

# LAKE NETWORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2016; Burgess Hall, 4174 Narrow Locks Road

**Next Meeting:** Friday, September 30, 2016, 9:30 a.m., at the Burgess Hall

**1. Welcome** to the attendees by Karen Hunt and introductions by representatives of the lake associations in attendance.

Attending –

**Lake Association Representatives** - Larry Arpaia, Mac Prescott (Greater Bobs and Crow); Anita Payne (Black Lake); Jackie Stapledon, (Farren Lake); Donna Doelman (Bennett and Fagan Lake), Rob Bell, Jim Tye (Mississippi Lake); Dave Bell, Murray Hunt (Otty Lake); Larry Bowen (Christie Lake); Art Dunham (Big Clear Lake), Gord Rodgers (14 Island/Mink Lake); Judy Hall, (Dalhousie Lake); Jim and Mary Lynne Holton (Canonto Lake); Brian Hawkins (Big Rideau Lake); Jayne MacDonald (Upper Rideau Lake); Barbara King (O'Brien Lake/Watersheds Canada); Kevin Browne, Barbara Fradkin (Sharbot Lake Property Owners Association); Gary McElwain (Davern Lake); Terry Kimmel (Pike Lake); Irv Dardick (Eagle Lake); Terry Kennedy (Kennebec Lake); David Taylor (FoTW); Kay Rogers (200th Anniversary); Karen Hunt (Lake Networking Group);

**Agency Representatives** – Kaitlin Brady, Meaghan McDonald (Rideau Valley Conservation Authority); Alyson Symon, (Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority);

**Regrets** –Reid Kilburn (Otty Lake); Julie Burke, Fred Goddard (Adam Lake), Donna Walsh (Christie Lake)

**2. Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Update** – Alyson Symon

## **Lake Monitoring**

- Watershed Watch program - MVCA's water quality monitoring efforts this field season will focus on lakes in the Clyde River system, sampling 12 lakes.
- Last year focussed on Buckshot Subwatershed, as well as Dalhousie Lake. The 2015 reports will be available the end of this month.
- Worked with OFAH on Invasive Species Monitoring Program – sample for zebra mussels and spiny water flea – sampled 20 lakes – results are not yet in

## **Water Levels**

- April 5, 2016 – Forecasts remain basically unchanged from yesterday. Upper watershed lakes appear to have peaked and stabilized but not expected to start dropping for at least the next few days.
- Crotch Lake is still building quickly and is expected to be full by tomorrow. This will increase flows to the downstream portion of the watershed.
- Dalhousie Lake is likely to return to levels experienced last weekend as the flows increase but at this time is not expected to be any higher than it was. Flows are declining quickly on the Clyde and Fall Rivers so that will partly offset the increase flows coming out of Crotch Lake over the next few days. Levels on Mississippi Lake are expected to stabilize about 15 to 20 cm above the current level in the next couple of days and remain there for the next week.
- Any additional precipitation could aggravate the situation. This message will be updated again tomorrow.

**Lake Plans:**

## Mississippi Lake Plan

- Adopted last May
- Implementing through three committees (Environment, Communications Committee and Boating)
- Mississippi Lake Plan Implementation Steering Group – MLA reps, MVCA, four municipalities, MOECC, MNRF, Health Unit and Mississippi - Rideau Septic System Office
- This group will meet twice a year – spring and fall and will also oversee the formation specific working groups to tackle various topic areas, starting with a Planning Working Group and a Nutrient Management Working Group

## Malcolm/Ardoch Lakes and Kashwakamak

- Will both have draft lake plans this summer.

**3. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Update** – Kaitlin Brady & Meaghan McDonald*Kaitlin's report:*

RVCA is celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Check out this timeline of our history:

<http://www.rvca.ca/timeline.html>

**Water Levels:**

Rain events keep causing all lake levels to behave like yo-yos as Parks Canada does the annual balancing act to keep the reservoir lakes below thresholds. Other lakes will also be rising and falling such that remaining ice will be highly unsafe and some low shoreline areas may be inundated.

**Source Water Protection:**

You may have noticed new Drinking Water Protection Zone signs in some local communities (Perth, Smiths Falls, Merrickville, Westport). These are to raise awareness about municipal drinking water sources and are linked to our Living in the Zone outreach program intended to foster good stewardship practices for people living near the shared drinking water sources (either the municipal wells or the municipal water treatment plant intake on a river). The zones are part of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan developed under Ontario's Clean Water Act. Lots of great information available at [www.mrsourcewater.ca](http://www.mrsourcewater.ca)

Ontario's Clean Water Act is focused on the protection of municipal drinking water but there is also a component that addresses rural drinking water. Most of our watershed has been mapped Highly Vulnerable Aquifer meaning that there is typically poor natural protection for groundwater (thin soils, fractured bedrock). To address this, RVCA is developing a Protecting Regional Groundwater education and outreach program. In the meantime there are links to currently available resources for rural property owners on the website.

**Watershed Watch:**

Through our Watershed Watch Program we will be sampling 39 lakes again this year. Each lake is

sampled four times (May, June-July, July-August and October).

In 2016 the subwatershed report is being completed for Middle Rideau. The only lake reported on in this subwatershed report is Otter Lake.

### **People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes:**

Our educational manual is complete (see attached file, *Algae Manual Concise-Final.pdf* or download at: <http://www.rvca.ca/PDF/Algae%20Manual%20Concise.pdf>). Lake Associations are more than welcome to post this document on their websites. There will also be a longer version coming in the near future.

Please see the attached document for a summary of the research that took place throughout the project (*OTF research summary-Dr-Vermaire.pdf*).

### **University of Ottawa, Frances Pick**

1) Frances is always looking for cyanobacterial (blue green algae) blooms and, if a Genome Quebec grant goes through, Frances will be sampling on a minimum of 2 times a summer on some regional lakes to determine cyanotoxin and genetic profiles (goal is to develop a diagnostic kit to be used on surface waters and raw water of filtration plants).

2) Mary Ann Perron is looking for natural ponds to sample this summer so if anyone knows of any please contact us – these are important to understand better as benchmarks for urban ponds.

### *Meaghan's report:*

The RVCA Shoreline Naturalization Program continues to provide advice, guidance and hands on assistance for landowners looking to naturalize their shorelines. We provide:

- Free site visits to shoreline landowners
- Access to subsidized native trees and shrubs- bareroot and 2 gallon pots
- Planting plan development
- Full planting labour if needed
- 75 to 100 percent cost coverage for planting projects
- Partnerships with municipalities, community groups, etc. to complete shoreline stewardship projects (i.e. plantings on public properties, Lake Association bulk plant orders, workshops/presentations, etc.)

### **News**

- Andrea Klymko has accepted a new position as Partnership Specialist with MNRF in Kingston
- Meaghan McDonald will be coordinating the Shoreline Naturalization Program and Lake Planning Program moving forward as the Acting Lake Planning-Shoreline Stewardship Coordinator. **Contact Information:** Meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca, 613-692-3571 ext. 1192
- Kaitlin Brady will be assisting with the programs as the new Shoreline Stewardship Technician. **Contact Information:** Kaitlin.brady@rvca.ca, 613-692-3571 ext. 1154
- Target areas for 2016/2017 are Rideau Lakes Subwatershed and Middle Rideau Subwatershed—landowners within these subwatersheds may qualify for FREE shoreline naturalization projects (100% cost coverage)
- RVCA is the delivery agent for Watersheds Canada Love Your Lake Program for shoreline naturalization.
- The Shoreline Naturalization continues to rely on Lake Associations to help promote the

program to their lake residents through program information on their websites, inclusion of program materials in newsletters and mail outs, invitation to AGMs and other lake events, word of mouth, etc.

- We are always looking for new ways to partner with the Lake Associations and engage lake residents—if you have suggestions, we'd love to hear them!

#### **2015 Shoreline Naturalization Program Results**

- 91 site visits last year
- Completed 71 projects (up from 53 projects in 2014), 23 projects were on Rideau Valley Lakes

#### **4. Water Rangers: Kat Kavanagh**

We were treated to an inspired, as well as inspiring, presentation by Kat and her team. They have developed a web site with an app-like format for entering water quality data from local lakes and rivers. This now covers 36 sites from Gatineau, the Ottawa region and Eastern Ontario. An exciting unique approach that will not only allow ready entry of data from our local lakes, but also easy access to and assessment of accumulated water quality parameters for a particular lake or comparison with other lakes.

Archiving data from our local conservation authorities at this web site is to be encouraged. Observations of invasive species and wild life observations can also be added. Water Rangers is partnered with Ottawa River Keepers, and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority as well as other volunteer organizations. Contact Kat by email ([kat@waterrangers.ca](mailto:kat@waterrangers.ca)) or through the website ([www.waterrangers.ca](http://www.waterrangers.ca)) to add your lake's water quality data as they will do the initial importing of archived data.

#### **5. FOCA update: Terry Kennedy** ([tkennedy001@hotmail.com](mailto:tkennedy001@hotmail.com))

Terry, who is our “local voice” in FOCA outlined the organization of the recently restructured board of directors and the outstanding work done by the permanent, competent staff at their headquarters. He reported on the effectiveness of membership and the value of the current fee structure through the many subcommittees focused on specific topics, as well as an advocacy committee that represents cottagers interests dealing with topics such as hydroelectricity rates. Terry distributed copies of the FOCA 2015 Year in Review, a copy of which can be accessed at: <https://foca.on.ca/foca-year-in-review-2015/>

A reminder for the **FOCA Lake Networking Group Seminar: “Keeping the Family in the Family Cottage”**, Perth Legion Hall, Saturday, August, 14, 2016 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

**NOTE:** This event is FREE to members of FOCA and the Lake Networking Group, or \$10 at the door for non-members. Please pre-register with FOCA to secure your space: [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca) 705-749-3622

#### **6. Lake Links 2016 Meeting:** Civitan Hall, Perth, Saturday, October 22, 2016

Barb King from Watersheds Canada reported that as a result of attendee's evaluation reports from last year's meeting, the main topic under consideration is how to engage, recruit and retain lakeshore property owners as members in our lake associations. The committee is presently flushing out ideas and discussing potential presenters.

#### **7. Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit**

No specific report, but information for Emergency Contact List was updated. Handouts were available.

Reference was made to a program, Nature 4 Life, by this health unit to educate children about nature. Further information is available at the following link ([http://www.healthunit.org/professionals/ruralnursing/N4L\\_HCP.pdf](http://www.healthunit.org/professionals/ruralnursing/N4L_HCP.pdf)).

### **8. Lanark Stewardship Council Wild Parsnip Workshop**

To be held on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. To noon, Lanark Civitan Hall, 2144 Pine Grove Road, Lanark. It was noted that some of the local townships have initiated spraying to kill this invasive weed along roadsides.

### **9. Spring OPP/Lake Association Meeting**

To be held in Fall River Room, Tay Valley Township Municipal Office, 2174 Harper Road, April 27, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. This meeting will be chaired by Larry Bowen (Christie Lake Association). Karen would appreciate if someone would volunteer to assume responsibility for organizing and chairing this annual meeting.

### **10. 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Information – Kay Rogers**

Kay distributed a handout and calendar promoting the 200th anniversary of the Perth Military Settlement, as well as an order form for the historical book “At Home in Tay Valley”. All of this material, and the events occurring as part of the anniversary celebrations are available on the Tay Valley Township website

(<http://www.tayvalleytp.ca/en/discover-tay-valley/200th-anniversary-celebrations.asp>) or at the Lanark County website (<http://200thanniversary.lanarkcountytourism.com/>).

David Taylor, Friends of the Tay Watershed, (613-264-0094) mentioned that maple and oak bare-rooted saplings will be available as part of the anniversary celebrations.

### **11. Lake Association’s Updates**

As will be evident below, during Larry Arpaia’s lake report, he commented on the potential negative impact for cottagers of a potential change to a South Frontenac Township by-law. Gord Rogers was asked to provide a summary of this action and submitted the following:

South Frontenac Township is proposing changes to its Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw, Section 5.10.2, to clarify what is allowed when rebuilding/renovating within 30m of the waterfront. The proposed new wording of this section includes the following:

“Where a building has been erected prior to the date of passing of this Bylaw on an existing lot and said building has less than the minimum 30 metre (98.4 ft.) setback from the highwater mark of a waterbody or watercourse, then said building may be repaired, renovated or strengthened to a safe condition provided there is no enlargement of the gross floor area or increase in height. **Reconstruction of the building is prohibited.** In addition, no living space shall be added below grade to any existing building or structure.

**For the purposes of interpreting section 5.10.2, once the walls of an existing structure within the minimum 30 metre setback have been removed, the land**

**is deemed to be vacant and the structure may not be reconstructed within the 30 metre setback.”**

This clarification has caused concerns and some confusion, and is considered by some to be a significance change to the existing policy. Because of this, the matter will be brought back to Committee of the Whole on April 26<sup>th</sup> and again May 10<sup>th</sup>. The public is invited to speak on the subject at these meetings.

**A. Bennett and Fagan Lakes Association Update:** Donna Doelman, President  
(deedoelman@gmail.com)

1. 2016 is a transition year for our Executive. A new president and board members will be elected at our July 9 AGM
2. Committee is concentrating on updating our bylaws.
3. Anyone with a well is encouraged to take get their water sample bottle from any Health Unit & get their Spring water results. Let's create some “no-plastic water bottle zones” and be kind to our environment where ever we can .
4. Our Association is in a state of semi-hibernation. We will pick up sped when the ice goes out... any day soon.

**B. Farren Lake Association Update:** Jackie Stapledon

1. Reviewed a few items from last summer - had several meetings re: new property owner trying to get permission to put a house that was too large for the property. Still waiting to see the latest proposal.
2. Also held a golf tournament and a Fun Day - both very well received.
3. August 24 - two days to do the aquatic mapping of the lake. Kaitlyn Brady and Jesse Vermaire organized the project.
4. Last Fall - October 2015 a few members went to the 200th Anniversary of Tay Valley Township - Book Launching ceremony - 'At Home in Tay Valley'.
5. Purchased the DVD from FOCA on Cottage Succession and made it available to Farren Lake Members to view.
6. Everything put on hold for the winter months.

**C. Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association:** Notes concerning issues/activities on Bobs & Crow Lakes – Larry Arpaia

- 1.) Bolingbroke Dam- Parks Canada has informed GBCLA that the dam will not be built in 2016. This was determined after a geological study determined that the current site rock structure was not stable enough for a new dam. A best guess scenario is that the dam may be built in the Fall 2017 at a location 50 M downstream from the current dam.
- 2.) Township of South Frontenac has introduced a new regulation that affects cottages/homes that are less than 30 M from lakeshores. These sites were grandfathered by the Townships in 1972. The proposed regulation, which the Township is calling a ‘housekeeping’ measure, has eliminated the ‘act of god provision’, has redefined the “footprint” for re building, and will use the committee for easement to determine what can be done when applying for building permits. These actions could potentially decrease the value of such properties and

- complicate any rebuilding/renovations that may be required on an older dwelling.
- 3.) Emergency Access to Bobs & Crow Lakes – A study completed in 2015 determined that Emergency Access to Bobs & Crow lakes was limited to two sites after September 1 2015 due to the 1.6 M fluctuation in water levels from June to September. The Fire Chiefs of the 3 Townships (Tay Township, TSF & TCF) have been informed of this situation and an Emergency preparedness Plan will be developed this year, hopefully in consort with Parks Canada.
  - 4.) Fisheries-Concerns have been brought forward concerning the spawning of trout, walleye and bass on Bobs & Crow. This has been noted for the past few years as the Krappie has become the Fish of abundance. A number of initiatives have been introduced last year and will be put forward this year. These initiatives include: clean up of existing walleye nesting beds and using cameras to determine success of refurbished beds; exploring options to protect bass nesting beds and placing weighted Christmas trees to protect trout spawning areas.
  - 5.) Water Testing. For our 27th year of continuous water testing our team of volunteers will be taking water samples at numerous locations around Bobs & Crow lakes.
  - 6.) Our third Annual Nature Flotilla is tentatively scheduled for July.
  - 7.) A new membership strategy is being introduced this summer. It is the GBCLA intention to work with Real Estate companies and Road Associations to bring welcome packages to new cottage owners.
  - 8.) Shoreline rehabilitation will again be a focus of the GBCLA for 2016.

**D. Update for Big Clear Lake –Art Dunham**

- spring newsletter will be sent out in a few days - theme is turtles
- we hope to purchase turtle crossing signs and get them up before turtle season
- we got materials to build loon nests last year, hope to get them built and launched this spring
- trying to decide best format for AGM to increase attendance
- Big Clear still involved in Central Frontenac re-inspection

**E. OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION (OLA) SPRING 2016 UPDATE**

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

**WATER TESTING**

The Lake Steward and volunteers of the OLA continue to monitor lake quality, conducting sampling for E coli bacteria, phosphorous and nitrogen. Water temperatures, ice-out dates and water levels are also tracked.

In addition to the sampling done by the OLA itself, it will continue to participate in the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Lake Partner Program, taking samples for phosphorous six times a year.

The OLA will once again assist the RVCA with its Watershed Watch Program.

**COOKBOOK + PROJECT**

As part of the 200th anniversary of European Settlement being celebrated in the Otty Lake townships, the OLA is producing a cookbook. It will include recipes provided by residents around the lake, historical photos of the lake and its residents, anecdotes and helpful hints. It will be available for sale at the AGM on July 9th.

### SHORELINE PLANTING

As in previous years, the OLA is partially funding planting of native trees, shrubs and flowers by our residents on their shorelines. Plant pick up is scheduled to take place on June 25th. The team is encouraging owners to report on the survival of the plantings in order to provide tracking information.

### FAMILY PICNIC

The annual picnic will once again be held, with entertainment, games and food for all ages.

### PADDLE POWER

Enthusiasm for the annual gathering of paddlers on Otty Lake is growing every year. This will be the fourth year that this event is held.

### HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

This year we move into the 4th year of this project. The past 3 years focussed on establishing nests for small mouth bass. Having now built enough nests for the small mouth bass population on Otty Lake, this year's work will focus on habitat of the large mouth bass. In addition, bat- and bird boxes will be built and distributed to interested residents.

For more information please visit the OLA website at [www.ottylakeassociation.ca](http://www.ottylakeassociation.ca)

### **F. Dalhousie Lake Association Inc. – Judy Hall, President**

Directors meeting will be held in April to discuss summer activities. We have a mandate to provide an information meeting in July, a community event, water testing 2 times at 4 locations on the lake and our AGM is in August.

There are 6 sections and each is represented by a Director who is elected at our AGM. The President is chosen by the Directors. Each Director is responsible for collecting the membership fees from his/her section. We send out an email (or a letter to those who do not have email) at the beginning of summer listing meeting dates, initiatives and activities for the summer. Currently we have 121 members out of 235 properties.

Last summer we had a contest for kids to find the Dalhousiesaurus Rex (a fallen tree) on the lake perimeter. We gave out clues to its location and quite a few kids participated. The winner received a \$25 prize.

We also had a yard sale at various locations around the lake. 2015 was our second year to hold the event and it is quite a successful community event. We also contributed to the July fireworks held at Dalhousie Lodge.

We had an information meeting in July with Caleb Yee, biologist with MVCA, as a speaker. He provided an information session on the blue-green algae and the Health Unit provided an information package to distribute to members. Our AGM was in August with more members signing up for the Shoreline Restoration program.

We have the same problem with getting volunteers and participation in meetings as all associations but we have a strong membership base who pay their fees but do not volunteer to run events etc. As long as we have a small number of members who are willing to work as Directors we will be able to carry on.

#### **G. Christie Lake Association Inc. Update – Larry Bowen**

- Bolingbroke/Bobs lake Dam Re-build Plan status
  - June 2015 Parks Canada (PC) announced that the dam must be replaced with a new structure upstream with two spillways.
  - The geotechnical and seismic field investigations have been completed.
  - Currently in the preliminary design phase conducting a detailed impact statement and an environmental assessment.
  - Construction likely to start Summer 2017 with a remote chance of late Summer 2016
  - PC intend to establish a page on their website as a medium to pass construction status to all stakeholders.
  - The existing dam will continue operation until the new structure is completed.
  - We have raised the possibility of the dam incorporating an Archimedes Screw, reversed, to provide clean hydroelectricity. TVT, some at PC and FoTW have indicated support for this initiative but PC will decide.
- Parks Canada Automated Water Level Monitoring Station
  - PC installed a Water Level Monitoring system near the outflow of the Tay River from Christie Lake (Jordan's Bridge area). However, it was not working properly and needs to be pulled and re-installed.
  - Once operational the system is to upload water level data every hour and download to Parks Canada every 24 hours.
  - We continue to collect daily water level readings courtesy the Jordan family.
- Public Islands Signage
  - During the Summer of 2015 Christie Lake Association together with OMNRF (Kemptville District) entered into a cooperative partnership regarding Crown/Public island signage on Christie Lake. This was particularly important as it somewhat contradicts the OMNRF 'Free Use Policy for Crown Land' being a partial restriction of access to crown land.
  - A sign on one island was torn down. No other malicious activity has been reported.
  - It is not yet clear as to the success of this initiative.
- Social Activities
  - To start off 2016 we ran another successful Winter Fun Day in one of our bays with numerous activities conducted. The date chosen coincided with MNRF Free Fishing weekend and Ontario's Family Day. The weather did not cooperate in that it was -25C, but it was refreshing.
  - Six other social activities are scheduled throughout the summer ranging from a Welcome Back Wine & Cheese to a Summer Dinner Dance.
  - All events are published not only on our website but also in the form of a bookmark distributed to all residents.
  - We plan to re-face our website home page highlighting the 200th anniversary of the Perth Military Settlement and participate in some of the associated activities.
- Association Directory

- We printed an updated association directory, which includes a map and site locations, for free distribution to all lake residents during our annual membership drive. The price of printing proved expensive; however we conducted a very successful advertising blitz which covered 80% of the cost.
- Our directory is updated every 2-3 years.
- Fisheries Enhancement Program
  - Initiated in Summer 2015.
  - This is an ongoing project with Fishsticks and Fish bundles. It will be a few years before being able to establish their effect on the fish habitat.

**Christie Lake Association Inc.**

**Our vision**  
To sustain and improve the unique eco-system of Christie Lake so that current and future generations may continue to enjoy this jewel in the heart of Lanark County.

**Our purpose**  
To provide education and information to all residents and visitors so they may become responsible stewards of our lake and surroundings.

Visit our website at  
<http://christielakeassociation.com/>

**WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF OUR LAKE**

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**2016**  
**Celebrating Our Heritage**

**CLA Events**

**February**  
13<sup>th</sup>—Winter Fun Day  
1:30-4pm — Station Bay

**June**  
11<sup>th</sup>—Community Yard Sale  
8am-1pm — Tay River Tent & Trailer Park

18<sup>th</sup>—Welcome Back Wine & Cheese 6:30pm  
Christie Lake Kids Camp

**July**  
1<sup>st</sup>—Canada Day Flotilla meet at 1pm — Big Island

16<sup>th</sup>—AGM 10:00-12 noon  
Tay River Tent & Trailer Park

**August**  
13<sup>th</sup>—CLKC Charity Golf Tournament 12 noon  
Perth Golf Course  
5:30pm Cocktails  
6pm Dinner

27<sup>th</sup>—Summer Dinner & Dance 5:30pm  
Camp Opemikon

*Bookmarks produced by the Christie Lake Association Inc, for 2105 (left) and 2016 (right).*

## H. Upper Rideau Lake Association Update – Jayne MacDonald

The Upper Rideau Lake had two confirmed algae blooms in July 2015 but these were fairly

short-lived and with relatively low toxin levels. We maintained contact lists and cooperated with the local Health Unit and the Ministry of the Environment so that notices about algae blooms can be widely distributed as quickly as possible.

As part of the “The People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes Project” the Upper Rideau was mapped for aquatic plant matter and had diatom analysis of core samples run by Carleton University’s Dr. Jesse Vermaire from the Institute of Environmental Science & Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

The Township of Rideau Lakes will begin a mandatory septic inspection program in 2016. There are 100 inspections scheduled for the Upper Rideau Lake and 50 for Westport Sand Lake (a feeder lake for the Upper Rideau Lake). They are currently in the process of entering into the agreement to conduct the inspections with the Mississippi Rideau Office for the mandatory component of the program. They hope to start their mail out in May and then start the inspections in June/July.

URLA has orders for 500 trees and shrubs for shoreline restoration. We offer these free to anyone around the lake and they will be ready for pickup on May 7th.

The Village of Westport has completed a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed rehabilitation and possible expansion of the Westport Wastewater Treatment System. The Technical Steering Committee for this study held meetings from May until December. URLA had a position on this committee along with representatives from the township, the county, RVCA, village staff and local technical experts.

The village was not successful with their recent application to the province for Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) for funding despite having many letters of support. We have written letters to Minister Brad Duguid, Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, to ask them to reconsider that decision based on the dire need to complete this project. To say that the current system is not meeting the needs of the community is an understatement!

We’ve met with a Rideau Lakes Township councilor and expressed concerns about proposals that would result in decreased shoreline setbacks and increased coverage percentage for lots around the lake.

With RVCA’s help we hope be able to compare our twenty + year old shoreline and septic system study with the newer Love Your Lake study from Watersheds Canada (2014).

We have continued our buoy program marking the worst of the hazardous areas around the lake.

We have communicated with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry about the health of the fish population on the lake and commercial fishing.

We have long time volunteers collecting water samples and monitoring water clarity as part of the Lake Partner Program. Phosphorus levels are high.

Upper Rideau Lake Association’s AGM will be July 2nd, we are still looking for a guest speaker.

## **I. Mississippi Lakes Association Update April 2016 – Rob Bell**

1. MLA is partnering with Watersheds Canada to deliver the Love Your Lake program to Mississippi Lake this June-August. There are over 1200 shoreline properties, so it will take 6+ weeks of activity to complete.
2. Our lake plan was completed and adopted last year. We have a posted an implementation

progress chart

at: <http://mississippilakesassociation.org/images/Documents/20160221-MLPI-progress-charts.pdf>

3. With help from Alyson Symon we have successfully initiated the Mississippi Lake Plan Implementation Group. This is a continuation of the Technical Advisory Group which met during the creation of the lake plan. There is representation from the municipalities, Lanark Health Unit, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.
4. We have launched a new eNewsletter entitled Your Mississippi Minute. Please send an email request to [info@mississippilakesassociation.org](mailto:info@mississippilakesassociation.org) if you would like to receive it.
5. The MLA has a booth at the Carleton Place home show April 8-10. Drop in and see us!

#### **J. Eagle Lake Property Owners' Association Update – Irv Dardick**

1. Anniversary Celebration: At our AGM in July 2015, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our lake association. We have an active membership, many of whom have participated in the various successful projects related to the environment of Eagle Lake.
2. State of the Lake Report: In 2011, we published our initial State of the Lake Report primarily with water quality and additional data accumulated from 2002 to 2009. At that time we we planned an update every 5-years. A considerable variety of information and additional water quality data accumulated at Eagle Lake from 2010 to 2014 has been analyzed and organized as a 14-section online publication at: <http://www.elpoa.ca/reports/solr-2015-update.html>
3. Lake Trout status: The Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNR) ceased stocking at Eagle Lake in 1994 after releasing juvenile Lake Trout on 47 occasions since 1917. In recent years there has been concern that the current Lake Trout population is not self-sustaining, even though there is evidence that a large rehabilitated shoal is a major spawning site. As a result, this summer, MNR will conduct a specialized summertime netting protocol to obtain a census of the current Lake Trout population. Depending on the result, stocking may be resumed.
4. Beaver dams: Are other district lakes adversely affected by problematic beaver dams? At Eagle Lake, due to multiple beaver dams along Eagle Creek and the inability of MNR to get property owners bordering the creek to permit trapping and dam removal, we have lost the ability to adequately control the lake level. This despite a control dam structure operated by MNR at the mouth of Eagle Creek. Is it timely to consider asking local municipalities to enact beaver control by-laws?

#### **K. Canonto Lake Association Update Notes – Jim Holton**

1. Lake Plan - We are continuing with the implementation of our lake plan. Our goal is to have the North Frontenac Council establish by-laws requiring a minimum lot size of 1 hectare (2 acres) with a minimum setback of 30 metres. This issue has been made all the more important as a large island on Canonto Lake has gone up for sale.
2. FOCA - We are pleased that Bruce Moore, one of our members, is on the FOCA Board of Directors.
3. Wind Turbines - None of the sites in North Frontenac were selected for further development. Ron Higgins, the mayor of North Frontenac, has been a leader in challenging the building of wind turbines here in North Frontenac.

#### **L. Kennebec Lake Association –Terry Kennedy**

1. As its first priority, the Kennebec Lake Association is continuing to work with the Township of Central Frontenac toward the development and implementation of a program of mandatory septic system re-inspection, using local pumpers/haulers as the inspection service providers.

2. The Stewardship Working Group is continuing with water quality testing and is pursuing the potential for the Love Your Lake Program. They are also updating various materials distributed to members and the Welcome Package for new arrivals.

3. Social Activities included a Winter Fun Day and planning is underway for the annual Canada Day/Independence Day flotilla and barbecue.

4. An ongoing concern is the need to keep the Association vital and vigorous by identifying and involving more (particularly younger) people in activities and leadership endeavours.

### **M. Big Rideau Lake Association – Brian Hawkins**

Challenges for 2016:

- Financial – maintaining membership #'s with membership fee increase to ensure solid financial platform.
- Member Input - to understanding changing expectations members have of their Association and of their use of the lake
- Bylaw Review
- Government Relations:
  - Reopen door with Parks Canada for better two way dialogue
  - Monitor municipal bylaws and Committee of Adjustment decisions which can negatively affect the lake water quality and environment.
- Environment – finding a meaningful position on Cormorant population while understanding we cannot satisfy the vastly divergent and passionately held beliefs of all our members.
- AGM –moved it from July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend to late August for two reasons:
  - To improve attendance as long weekends are usually booked with family & social events, which limit attendance.
  - To allow new Board to take over after the season's events have been held.

**Next meeting:** Friday, September 30, 2016, 9:30 a.m., at the Burgess Hall.