Spring Meeting to be held on Wed. April 29th at 9:30 a.m. in the TVT Council Chambers, 217 Harper Road**

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Lake Association Updates

The following lake association updates were provided for distribution :

Kennebec Lake - Terry Kennedy

2015 Kennebec Lake Association activities include:

Environment/Ecology

- Beaver Baffler maintenance
- Love Your Lake Program
- Production of a 'Watercraft Etiquette' brochure
- Communication and education re aquatic invasive species
- Shoreline Tree Planting

Social/Communications

- Winter Fun Day (held on February 14)
- Canada Day/US Independence Day flotilla and barbecue
- Ongoing - Newsletter, Website, Calendar

Administration/External Relations

- Policy on Relations with Outside Organizations
- Development of Property and Owner Data Base

Mississippi Lakes Association – Frank Mills

- 1) This is the year of our Lake Plan which is currently in the final stages of completion and will be released formally on May 30th.
- 2) Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for May 30th and will feature the presentation of the above Lake Plan. The AGM will be held in the Carleton Place Curling Club and starts at 9am. We are offering a free picnic lunch and door prizes to all attendees. Everyone is welcome.
- 3) The official "Ice Out Day" has been declared as April 21st.

- 4) Our lake level is lower than normal for this time of the year. A recent announcement by the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority states —“Water levels across the watershed have peaked and are on the decline. This is the 3rd lowest spring peak flow recorded at the Appleton stream gauge since records began being maintained in 1918. With very little precipitation in the forecast over the next couple of weeks, water levels could be significantly lower than normal leading into the summer months, typically defined as the long weekend in May”.
- 5) Our annual newsletter, the Mississippi Belle, is in the hands of the printer and will be distributed on the Victoria Day weekend.
- 6) Our website (lakemississippi.ca) continues to be accessed by those seeking information about the Mississippi Lakes at an ever increasing rate.
- 7) Algae blooms were a big concern for Mississippi Lake residents last fall.

Sharbot Lake Property Owners’ Association – Kevin Browne

Our executive is focusing on engaging the membership more through communication, activities and projects to improve the lake. This is being accomplished through:

- Expanded our newsletter frequency from a single spring edition to a spring, fall and winter edition.
- Utilized E-Flash mini newsletters to inform present and past members of any issues that the association considered important and needed their help on
- Going into second year with Love your Lake Program – East Basin completed 2014, West Basin to be completed in 2015
- Initiating a committee to study fish rehabilitation locations to do a project with Watersheds Canada in Fall 2015
- Engaged with MVCA and Watersheds Canada with various property owners (6 in 2014) for Naturalizing the shoreline
- Opened a web forum to start the conversations about various topics
- Changed up our social event to include a band and a wine and beer bar
- Participating in the Invading Species Watch Program testing in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters This will be the 2nd year)
- Continue to participate in Bird Studies Canada, Canadian Loon Survey
- Participating in the Mandatory Septic Inspection panel to determine best practices to implement the program
- This year’s AGM will have an update from the Love Your Lake Program and a special guest, Susan Chan; Manager, Native Pollinator Program of Farms at Work to provide a presentation titled Pollinators for Cottages

- Engaged with the township for access to East Basin (still continuing)

Big Clear Lake – Art Dunham

Big Clear Lake Association has a new website at <http://www.bigclearlake.com>. We are also planning to automate dues collection using PayPal and Vital Volunteers Inc. software which will allow members the option of paying their dues online by credit card. When they do PayPal will provide an Instant Payment Notification message to the Vital Volunteer software which then updates the Dues field in the members profile (or creates a new member profile), creates a finance record indicating the payment and sends the member an email receipt. This will save a lot of time for both the treasurer and membership executive. We also did an online survey, one of the interesting results was that 50% of the respondents did not want the lake association to subscribe to FOCA, they are concerned that FOCA does not do much for small associations.

Eagle Lake Property Owners' Association – Irv Dardick

We are anticipating a busy season for 2015. Our lake association celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and a major social event is planned as part of our AGM to highlight the accomplishments since 1995. In addition, by fall we anticipate publishing a five year update to our State of the Lake Report produced in 2011.

Projects planned for this year include expanding shoreline sites for water quality testing and an attempt to gain better control of water levels at Eagle Lake. The past few years have seen the development of a number of extensive beaver dams along Eagle Creek and we need a strategy to deal with these.

Last fall, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry undertook a survey of potential lake trout spawning sites, as well as observations whether these were being used for spawning. Depending on the results, restocking of lake trout may be resumed to maintain this fishery.

As the start of a program that will hopefully continue, six water access-only cottage properties had their septic tanks pumped out by Safeline Construction from Perth with exceptional barge equipment and a professional crew.

Bennett & Fagan Lakes Association Spring Update –Donna Doelman

- Our 11 Board members and 13 Lake reps. are looking forward to the fun and challenges of this year.

- Winter patrol, under the leadership of Bud Ennis, did an excellent job of encouraging ice fishing participants to be responsible.
- Bennett Lake hosts both ice fishing as well as hockey tournaments. Unfortunately many participants access the lake over private property that is clearly posted as such. In November, B&FLA sent a personal letter to Kerri Ryan, requesting that he either not return to Bennett Lake or use a different format than the 3 previous years. He responded with blatant hostility and disregard for our Association. On the request of our Association, the OPP assigned officers on snowmobiles as well as set up a RIDE program during the 4th Annual Ryan Derby held on Feb. 21st. Both tickets and warnings were issued. Not only did the organizer once again show little respect for property owners, he is believed to be responsible for ploughing a large turnaround area on private land. We sincerely hope he will not return next February!
- Complaints have been received about individuals who spear fish during the spawning season. Key individuals are in place for discouraging this illegal practice.
- Focus this year will be on developing a logo and updating our bylaws.
- Cottage Watch, chaired by Ian MacDonald, is in effect year round.

Loughborough Lake Association - Bob Fugler

Subject to confirmation at our August AGM, the Loughborough Lake Association has decided to join FOCA. This decision was made to support the governmental and regulatory activities that FOCA does for Ontario Lake Associations and also to get access to additional insurance for the lake association to promote more social activities. Sadly though, this means that this lake association will no longer have a \$10 per year membership; this is expected to rise to \$20 per year.

There are a couple of developments happening on the lake. Both are being done by the same developer who is using a condominium arrangement. The condominium approach appears to be supported by the township for simplicity in dealing with one condo corporation rather than 20 or more individual owners. One development involves a few waterfront sites and then a backlot development for 20 or so homes with a large common dock facility. The other is more conventional with all sites having waterfront, although there is considerable Provincially Significant Wetlands in the proposal. There has been a fairly vocal opposition to the second development by nearby property owners and there have been a number of council meetings that have yet to arrive at an agreement to proceed. The last that we heard is that the developer is going to the OMB to argue that there has been an unreasonable delay.

Christie Lake Association Inc. Update - Larry Bowen

Our association has been proactive during the 2014-2015 winter season in that we had our first annual Winter Fun Day, distributed and collated results from a Community Stewardship Survey, developed a brochure, introduced the 'Christie Lake Meltdown 2015' and continued with our Fisheries Enhancement Program (Fishsticks).

☒ **Winter Fun Day – 31 Jan 2015**

- o Cleared a skate-able snow area on lake.
- o Duplicated much of what Otty Lake had done in the past.
- o Very successful and plan another in winter 2015-2016.

☒ **Christie Lake Community Stewardship Survey – Feb 2015**

- o Advised community of survey via our Spotlight – 225 e-mails.
- o Survey accessible on our website, password protected.
- o 5 simple questions with a 36% return which we considered positive.
- o Intent of survey was to canvas community for their ideas and enlist more volunteers – results for both were positive.
- o Results of survey along with CLA comments were made available to our community via our Spotlight e-mails and on our website end March 2015.
- o The top three important characteristics in priority were Water Quality, Wildlife Conservation and Building a Sense of Community.

☒ **Christie Lake Brochure**

- o Genesis was the Mary Lake brochure which was highlighted at the 25 October 2014 Lake Links Workshop.
- o Purpose of brochure was to become a poor-man's 5 year update to our Lake Stewardship Guideline.
- o The results of our February Survey were incorporated into the brochure.
- o Development still a work in progress, however copies will be distributed summer 2015 free to all in our lake community being included in our annual membership drive package, made available at our AGM and will also be available at our three commercial businesses on the lake.

☒ **Christie Lake Meltdown 2015** - Some comments to our survey suggested that we mount 'webcams' on the lake to provide seasonal cottagers some idea of ice-in, ice-out and water levels, not to mention weather. This idea, though a good one, was deemed to be too problematic for a number of reasons. However it spawned the idea of taking photos from the same location of the lake every 2nd day effective 1 April and posting them to our website Photo Gallery page to enable those not living year around to get a picture of the ice-out progress.

☒ **Fisheries Enhancement Program** – We continue to search for ways to enhance our fisheries. This year we applied for a DFO grant with White Lake through Watersheds Canada and the Lanark County Stewardship Council.

☒ **Miscellaneous**

- o Parks Canada (PC) will be installing an electronic water level monitoring station on the outflow of Christie Lake near Jordan's bridge. Data will be recorded every hour and uploaded electronically to PC daily. The PC intent is to parallel the Trent-Severn system of electronic water data collection for the Rideau system. Expect several years for implementation.
- o We also post water levels weekly on our Home page with a visual thermometer icon - very popular.
- o Additionally we have approximately 7 community events planned for the summer.

☒ *June 13th – Annual Yard and Craft Sale*

☒ *June 20th – Annual Welcome back Wine and Cheese*

☒ *July 1st – Canada Day Flotilla*

- ☞ *July 25th - AGM*
- ☞ *August 15th - Fun Day*
- ☞ *Annual Golf Charity event*
- ☞ *August 22nd – Annual summer Dance*