



Newsletter Volume 40, No 1, Winter 2021

Message from the President

Well to say the least, 2020 has been a very different year. The impact of Covid-19 has been far reaching and is still impacting our lives today. With the second wave upon us and certain areas back into lockdown with Stay at Home orders, 2021 may prove to be challenging for at least the next few months. Fingers crossed that things will settle down and we will all be able to enjoy Big Gull Lake this summer.

We did not have the opportunity to replace one of our Directors due to the constraints of Covid. According to our Charter, we could appoint one director with the formal election being held at our next AGM. We are excited to announce that Richard McIlveen has agreed to join our Board as a Director at Large. He will be a great addition to our Executive team. [Read more about Richard.](#)

As you are aware, the public consultation process regarding Whiteduck Provincial Park closed on January 25th. Thank you to everyone for all your hard work whether it was a formal objection letter to the ALC, completing the petition prepared by Jim Papineau, doing research to keep everyone informed or attending numerous zoom meetings or phone calls. The number of cottagers on Big Gull Lake who became involved with this effort to protect our lake was amazing. Your efforts have made a difference.

With the consultation period now over, the ALC team will review all the information that they have received. This team will draft a final report which they intend to share with

cottagers on the lake. The process and timing on how and when the information is to be shared is still to be determined.

FOCA, Federation of Cottage Associations, has lots of great information. Please check out their website at <https://foca.on.ca> for information on what is happening in Ontario in cottage country. Some items that might interest you are:

- [Cottage First Insurance program](#)
- [Cottage Succession Planning](#)
- [Lake Partner Program](#)

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is trying to DOUBLE our electricity rates by eliminating the Seasonal Rate Class. This means an additional \$54 a month in fees for nearly 80,000 seasonal Hydro One customers like us.

We encourage you to [write to your MPP](#) to protest the elimination of the Seasonal Rate Class. To receive updates join the FOCA “[Electricity E-news](#)” list for developments in electricity pricing. [Learn more here.](#)

Stay safe and healthy. Hopefully this virus will soon be under control and we can all enjoy the upcoming 2021 season.

Donna Commerford, President

As a BGLEECA member you have access to [FOCA MEMBER BENEFITS.](#)

Username: focamember
Password: Foc@M3mb3\$2014

Lake Steward Report by Ken Grant

Update on Gypsy Moths

Reports from the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources suggest that we will likely have another season of increased infestation. 2020 monitoring results found defoliation caused by gypsy moths in Ontario increased from 47,203 hectares in 2019 to 586,385 hectares in 2020.

An outbreak is resolved by climate, fungus, viruses and parasites. A temperature of minus -25C can kill 20% of eggs if it lasts for one day and up to 95% if it lasts for five days. Just 5 centimeters of snow can protect 50% of the eggs against a temperature of minus 38C. Warm weather too early in the spring can reduce the population by causing eggs to hatch prematurely before the leaves are on the trees. Warm weather followed by cold periods that can also kill a large percentage of newly hatched caterpillars. Spring 2020 followed a mild winter and was very cool until just before the May long weekend. As the temperatures hit 20C the eggs started hatching to perfect conditions and new foliage.

According to Zimmer Air, Cottage Associations are not permitted to organize spraying for gypsy moths. Any individual(s) who wishes to arrange for aerial spraying on their own property may do so, and must provide proper notice to adjacent properties.

Another option to aerial spraying is [TreeAzin](#) injections, which can be arranged through a [certified arborist](#). Trees are treated individually. We have heard that a two foot diameter tree would cost approximately \$500. TreeAzin is a systemic insecticide produced from the nut of the Neem tree. It is considered to pose a minimal risk to people, pets, birds, mammals, bees, plants, soil and

water. It will impact insects that consume tree tissues, and caterpillars will not grow to their largest and most damaging size. It would need to be applied yearly during periods of infestation.

If you are at your cottage anytime between now and when the eggs hatch in early May, you can scrape the egg masses you can reach on trees, furniture and buildings. Find a plastic pitcher with a handle, and a small spatula to make it easier to collect the egg masses. Dispose of them after soaking in soapy water for 48 hours. This is by far the least expensive way to reduce the numbers on your trees. Each egg mass contains an average of 500 eggs. Dispose of 100 egg masses and you'll prevent 50,000 hungry caterpillars from feasting on your trees. It is time well invested.

The Cottage Association will again make gypsy moth traps free (up to 3 per property) on a first come, first serve basis for anyone who didn't get any last summer. There are still a few kits reserved from last year that were not picked up. We will be ordering a supply of the milk carton traps, pheromones, and sticky inserts. You may recall that you can reuse the milk carton style trap but not the tent shaped version. There will be extra pheromones and sticky inserts available for those who wish to refresh their existing traps.

If you are interested in refreshing your knowledge of the Gypsy Moth, please see our [Gypsy Moth Information Page](#) for an excellent webinar summary put out by the FOCA. *Thank you to Debbie Bird for providing additional research for this article.*

Other Invasive Species on Big Gull Lake:

The Asian Longhorned Beetle is an invasive wood boring beetle native to China and Korea. It infests and kills numerous hardwood trees including maple. Watch for long, glossy, black beetles with scattered white spots and long black and white banded antennae. No known controls exist other than to “buy and burn your firewood locally”. For more detail on the Asian Longhorned Beetle, you can visit our BGLEECA [website](#).



Boat License News:

Transport Canada is proposing [new regulations](#) affecting boat owners with more than 10 hp engines that require a Pleasure Craft License (PCL)

- A \$15 fee for a new PCL
- A 5 year expiration period for a PCL
- A 30-day time to notify Transport Canada of name and address change.

Safe Quiet Lakes:

BGLEECA is now a sponsor of the “[Safe Quiet Lakes](#)” initiative, started in the Muskoka region several years ago. Some of the main concerns that are addressed in this initiative include:

- Boaters who regularly disturb their neighbours – See the [Boaters Code](#)
- Support for safety and fun on the water for everyone
- [Boat noise](#) - do not bypass your muffler.
- Avoid driving too fast close to shore.
- Eliminate excessive wakes and the damage they do to the shoreline -
legal speed limit for all motor boats is 10 km/h within 30 metres of any shore

For more information see “watching your wake” at www.bgleeca.ca.



Update on the Municipal Septic Re-inspection Program:

Last year the North Frontenac Lake Alliance Association (BGLEECA is a member) conducted a study of the 13-year Municipal Program to re-inspect septic systems on lake, urban and rural properties in North Frontenac. This project was initiated by the 20 member lakes of the Alliance and a concern that we all must protect the water quality in our most valuable resource — our lakes. The findings included:

- 33 % of those contacted agreed to an inspection.
- Remedial work was required on 48% of the properties inspected.
- System replacement was recommended for 35 properties.
- It would take another 26 years for the voluntary program to complete inspections for all lake front properties.
- 66% of property owners chose not to have their system inspected.

Conclusion: There is no evidence that the program is reinspecting the properties that should be inspected. What are the 66 % of non respondents hiding? The report has been sent to Municipal

Council with the recommendation that the Septic Re-Inspection Program be made mandatory and initially target systems that are more than 15 years old. We are waiting for a Council decision. For a copy of the report, please contact Kenwgrant@sympatico.ca

Calendar Update

Work is well underway on the production of the 2021-22 Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association calendar. Once again this year, Karen Saer is looking after lay-out and publication of the calendar. Karen did a great job last year, as many cottagers have pointed out, and we are definitely looking forward to this year's edition.

We also offer thanks to those who have submitted so many beautiful pictures of our lake for the upcoming calendar. Karen has appreciatively received over 116 photos from over 20 cottagers.

Distribution and delivery of calendars is scheduled for late June.

Due to Covid conditions, it is still uncertain how that will take place. I plan to be in touch with area representatives later in the spring to coordinate and be sure we get calendars to all cottagers.

We have had some requests for extra calendars from Association members. We can provide additional copies at a cost of \$14 per calendar to cover printing costs. You will have received an order form with your membership renewal email.

Hoping and looking forward to seeing everyone at the lake this summer.

Greg Best, VP

Dark Skies

Do you love to star gaze? North Frontenac is one of Canada's recognized [Dark Sky Reserves](#). It may be a good time to change up your cottage exterior lighting. Not only do exterior cottage lights interfere with your star gazing, they can disturb your neighbours' stargazing for as far as you can see, and confuse and endanger nocturnal wildlife.

Here is what you can do:

- Only turn lights on when needed.
- Put exterior lights on a motion sensor.
- Avoid dusk to dawn lighting.
- Only light the area that needs it. Be no brighter than necessary.
- Minimize blue light emissions (look for led bulbs < 3000 kelvin).
- Have lights fully shielded (pointing downward)

Activities by Keith Rowe

The board of Directors are still hoping to hold various activities during the summer months in 2021, however, this will be dependent on the Covid vaccination program and Provincial guidelines to be announced later this year.

Our Annual General Meeting and Lake Social is scheduled for Saturday August 28th at 10:30AM for our business program, followed by our picnic at noon.

Please also make note of Saturday September 4, our second "Photo Scavenger Hunt". Last year turned out to be a great family activity and a large thank you goes out to Brydon Gibson for the idea and organizing the event. The winners were the Commerford kids.

Logging on the North Shore of Big Gull Lake

Much of the [Crown Land around the north shore cottage roads](#) had been scheduled to be logged during a ten year plan that expires in 2021. It has been confirmed by Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc, that this area will not be logged this year due to Covid delays. It has also been confirmed that this area will **not** be included in the 2022-2032 logging plan. Yeah!

Volunteer Needed

BGLEECA needs a volunteer in 2021 to review our financial records and submit a brief report. This will only take a few hours of your time, around mid-August. If you would like to help, please contact [Donna Commerford](#).

Financial Summary, August 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021

	General Fund	Calendar Fund	Environ. Fund	Totals
Beginning Balance	15,048	4,978	14,992	35,018
Total Revenues	2,321	1,610	-	3,931
Total Expenses	1,237	373	-	1,610
Current Balance	16,132	6,215	14,992	37,339

The 2021 dues form has been emailed to each member separately from this newsletter. Please keep [Debbie Bird](#) up to date with any changes to your email address and phone numbers.

From the Archives by the Editor

On August 31,1985 about 100 Big Gull Lake cottagers gathered at Phypers’ Holiday Haven to organize an association to cope with the gypsy moth problem. We have those proactive people to thank for our cottage association today. As newsletter editor, I am fortunate to have copies of old newsletters. I thought readers might enjoy reading this [1991 BGLEECA newsletter](#) from 30 years ago.