



Newsletter Volume 44, No 1, Winter 2025

President's Message

Happy New Year! While seemingly taking its time to arrive, winter is now coming with a vengeance with a polar arctic vortex getting ready to arrive. We were at the cottage between Christmas and New Year's. There was a good amount of snow when we arrived but lots of rain took care of that. We ended up leaving a bit earlier than we wanted to, with a freeze set to come in that would create a huge skating rink everywhere, including our road. We are looking forward to being back at the cottage in February.

If you are going out on the lake, please be careful. With the fluctuating temperatures so far this winter, the OPP have reported several incidents in the last few days with snowmobiles going through lake ice. With the recent rollercoaster temperatures, you can't trust ice everywhere. If you're going out, please exercise caution ([safety reminders here](#)). Know that if your snowmobile goes through the ice, [you are on the hook to remove it](#), and for any associated costs.

BGLEECA AGM

We had our first AGM at the Clar-Mill Hall in Plevna, with our mayor, Gerry Lichy being our guest speaker. Everyone who attended enjoyed the facilities (especially the washrooms), the Mayor's presentation, as well as the food served. We have decided that we will hold our AGM there again this year. The date is **Saturday, July 26 at 10:00 am**. Mayor Gerry Lichy has kindly agreed to join us. There will be more information in our Spring Newsletter.

Capital Gains Tax

With the prorogation of parliament, the proposed Capital Gains tax is in a state of limbo for now. "The prorogation of Parliament has led to confusion around the federal government's plans to boost the rate of tax some Canadians pay on the capital gains — or profits — they make from selling assets like stocks, a family business or a cottage".

Last spring, the federal Liberal government proposed changes to how it taxes those capital gains. The plan was introduced in Parliament in September. It was still being debated when Parliament was prorogued at the request of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. That move kills all bills and motions that had yet to receive royal assent, meaning the proposed capital gains changes haven't been approved.” (Source – cbc.ca/news).

However, please note that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will continue to collect the tax. As stated by the Department of Finance "Parliamentary convention dictates that taxation proposals are effective as soon as the government tables a notice of ways and means motion; this approach provides consistency and fairness in the treatment of all taxpayers."

While some are calling for the Government to stop collecting this tax, where it finally ends up remains to be seen.

FOCA

FOCA has created their website so that each of our members can set up their own login and password. As a member of BGLEECA, it gives you full access to all the FOCA resources as well as access to their staff if more information is needed. If you need help with invasive species, lakeshore issues, cottage succession to name a few, please head to the website for help.

Here is how you access this great resource:

Please use the link below to create your own Username and Password as part of BGLEECA:

<https://foca.on.ca/register/member-association/?ca=b905039dada9fa1f46519d24116349ad>

Once you have created your own login, you will be able to access all the member materials on the website, including the benefits information. You will also be able to register for FOCA events at the member price. For example, you will have free access to the [Cottage Succession webinars](#). Having personally attended these webinars, they are highly informative.

FOCA also has partnerships with various companies, such as Cade Insurance, Rogers and our newest partner, Kokomo Botanical Resort and Spa located in Turks and Caicos, which offer you discounts as a FOCA member.

Message from Doug Carr on White Duck Provincial Park

It's been another full year of working with the Algonquins on their internal issues. They have to have clear rules on who they are and how they will work together (govern themselves) before we can finalize the other provisions of the treaty, like land and money.

Although they are all Algonquins, the 10 communities we are negotiating with have in many respects quite different interests and so it's pretty critical that they be able to make the collective decisions about the treaty and how it will be implemented with "one voice". In short, please be patient. We have no sense that anything we have negotiated with respect to the park, the CA or the area around Gull Lake is being reconsidered by them. We will reach out when there's anything significant to report.

Lake Steward Position

As you know, Ken Grant has resigned as **Lake Steward**. His work over the years has ensured that Big Gull Lake remains healthy and free of invasive species. It is so important that we continue to be vigilant and, in order to do that, we need a volunteer or a group of volunteers to step up and take on this role. It doesn't have to be just one person; it could be several folks willing to become involved.

Please consider becoming involved with this crucial role. Ken has agreed to help with the transition and lend his support as needed. If you are interested, please reach out to any executive member at bgleeca@icloud.com.

Enjoy the rest of the winter and we look forward to seeing you in the Spring. Keep taking those amazing photos of the lake and don't forget to send them to Karen Saer at ksaer@aol.com. The deadline for Calendar submissions is January 31.

Donna Commerford

President

BGLEECA

Big Gull Lake Cottage Owners Faced a Year of Historical Rainfall and High Waters

By Richard McIlveen

2024 was a year when many of us on Big Gull were left wondering why our spring-like high water levels didn't drop this year until after Thanksgiving. A little research reveals some answers.

A Wet Spring

If you thought it was rainy this past year, well, you're right. Spring and summer 2024 were marked by record-breaking rainfall for our area. According to Environment and Climate Change Canada, the spring of 2024 was the fourth wettest on record since 1959.

Summer Storms

The rain kept coming. The impacts of summer's tropical cyclones tend to be felt most strongly in the Atlantic provinces, but this past year central Canada bore the brunt of both Beryl and Debbie, as the remnants of these two hurricanes caused significant flooding across parts of the region. This excessive precipitation resulted in water levels on our lake that exceeded historical averages by a significant margin.

Impact on Cottage Owners

For cottage owners on Big Gull Lake, rising high water had the potential to pose a threat to docks and shoreline. This is where Jennifer Norris and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority comes in. Norris is a Water Resources Technologist for the MVCA. Among other things, Norris manages water levels at several area dams, including the Big Gull Lake Dam at Coxvale at the east end of the lake.

The Role of Jennifer Norris and the MVCA

By regulating the flow of water, the dam helps to mitigate the impact of the excessive rainfall. Big Gull Lake is actually one of six lakes in the upper MVCA watershed that are used as water reservoirs to mitigate flooding downstream. Crotch Lake is the largest "reservoir lake" and provides as much water storage capacity as the other five lakes combined. Water levels on Crotch can rise and fall by close to 5 metres.

In the normal turn of events, every fall, following the summer season, water levels on our lake and others in our area are drawn down to create more capacity for fall rains, runoff from spring snow melt and rainfall. It's also done to stabilize water levels prior to winter freeze-up to promote a stable ice surface throughout the winter.

The bottom line? Water levels were kept up on Big Gull this past summer due to excessive precipitation and the need to prevent downstream flooding, but the levels never got too high. We literally have safety valves in the Big Gull Lake Dam and the storage capacity of our downstream neighbour, Crotch Lake.

Related Information:

1. **Global News:** [Unprecedented Destruction: Ontario Sees \\$1B in Insured Damage from Summer Floods](#)
2. **Environment and Climate Change Canada:** [Central Canada bears the brunt of the 2024 hurricane season](#)
3. **Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority:** [Water Levels and Flows](#) (The interactive map for water levels in the Mississippi Valley)
4. **Mississippi River Watershed Plan:** [There are 23 documented authorized dams and weirs in the watershed.](#)

Financial Report 9 months, April 1 to December 31, 2024

Calendar ad revenue and printing are now included under the general fund. The final accounting for the printing of our 2024 calendar is shown below. This clarifies the final net cost for the last printing since payment for the ads come in over two fiscal years.

	General Fund	Environment Fund	Total Funds	
Beginning Balance	22,205	13,499	35,704	
Total Revenues	4,992	-	4,992	Total Net
Total Expenses	8,967	633	9,600	Gain
Current Balance	18,230	12,866	31,096	(4,608)

General Fund Income Summary

Dues	1,740
Bank Interest	547
Calendar Ads for 2025	2,705
Misc	-
Fees paid in error	-
Total	4,992

Calendar Report for Last Printing (2024)

Total Ad Revenue	3,860
Total Printing Costs	4,453
Total Cost to Members	(593)

General Fund Expenses Summary

Activities	506
Bank Fees	54
FOCA	780
Insurance	1,338
Shoal Light Repair	205
Newsletters, Website, Zoom, Signs	475
Picnic & AGM	741
Directors' Expenses	-
FLA Membership	115
Donations	300
Calendar Printing and Mailing	4,453
Miscellaneous	-
Total	8,967