



Newsletter

Volume 34, No 2, May 31, 2015

Dear Association Members:

President's Message: As we prepare for the 2015 cottage season most of us are anticipating opening up our cottage, putting the boat(s) in the water, starting up the cottage water system, picking up the dead branches that have fallen over the winter, and of course sitting on the dock and or cottage deck with the first cup of cottage coffee. Unfortunately, you will be looking at water levels that are up to 2 feet lower than usual for this time of year. To explain what is happening I attach a letter I wrote to our past presidents:

“As you both know, the Mississippi River Water Management Plan and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority is the authority governing the water levels, dams, flooding, etc. in the Mississippi River system starting with Mazinaw Lake in the West and flowing eventually into the Ottawa River. Big Gull is the only lake in the total system that does not have water flowing into the lake and consequently water levels rely completely on the spring melt to bring water levels up to the expected levels following the let down each fall. The logs were in early this year as MVCA anticipated that the water levels would be lower than usual due to the low level of water content in the snow cover. We now have to wait for the usual spring rains to bring the lake levels up to normal—and as you might guess, predicting weather and rain is not a rigorous science—consequently we may have lower levels on the lake than normal.

All Big Gull Lake residents need to know that decisions taken by MVCA are based on averages taken over the last 50 years. Averages generally work but weather patterns are changing as we speak.

I have been at the lake the last three weekends and the bush is very dry, ponds which are usually filled with water are low to non existent so I expect the normal ground water table is down as well.”

You will also find the topic of Wind Turbines being discussed by permanent and seasonal residents in North Frontenac. Currently, a proposal has been made to install wind turbines near Denbigh on the border of North Frontenac and Leeds Addington. On one side of the issue are green renewable energy sources, alternate sources of energy which will minimize the use of fossil based fuels. On the other side, concerns are being expressed regarding the visual appearance of wind turbines and the possible white noise impacts on health. It is my understanding that the municipality would gain some financial benefit from the installation. Another interesting conflict is that North Frontenac has spent considerable money marketing the municipality as a “Dark Skies” location and the Wind Towers with their blinking red lights would not fit with the “Dark Skies” theme. (For more information, see following section on Wind Turbines)

I have mentioned previously that OPP costs were being downloaded to the municipality. Our mayor, Ron Higgins, informs me that the increased costs will be phased in over 5 years and will include a \$40 per property cap per year.

As a reminder to all cottagers on the lake, if you are thinking of expanding or replacing your dock, a letter of permission is required from the Mississippi Valley Conversation Authority. Further, no in water work is allowed until July 15 to protect spawning beds.

Thanks to our Newsletter Editor Leslie Maitland for her contributions in the production of this newsletter.

FOCA News: I encourage you to access the FOCA website (www.foca.on.ca) and register to obtain your copy of the monthly ELERT Newsletter. Find out more about the impacts of climate change; on how to pass on the cottage to the next generation; septic, taxes, land use planning; alerts, events and opportunities to ask questions and get involved

A number of lake residents also benefited this past winter by participating in a FOCA sponsored WEBINAR on the topic of Cottage Succession Planning.

You will be pleased to know that one of our Big Gull Lake Seasonal residents Lynda Corkum has recently joined the FOCA Board of Directors.

I would like to alert you to a change in our Cottage Events: the BGLEECA AGM has been moved to a new date—August 22, 2015. This change will allow more lake residents to attend and free up your Labour Day weekend – a time which often involves hosting guests at your cottage.

Windmills in North Frontenac

In 2014 the provincial government began the Large Renewable Procurement (“LRP”) process, a competitive bidding process to establish large renewable energy projects in Ontario. This process is ongoing with contracts for projects expected to be granted in late 2015. Bidding for projects has already been completed, with NextEra Energy Canada having submitted a bid to build approximately 50 turbines in North Frontenac Township. The bidding process is currently seeking community engagement as a necessary and important aspect of approving bids. As part of this process a Special Council Public Meeting will be held June 6th, 2015 at Harlowe Community Hall (1047 Gull Lake Road, Harlowe, Ontario) for NextEra Canada Development to present their project and answer questions. Following the council meeting NextEra will be holding an open house until 2 p.m. to answer any further questions.

Approval of large industrial wind turbine projects requires a resolution of municipal support from council. The Honourable Kathleen Wynne has stated that her government will limit industrial wind turbine projects to willing communities. In response, communities around Ontario have declared themselves “NOT A WILLING HOST” for industrial wind turbines. North Frontenac council passed this resolution (“NOT A WILLING HOST” Resolution #392-13) on June 2, 2013. However, such resolutions are not binding as only Queen’s Park has legislative power to decide where industrial wind

turbines will be placed. In a letter dated April 15th, Mayor Ron Higgins (representing North Frontenac) has requested any questions regarding this issue be forwarded to cao@northfrontenac.ca of 6648 Road 506, Plevna, ON K0H 2M0. Forwarded questions will be addressed by NextEra at the upcoming open house. Concerned citizens may contact their member of council (<http://www.northfrontenac.com/council-members.html>) and/or local MPP Randy Hillier (randy.hillierco@pc.ola.org).

Road Report: by David G Cox, North Shore Road Manager

The road inspection started on April 12, 2015. #10 was bare as it is plowed in the winter, but Mosquito Lake Parkway was still snow blocked. The next week we drove to our cottage and most roads were free of snow. In April alone, I have cleaned beaver blockage three times from the new culvert on Mosquito Lake Parkway. Water is running into Mosquito Lake but the Big Gull Lake level is still low. Roads and culverts have survived the winter months and the new work completed on Belcham East hill late last fall looks good with the exception on some markers out of place. There are some pot holes which is normal this time of year, but will be addressed soon. More gravel and grading will continue throughout the year. If anyone has suggestions about our road system, including signage contact the writer 613 548 4107 - 613 479 9944 or come and see me at 1050 Oak Ridge Point Lane.

Lake Stewardship Report: by Lynda Corkum

Angler Information:

The 2015 Ontario Fishing Regulation summary is now available. The province is divided into 20 Fisheries Management Zones. Big Gull Lake is one of many lakes within Zone 18 of the province. Pages that pertain to Zone 18 have been posted on the website for the Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association (BGLEECA.ca).

There are different catch and possession limits for various fish species in Ontario lakes. The catch limit refers to the number of fish you are allowed to catch and keep in one day. The possession limit “is the number you are allowed to have in your possession on hand, in cold storage, in transit or anywhere. Possession limits are the same as one day’s catch limit” (2015 Ontario Fishing Regulation Summary). In addition to knowing catch and possession limits, be sure to check the open season dates for different species.

The catch and possession limits differ depending on whether you have a Sport (S) or Conservation (C) licence (see the table below). For example, you can catch and possess 6 Northern Pike if you have a Sports Licence, but you can catch and possess only 2 Northern Pike if you have a Conservation Licence.

The “slot” limit for Walleye (also known as Pickerel) is the same for both types of licences. Anglers may keep a Walleye caught that has a total length between 40 and 50 cm (i.e. between 15.7 and 19.7 inches). Walleye smaller or larger than these limits must be released back into the lake. Walleye catch and possession limits are 4 for a Sport

Licence and 2 for a Conservation Licence. The slot limit is designed to enhance the Walleye population in the lake.

ZONE 18 SEASONS AND LIMITS					
• Dates are inclusive; all dates including the first and last dates stated in the summary are open or closed					
SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS	LIMITS	SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS	LIMITS
Walleye & Sauger or any combination	Jan. 1 to Mar. 1 & 2nd Sat. in May to Dec. 31	S - 4; Must be between 40-50 cm - (15.7-19.7 in) C - 2; Must be between 40-50 cm - (15.7-19.7 in)	Brook Trout*	Open all year	S - 5 C - 2
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass or any combination	3rd Sat. in June to Dec. 15	S - 6 C - 2	Brown Trout*	Open all year	S - 5 C - 2
Northern Pike	Jan. 1 to Mar. 31 & 2nd Sat. in May to Dec. 31	S - 6 C - 2	Rainbow Trout*	Open all year	S - 5 C - 2
Muskellunge	1st Sat. in June to Dec. 15	S - 1; must be greater than 91 cm (36 in.) C - 0	Lake Trout*	4th Sat. in May to Sept. 8	S - 2 C - 1
Yellow Perch	Open all year	S - 50 C - 25	Splake*	Open all year	S - 5 C - 2
Crappie	Open all year	S - 30 C - 10	Pacific Salmon*	Open all year	S - 5 C - 2
Sunfish	Open all year	S - 300, only 30 may be greater than 18 cm (7.1 in.). C - 15	Atlantic Salmon*	Closed all year	
			Lake Whitefish	Open all year	S - 12 C - 6
			Lake Sturgeon	Closed all year	
			Channel Catfish	Open all year	S - 12 C - 6

Calling All Anglers:

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) last surveyed Big Gull Lake for fish in 2010. The next survey will not occur until 2017. Please help contribute to the monitoring of fish data in Big Gull Lake by completing the form (below or appended to this email package) whenever you fish. All fishing experiences are important, regardless of the size of the fish caught. *There is no need to reveal your favorite fishing hole!* Photographs are welcome. While your smiling face in the photo is appreciated, please provide a clear picture of the fish. Single photos of fish are welcome. This is a great opportunity to get your family involved in fishing.

A creel census (a record of numbers and kinds of fish caught by anglers) provides important information about sport fish in a lake. Results of a creel census are used to document the species composition in all habitats of a lake and to monitor changes in populations from year to year. Changes in the fish community reflect both water quality of the lake as well as climate change. The number of species increases as a result of the different types of habitats sampled. The OMNR Broadscale Monitoring program typically records species caught in nets set in open waters and so may miss species found in rocky or vegetated habitats. For example, numbers of Largemouth Bass were likely underestimated in the 2010 OMNR survey because of the limited number of habitats sampled.

Please help contribute to the monitoring of fish species in our lake by submitting your catch data, using the sample form. I also have provided a table (see back page) to make record keeping easier for anglers. Please release any out of season fish as soon as possible without recording data or taking photo. Check Ontario Fishing Regulations each year.

Submit either hard copy to lake area rep or email information and attach photos (if available) to corkum@uwindsor.ca

Please consider contributing fish survey data one day each month, one day each week or more often. Any contribution would be gratefully appreciated. If there are sufficient responses from anglers, summary information about fishes in the lake will be provided in future newsletters. Information and photos will appear on the cottage association website (www.bgleeca.ca).

Name of Angler:	Photographer:
Telephone or email:	
Fish species:	Lure or bait used:
Date (day/month/year):	Time caught:
Elapsed time since starting to fish or since last fish caught?	
Total length (indicate cm or inches):	
Was the fish kept or released?	
Fish habitat description (near shore or island, near vegetation or off rocks, and depth if known):	

Upcoming Events	Date and time	Contact
Family Triathlon	July 25, 2015 at 10:00 am	Donna Commerford & Nancy Gibson
Annual Sail Boat Races	Aug 01/02 2015	Norma Hindson
BGLEECA Golf Tournament	Aug 05, 2015 at 2:00 pm	Jim Kuhr
Kid's Fishing Derby	Aug 08, 2015	Shean Goonetilleke & Jeff Burznski
AGM and Picnic	Aug 22, 2015 at 10:00am	Ken Grant

SAVE THE DATE! BGL Kids' Fishing Derby is back!

Date: AUG 8, 2015 11:30 am weigh-in

Location: Goonetilleke Compound (formerly Phyper's).

Age: 17 or under on day of derby.

PANFISH ONLY (Bluegill/Pumpkinseed/Rock bass)

Prizes for combined weight of 4 biggest fish and largest single fish.

More details to follow, watch for signs in July!

7th Annual Family Triathlon

July 25th, 2015

10:00 a.m.

This event is a family friendly, participatory triathlon. You may enter as an individual (using a kayak) or as a team (using a canoe). Teams may be comprised of any number of individuals, and any member(s) can complete any part of the event.

Individuals and families of all ages are welcome, but we ask that parents accompany younger children.

Each team will predict how long it will take their entire team to complete the course. The team closest to their predicted time wins. It does not matter how slow or fast you complete the course, you just need to complete the race in your predicted time. **Of course, we ask that watches or timing devices will not be worn during the event.**

Appropriate signage related to this event will be placed on BGLEECA bulletin boards. Teams can register by email or by phone at

- Nancy Gibson at nancyinsaudi@yahoo.com (613 479 - 2728)
- Donna Commerford at donna.commerford@sympatico.ca (613 479-2901)

Please state the name of your team, including each participant and your estimated time of completion.

The triathlon will consists of 3 events: a swim, a run/walk and a canoe/kayak, paddleboat leg. (Any type of floatation device is acceptable, as long as it is not wind powered or motorized).

Come and enjoy the fun.

17th annual BGLEECA golf outing at



BLUE HERON

Location: 3417 McDonalds Corner Rd, Lanark, Ont.
613-264-1062

When: Wed, August 5, 2015

Other: Tee Time 2:00 P.M.

Cocktails following (Not in Price)

Chicken or Salmon dinner (approx. 5:00pm)

Price: Golf & Dinner: \$52.00

Dinner Only: \$27.00

Sign Ups and Fees by July 30.

Prizes: Closest To the Pin, Longest Drive, Winning Team, Door Prizes, Closest To the Rope

To Sign Up Call: Jim or Joyce Kuhr @ 613-479-2440
OR 607-757-9859

