

Lake Networking Group Meeting

9:30 a.m. Friday, May 23, 2014

Burgess Hall, 4171 Narrows Lock Road

Attending – Anita Payne (Black Lake); Judy and Terry Kennedy (Kennebec Lake); Kay Rogers (Pike Lake); Terry Kimmel (Pike Lake); Julie Burke (Adam Lake); Karen and Murray Hunt (Otty Lake); Robert Cosh (Otty Lake); Jackie and Brian Stapledon (Farren Lake); Kris McDonald (Farren Lake); Mike Yee (RVCA); Judy Hall (Dalhousie Lake); Doug Good (Big Rideau Lake); Frank Mills (Mississippi Lakes Association); Larry Bowen (Christie Lake); Brooke Briggs (Christie Lake); Connie Stackhouse (Bennett and Farren Lake); Donna Doelman (Bennett and Fagan Lake); Bob Fugler (Loughborough Lake); Larry Arpaia (Bobs and Crow Lakes); Rem Westland (Sharbot Lake); Barbara King (O'Brien Lake and Centre for Sustainable Watersheds); Jim and Mary Lynne Holton (Canonto Lake).

Regrets – Alyson Symons (MVCA), Taro Alps (Bobs and Crow Lakes)

1. **Welcome**; Karen Hunt welcomed the participants and asked they identify themselves and the organization they were representing.

2. MVCA update

MVCA Nutrient Balance Project –discussion deferred until fall meeting as Alyson Symon was unable to attend May 23rd meeting

MVCA Shoreline Naturalization Initiatives

Barb King from the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds spoke about shoreline surveys (Love Your Lake Program) as well as some shoreline naturalization projects underway in the Mississippi watershed as an EcoAction funded partnership project of CSW, MVCA and Kashwakamak, Canonto, Mississippi, and Patterson lake associations (The Natural Edge Shoreline Naturalization Program – please see attached information on this program). The Centre received \$33K for shoreline naturalization work. Barbara also referenced shoreline naturalization work and walleye spawning efforts on Dalhousie Lake where the lake association will work with CSW and the Stewardship Council. CSW also has shoreline naturalization projects underway in other watersheds.

3. RVCA update on Algae/Aquatic Vegetation Trillium Project (People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes: Finding the Balance in Eastern Ontario's Lake Country)- Mike Yee

Thanks to a generous grant of \$149,500 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), community groups, scientists and watershed agencies are teaming up to learn about what is impacting the health of lakes in Eastern Ontario and to look for new ways to make changes in order to protect our lakes and rivers.

Carleton University, Friends of the Tay Watershed, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority want to better understand what is causing green algae blooms and profuse aquatic plant growth in local lakes and rivers. OTF funding is making this special project possible.

Mike indicated that the RVCA has received \$149,500 in funding to proceed with this study and it will be focused on the Rideau and Mississippi watersheds. It is a 2 year legacy project. Karen Hunt will represent the Lake Networking Group on the working group. Kaitlin Brady is the project coordinator. Carleton University is involved as well as other academics. The RVCA will host two workshops a year on this topic with the first during the Lake Links Workshop on October 25th where they will identify issues and best practices. This project will link to groups at Lake Simcoe and in Sudbury. The RVCA is trying to grow its communication network in order to spread the word about the study and to collect data. Ten lakes will be studied with representative lakes in each of 2 years. Core studies will look at lake sediment history. The data will be stored at Carleton University. A cellular phone application is being developed to help observers provide input on algae occurrences. The study is aimed at finding the best ways that don't promote nutrient loading and algae growth. Algae are a natural occurrence but there is a belief that its incidence is increasing. Mike can be reached at michael.yee@rvca.ca and Kaitlin at kaitlin.brady@rvca.ca

Other RVCA updates – Mike Yee

Mike spoke about the **higher water levels** this spring and in response to a question indicated that these levels will have an impact on increased phosphorous mostly due to rain run-off. He was not so sure there would be any shoreline destruction as a result. He referenced Christie Lake where there is a good flushing rate and where there likely would not be an issue with natural shorelines but could be with unprotected shorelines. He indicated that the high water levels are a one in five year event and that they should normalize by the first week in June. Lake residents should contact Pat Larson at RVCA if they experienced severe flooding in their area this spring e.g. roads so these areas can be flagged for future reporting (patrick.larson@rvca.ca)

For information about **shoreline naturalization projects in the Rideau watershed** please contact Andrea Klymko andrea.klymko@rvca.ca or Meaghan McDonald meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca .
http://www.rvca.ca/programs/shoreline_naturalization_program/

There was concern mentioned about the integrity of the **Bollingbroke dam** where renovations are in progress. This could affect downstream waterways.

Barb King mentioned that the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has funding available for fisheries enhancements.

4. FOCA update – Terry Kennedy

Terry agreed to serve on the Board of FOCA as he wanted the lakes in Eastern ON to be heard and recognized. He is interested in finding out more about their operations. Terry mentioned that he is impressed with the organization and they represent our interests. Their mission is to serve and protect cottagers, waterfronts and watersheds. He indicated that FOCA offers several benefits to members including good insurance rates for their cottages (as much as 25%). This gives FOCA value and a reason for lake association membership. Kay Rogers mentioned several other benefits available to FOCA members. Q. Does FOCA have a list of things they do for members? A. Yes, on the FOCA website. Each

lake has been assigned a number that their members can use to obtain discounts. Mississippi Lakes indicated it might withdraw from FOCA since the cost of membership is causing them to raise their lake membership fees (\$5 to \$7.50). They are concerned with the lack of notification they received from FOCA about the increase. This compromised the Mississippi Lake Association. Also, road associations are under the impression they must pay \$125 as an initiation fee.

Following the Lake Networking Group meeting, Terry Kennedy provided the following FOCA information:

1. The 'Hot Topics' currently identified by FOCA are:

Ont. Not for Profit Corp. Act (ONCA) (- now dead in the water because of election)

Great Lakes Issues

Algonquin Land Claim

Experimental Lakes Area (ELA)

Navigable Waters Protection Act

Ontario Waterways (Trent-Severn, Rideau)

Asian Carp

Energy

Property Taxation

Mining

Land Use Planning

Fire and Carbon Monoxide Safety

2. Following our meeting a FOCA 'Year in Review' was completed and is accessible on the website along with the twelve hot topics and other issues (e.g. Municipal Elections) that may be of interest to those who were at the meeting.

Website is www.foca.on.ca

5. Low Impact Development (LID) methods –Mike Yee to respond to question from Sharbot Lake Property Owners' Association re merit of terracing as a way to stop the flow of surface water directly into lake.

Mike spoke to green infrastructure and low impact development. He stressed that they are advocating to work and design with nature – low impact – low maintenance – low profile - low cost and not better living though intrusive engineering. He presented a PowerPoint presentation that indicated terracing helps with shoreline naturalization. Specifically this refers to stormwater and the need to slow down the run-off. Typically only about 10% runs off in a natural environment. Hardening a surface doubles the run-off. The Toronto Region Conservation Authority has a manual on low impact development.

Mike's slides are attached. Useful links are listed below:

<http://trca.on.ca/the-living-city/water-flood-management/storm-water-management.dot>

<http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/low-impact-development/low-impact-development-support/stormwater-management-lid-guidance-documents/low-impact-development-stormwater-management-planning-and-design-guide/>

6. Camping on crown-owned islands – Kay Rogers

Kay spoke to the topic of establishing thunder boxes (an outhouse without walls) on crown owned land as a method to encourage environmental camping practices and to protect our lakes. In a conversation with the Tay Valley Township septic inspector he indicated that he would be prepared to monitor these each year. It seems some lakes have approval from MNR to put thunder boxes on islands (as well as fire pits). It seemed that approvals for doing this depended on the person at MNR that was asked. It was agreed that a meeting with MNR and the septic inspector would be arranged to discuss this.

ACTION: Lakes to indicate to Kay (cameronrogers@xplornet.ca) their interest in attending the meeting with MNR.

ACTION: Kay Rogers to send Karen the wording on the Pike Lake boat launch sign that refers to camping and respect for the lake and its environment (see below).

As well, Kay indicated that the sign is set up on posts like info boards at provincial parks & conservation areas. They have a couple of plastic brochure holders attached to the sign for info, e.g. on zebra mussels

 **Pike Lake Crown Land Access Point**

Let's keep Pike Lake healthy for all!



Pike Lake Community Association

PROTECT	RESPECT	SHARE
 <p>Zebra Mussels are NOT in Pike Lake Let's keep it that way!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Empty bait bucket on land, NEVER in the lake● Drain all water from boat on land, FAR from the lake	 <p>CAMPING permitted only on the large island with the tent symbol GPS 44 47'6" N 76 20'12" W</p> <p>Kindly bring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Luggage loo for human waste● Garbage bag to pack out trash● Biodegradable soap● Camp stove <p>Fires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bring local firewood● Do NOT cut trees● Soak all fires before leaving	 <p>Share our lake with other people and wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● View waterfowl from a distance, give them space to breed and raise their young● Slow your boat when near land● Watch for swimmers

To report a natural resources violation call toll free: 1-877-TIPS-MNR anytime

8. 2014 Lake Links – Sat. October 25, 2014 – Capacity Building and Algae/Aquatic Vegetation Research Please mark your calendars! Civitan Centre Perth

Barb King outlined the plan for the full day Lake Links workshop. Randy French (French Planning Services) will speak about taking action once you have completed a lake plan. Also on the agenda will be the RVCA algae study information reported earlier in these minutes.

9. Identification of legacy cottages as part of the 200th Anniversary Perth Military Settlement and also in other lake settings – Kay Rogers

Kay introduced the 200th Anniversary of the Tay Valley Township 2016. There are Legacy Farms and Legacy Trees being identified and Kay asked if there was any interest in adding Legacy Cottages. The owners would self-identify if their cottage was 50, 75, or 100 years old.

10. Role of lake associations - 2014 Municipal Election – Frank Mills

Mississippi Lakes will organize an all candidates meeting for the upcoming municipal elections. They feel this is a way to have impact with the politicians. They want to ensure that lake issues are part of the discussions during the election campaign. Their lake is close to Ottawa and there is a potential for increased commercial development on the lake as a result (docks and marinas). 8 properties are zoned for commercial development (camping and marinas). Docks can hold up to 80 boats. This represents a threat to lake boat traffic. It should be noted that as long as you pay taxes in that district you can vote in these elections.

ACTION: Send Frank an e-mail if you want to be included in a group to that will communicate to develop questions that should be asked of candidates in the 2014 municipal elections. (fmills@sympatico.ca)

There was a question about whether lake associations should get involved in political activities. The role of the association is for information sharing among members so it is important to ask questions of political candidates. In the case of Mississippi there are 1200 properties on the lake.

Larry Bowen (Christie Lake) mentioned the importance of lake associations being involved in townships' Official Plan reviews.

11. Lake Associations

a) **Question** from Pike Lake Association – what do other lake associations do to increase membership?

Answers; Kennebec has 3 newsletters. They have 60% membership. Bob's & Crow publish "E-Words", e-mails once a month. This got them 64 new members. They also have a 'closed' Facebook page and 2 hard copy magazines of about 30 pages each. Bennett Lake has area road reps take on the membership role. Christie Lake has 130 members out of 330 properties. They send an e-mail to all members, have 2 newsletters and rely on area reps. Rideau has 1100 names and 300 members, has a new brochure and sends 3 hard copy newsletters. Adam Lake has about 50% membership.

In discussion it was mentioned that it is hard to engage young people in the association due to other priorities. For some lake communities there is an impression that lake associations are interfering. Also, people want to see value for their money. Bobs and Crow have 413 members out of 1400 properties. Mississippi is at 50% membership which is focused through road associations. Their glossy newsletter with advertising cost \$8K to produce but this was covered by advertising revenues.

b) Updates from lake associations participating in the meeting

ACTION: Lake Associations are to send Karen a report on current activities

NOTE: following are the updates received to June 7, 2014

Christie Lake

Organization

- Gordon Hill stood down after 5 years as President – Brooke Briggs

Spotlight (ice in, ice out, water levels, RVCA advisories etc.)

Newsletter sharing

- e-mail only
- decide which associations and point of contact to send to
- note that we have links to most area lake associations on our 'Tay River Watershed' page under The Green Zone > Lake Stewardship/Watershed Education

Membership

- Communicating on a regular basis with our lake community, regardless of membership status, is a key component for ensuring all residents feel they are a part of the community. Informing our community as to how we spend membership dollars is another important component, as well as thanking them for their support.
- Some methods we employ to increase membership:
- Face to face communication through annual membership drive (door-to-door canvassing) and at social events. It's a good opportunity for members of the community to express their concerns, ask questions or just to meet members of the lake association. We prepare and deliver 'Membership packages' for every property on the lake (approx 250). Packages may include local and area event calendars, local maps, relevant health info (eg: tick pamphlets), relevant lake info (eg: invasive species) and children's colouring pages or games just to name a few.
- - Facilitation of on-line enrolment via CLA website (payment via credit card or PayPal)
- - Provision of hard-copy membership forms via Spring Newsletter. Again, we inform the lake community as to how we spend membership dollars and thank them for their support.

Website

- 7 committee members (4 who manipulate data)
- SOPs (govern what to post, responsibilities to BoD, photos etc)

Update from Kennebec Lake Association - May 23, 2014

In addition to the usual ongoing KLA activities, current initiatives include:

1. Data gathering to allow us to be better equipped with accurate information such as lots with building structures; and numbers of full-time versus part-time residents.
2. Organizing our third annual July 1st holiday weekend flotilla, this year to include a full barbecue.
3. Participating in Frontenac Wildlands Community Day in early September.
4. Involvement in Quinte Conservation Spring Waterfront Living program for shoreline planting.
5. Working with Friends of Arden community group in seeking to revitalize local hamlet and area.
6. Will be working with developer and Central Frontenac Council to determine function of public green space as part of Kennebec Shores waterfront community.
7. Will be creating questions for candidates running for municipal council in this fall's election.

Otty Lake Association

1. During the spring the OLA mailed the Love Your Lake Shoreline Survey reports to all Otty shoreline residents. We're still working with CSW to sort out some of the reports but the response has been generally positive.
2. 2014 OLA Shoreline Planting Program offered shrubs and wildflowers to property owners at a discounted price for shoreline planting. (Shoreline Planting Program has been in place since 2009. Shrubs are obtained from the Ferguson Forest Centre in Kemptonville through the RVCA Naturalization Program). We have had a very strong take-up of the plants this year. Pick-up of plants is during the first week of July
3. As a follow-up to the Love Your Lake Shoreline Survey Program, DFO funding was made available through the Love Your Lake Sport Fish Habitat Enhancement Program to offer five shoreline naturalization projects to Otty Lake Shoreline residents (offered to Adam and Farren Lake as well). We have had enthusiastic take-up of this offer. Several people made reference in their application to their Love Your Lake Report). The RVCA Shoreline Naturalization Program staff will carry out this work
4. Last fall the OLA in partnership with RVCA and MNR worked together to build 92 new bass spawning beds in Otty Lake using washed rock and gravel. During this work a number of small trees were also submerged deep in the lake adjacent to spawning areas to provide protection for fish and other aquatic creatures. The sites will be monitored by RVCA staff this May and June and Phase 2 of the Project will take place this fall.
5. Project to monitor abundance of zebra mussels in Otty Lake is underway.

6. Plans are underway to offer a groundwater supply (well water) analysis program to the lake residents this summer. The program would be a voluntary service and the results would be sent to the homeowners.
7. Five Year Review Report for the Otty Lake Management Plan (OLMP) will go to the AGM for approval by the membership. The report details the work carried out between 2008 and 2013 to implement the recommendations of the OLMP and also identifies work that still needs to be done.
8. 2nd Annual Paddle Power event will take place on July 13 th
9. We will also have a Otty Lake Community Picnic at the end of July
10. A committee is looking into the uses of the crown-owned islands on Otty and how we can encourage respectful use of these islands
11. The Otty Lake Summer Information Packages are ready for distribution – smaller packages than we once distributed as we incorporated much of the environmental stewardship information into the Otty lake Shoreline Handbook but the packages do provide our Area Counsellors with solid environmental information as well as information about community events to share with their neighbours. It's a time to touch base and also encourage residents to become members of the lake association.

12. Next Lake Networking Group Meeting ... September 19 at 9:30 a.m. Location TBA