



Newsletter

Volume 30, No 1, Jan 31, 2012

Dear Association Members:

President's Message: Welcome to 2012 at the cottage. This edition brings you the highlights of our most recent AGM, some interesting happenings in lake stewardship from Lake Links and the FOCA fall conference, finalizes the results of our Island Naming contest, and introduces our upcoming cottage season, special events, and dues for 2012. Our Vice President, Nancy Kingston informed me that permanent ice appeared on Tanbark Bay Dec, 19, 2011.

- Our AGM was held Sept 02, 2011 at Sandy and Bill Phipers' Cottage. We welcomed the Mayor of North Frontenac, Bud Clayton, and two Councillors—Lonny Watkins and Gerry Martin. Two new directors were elected to the BGLEECA executive- Debbie Bird as Treasurer, and Janet Sidey as Director-at-large. A thank you was given to three outgoing directors- Larry Glass, Karen Saer and Nancy Gibson. Business items included endorsing a revised agreement with the North Frontenac Fire Department enabling them to store and maintain the fire boat at the Fire Station. A special recognition "Ontario Volunteer Service Awards" were given to long time volunteers to BGLEECA: namely Nancy Kingston, David Cox, Doug Murray, Eric Williams, Jack Commerford, and Ken Grant

- The Eastern Ontario Regional Network project is continuing to make progress in providing upgraded computer access to residents across Eastern Ontario and in particular in rural areas. Using a mix of technologies, Wired, Fixed Wireless, and Satellite, they hope to reach 95% of

the population. Their target is to initially provide up to 1.5 mbps (35 time as fast as the current dial up) and to eventually offer up to 10 mbps.

- **RENAMING OF GARBAGE ISLAND:** Last year we ran a contest to solicit possible names for the island called Garbage Island. Results were tabulated, presented at the 2010 AGM and submitted to the Provincial Georeferencing officials in Ministry of Natural Resources. Our submission to rename the island "Bowman Island" in memory of our past President and his wife was not accepted. The island remains GARBAGE ISLAND. Thanks to all who participated in the contest.

- **COTTAGERS AND MUNICIPALITIES:** Most Cottagers and Cottage Associations are in general agreement that they do not want more development on their lake. Municipalities, on the other hand are always hungry for more tax assessment money. Developers and people looking for waterfront properties would like to see more development. These differences in optic regarding development are currently driving a move by many lake associations to initiate Lake Planning. These plans are developed by the cottage association and deal with a variety of topics: lake capacity, phosphorous loading, buffer zones, shoreline habitat, fishery, boating, setbacks, frontage, the unique flora and fauna, the history of the lake, etc.. The end product is a document which expresses the values of the waterfront owners and their desires regarding the future of the lake. In many cases, the Lake Plan is submitted to the local municipality and a request is made for

the plan to become part of the Municipal Official Plan.

As you know, development on Big Gull is not currently anticipated. However, a number of factors may increase development pressure: low property values in Eastern Ontario, the growth in baby boomers, proximity to Kingston, Toronto, and Ottawa. Our neighbor, Lake Kashwakamak has recently initiated a project to develop a Lake Plan. The question being asked?? Do we need to develop a Lake Plan? I you have an opinion and or wish to become involved in a Lake Planning group, please get in touch with me – KenWGrant@sympatico.ca .

- If you have not yet paid your 2012 dues, please do so as early as possible (see the Dues Sheet attachment). Our expenses are almost always incurred at the beginning of the cottage year and it is very useful to have the money on hand when we need it.

Beaver Bytes:

From time to time we receive information on a topic that affects all cottagers on Big Gull. To accommodate such information, we are introducing a new column titled “Beaver Bytes”. This column invites you the cottager to submit articles and opinions about topics relevant to living at the cottage. The topic for this edition is: **“I Can’t Possibly Hear You, Please Keep Shouting!”**

There are two things, noise at the lake and respect for your neighbors that can be quite intertwined in cottage country. While you might think that the sound of a chainsaw at 8 a.m. is a lovely, nostalgic, cottage-y sound, your neighbors who drove practically all night to get to the lake for their annual vacation just might not agree. What constitutes noise to one person is not necessarily noise to another, so all of us should try to think about the sounds we're creating and what can be done to minimize them. Sometimes it's as simple as making the noise, like that 8 a.m. chainsaw activity, at a different time of day.

There are many sources of noise to think about, and many ways to respect other’s rights to enjoy the lake. Here is a list of just a few that will help you show respect for your neighbors and, in many cases, reduce noise at the lake.

On-Water Activities: Big Gull Lake is a very large lake, with large portions of shoreline with no cottages or docks. For particularly loud and rambunctious activities, think about heading down the lake to areas where there are no cottages or docks and fewer boats.

Boats / Personal Water Craft (PWC): Stay a safe distance from swimmers, paddlers, wildlife, and shore.

Keep your motors tuned correctly.

Be mindful of the volume of your boat’s sound system - remember that sound travels very freely over water.

Be aware of your wake - Large waves can cause damage to docks and boats. By law you must be 30m (~100 feet) from shore for skiing, tubing, and wakeboarding.

Watch your speed: It should be slow enough that your boat/PWC produces little or no wake when within 30m (~100 feet) of shore.

Don’t ride in circles near shore (and especially near cottages and docks) to create your own jumping wake.

Change your location every few minutes, don’t weave around other boats, and don't ride near boats in order to jump their wakes.

Fishing: Consider whether or not it is really necessary to fish a dock with people on it. Big Gull Lake is a very large lake, with lots of good fishing in non-cottage areas.

Voices: Sound carries over water quite well, so remember that your conversation might not be as private as you think it is.

Parties and gatherings, whether planned or impromptu, can quickly get very loud so be aware of the general noise level, and adjust it when necessary.

Try to resist hooting and hollering with glee when you arrive at 2 a.m. for your vacation.

Is your cottage set high off the lake? Instead of yelling up from the dock for someone in the cottage to bring you a sandwich, consider using cordless phones with an intercom feature for communication at a much quieter level.



Even your dog's voice can be irritating to others when there is uninterrupted barking for extended or excessive periods of time.

Music: Remember that music also travels well across water, so consider lowering the volume on your stereo.

Chainsaws, Construction Noise: Building projects and repairs are common in cottage country, so think about the best time of day to begin your work. Seven-thirty a.m. might be within the by-laws, but that could be a tad earlier than most cottagers want to hear hammering or the distant whine of the electric saw.

Take a bit of time to consider the examples listed above, and talk about them with your family. By making some simple choices you can contribute to the shared enjoyment of cottaging on our lake while continuing to enjoy a peaceful co-existence with your neighbors.

DAVID COX'S NORTH SHORE ROAD

UPDATE: I was in on our road system on Jan. 7, 2012 and the road appeared to be in good shape. Some of our road system had been ploughed but Mosquito Lake Parkway had not. We are all crossing our fingers that we do not have beaver and culvert problems this spring. Last year a lot of money was spent because of the beavers. At this time we have no major expenses planned except for the continuation of applying white gravel and grading our road system.

Tree and branch cutting will be always ongoing. The road will be inspected in April when some of the snow melts. Hope this year will bring good maintained roads so we can all drive to our wonderful cottages on Big Gull Lake.



FEDERATION OF ONTARIO COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATIONS:

You can receive your latest updates on issues that matter to waterfront property owners. There is no need for you to join FOCA because you are already a member through our cottage association. How to get updates? Go to the FOCA website www.foca.on.ca and type your email address into the box at the right that says "Receive FOCA Elerts". Topics of interest include biodiversity, water quality, algae blooms,

septic systems, lake planning, water and boat safety, invasive species, and many other topics.

Environmental Report:

Topics include some that have been previously covered but remain topical along with new items.

●**THE LAND BETWEEN:** Did you know that the geography of our cottage land and that of most cottage land in Ontario has received an official designation: "The land between". It lies between the St Lawrence Lowlands stretching across south-central Ontario from Georgian Bay to Kingston. It runs parallel to, but just north and south of Highway #7. It is an area of transition between the Canadian Shield and the St. Lawrence Lowlands. Some of the unique features of this area of transition or "ecotone" include small lakes, wetlands, open granite ridges, limestone plains, and patches of cool shaded forest. It has the highest density of shoreline in Ontario. It is the northern limit of some species such as White Oak, Yellow Throated Vireo, Chorus Frog and the Common Crow. It is the southern limit for the Grey Wolf, Moose, and Jack Pine. There are unique species found only in this transition area: the five lined skink, the Golden Winged Warbler, and Whippoorwill. Culturally, this area was a key travel corridor for First Nations people. The American eel was once an abundant food source although it is now close to extirpation in the area. (At the turn of the century we had an active eel fishery at the East End of Big Gull). For more information on the "The Land Between" visit their website www.thelandbetween.ca

●**EURASIAN MILFOIL AND WEEVEL**

CONTROL: In follow-up to an announcement at the 2011 AGM, I have gathered information about the use of Weevils to control the invasive aquatic plant called Eurasian Milfoil. As many of you know, Eurasian Milfoil is a predominant species in many of the bays in the east end of Big Gull Lake—in some cases interfering with boating and swimming.

Some cottagers have used chemicals to control the species and others make use of the Cottage Association's Aquatic Weed cutter to maintain an open boat channel and swimming area. A number

of Government agencies (MNR, MOE, Parks Canada, and DFO) met in January to present their positions. The results were as follows: there is no permitting requirement by MNR or MOE if native/local weevils are used. DFO may have concerns if there are fish habitat implications. Parks Canada (Rideau Canal and Trent Severn waterways) will not be permitting public weevil use. Conservation Authorities have no permitting requirements for the introduction of weevils and generally support efforts to control and or remove Eurasian Milfoil.

On a practical note, Lake Scugog in the Karwartha Lakes area introduced 20,000 weevils in a one acre plot – the area was denuded but then came back as thick as before. The estimated cost is \$1.00 per weevil so you can do the math. It is a very expensive way to control Eurasian Milfoil. Dr. Eric Sager of Trent University continues to conduct ongoing research looking at weevils and their efficiency at controlling Milfoil.

●SEPTIC RE-INSPECTION: This work continues in 2012 and will again include some properties on Big Gull. Last year, 52 % of the systems inspected required some work and 7 % of the systems were deemed to be substandard. For the upcoming 2012 season, North Frontenac council is considering moving to a Discretionary or Mandatory Inspection Program from the current Voluntary program. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to know more about the septic re-inspection program, contact the Mississippi Rideau Septic Systems Office, 613-259-2421 or by email: septic-inquires@rvca.ca.

●CALCIUM LEVELS: Dr Norm Yan of York University has been collecting data on the decline of calcium in lake waters. This decline is considered as critical to a healthy lake water as the increase in Phosphorous. Calcium is a necessary component in the growth of shell fish (crabs, snails, clams, etc.) which are a major food source for many of our sport fish and shoreline mammals. The decline is also evident in the forests domain which has in turn an impact on the ability of the forest to regenerate. Logging is being severely impacted because lower Calcium levels are related to slow tree regeneration. In an effort to reverse

this trend some Scandinavian countries have introduced programs to return all wood ash to the forest floor in an effort to reverse the decline in Calcium levels.

●SHORELINE WORK: Are you thinking of doing some work along your shoreline this summer? Remember to contact staff at Mississippi Valley Conservation (MVC) before doing work on and around the shoreline of your property this summer. Regulations apply to shorelines and permission is required from MVC prior to any work. MVC generally promotes natural shorelines as they provide opportunities for nutrient take up from residential properties, slow down the movement of storm water through the soil, provide soil retention, and provide habitat opportunities for aquatic species, wildlife and birds.

●BLUE-GREEN ALGAE: There are more than 9,000 algae species so the task of identifying what algae is present is sometimes difficult. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has been monitoring Green Slime in the Rideau system south of Smith Falls and identified BLUE GREEN ALGAE in the lower Cataraqui River. They plan to expand their sampling north of Smith Falls in 2012. The Province of Ontario has an excellent information pamphlet on the Blue-Green Algae and associated health effects. www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/water/factsheets/blue_green_algae.htm.

To report an algae bloom, call the Ministry of Environment (MOE) Spills Action Centre 1-800-268-6060. MOE's role is to gather, assess, and provide basic scientific and technical information to assess the risk to humans. If a bloom is toxic, Health Units are advised who in turn issue a public notice regarding drinking water, cooking, bathing, washing clothes and dishes, and providing water to pets. Fish caught in an affected area should not be eaten. Boiling affected water does not make it safe to drink.

●EMERALD ASH BORER: This recent invasive species is a highly destructive insect pest of ash trees. The borer attacks and kills all species of ash and as you probably know, we have numerous ash trees along the shoreline of Big Gull Lake. If you

see suspected signs of infestation on your ash trees or if you plan on moving firewood, contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for more information: 1-866-463-6017. The Ministry of Natural Resources recommends that you do not move wood. Cut, store, and burn locally.

●ROCK FESTIVAL: Last August, MNR officials along with Dave, Cox, Harold Krieger, and myself toured the pickerel spawning beds that had been previously developed in the east end of Big Gull Lake. All were found to be in reasonably good shape. In discussion with MNR officials, it was decided to apply for funding to sponsor another Rock Festival with the purpose to augment the rock rubble in existing beds. To that end, an application has been submitted to MNR for a \$1000 grant. If successful, we plan on organizing a Rock Festival this coming summer and will be asking for volunteers to help transport rock rubble to the various spawning beds.

2012 Directors			
Position	Name	Address	Phone
President	Ken Grant	1054A East Belcham	479-0064
Vice President	Nancy Kingston	1278 Old Farm Lane	479-2533
Treasurer	Debbie Bird	1302 Marshview Dr	479-8071
Secretary	Donna Commerford	1178B Helen Lane	479-2901
Environment	Ken Grant	1054A East Belcham	479-0064
North Shore Rd	David Cox	1026A Oak Ridge Point	479-9944
Director at Large	Janet Sidey	1087 Jones Lane	479-0287

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2012

Jan 31: Newsletter and Dues Mailing

May 12: Spring Director's Meeting

June 02: Area Reps Meeting at Ken Grant's at 1000 hrs.

June 02: Distribution of Spring Newsletter and Calendars

July 28: Family Triathlon

Aug 04/05: Sailboat Races

Aug 04: Fish Derby

Aug 08: Golf Tournament

Aug 11: Director's Meeting

Aug 25: North Shore Road Meeting

Sept 01: AGM and Picnic (1030 for meeting and 1200 for picnic)

Sept 29: Director's Meeting

BIG GULL LAKE EAST END COTTAGE ASSOCIATION

Dues and Fees for 2012

1	Full membership: Annual dues and Insurance: \$30	
2	North Shore Road Maintenance Fees: Areas 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 cottage families who use the North Shore Road: \$200	
3	Associate Membership (non-cottage owners) : \$10	
	Total \$ (Canadian)	

Please make cheque payable in Canadian funds no later than March 31, 2012 to: Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association and mail to:

*Debbie Bird
5766 Queenscourt Cres
Manotick ON
K4M 1K3*

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province/State: _____ PC/ZIP: _____
Home Phone: () _____ Cottage Ph: (613) 479- _____
Cottage #: _____
Your blue civic number (911), and Road Name: _____
If the above information has changed in 2011, please check here: _____
My/our email address: _____

