



Newsletter Volume 39, No 1, January 2020

Message from the President

While there may be snow on the ground and the winter winds are cold and blowing, I know that like many of you, I am thinking about the upcoming cottage season. We spent 5 days at our “3 season” cottage over the holidays and, while the weather didn’t necessarily co-operate (with freezing rain and snow), the temperature was around -2C. This is the longest we have stayed during the winter and we loved every minute of it. The winter beauty of the lake is amazing.

The Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association Board remains relatively the same except for Steve Burnie’s decision to resign as Director at Large. I would like to thank Steve for the time and effort that he gave while serving on the board.

Attendance at our events has declined over the past few years. As a result, the Board of Directors sent out a survey to all members of the association. The purpose of the survey is to collect information regarding the events that are held each year at the Lake. Your input will help give direction to the Board regarding which events should continue, which ones should be changed and new events that should be considered.

The Board really needs your input, so if you have not already done so, please complete this short survey. Here is the link. Again, thank you for your feedback.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9GN6RK3>

On Thanksgiving week-end, there was a fire on Bear Island. Bernie and Peggie James lost their cottage. Thank you to all the cottagers who formed a water brigade which prevented the fire from spreading to other cottages on the island. It really does take a village. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bernie and Peggie.

Happy New Year.

Hope to see you soon at the lake.

Donna Commerford

News and information is posted on our website at: www.bgleeca.ca.

To access the private section of the website, you will need to login.

- Username: bgleeca
- Password: Ardoch2013.

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

January 20, 2020 — As the January rain moves through the system, higher than average [water levels and flows](#) will continue across the Mississippi River watershed. Based on current forecasts, no flooding is expected, and lake levels should continue to decrease.

Please visit the MVCA's website for more information on:

- Water levels and flow data: mvc.on.ca/water-levels
- Watershed Conditions Messages: mvc.on.ca/watershed-conditions-message

North Frontenac Township

For up-to-date news and information from North Frontenac township visit www.northfrontenac.com

Or contact: Cheryl Robson, Chief Administrative Officer
6648 Road 506, Plevna, ON K0H 2M0
(613) 479-2231 or 1 (800) 234-3953 Ext 221

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association

FOCA (www.foca.on.ca) provides cottage owners with an abundance of resources to ensure that your cottage and the lake are well protected. There are several new posts with respect to boating safety, cottage rental, an overview of cottage country septic systems, as well as the impact of climate change on lakes, including a downloadable pdf on *Managing Your Waterfront Property in a Changing Climate*.

- [Responsible Cottage Rental](#)
- [Boating Safety – OVERVIEW](#)
- [Lake Partner Program – Sampling Results & Assistance](#)
- [Waterfront Property Owners and Rural Economic Development](#)
- [Invasive Species Guide](#)
- [Shoreline Owner's Guide to Healthy Waterfronts](#)

Incident on Ardoch Road north of Greer Rd, August 30, 2019

A man was robbed at night after being stopped by a vehicle with flashing emergency lights.

If you think this is happening to you, the advice from OPP is not to stop if it is an unmarked vehicle. Put 4-way flashers on and slow down a bit so if it is an officer they will know you are not trying to flee. Call 911. If you are in an area without a cellular signal (eg. some spots on Ardoch Road) keep driving until you get cellular service. The 911 staff will confirm if it is an officer behind you. You can also request that another cruiser

be sent if you are still uncertain that the car with flashing lights behind you is legit, whether marked or not.

NOTE: This course of action would not be acceptable in an urban area where you would be expected to pull over. If the car with flashing lights is bogus and tries to run you off the road (ie. late at night, isolated), find a house with lights on and pull into the driveway with horn blaring. Do not pull into a drive of a house with no lights on as then you could be cornered.

Lake Steward Report for Jan 31, 2020

I attended the FOCA Fall Seminar in Toronto. Highlights included a review of hydro rate increases, septic system re-inspection strategies, concerns with noise and boat speed, and a growing concern on how to control the negative impacts of Air B&B growth in cottage country. Some municipalities have initiated a mandatory registration program including a system of fines to control numbers, parties, noise, etc.

On a more local note, the North Frontenac Lake Alliance Association initiated a study of the North Frontenac Septic Re-Inspection Program which has been running since 2005. Questions include: is the program working, are we identifying problem systems, how many cottagers refuse the free inspection, how long will it take to complete the program? The intention is to share the data with individual lake associations and with the municipal council with a view to ensuring we are spending tax dollars in a cost-effective way and identifying and replacing faulty septic systems. The goal is to ensure that we do all we can to protect the water quality in our North Frontenac lakes.

As your lake steward and as a representative of the North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance, I have been asked to represent seasonal residents on a Public Advisory Committee for a study of the Mississippi River Watershed. We met this past fall and winter to review position papers on the watershed: The Physical Environment; People and Property; Natural Systems and Asset Management. The end result will be a discussion paper outlining the vision and expectations for the watershed. This will be shared with the Policy and Priorities Committee and Council of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority before being released to the public via a series of information meetings.

An updated report on the water quality of Big Gull Lake has been released by Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority: see <http://mvc.on.ca/ww-state-of-the-lake-reports/>

Some of you will be interested in a media release from Watersheds Canada concerning pollution related to plastics: question - does it affect lakes in North Frontenac?

November 5, 2019 -- Summer sampling in three local watersheds determined that out of 270 samples from 9 inland lakes studied, artificial materials (including fibres, fragments, and plastic film) were present in more than 90% of samples. "We know that this is an issue in our oceans and large bodies of water but we wanted to know if microplastics were also a huge issue in our smaller freshwater lakes that have private sewage systems and no commercial wastewater treatment plants" said Barbara King, Executive Director of Watersheds Canada. "Frankly, our findings were quite shocking considering we were finding microplastics in 90% of our samples, which were taken only in the top 1 litre of surface water". A variety of lakes were sampled including both urbanized environments and more secluded, less developed portions of each lake. "What we thought would be a relatively microplastic-free lake (a clean, spring-fed lake with no public access and only 22 residential properties) still came up with an average of 3 microfibrils per 1 litre of water sampled!", said Barbara.

We continue to sample water quality in Big Gull. Virginia Grant and Bev Williams collect water samples in the spring. They also measure the phosphorous levels using a secchi disc through the season. These results are sent to the Water Shed Watch program run by the province and FOCA. Virginia also conducts sampling for the Water Rangers program on a weekly basis: sampling includes dissolved oxygen, surface and air temperature, conductivity and pH levels. When you see these volunteers out in their boat give them a wave and thank you. You can access information on-line through <https://app.waterrangers.ca/groups/big-gull-lake-east-end-cottage-association>

Ken Grant

Kid's Fishing Derby- SATURDAY AUGUST 1, 2020

We had another beautiful sunny morning last year for the kids fishing derby. Our prize table was bursting with goodies from our sponsors, and our grill man Steve Burnie was cooking up hot dogs and crispy fish fillets. The fish cleaning station was in good hands with Bill Phyfers, Dave Toole and Ken Grant. Our cooking prep table was handled by Troy Rowe, who was battering fish fillets and keeping all the buns ready for hungry kids. Virginia Grant and her daughter were signing in our anglers, preparing the names on their participation certificates and packing up their take home kits. Our official weigh station was handled by Campbell Woodside, who was earning "community hours" for volunteering at our event.

The success of this event is all due to the volunteers who give up a Saturday morning once a year, to provide kids around the lake a non-competitive, fun family event.

Sadly, this event is suffering from declining turnout. Last year our registration was down 60% from the previous year. In 2017 we had 39 kids, 2018 we had 43 kids, 2019 only 18 kids.

The cottage association board of directors is not responsible for putting on this event. Four years ago the fishing derby was at risk of cancellation as the organizers dropped out at the last minute. The Board decided to step in and take over to be sure the event continued that year. Since that date, Keith Rowe has been the driving force behind the fishing derby for the past 3 years, but with regret, he has decided to step aside for 2020.

Keith is willing to continue to coordinate with our sponsors: Rapala Canada, Bob Azumi's Real Fishing Magazine and The Department of Natural Resources.

THE 2020 FISHING DERBY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO AVOID CANCELLATION

For this event to continue a group of volunteers will need to step forward and carry out the "day of event" preparations...set up, organize volunteers for the stations, purchase the food, host the event and clean up afterwards.

BGEECA Board strongly urge you to consider participating in this worthwhile event. It has proven to be one of the biggest turn outs of the yearly events. Go to our website and look at the pictures from past fishing derbies, look at the smiles on the kids' faces and the wonderful prizes they take home. It would be a shame to cancel this event due to a lack of interest to form an organizing committee. Take a few hours out of one cottage Saturday morning and become immersed in our wonderful social fabric. The fishing event is an opportunity for kids to meet new friends and organize other play days afterwards. Parents get a chance to socialize and watch their proud children wrestle with a bucket of pan fish, in preparation for weighing!

This event is valuable to the memories children create during their summers on Big Gull. You probably remember when your parents took you out fishing on a Saturday morning with a box of worms and spent a few hours developing your own fishing memories!

Please consider this request for volunteers and speak to your lake friends and neighbours about helping out. Someone will have to champion this event, so it might as well be you!

Contact Keith Rowe for more details,
keith_icsnews@hotmail.com

Financial Report

Fund Activity Summary, August 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

	General Fund	Calendar Fund	Environ. Fund	Totals	North Shore Road Fund
Beginning Balance	14,897	4,752	17,858	36,362	19,730
Total Revenues	1,434	1,240	-	2,674	3,200
Total Expenses	1,401	-	-	1,401	16,063
Current Balance	14,930	5,992	17,858	38,781	6,867

General Fund Income Summary

Dues	759
Bank Interest	-
Sales of Hats & Ts	15
Miscellaneous	660
Miscellaneous in*	-
Total	1,434

*Fees received in error - forwarded to correct.

General Fund Expenses Summary

Activities	278
Bank Fees	41
FOCA	584
Insurance	-
Misc	113
Newsletters, Website, Signs	169
Picnic & AGM	217
Directors Expenses	-
Miscellaneous out*	-
Total	1,401

The Cottage Association annual dues are owing once again. We encourage you to fill in the attached dues form and return it to us if you have changes to your contact information or are paying by cheque.

We are now set up with Auto Deposit to make paying by e-transfer easier than ever. Send payments to bgleeca@icloud.com

BGLEECA Board of Directors

2019 - 2020

President	Donna Commerford	1178B Helen Lane	479-2901
Vice -President	Greg Best	1036 A&B Lowry Lane	479-2059
Treasurer	Debbie Bird	1302 Marsh View Dr.	479-8071
Secretary	David Marsh	1130 Marsh View Dr.	479-2080
Environment	Ken Grant	1054A East Belcham	479-0064
Communication	Keith Rowe	1122 Helen Lane	479-2238
North Shore Rd/ South Shore Rd	Murray Finch	1002 Zimmer Lane	479-2655
Helen Lane Rd	Keith Rowe	1122 Helen Lane	479-2238
	Jim Commerford	1178B Helen Lane	479-2901

Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association

Dues and Fees 2020

Full Membership Annual Dues: \$30 Members receive newsletters and email updates, calendars, and access to FOCA member benefits. Your dues also support lake activities, our website, and directors' liability insurance.	\$30
Associate Membership (Non-cottage owners): \$10 To stay connected with newsletters.	\$10
North Shore Road Maintenance Fees: \$200 <i>For cottages on: Belcham Lane East & West, Bell Lane, Lowry Lane, Hanbidge Lane, Marsh View Drive and Oak Ridge Point.</i>	\$200
Total (Canadian Funds only please)	

Name: _____

Cottage Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cottage Phone: _____

Email: _____

Providing your email address will allow us to send you BGLEECA newsletters and alerts throughout the year. Please pay by April 30.

Please make cheque payable to: **BGLEECA**

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

OR

Pay by e-transfer through online banking to Debbie Bird - bgleeca@icloud.com

Your personal information is collected for the sole purpose of communication within our cottage association, and will not be shared with third parties.

www.bgleeca.ca

613-692-1051

bgleeca@icloud.com