



Newsletter Volume 35, No 2, May, 2016

Message from the President

Spring and cottage season for 2016 have finally arrived. This spring, we have high water levels, black flies, and the foliage is starting to green.

Several ongoing developments need to be updated:

Algonquin Land Claim: The recent vote by first nations groups on the Agreement in Principle showed that there was general agreement to proceed, but one group (Pikwakanagan) was against signing the agreement. Therefore, the agreement is currently on hold. The agreement in summary has the following key elements: a \$300 million pay out to the Algonquins of Ontario, a transfer of 475 square kilometres of Crown land to Algonquin ownership, and recommended approaches to address such things as harvesting rights for hunting and fishing, forestry, provincial parks and protected areas.

Municipal authority over boathouses: Two recent court challenges concern municipal authority to issue building permits on in-water development. The current rules require authorization under the Public Lands Act to construct or place a dock or boathouse that occupies more than 15 square meters of shore lands. If this applies, individuals should contact their local MNRF District Office to initiate the formal application process. There may be more changes in this domain given the current resource problems facing MNRF.

Property Tax Assessments are coming: to see the trend in your area, or to find out when your local figures will become available, visit: <https://markettrends.trimap.com/?=en#/>

Cottage Succession: FOCA's cottage succession seminars have been very popular across the province. This year one event is planned in Peterborough in late May and another in Perth in August—for more information visit the FOCA website: <https://foca.on.ca/cottage-succession/>

Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association Events: I want to highlight the special events announcements in this newsletter for the upcoming cottage season at Big Gull Lake. You are personally invited to attend events of your choice: golf, triathlon, sailboat racing, and kids' fishing derby.

Shoreline Living: All Big Gull Lake Association members have access to the Shoreline Owners' Guide to Healthy Waterfronts – what you can do to protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts. The link is <https://foca.on.ca/shoreline-owners-guide-to-healthy-waterfronts/>.

Sad News: It is with regret that I announce the passing of Richard Symes on Mar 23, 2016. Richard was a past president of the Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association, active in the road building on the north shore, known for his love of his big grey "bullet" boat, a sailor, cottage builder, and above all, the best dues collector the association ever had. If you were late in paying your association and or road dues, he would arrive with a bottle of beer in his hand and depart with your dues. His son Tom continues the Symes involvement with the

association and Tom tells me there will be a celebration of Richard (party) sometime this summer. We will keep you posted.

BGLEECA Director Opening: Just before going to print, our secretary Janet Sidey has informed me that she is resigning from the Board. This means we have an opening—if you are interested in joining the Board, please get in touch with Ken Grant at 613 226 4821.

Fishing Limits for Zone 18: As part of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry "fishing management plan for zone 18, February 29, 2016, a major awareness must be presented to all people who participate in recreational fishing on Big Gull. Some of the talking points suggested are:

- 1.) Protect and enhance the biological integrity of the aquatic ecosystem.
- 2.) Promote the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources.
- 3.) Promote public awareness, appreciation and understanding of fisheries resources.

With this in mind, please do your part this summer by adhering to the fishing regulations and catch size (slot size) for each species. Every fishing boat should have a tape measure to be sure any fish pulled out of Big Gull is legally within the size to take home for a fish fry. Convenient decals were distributed last year by area Reps and handed out at the kids fishing derby.

* Walleye: anything under 15.7" or bigger than 19.7" MUST BE PUT BACK IN THE LAKE...slot size is between 40-50cm

Catch limits: sport fishing license "4" fish maximum per day...conservation fishing license "2" fish maximum per day.

By promoting responsible angling with your kids, friends and neighbours, walleye fish stocks will continue to grow and thrive in Big Gull.

Our Website: We are continually reviewing material to be posted on the BGLEECA Website and encourage all members to visit their site regularly (www.bgleeca.ca). We have had successful sales of cottage items, cottage rentals, and will continue to post links to other sites that are of interest to cottagers. And remember, if you have ideas to share, let us know.

Let's Support Local Businesses: We are so fortunate to have our beautiful BGLEECA calendar every year. Our local businesses that advertise in the calendar provide the revenues to produce the calendar. Thank you to all of you who support those local businesses. It is our way of thanking them for their continued support of our lake.

We are always on the lookout for new advertisers for our calendar. If you are having some work done at the cottage this summer, please ask the provider if they would like to place an ad in the calendar, as it is our yellow pages and is an excellent way to promote their business to our fellow cottagers. If you know of someone who might be interested in advertising, please contact me either by email (donna.commerford@sympatico.ca) or call me at the cottage (613- 479-2901) and I will follow up with them. Thank you for helping us to be able to continue to produce our calendar. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Donna Commerford, Vice-president, BGLEECA

Broadband Internet: The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) held the *Let's #TalkBroadband* public consultations from April 11-28th 2016 in Gatineau, Quebec. These discussions focused on the minimum internet services Canadians require in order to participate in the online economy. The discussions focused on two topics:

- What do Canadians need from the telecommunications system?

- How can it be ensured that Canadians' basic telecommunications needs are met?

These points were further broken down into sub-questions to be addressed, which can be seen here:

<http://consultation.crtc.gc.ca/en/consultation/40/>. Eighty-six presentations were made at the public hearings. The delegates were from telecommunications providers, media groups, and community groups. The answers taken from this public meeting may impact rural internet access. If anyone would like to make further comments they can be forwarded to this address:

CRTC
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0N2

Telephone: 1-877-249-2782
TDD (toll free) 1-877-909-2782
Facsimile: 819-994-0218

Submitted by Simon Livermore

Financial Update as of 9 May 2016

Fund Activity Summary, August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016

	General Fund	Calendar Fund	Environ. Fund	Totals	North Shore Road Fund
Beginning Balance	12,921	1,471	17,858	32,250	719
Total Revenues	3,104	1,855	-	4,959	9,440
Total Expenses	1,243	42	-	1,285	-
Current Balance	14,782	3,284	17,858	35,924	10,159

Calling All Birders: Would there be someone who would be willing to write a short piece (about 500 words) for the January newsletter on the types of birds we see (but the rest of us don't recognize)? I know a loon when I see one, but what is that little beige bird? Can you recommend good birder websites and books for us?

North Shore Spring 2016 Road Report: My first road inspection was on April 3, 2016. I had received a call from a Paul Kealey who apparently is constructing a new cottage on Bell Lane. He indicated that the road needed work. My inspection showed that the culvert screen at the end of Mosquito Lake had been filled up with branches & leaves, causing the lake to rise and flood the road in one spot. The culvert was cleaned and the water is not over the road now. Because of the extra use of our road system this winter and spring, a lot of work will have to be done. I have called Spencer Robinson and he is to deliver his road grader to the lake so I can begin grading our road surface. Some gravel will have to be applied in bad areas. Cutting of the sides of the remaining of our road system will continue later this summer. Any suggestions about our road system can be directed to myself at 613 548 4107 - 613 479 9944 or visit me at 1050 Oak Ridge Point Lane. Dave Cox

Upcoming Events

8th Annual Family Triathlon

July 23rd, 2016

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 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. Team check-in will take place @ the Gibson's cottage on Helen Lane on the day of the triathlon.

The triathlon will consist 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 out and enjoy the fun!



18th Annual BGLEECA Golf Outing

Best Ball 9 Holes

Wed, August 3, 2016

Tee Time 2:00 P.M.

Blue Heron Golf Club, 3417 McDonalds Corner Rd, Lanark, Ont. 613-264-1062

Cocktails following (not included in price) Chicken or Salmon dinner (approx. 5:00pm)

Golf & Dinner: \$57.00; Dinner Only: \$30.00

Sign Ups and Fees By July 24. To Sign Up Call: Jim or Joyce Kuhr 613-479-2440 OR 607-757-9859

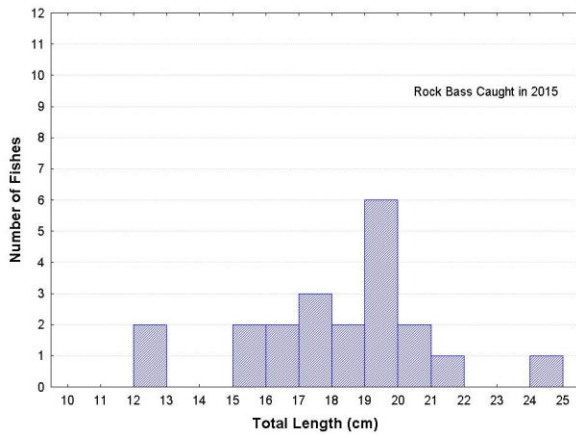
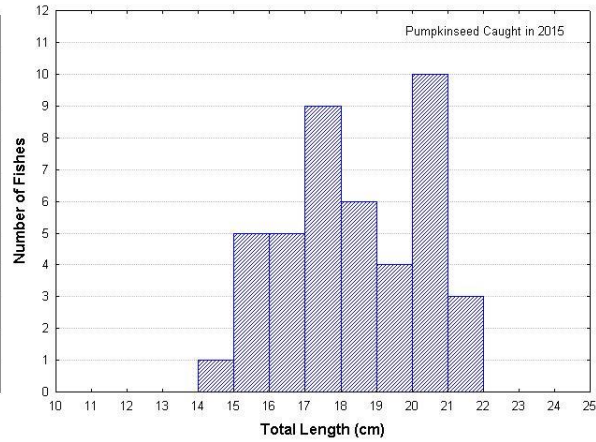
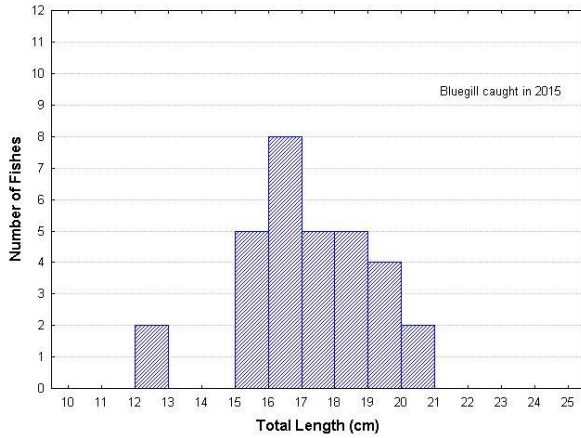
Prizes!!!

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

Species caught in the 2015 Fishing Derby

by Lynda Corkum

The Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association held the “Kids’ Fishing Derby” for sunfishes on August 8, 2015. The sunfish and bass family (Centrarchidae) includes Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed and many more species. The name, sunfish, refers to the bright “sunny” colours of Bluegill and Pumpkinseed. The most commonly caught fishes by anglers in the 2015 derby were Pumpkinseed followed by Bluegill and Rock Bass. The charts below show the sizes of each species caught.



Hooked on Fish

by Lynda Corkum

Bluegill, *Lepomis macrochirus*

Fishing for Bluegill is a favourite activity for anglers of all ages. They bite hard and fight, providing a thrill for the angler!



Photo by Karen Cogliati

Bluegill are the most abundant and widespread of all of the sunfishes. The name Bluegill refers to the bluish colour on its chin (the lower jaw) and up to the gill cover. Although Bluegill can be caught in murky lakes, they are most often found in clear waters of lakes and ponds with aquatic plants. Bluegills hide and feed among plants and dwell among rocks and sunken logs. Bluegill can also be caught in slow moving rivers, but never in fast-moving waters. These are warm water fish and so are most active when water temperatures are between 10° C and 30° C.

There are some features that help to identify Bluegill. The scientific species name “*macrochirus*” is Greek for “large hand”, describing the fish’s body shape. The body of the fish is somewhat circular, and it is flattened from side to side. Bluegill have black earflaps. The back is olive to brownish black, the sides are silver, and the breast ranges from copper-orange to yellow or white. There are sets of 8-10 double vertical bars on the sides of the body. A black blotch is near the rear of the back (dorsal) fin. There are spines on the dorsal and anal fins.

In 2008, my student, Karen Cogliati, studied spawning behaviour of Bluegill at the Queen’s Biological Station on Lake Opinicon, north of Kingston. Colourful, parental males (around 7 years old) gather in colonies to spawn in shallow water in early June. By tail-fanning, each male makes a nest, which is a depression in sand or gravel. Envision a colony of males defending saucer-like nests in preparation for the arrival of females.

All spawning in the entire colony takes place in a single day! Almost on signal, 4-year old females approach the nests to spawn. Many females deposit their eggs in the same nest so a few males get most of the action. Males aggressively defend the eggs and offspring from other fishes. Other younger (2 years old) and smaller “sneaker” males dart into nests to fertilize eggs when male and females are spawning. Older (4 years old) “satellite” males look and behave like females, and squeeze themselves between the parental male and female during fertilization. The sneaker and satellite males contribute to future generations by fertilizing eggs without helping to care for eggs or young in the nests.

Although anglers might not have the good luck to see Bluegill spawn, the fish are a lot of fun to catch. Fish for Bluegill during the day because these fish feed by sight. Try fishing along weed lines. Bluegill may be found in

schools close to shore, and smaller fish are easy to catch near docks. The fish typically nip at prey, feeding on insects, crayfish, small fish and aquatic plants.

If Bluegill are in an area, they will likely bite within 10 minutes. If you are not getting any action, move to another location. These fish have small mouths and so put a worm on a small hook (choose a #8 or #9 hook). Although Bluegill are good fighters, you don't need a heavy line to land them. A light line, 4 or 6 pound monofilament, is ideal.



Photo by Lynda Corkum

Most Bluegill are caught by fishing with worms, but plugs, spinners, minnows or artificial flies also are used. You might want to try artificial lures in the summer when these fish are most active. The advantage of using an artificial lure is that you avoid wasting time baiting a hook. Big Gull Lake cottager and expert angler, Gord Erickson introduced me to "Big O crawdad" lures. I used one to catch a small Bluegill in a bay nearby our cottage on the south shore of the lake.

The average total length of Bluegill caught in the 2015 Big Gull Lake fish derby was 17.4 cm and the largest specimen was 20.2 cm. The Ontario record is 28.2 cm!

Although many anglers prefer to catch large game fish, I get a thrill out of catching Bluegill. Give them a try this summer.

Happy fishing!

LISTEN, LOOK AND LEARN

Have you ever looked out the cottage front window at night and seen the amount of insects attracted to the lights? It's like watching a movie from a comfortable chair. Occasionally in late June, something breath taking appears on the glass and is truly one of natures' gems...the Luna moth! You can't miss identifying this moth, one of the largest in North America.

DESCRIPTION:

- The wing span is 12cm with a long, curved 6cm tail. They are pale green with pink edges on their wings and an incredible long sweeping tail.
- The front edge of the wings has a black line and a transparent "eye spot" on each of their four wings which look like eyes, to frighten away any bats who try to eat them.
- Males have larger "feather" shaped antennae, pink in colour, used to detect "pheromones" a perfume which the female release to attract the males.
- They are exceptional flyers and travel great distances to reach females to mate. Males can detect the female scent from over a kilometer away.



HABITAT:

- Luna moths make their homes among deciduous trees, preferring host trees such as Maple, Oak and White Birch trees.
- Our deep forest setting around Big Gull Lake provides perfect conditions.

BEHAVIOUR:

- Luna Moths have four stages of development; egg, caterpillar, pupa or cocoon and adult. Once a female has mated it begins laying 4 to 6 eggs that same evening, on the underside of leaves. Over the course of the week the female will lay over 200 eggs.
- Females die after egg laying is completed
- Mating takes place after midnight. Egg laying begins that night.
- Eggs hatch in about one week into caterpillars, which are lime green with short hairs, a yellow stripe along each side, red knobs and a brown or green head.
- Caterpillars aggressively begin eating thousands of leaves during this period of their lifecycle
- They shed their skin 5 times during the caterpillar stage, as they rapidly grow in length.
- Caterpillars reach a maximum length of 9 cm and enter the "pupal" stage.
- They will fall to the ground and begin to make a cocoon, by spinning silk hairs and wrapping themselves in a leaf. This is how

they will remain hidden for another two weeks.

- The now adult Luna Moth escapes the cocoon by secreting a chemical called cocoonase, which breaks down the silk hairs which it has wrapped itself in.
- Upon emerging, they climb branches and tree trunks and begin to expand and dry their wings for flight.
- Once it has warmed itself from morning sunlight, blood can fill its wings and gain strength to fly.
- When the female is fully rested in the evening, a scent gland is extended to release pheromone scent and descend to mate. She will not fly until after mating.



- The eye spots and vibrant colours draw attention to predators that the insect is poisonous or tastes bad.
- As part of the overall survival scheme of the insect, almost half of the first brood larvae make a decision to over winter in lieu of emerging as adults that same summer. This maintains strong populations.
- The darker colour of the caterpillar, from bright green to dark burgundy, will indicate which caterpillars will hibernate over the winter, a period of 8 months.
- The white fur covering of the body keeps it warm, allowing flight muscles to function at the optimum temperatures
- Pale green wings resemble leaves when the moth rests among the foliage of a birch tree.
- Avoid using outside lighting more than necessary, as Luna moths circle around artificial light sources. They can become distracted and may miss their opportunity to mate. Flying around outside lights also uses lots of energy and can result in extreme fatigue.
- Luna moth caterpillars do not cause significant damage to host trees, as they are solitary feeders. Not like tent caterpillars.

FACTOIDS:

- Luna moths are preyed upon by bats, spiders, toads, owls and other birds.

KIDS CORNER!!

WHAT TO DO ON A RAINY AFTERNOON AT THE COTTAGE...MEMORY GAMES!

This is an easy and fun way to pass some time until the rain stops outside...here is what you will need:

- A large serving tray
- Tea towel large enough to cover the tray
- 12-15 objects from around the cottage

The idea of this game is to declare a champion who can remember the most objects hidden under a tea towel. Each contestant gets 30 seconds to concentrate on what objects have been placed on the serving tray and try to remember as many as possible. Once the tea towel has been placed back on the tray, you must now write down as many of the objects as you can remember. Number the paper 1-15 and start jotting down the items.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS OF WHAT YOU CAN HIDE ON THE TRAY

Pine cone, acorn, fishing lure, wine cork, shoe lace, beer cap, puzzle piece, coin, button, elastic band, key, whistle, battery, candy bar, chess piece.

By keeping the mystery pieces about the same size it becomes more difficult to remember them. After each person has had a turn, reveal the objects under the tray check your scores. The winner gets to eat the candy bar, which was one of the items hidden!



MUSHROOM ART:

Who has ever heard of mushroom art? Crazy yes, but absolutely astounding when it is finished! In late summer (August to September) massive mushrooms start to stretch out of the ground in the forest. They will come in a variety of shapes and sizes.

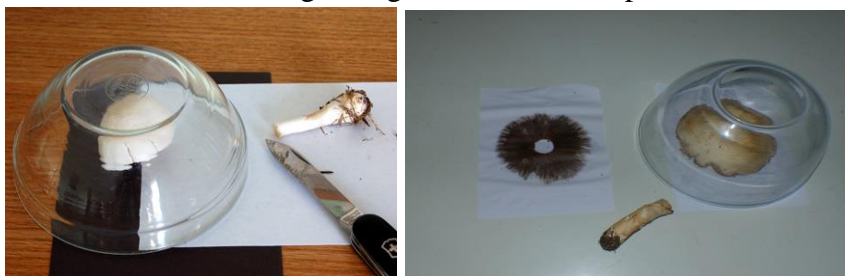
NATURE WALK TO FIND MUSHROOMS: You will need to bring along a bag or container to collect your mushrooms. Be very gentle with them, careful not to bruise or damage them.

SUPPLIES REQUIRED:

- Black craft paper is preferred by any dark colour craft paper will do
- A big bowl to place over the mushroom

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

- Carefully remove the stem of the mushroom, to separate the cap
- Place the cap on the craft paper, so the white fleshy part is on the paper
- Cover it with a bowl big enough so the whole cap is inside the bowl



- Place the bowl and mushroom under a bed or couch for a couple of days. It should only take overnight, but you can check if more time is needed.
- Once you remove the bowl, a wonderful pattern of the entire underside of the mushroom will be printed on the craft paper!
- The spores of the mushroom fall onto the paper and create an impressive work of art, so delicate and detailed, but you didn't even have to lift a finger to draw it!



2016 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			
Environment	Lynda Cormum	1054A East Belcham	479-2743
North Shore Rd	David Cox	1050 Oak Ridge Point	479-9944
Director at Large	Keith Rowe	1122 Helen Lane	479-2238

Thanks to our Newsletter Editor Leslie Maitland for her contributions in the production of this newsletter. If you have suggestions for the newsletter, contact Leslie at leslie.maitland@yahoo.com.