



Fall 2023 Lake Networking Group (LNG) Report

This report includes the Lake Networking Group Meeting Notes for October 11, 2023, a link to a recording of the meeting and community partner and lake associations updates

Lake Networking Group Meeting

October 11, 2023, 9:30 a.m – Noon

By Zoom

- **Attending:** *Quinte Region Conservation Source Protection Project Manager, Guest Speaker – Amy Dickens; Mississippi Lakes Association – Rob Bell; Kennebec Lake Association – Terry Kennedy; Otty Lake Association (OLA) – Reid & Christine Kilburn; Sharbot Lake Property Owners’ Association (SLPOA) – Ken Waller; Chaffey’s & Area Lakes Association (CALA) – Eva Leon, Thomas Todd; Black Lake Property Owners’ Association (BLPOA) – Jennifer Brooks; Pike Lake Community Association – Jim Tasker; Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association/FOCA) – Donna Commerford; Little Silver & Rainbow Lakes Property Owners’ Association – Janet Conlin; Canonto Lake Property Owners’ Association – Mary Lynne Holton; Otter Lake Landowners’ Association – Jeff Neal; Bennett & Fagan Lake Association and MNRF Advisory Council – Andrew Oestreich; Silver Lake & Area Environmental Protection Association – Greg Ellis; Dalhousie Lake Association – Ian Bennett; Big Clear Lake Association - Bill Calder, Art Dunham; Big Rideau Lake Association -Hansen Downer, Tom Kohler; Eagle Lake Property Owners’ Association – Doug Cummings; Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association – Larry Arpaia; Shabomeka Lake – Laura Logan; Christie Lake Association – Donna Walsh; Lake Networking Group - Karen & Murray Hunt; Cataraqui Conservation - Holly Evans; Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) - Sarah MacLeod-Neilson; Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) - Kelly Stiles; Watersheds Canada – Robert Pye, Melissa Dakers; Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNRF) – Darren Bonenberg; Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations (FOCA) – Michelle Lewin; Friends of the Tay Watershed – Glenn Tunnock, Taro Alps*
- **Regrets:** *Kris McDonald- Farren Lake Property Owners’ Association; Manuel Stevens-Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association; Joff Cote – MNRF; Frank Johnson - Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes Property Owners’ Association; Lois Johnson - Pike Lake Community Association.*

Here is a link to a video recording of the meeting.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ky2BBf3GhW3NGb6ErDvCK54jeA9wQ0X8/view?usp=drive_link

- **Welcome** – Terry welcomed everyone, and thanked them for attending. The meeting is being recorded for future reference. Zoom is helpful to the environment, saving the gas for travel, but we miss seeing one another in person. Terry shared the land acknowledgement, thanking the indigenous people for their ongoing stewardship of the land.
- Terry introduced Amy Dickens and the history of the journey from Walkerton in 2000 to today's status of source water protection, particularly for rural Ontario.
- **Source Water Protection** – Amy Dickens, Project Manager, Source Water Protection, Quinte Region Conservation
 - Amy had a presentation (attached) taking us through the definition of source water, the goals of source water protection, namely to protect public health, cost effectiveness of not having to clean up, finding new sources of source water. The project has been focusing on municipal water systems.
 - They have met with municipalities, other stakeholders to determine which systems to study. Each region has its own source protection plan which is being implemented. They are revisiting to amend as necessary, and updating plans.
 - The team studied an area of surface water (small inland lake) and ground source, looking at time of travel of contaminant from intake, particularly from septic and fuel tanks. Surface water area is very vulnerable.
 - Amy shared the various threats to drinking water.
 - They have come up with policy tools, from very restrictive to softer.
 - 80% of Ontario has source protection on water sources, e.g. municipal areas are protected more than private systems where any spills run quickly into ground water.
 - Similar to Clean Water Act, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks has developed voluntary best practices for water source protection. This is meant for non-municipal, e.g. wineries, campgrounds, seniors' homes.
 - Quinte Conservation has created a website of best practices for water source protection. It includes a groundwater assessment quiz and resources for caring for your private well and septic system.
 - Now they are looking for stakeholders, e.g. school boards, to complete assessment projects and thus develop next steps.
 - Quinte Conservation has developed webinars around this topic.
 - Questions for Amy:
 - i. Wells that run dry – are we ensuring that new developments deal with this? Depends on municipality

- ii. Can municipalities introduce guidelines re control of pesticides and herbicides? Setbacks in some municipalities don't allow use of them.
- iii. Farms – animals near the lakes are an issue. Quinte Conservation do risk management plans for farms. If there's a buffer or fence, cattle probably don't enter creek or lake. They recommend farmers do that.
- iv. Mandatory septic inspections – is one of the management tools. If in a vulnerable area, required to have septic pumped out every 5 years. Inspector does a visual inspection.
- v. Drawing water from rivers or lakes – the plan is primarily for wells, but can still follow the personal intake guidelines. It covers depth, etc guidelines for this type of source water.
- vi. FOCA's position – septic inspections shouldn't be voluntary, just like seat belts.
- vii. Townships grant easements for less than 100 feet. Should this be? – some septics are more environmentally friendly. Each case is dealt with on an individual basis.

- **Conservation Authorities (CA) Updates**

- **Rideau Valley Conservation** – Sarah MacLeod-Neilson
 - Updates per attached report
- **Cataraqui Conservation** – Holly Evans
 - Updates per attached report
 - Piloted a project re phragmites. Get in early where patches are small, before the seeds can spread into wet areas. Early detection is key, beginning of July. Drowning program seems to be working.
- **Mississippi Valley Conservation** – Kelly Stiles
 - Updates per attached report
 - Discussion – importance of lake communities is being communicated to municipalities but CA's hands are tied by provincial legislation
 - Support for phragmites' removal, as Cataraqui is doing. It is being discussed with the stewardship team

- **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry** – Darren Bonenberg, MNRF Resource Management Coordinator, Kemptville- Kingston District and Andrew Oestreich, Lake Association Representative to Fisheries Management Zone 18 Advisory Council
 - Gravel pits, quarries are really Darren's area of expertise but he will share questions related to fisheries etc. with experts and get back with their responses
 - This year Joff Cote oversaw fisheries work in Kingston and Kemptville areas – 9 water bodies. Awaiting data.

- Andrew Oestreich joined Joff's team as lake association representative to the Advisory Council. If the LNG has any questions, feel free to get in touch with him.
- **Watersheds Canada** – Robert Pye, Executive Director
 - Greetings from team at Watersheds Canada
 - Fall planting season – Natural Edge program – nominated for national award, and placed in the top 3. Also awarded by RBC Tech for Nature grant. August – asked for letters of interest from lake associations for education on Natural Edge. Shorelands provide ecological role, but can also have climate resiliency elements in new Natural Edge program. Looking for about 20 lake associations to join program over next 2 years.
 - CWF and Watersheds deliver their programs nationally.
 - Locally, 1,000 properties on 9 lakes this year were part of the program. They are doing reports now.
 - Walleye spawning bed restoration project will receive rocks in winter on ice, which will drop on bed in spring.
- **Lake Links** – Melissa Dakers
 - Lake Links is in person this year.
 - Sat. October 21 Perth Civitan Doors open at 9:30.
 - The 2023 Lake Links is funded by Watersheds Canada, Mississippi, Rideau and Cataraqui Conservation Authorities and FOCA.
 - Planning Committee includes representatives from Watersheds Canada, MVCA, RVCA, Cataraqui Conservation, FoTW and the Lake Networking Group
 - “Hooked on Habitat: Sustainable Fisheries for the Future” is the theme
 - Displays from various organizations can be visited.
 - Over the one hour lunch, there'll be an opportunity to network, which is what people have been missing.
 - All information will be available on the Watersheds Canada website. Streaming live is not available at this time.
- **FOCA** – Michelle Lewin
 - continued progress with our program partners on invasive species identification and prevention, particularly with pioneering some eDNA work for otherwise unexplored aquatic plant profiling and identification (<https://foca.on.ca/isampleon/>)

- numerous projects underway on on-the-ground invasive phragmites removal by our member groups, funded in partnership with the Green Shovels partnership (<https://foca.on.ca/phragmites/>)
- wrapped up another summer season promoting Clean+Drain+Dry practices for boaters to prevent the spread of invasives (<https://foca.on.ca/invasive-species/>), as well as promoting Firesmart communities and responsible fire safety at rural properties (<https://foca.on.ca/fire-safety/>)
- the Lake Partner Program is being ably administered by Gavin Vance and the team at the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks' Dorset Environmental Science Centre (<https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program>); and watch for an announcement in the coming weeks about additional reporting tools to help lakes understand trends in their water quality data.
- FOCA continues as Vice-Chair of Transport Canada's Recreational Boating Advisory Committee, where they are in the throes of initiating new requirements for Pleasure Craft Licenses (PCL), and where they will be introducing new proposals about mandatory PFD wear in the coming year (<https://foca.on.ca/boating/>). These important initiatives will impact all boaters. Stay tuned to FOCA's Elert (our monthly e-news: <https://foca.on.ca/elerts/> - join over 20,000 subscribers!) for important updates, and for your opportunity to weigh in during public comment periods.
- Transport Canada have also recently indicated that – due to increasing concerns from the boating public – they are considering their options about classifying float homes (floating shipping containers), in partnership with their Federal counterparts at Parks Canada, and with the Ontario MNRF who implemented prohibitions on (Provincial) Crown waterways earlier this year (<https://foca.on.ca/floating-accommodations/>).
- FOCA is working with multi-stakeholder groups on the issue of road salts impacting our freshwater (<https://foca.on.ca/salt-impacts/>), and related issues of liability risks which ultimately impact rural landowners using private roads for their “last mile” getting to their waterfront property.
- FOCA continues to be engaged in emerging municipal issues of short-term rentals (<https://foca.on.ca/rental/>), and we're hearing increasingly about local community impacts related to municipal efforts to offload road liability onto homeowners and road associations (<https://foca.on.ca/road-issues/>).
- finally, our FOCA Fall Seminar for Lake Associations will be held by webinar on Saturday, November 4th (9am to noon) and will include an update on our changing lakes from Dr. John Smol, a review of the recently released Ontario Climate Change Impact Assessment, updates from Fisheries and Oceans Canada on recent Grass Carp captures and Asian Carps prevention, an overview of the “top 5” invasive species of concern for 2023 from partners at the Invasive Species Centre, a preview of FOCA's upcoming report on aquatic habitats & plants, plus everything you ever wanted to know about the state of loons, from Bird Studies Canada. Members of FOCA member Associations register at the

reduced member rate! Get details and register online:

<https://foca.on.ca/events/#upcoming>

- Donna Commerford – suggested lake associations send FOCA eLerts to their memberships. Showcase at AGM and members understand the support available.
- **Friends of the Tay Watershed** – Glenn Tunnock
 - Active group – monitoring water levels with Parks Canada and RVCA. Involved in water source protection. Thanks to Amy for all the information she shared. He'll certainly take that information to municipalities since there are many rural sources of water. This forum allows us to take advantage of partnerships. FoTW works with FOCA and Watersheds Canada. Shoreland management, e.g. setbacks, are necessary and part of municipal official planning. FoTW offers scholarships for students in environmental studies. Education is important, and exchange of information here is very beneficial. Glenn commended the LNG for providing these sessions – very important to our lakes.
- **Lake Associations' Sharing**
 - Terry introduced the time for sharing amongst the lake associations. He asked that each representative keep their reports to 3 minutes. Consider reporting on one positive and one negative item.
 - Each representative present at the meeting had the opportunity to share verbally. Where written updates were submitted, these have been included below. For the remaining lake associations we have tried to include brief comments offered during the meeting.

1. Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association - Donna Commerford

In the past, attendance at the AGM has not been enough to meet quorum. This year, a Counsellor was invited, and questions were gathered before the meeting. The turnout was amazing. Next year, the Mayor has been invited.

Big Gull Lake Board members are part of the North Frontenac Lake Alliance, which is recognized by the Township. They are welcoming input to the new Strategic Plan.

As a result of recent severe weather, they are working on an Emergency Preparedness Plan, which will include knowing who is in a vulnerable position so they can be ready to provide support.

2. Bennett & Fagan Lake Association - Andrew Oestreich

Andrew is the lake steward. Bennett Lake has about 190 properties, while Fagan has 9 cottages. This lake is accessible via a 50 yard channel. An Air B&B has been set up on Fagan Lake, which has led to a drunken flotilla going down the very small lake. It is becoming

problematic. What should they do? They have put up new illegal fishing and also Clean, Drain & Dry signs. They will be taking part in the Love Your Lake program in 2024 – thanks to Watersheds Canada. Eric of MRSSO provided details on the tools that can be used to move towards compliance by the 4 property owners who are in the compliance process.

3. Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association - Larry Arpaia

The lakes are in 3 townships. The association is moving forward with positive action with regards to short term rentals and mandatory septic inspections. Another topic is the future of garbage. Recycling could become non-existent in the next few years. They are hearing that 80% goes to landfill, and this is a conservative estimate. Larry is suggesting that the LNG group might address this with the province. They are also looking into cottage safety and security, as well as issues around internet and phone. New lines are being laid, which is positive. But a mess was left as a result of the trees that were cut down to run the lines. The community got together to clean up the mess left because it could have been a fire hazard.

4. Shabomeka Lake Association - Laura Logan

As a result of recent severe weather, the Board has set up a What's App group for Emergency as well as a What's App for Social Groups

5. Dalhousie Lake Association - Ian Bennett

Ian is new to the Board so going through a transition. He is very appreciative of the information shared within this group.

6. Christie Lake Association – Donna Walsh

The Christie Lake Association continues to provide environmental best practises information and community networking to our membership. With a view to improving the lake health, we take the approach that cottage owners all want the best for the lake and its future and providing them with the proper information is more effective than over-regulating them. We have been focusing on invasive species recently and plan to study shoreline erosion issues next year. In the same way, we believe that friendly neighbours are good neighbours and we offer a variety of events throughout the summer season to allow our members to gather for fun, such as our annual Canada Day Flotilla, and this year's return of the classic Dinner Dance. We have a great community and we look forward to next year's Softball Classic and Corn Roast!

7. Otter Lake Landowners' Association (OLLA) – Jeff Neal

A relatively quiet year this year.

Lake Trout- Unfortunately, we had a low dissolved oxygen reading at one of our test sites so MNRF has decided we will not be part of their efforts to place Lake Trout spawn at this time. We'll keep trying.

Loons - Our loon nesting platforms are still not enticing the loons to use them. We'll modify them slightly and re-deploy them next season. We only had three juveniles survive this year from 5 nesting pairs.

FloatOLLA 2023 -The association organized another flotilla on the lake in support of local food banks which was successful. Next year we will organize two separate "parade" areas. One for motor craft and a second for paddlers.

8. Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes Association – Janet Conlin

I am very new and green to this position of Lake Steward and am leaning on the other members to guide me along the way. Little Silver and Rainbow lakes are small lakes, we are finding more weeds this year and have also had complaints about high water levels which we pass along to the RVCA. I'd be interested in hearing if other lakes are receiving similar complaints? And what they have been able to do about them?

The RVCA was here taking water samples . Frank Samut (a past lake steward) took them out in his boat and here is the feedback so far "Lake level seems normal for this time of the year. O2 levels are good down to about 6m then they drop off to zero at the bottom. Again, normal for our lake. They see no signs of shoreline erosion. Once lab results are in, they will email us"

Dominating our Lake Association President, Frank Johnson's attention at the moment is our appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal against a by-law passed by Tay Valley Township in March of this year. This requires that property owners sign an egregious and utterly one-sided "Road Access Agreement" before obtaining a building permit or even using our property. This affects over 300 property owners within the Township, many of whom have not even heard of the bylaw or its effects.

9. Otty Lake Association (OLA) – Reid Kilburn

The OLA held its first in-person AGM in 3 years in July. Understanding and guiding new development proposals in a "build homes faster" environment continues to challenge many of our members and our lake community.. With that in mind the OLA invited RVCA and Tay Valley Township to participate in a panel discussion on Bill 23 and related legislation and highlight the impacts these changes are having on their organizations. Thanks to Sarah McLeod Neilson from RVCA and Noelle Reeve, TVT for their informative presentations and Reeve Fournier, Drummond North Elmsley Twp. Reeve Rob Rainer participated in the discussion.

Recruiting new Board members continues to be a challenge. Without someone to fill the Presidents role the Board decided, once again, to move to a Leadership Team model to guide the Board. Thanks to the team of Barb Hicks, Cathy Kari and Jen O'Donoghue for their leadership.

Our shoal marking program continues to receive positive reviews and comments.

Another successful nature flotilla was held in July featuring 5 stations with subject matter experts from various partner organizations including Murphy's Point Provincial Park, Ottawa University Tick Lab, National Capital Commission and Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists.

A special thank you to Tay Valley Township for their efforts to improve the only public boat launch on Otty Lake. In partnership with the OLA, new signage, improved parking and a dock among other improvements have been implemented over the past two summer seasons.

10. Mississippi Lakes Association – Rob Bell

Hi from Mississippi Lake!! Here's our update for Fall 2023...

Mississippi Lake is surrounded by private roads of all different lengths and ownership types. Most have some formal organization with annual general meetings and budgets for road maintenance. They range in size from 2 members to 125. Many of these associations, and consequentially their members, are MLA members. The MLA gets the bulk of its membership (over 600 voting members) from this relationship. This year we have been successful attending the AGMs for 15+ Road Associations around the lake. In August we staged a meeting for all Road Associations with a focus on Safe Road Access related to high water events. We are working with the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority and local municipalities to get all the data associated with flooding potential and the risks to safe road access around the entire lake in the hopes that risks can be mitigated, and safe access assured for all.

In June we staged a successful in person AGM with attendance from the Reeves of Beckwith and Drummond North Elmsley along with several councilors. We have also welcomed a retired councilor from Beckwith, Faye Campbell to the MLA Board.

On the environmental front we have had a bountiful loon year seeing a very healthy population count with a small increase in adult population as well as chick survival.

Our Water Rangers water sampling and testing program has also shown good results with no water quality issues identified.

Read more about us on our website: <https://mlakes.org> Sign up for our e-newsletter at: <http://eepurl.com/cqz1UL> Rob Bell, president@mlakes.org

11. Big Clear Lake Association – Mitch Laufman

Hi Lake Networking Group lake association members

In case you are not aware there was a fatality recently on Big Clear Lake. A man drowned while on a jetski. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/personal-watercraft-fatal-incident-big-clear-lake-1.6899742>

Needless to say the most important take away is to always wear a lifejacket – he wasn't. Perhaps, as lake associations, we should set calendar reminders for early summer to send Water and Boat safety reminders to our members and include some statistics of the number of

accidents and fatalities from the previous summer ... along with links to reports of local incidents ... the key message being yes it can and does happen – take precautions. If you are not already getting the newsletter from Save Quiet Lakes it has good information that you can pass on to your members <https://safequiet.ca/> - click on the Sign Up button in the bottom right corner.

As it happened the Big Clear Lake Association had its AGM shortly after the tragedy and one of our members Bill Calder, who is a retired police officer, spoke about the need for a Rapid Response Communication system. Bill also agreed to assume the new role of Emergency director. Members will be provided with his cell phone and we created a new emergency@bigclearlake.com email address. Any emails sent to this address will be forwarded to Bill's personal email.

There was lots of discussion around what system could be used to get communication out to our members, and have them read it, as quickly as possible. We have an email solution but often people don't get email on their cell phones, or only check their emails a few times a day. Other apps like WhatsApp was discussed. No decision was reached but the executive was tasked with looking for a solution.

We brought this issue to our association management provider, Vital Volunteers Inc., who was able to create a new SMS (short message service) text messaging feature for us to use. This allows us to send out important messages quickly and easily to our members, and to be confident that the members will read them on their cell phone almost instantaneously. It is easy for members to add their cell phone numbers to their individual member profile and 'opt in' to receive these text messages.

If you think that a SMS text messaging capability would benefit your association but not sure what is involved, we would be happy to discuss the details with you, contact president@bigclearlake.com.

Mitch Laufmann
President
Big Clear Lake Association

12. Silver Lake and Area Environmental Protection Association – Greg Ellis

2023 saw a relatively quiet year so far with no outstanding new issues coming up.

Good News:

- a contentious rezoning application for some environmental protection waterfront property in Central Frontenac Township has been withdrawn by the applicant.
- our beaver population has returned and have been reasonable with their management of lake water levels this year (so far)
- boat traffic on the lake appears to be continuing to trend towards more people and wind powered watercraft and fewer power boats.

- our association held our first AGM in 3 years, it was well attended. We've added an additional member to the executive and are optimistic about the future.
- Tay Valley Township has begun a mandatory septic inspection program for water front properties.

Not so good news

- concerns about personal water craft speeding close to shore and creating wake and shoreline erosion issues
- sportfish populations appear to have declined in some areas of the lake, will check with MNR

Greg Ellis

Co-Chair, Silver Lake and Area Environmental Protection Association

email: gregbicycles@gmail.com

13. Canonto Lake Association – Mary Lynne Holton

The Canonto Lake Association seems to be very quiet these days and no social happened this past summer.

I will pass along some ideas from today to the Canonto Lake Association president as well as to Bruce Moore who chairs the umbrella group of North Frontenac lakes.

14. Pike Lake Community Association – Lois Johnson

During the summer of 2023, the primary issue for many of the cottagers and residents of Pike Lake was the frequent operation of a wake surf boat which started in the fall of 2022 and continued this summer. The concerns of Pike Lakers were raised formally and informally with the OPP and Tay Valley Township as well as being raised at the PLCA Annual General Meeting. Concerns include the frequency of use, potential erosion of the shoreline, swamping of shorebird nests, and damage to docks and boats all due to the large wake, and the noise of music and use of a bull horn for giving instruction. Additionally, there are safety concerns about swamping from the large wake for swimmers, canoeists, kayakers, and stand-up paddle boarders.

The concerns were discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting of Tay Valley Township Council on September 12th and then a motion was passed by Council on September 26th, which directed staff to write to Transport Canada to express its interest in federal regulation of wake surf boats and to request that both the Township and its residents be consulted on proposed changes to the regulations. Staff were also directed to draft a communications strategy by which the township would keep residents informed on this matter as more information is obtained. The Council also issued a media advisory to clarify its position and point out that the concerns of Council were regarding wake surf boats in particular and not regarding other tow sports (i.e. skiing, tubing) or fishing boats, etc.

It seems that there is no easy solution to these concerns of some Pike Lakers, and the TVT media release indicates this is not just a problem for Pike Lake but also affects other lakes in the township and indeed around the province. We would be interested in hearing from other lake associations if they are seeing similar problems on their lake regarding wake surf boats. Please email us at info@pikelake.ca

We were pleased with the good news from the Tay Valley Township Council in the form of a motion, also passed at the September 26th Council meeting, regarding entering into an agreement with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority to provide funding for some of the programs run by the two authorities which had been cut by the province.

In other news, in the spring, the PLCA Board arranged to have a container installed at the Public Boat Launch off Scotch Line that was provided to us by the Clear Your Gear organization, for boaters to dispose of their fishing line so that it doesn't end up causing problems for wildlife in the lake and environs.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in June with an informative presentation on Water Quality and Invasive Species from Haley Matschke and Gavin Robertson from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Zebra Mussels have not previously been reported on Pike Lake, however, there were a few reports last fall of a minimal number of them found on docks when they have been pulled out. So far this year there have been no reports filed.

A study over the past year regarding the possible purchase of fire-fighting pumps was presented at the AGM and it was determined that because of the commitment of volunteer resources that this initiative would have to come from individual groups of Pike Lakers rather than through the PLCA. The PLCA would help to coordinate training and other support to those members who proceed with this project.

From a social perspective, our much-loved annual Boatilla and BBQ on July 1 long weekend had to be cancelled due to weather and the prospect of poor air quality due to the fires in northern Quebec. Our annual Pike Lake Post was distributed to members in the spring and a fall e-newsletter was circulated just before Thanksgiving weekend.

A fire on one of the small islands had to be extinguished by Drummond/North Elmsley & Tay Valley Township Fire Rescue. There wasn't too much damage and it appeared that a camp fire not properly doused was the reason it started.

Lake water levels are always of concern and interest to Pike Lakers and our Lake Steward has arranged for any interested members of the PLCA to have a tour of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry dam at the end of Grants Creek and up to 5-7 of our members will be taking advantage of that tour on Thursday, October 13. Ministry staff from the Kemptville/Kingston District will be conducting the tour.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Johnson
President, Pike Lake Community Association

15. Big Rideau Lake Association (BRLA) – Hansen Downer

The President (Grant Leslie) and Vice President (Phil Albert) of BRLA had both served 3 consecutive 2 year terms and per the Association ByLaws, they had reached their term limits. It was a year of extensive learning for Hansen Downer (President) and Mary Pochobradsky (Director of Communications) with a focus on adding new members and sponsors. We added 40 new members to bring our total to 325 and sponsors grew from 16 to 27. Further growth is planned in 2024 with 3 new board members helping spread the workload – David Campbell is the new Director of Membership and Brian Jokat is Director of Sponsors.

Our kids day camp was a huge success with an average of 44 attendees per week vs. a target of 40 for 6 full weeks – total attendance was 262! The camp had 10 paid counsellors, 3 certified lifeguards and had 6 volunteer counsellors in leadership training. The camp was held on Cow Island which is owned by BRLA. In addition, a teen dance night (Camp Cow) drew 50+ teens aged 16-21 and 20 parents stayed to help chaperone. The teens are already asking to do it again in 2024!

Our sailing regatta drew 30 entrants, our Summer Sounds Concert on Cow Island drew over 50 people – the largest attendance ever! The weather around July 1 played havoc with our fireworks show and attendance was down about 30% by the time it was finally held on July 8.

BRLA manages all the shoal markers around Big Rideau Lake and 123 marker were in place prior to Victoria Day and removed after Thanksgiving. Surprisingly, the vast majority of non-BRLA members around the lake do not realize that BRLA does that work – they believe that it is handled by RVCA or Parks Canada!

Our 7 member Water Rangers team continues to gather data on 6 metrics ranging from Alkalinity and ph to water clarity at 22 different locations on the lake. All data is shared with Water Rangers Canada and all metrics remain within guidelines.

BRLA sponsored 2 ZOOM webinars this year:

- Algae and Aquatic Plant Growth in Big Rideau Lake – Dr. John Smol (Queen’s University) – 85 attendees
- Impact on Bass Population from Pre-Season Fishing – Dr. David Phillip (University of Illinois) – 35 attendees

Our big project for 2024 is improvements to Cow Island to add electricity, running water, a flush toilet and sinks, and a sewage system. Estimates are being obtained and hopefully work will begin in spring 2024

16. Kennebec Lake Association - Terry Kennedy

The anticipated resumption of in-person activities had been planned to include the very popular **Canada Day/Independence Day** celebrations featuring a boat flotilla and barbecue lunch. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled because of a predicted serious thunderstorm. It was doubly disappointing when the storm never materialized.

Fortunately, the **AGM** was able to proceed in mid-August with a return to in-person attendance and was deemed a strong success with some 75 people attending.

Stewardship activities planned for this working season will include:

The two-year Lake Monitoring Project was completed with the receipt of an extensive document entitled **Kennebec Lake: State, Care and Planning (LSCP)**. This highly technical work includes data and analysis for a large number of water quality factors. Some of these assessments are part of the Lake Partner Program whereas others include areas such as conductivity and levels of mineral content.

The next step will be a review and update of the current **Lake Stewardship Plan (2012)** to include and reflect findings from the LSCP.

The newly formed Invasive Species Group Working Group has tackled the elimination of a small bed of Phragmites and plans a second visit to the site this fall. This group is also recommending an investigation of the extent to which Eurasian Milfoil is present in the lake.

There continue to be concerns around perceived lack of township support for a Mandatory Septic System Re-Inspection program and for addressing the issue of Short-Term Rentals.

17. CALA _ Chaffey's Area Lakes Association - Eva Leon

Meet and Greet - May 27, 2023 Morton Community Hall

Guest speaker - Robert Pye executive director of Watersheds Canada celebrating 20 years of work

Promotional booths

July 1st - Canada Day rubber duck race through the lock. Sold all our ducks and raised over \$900. People stopped by to renew their memberships and we gained some new members.

August 5 - Craft Market at the Opinicon. An opportunity to provide educational material to the larger public.

AGM - August 19, 2023 Chaffey's Lock Community Hall

Guest speaker - Tera Shewchenko - Science Writer and Development Coordinator, Invasive Species Centre

Boating

Signs and wallet cards were printed with contact information (to MNR and OPP) regarding illegal fishing and unsafe boating activities. We have posted the signs at some boat launches and distributed the wallet cards at our promotional booths.

Fishing Tournament Coalition

On October 3, 2023 a meeting was held in Smith Falls organised by the Carlton team (Steven Cooke) with lake association representatives and tournament operators. It was the last step of a multi-step process to address concerns and options for resolution of each group's views of tournament issues. The Carlton team will produce minutes of the meeting.

Skycroft Campground Expansion

We have representation in the Protect Opinicon group of concerned citizens with regards to the potential expansion of the Skycroft Campground in South Frontenac. The owner of the campground has applied for a new permit and it is being reviewed by Council. SF Council will likely vote on it at the next meeting on **Oct.17**. We have submitted letters against the proposed expansion and recommend that other associations do the same. All the information associated with the file can be found at the Township site here:

[Township of South Frontenac](#)

Protect Opinicon has a Facebook page and they have set up a Small Change Fund for donations to fund legal and consulting fees: [Protect Opinicon Lake - Small Change Fund](#)

Love Your Lake

In late June, early July, Watersheds Canada assessed over 300 properties on Lake Opinicon. We are awaiting their overall report and considering taking on another lake next year.

18. Farren Lake Property Owners' Association (FLPOA) - Kris McDonald

1. Ontario Not-for-Profit Act (ONCA) We were fortunate at Farren Lake to have a knowledgeable cottager step up as a volunteer to help the Board work it's way through the ONCA process. Updated, revised Bylaws and Board position descriptions were generated to meet ONCA requirements. The new draft documents will be distributed to our membership through email, and will be voted on at our AGM to be held on June 1, 2024 (prior to the Oct 2024 deadline for ONCA)

2. Short Term Rental/Overfishing The FLPOA Board fielded several complaints of overfishing this summer. It was confirmed that the persons involved were different weekly occupants of a short term rental cottage (no owner present throughout the season). A "Fishing Regulations" summary was distributed to all of our property owners including the Short Term Rental owner. A follow up email was sent to the STR owner requesting that the Fishing Regulations summary

be posted at the property as well as be included in the rental description/application. An response from the STR owner indicated that he felt that it was not his responsibility and that the OPP or MNFR should be notified if overfishing was a issue. Consequently, the OPP/MNFR poster with appropriate contact numbers was distributed to all cottages. The increase in Short Term Rentals, particularly with no owner presence, is a growing concern.

3. Fish Habitat Enhancement A group of FLPOA volunteers with the support of Watersheds Canada gathered, constructed, transported and deposited 29 brush bundles at 10 strategic sites around Farren Lake. This was in addition to 34 brush bundles deployed last year. The Farren Lake Fish Habitat Enhancement Project has been highlighted on the Watersheds Canada website. Follow up monitoring with underwater cameras will determine the success of the project.

19. Sharbot Lake Property Owners' Association (SLPOA) – Ken Waller

1. **Membership and Executive** Membership is slowly recovering from the Covid drop (most membership renewals happen through area representatives calling on members in their area). Membership increased from 163 in 2022/23 to 174 as of 30 Sep 2023. At the annual general meeting in July there was a moderate change in the executive. Ken Waller remains as President. Joyce Waller took on the duties of Secretary-Treasurer as well as returning as Membership Coordinator. Barbara Fradkin stood down as Environmental Issues Coordinator but stayed on as a Member-at-Large (M-a-L). Don Coombs, previously a M-a-L took on the duties of Environmental Issues Coordinator. Bill Wilson returns as a M-a-L and IT coordinator. We also recruited two new M-a-Ls.
2. **Septic Reinspection** remains a contentious issue. Central Frontenac Township followed through with a reduction in mandatory reinspections in 2023 from the planned 300 to 50. Reasons cited included lack of staff and challenges including record keeping, enforcement, and lack of resources dedicated to the program (all of which were identified to the 2010 Council). The Township advised that the reduction meant resources could be focused on converting records from the KFL&A Health (the original record keepers for new septic installations), South Frontenac Central Frontenac Township(subsequently responsible for septic systems and Central Frontenacs record system now that responsibility lies with CF. Central Frontenac still needs to decide whether septic inspections (both installation and follow-on) and enforcement would be done in house or contracted out (possibly to MRSSO). SLPOA remains deeply concerned that the Township may use these reasons to cancel the mandatory septic re-inspection program.
3. **Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)**. EWM remains a major issue for Sharbot Lake. In the summer of 2023, SLPOA repeated the photographic mapping of EWM using drones carried out by the drone club at Granite Ridge Education Centre. Previously photographed areas were repeated, and new areas were added. The results showed that previously identified areas had not expanded but the EWM was now denser. New

areas of dense EWM were identified including an area on the east basin where EWM had grown completely across Hawley Bay. This means, unfortunately, that motorized boat traffic both in and out of Hawley Bay chops up the EWM, allowing the pieces to drift and establish new areas. There appears no level of government is taking charge of the problem nor researching solutions. What are other lake associations seeing?

Ken Waller, President, SLPOA, Ken.waller@slpoa.ca

20. Black Lake Property Owners' Association– Jennifer Brooks

- Our property association believes our most MB mandate is to preserve water quality. Our board has decided to focus on reducing pesticide and fertilizer use this year.
- We would like to know if other lake associations in Tay Valley would be interested in advocating for a ban on fertilizers and pesticides on lake front properties. If so, we believe we would be more effective and successful if we worked together. Please call my husband Bruce Brooks, our new president on his cell (613-220-4998) if you would like to pursue the idea of approaching this issue collectively.
- We have noticed increased development on the lake in the form of additions to cottages, demolition of old cottages, and the raising of original cottages to install a new ground floor walkout basement. We aren't sure how this development will affect the lake and wonder if there is any research out there to inform us?

Question:

- Is anyone else wondering how to communicate the proceedings of these lake networking meetings to our members? We use Facebook to communicate a lot of information. However, the information from these meetings is voluminous with multiple attachments and no executive summary. How do others here today communicate this information?

Our project for 2024:

- Frank Brown is a professional photographer and resident of Black Lake, who has taken hundreds of beautiful wildlife shots. He has donated 60 of his best to use in a coffee table book we are preparing over the winter. The book will include an introductory history of Black Lake, stories submitted by property owners, Franks pictures and conclude with stewardship guidelines and links to important information. This book will be given free of charge to those members who have paid their dues every year (171) and for a fee of \$40 to those who have not paid their dues. We are hoping this project will create a sense of community.
- **Thanks**

Terry summarized the morning, and asked everyone to send in their reports. The Fall Report will be sent out once all the reports are in. He thanked everyone for

attending and sharing, and thanks for all you do on your home front. In reports, Terry asked the representatives to include any contact information changes, to ensure all those who should be connected, are. Please provide any other comments/suggestions/questions. Thanks to Amy, Sarah/Holly/Kelly, Darren and Andrew, Melissa and Robert, Glenn, Rob/Christine/Eva/Karen. Thanks to everyone for your ongoing comments and support.