

## Meeting Notes

### Lake Networking Group Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

#### Mississippi Valley Conservation Office, Hwy. 7, Carleton Place

Attending- Taro Alps (Greater Bobs and Crow), Larry Arpaia (Greater Bobs and Crow), Anita Payne (Black Lake), Eugenia Flett (Farren Lake), Jim Marshall (Farren Lake), Donna Doelman (Bennett and Fagan Lake), Connie Stackhouse (Bennett and Fagan Lake), Jim and Mary Lynne Holton (Canonto Lake), Judy and Terry Kennedy (Kennebec Lake), Lynn Preston (Centre for Sustainable Watersheds), Clare and Dave Hands (Mississippi Lake), Barb Hicks (Otty Lake), Murray and Karen Hunt (Otty Lake), Alyson Symon (Mississippi Valley Conservation), Terry Kimmel (Pike Lake), Kay Rogers (Pike Lake), Bob Fugler (Loughborough Lake), Barbara Canton (Loughborough Lake), Mike Yee (Rideau Valley Conservation Authority), Kelly Stiles (Mississippi Valley Conservation), Melissa Dakers (Mississippi Lake), Jackie and Brian Stapledon (Farren Lake), Gordon Hill (Christie Lake), Donna Walsh (Christie Lake), Susan and Larry Bowen (Christie Lake), Art Dunham (Big Clear lake), Noelle Reeve (Tay Valley Township), Irv Dardick (Eagle Lake). Hugh Burrows (Adam Lake - Tay Valley Lake Associations meeting only).

Regrets – Gord Rodgers (14 Island Lake), Judy Hall (Dalhousie Lake), Robert Cosh (Otty Lake)

1. Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Alyson Symon and Mississippi Valley Conservation for hosting the meeting in their new office space and for providing the refreshments. Alyson also offered that MVC will look after the coffee/tea at future meetings –her offer was gratefully accepted and she and Karen will sort out any needed logistics. Anita Payne offered to assist in the taking of the notes for the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. (Thank you Anita)

#### 2. Mississippi Valley Conservation Update – Alyson Symon and Kelly Stiles

##### Mississippi Watershed Conditions

- Spring 2013 experienced below average flood levels, but reached normal levels by the long weekend in May
- Water levels started to rise in early summer and remained high throughout the summer due to above average rainfall
- At present Mississippi River watershed conditions are at “normal” levels
- Have started fall draw downs on our dams, with Shabomeka and Pine Lake drawdowns both complete
- Drawdowns on Kashwakamak, Big Gull, Mississagagon and Widow Lakes will start immediately after Thanksgiving.

- Mazinaw Lake drawdown will start the beginning of November

**MVC is always looking for volunteers on the lakes to monitor water levels and rainfall and ice on/ice off**

#### **Pilot On-line Rainfall and Snowfall Monitoring Program**

- MVCA is looking into piloting a volunteer on-line weather monitoring program with Weather Innovations, a Colorado based company that is currently expanding into Canada
- They are trying to set up in Ontario that is made up of volunteers that would record weather data (rain / snow) and publish it directly to their web site.
- The data is then available in excel format to anyone that wants to view it.
- Volunteers are provided with two rain/snow gauges (the cost would be covered by MVCA)
- Would make it easier for volunteers to input their recorded data directly online (rather than sending it to MVC in various formats) and to view the results directly online.
- Would also help us to expand our rainfall monitoring program, both geographically and to include snowfall (for those that are interested in recording throughout the winters as well).
- MVCA will be hosting an information session with Weather Innovations and interested volunteers in the near future

**If you are interested contact Alyson Symon [asymon@mvc.on.ca](mailto:asymon@mvc.on.ca) or 613253-0006 ext 227**

#### MVCA Monitoring Summary

Established Monitoring Programs:

Watershed Watch Lakes sampled in 2013

Macavoy Lake, Kishibus Lake, Mazinaw Lake, McCauseland Lake, Marble Lake, Kaswakamak Lake, Mississagagon Lake, Ardoch Lake, Kerr Lake, and Mississippi Lake.

Reports are due out this winter.

Watershed Watch Lakes to be sampled in 2014

Blue Lake, Sand Lake, Shawenagog Lake, Ardoch Lake, Malcom Lake, Pine Lake, Buckshot Lake, Big Gull Lake, Constance Lake, and Mississippi Lake.

#### SMARTER

Finishing up year 4 of a 5 year commitment to sample small tributaries in both pristine and potentially impacted locations throughout the watershed for benthics, water chemistry, and fish populations. Data is going to both the MNR and the academic world for analysis, as well as expanding our in house knowledge of the smaller systems.

Also still maintaining our monitoring sites for the Ministry of the Environment database sampling of surface water once a month during the ice free season, and ground water sites every fall.

New Programs:

Check Your Watershed Day

Was held on June 9<sup>th</sup> in the Carp Watershed for the second year, with the assistance of local volunteers. They helped do temperature and flow 'dip-ins' at many of the watershed's road crossings all on one afternoon during consistent weather conditions. Sites were also noted if they could use stewardship activities such as a garbage clean up or plantings.

City Stream Watch

Was held during the first 2 weeks of July, with the assistance of local volunteers. Two creeks, Upper Carp, and Poole Creek, were waded and surveyed in detail for habitat characteristics, potential erosion locations, and potential stewardship opportunities. MVC staff also did a fish survey on these water courses to help update our database. Reports will be coming out this winter.

It is intended that as part of a 6 year rotation all the subwatersheds within the City of Ottawa will receive this in-depth survey.

### **3. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Update – Mike Yee**

#### **Aquatic Plant Research Project**

An Ontario Trillium Foundation grant is to be submitted by November 1 2013. The proposal is to develop the capacity to deal with the issue of nuisance aquatic plant growth. Key components are to have a resource person to help build partnerships with academic researchers and lake/river dwellers, user and the community at large. Friends of the Tay Watershed are the lead applicant and the project will be submitted as a collaborative project. We have support from Tay Valley Township and Rideau Lakes Township, Mississippi Valley, Quinte Region, Cataraqui Region, South Nation and Raison Region Conservation Authorities. A first draft of the application has been sent around for review and comments. A finalized version will be submitted before the deadline.

#### **Shoreline Naturalization Program – (Andrea Klymko and Meaghan McDonald)**

Andrea Klymko and Meaghan MacDonald are available to help with bulk orders of shoreline shrubs and trees or individual projects. Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Recreational Fisheries Fund has made available grant money to undertake fish habitat works. Funding has been secured for projects on Otty, Farren and Adam Lakes.

[http://www.rvca.ca/programs/shoreline\\_naturalization\\_program/index.html](http://www.rvca.ca/programs/shoreline_naturalization_program/index.html)

### **Planning (Martha Bradburn)**

With the cuts to MNR and The Rideau Canal Office there are fewer staff dealing with lake issues, please call your local conservation authority if you see suspicious development activities on your lake to find out if they are permitted.

Municipal Site Guidelines - The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority require an assessment of the current site evaluation guidelines for waterfront development. The current guidelines were developed in 1993 based on the "Rideau Lakes Basin Carrying Capacity and Proposed Shoreland Development Policies" (Michalski and Usher 1992) and include a number of primary determinants of development such as slope height and angle, soil depth and type and vegetation cover. The science and technologies related to waterfront development, and onsite wastewater treatment in particular, have evolved since the implementation of the guidelines in 1993 and in order for the guidelines to best protect water quality they should reflect the most up-to-date knowledge, including improved understanding of the host of factors influencing water quality on recreational lakes, in particular climate change, and what on-site factors can be managed to protect the aquatic system.

Hutchinson Environmental has been contracted to update the guidelines and include the Rideau, Mississippi and Cataraqui watersheds

Mike responded to question about the value of the phosphorus lake carrying capacity modelling carried out by MOE a few years back for a number of the Tay Watershed lakes in determining lake capacity . Mike indicated that a number of rough assumptions were used in the modelling and the results can be challenged so this should be only one of many tools that used in looking at lake capacity for development.

In response to a question from one of the meeting participants, Mike indicated that they received about 300 responses to the Aquatic Vegetation Survey distributed during the summer and that survey results would be posted.

### **4. Lake Links 2013 – Lynn Preston**

Lake Links will take place on Sat. Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at the Civitan Hall.

The Keynote Speaker this year will be Angus McAllister, president of Fathom6 Research who will provide insights into understanding what works and what doesn't work in reaching and engaging people.

Terry Rees from FOCA will outline some of the changes that have happened in Ontario including information on current regulatory changes, roles of government and what we need to know to manage our lakes in the future.

Representatives from four lake associations will provide examples of hands-on examples for bringing lake communities together to protect, improve, and celebrate the health of their lakes.

A discussion followed about the importance of funding support for the Lake Links workshop (costs are higher this year because of costs of having Angus McAllister as a keynote speaker). Community partners have funded to the extent that they are able. It was moved by Kay Rogers (Pike Lake) and supported by a large show of hands of those present that the Lake Networking Group contribute \$100.00 towards 2013 Lake Links costs. Carried. This contribution will leave \$24.24 in the Lake Networking Group's petty cash float (held by Karen). Group was asked to consider whether raising Lake Links registration fees to cover costs of big name speakers in the future would lower participation numbers .

Lynn also spoke about the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds' Love Your Lake Shoreline Survey Program . The survey is based on the old MAPLE protocol. CSW has now partnered with the Canadian Wildlife Federation to deliver this program across Ontario. Locally this year Love Your Lake surveys have been completed on Adam, Farren, Loughborough and Otty Lakes. Lynn circulated a copy of the Love Your Lake report including the resource appendix.

#### **5. OPP/lake associations link - Karen Hunt**

Inspector Gerry Salisbury, Lanark County OPP Detachment Commander retired over the summer. S/Sgt. Derek Needham is the new Detachment Commander. Dave Blair remains the Community Services Officer. Karen has communicated with Dave Blair by email to discuss a continuation of the OPP/lake associations link under the new administration. The OPP are in favour of continuing to meet with lake association representatives and have suggested Wed. April 30<sup>th</sup> as our next meeting date. Location to be determined. The Lake Networking Group members participating in the meeting were pleased that these meetings will continue and agreed to the April 30<sup>th</sup> date. Karen will confirm with Dave Blair.

#### **6. Hazard marker buoy information – Irving Dardick**

At the OPP/lake associations meeting last spring there was a discussion about hazard marker buoys. A number of lake associations have begun to or are considering placing official marker buoys. Marker buoys are GPS'd for location

As well, it was recognized that residents on many local lakes do independently put out plastic bottles to mark hazards as well as waterlines. These bottles are illegal markers but generally allowed to remain in the water as they are considered useful/helpful to boaters.

Irving Dardick brought to the Lake Networking Group meeting and displayed, a relatively inexpensive (\$39.00) marker buoy designed by FOCA and manufactured in New Brunswick and approved by Transport Canada.

Lake associations reps around the table already using marker buoys stressed that lake associations need to have insurance if they are putting out marker buoys AND the insurance companies need to be informed that the lake association has taken on this responsibility. Note: it was reported that the insurance cost for coverage related to placing marker buoys was not high BUT THAT the cost of the insurance goes up considerably if you are putting the buoy locations on a map

Please see the attached PDF files: [Private Markers Fact Sheet Nov. 2010](#) and [Information re FOCA Hazard Buoys provided by Irv Dardick](#).

### **Latornell Conference 2013 –Lake Networking Group input – Karen Hunt**

The Latornell Conference is hosted annually by Conservation Ontario and the University of Guelph

The 2013 Conference theme is Re.sil.ience – the ability to adapt to change and takes place Nov.20 – 22, 2013 – Alliston, Ont.

Karen has been asked to speak about the Lake Networking Group at a session entitled: Resilient lakesides: Stewardship at the cottage – a panel discussion focused on “Stewards In Action – Bridges to the Waterfront Community moderated by Terry Rees – There will be 3 presentations – 1. Kawartha Conservation – lake planning to address system-wide challenges on a network of waterways – lake by lake 2. U-Links Haliburton County – Testing the Waters- Community Involvement in Long-term Water Quality Monitoring on Kushog Lake – and 3. Karen Hunt - Stronger Together- the Lake Networking Group of Eastern Ontario

Terry Rees suggested that Karen speaks about the grassroots nature of the Network, the collegial approaches to government/regulators/partners, and especially all the volunteer effort that goes into building a strong and informed local constituency.

Some questions to think about - Why did we get together/Why collaborate? Who was involved? How does collaboration benefit our work? What have we done? What’s next? Share a success story – share a lesson learned from a failed attempt at collaboration. Upcoming collaboration/projects

**Karen requested that representatives of local lake associations and the community partners that work with the Lake Networking Group forward comments to her indicating the value that the Lake Networking Group offers to their organization.**

## **7. Need to update lake contacts information?**

A number of lake associations have had changes in their executive over the summer. Please forward to Karen any new contacts who should now receive the emails from the Lake Networking Group.

## **8. Other items**

### **Larry Arpaia – Hydro One**

Larry brought to the attention of the group, his concern over the process that Hydro One followed in community meetings (60 across the province) regarding proposed increases in hydro rates for seasonal owners (28%). Meeting attendees did not feel they had any influence in the process

- **Septic Reinspection Programs** – Bennett and Fagan Lake reps expressed concern that meaningful septic inspections are not being done on Bennett Lake properties through the Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office. Concerned that older systems are not being inspected because there are no township septic system records for these properties. Lake Networking Group members suggested that further discussion take place with the Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office - perhaps Tay Valley Township could help to facilitate this discussion.
- During the discussion about septic system inspections, LNG members whose lakes lie within multiple townships expressed challenges in dealing with many different municipalities with differing attitudes about septic reinspections. The point was also expressed that some lake groups may not want reinspection programs.

## **9. Lake Associations updates**

### **Kennebec Lake Association (KLA) –Terry Kennedy**

The KLA expects to be busy working in a collaborative venture with involving seven lake associations within the Central Frontenac to convince the Township to develop and implement a program of mandatory septic system re-inspection. The municipality has agreed to form a Committee of Council to work on the issue along with the lake collaborative.

Work will move ahead to implement the recommendations contained in the recently adopted Lake Stewardship Plan and to begin to develop more reliable data regarding number of lots, improved lots, and full-time/part-time residents. There is also expected to be work related to the replacement of a bridge on Highway 7 by the province and continued monitoring of a shoreline development by McIntosh Perry developers.

### **Pike Lake –Terry Kimmel**

-Successfully held our second `Boatilla` with over 100 folks in attendance

- Completed phase 1 of a walleye spawning bed enhancement program with 50 tonnes of rock added to a shoal. Phase 2 will happen this winter.
- Membership is about 100 out of 224 cottages
- Our `Mind your Wake` report has been picked up by several of the local lake associations, by FOCA and has been referenced in a Canadian boating magazine
- Have a committee working on aspects of the Tay Valley Township Official Plan
- Have committed to undertake a shoreline survey
- Are updating our lake map that identifies cottage locations, roads, common names, etc. We do not identify any marker buoys.

### **Loughborough Lake –Bob Fugler/Barbara Canton**

The Loughborough Lake Association had its 50th anniversary this year. The occasion was marked by the publishing of a 50th year Anniversary booklet that was sent out to all members. Material for the anniversary booklet was collected from old notes, minutes of meetings and other sources.

And at the same time as the book was being developed, there were some concerns about the continuation of the association. The number of directors was down to 8 and interest was flagging among the remaining members. Steps were taken to free up funds from long term commitments and discussions were held outlining how to go about dissolving the association. In the end, the planning was not necessary; the new board now numbers 13 individuals. New Board members were recruited via a frank statement of facts in the newsletter and AGM presentations; fortunately a number of interested members volunteered their time and energies to keep this association going.

The largest project that the Loughborough Lake association undertook this year was the shoreline survey that was done in conjunction with the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds. Researching for work indicated that there were in excess of 500 properties or lots on Loughborough Lake; an older study had indicated that there were only 400 or so properties and this was the typically quoted number when we were asked about the number of lots on the lake. Surveying of the properties was done by September and booklet preparation and distribution remains. Unfortunately our source of data for property GPS coordinates would not supply us with the names and addresses of the property owners - citing privacy concerns - so this information is now being manually transcribed from other records.

### **Otty Lake Association – Murray Hunt**

-Fish Habitat Enhancement Project – This collaborative project with the RVCA was completed in early October. Pea gravel was added to the lake bottom in known and likely bass spawning areas. Small trees set in concrete were sunk near the spawning area to serve as a refuge for female bass recovering from the spawning activity.

-Starve the Lake of Phosphorus Campaign – This Campaign was kicked off in April this year to encourage good stewardship by our lake community. Information on the importance of good lake stewardship and practical methods of implementing it were included in the Otty Lake newsletter and placed on the website. Frig magnets with the Starve the Lake slogan were distributed to every lake resident to create awareness of the campaign.

- Plants suitable for shoreline buffers were offered to all shoreline residents
- The Otty Lake Association is participating in the “Love Your Lake” shoreline assessment program. In this program the shorelines of individual properties are assessed and recommendations for improvements are offered.

-Lake Management Plan – A Five-Year Review of the Otty Lake Management Plan is underway. A survey has recently been sent to all members of the lake community soliciting their input. The input will be included in the Five year review document

-Social Events – The annual picnic was successful and this year some residents organized a canoe and kayak activity prior to the picnic which also attracted a large number of participants.

-Wetland Workshop – In June a successful wetland workshop was conducted by staff from the Toronto Zoo. This was a great opportunity for the participants to learn about different types of wetlands, soils and plants and how wetlands are evaluated.

### **Christie Lake Association – Donna Walsh**

Gordon Hill stepped down as the Christie Lake Association Inc. President

- Brooke Briggs is now President with Penny Nault and Donna Walsh as Vice-Presidents
- Applied for a “fishsticks” program grant and were refused. We will continue to persevere with this endeavor
- Continued social events to bring membership together and to foster new memberships
- Continued to enhance our volunteer list
- Continued to do water quality testing through RVCA
- Continued to monitor water levels AND now update that information WEEKLY on the web site
- Initiated approved marker buoy system
- Revised our website as of December 2010 through *oncourss*. We continue to update and maintain the web site and since it was launched, our “hits” are up over 900% per year! It has become a major communication tool. The classifieds section is proving popular. One local handyman has seen his business double since using the classifieds!
- Volunteers have been active in our membership drive. With the up-dated information we printed a new and revised directory with plans of producing another one in 2-4 years time.
- We now use an email alert program to provide notices to the lake people. This has proven to be highly successful particularly with Lost and Found items. We will continue to use this method as well as newsletters as a communication tool.

### **Big Clear Lake –Art Dunham**

- Main focus has been working with other Central Frontenac lake associations to convince the Township to develop and implement a program of mandatory septic system re-inspection.

### **Eagle Lake- Irving Dardick**

- Talked about the benefits of lake groups working together as he explained how three local lake associations from four of the lakes that are designated as "at capacity" in Central Frontenac Township worked with the Planning Department to clarify what was possible for lakeshore property owners with respect to lot severance and development, as well as renovation and rebuilding. When this classification of lake trout lakes in our region occurred a few years ago, the various Ontario ministries involved provided no specific information and much confusion existed for lake property owners. With three meetings with township staff this past year, we were able to write a summary information document (a copy is attached), organize a workshop capably run by township planning staff, and arrange distribution of the document to lakeshore property owners. Much misinformation has been eliminated.
- Eagle Lake has also been part of the lake association group in Central Frontenac working together to encourage the township to develop a mandatory septic reinspection program
- Irv also discussed the continuous water quality monitoring Queen's University project underway at Eagle Lake

### **Canonto Lake – Jim Holton**

- Canonto Lake has 63 cottages and 50 members in the lake association
- With help from the Mississippi Valley Conservation they have now completed their lake stewardship plan

### **Bennett and Fagan Lake –Donna Doelman**

- Elected as President in July. Looking forward to this experience. Work full time and will attend whenever possible
- Cottage Watch ready to proceed from the posting of signs and decal phase to developing a more intense awareness of how we can better protect our property and cut down on break-in. Stick on cottage watch decals provided with membership. Anticipate of series of "cottage watch" meetings in 2014
- Working on a lot specific map of Bennett & Fagan Lakes as our Membership "hook" for 2014. Two year project... really difficult to get it right! Not sure if we will sell them laminated or not
- Looking for ideas that work. Wonder if their might be a sharing of online newsletters and membership brochures. Don't want to add to Karen's workload, but if our group supports this, perhaps someone with 24 hours in their day could compile a resource list
- We have been without a web master for a year and have chosen to sign up with Art and his livinglakeplans opportunity. Really appreciate his coming today.

### **Greater Bobs and Crow Lake – Larry Arpaia**

- Held a very successful BioBlitz in August with many “experts” assisting including staff from the Toronto Zoo. Had many interesting discoveries including a lichen which is rare in Ontario
- Have completed shoreline surveys
- Creek rehab project was completed
- Next summer hope to hold a “Under the Tent” event which will include builders, artisans, service clubs, encouraging property owners to use local talent (previously done 10 years ago)

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### **Mississippi Lake – Melissa Dakers**

- 1200 properties on Mississippi Lake and within four municipalities
- Have been involved in water quality monitoring since 2003. Data is sent to Mississippi Valley Conservation
- Newsletter is distributed annually – a full colour magazine funded by advertising. The newsletter is hand delivered to all properties
- Have been working on a lake plan since 2011, partnering with MVC and CSW. Have received grants for lake planning work from TD, RBC and the Trillium Foundation
- Will be doing a Shoreline Naturalization Project
- Membership has increased from 300 to 500 members. Membership fees are \$7.50 per member if an entire road group joins or \$10.00 if paid independently
- Have their own pontoon boat for marker buoy maintenance which was paid for through fundraising

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### **Black Lake – Anita Payne**

- Are using marker buoys
- Yahoo chat group and website are good communication tools

### **Farren Lake –Eugenia Flett**

- Shoreline surveys were completed by Love your Lake program. Next will be distribution of reports. Will participate in the follow-up shoreline naturalization program

**Next Meeting** - 9:30 a.m. -Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Location to be confirmed

Topics proposed for next meeting:

1. Strategies in preparing for 2014 Municipal Election – bring your questions to be asked of municipal candidates and your suggestions about what Lake Networking group members can do
2. Sharing of information re organization in lake associations e.g. insurance, road associations etc.
3. Newsletter sharing.

A possible meeting for Tay Valley Township lake association reps was also discussed – May 15 or perhaps earlier to allow input on Official Plan Update –meeting date and location to be confirmed.