



Newsletter

Volume 32, No 1, Jan 31, 2014

Dear Association Members:

President's Message: Welcome to the 2014 Cottage Season. Our January Newsletter starts the season for most cottage owners. I can report from a recent visit to Big Gull that we have lots of ice and snow which is positive for ensuring good water levels on the lake. Again, I remind those who have not yet paid their 2014 dues that a dues sheet is attached to this newsletter. We very much appreciate your early attention to this matter. I would like to thank our outgoing Vice President Nancy Kingston for her many years of volunteer service to our Cottage Association. We also welcome a new director Lynda Corkum from Area 13 on the South Shore. Lynda has a background in Environmental Science and will be contributing and sharing her knowledge of water and the environment with us. Starting this edition, Linda writes about invasive species affecting Big Gull and gives us a forecast of the likelihood of Big Gull being a host for Zebra Mussels.

The BGLEECA annual general meeting was held Aug 31, 2013 at Bill and Sandra Phypers. We were honored to have Dave Gemmill, Deputy Chief of the North Frontenac Paramedics talk about the care and services offered to Big Gull Lake residents. The paramedic service works hand in hand with the Fire Department who is often the first responder. The emergency response process is to call 911 from your landline and Dave Gemmill emphasized that it is important to keep a written record of medical history, medications, and allergies on hand so that they can be handed to the paramedics on arrival. Some discussion was had on the topic of defibrillators and whether there should be a defibrillator located locally. Reports

were given by BGLEECA directors on their respective responsibilities and their detailed reports are available on our Website:

www.bgleeca.ca .

Association dues will remain at \$30 for 2014. Elections were held for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and South Shore Director at large. The following volunteers were elected: Ken Grant president; Donna Commerford vice president; Janet Sidey secretary; and Lynda Corkum south shore director at large.

The association finances were presented and the following represents the Balances as of Aug 31, 2013:

General fund	7307
North Shore Road Fund	2826
Calendar Fund	871
Environmental Fund	17858
Welfare Fund	2137
Insurance Fund	2360
TOTAL	33360

Municipal Elections: We will be having elections for municipal officials in North Frontenac in the fall of 2014. I encourage all seasonal residents to exercise their right to vote. We as seasonal residents represent 81 % of the taxpayers' base in North Frontenac. However, our interests and ability to have our issues heard is often minimized by low seasonal resident voter participation. It is important that you have the opportunity to know the issues, and to influence the topics and agendas of our local politicians. To help in this regard, the municipality will be posting candidate platforms on their Website and the voting procedures will offer three options for voters: in person, by phone,

or by internet The site to access election and voting information is :

<http://www.northfrontenac.com/index.html>

BGLEECA Website Update by Janet Sidey:

I hope that by now you've all been able to have a look around our new BGLEECA website, and that you've found the information there to be of use. The website will *always* be a work in progress in order to keep the information on it as current as possible; Over the next few weeks I will be adding photos to the site and I will also be making a few 'housekeeping' changes to ensure consistency between the web pages.

I *do* want to make sure that everyone is able to access the phone directory that can be found on the "Contact Info" page. Along with the calendar, phone list, and newsletter this spring, you should have been provided with a fridge magnet containing a logon id and password. This id/pw is needed in order to view the phone list. If you did *not* receive this magnet, please contact your Area Rep.

If anyone has suggestions about content or if there is feedback of any kind concerning the website, please send an email message to webmaster@bgleeca.ca and I'll do what I can to improve things. Enjoy!

Photos: Your calendar editors' Tom Symes and Donna Commerford are dependent on your willingness to submit some of your cottage theme photography to help us develop a new calendar for 2014. Please provide Tom Symes with electronic versions of your best photos (Images should be in .jpg or .tif formats, minimum 266 dpi at 100%). Include any identifying information you wish to make for each photo. Tom's email is tomsymes68@gmail.com

On the topic of cottage photos, Judy Pietrusiak (cottager in Area Three) has offered to compile a Big Gull Lake Cottage Photo Book highlighting the stories and favorite photos of your cottage. She would like cottagers who are interested to get in touch: ajaj@rogers.com

Newsletters: From the beginning of our association the job of newsletter editor has been assumed by the President. As an example, your

current president has been writing the newsletter since 2006 or 15 editions including the current one.

It is time that others get to share their skills and I am seeking a volunteer to take on the job of publishing our twice yearly newsletter. You will of course have excellent resources to draw upon including all the current directors, and a rich source of information from other sources like the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations, the local municipality, the North Frontenac Lake Alliance Association, and the Frontenac News. We are currently producing hard copies and electronic versions as well as posting the newsletter on our Website.

It would make sense for you to attend our 5 director meetings as well as the AGM.

Please give me a call at 613 226 4821 (home) or email me at KenWGrant@sympatico.ca. if you are interested.

Environmental Report: by Lynda Corkum.

Invasive Species Watch (ISW) in Big Gull Lake

The Invasive Species Watch (ISW) program is a partnership between the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) to track the spread of the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and spiny water flea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) in Ontario and to increase public awareness about invasive species. Many other groups have joined this partnership. The ISW program depends on volunteers, who collect water samples using plankton haul nets, very fine mesh nets that catch organisms swimming or floating in the water. Both species have planktonic stages: for the spiny water flea it is the adult that is caught, and for the zebra mussel it is an early life stage called a "veliger". Samples are sent to OFAH staff to identify the plankton species and determine whether the two invaders are present. Only the presence or absence of species are reported, not their abundance.

What are Aquatic Invasive Species?

Aquatic invasive species are harmful non-native species, and may include algae, larger plants, invertebrates and fishes. By definition, the introduction or spread of invasive species "threatens the environment, the economy or society, including human health" (OMNR 2010). There are at least 186

invasive species in the Laurentian Great Lakes. The Invasive Species Watch (ISW) program monitors two of these, the spiny water flea and the veligers (early life stage) of zebra mussels, in lakes throughout Ontario. Monitoring for these species in Big Gull Lake began in 1999. Both species have been recorded in the lake. Both the spiny water flea and the zebra mussels have been found in Big Gull Lake. Since Big Gull Lake was first surveyed for these species in 1999, zebra mussel veligers were reported once in 2006 and spiny water fleas were reported in 2005, 2006, and 2012 (2013 data aren't available yet). How did these two invasive species reach our lake? What does the presence of Aquatic invasive species can enter Big Gull Lake from rivers, in bait buckets, on fishing gear, in live wells and bilge waters or as "hitch hikers" on boats or wildlife. Since the zebra mussel veligers and the spiny water flea live within the water of lakes and large rivers and are dispersed by water currents, they can easily be transported to new locations. For more information on Aquatic Invasive Species, the Invading Species Awareness Program, or to request copies of the field guide and find out whether updated or new pages are available, call the Invading Species Hotline (1-800-563-7711), visit www.invadingspecies.com or email invading_species@ofah.org.2

Spiny Water Flea

The spiny water flea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) is a large (1.5 cm long), predacious zooplankton species that was first introduced into Lake Ontario in 1982. It entered Lake Ontario in ballast water of ships from Europe, and is now found in over 100 inland lakes of Ontario. The spiny water flea feeds on smaller zooplankton, reducing food availability that would be typically eaten by larval sport fishes (bass, walleye, yellow perch and others) and for smaller species of fishes such as minnows, so it competes with fish for food. It can also cause substantial declines in native zooplankton. One reason the spiny water flea is so successful is that it has few predators itself in Ontario lakes. The spines on the tail of this species help protect the species from being eaten by many species of fish. Another impact of this invader is to interfere with fishing. The tail spines attach to fishing line and make it difficult to reel in lines. The spines can cause particular problems by clogging commercial fishing nets, a concern wherever fish are harvested

commercially these invasive species mean for our lake?

What is the forecast for Zebra Mussels in Big Gull Lake?

I recently contacted Dr. Gerry Mackie, Canada's authority on freshwater mussels, to determine if Zebra Mussels could become established in Big Gull Lake. Zebra Mussel veligers (immature forms found in the water column of the lake) had been found in Big Gull Lake in 2006. Gerry and his crew sampled Big Gull Lake July 27, 2011. They took plankton tows in the lake, but found no evidence of veligers.

To predict the likelihood of Zebra Mussel adults becoming established once the species has dispersed to a lake depends on both geology and water chemistry. Typically, lakes that sit within the Canadian Shield (which is mainly granite, a type of igneous rock that doesn't dissolve easily when exposed to water) have neutral to acidic waters, which should limit the establishment of Zebra Mussels. Acidity is measured by pH (a scale that measures the amount of hydrogen ion). Neutral pH is pH 7, with lower pH values being more acid. The more acid the pH, the harder it is for mussels to maintain their shells, which are made from calcium carbonate. Big Gull Lake is on the Canadian Shield and has a pH of 7.7. This value is marginal for Zebra Mussel establishment. Some Shield lakes have limestone outcroppings and in these areas, mussels can become established because of the carbonates in the rock which dissolve and increase the pH. My colleague, Dr. Maria Cioppa, who is a geologist, checked all available geologic maps and no limestone borders on Big Gull Lake.

Because the mussel shells are made up of calcium carbonate, the other important factor to monitor is lake calcium. Elevated calcium levels in the water maintain the hard shell. Zebra Mussels may become a nuisance when calcium levels exceed 25 -28 mg/L. Gerry Mackie recorded elevated calcium levels (35.5 mg/L) in Big Gull lake. Despite these high levels of calcium in the water, the drainage from igneous rock means that Big Gull Lake is not likely to be a hot spot for Zebra Mussels.

To find out if other invasive species occur in our lake, go to the following website:

<http://www.invasivetrackingsystem.ca/searchform.php?Form=MainSpottingSite&MenuItemID=92>.

Upcoming Events:

Jan 31: Newsletter and Dues Mailing
 May 17: Spring Director's Meeting
 June 07: Area Reps Meeting June 08: Distribution of Spring Newsletter and Calendars
 July 26: Family Triathlon
 Aug 02/03: Sailboat Races
 Aug 06: Golf Tournament
 Aug 09: Fish Derby
 Aug 16: Director's Meeting
 Aug 23: North Shore Road Meeting
 Aug 30: AGM and Picnic (1030 for meeting and 1200 for picnic)
 Sept 27: Fall Directors' Meeting



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. To access monthly 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 Alerts". Topics of interest include biodiversity, water quality, algae blooms, septic systems, lake

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

Some of the current initiatives include successfully lobbying the Ontario Energy Board for reduced distribution rate charges for seasonal customers' electricity rates; reconfirming the Lake Partner Program with the Ministry of Environment; lobbying for clearer recognition of the significance of waterfront lands, through our participation in the Provincial Policy Statement review.

New benefits to members include special pricing for CAA memberships, discounts on Cottage Life Renewals, and discounts on Fire Products. This is in addition to the cottage and boat, road, and director's liability insurance discounts. FOCA is currently working with an insurance company to offer a combined cottage, home, automobile and boat insurance package that will provide up to 10% savings in annual insurance premiums.

2014 Directors			
Position	Name	Address	Phone
President	Ken Grant	1054A East Belcham	479-0064
Vice President	Donna Commerford	1178B Helen Lane	479-2901
Treasurer	Debbie Bird	1302 Marshview Dr	479-8071
Secretary	Janet Sidey	1087 Jones Lane	479-0287
Environment	Ken Grant	1054A East Belcham	479-0064
North Shore Rd	David Cox	1050 Oak Ridge Point	479-9944
Director at Large	Lynda Corkum	1029 Gnage Lane	479-2473

BIG GULL LAKE EAST END COTTAGE ASSOCIATION

Dues and Fees for 2014

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

Mar 31, 2014 to

Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association

Mail to treasurer: Debbie Bird 5766 Queenscourt Cres. Manotick, ON K4M 1K3

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province/State _____ PC/ZIP _____
Home phone: () _____ Cottage Phone (613) 479 _____
Cottage #: _____
Blue Civic # (911) and Road Name: _____
If any of the above information has changed in 2012, please check here: ()
My/Our email address: _____