

Next Lake Networking Group meeting date – Friday, Oct 4, 2019 at 9:30 am, Burgess Hall, 4174 Narrows Lock Road (location to be confirmed)

Judy Kennedy (Kennebec Lake) and Laura Belton (Chaffey's Area Lake Associations) have volunteered to bring muffins. Thank you!

[Click here for Attachments](#)

## Lake Networking Group Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 5th, 2019, 9:30 – 12:30 pm

Burgess Hall, 4174 Narrow's Lock Rd, Tay Valley Township

### PARTICIPANTS

**Lake Organizations:** Claire Martel, Dave Overholt, Doug Smith & Janet Taylor (White Lake); Bonny Bracken, Jen Carson (Greater Bobs & Crow); Eric Boysen (Bennet & Fagan); Terry & Judy Kennedy (Kennebec); Barbara Sabourin (Robertson Lake/South Lavant Assoc.); Bob & Philippa Fugler (Loughborough Lake); Leslie Aldridge (Silver Lake); Bruce Jackson, Janet Brown, Sue Shaw (Dog Lake); Nancy McCormick, Laura Belton (Chaffey's Area Lake Associations); Sue MacGregor, Judy McIntyre (Kashwakamak Lake); Gordon Hill (Christie Lake); Judy Hall, Pat Jones (Dalhousie Lake); Art Dunham (Big Clear Lake and Vital Volunteers); Anita Payne (Black Lake); Naomi Fowlie (Pike Lake); Christine & Reid Kilburn, Murray Hunt (Otty Lake); Marie Mathe Drader, Ann White (Big Rideau Lake Association); Rob & Lynn Bell (Mississippi Lakes Association); George Willett (Farren Lake); Guy MacLeod (Sharbot Lake);

Karen Hunt (Lake Networking Group)

**Agencies and Organizations:** Meaghan McDonald (RVCA); Kelly Stiles, Emma Deyo, Alyson Symon, Nader Nakhaei (MVCA); Holly Evans (CRCA); Melissa Dakers (Watersheds Canada), Kat Kavanagh (Water Rangers)

**1. Welcome and housekeeping:** Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting saying that it was easy to tell this is a valued get together – representatives who aren't available have ensured that other representatives for their lake are in attendance.

Everyone present introduced themselves.

Karen thanked Barb Sabourin (Robertson Lake) who brought the muffins – they were excellent. She also thanked Christine for taking minutes, which are helpful to all.

**a) Lake Networking Group Advisory Committee** –Karen informed everyone of the background of the creation of a committee to assist her in brainstorming when questions arise. The committee would consist of representatives from the different reaches of the "catchment" for the Lake Networking Group - Sue Shaw – Dog Lake/ Terry Kennedy- Kennebec Lake/ Mary Lynne Holton- Canonto Lake/ Rob Bell-Mississippi Lake / Claire Martel – White Lake. Karen asked for approval of this committee. The majority of lake representatives present were in support but Gordon Hill (Christie Lake Association) expressed concern about this committee speaking on behalf of Christie Lake.

Karen indicated they (Karen and the advisory committee) want to be able to move ahead in an efficient manner, not to have to go back to each lake association on each issue each time. Karen would report back to the Group regularly. Discussion took place re the types of decisions the Advisory Committee would make, where they have authority to take action. They would exercise best judgment. A disqualifier would be added, that their decisions don't represent each member of the Group. With social media, things happen much quicker, so they need to respond more quickly. As a

group the Lake Networking Group needs to be proactive. The advisory committee would concentrate on general practice kinds of things, not politically sensitive issues. We would give the committee authority to move on those types of issues.

For more complicated questions, Art Dunham offered to send out a survey. The committee would send out information to lake associations before moving forward and give the association reps 2 days to respond. Then a note would be sent out to the distribution list, indicating the # of associations in favour/ not in favour making people aware of what needs to be done.

Rob Bell thanked Karen for all her efforts to organize such a committee saying “we all trust Karen’s judgment, but who will follow in Karen’s footsteps? There is concern about current government, we have to say something or they’ll motor ahead.”

Karen proposed that, for the fall meeting, the advisory committee will put together a structure of how they go ahead. It was pointed out that, at Pike Lake, the lake association has rewritten its Constitution, stating that they can only give out information, that it’s not a decision making body.

**b) Island Septic pumping** – Karen presented Phil Albert’s (BRLA) findings after 6 months of investigation, Phil came up with the following - After quite a bit of calling around, he only found one contractor who will provide services but on Big Rideau only (Sept and Oct). “Docksareus” have provided services on Big Rideau in the past and does not have capacity to widen. He gets his barge up through the canal. He said it is very difficult to get a contractor to do this given costs. He left Phil with the impression there is no easy solution out there.

Phil Albert concluded his report by saying that the BRLA recognizes this is a major issue as townships increase septic inspections. BRLA are willing to support discussing this with government as part of lake networking involvement.

At the meeting Doug Smith of White Lake said that they did have someone pump out on one of their White Lake islands. Janet Taylor noted that it was very expensive. Doug will provide Karen with the contact information.

*Following the meeting Judy McIntyre (Kashwakamak Lake) forwarded Karen information about septic pumping on the islands on their lake.*

**c) Newsletter Group**

Art Dunham (Clear Lake) is available to discuss the sharing of information among lake associations who issue newsletters.

**d) Question from Dr. Paula Stewart re media releases**

“Are there lake associations who would like to have a contact name on the Health Unit distribution list for our media releases? These media releases might have information that a lake association’s membership might find interesting.” Karen circulated a sign-up sheet if you want someone on your lake association to be the contact to receive information from the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit.

e) **Question from Noelle Reeve, Planner, Tay Valley Township**

“Are there Lake Networking Group participants who have had experience with setting up a land trust or a conservation easement over multiple properties owned by different land owners?”

Karen has given Noelle contact info re Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust.

If anyone has other information, please get in touch with Noelle ([planner@tayvalleytwp.ca](mailto:planner@tayvalleytwp.ca)).

## 2. Update from Conservation Authorities

### Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority – Kelly Stiles [kstiles@mvc.on.ca](mailto:kstiles@mvc.on.ca)

#### Lake Monitoring:

- In 2018 we focused on the Upper Mississippi and Indian River subwatersheds. We visited 11 lakes in these areas, such as Kashwakamak, Malcolm and Ardoch, Big Gull, and Clayton Taylor.
- In 2019 our lake monitoring will focus on the Clyde River Subwatershed (Palmerston, Canonto, etc), while also visiting four main stem Mississippi River lakes: Mazinaw, Crotch, Dalhousie and Mississippi.
- The lake temperature monitoring at our pilot sites continues to go well. Thankfully in 2018 all our temperature loggers were retrieved in the fall. We hope to use this data to understand surface water temperatures during possible algae blooms. **Please be sure to report** blooms to the Ministry of the Environment so the type of algae can be properly identified. (Spill Action Hotline 1-800-268-6060).

#### Stream Monitoring:

- We electrofished 24 sites in 2018, and confirmed cold to cool water species at 10 locations.
- We collected benthic macro invertebrates at 12 sites and are still processing those samples.
- We launched 27 temperature loggers across our system (including the lake sites) in 2018 and confirmed 2 stream sites are cold-cool water habitat, and 8 stream sites are cool water habitat. We also found that two sites increased in temperature classification compared to previous years. We will be revisiting these two sites in 2019 to check for year to year variations in results.
- In 2019 we will be targeting a similar number of sites for all three monitoring protocols, with a focus on the Clyde subwatershed as per our 5 year subwatershed monitoring rotation.

#### Shoreline Stewardship:

- We held two very successful Lake Tree Days in early 2018 in partnership with Big Gull and Kashwakamak Lakes. We distributed 1266 plants to 97 properties. We also engaged with 10 other properties for one on one shoreline planting support, disturbing 243 plants.
- In 2019, we will be working with Palmerston Lake Association and the Silver Lake and Area Environmental Protection Association to host Tree Days this May.
- There is still some space in our site consultation program for this year so if you know someone who would like some personalized planting advice please let them know to call me.

#### Reports:

- The 2018 Integrated Monitoring Report is still in the works, but once it is ready I will have it posted online and our mailing list will be notified.

## Stewardship Services & Septic Inspections

### 1) Shoreline Stewardship Program

- Shoreline Naturalization Program is available to all shoreline property owners in the Rideau Valley
  - Program covers 75% of the project costs (additional funding may be available)
  - Program is being offered for free in the Tay Subwatershed for 2019-2020
  - For landowners who are receiving projects this spring, planting will take place between April 23 and May 17
  - We also partner with Lake Associations to do bulk plants sales (trees, shrubs and native perennials), open to other Lake stewardship partnerships
- Contact [Meaghan.McDonald@rvca.ca](mailto:Meaghan.McDonald@rvca.ca) (613-692-3571 ext. 1192) for more information

### 2) Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program

- Grants available for septic projects, well projects, erosion control, forest and wetland management plans, numerous farm incentive grants
- Additional top ups for septic and erosion control grants are available for Bob's & Crow Lake residents this year
- Contact [Derek.Matheson@rvca.ca](mailto:Derek.Matheson@rvca.ca) (613-692-3571 ext. 1134) for more information

### 3) Tree Planting

- Tree planting program is available in Rideau Valley and Mississippi Valley
- Minimum 2 acre of planting area, 1000 trees
- \$0.15/tree for full-service planting
- Contact [Scott.Danford@rvca.ca](mailto:Scott.Danford@rvca.ca) (613-692-3571 ext. 1175) for more information

### 4) MRSSO will be assisting Central Frontenac with the implementation of a Mandatory Re-Inspection program for 2019 (focus on trout sensitive lakes)

- Bob's & Crow Lake Residents within South Frontenac are eligible for \$75 subsidy to have our Septic Re-inspection Program assess your system. With the subsidy in place, the cost to landowners is only \$20. Funding is through the Bob's & Crow Lake Foundation.

## Watershed Science & Monitoring

### 1) Monitoring Programs

- Sarah MacLeod-Neilson is back from maternity leave
- Stream sampling will begin in early to mid-April
- Lake sampling will begin in May

- Volunteers are always welcome, please contact [Sarah.Macleod-Neilson@rvca.ca](mailto:Sarah.Macleod-Neilson@rvca.ca), 613-692-3571 ext. 1109.

## 2) Watershed Reporting

- Tay River Subwatershed Report is available online and detailed catchment sheets are available online at [www.watersheds.rvca.ca](http://www.watersheds.rvca.ca)
- Contact: [Martin.Czarski@rvca.ca](mailto:Martin.Czarski@rvca.ca), 613-692-3571 ext. 1163

## 3) 2019 Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects

- Monitoring of Jebb's Creek embayment.
- Walleye spawning bed at Scanlon Creek on Wolfe Lake
- Contact: [Jennifer.Lamoureux@rvca.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Lamoureux@rvca.ca), 613-692-3571 ext. 1108

## Flood Forecasting

- Current Status as of April 3, 2019- April 8: FLOOD WARNING reduced to FLOOD WATCH
- Patrick Larson retired December 2018, new contact for flood forecasting is:
  - **Brian Stratton, RVCA Manager Engineering Services**  
**613-692-6804, 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1141**  
To receive flood forecast updates you can sign up at:  
[www.rvca.ca/about-us/join-our-mailing-lists](http://www.rvca.ca/about-us/join-our-mailing-lists)

## Other

- RVCA Annual Report and Municipal Information Sheets are available on the website

Regarding tree planting, Meaghan reported that, last year, RVCA planted its 6 millionth tree. Regarding Shoreline Planting, 11,000 plants were planted last year.

## Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority - Holly Evans [HEvans@crca.ca](mailto:HEvans@crca.ca)

- CRCA development review staff are working on communications materials (e.g. shore videos, FAQs) to provide information to property owners, contractors, etc.
- There are currently two municipal official plans in lake-dominated municipalities that are under review: Township of Rideau Lakes (see attached schedule of public open houses) and Township of South Frontenac.
- The CRCA hosted a Shoreline Development Forum for municipalities on March 29. The presentations from this event will be found here (to be posted by the end of April): <http://cleanwatercataraqui.ca/resources/implementing-the-spp/crca-workshop-and-presentations-for-municipalities/>
- Community representatives in the Lower Cataraqui River watershed continue to work together to gather scientific information and formulate a plan to address concerns. A science meeting

was hosted by the CRCA on April 1<sup>st</sup> with several researchers and industry experts to share information and identify next steps to fill knowledge gaps.

- Cataraqui Source Protection Committee members are willing to speak at CRCA lake association meetings. If interested, please contact Katrina Furlanetto (copied on this message).
- Pending community support, the CRCA will facilitate a summer well and septic workshop similar to those hosted in 2018: <http://cleanwatercataraqui.ca/resources/implementing-the-spp/crca-workshop-and-presentations-for-municipalities/> (see Proper Care and Use of Well and Septic Systems Workshops).
- The relatively late and slow melt this year did not result in significant flooding.

From the meeting participants

Quinte CA is not represented here. Big Clear Lake and Kennebec Lake are in their watershed. It was suggested that they should reach out to the CA and encourage them to participate in the Lake Networking Group.

It was recognized that there are also lake groups who participate in the Lake Networking Group who represent lakes outside the catchment of any CA, like White Lake (Lanark Highlands).

Further comments from the Lake Networking Group meeting

CA's now under MOECP (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks). The mandate of the CA's is being reviewed / looking at reining them in/focusing on their core mandate only/memos of understanding between the CA's and Municipalities.

Randy Hillier's views are concerning.

Look for EBR posting, coming out today.

Conservation ON is overall umbrella over CA's. The focus is now on how CAs support the ON government/Open for Business policy and on not doing anything outside of what the CA Act outlined for them to do.

**3. Mississippi Lake Nutrient and Algae Modelling Project** – Dr. Nader Nakhaei and Alyson Symon, MVCA and Rob Bell, President, Mississippi Lakes Association.

NOTE: a copy of [Dr. Nader Nakhaei's presentation](#) is attached to these meeting notes as is a copy of the [Mississippi Lakes Study handout](#)

Alyson introduced the project, came out of strong partnership with Mississippi Lakes Association.

Mississippi Lake Plan started in 2011. Nader was key person who did modelling. He was with Queens working on his PhD at the time. MVCA was so impressed with him, they hired him. The **Mississippi Lake Nutrient and Algae Modelling Project** focusses on Mississippi Lake, but has broader implications for other lakes. The project helps improve our understanding of nutrients, climate, algae growth. There are benefits on a broader scale.

Rob referred to a survey of residents in 2012 where water quality came out as the top issue and concern. Mississippi Lakes Plan was adopted in 2015. In 2016, the MLA spoke with professors at Queens, discussed research. They had interest so started working together. MVCA was also interested (MyTax – funds research in Canada, and MVCA together funded \$45,000). Rob gave a brief

history of Mississippi Lake. It has 1200 properties, 56 km. shoreline and 4 distinct parts to large lake, flushes through 8 to 12 times/year due to river.

A computer model of the lake was built allowing to change factors to see what the impact would be, e.g. change temperature of lake. This is a science project to understand sources of pollution and cause of algae blooms. MLA wants to base advocacy on science. They want to mitigate impact of climate change.

Sampling and testing is the difficult part, and costly due to lab testing. They had historical information, but there were gaps, namely temperature and where tributary flows and nutrient levels, road salt.

Nader's comments – **Note:** [Full presentation attached](#)

Nader explained why modeling was a cost effective means to understand the impact of changing the values of parameters affecting various lake issues. The objective was to determine the main causes of water quality issues in Mississippi Lake.

They employed a model often used by other researchers, called AEM3D. Nitrogen, phosphorus, oxygen, phytoplankton, zooplankton, fish, bacteria are included. The model is able to compare algae blooms with air temperature and also the amounts of nutrients entering the lake from the Mississippi River as well as four large creeks. They noted a strong correlation between a spike in air temperature and the production of algae blooms. They plan to expand the application of the model this year. Another person at Queen's is looking at the 2012 to 2018 timeframe, to include the 3 years of drought, in order to bring in the precipitation component.

Lots of good discussion with the Group about various other possible impacts on this model, e.g. beaver dams, temperature changes (air and water), precipitation.

A question was asked about the January rains – impact on lakes? Frozen ground, so any water flow off surface goes further into lakes. Flushes weeds, soil, leaves onto ice on lake.

**4. Launch of pilot for the Lake Protection Workbook - A Self-Assessment Tool for Shoreline Property Owners** - Holly Evans presented on behalf of the Lake Links Planning Committee. Lake Links Planning Committee meets monthly from early spring to October. Workbook is nearly complete, this is a private showing only for LNG. Everyone got a copy. Each section has a scoring page, then a summary score page at the end. Indicates where you can improve to help better care for your lake. Team is asking us to comment on overall content and readability, test out the scoring, identify any errors, duplications or omissions. **All lake association input to Karen by Thurs. April 25<sup>th</sup>.** She'll summarize, then provide to Holly's team to make necessary changes. Hope to have it ready for this cottage season. This is self assessment, not to be provided to lake associations or municipalities, etc. This is preliminary draft so the planning team would prefer not to send the pdf out. Actively seeking funding so they can make copies available to LNG members for their lake members.

Meeting participants comments

Perhaps make it an on-line tool rather than printing it out, which is costly. Maybe use Survey Monkey (Sue McGregor – KLA). Lake Associations could pay for hard copies, or print their own from the final pdf.

**5. Question for lake associations –Are there science-based issues for which your lake association is seeking information? - Please identify and send comments to Karen before the end of April. Karen will take them back to Lake Links working committee, who will see what they can do with those topics.**

**6. Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) update – Terry Kennedy**

Terry recognized Bruce Moore, also in attendance, who is also on FOCA Board of Directors.

FOCA has just completed another successful Spring Seminar and AGM at the Boulevard Club in Toronto in early March with a full capacity attendance.

There has been a return to the Cottage Life Show after a one-year absence. There will be a review of perceived benefits vs. the costs involved. The value added in maintaining a presence always needs to be assessed against the significant investment of member dollars, and also when considering any potential involvement in the Ottawa show.

FOCA along with various other agencies has been engaged in monitoring a series of provincial policy initiatives and changes, all of which have the potential of impacting members and waterfront residents in different parts of Ontario, including: Eliminating the independent role of the ECO, Aggregate management, Forestry strategies, Municipal re-structuring

Work is continuing on septic best management practices and initiatives on re-inspection programs across the province.

An extensive survey for those on private roads is underway and a municipal engagement guide is being developed to assist associations in building strong relationships with their local municipalities.

Hard work is ongoing to secure the Lake Partner Program and further enhance it through some innovative communications.

The popular and extensively used website is about to undergo a revision and rebuild.

A student will be engaged this summer to travel to events across cottage country to do stewardship outreach and assist in educational endeavours and association contacts.

Cottage Succession programs are continuing in several locations and remain very well attended wherever they are offered (another one here in Perth this summer).

Developing a new strategic framework (what we have been calling '20/20 vision') to better connect with others influencing life on the lake beyond cottagers and cottage associations, such as: provincial/municipal levels of government, boaters, fishers, visitors and others.

The initiative on the Role of Waterfront Property Owners in Rural Economic Development continues to generate much interest with Executive Director Terry Rees receiving many queries from rural municipalities for comment. Of interest is that much of the data for the report came from Eastern Ontario.

FOCA is delighted with prospect of working with Watersheds Canada, the CAs here, and others to develop a guideline as a potential tool kit for proper shoreline development standards and bylaws.

Other notes

- Terry recognized that FOCA is one of sources Karen is hoping to tap for the self-assessment tool. Terry said that it was crucial that FOCA and lake organizations are in touch re education, advocacy since we all dabble in the same pools.
- Bruce Moore commented that the role of waterfront property owners in rural development has been recognized.
- White Lake (Central Frontenac) Cottagers Association received FOCA Achievement Award at the FOCA March 2/19 meeting

**7. Cottage Succession Workshop** – Karen informed everyone of this event.

Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Perth Legion Hall – presenter Peter Lillico (lawyer) **Workshop description:** **KEEPING THE ‘FAMILY ‘IN THE FAMILY COTTAGE** – *Cottage succession planning overview, explaining the legal, tax and family issues that need to be addressed.* - [Click here for poster](#)

Workshop to be offered by the Lake Networking Group in partnership with Federation of Ontario Cottages Associations (FOCA) – \*FOCA will cover cost of venue and presenter. \*Lake Networking Group to look after arrangements, provide refreshments. Help will be needed to cover Lake Networking Group responsibilities e.g. Set-up/ A.V./ Refreshments/ Registration desk on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**PLEASE NOTE: Volunteers needed –Please contact Karen if you are available to assist on July 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Background:** Peter Lillico offers a variety of talks but review committee has suggested (a) for our July 7<sup>th</sup> seminar

- KEEPING THE ‘FAMILY ‘IN THE FAMILY COTTAGE (recommended introductory/overview session) – Cottage succession planning overview, explaining the legal, tax and family issues that need to be addressed.**
- AVOIDING ADVERSITY – Why a Cottage Sharing Agreement is the crucial foundation for shared future family cottage ownership; what protections and provisions they must include; and how best to develop one for your family.*
- TARGETING TAX – How capital gains tax works; how to avoid it; techniques to reduce or defer it; planning approaches to fund it.*
- TRUSTING THE COTTAGE – How a combination of trust techniques can combine to: retain control of the cottage by the parents for their lifetimes; ensure that the cottage passes to their children after their death without probate tax; provide protections for the cottage against children’s creditors or divorcing spouses. Referred to by Penny Caldwell in the early summer 2018 Cottage Life Magazine as “sweet and innovative”.*
- COTTAGES AT THE CROSSROADS: Choosing the Path – This session assumes the cottagers want to keep the cottage in the family and explains the pros and cons of different succession vehicles: Direct personal ownership by children; corporate ownership; or trust ownership.*

**BREAK**

## **8. Lake Associations verbal updates as well as a report from Watersheds Canada from Melissa Dakers and an update from Kat Kavanagh (Water Rangers)**

### **Water Rangers Update – Kat Kavanagh**

Thanks to many groups in this region who have helped grow the citizen science movement for water. As we grow across Canada, it is the lake groups in Eastern Ontario that have been our enthusiastic base of supporters, and I am so grateful! Here is the latest findings from our research on how water testing affects stewardship behaviour: <https://waterrangers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/poster-2019.pdf>

Interested in our water testkits? Here's a special discount code for 15% off: LAKENETWORK <https://store.waterrangers.ca> Starting mid-May, we will be running webinars on how to use the kits, how to run excursions with kids, and (pending funding) launching our testkit lending program this year, so more youth groups and community groups can participate. If you'd like to be notified, email [kat@waterrangers.ca](mailto:kat@waterrangers.ca)

If you have suspected hotspots for phosphates (high levels above 100ppb), and want to participate in our study to see if we can read teststrips as an early warning system, find out how you can join here: <https://waterrangers.ca/en/testers/>

Notes below are those which have been received electronically from participating lake associations

### **Pike Lake Community Association (PLCA)- Naomi Fowlie**

**Snowmobile Incident** - A burned out snowmobile in middle of Pike Lake reported by a cottage owner to PLCA. PLCA contacted Perth area OPP and other interested organizations.

Sean Kennedy, Conservation Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and another staff person went out to investigate the burned-out snowmobile. Their assessment was that it would be too dangerous to try and retrieve it as the ice was too unstable due to spring melting conditions. PLCA board members visited site on subsequent days and came to same conclusion

Two key challenges identified: Who pays cost for removal? Unstable ice conditions for identification and extraction.

### **Summer 2019 Plans**

PLCA Board meeting will be taking place July 6<sup>th</sup>. Two family-oriented events are being planned for the summer of 2019.

### **Watershed Report**

Pike Lake Watershed report completed and now available on the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority website.

## **Christie Lake Association – Gordon Hill**

Christie Lake Association Inc (“CLA”) was incorporated under the Ontario Corporations Act on August 19, 1976 as a not-for-profit corporation. It is the successor to Christie Lake Anglers and Hunters Association, an unincorporated association established many years earlier. The primary goal of the current directors is to build a sense of community, congeniality and shared values among lake residents.

CLA’s mantra is: “communicate, educate, vegetate, but do not regulate” As a general rule, CLA does not attempt to impose rules on lake residents, nor take sides in disputes between them, nor does it take positions in relation to severance applications or committee of adjustment consents. CLA leaves those issues to applicants, their neighbours (who receive notice of the proceedings and who are likely to be most affected by an applicant’s proposal) and the authorities charged with the responsibility to adjudicate on such issues. Past experience has demonstrated that “taking sides” on such issues produces adversaries and is counterproductive to membership growth. Under egregious circumstances (e.g. a new mining operation opening up on or near the shores of our lake) we would likely take sides. As yet we have not been called upon to do so. However, we do lobby township and county councils on issues relating to road maintenance, waste disposal, municipal taxes, procedural by-laws, and finding that delicate balance between reasonable regulation and reasonable use and enjoyment of one’s property, and recognizing and avoiding adverse results stemming from unintended consequences, etc.

Tools that CLA employs for building a sense of community and shared values include:

- Membership drives – face to face contact and one-on-one discussions are essential

- Communication and education – spring and fall newsletters, website, email correspondence for specific issues (which we call “Spotlights”), AGMs and occasional information meetings

- Social Activities - spring “Welcome Back” wine and cheese party, Canada Day flotilla, end of season dinner-dance.

- Recreational activities – photo club, sailboat races (which, sadly, may have run their course after 15 successful years); golf tournament - as a fund raiser for a children’s camp on the lake

### **Stewardship Activities**

- Lake Stewardship Guide completed in 2011. Implementation, a continuous process, includes: shoreline planting and naturalization; using locations planted in previous years as demonstration sites

  - Providing water transport to RVCA for water monitoring and testing “fishsticks” (fish habitat program)

  - Loon nesting platforms - 6 new platforms built last fall will be placed shortly after ice-out

### **Other Activities**

- Marker buoys for shoals

- Safe-Boating Guide with map of Christie Lake showing the location of Shoal markers.

## Silver Lake & Area Environmental Protection Association - Leslie Aldridge

**Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Silver Lake Chloride Monitoring Program** with Kelly Stiles - Biologist, Monitoring and Stewardship Supervisor, MVCA

- Study the effects of road salt run-off from Highway 7 which runs directly adjacent to the lake for 4 kms.
- Partnered with **Carleton University** to evaluate the effect chloride levels on lake health via sediment sampling & water conditions, including temp, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH, & depth. Carleton researchers will also monitor the lake bottom for impacts from the increased chloride on the benthic organisms.
- **Preliminary 2018 results:** Water quality is good but should continue to be closely monitored.
- **2019 additions:** Phosphate monitoring

### → Other Activities:

- **'MVCA Tree Day' on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019:** Silver Lake landowners were able to order up to 15 individual trees or shrubs from the MVCA free of charge to provide wildlife habitat, help control shoreline erosion, and filter pollutants and nutrients entering the lake through rain water runoff.
- AGM June 22 10:00 AM – Maberly Community Hall

## White Lake Preservation Project – Doug Smith

The White Lake Preservation Project is putting the finishing touches on the State of the Lake report and hope to have it published by Mid July

Part 1 deals with lake observations prior to the massive influx of zebra mussels in 2016 that dramatically altered the characteristics of the lake.

Part 2 is written to reflect the observed change in the chemistry and biology of the lake since then. It makes for interesting reading since there are very few lakes where the before and after condition of a lake has been detailed with such a broad set of well recorded observations.

Our science committee has published their full report on the WLPP.CA website along with a short easy reading summary.

Conrad and Dave, along with a masters student from Carleton University will continue with the ongoing set of data recordings that are uncovering the progressive changes that are happening in the lake.

The WLPP is forming a working group to develop a template for townships to use when striking

Volunteer Environmental Advisory Committees.

At the all candidates meeting held last October that focused on environmental issues, all the prospective councillors present supported the reinstatement of this committee in Lanark Highlands. Currently, no action has been initiated in spite of unanimous recognition that the council and administration have little or no background in this area.

We recognize that if we are to maintain water quality at the current standards, property owners on and near the lake will need to enhance their efforts for shoreline naturalization.

We have formed a new Communications Committee that is producing an information bulletin on how to access our newly created Facebook group and Instagram postings. In addition we are accessing short video clips that we hope to both embed in our news bulletins as well as show at the "Dock Talks" that will be presented at selected areas on the lake.

Finally, The WLPP along with Watershed's Canada have been given a significant grant to explore how lake groups can encourage municipalities to adopt building and development guidelines that better protect shorelines and wetlands.

#### **Sharbot Lake Property Owners Association – Guy MacLeod**

- 1) **New project:** Loon nests (5 constructed)
  - i. Built by SLPOA
  - ii. To be deployed this spring (2019)
  - iii. Guidance & Support from Pam Hickman (Loon Expert)
- 2) Walley Spawning Nest Spawning Activity Monitoring – on going (spring)
- 3) Water testing – on going
  - i. Completed monthly at 6 locations
  - ii. Total phosphorus at 2 locations, done monthly (new in 2018)
  - iii. Tested by Caduceon Environmental Laboratories, in Kingston
  - iv. All data to "Water Rangers" application
- 4) Water temperature – on going
  - i. Done weekly
  - ii. Done for past 35 years (Ice out until September 30)
  - iii. Our Citizen Science data parallels Scientific Data collected
  - iv. Sharbot Lake has warmed up ~2.5 degrees
- 5) Sept 21, 2018 – "Down Burst" in Sharbot Lake
  - i. Working with Environment Canada and Associated Universities to review damage & data
  - ii. Down Burst or Tornado is the question?
- 6) Mandatory septic inspection
  - i. Goes into effect this spring for 5 lakes in Central Frontenac
  - ii. Includes the West Basin of Sharbot Lake

#### **Kashwakamak Lake Association – Sue MacGregor and Judy McIntyre**

The KLA had another busy year. The **Lake Sustainability Implementation Committee** undertook the following initiatives:

- **Flora and Fauna sub-committee** successfully launched the “*Let’s Get Tracking*” survey last June which asked people to report sightings and send in photos. We used Survey Monkey. In the first 6 months we had 64 reported sightings by October and 10 people sent in photos. People are continuing to report sightings of wildlife over the winter months. All reports are anonymous and we aren’t sharing where the sightings are. The purpose of the survey is to get a benchmark of flora and wildlife around the lake. Of interest to note is reports of: 2 Blanding turtles which are on the threatened list, 1 snapping turtle on the special concern list and 1 5 Line skink on the special concern list.

**Water Quality sub-committee** had 2 initiatives last year:

- o Volunteers supported the MVCA’s free *shoreline planting program* in May 2018. The Kashwakamak Lake Tree order was a big success. In total 866 plants/trees were distributed to 69 property owners.
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- o They also invited the **Love Your Lake** shoreline assessment and stewardship education program representative to the KLA Board meeting last August to give us a presentation. The Board voted to approve moving forward with the program. The 2019 July AGM will include a presentation to our members so they understand the program, volunteer and financial expectations. It will be implemented in the summer of 2020.
- **Communications sub-committee** updated the “Welcome to the Lake” package which includes a copy of our approved Lake Sustainability Plan, a flyer on *Loons* as well as a *Boating Etiquette* flyer.

The board also revamped the “**No Wake**” markers into “**Low Wake**” markers to be in compliance with Transport Canada’s regulations for private marker “Information” buoys. The markers are placed at strategic areas on the lake where there are narrow passage ways. The intent is to slow boats down to create little or no wake and help diminish the eroding of shorelines in narrow channels.

The KLA also cleaned up its membership roster and implemented a more effective “membership renewal” program in January. We also hired a local web master to assist us in updating and maintaining our site.

### **Battersea Loughborough Lake Association — Bob Fugler**

The activities on Loughborough Lake are typical for this time of year. The newsletter is being prepared and advertisers are being solicited. Planning is underway for our upcoming AGM which is being held in June this year.

We have been able to attract a new president for the lake association after running without for five months. Recently the treasurer position was taken over by a new individual. We have also had an individual volunteer for a membership drive role - a telephone call approach is much more successful

than an email when encouraging people to re-join - and we have had a volunteer to keep our FaceBook social media site current.

There is the ongoing challenge of monitoring development on the lake. Support from the township and other provincial bodies for appropriate land development and protection of endangered species seems much weaker than the legislation would suggest.

### **Big Clear Lake – Art Dunham**

Last fall several residents expressed concern over a few people hiring a mechanised weed cutter / removal. The association investigated and found that it was both legal and MNRF stated there was no long term affects as long as the rules were followed, the main one being removal of the cut weeds from the lake. We issued a survey a month ago and had good response of 37 members, our total paid membership last year was 40 people. We asked about increasing our dues, interest in Big Clear Lake clothing, AGM date, AGM topics and any additional comments or concerns. We also created a brochure for our association which we will be distributing this summer. We are also hoping to get out and do a walleye spawning survey when the ice goes out. Art Dunham 613-344-2055

Art also provided the following report for

### **Friends of the Napanee River – Lawrence O’Keeffe**

Friends of the Napanee River, which started in 2016, continues to conduct bi-monthly public information sessions between September and May each year. We are on our first membership drive, and we currently have 50 paid up members as well as over 250 on our mailing list. About 40+ people attend each our sessions, and this summer, we are planning on an “on the water” shoreline cleanup event. We are also currently working on a watershed survey with help from Quinte Conservation. We launched our Friends of the Napanee River website just recently that can be found at: [www.friendsnapaneeriver.ca](http://www.friendsnapaneeriver.ca) and our website is hosted by Vital Volunteers who also provides our membership management software. Finally, we are presenting a case for a shoreline protection by-law to Stone Mills Township over the next two weeks.

### **Dog Lake Association – Sue Shaw**

Our main concern, over this past year, has been how to deal with the anticipated growth of blue-green algae. The public beach on Dog Lake was closed for several weeks in mid August through much of September. Blue-green algae were also present in many other parts of the lake, and especially in shallow waters and bays.

Fortunately, we now have an active Water Quality Committee, chaired by Janet Brown. A considerable number of members have volunteered to be on that committee, clearly due to widespread concerns about algae and weeds. Through the WQC, Dog Lake is now part of the Blue Lake Project. The data collected for this project will clearly be very helpful now and in future years.

In the fall, a group of us met with representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the KFLA Public Health Agency and the South Frontenac Township. It was helpful to learn about the data collected by different agencies, the concerns they had about the quality of lake water, and the disruptions faced in regard to summer camp activities.

Of particular value, has been a new committee made up of DLA representatives, as well as individuals from Cranberry and Colonel By Lakes. The group is chaired and supported by Holly Evans (CRCA). Recently, this group invited a number of researchers and experts from various institutions (including Queen's University and Carleton University). It was a very helpful meeting for us, since we learned about the valuable research currently underway. We plan to keep in touch with this group of researchers, and make use of the information they have gathered. We want to ensure that the advice we give to our members about protecting the quality of our lake water is relevant and up to date.

Meanwhile, we have also had discussions about updating our bylaws and clarifying our roles and objectives. We hope to expand our membership so that we can communicate better with both those who live full time on the lake, as well as cottagers who are seasonal visitors.

### **Mississippi Lakes Association - Rob Bell**

Rob shares below an update that he recently posted on the MLA website ...

...I would like to thank our hard-working board of directors for an awesome year! There has been significant progress on many fronts that I would like to share. For current details on any of these topics subscribe to Your Mississippi Minute: <https://mississippilakesassociation.org/index.php/about-us/mla-publications/your-mississippi-minute-e-newsletter>. And join us at the AGM on May 23, 2019, 6:30-9:00 at Beckwith Township office!

### **CAUTIONARY MARKERS**

Summer and fall 2018 saw a contour mapping effort for the entire lake using sonar. Currently buoy placements are being finalized using GPS co-ordinates that will enable quicker, more accurate buoy placement. And we are now able to complete an MLA sign that includes the latest buoy map (see it at <https://mississippilakesassociation.org/images/Documents/Boating/20170425-MLA-Map-Caution-Buoys.pdf>) to be placed at the Carleton Place boat launch. A big thank-you to John and Kathryn Maloney, Ed Carew and directors Dave Duncan and Andre Langlois.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

The MLA Environment Committee has had a banner year that included efforts such as loon counts, invasive species surveying, water sampling and fish habitat enhancement. Guided by the Lake Plan which was adopted in 2015, this committee has been gathering momentum each subsequent year and will be tackling the threat of Eurasian Milfoil this summer. (To get involved send email to [environment@mississippilakesassociation.org](mailto:environment@mississippilakesassociation.org)). Thanks to the entire committee especially the committee chair Doreen Donald. Great work!

### **ROADS**

Our new committee that is tackling the challenges faced by the many private roads around the lake is called the MLA Roads Committee. It has been very busy since it's inception April 2018. You can see

the result of its effort to build a collection of resources that will be valuable for all our members on our website. Thanks to committee chair Richard Teahen for his on-going efforts. Look for announcement of a Town Hall event coming in June 2019.

#### BLUE GREEN ALGAE

The last 12 months has seen creation and calibration of a 3D computer model of Mississippi Lake. It can forecast BGA blooms and has been used to simulate a variety of scenarios that are helping us to understand the key factors involved. We are currently in the process of crafting a final report to our lake community on this topic. This report will also include information about health risks and how to mitigate them. Please contact me for more information: [president@mississippilakesassociation.org](mailto:president@mississippilakesassociation.org).

#### REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

The MLA is a vibrant organization engaging in many efforts in areas such as boating safety, water level reporting, water quality and education. To keep our efforts laser focused, we will be reaching out to do a 'values assessment' of our membership in 2019. When you see an invitation to share your views, please participate! Thanks!

<https://mississippilakesassociation.org/index.php/membership/members>

Kenote speaker for the MLA Annual General Meeting: Thursday, May 23, 6:30 PM at the Beckwith Township Office will be Sally McIntyre, GM of MVCA

Enewsletter: <https://mississippilakesassociation.org/index.php/about-us/mla-publications/your-mississippi-minute-e-newsletter>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MississippiLakesAssociation/>

#### **Chaffey's Area Lakes Association (CALA) – Laura Belton**

Please see the attached CALA Winter 2019 newsletter for an update on their activities

#### **White Lake Property Owners Association, Lanark Highlands - Claire Martel**

The Board of Directors, composed of 7 executive, has been quite busy since the fall in significantly re-writing our Constitution and Bylaws. The new document is expected to be finalized in a few weeks and will hopefully be distributed to members in May. The new version should be approved at our AGM to be held in August. Directors are also working on a Welcome Package for new comers, information will likely be distributed this spring by our Cottage Watch Block Captains. We produce 3 Newsletters per year, the next one is due in May while the summer edition will focus specifically on the AGM. Last October, a team of volunteers replaced 37 jugs with buoys. We are planning to buy 6 more buoys this spring. Whenever the snow melts, we will have our traditional Earth Day once again this year. In addition to our September golf tournament, we currently have 30 golfers lined up for a social golf afternoon and supper at the end of June. Sometimes around August, we plan on organizing our 3rd Phragmites Eradication Event.

**Lake Networking Group Fall Meeting** – Fri Oct 4, 9:30 to 12:30, Burgess Hall (location to be confirmed).

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**Attachments to Minutes:**

- [Dr. Nader Nakhaei's presentation](#)
- [Mississippi Lakes Study handout](#)
- [Cottage Succession Poster](#)
- [Pictures taken at meeting](#)